

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



## CRITICAL EMS SUPPORT

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

When you call 911 needing an ambulance, you imagine a crew is being dispatched immediately. But that’s not always the case. True, our dispatchers are at that moment sending out the radio tones which alert first-responders of an emergency. But a full crew - or any crew at all - cannot always be mustered quickly. That’s not anyone’s fault. Dwindling volunteers and limited resources have taken a severe toll on our local corps. They are doing their absolute best with what they have, and much of the time, with the help of mutual aid, they arrive within minutes. But they’ll also be the first to tell you that this crisis in our emergency medical services (EMS) system is growing worse, with life-threatening consequences as a result. So after requesting proposals from all interested companies, in June legislators unanimously approved inking a contract with SeniorCare EMS to station four “fly cars” around Sullivan. Capable of providing most anything an ambulance can - except transport of patients - these cars will stand ready 24/7 to assist our local corps in getting to a scene quickly. Driven by paid EMTs, they will support, not compete with, our volunteers. We’ll spend the next two years analyzing the effectiveness of these vehicles. Our hope is that they will offer reassurance and stabilization to those needing emergency aid, along with support to our existing agencies.

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One of SeniorCare EMS’ fly cars, a modified Ford SUV

# WHAT WILL WE DO WITH OUR GARBAGE?

Every year, we truck 100,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) 200 miles away to Seneca Meadows Landfill in the Finger Lakes. It costs us \$95 a ton, so taxpayers and local waste haulers are collectively paying nearly \$10 million a year to remove our garbage.

The State permit for that landfill, by the way, may or may not be renewed in the coming years, so for these reasons alone, we need to explore alternatives.

One of those options is waste-to-energy, creating electricity by the clean burning of trash. We recently took a tour of one such plant, called Reworld, in the middle of densely-populated Long Island, and it opened our eyes to the possibilities.



**Clockwise from top right: Reworld sorts 1M tons of trash a year; waste is reduced by 90%, creating these ash bricks; temps in the three boilers can reach 2,000 degrees F; Legislator Matt McPhillips peers into one!**



# BUILDING A STRONG, CAPABLE WORKFORCE



**BOCES Auto Tech instructor Andy Hessinger (right) adjusts Jordy Najera's certificate of completion during June's graduation ceremony. All grads also receive a stocked toolbox. With them is Center for Workforce Development Director Loren Gebelein.**

Thanks to a supportive Legislature, Sullivan County continues to expand the local labor pool, creating desperately-needed, skilled professionals for our community.

In June, we celebrated the graduation of 11 new automotive technicians, trained (at the County's expense, not theirs) in BOCES' automotive garages. These were all adults who we selected from more than 60 candidates - chosen by our Center for Workforce Development because they evidenced a sincere desire to better themselves and share their newfound skills locally.

This is the third such class for which we've paid students' expenses (welding and construction trades were offered last year, and may be again). We plan to continue this successful and popular offering, so expect to see an invitation for applications later this year.



## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!

The Legislature in May honored the valedictorians of Sullivan County's eight public high schools, but it was as much a celebration of all the new graduates! Front row from the left: Liberty Valedictorian Benjamin Visconti, Sullivan West Valedictorian Elizabeth Reeves, Tri-Valley Valedictorian Abigail Mentnech, Eldred Valedictorian Madison Bonnell, Roscoe Valedictorian Sarah Gorr, Monticello Valedictorian Kritika Talukder & Livingston

Manor Valedictorian Jillian Carlsen (missing: Fallsburg Valedictorian Angelina Levner). Back row from the left: District 9 Legislator Terry Blosser-Bernardo, District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez, District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello, District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajs, District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, District 5 Legislator Cat Scott, District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward and District 4 Legislator Nick Salomone.

# THIS SUMMER, GO PARK YOURSELF



These pics show just a little of what all of our parks have to offer - each worth a visit! Clockwise from the top: Lake Superior in Bethel; D&H Canal Interpretive Center in Summitville; Fort Delaware in Narrowsburg; Minisink Battleground in Barryville; and the Livingston Manor Covered Bridge. In the center is Stone Arch Bridge in Kenoza Lake.



For more about each of these parks, call 845-807-0287 or visit <https://sullivan.us/Departments/ParksRecreation>