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Sullivan County Manager's Monthly News

COUNTY MANAGER JOSHUA POTOSEK LAUNCHES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Greetings! It is with great pleasure that I present to you the first issue of the Sullivan County Manager's Monthly News. This newsletter will serve not only as a means to keep the public informed about the County's major initiatives, but also to provide important information about day to day County operations as well as monthly announcements of local initiatives and events that the public may wish to participate in.

As County Manager, I am keenly aware of the direct impacts that County operations have on the daily lives of our constituents. Whether they are paving roads, providing assistance to those in need, or dispatching critical services at times of emergency, the employees of Sullivan County affect the lives of thousands of individuals every day. It is my hope that readers of this newsletter will gain a greater knowledge of the services provided and available to them as residents and visitors of Sullivan County. I encourage you to stay informed and to get involved with your local government.

INNOVATION AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Catskill Mountainkeeper and Maternal Infant Services Network (MISN) were selected as two of the three finalists for an Innovation Award which will be given out at the 2015 Nonprofit Leadership Summit at Bethel Woods on March 4.

MISN submitted the application on behalf of coalition members, which includes Sullivan County Public Health Services and the WIC staff. Public Health has also been involved for a number of years with Catskill Mountainkeeper to improve access to nutritious food at farmer's markets for seniors and low income residents.

The top winner will be announced after presentations on the day of the Summit. Congratulations to all of the staff at Sullivan County Public Health Services who have been working collaboratively with Catskill Mountainkeeper and Maternal Infant Services Network to improve the health of the community. We are making a difference!



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Newsletter launched to keep public up to date on County information and initiatives
- Public Health Services partners in two of three finalists announced for Innovation Award



MEETING A GROWING COMMUNITY'S WORKFORCE NEEDS

The Center for Workforce Development and the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development are leading the effort to create a comprehensive and coordinated workforce development plan that will address the employment and training needs of the County as a result of the coming large development projects, notably Montreign and Adalaar.

The first of a series of meetings will bring together County leaders from economic and workforce development, education and training, government and business to begin creating a service delivery framework that will meet the needs of both the employers and the workforce with a regional perspective. This requires that all partners understand the business needs and timelines, and the strengths and challenges of the workforce.

The second component is to develop a comprehensive labor shed analysis and skills gap analysis. These studies will inform a workforce plan that will be comprehensive in scope and coordinated and efficient in its delivery.

"We must continue to invest in our critical infrastructure as our highways and bridges play a major role in the County's ability to support growth and development."

READY TO SERVE AT THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

The Sullivan County Clerk's Office offers a variety of services. One such service is the processing of passports in the office with photographs being offered, making it a one stop application process (appointments are requested).

FAVOR cards are also issued at the County Clerk's Office. These are merchant discount cards offered to those veterans who have valiantly served our country and have a DD214 on file (honorable discharge). We are proud to offer these cards in acknowledging our men and women who have so courageously served our country, and in doing so partnering with the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and the Sullivan County Veterans Department (appointment requested).

As always, we are pleased to provide general assistance to those who are looking to perform genealogical searches as well.

PLANS & PROGRESS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Plans and Progress is a Sullivan County funding program created to assist local municipalities, as well as community and not-for-profit organizations throughout Sullivan County, with funding for projects that implement County and local planning goals and objectives.

Funding is available for a broad range of projects including but not limited to community and economic development, tourism, telecommunications, image enhancement, recreation, sustainability and quality of life.

Each of the County's 9 legislative districts has been allocated \$10,000 in Plans and Progress funding. An additional \$10,000 is available but not tied to a specific district. In total, the Plans and Progress Small Grants Program has a total of \$100,000 in funding for Fiscal Year 2015.

To apply for funding, prospective applicant should submit a one page cover letter briefly stating the amount of funding requested and describing the project for which the funds will be used. The request should be submitted on the organization's letterhead and signed by the executive director, or a comparable position with the authority to sign contracts. The following documentation must accompany the cover letter:

- A detailed description of the project
- A detailed project budget (must include a minimum 50% non-county match, which may come from other grant programs, in-kind services, donations of materials and professional services, and sweat equity).
- Project schedule
- Documentation of municipal and community support

Applications should be submitted to Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management , County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701 or emailed to planning@co.sullivan.ny.us. The deadline for applications in Round 1 is April 30, 2015. Additional rounds will be released subject to availability of funding.

For more information please contact the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management at (845) 807-0527, or PlanningPublicEmail@co.sullivan.ny.us.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS ON DECK AS 2015 CONSTRUCTION SEASON APPROACHES

As outlined in County Manager Potosek's 2015 Budget Message, our infrastructure is in need of investment and repair. The Division of Public Works is tasked with maintaining 385 centerline miles of highways in addition to 401 bridge structures. Unfortunately, during the past 10 years we have experienced significant deferral of road and bridge infrastructure work due to a deficient amount of funding and an escalation in material costs.



As spring approaches the Sullivan County Division of Public Works is making the necessary preparations for our upcoming construction season. The Sullivan County Legislature has approved \$6 million for paving county roads in 2015. There are many County roads in need of repair and \$6 million will not be sufficient to address all of the highway system's needs; however, the roadways in greatest need of repair will be addressed with this funding.

The County is also preparing for its 2015 bridge program. Included in this year's program is County Bridge #45 in the Town of Fallsburg, which is a multimillion dollar project. Located on County Route 53 (Old Falls Road), this project will receive significant funding from both the State and Federal government and will involve the complete replacement of County Bridge #45 over the Neversink River.

The 2015 bridge program also includes:

- County Bridge 36 replacement, CR 55
- County Bridge 128 replacement, CR 14
- County Bridge 252 replacement, CR 73
- County Bridge 379 replacement, CR 176
- County Bridge 461 replacement, CR 53
- Painting project of various bridges throughout the County

We must continue to invest in our critical infrastructure as our highways and bridges play a major role in the County's ability to support growth and development.



DOING BUSINESS WITH YOUR LOCAL MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

Did you know that New York State allows counties to retain 12.7% of the funds collected on all transactions processed at the local office? That means each time you choose to do business with your local DMV, a portion of your dollars stay in the County. Transactions can be processed in person, or for renewals, can be dropped off in the drop box located just inside the office door. Transactions placed in the drop box will be processed the same business day and returned by mail. Also, renewals can be mailed directly to the local office for processing by changing the return address on the renewal invitation received in the mail to DMV, 100 North Street, Monticello NY 12701.

If you are unable to visit the Monticello office the local DMV offers 11 locations throughout the County where license and registration transactions can be processed. These locations are serviced by the mobile motor vehicle van and operate on a rotating basis. Please call (845) 807-0700 for a listing of the mobile van schedule.

The local Department of Motor Vehicles main office is open from 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday to assist customers, and learner permit exams are offered from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We offer oral written tests in English and Spanish and CDL English tests by CD, all by appointment, for your convenience. An information booth is available as one enters the office where all questions can be answered and appropriate forms are available, to eliminate the need for waiting in the lobby area. We are proud to have two employees who are bilingual (Spanish) and available to translate and assist in DMV transactions.

Remember—Keep your tax dollars local!

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PLAN INITIATED

The County Manager is the full time Chief Executive and Administrative Head of the County of Sullivan. He and his dedicated staff are prepared to answer your questions and to hear your comments. Please contact the County Manager's Office with any inquiries related to this newsletter.

During the first week of March, Sullivan County, towns and villages will be meeting to discuss the second year of the New York State Property Tax Freeze Credit and the required Government Efficiency Plan. The plans must incorporate cooperation agreements, mergers, shared services and/or efficiencies that will ultimately save a minimum of 1% of the total tax levy for all participating government jurisdictions.

Over the course of the next two months, the County, towns and villages will make every effort to develop a plan that will not only result in savings but will also allow local governments to continue to provide necessary and quality services to the constituents they serve.

Homeowners who are eligible for the STAR property tax exemption and live in an eligible taxing jurisdiction (one that does not exceed the tax cap and adopts and implements a Government Efficiency Plan) will benefit from the Property Tax Freeze Credit. New York State will reimburse these homeowners for any increase they realize in their property taxes for an eligible jurisdiction.

Updates will be provided as the planning process moves forward. Check future issues of the County Manager's Monthly News for more details as they become available.

2015 OFF & RUNNING AT TRAINING CENTER

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The first two months of 2015 have been very busy for the Sullivan County Emergency Services Training Center in Bethel, NY.

The Training Center has hosted several State Fire Training courses, preparing our firefighters and giving them valuable hands on training that will make them more effective when responding to real life emergencies. Trainings are held both during the day and evening .

The center is currently being used during the day by the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Jail Division for their in service training.

On February 24, 2015 the Center hosted a Biological Terrorism Overview course that was well attended by various organizations. Participants included the New York State Police, Sullivan County Community College, Sullivan Correctional Facility, Woodbourne Correctional Facility, Sullivan County Public Health Nursing, the New York State Department of Health, Sullivan County Bureau of Fire, and several local Fire and EMS agencies.

A schedule of spring and summer courses are currently being compiled and will be available soon.