

INSIDE INSIGHTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Manager's Office

November 2018



Kids and teens from around Sullivan County, like these young folks from Monticello last year, will gather at the Government Center in Monticello to entertain and inspire with holiday songs in the coming weeks — to which the public is invited!

Ring in the season!

The sounds of business in the lobby of the Sullivan County Government Center are about to be replaced with the sounds of the season, thanks to talented children, young adults and their teachers from all across the County.

“Our Holiday Concert series is a highlight of the year for many County staff, and the public is just as welcome to come hear the vocal and musical skills of our young people,” invites County Manager Josh Potosek. “Join us in a heartwarming, joyful celebration of the holidays!”

With the one noted exception, all concerts will begin at noontime:

- ◇ **December 7: Monticello Instrumental Chamber Ensembles**
- ◇ **December 10: Livingston Manor Concert Band**

In This Issue

- Inside our five-star Care Center at Sunset Lake
- Broadband for all? We're working on it
- A County Budget with you in mind
- The new Jail and Sheriff's complex are just about ready

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The staff of the Care Center at Sunset Lake are a busy crew, to be sure, but people like Lawrence James and Arlene Saunders also bring a friendly warmth to everyone.

Departmental Spotlight: Care Center at Sunset Lake

Home is what we make of it

It's inevitable. Life deals you an unexpected spill, or a loved one becomes unable to handle daily tasks. Perhaps you just need a temporary therapy regimen to get you back on track, or maybe your family member needs long-term care.



Desiree Lawrence, left, and Aleksandra Brown always have a smile to share!

It's a consequence of living longer, but it need not mean giving up a full life, packed with activities, exercise, family gatherings, and visits with friends old and new. Certainly not at the Care Center at Sunset Lake.

Formerly called the Sullivan County Adult Care Center, the Care Center at Sunset Lake is new in more than name. A new administrator, Frank Murphy, has led a hardworking team in reaching a top five-star mark of excellence from the federal government. The Center's Adult Day Health Services has expanded its hours to better serve the working public. And they've

redecorated rooms, repainted the hallways, and replaced generic photos hanging on the walls with ones of peaceful, inspiring local scenes.

"We're focused on providing quality service at every point," notes Frank. "We serve those in need of care, and we give them nothing but. It's what they demand, what their families demand, what a very competitive healthcare environment demands."

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The 'care' that's in the Care Center

What's offered at the Care Center at Sunset Lake?

Plenty.

- 24/7 nursing care
- A nutritious menu, with food prepared on-site
- Ongoing case management
- Social work
- Therapeutic activities
- Help with daily living needs
- Socialization via group activities, spacious lounges and shared meals
- Physical, occupational and speech rehabilitation
- Adult Day Health Services, accommodating up to 17 people (aged 21+) per day
- Secure Memory Care Unit
- IV therapy
- Wound vac treatment
- Respite stays
- Beauty salon
- Trach and wound care
- Enteral feeding
- Bi-Pap/C-Pap
- Hospice care
- Pet therapy
- Free TV and Wifi

Did you know you could do this on our website?

Having debuted in June, SullivanNY.us is Sullivan County's official website, and it's full of useful information and resources — so much so, that you've probably not seen all of it yet. For example:

- Addresses, taxes, property owners and more are at your fingertips with the maps of our Geoportals: sullivanny.us/Departments/RealProperty/GISData
- Operating schedules, recycling guides and more about our waste stations are just a click away: sullivanny.us/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling
- Solar panels. Electric cars. Heat pumps. We can help you navigate the dizzying array of energy-efficient options: sullivanny.us/Departments/SustainableEnergy
- Find out when the Legislature meets, or even watch their meetings: sullivanny.us/Departments/Legislature



The lettering and lighting are in place for not only the new Sullivan County Jail but the Sheriff's Office relocated headquarters (including the Civil and Patrol divisions).

County's biggest-ever project is almost complete; opening '19

At more than 133,000 square feet, the new Sullivan County Jail doesn't feel confining so much as simply enormous. And our Public Works, Information Technology Services and Sheriff's Office teams are making sure every last inch of that facility is up to the necessary standards.

The construction of this modern complex is essentially complete, save for the hookup of water and sewer services. The State will also need to sign off on the readiness of the Jail side of the building before we can transfer inmates from our 110-year-old existing jail.

So as 2019 progresses, the Sheriff's personnel will gradually move into the administrative quarters, followed by corrections officers and inmates. We anticipate having the entire facility operational by this time next year.



As many a traveler knows, traffic along Jefferson Street in Monticello has been delayed regularly of late due to the need to lay a water service line (seen being hoisted) from the new Sullivan County Jail to the Village of Monticello's new water tank. This line, when complete, will also be able to serve the Jefferson Street corridor.

A budget that doesn't break the bank

Building upon the vastly improved economy and bright future of the region, Sullivan County Manager Josh Potossek recently presented a 2019 Tentative Sullivan County Budget to the Legislature that promises to reduce property owners' County tax bills.

"As proposed by my office, the 2019 Tentative Budget invests in what's important to our residents: transportation, access to government, economic development, community beautification, and broadband connectivity," Potossek says. "At the same time, however, it does not burden taxpayers with further costs. In fact, it reduces them."

The \$235,196,663 budget, as currently proposed, stays under the state-mandated property tax increase cap, and thanks to a 4.5% increase in the County's total taxable assessed value, the average property taxpayer will see the County portion of their tax bill decrease by 1.6%, or approximately \$19 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

It additionally proposes a \$1.9 million decrease in the Solid Waste Access Fee, dropping the commercial rate from \$300 to \$200 per year and the residential rate from \$120 to \$80 per year.

Full details of the budget are available at www.sullivanny.us



Our new Monticello emergency communications tower stands next to the new Jail.

Rising to meet a need

Part of the 2019 Tentative Sullivan County Budget sets aside \$200,000 for an exciting initiative that could bring high-speed Internet access to unserved and underserved portions of the County.

Spearheaded by our Information Technology Services (ITS) Department, who already handles the County's computer network, this project would test equipment and processes utilizing the emergency communications tower erected next to the new Sullivan County Jail off Route 17's Exit 104 in Monticello.

"I'm told the wireless broadband signal transmitted from that tower would reach approximately four miles in every direction, basically encompassing the Village of Monticello and surroundings," says County Manager Josh Potossek. "Controlled and analyzed from the Government Center, this pilot project would give us the info we need to determine the feasibility of providing high-speed wireless Internet elsewhere in the County."

If the investment proves worth pursuing, the County would consider spinning off a nonprofit agency to handle customers and services, he adds.

"The lack of reliably fast Internet access in certain areas of the County has hampered our growth both residentially and commercially," Josh notes. "To be competitive and attractive to the next generation of residents and entrepreneurs, we have to invest in our communications infrastructure, especially when private companies are unwilling or unable to do so for us."



Anyone who's met Joe Prisciandaro knows he's got a heart of gold, and he shares it every day as a volunteer at the Care Center at Sunset Lake.

Care Center: Five stars for good reason...

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Owned and funded by the County, the Center is a unique facility within the region, featuring a high staff-to-patient ratio, a Memory Care Unit for those with Alzheimer's & other forms of dementia, and a beautiful body of water — Sunset Lake — right next door.



If you see Rousha Prater, left, or Felicia Wilson in the hallway, make sure to say hi (if they don't say it first)!

"I invite anyone to take a tour of this special place with me," offers Marketing and Outreach Coordinator Kristen Kitson. "Let me introduce you to the incredible people who work here, the facilities and activities, and the caring, professional atmosphere."

Independent of but intimately involved in the Care Center is the Family Council, which has been a key partner and collaborator since the Center opened. Led by a dedicated group of volunteers who have had or currently have family members utilizing the Center, the Council exists to advocate for and benefit all who reside there, long-term and short-term, and its meetings are open to those residents and their relatives.

"Together, we ensure everyone's time here is up to that five-star standard of excellence," affirms Frank. "We want to be the first choice."

For more, see sullivan.us/Departments/Adultcarecenter or call 845-292-8640.

County Manager gains credential

Sullivan County Manager Josh Potossek has earned the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA's) prestigious Credentialed Manager designation.

ICMA is the premier organization of professional local government leaders building sustainable communities to improve lives worldwide. The



organization provides technical and management assistance, training, and information resources in the areas of performance measurement, ethics education and training, community and economic development, environmental management, technology, and other topics.

Only 1,353 people have earned this credential. The designation indicates that a member is qualified by a combination of education and experience, adherence to high standards of integrity, and a commitment to continuous learning. To maintain the credential, members must submit an annual report describing 40 hours of professional development during the previous year.

Concerts: Be here, have joy...

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- ◇ December 12: Liberty Middle School Chorus
- ◇ December 13: Monticello Middle School Chorus & Orchestra
- ◇ December 14: Center for Discovery Ensemble (plus Nesin Cultural Arts' Treblemakers at 4 p.m.)
- ◇ December 17: Liberty High School Band
- ◇ December 18: Liberty High School Honors Chorus and Orchestra
- ◇ December 19: Monticello High School String & Vocal Ensemble
- ◇ December 20: Roscoe Central School Band & Choir



Greg Goldstein, center, this month received the SYDA Foundation's Community Service Award, along with a certificate of recognition from the Sullivan County Legislature, including, from the left, legislators Ira Steingart, Alan Sorensen, Luis Alvarez, Terri Ward, Nadia Rajs and Mark McCarthy.

Honoring a ceaseless giver

Neversink resident and former Sullivan County Legislator Greg Goldstein earned the SYDA Foundation's Community Service Award at a Legislature meeting this month. The prestigious award includes a certificate of merit for outstanding service to the community and a monetary gift of \$5,000.

A committee of past award recipients and local civic leaders selected Greg to receive this year's award, in recognition of his many years of service to Sullivan County, and, particularly, its young people in need. He is president and owner of Misner Insurance Agency, which has four locations in Sullivan and Orange counties and currently employs more than 20 people.



We're on the job where needed

You may have heard that due to financial pressures, some of our local townships have had to end their contracts with Sullivan County and New York State to control snow and ice on certain County and State roads.

"That doesn't mean that these vital routes will see any less maintenance than they have," notes County Manager Josh Potosek, who uses a County road to get to his home. "All of our residents, visitors and businesses rely on State and County highways to safely and efficiently travel over hill and dale."

Sullivan County's Division of Public Works and the State's Department of Transportation have assumed winter maintenance duties in those municipalities where town highway departments are no longer able to devote resources to County and/or State routes.

(Note that the towns remain in charge of the maintenance of town-owned roadways.)