

INSIDE INSIGHTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Manager's Office

November 2017

Departmental Spotlight: The Sullivan County Division of Public Works' Road Maintenance Crew



The Road Maintenance crew of Sullivan County's Division of Public Works has spent weeks thoroughly preparing for winter's blast. The hardworking team includes personnel from the Bridge Department, Sign Shop, Mechanics and Welders.

Gearing up to keep you moving

One visit to the Sullivan County Division of Public Works' Maplewood facility is totally convincing proof that a lot more goes into winter road maintenance than a fleet of plow trucks.

First off, of course, you need trained and certified drivers — one for each truck, thanks to the OPP (One-Person Plowing) procedure in place. But those trucks also require mechanics and welders to keep them in working order, dispatchers to route them, office staff to keep track of expenses and materials, and supervisors and administrators to ensure it's all done correctly and on time. In all, more than 80 men and women are regularly involved in keeping us safe on wintry County roads.

"Winter plays a big part in what we do," acknowledges DPW Road Maintenance Superintendent Tom Donnelly. "From November 18 to around mid-April (depending on the weather), our Maplewood facility is open 24 hours a day."

After all, it's not just snow and ice that need a coordinated, professional response. Tom's team also fields calls for trees down and other obstructions. And his staff assist various towns and the Village of Monticello in filling their salt needs, collaborating with the NYS Department of Transportation in the process.

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In This Issue

- Visit the casino and the neighboring Veria health resort
- Own a pistol? A big deadline is at hand
- We're focused on stopping fraud
- What the heck is a Geoportal? A pretty cool tool, if you ask us!



Dump trucks are being refitted with plows and sanding equipment at Maplewood.

Out on the roads even when you're not...

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And they do this with a mix of longtime and brand new equipment. Eight of the 15 plow trucks (one for each route) are outfitted with pre-wetting capabilities, meaning 8-10 gallons of liquid salt brine is mixed with a ton of salt prior to being applied to the highway. "That's cut our salt consumption by 25%," Tom notes.

Several County routes are pre-wet in a different fashion (but at similar cost savings). Two brine trucks carry 1,000 gallons apiece to apply to the roadway 24 hours before a storm hits, preventing snow and ice from bonding to pavement.



This 5,000-gallon brine storage tank sits above Maplewood.

Tandem-axle plow trucks feature controls for precisely applying salt based on the traveling speed, and every truck has an automated vehicle locator and two-way radios, so dispatchers and supervisors know where drivers are at all times — even though the County's One-Person Plowing policy is actually safer than the traditional two-person method, NYS Department of Transportation research shows.

"It's the way to go, and of course, it's cost-effective," explains Tom. "You give yourself

twice as many people to plow."

Yet the traveling public still has a role to play.

"If you see a snowplow going by, go slow and get over. And don't unnecessarily pass them," Tom asks. "Our operators are more conscientious and better prepared than ever. Our citizens out on the roads in winter should be the same."

What we do & where we do it

- 15 plow routes, totaling 188 centerline miles (160 miles of County routes, 28 miles of NYS Route 97)
- Parking lots and access roads at the Government Center, Courthouse and Jail in Monticello; Health & Family Services complexes and Adult Care Center in Liberty; SUNY Sullivan in Loch Sheldrake; Sullivan County Airport, 911 Center, Fire Training Facility and Transportation Center in White Lake; and all six transfer stations: Monticello, Rockland, Highland, Ferndale, Mamakating, and Western Sullivan.
- 24/7 "Snow Watch," monitoring weather and road conditions, and dispatching personnel as needed, County-wide
- 4 large salt sheds in Maplewood, Barryville, Livingston Manor and Callicoon
- Order, supply and load salt for the Village of Monticello and the towns of Thompson and Highland
- 2 5,000-gallon brine storage and dispensing stations in Maplewood and Barryville



Own a pistol? Don't forget to recertify permit

Sullivan County Clerk Daniel Briggs reminds all pistol/revolver license-holders that the New York State SAFE Act requires them to recertify every five years in order to keep their license.

For some, that means an important deadline is looming.

"If your license was issued before January 15, 2013, you must submit your recertification by January 31, 2018 – which is just two months away," Briggs noted. "If your license was issued on or after January 15, 2013, you will need to submit your recertification five years after the date of issue."

Anyone who does not recertify by the deadline will have their license revoked. **Do not depend on being notified by the State, the police or the courts. You are responsible for initiating and completing recertification.**

To begin the process, go to <https://firearms.troopers.ny.gov/pprecert> and follow the instructions. If you prefer to fill out the form in writing, it's available to be printed at <https://troopers.ny.gov/firearms> (or at any State Police station) and can then be mailed to the New York State Police, Pistol Permit Bureau, Building 22, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12226-2252.

It is highly recommended that you make a copy of your recertification and confirm with the State via a hyperlink that is provided during the process. If you mail in your form, send it certified with receipt requested. For questions, call 1-855-529-4867.



Sullivan County Health & Family Services Commissioner Joe Todora recently explained the Sullivan County Welfare Fraud Task Force during a press conference.

Tough on fraud? You bet we are

The Sullivan County Welfare Fraud Task Force continues to make arrests in an ongoing effort to root out waste and abuse of the County's Social Services system.

The Task Force incorporates resources from the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office and the Special Investigations Unit at Family Services. The primary goals are to obtain restitution and deter future instances of fraud.

The Task Force is focused on cases in public assistance, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (food stamps), Home Energy Assistance (HEAP), daycare and child support. Some cases investigated by the Task Force may not amount to criminal conduct but may still be administrative violations, such as overpayments to recipients.

In addition to reorganizing the fraud unit into a Task Force, Health & Family Services Commissioner Joseph Todora has introduced a 24-hour confidential tips line so that the public can report suspected incidents of fraud and abuse: 845-513-2392. This number is listed on a variety of posters that will be distributed around Sullivan County.

"As a percentage of the total business that we do in Social Services, there's really very little fraud that goes on," Todora explained today, noting honest mistakes will be treated as such. "But if it's intentional fraud, we're going to prosecute."

To date:

- 25 arrests have taken place, and 23 were for program violations and fraud
- 2 arrests were made of individuals on parole due to violations
- More than \$87,100 in fraud charges have been brought, and already more than 15% of that amount has been repaid
- 5 arrests on child support warrants have taken place, seeking payment of more than \$215,000 in back child support
- Over 70 open cases currently under investigation/review

Got a question?

Try your legislator first, by calling the Sullivan County Legislature's office at 845-807-0435. They can direct you to your representative, who is elected to serve you.

Or look up who you're seeking directly, via the County's website: co.sullivan.ny.us

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Geoportal live!

We've got an exciting new tool to offer not just professionals but the general public: the Sullivan County GIS Online Geoportal.

You can look up any publicly available data on residential and commercial properties: location, parcel tax ID, owner, taxes, aerial photos, and more. We've even got digitized tax maps and free, downloadable GIS data!

Access the Geoportal at <http://sullconygiso.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html> to explore the incredible amount of useful information you can discover about properties across Sullivan County, thanks to the hard work of our Real Property Tax Services Dept.

Questions? Call us at 845-807-0221.

Legislators tour coming resorts



The 18-story Resorts World Catskills Casino Hotel

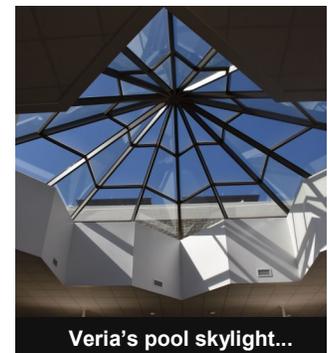
Thanks to the accommodation of the respective developers, County officials had a chance recently to get a sneak peek of both the Resorts World Catskills Casino and the Veria/YO1 health resorts now under construction in Monticello!



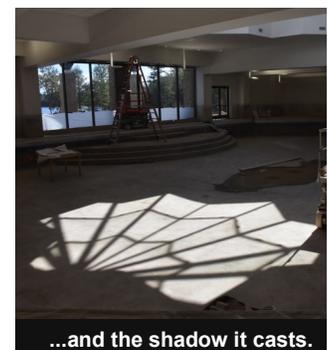
This ceiling in the Casino' gaming area will featured projected 3D imagery.



A vertical rain fountain will sit inside Veria.



Veria's pool skylight...



...and the shadow it casts.