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# Sullivan County Manager's Monthly News

## POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY CEREMONY TO BE HELD AT GOVERNMENT CENTER SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

The Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency will recognize POW/MIA Recognition Day with a ceremony in the lobby of the Sullivan County Government Center, located at 100 North Street, Monticello, New York on Friday, September 18, 2015 at 1:00pm. The public is invited to attend.

Please join us in taking the time to remember those who were Prisoners of War (POW), and those who are Missing In Action (MIA) and their families. Our Keynote Speaker will be Frank Armstrong, Vietnam Veteran, recipient of the Silver Star award for "gallantry in action" involving close combat against an armed and hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. The Silver Star is the third highest award of valor.

For additional information on this event, please contact the Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency at (845) 807-0233.

## VOTE FOR THE UPPER DELAWARE SCENIC BYWAY AS USA TODAY'S "BEST SCENIC AUTUMN DRIVE"

The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway is in the running to be named "Best Scenic Autumn Drive" by USA Today. The 70 mile Upper Delaware Scenic Byway runs parallel to the Upper Delaware River through five Sullivan County towns. Please show your support and vote! A win for the Byway is a win for Sullivan County as it will surely bring economic development by bringing more tourism dollars into the county.

You may vote once per day through 12:00pm (Noon) on Monday, September 28, 2015 by visiting the following link:

<http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-scenic-autumn-drive/>



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

*We Will Never Forget.*

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency will hold event for POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Vote for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway as USA Today's "Best Scenic Autumn Drive"

## COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a new platform that gives municipalities the authority to aggregate the energy purchases of all residents and businesses as a negotiating strategy to secure lower electricity prices for their residents and small businesses. CCAs can represent thousands of customers, so they have the potential leverage to negotiate significantly lower electric rates. CCAs can also facilitate investment in locally sited energy generation facilities, known as distributed energy resources (DER), which the New York State Public Service Commission and utilities operating in NYS have deemed critical to our energy future. DER projects such as community solar and wind and micro-grid projects will strengthen and stabilize the electrical grid, reduce line loss, and expand our generation capability to meet future needs.

Community Choice Aggregation originated in Massachusetts with statewide enabling legislation in the 1990s. Today, CCAs operate in 1,300 communities in 6 states: Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio, California, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

The NYS Public Service Commission is implementing significant changes to the State's energy policies through its initiative "Reforming the Energy Vision" (REV) Community Choice Aggregation is one of the major new energy configurations encouraged in REV, and municipalities, utilities, and non-profit organizations such as Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development (SASD) have been invited to submit proposals for pilot projects to help shape how the initiative will be introduced statewide.

SASD is submitting a proposal for a countywide CCA. Key features of SASD's proposal are lower electricity rates for consumers, development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, grid resiliency and economic development and job creation. SASD is offering its services pro bono to help design and launch a countywide CCA and will engage in an extensive public information campaign to educate County residents about the structure and purpose of CCAs.

For more information about this initiative, you can contact SASD in the Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy on Tuesdays and Thursdays at (845) 807-0578.

### COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE PARTICIPATES IN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB BACKPACKS FOR HOPE

The County Manager's Office hosted a collection location for the collection of school supplies for children in need for the month of August. Each year, the Boys and Girls Club sponsors the Backpacks for Hope program. Ensuring that children have the proper school supplies helps to build confidence in themselves as learners.

The program was a major success in 2015, with over 500 children being supplied with bags and supplies for the 2015-16 school year. Thank you to the Town of Walkill Boys and Girls Club for the services that you provide for Sullivan County's youth!

## 30 YEAR EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

County Manager Joshua Potosek, in conjunction with the Sullivan County Legislature, recently recognized County employees with more than 30 years of employment with Sullivan County. Pictured below is Manager Potosek with Legislature Chairman Scott Samuelson (back row) and several of our most dedicated employees with 30 or more years of service. Thank you for your dedication!

*From left to right: Deborah Allen, Sue Osterhout, Brian McCabe, Barbara Sydorko, Lt. Paul Pratti, Marilyn Bastone, Chief Hal Smith, Barbara Martin, Judith Kelley, and Kim Carlsen.*



# PLANS AND PROGRESS ROUND 1 AND 2 WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Plans and Progress is a Sullivan County funded 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. The following is a list of the funding recipients for 2015.

## Round 1

- Cochection Center Community Center (Cochection): New shingle roof on the Cochection Center Methodist Church, \$5,000
- Bethel Local Development Corporation (BLDC) (Bethel): Design, fabrication & installation of 2 entry signs, and informational kiosk, and directional signage throughout the property known as the Forest Reserve at Smallwood, \$5,000
- Frank Schwarz, Lumberland Grants Coordinator (Lumberland): Paint exterior trim of the Lumberland Town Hall & prepare and stain the Lumberland Municipal outdoor pavilion, \$3,875
- Roscoe Rockland Chamber of Commerce (Rockland): Internet marketing pilot project, \$6,000
- Congregation Agudas Achem (Rockland): Landscaping demonstration project to assist beautification, privacy & drainage, \$1,000
- Poplar Grove Cemetery Association & Phillipsport Community Center (Mamakating): Tables and chairs for community center to support events and increase usage, \$1,350
- Swan Lake Renaissance (Liberty): Sign marking historic site, enhanced by plantings, \$725
- Jeffersonville Enhances More of Sullivan, Inc. (JEMS) (Callicoon): Jeffersonville Main Events Stage & Welcome Center, \$1,000
- Youngsville Fire Department (Callicoon): Permanent sign for community and emergency information, \$5,000
- Village of Jeffersonville Parks & Recreation Committee (Callicoon): Assist completion of The Backyard Park, \$3,125
- Hurleyville—Sullivan First (Fallsburg): Pain the exterior of the de-sanctified St. Mary's Church on Main Street in Hurleyville, \$2,600
- Liberty Museum & Arts Center (Liberty): Completion of Mauer Barn Gallery Project, \$2,400
- Charlie Barbuti, Supervisor (Liberty): Ball field upgrade, \$5,000
- Mark McCarthy, Supervisor (Neversink): Town Park/Little League complex, \$10,000
- Rock Hill Business & Community Association (Thompson): Rock Hill public art project, \$7,000
- Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District (Countywide): Purchase a no-till grass seeder, \$10,000

*List of winners continues on page 4.*

## **FORECLOSURE PROCESS FOR UNPAID 2014 PROPERTY TAXES TO COMMENCE IN OCTOBER 2015**

Nancy Buck, the Sullivan County Treasurer, would like to remind taxpayers that pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law, the foreclosure process for unpaid 2014 property taxes will commence in October 2015. Any unpaid 2014 property taxes must be paid on or before October 12, 2015 in order to avoid being served with the foreclosure notices and the publication of the taxpayer's name in the newspapers.

In order to assist in repaying these taxes, the County has implemented a tax installment program which enables taxpayers to enter into a written agreement with the County permitting them to pay these taxes in 24 monthly installments. The installment agreement for unpaid 2014 taxes can be entered into at any time prior to January 31, 2016.

Please feel free to contact us for more information:

### **Sullivan County Treasurer's Office**

**100 North Street, PO Box  
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**Monticello, NY 12701**

**(845) 807-0200**

## SULLIVAN COUNTY ADOPTS COUNTYWIDE COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES PLAN

Sullivan County recently adopted a Coordinated Transportation Services Plan.

The Sullivan County Transportation Department receives State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) funding from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Adoption of a plan such as this is required by NYSDOT for recipients of STOA.

The County hired LSC Transportation Consultants to complete the plan, which was presented to and adopted by the Legislature in August.

The County has already begun the process of implementation as a search for a Transportation Coordinator has been initiated.

For more information please contact the Division of Public Works at (845) 807-0261.

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.

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## PLANS AND PROGRESS WINNERS ANNOUNCED (CONTINUED)

### Round 2

- Town of Lumberland: Enhancements to the Lumberland Thomas F. Hill Municipal Building, Town Hall & Circle Park Concession Building, \$1,861
- Bash Kill Area Association (BKAA) (Mamakating): Purchase new water testing equipment & supplies to be used in their ongoing water quality monitoring program at the Basha Kill, \$1,105
- Rotary Club of Livingston Manor (Rockland): Comprehensive master planning and design process for the 20 acre Rotary Park, \$6,000
- Village of Monticello & Town of Thompson: Joint Pace Land Use Law Center Training Program for Municipal Officials; Two-evening workshops to begin to address new planning opportunities & challenges presented by anticipated development, \$5,000
- United Way of Sullivan County (Countywide): Marketing Hudson Region 2-1-1 in Sullivan County, \$4,000
- Sullivan County Human Rights Commission (Countywide): Community Dialogue-to-Change initiative; funding would pay for facilitators to conduct a civic engagement process on poverty, \$4,600
- Sullivan County Film Commission, under SCVA 501C3 (Countywide): Startup costs for new entity to promote Sullivan County as location for films, \$6,000

Congratulations to all of our award winners!

## COUNTY SEEKS SAVINGS ON FLEET MANAGEMENT THROUGH VEHICLE LEASING

Sullivan County has engaged Enterprise Fleet Management and entered into an agreement for a cost effective program to manage the Sullivan County vehicle fleet. The key objectives for this agreement are to lower the average age of the fleet, reduce operating costs, and maintain a manageable vehicle budget.

Under the agreement, Sullivan County will lease vehicles for its fleet from Enterprise instead of continuing the current practice of purchasing vehicles. Enterprise will then be responsible for monitoring vehicle age, mileage and wear and tear to determine the optimum time to sell the vehicles in order to get the maximum value. Enterprise will also be responsible for vehicle maintenance and utilize local businesses for repair. The County will pay a monthly lease and a separate fixed maintenance fee per vehicle. These costs will replace the cost of vehicle purchase and in-house maintenance, freeing up County staff time for other projects.

According to analysis based on the age of the current fleet and maintenance costs, the County would realize more than \$1,400,000 in savings for the first 10 years of the program, and an average long term savings of more than \$140,000 per year.