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Sullivan County Manager's Monthly News

SULLIVAN "DIALS IT UP" AT FAMILY SERVICES, REESTABLISHES COMPLIANCE AT THE 98TH PERCENTILE

The Sullivan County Department of Family Services has made what some have described as an unprecedented turnaround in processing applications for assistance. After a tumultuous period that saw, in some programs, upwards of 50% of applications failing to be processed in accordance with State and Federal guidelines as recently as February 2015, DFS administration and staff were able to right the ship and reestablish federal and state compliance at the 98th percentile— within 90 days!

The New York State Office of Temporary Assistance and Disability sent three separate review teams in February to analyze the processing status in HEAP, SNAP, and Temporary Assistance (TA). Each program area was found to have numerous challenges, particularly Temporary Assistance. In HEAP, staff worked quickly to reduce the overdue applications, and by March 1st all emergency cases were being processed the same day they were received, and 100% of telephone inquiries were being handled daily. The County had also managed to initiate the suggested processing changes that came as a result of the OTDA review.

Sullivan County engaged the Bonadio Group on a consulting basis to assist with the realignment of DFS and to regain control of the troubled programs. Acting Commissioner of the Division of Health and Family Services Joseph Todora, Deputy Commissioner of Family Services William Moon, and County Auditor Angela Chevalier, along with their dedicated employees at DFS, have worked tirelessly to address the identified issues with the department's current resources. An Interview Team was established for SNAP and TA by transferring and reorganizing staff from other units. Gradually, the number of overdue applications began to shrink.

Sullivan County has every reason to be proud of its employees at the Department of Family Services. They have worked extra hours and came in on their weekends to get these programs back on track. Consider the following: in March there were 279 overdue TA cases and 131 overdue SNAP cases. By June 1 there were only 15 TA and 3 SNAP cases that were overdue. By mid-June these numbers were both at 0. This is a remarkable accomplishment and is reflected in the feedback that has been received from several State representatives, who have said, "Sullivan has really dialed it up on case processing," "It's great to see such improvement!" and "Kudos to you and all your staff on a great job on effecting a swift turnaround."

Thank you to our consultants at the Bonadio Group for all of their assistance, and a much deserved congratulations to Joe Todora, Bill Moon, Angela Chevalier and all of our County employees at the Department of Family Services!



Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History opens Friday July 3, 2015! See more inside!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Sullivan County Department of Family Services in 98th Percentile for State and Federal Compliance

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Summer has arrived in Sullivan County! As barbeques are lit and boats launched for the season, we should all be aware that we need to take some precautions to ensure we are safe as we enjoy all that is available in our beautiful county.

Water is everywhere and offers a plethora of opportunities for summer fun! Before we strap on those water skis we need to be aware of proper preparation and safety while on the water. Boating is one of the most popular summer activities. Whether you are driving a boat with a motor, rowing a small boat, paddling a canoe, or operating a small water unit we must always have an awareness of the other boats around us, as well as any swimmers that should be avoided. Wearing a personal floatation device is a must for any large body of water where a swim to shore, if necessary, would be a long distance. Personal floatation devices are also necessary when enjoying the Delaware River, where the current and rocks in the water flow could cause you to overturn your float or your boat.

It is very important to keep an eye on the weather when enjoying the great outdoors. It is no surprise with recent storms this past year that our weather is changing to the point where we see extreme rainfall, hot and cold temperatures, and wind storms. If you are planning to do some camping we must ask that you keep track of the weather, so that if a storm comes into the area in which you are camping you have a safe zone to enter and avoid sudden water flows or thunder storms with lightning. Speaking of lightning, when thunderstorms are forecasted or imminent please avoid open areas of athletic fields, golf courses, parks, picnic areas, schoolyards and areas used to protect people from rain and sun but not lightning. If you see darkened clouds and flashes of lightning or wind, do not wait but seek shelter in an enclosed building or a motor vehicle. A quick rule is to always stay low, get out of the water, and off the shoreline of a lake or stream.

And finally, be safe and do not drink and drive! We want everyone to go and come home safely! Enjoy your summer!

WHAT IS SULLIVAN NY CONNECTS?

Sullivan NYCONNECTS offers free information & assistance to consumers, caregivers, & professionals regarding long term services and supports. Finding the right long term services & supports can be very confusing. Sullivan NYCONNECTS provides one stop access to complete & unbiased information & assistance. This makes it simple for people who are learning about long term care. By knowing what all their options are, people can make informed decisions.

Long term care covers a broad range of medical & non-medical care that is designed to improve or maintain one's health and/or daily function. Services may be in the community, in the home, or in a residential setting.

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FORT DELAWARE MUSEUM OF COLONIAL HISTORY OPENS FULL TIME FOR 2015 SEASON

Celebrate Independence Day at Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg, NY! Beginning Friday, July 3, 2015 Fort Delaware will be open Friday, Saturdays and Mondays from 10:00am to 5:00pm, and Sundays from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, through Labor Day Weekend. Independence Day weekend will include a Revolutionary War Era Flag exhibit, as well as the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Additional upcoming events at Fort Delaware include

- Colonial Cooking, July 10-13
- Fiber Arts, July 31-August 3
- Lecture on Colonial versus Modern Home Brewing August 15
- 18th Century War Encampment, featuring the Navasing Longrifles, August 22-23
- And much more!



For more information about these events and others please visit the Fort Delaware page of the Sullivan County website at www.co.sullivan.ny.us, or call (845) 252-6660 during the Fort's regular operating hours. You may also call the Division of Public Works, which operates and maintains Fort Delaware. They may be reached (845) 807-0261.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION IN SULLIVAN COUNTY: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Foster Care and Adoption Unit at the Sullivan County Department of Family Services is always seeking to recruit and certify homes and families to foster or adopt children within our county. Foster parents play an essential role in providing temporary homes to children when their parents are unable to care for them. Some children who are unable to return to their birth families may become eligible for adoption. Families are needed to provide safe, nurturing and loving homes to children in our community.

A Foster Parent should be someone who:

- Wants to make a difference in the life of a family
- Can make room in their home and heart for children who need temporary care
- Is flexible and capable of handling stressful situations
- Can work as a member of a team with families, social workers and other professionals
- Can help prepare a child for return to their birth family, independent living or to be adopted
- May become an adoptive parent

Children in foster care represent all ethnic groups and may be infants through teenagers. Some children may have physical and/or behavioral challenges and may have been removed from a neglectful and/or abusive situation. Sibling groups may come into foster care and we make every effort to place them together. The children currently awaiting adoption with no families are residing in either therapeutic foster care or residential treatment centers due to their own mental health or behavioral needs. Children that are placed in foster care, like all children, need love, affection and guidance.

Foster and adoptive parents can be male or female, married, single, or living with a partner. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older and US citizens or legal residents. They must have the ability to provide each child with his or her own bed and have sufficient income to meet their own family's needs.

In addition to training, support and a close working relationship from our agency, foster parents will receive daily board rates, clothing allowance and Medicaid for each child. There are casework services and 24-hour Emergency Services available as support as well.

Candidates must attend and successfully complete a 10 week, 30 hour MAPP/GPS (Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting/Group Preparation and Selection) training and preparation. Before becoming fully certified, candidates must complete and submit (amongst other paperwork) a child abuse clearance form, fingerprinting, current medical reports and personal references. A criminal background check and a CPS history check will be completed. Two in-home consultations/studies and a home inspection must also be completed.

Interested parties should contact the Sullivan County Department of Family Services Foster Care Unit and request to speak with Michael Osepowicz at (845) 513-2389, or you may e-mail Mr. Osepowicz at Michael.osepowicz@dfa.state.ny.us for an application to begin the process.

Remember: You can make a difference in a child's life! Become a Foster or Adoptive parent in Sullivan County, NY!

PUBLIC AUCTION: DEADLINE FOR FINAL PAYMENT APPROACHES

The public auction of over 350 County-owned properties was held on June 10 and 11 at the Sullivan in Rock Hill, NY. Nancy Buck, Sullivan County Treasurer, would like to remind successful bidders that the entire balance of the contracts must be paid on or before July 24, 2015. Payments may be made by credit card (Visa, Master Card or Discover with a 2.5% added charge), cash or guaranteed funds payable to and received by the Sullivan County Treasurer.

In addition, all successful bidders must contact their respective School Districts, Towns and Villages (if applicable) to ensure that a current tax bill is forwarded to them to avoid penalties and interest. School tax bills are issued around the first of September each year. County/Town tax bills are issued in January of each year. Village tax bills are sent out in June and August depending on the Village. The successful bidder should contact the Village directly for that information.

A list of properties that did not sell is available now and in the middle of August the parcels that did not get finalized will be added.

Please feel free to contact us for more information:

**Sullivan County Treasurer's
Office**

**100 North Street, PO Box
5012**

Monticello, NY 12701

(845) 807-0200

SULLIVAN NYCONNECTS (CONTINUED)

Examples of long term care are adult day care, home care, respite, adult homes, homebound & congregate meals, health insurance information, hospice care, housing options, senior centers, transportation, nursing homes, & personal emergency response system.

Sullivan NYCONNECTS provides information & assistance to consumers, caregivers, & professionals regarding long term services and supports for adults with physical disabilities, children with physical disabilities, and the elderly. For more information please contact:

**Sullivan NYCONNECTS: Choices
for Long Term Care
A Single Point of Entry for Long
Term Care
Sullivan County Office for the
Aging
100 North Street, PO Box 5012
Monticello, NY 12701
(845) 807-0257**

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.

Sullivan County Manager's Office
Sullivan County Government Center
100 North Street, PO Box 5012
Monticello, NY 12701

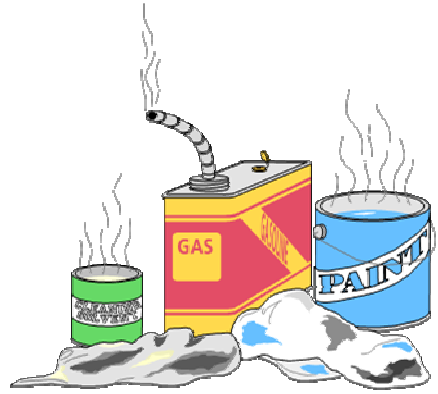
Phone: 845-807-0450
Fax: 845-807-0460
E-mail: info@co.sullivan.ny.us



SULLIVAN COUNTY SPONSORS RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP EVENTS IN 2015

Sullivan County is pleased to announce two opportunities for residents and individuals with households in the County to safely dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) at **no cost** to participants.

HHW is discarded, unused, or leftover quantities of household chemicals that contain toxic ingredients. Acceptable items for the collection events include some potentially dangerous materials, including pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, auto care products, pool chemicals, petroleum solvents, spoiled/unwanted fuel (gasoline, kerosene, diesel), oil based (not latex) paint, lead paint, polishes, preservatives, fertilizers, thinners, varnishes, driveway sealer, waxes, corrosive chemicals, acids, bases, adhesives/resins, old photo chemicals, automotive batteries, fluorescent lamps, mercury and mercury-containing devices to name a few. Household chemicals may be identified by labels such as **Warning, Caution, Toxic, Flammable, Corrosive, or Poisonous.**



*Radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, vapor-state gases, asbestos, fire extinguishers, consumer batteries, smoke detectors, infectious agents, pharmaceuticals, medical wastes of any kind, medical "sharps," and water based (Latex) paints are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** in this program.*

Pre-registration is required by calling (845) 807-0291 with your name, residential address, phone number, and a list of chemicals you would like to dispose of. Collection Event appointments are available on Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 12:30PM–4:00PM and Sunday, August 30, 2015 from 10:00AM–3:00PM. The collection events will be held at the Monticello Transfer Station, 91 Landfill Drive, Monticello, NY 12701. Please bring two forms of identification to the event showing name and residential address for entry. If you have any questions, need safe packaging instructions or transport directions please call (845) 807-0291.

These collection events are partially funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Sullivan County, and are provided to bring hazardous waste disposal services into our community. By participating, we take a proactive role in protecting the environment and public health by preventing the improper disposal of these materials in landfills, wastewater treatment plants, and waterways. Please take advantage of these opportunities to safely dispose of those hazardous cans of liquid and mystery chemicals you may have lurking in your basement or garage!

