

New Tiers Fly Car Christened on 9/10/08



Town of Clayton Supervisor Justin A. Taylor, Village of Clayton Mayor Norma Zimmer, Town of Orleans Supervisor Donna Chatterton, and TIERS Director Raleigh Churchill, among others, cut the ribbon on TIERS new Fly Car at the 9/10/08 Town of Clayton Board Meeting.

Award-winning TIERS puts its new fly car in service

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CLAYTON — Watch out for that white sport utility vehicle with the Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service logo. The new TIERS fly car is officially in service.

"For us to be recognized as the EMS agency of the year and get the fly car is a wonderful experience for our staff and our board members. This is just a great event," said Roland "Rolly" Churchill, director of TIERS.

TIERS was named Emergency Medical Service Agency of the Year by the New York State Emergency Medical Services Bureau, based in Troy, on Aug. 15. TIERS was selected for significantly improving the EMS system of the St. Lawrence River communities and for implementing health education and wellness programs.

Mr. Churchill said TIERS purchased a used 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe for \$23,000, and a "Caution Tape Cutting Ceremony" was held Wednesday to inaugurate the paramedic response vehicle.

The fly car will be in service from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and certain evenings when paramedic staffing is available.

"We've added all the equipment — the siren, radios and paramedic equipment. We're still gearing up with some special equipment," Mr. Churchill said.

A fly car, or a paramedic response vehicle, is a production car equipped with specialty advanced life support medical equipment and is used to provide quicker medical assistance. Mr. Churchill said the vehicle will have much of the same equipment as an ambulance to manage severe trauma calls, cardiac calls and pediatric emergencies, but cannot transport patients.

"The plan is to man it with only paramedics," he said. "We are going to be able to respond with a paramedic without having to send out a whole ambulance."

Mr. Churchill said that fly cars also come in handy when driving on snow-covered secondary roads.

He said the fly car will be beneficial for the two towns that TIERS covers, Orleans and Clayton, but also the surrounding communities on the St. Lawrence River.

"I think the community certainly expressed their interest in the fly car," he said. "They really pulled through for us."

TIERS started raising money for the car in March with a letter campaign and held several fundraisers.

"We also had an anonymous donor," he said. "We've bought the fly car with tremendous savings thanks to him."

The EMS Agency of the Year award will be presented to TIERS representatives Oct. 4 at the awards banquet during the New York State EMS Vital Signs Conference Oct. 2 to 5 at the Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo.