

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



OUT ON THE ROAD TO SERVE YOU BETTER

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

I remember the trek to Monticello from where I grew up in Livingston Manor. Even on Route 17, it seemed to take forever to get to the DMV in the Government Center.

I work there now, so the Department of Motor Vehicles is a lot more convenient. But I'm sure that's not the case for all of you. Monticello may still be well out of your way.

Thanks to County Clerk Russell Reeves and his office, though, you don't need to schlep out by me to get your important DMV work done. They'll essentially come to you.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Russell dedicates a couple of his folks to packing up their equipment, trekking to one of our downtowns, and setting up shop. In fact, the first four locations listed here offer the same range of services as at Monticello:

- Town of Liberty Visitor Center - 15 Sullivan Ave., Liberty
- Bloomingburg Village Hall - 13 North Rd., Bloomingburg
- Neversink Town Hall - 273 Main Street, Grahamsville
- Callicoon Town Hall - 19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville
- Rockland Town Hall - 95 Main Street, Livingston Manor
- Delaware Town Hall - 104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville
- Mamakating Town Hall - 2948 US 209, Wurtsboro
- Tusten Town Hall - 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg

Driver's licenses, CDLs, registrations, license plates - they're all handled at the mobile DMV. Bring your thornier issues, too.

Most likely, the crew can take care of those, as well.

Just remember it's appointment-only. Walk-ins will be accommodated only if time permits. Schedule a visit at www.sullivanvny.us/Departments/Clerk/DMV.



The County retains 12.7% of every local transaction - far less for online. Let's keep our dollars in Sullivan County!

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

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CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW WORKFORCE...

You've probably heard about our Sullivan Promise scholarship - you know, the one where the County pays for a year of tuition at SUNY Sullivan for any local high school graduate in good standing. Thanks to the Legislature, that awesome opportunity has now expanded to two years. That means our grads (or their parents) don't have to worry about any tuition bill for their entire stay at our gem of a community college. Legislators have once again worked with County staff to create another chance - this time for adults. Starting April 10, up to 15 Sullivan County residents will spend nine weeks learning the basics of the in-demand construction trade, from carpentry to

flooring, ceiling installation to safety protocols, and a whole lot more. Our Center for Workforce Development, which is collaborating with Sullivan BOCES to offer this course, will even teach students how to interest potential employers (which won't be hard, considering how desperate many contractors are for reliable, skilled workers). **The entire set of evening classes will be provided FREE, paid for by the County in order to grow a much-needed workforce locally.** If this program interests you, I'd recommend calling or emailing our Workforce Development folks right away, as we expect seats to fill up fast: 845-794-3340 or sccwd@sullivanny.us.

MAKING OUR GOOGLE CHATBOT WORK FOR YOU

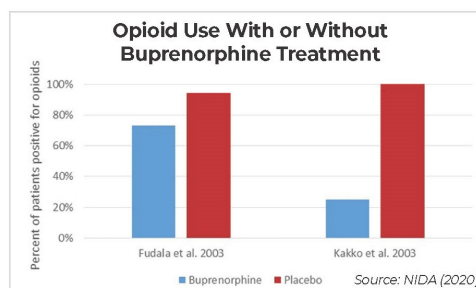
If you're one of the thousands who've tried our AI-powered Google chatbot on our website since its November debut, thank you! You've participated in an important test of this groundbreaking technology. If you've yet to try it out, just look for the window

that pops up in the lower righthand corner at sullivanny.us. Type in a question, or pick from the choices offered. (Note that currently, it only offers info relating to the County Clerk's and County Treasurer's offices.)

IT'S ABOUT INCREASING OUR "MOUD" IN 2023

We're part of a nationwide, Federally funded effort to make a significant dent in opioid abuse rates - which isn't surprising, considering Sullivan County leads New York State in per-capita overdoses. In partnership with Columbia University, we've been participating in the HEALing Communities Study (HEAL) to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths by 40 percent. Our current awareness effort focuses on medications for opioid use disorder, better known as MOUDs. There are three FDA-approved medications that can lower the risk of relapse and overdose. These medications improve a

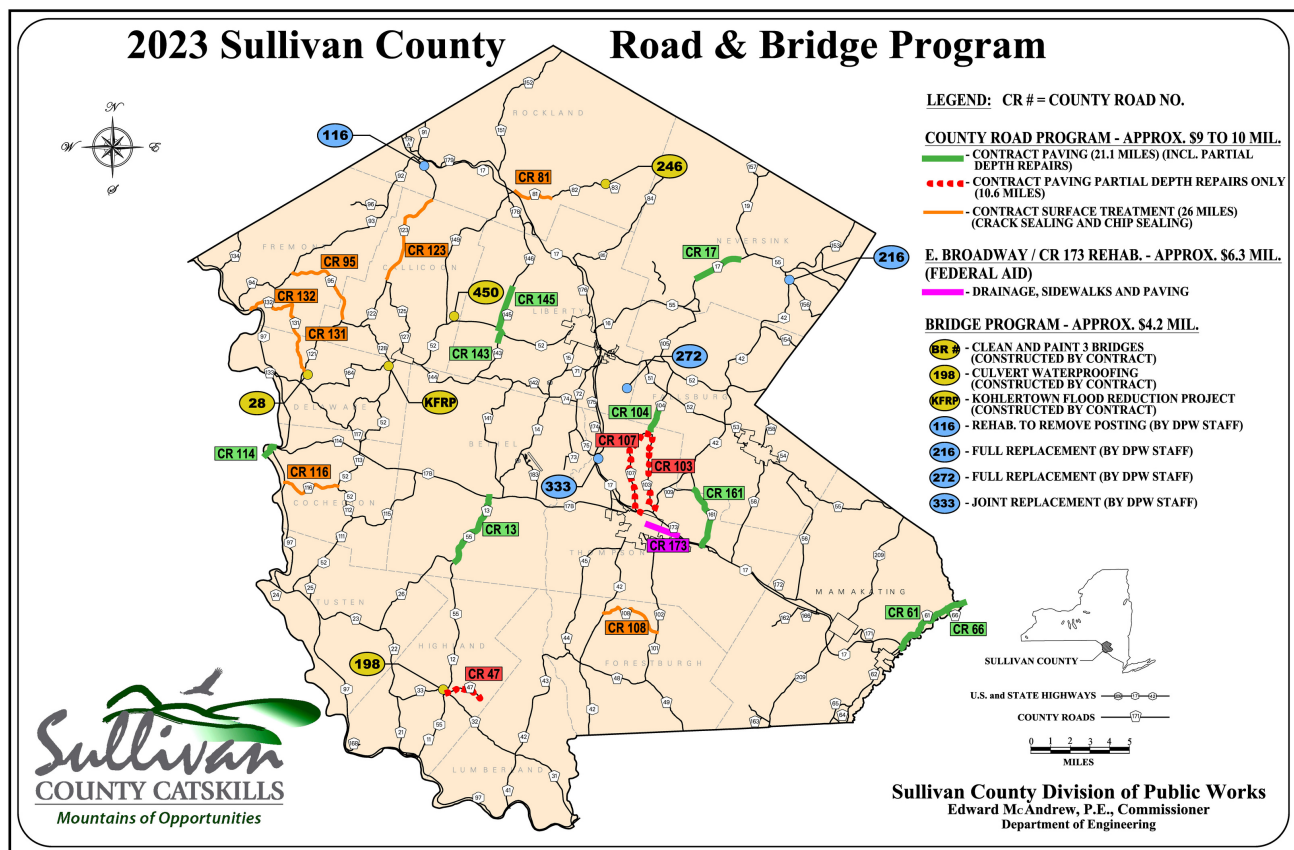
person with opioid use disorder's function, productivity, and participation in other treatment.



Research shows that buprenorphine is more effective than treatment without medication, and that overdose deaths were higher among those who were tapered off buprenorphine despite having access to counseling services.

These medications include methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. But they aren't as available or as well-known as they should be, which is why we're blanketing social media, traditional media, and our community partners with info, and urging them to visit our informative website: HealTogetherNY.org/Sullivan. Help us spread the word that

true healing begins with us, as a community, helping each other.



KEEPING YOUR ROADS AND BRIDGES SHIP-SHAPE

Even before the plows and chains come off our trucks, the crews of the Division of Public Works (DPW) are setting up shop for summer work. That includes roadwork and bridgework, some of which we do in-house, some of which we contract out. The map above illustrates how extensive that work will be in 2023, literally spanning the whole County. Of particular note is the fact we'll be finishing the long-awaited rehabilitation of East Broadway in

Monticello, complete with new paving, sidewalks and traffic lights. We'll also continue work on the Kohlertown Flood Reduction Project near Jeffersonville. We'll be surface-treating four different County routes in western Sullivan, repaving seven County roads in central Sullivan, and replacing three bridges, among other work. In all, the Legislature has authorized us to spend more than \$15 million keeping our highways and overpasses up to speed, so that you can get where you need to go.

LOOK INTO GETTING YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE

Volunteers trained as tax counselors can prepare and file Federal and State tax returns at no cost to individuals and families through the AARP, IRS and our own Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Although focused on taxpayers over 50, the service is open to anyone of any age who is low- to middle-income.

Call these locations to make an appointment:

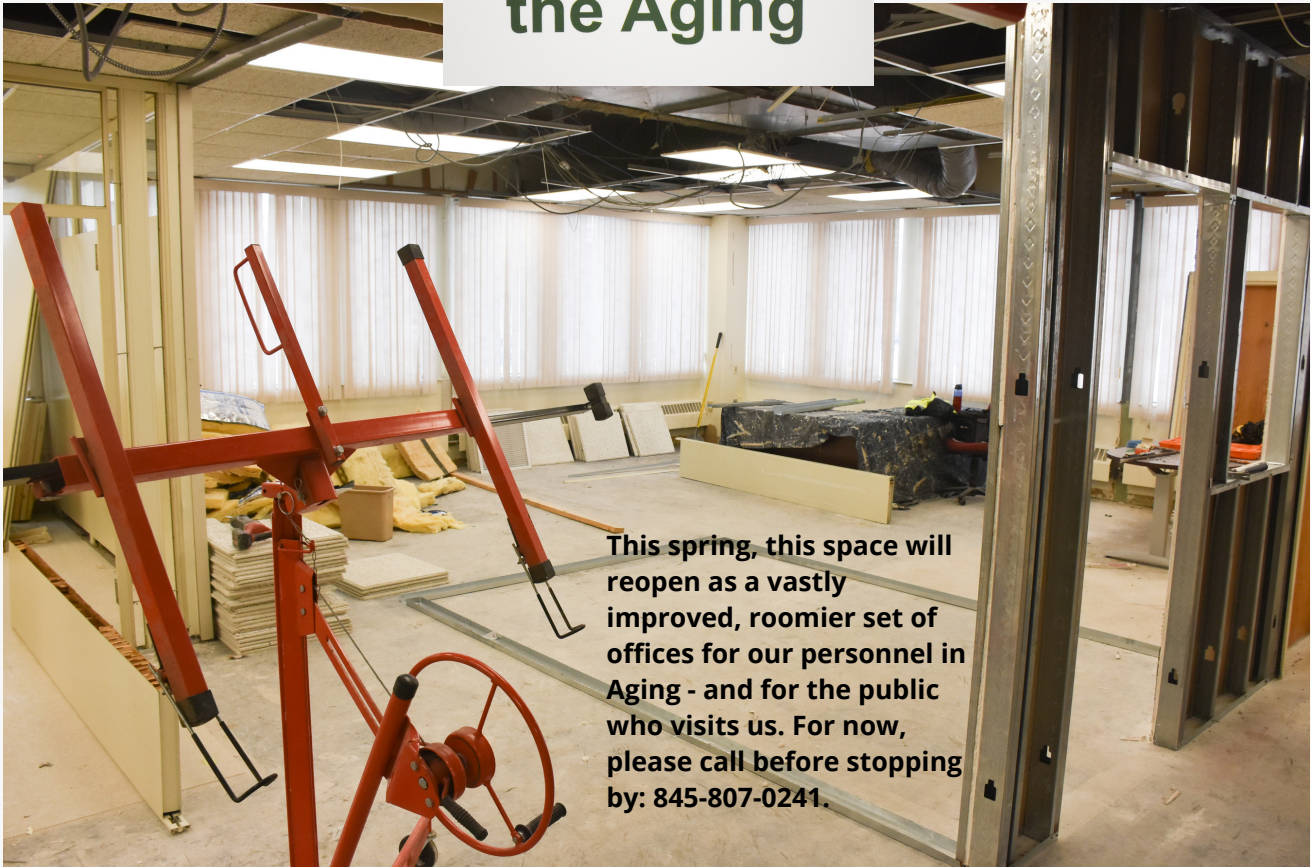
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Liberty, 845-292-6180
- Crawford Public Library, Monticello, 845-794-4660
- Mamakating Library, Wurtsboro, 845-888-8004
- Sunshine Hall Library, Eldred, 845-557-6258



TEARING APART TO BUILD US UP

Our Division of Public Works has carefully disassembled both the former Veterans Service Agency and current Office for the Aging quarters in the Government Center.

Office for the Aging



This spring, this space will reopen as a vastly improved, roomier set of offices for our personnel in Aging - and for the public who visits us. For now, please call before stopping by: 845-807-0241.