

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Manager's Office

June 2017

## New jail on time, under budget

If you've driven along Old Route 17 near "new" Route 17's Exit 104, you've likely noticed the bulldozers, cranes and workers buzzing across a formerly empty field. That's the site of the new Sullivan County Jail, and Sullivan County Manager Josh Potosek and Sullivan County Sheriff Mike Schiff are pleased to say it's proceeding on time and under budget.

"After years of talk but little action, Sullivan County is finally moving toward replacing its century-old jail in Monticello," said Potosek. "And our progress is now very visible, with foundations poured and framework rising."

"In concert with our architect LaBella Associates and our general contractor Pike Company, we've completed about 25 percent of the construction work already," Schiff remarked. "We're on target to open the 256-bed facility in 2019 at or below the \$95 million approved by the Legislature."

### Facts and figures about the facility

- 256 beds, expandable up to 303, with cells arriving this month
- \$85 million construction cost, funded through a one-time property tax increase
- Around 126,000-square-foot Jail, attached 20,000-s.f. Patrol/Admin Building

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*- County Manager Josh Potosek*

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Walls are up and cells are coming for the new Sullivan County Jail in Monticello.

### In This Issue

- New solar array is live in Liberty
- Tax auction exceeds delinquencies
- Looking for a job? We have openings
- Visit your county's parks and museum



Lake Superior State Park on Dr. Duggan Road in Bethel is operated by the County.

## ‘Park Yourself’ right here ...

Ready to relax? To have fun? To “park yourself” someplace? County Manager Josh Potossek invites one and all to enjoy Sullivan County’s gorgeous parks and museums, including seven very special spots the County either owns or operates.

- **Lake Superior, Bethel** — 1,409 acres of fields, woodlands and, of course, the lake itself (plus the less well-known but equally beautiful Chestnut Ridge Pond) offer something for everyone: swimming (the only County park where this is allowed), a sandy beach, picnic areas with grills, a group pavilion, row-boat/paddleboat rentals, a boat launch (electric motors only), restrooms, vending machines, shower/changing area, fishing, volleyball court and playground
- **Delaware & Hudson (D&H) Canal Linear Park, Phillipsport** — 3 1/2 miles of this historic, nearly 200-year-old defunct canal have been preserved for walking, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature watching and fishing. Picnic tables and grills, along with bathrooms, are available, and an interpretive center and signs along the towpath and locks explain the fascinating history of what was once the region’s main transportation corridor
- **Minisink Battleground Park, Barryville** — Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this 57-acre walking and picnicking park commemorates the only Revolutionary War battle ever fought locally and includes an educational interpretive center. Located near another historic spot: the Roebling Aqueduct
- **Livingston Manor Covered Bridge Park, Livingston Manor** — Built in 1860, the still-drivable bridge is accompanied by picnic areas and restrooms
- **Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park, Kenoza Lake** — This three-arched stone beauty catches the eye of all who pass her, and she’s a popular spot for wedding photos. Fishing, walking trails, restrooms, a playground and picnic areas are available (**‘Parks’ continues on the next page ...**)

## We’ve got jobs!

Whether you’re seeking full– or part-time employment, whether you have a skilled degree or not, Sullivan County has a variety of job openings for those who want to put their talents to work.

From management, marketing and nursing positions to summer-only positions, we’re constantly looking for folks to help us better serve the taxpayers.

So join us! First take a look at our current slate of openings at <http://co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/DepartmentsNZ/Personnel/JobOpportunities/tabid/3221/Default.aspx>. Then fill out an application online or in person at our Personnel Department, 100 North Street, Monticello, NY.

Need help applying, creating a resume or finding the job that’s right for you? Our Sullivan Works One-Stop Career Center is a free resource, staffed with friendly people who can help you get where you want to be! Visit them at 50 North Street in Monticello, or call 845-794-3340.



Find your spot in county government!

## Parks ...

(Continued from previous page)

- **Fort Delaware, Narrowsburg** — Go back 250 years to the way European settlers first lived in the region, inside this re-created Delaware Riverside fort. Re-enactors and a gift shop accompany vending and picnicking facilities, and there's a full schedule of special events throughout the summer weekends
- **Sullivan County Museum, Hurleyville** — Home to the Sullivan County Historical Society, the County's museum is a treasure trove of genealogical information, historic archives and a plethora of exhibits on everything from the Woodstock festival to our very own North Pole explorer, Frederick Cook

Each of these locations has its own hours and activities, so to ensure you have the experience you seek, call 845-807-0287 for info or check out [co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/DepartmentsNZ/PublicWorksDivisionof/ParksRecreation/tabid/3190/Default.aspx](http://co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/DepartmentsNZ/PublicWorksDivisionof/ParksRecreation/tabid/3190/Default.aspx).



Now operational, the County's latest solar array covers 10 acres off Sunset Lake Rd.

## Solar array is live in Liberty

What's quiet but always active, ever hungry but never eats, and generates energy without moving a muscle? A solar array, of course, and Sullivan County boasts one of the newest fields of sunshine-seeking panels in New York State!

Located on a hill overlooking the Adult Care Center (ACC) and Social Services Complex along Sunset Lake Road in Liberty, our new 10-acre solar array has already generated more than 278,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity since May, providing low-cost, environmentally friendly energy to the ACC, the Shared Health Clinic and a half-dozen other County facilities.

The array is one of an increasing number of solar projects in New York, which has seen rapid growth in the industry in recent years. Through the NY-Sun initiative, the project was built by SolarCity with no upfront capital costs incurred by local taxpayers. While Sullivan County owns the property, SolarCity owns and operates the array itself, and the County purchases electricity from SolarCity for use in its facilities, at an estimated savings of \$75,000 a year.

"We are one of the leaders in the turn to green, renewable energy in New York State, and I'm proud of the hard work our Office of Sustainable Energy staff undertakes every day to keep us in that leadership role," affirmed County Manager Josh Potosek. "Sustainability Coordinator Heather Brown and her colleagues Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart understand both the hopes and realities of this burgeoning field like few others, and I'm grateful to have them on our team."

# Tax auction generates interest

Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck announced that the 2017 Sullivan County Tax Foreclosure Real Estate Auction conducted Wednesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 15 by NYSAuctions.com resulted in 260 of 303 parcels tentatively sold, pending necessary legislative approvals and closings.

“We had crowds on both days, with a lot of interest,” she stated. “And the bids exceeded the outstanding taxes.”

The delinquencies on those 260 properties totaled \$1,540,566.74.

The Sullivan County Legislature met Tuesday, June 20 to approve/reject the purchases. (Please note that the sale of properties owned by the villages must be approved by their respective boards, as well.)



## 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](http://co.sullivan.ny.us)

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## Shared minds

Following NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo’s initiative, Sullivan County and its component towns and villages are exploring new ways to share services and personnel.

“We’re looking at everything from tax collection and assessing to payroll and purchasing,” County Manager Josh Potosek explained.

The law signed into effect in May by Governor Cuomo makes Potosek the chairman of a new Shared Services Panel, a monthly meeting of the 15 town supervisors and 6 village mayors.

A tentative plan will be presented to legislators later this year, followed by public hearings. The next Panel meeting is set for Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Government Center in Monticello.

## County joins forces with BOCES, college

With the Resorts World Catskills casino and the Veria Lifestyle resort the most prominent examples, Sullivan County is back on the map for large-scale hospitality. And so we’re scaling up our preparations accordingly.

In conjunction with Sullivan County BOCES, SUNY Sullivan and the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, the County’s Center for Workforce Development is spearheading an initiative to train local BOCES and college students in the art and science of hospitality, while ensuring they have reliable, affordable transportation to their workplaces. More to come!