

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Manager's Office

August 2018



A 10-foot-tall tube sits in the Kartrite Water Park's parking lot near Monticello, awaiting installation as part of a massive complex of water slides. The park and adjacent hotel are slated to open in the spring of 2019.

## An exciting future ahead

County officials in late July got a glimpse of what lies ahead at the under-construction Kartrite Water Park near Monticello, within walking distance of the Resorts World Catskills casino complex.

"Planned and built by the minds behind one of the Northeast's most popular destinations, Camelback Resort, this project has the powerful potential to position Sullivan County as a premier family destination," said Sullivan County Manager Josh Potosek. "Open year-round, Kartrite will be a hub for anyone seeking an affordable, exciting vacation close not only to Bethel Woods, the casino and Legoland but our rivers, lakes, museums, performance venues and downtowns."

"This is very much an exciting time to live and work in Sullivan County," he added.

### In This Issue

- The Center for Workforce Development: Geared toward your success
- Major projects are in the works
- Yes, we're already working on the 2019 County Budget!
- More than just a jail



The talented team of the Center for Workforce Development stand ready to help at the Sullivan County Career Center on 50 North Street in Monticello. From the left are Administrative Assistant Sharon Ferber, Employment & Training Specialist Julie Hopkins, Employment & Training Supervisor Renee Vandermark, Business Services Specialist Alana McGinniss, Fiscal Coordinator Loreen Gebelein, Employment & Training Specialist Nancy Nicoletti, Youth Program Specialist Lyle Mincheff, Employment & Training Specialist April Rodriguez, Assistant Director Peggy Marchese and Director Laura Quigley.

**Departmental Spotlight: Center for Workforce Development**

## Finding you work is not just a job for this crew

Sullivan County is enjoying a near-historic low unemployment rate of just 3.9%, but you won't find the Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development (CWD) team with their feet up on their desks.

"We've worked incredibly hard to prepare people for the job opportunities that have been coming, and I think my staff should get credit for helping us reach that rate," affirms CWD Director Laura Quigley. "But while we're excited that the folks who are able and willing to work are working, the people we now are predominantly working with have serious challenges to address before they can become part of the workforce. And that takes intensive case management."

So Quigley and her crew of nine specialists are busier than ever.

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## Art returns to the Government Center & you're invited!

The Sullivan County Homegrown Artists Exhibition Program has begun lining the walls of the Government Center in Monticello with public art, and the curators are looking for more area talent to showcase. Are you an artist in Sullivan County? Visit [www.facebook.com/SullivanCountyNYHomegrownArtists](http://www.facebook.com/SullivanCountyNYHomegrownArtists) to find out how to submit!



Legislature Chair Luis Alvarez shows Planning Commissioner Freda Eisenberg one of the new pieces of art now adorning the Government Center's hallways.

## We've got big plans

To grab a share of State grant funding these days, you need an aggressive team & a honed approach.

Our Division of Planning, Community Development and Real Property and our Department of Grants Administration form the core of that talented team, and they've submitted strong proposals to the State via its Consolidated Funding Application process.

Here's what we hope to land funding for:

- Predevelopment to create a new industrial park on County-owned land behind the former Apollo Mall in Monticello, in one of the federally designated Opportunity Zones locally.
- Acquiring a portion of the former O&W railbed in South Fallsburg, including the Fallsburg Tunnel, to add to existing rail trail segments.
- Constructing improvements to a Delaware River access point near Barryville.
- Acquiring riverfront property in Callicoon for parkland with walking trails and Delaware River access



The Medical Arts Building in Monticello, better known as 518 Broadway, has been purchased by Sullivan County for the Board of Elections' relocated offices.

## Expanding to better meet needs

The former home of Middletown Medical and other doctors' offices is now owned by the County of Sullivan and will become the Board of Elections' new quarters.

Located at 518 Broadway in the heart of downtown Monticello, the 6,800-square-foot, single-story office complex has long served as a medical arts building, but its open floorplan makes it suitable for housing both the relocated Board of Elections and the County's electronic voting machines.

"We were seeking a solution that would alleviate overcrowded offices at the Government Center but not be too far away," explained County Manager Josh Potossek. "I'm happy to say we found that solution in a solidly built facility within walking distance of the Government Center, fronting the busy Broadway corridor, and right next door to the Village of Monticello's largest municipal parking lot."

The Veterans Service Agency will move into the more spacious current quarters of the Board of Elections in the Government Center, after which the Office for the Aging will essentially double their space by expanding into the adjacent Veterans Service Agency footage.

## 2019 County Budget now in development

Sullivan County Manager Josh Potossek launched the 2019 County Budget development process earlier this summer, and departments and divisions have now submitted their requests.

"I plan to meet with department heads in September to go over their needs, with an eye toward releasing a tentative budget on November 1," he said.

"The economic resurgence of our County and region, along with incredibly strong job growth, should help us better deal with the ongoing challenges of rising healthcare & operating costs," he added.

# New jail will be more than just that

The new 133,000-square-foot County Jail will also house the Sheriff's Office, entirely relocated from the Bushnell Avenue home of the Patrol and Civil divisions.

As such, this new sign has been installed north of Route 17's Exit 104 at the entrance to the facility. It's covered for now to avoid confusion, but when the Sheriff's Office is fully relocated, it will be unveiled again, and the old jail and Sheriff's headquarters will likely be torn down.



## Got a question?

Try your legislator first, by calling the Sullivan County Legislature's office at 845-807-0435. They can direct you to the representative who is elected to serve you.

Or look up who you're seeking directly, via the County's website:

[SullivanNY.us](http://SullivanNY.us)

Sullivan County  
Manager's Office  
Joshua A. Potosek, MBA  
100 North Street  
Monticello, NY 12701  
(845) 807-0450

[dan.hust@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:dan.hust@co.sullivan.ny.us)

# Here's to good health - for us, for you, for everyone

Under the leadership of the Sullivan County Wellness Committee, we've seriously committed to improving the health of every County employee, their families and all our citizens. Don't believe us? Take a look at just a few of our major recent initiatives...

Pictured below are some of the County's staff who walked and ran their way to better health at the Monster 5K/10K on August 5. Keep your eye out for upcoming publicity on our Senior Games, organized by our Office for the Aging, and the grand opening of our Healthy Heart Trail behind Public Health Services in Liberty, created through our Parks & Recreation Office.



# CWD: Where ‘work’ is a truly wonderful word

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“The good thing about such a low unemployment rate is that we can give people that attention,” she adds.

Such focus matters, for this is the place where those who have long survived via tax dollars can find ways to become gainfully employed taxpayers themselves — not to mention healthier, happier human beings with bright futures.

“We help people figure out a solid career path, and we give them all the support they need to realize that,” Laura explains. “We often help people who are starting out much further back than the rest of the population. We support them, we encourage them, we help them plan.”

The core services — building a resume, searching for jobs, identifying training opportunities — are available to everyone, for free, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

“You can just walk in,” says Laura, noting you don’t have to be a Sullivan County, or even New York, resident to take advantage of those services. “Customer service is paramount for my team, and we welcome anyone to come in our door.”

Laura herself can be found assisting folks, but she gives all the credit to her hardworking group of experts, who deliver services with smiles, programs with professionalism and contacts with compassion and concern.

“They are just a really good bunch of people!” she smiles.

Yet CWD — and its newly renamed Sullivan County Career Center — doesn’t just focus on job-seekers. Companies looking for employees can find a raft of services at no cost, too (see sidebar).

“For businesses, we do on-site recruitments, mini job fairs, our Countywide job fair, on-the-job training and more,” Laura remarks. “We are part of the economic development team.”



To find out more, visit [sullivanny.us/departments/workforcedevelopment](http://sullivanny.us/departments/workforcedevelopment), call 845-794-3340 or stop by the Sullivan County Career Center at 50 North Street in Monticello.

For in two decades of leading the CWD, Laura has become well-known to coworkers, legislators and the public as a passionate advocate for aiding the downtrodden and vulnerable.

“I do this,” she affirms, “because I like helping people and having a positive impact on someone’s life.”

## What CWD does

In partnership with the NYS Department of Labor (whose local office is within the Sullivan County Career Center) and under the guidance of the Workforce Development Board, the Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development (CWD) is actively engaged in meeting a variety of needs.

### For individuals:

- Creating resumes
- Assisting in job searches
- Finding training and career opportunities
- Setting up work-search email accounts
- Providing career guidance
- Building goal-oriented employment plans
- Locating transportation and childcare services
- Offering seasonal jobs through the Summer Youth Employment Program (ages 14-20)
- Conducting a year-round program for young people aged 14-24 who’ve dropped out of school
- Career readiness training (how to retain and thrive in a career) launching this fall

### For businesses:

- On-site recruitment
- Referrals to other opportunities and agencies
- Job fairs (Countywide and industry-specific)
- Creating job descriptions
- On-the-job training
- Assistance with tax credits