

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Manager's Office

July 2017



Sullivan County and partners are intent on preparing the workforce for new opportunities.

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- New website in the works
- Jail construction moving along
- Park of the Month: Lake Superior
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## Putting our best foot forward

With not just a casino but a waterpark coming soon, along with a variety of hotels and other tourism-oriented businesses, Sullivan County's Center for Workforce Development has been diligently readying a Workforce Hospitality Training program with SUNY Sullivan, Sullivan County BOCES and the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development.

"This initiative positions all our adult learning institutions to be educational magnets for the thousands of people who will be employed at our new and existing visitor-oriented businesses," explained County Manager Josh Potosek. "They will need to develop new skills not only to land jobs but to rise through the ranks, and we will stand ready to get them there — and their employers."

### What we're developing

- Hospitality and gaming industry skills certifications through BOCES
- Hospitality and casino management courses through SUNY Sullivan
- Preparing businesses and individuals through the Partnership
- Public service campaign encouraging everyone to put out the welcome mat
- Setting up public and shared transportation solutions

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- County Manager Josh Potosek



Youth Bureau Director Lesia Snihura (seated) and Admin. Assistant Sherrie Hust

Departmental Spotlight: the Sullivan County Youth Bureau

## Their work is your play ...

An integral part of County government since the 1970s, the Sullivan County Youth Bureau is reaching more kids and families than ever.

“In 2016 we served 8,094 youth and funded 24 programs,” Director Lesia Snihura says. “In 2017, we’re funding 27 programs, and we’re projecting serving around 9,500 children.”

That’s with just \$150,000, half from the County, half from the State. Lesia and Administrative Assistant Sherrie Hust ensure those funds are funneled to programs around the County, from the Town of Neversink’s Parks and Rec Department to Nesin Cultural Arts’ Children’s Community Chorus in Monticello. Most local town and village youth programs apply for and receive some kind of funding from the Youth Bureau, as does 4-H, Alive at 25, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA, serving youth in Family Court) and the new “Better Together.”

Lesia and Sherrie are involved at every step: letting program organizers, parents and kids know of funding opportunities and events; helping them fill out the necessary forms; monitoring programs’ performance; answering other County departments’ requests for help with their young clients; and collaborating with other youth-oriented agencies.

“The Youth Bureau directly connects kids and families with youth programming, activities and events that take place in Sullivan County,” explains Lesia. “Our mission is to promote the well-being of all youth ages 0-21.”

“I’m proud of the work Lesia and Sherrie accomplish every day for our youngest citizens,” County Manager Josh Potosek affirms. “The Bureau is expanding its outreach thanks to the Legislature’s willingness to add a staff person (Sherrie) and support Lesia’s desire to reach every child in every corner of the County.”

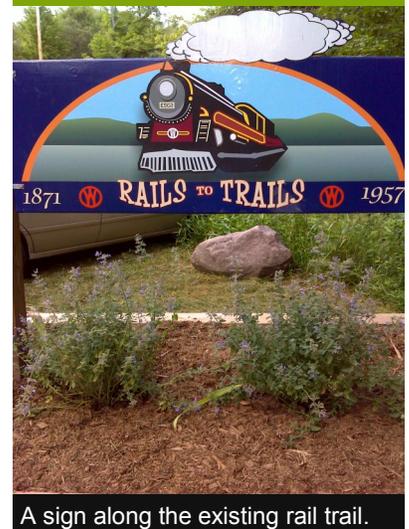
For more info, Lesia and Sherrie welcome calls at 845-807-0394.

## One County, one Rail Trail

Sullivan County has contracted with Alta Engineering to study the former New York, Ontario & Western (O&W) railbed for conversion into a Countywide rail trail.

For more than 80 years, O&W trains puffed over the foothills of the Catskills, and portions of the old right-of-way are already in public use by walkers and hikers.

The study, now under way, will lead to a comprehensive master plan that will help the County and its partners acquire more funding to provide a complete trail from Bloomingburg to Roscoe, passing through Wurtsboro, Mountaintale, Woodridge, South Fallsburg, Hurleyville, Fernaldale, Liberty, Parksville and Livingston Manor.



A sign along the existing rail trail.

## Are you a nurse seeking a job?

There's never been a better time to look for employment in Sullivan County. The local job market is growing, and County Government has a particularly pressing need for nurses, both LPNs and RNs, throughout our facilities.

Regardless, 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.

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.



**Wanted: nurses, both LPNs and RNs!**



**A fleet of paddleboats awaits 'eager beavers' ready to explore Lake Superior!**

**Sullivan County Park of the Month: Lake Superior, Dr. Duggan Road, Bethel**

## Take to the Lake!

Sullivan County's parks offer great hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, walking, picnicking and relaxing opportunities this time of year! Many are free to visit, and those that have fees are very affordable (thanks especially to the fact that honorably discharged veterans are admitted free of charge).

Lake Superior in Bethel is one of our most popular parks, offering just about everything you and your family could want to do on a warm summer day! Consisting of 1,409 acres and featuring not just the lake but Chestnut Ridge Pond, the park features a swimming area, sand beach, picnic areas with grills, group picnic pavilion, rowboat and paddle boat rentals, boat launch (electric motors only), vending machines, restrooms, shower/changing area, fishing (DEC fishing license required), volleyball court and playground (ages 5-12).

The beach area operates for swimming on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day weekend through June. Daily beach operation commences the last week of June through Labor Day. The park is open year-round. Big-game hunting (DEC hunting permit required), ice fishing, hiking and sleigh-riding are permitted.

There is a per-person fee at the beach area from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day: Day Pass \$5, Children Under 3 Free

Call 845-807-0287 for details!

## 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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## #SpendTen

A collective of seven farmers markets in Sullivan County are sharing ten reasons to buy local. And to reward shoppers for their visit, the collective is giving away free tote bags, magnets, bumper stickers, jar openers and other fun prizes to anyone who makes a pledge.

There are 3 ways to pledge...

1. **AT THE MARKET:** Shoppers can make their pledge, spend \$10, then get their free gift
2. **ONLINE:** [www.homegrownwithheart.com/spendten](http://www.homegrownwithheart.com/spendten). Shoppers can then pick up their gift at any market listed
3. **FACEBOOK:**  
[www.facebook.com/sullivancatskillsfarmersmarkets](http://www.facebook.com/sullivancatskillsfarmersmarkets)

## It's a busy time at the new jail construction site in Monticello

The Pike Company and its subcontractors are working rapidly to erect the 134,000-square-foot Sullivan County Jail off Route 17's Exit 104 in Monticello.

Thanks to a huge crane now on site, over 100 pods, each containing two jail cells (for a total of 256 beds), are being lifted from flatbed trucks and lowered into place. Common areas and utilities are also being installed, and the Sheriff's Office's new Patrol/Administration quarters already have a roof.

The goal is to have the jail open by 2019, though with favorable conditions, Patrol/Admin could be occupied next year. Once the state approves the transfer of inmates, the century-old existing jail will be vacated and demolished.



Prefabricated pods, featuring two cells each, are now being installed by crane.

## New County website is in the works

A team of County officials are collaborating to completely revamp Sullivan County Government's website, [co.sullivan.ny.us](http://co.sullivan.ny.us).

The goal is to create a user- and mobile-friendly site that can answer citizens' questions quickly and efficiently, 24/7. This will be accomplished through an eye-catching, easy-to-navigate design, featuring interactive forms and documents to facilitate doing business with the County and its agencies.

An outside design firm will be brought on to assist this effort, with a completion goal of 2018.