

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



SULLIVAN COUNTY'S PRIDE, JOY AND FUTURE

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

Far too often, Sullivan County residents "talk down" about our hometowns and our County. It's human nature to complain about life and circumstances, but sometimes we need to raise our heads and look around at what we do have: beautiful natural resources, a standard of living well above much of the rest of the world, and a population of young people who make us proud. The Legislature got to celebrate those young achievers last month during the County's annual recognition of valedictorians. They reminded us of just how much we have to look forward to. Whether they stay or not, we will always be able to proudly say Sullivan County is where they're from!

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Sullivan County's valedictorians were honored at the Legislature in May...

(Not pictured is Rebecca Stickle of Roscoe)



Katrina Blais (Liberty)

Robert Denman (Tri-Valley)

Kaitlyn Potter (Eldred)

Dylan Sager (Sullivan West)

Nabiha Shah Jahan (Fallsburg)

Uriel Cortes-Hidalgo (Livingston Manor)

William Weiss (Monticello)

HERE TO SERVE YOU

I'm privileged to work alongside some pretty incredible people who work hard every day to make our lives better.

But there are public servants who are more "hidden" from view due to the nature of their jobs.

Take our Purchasing Department, for example. Led by Purchasing Director Allyson Lewis, it's the kind of office with which the general public won't have much interaction, unless they run a business that can provide goods and services to the County.

Purchasing works on an amazing array of items.

Here's just a sample from their most recent report:

- Canned Goods & Groceries
- Printing
- Bridge Membrane & Wearing Surface Replacement
- Hydraulic Pile Driver

Those represent just awarded bids. Purchasing also issues the bid invitations according to strict rules ensuring fairness and equity. And they issue requests for proposals/quotes (RFPs/RFQs), process purchase orders, and keep track of contracts.

They do all this with a team of just five people - albeit extremely knowledgeable, seasoned County employees. They understand every rule, every hoop to jump through and every office's needs. They juggle dozens of requests daily yet manage not to miss deadlines.

Who are these people? Take a look below. I assure you: without them, we literally could not operate.

www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Purchasing



County Clerk Workers Donna Mulvey, left, and Thalia Diaz welcome customers to the mobile DMV office in Liberty.

DMV IS ON THE ROAD

Used to be you travelled to the local office of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to get your license, turn in your plates, register a vehicle, and more. You can still do that at our DMV office in the Government Center in Monticello, made even more convenient by the fact that they take everyone via appointment now, eliminating long waits.

Or... you can wait for the DMV to come to you. Every Tuesday and Thursday, two DMV employees pack up computers, printers and forms into a County car; then head to Jeffersonville, Wurtsboro, Narrowsburg, Bloomingburg, Hortonville, Grahamsville, Liberty or Livingston Manor; unpack and set up the equipment; and then welcome the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a great service, and all you need to do to access it is make an appointment at

www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Clerk/DMV.

In this era of high gas prices, this is a true value.



Julie Weyant

Melanie Hogland

Allyson Lewis

Sheila Parks

Julie Holmes

BANNING THE BOX - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

The term "Ban the Box" is one of those phrases that has entered our vernacular, but plenty of us still don't know what it stands for.

So here's the short, easy-to-understand version:

"Ban the Box" refers to the elimination of the checkbox we've all seen on employment applications - the one that asks us whether we've been convicted of a criminal offense.

It's not that past crimes have become irrelevant to employers. Indeed, we want to ensure the public's safety and security when dealing with our staff.

But there are many examples of people who continue to find barriers to landing a job for poor decisions they made years ago and for which they've already paid a hefty price. That's not fair in a country that aims to rehabilitate the convicted and give them a fighting chance to live a better, productive life.

So your County Legislature, with my full support, has "banned the box" for County government jobs.

We don't ask whether an applicant has been convicted. What we do is contact their references, thoroughly review their work history, and - as applicable - conduct background checks.

If something pops up that would make them unsuitable for the position or a danger to those we serve, then they don't continue in the application process.

But if, as is typically the case, their past convictions have no bearing on the jobs of which they're capable, then we're glad to give them that chance to work with us ... and for you.

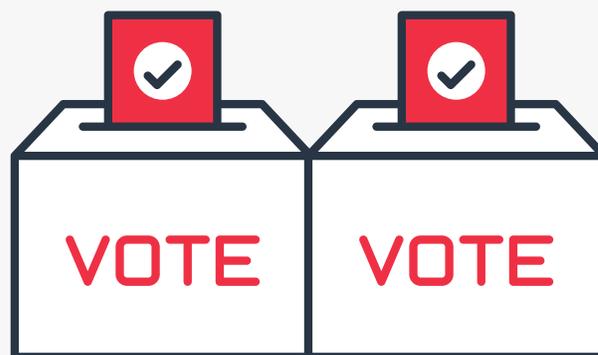
Many a study has shown that gainful, continuing employment significantly improves stability and quality of life - not only for the employee but the people around them, including their family and neighbors.

I'm proud to be part of a community willing to give them that all-important chance.

YOU MAY BE VOTING THREE TIMES THIS YEAR

Due to an unusual combination of circumstances, voters in New York State will have as many as three different chances to cast ballots in 2022.

- **June 28** - The first chance is open to all Republicans and Democrats Statewide. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor positions are being primaried (though Republicans only have a choice for Governor).
 - Early voting for this primary runs from June 18-26 at the Government Center.
- **August 23** - The next chance is another primary, this one for a federal House of Representatives seat and another for a NYS Senate seat (both of which are in new districts). Democrats, Republicans, Conservatives and Working Families voters will choose who's going to run on their party lines for the 19th Congressional District, while Democrats, Republicans and Conservatives will decide who will run on their lines in the 51st NYS Senatorial District.
 - Early voting for this primary runs from August 13-21 at the Government Center.



- **November 8** - You guessed it: this is Election Day, when all voters, affiliated or unaffiliated with particular parties, will decide who gets to sit in a number of different seats in the coming years. That includes all the candidates who were chosen in the June and August primaries.
 - Early voting for the general election runs from October 29-November 6 in the Government Center.

For more details (including incredibly helpful sample ballots), visit our Board of Elections webpage at www.sullivan.us/departments/elections. Or call them at 845-807-0400 with specific questions.



This is actually the back entrance to Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History, but its imposing rough-hewn log wall makes a definitive statement of safety within and danger without.

DARE TO ENTER THESE STOCKADED WALLS!

I am pleased to say that a cherished part of Sullivan County history is once again operating at full capacity.

Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History, a landmark along Route 97 in Narrowsburg, has reopened its wooden doors to welcome all who desire a better understanding of colonial life in these parts - or just want to have a fun, educational time! COVID shut down this County-owned facility for a time, but thanks to a new contract we inked with The Delaware Company, the Fort has resumed its regular, popular schedule.

The Delaware Company is a locally-based nonprofit focused on preserving and promoting our history. In fact, one of its founders, John Conway, is our County Historian. This small band of dedicated volunteers has agreed to operate and staff Fort Delaware, plus provide some special programming at the nearby Minisink Battleground Park in Barryville.

But why just be a visitor? There are fascinating opportunities to become a colonial re-enactor, entertaining and educating families as they tour the authentically re-created grounds of the Fort!

For more info on everything Fort Delaware (including volunteering), visit www.thedelawarecompany.org/fort-delaware-museum, or just stop by between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. any Saturday and Sunday (Thursdays and Fridays too in July and August).

