

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



## LET'S NOT GAMBLE ON OUR CASINO'S FUTURE

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

New York City is poised to see up to three new, full-fledged casinos begin operating within the next 5-10 years. We've known they were coming ever since our 18-story hotel and casino, Resorts World Catskills, was first built in Monticello, and we are pursuing mitigation strategies with the State, aiming to build those into the gaming licenses these new casinos will possess.

Sullivan County has received between \$2.4 and \$2.5 million each of the past two fiscal years (2023 and 2024) from Resorts World – our cut of the gaming proceeds, as per the State license under which they operate. The Town of Thompson has received the same, and the Monticello Central School District has gotten a smaller amount of those proceeds as well. Even our neighboring counties have received several million dollars since the casino opened in 2018.

Since that revenue is wholly dependent on Resorts World Catskills gaming activity, those monies are at risk of being siphoned away by downstate casinos in an already competitive landscape. Without such funds, Sullivan County alone would need to hike taxes by as much as 3.25%.

As the State's original intent was to site casinos in economically disadvantaged areas, the Sullivan County Legislature and I feel it is appropriate and necessary to ask State legislators to protect us from the negative impacts – lost revenue, diminished tourism, fewer jobs – that may result from the opening of NYC casinos. We cannot let our long-sought and hard-won gains be potentially eliminated by the granting of three more gaming licenses in New York.

To that end, legislators have brought on a lobbyist and a legal

firm to press our case in Albany, and are now reviewing an illuminating study on potential impacts (available at [sullivanny.gov](http://sullivanny.gov)).

In the meantime, I encourage folks to contact their State representatives to amplify the message that Sullivan County needs the revenue, jobs and tourists that the casino provides. Whether you personally agree with gambling or not, Resorts World Catskills' annual \$287 million economic output is worth fighting for.

### WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

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'ROAM'-ING - 2

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**ROAM**  
A MULTI-DAY WALKING  
ADVENTURE!

An event  
for all  
ages!

Saturday & Sunday  
June 7 - 8, 2025

Join us for our 6 - 12 mile walk on  
Saturday June 7th and our 4 - 6 mile walk  
on Sunday June 8th!

A shuttle will be offered for those  
opting to walk only part of the distance.

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Learn more about our agenda at  
[ROAM2025.eventbrite.com](https://ROAM2025.eventbrite.com) or  
scan the QR code








This program is sponsored by the O&W Rail Trail Alliance.  
Funding for this project was made possible in part by a  
Community Development Grant from Sullivan 180.

## RESURRECTING 'RUST'

After a short hiatus, one of our Planning Division's popular programs has returned, thanks to the Legislature! Called "RUST" (Remove Unsafe Structures), the initiative reimburses municipalities up to \$25,000 for demolition/disposal costs when removing unsafe or hazardous structures. Such expenses can be prohibitively high for our local towns and villages, allowing blighted properties to remain unattractive nuisances, or outright dangers. Let's change that! Applications are now being accepted through June 20 (to be extended if funding permits). Applicants must be municipalities who have control of the project site and have a goal of enhancing safety, improving visibility and/or redeveloping the property. They also must demonstrate matching funds totaling at least 50% of project costs. Find out more by calling our friendly Planning folks at 845-807-0527 or emailing them at [planning@sullivanny.gov](mailto:planning@sullivanny.gov).



**SULLIVAN COUNTY CATSKILLS**  
Mountains of Opportunities

## SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV

mobile unit  
on location 10:00am - 3:00pm

### 2025 Summer Schedule

You can also Schedule an Appointment at [sullivanny.gov](https://sullivanny.gov) | County Clerk Russell Reeves

**JEFFERSONVILLE**

Tues July 8

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Tues August 5

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Tues September 2

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License & Registration Appts

19 Legion St  
Jeffersonville, NY

**WURTSBORO**

Thurs July 24

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Thurs August 21

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Thurs September 18

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Registration Appts Only

2948 US 209  
Wurtsboro, NY

**NARROWSBURG**

Tues July 22

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Tues August 19

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Tues September 16

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Registration Appts Only

210 Bridge St  
Narrowsburg, NY

**HORTONVILLE**

Thurs July 17

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Thurs August 14

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Thurs September 11

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Registration Appts Only

104 Lower Main St  
Hortonville, NY

**LIVINGSTON MANOR**

Tues July 15

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Tues August 12

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Tues September 9

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Registration Appts Only

95 Main St  
Livingston Manor, NY

**GRAHAMSVILLE**

Thurs July 10

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Thurs August 7

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Thurs September 4

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License & Registration Appts

273 Main St  
Grahamsville, NY

**LIBERTY**

Tues July 29

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Tues August 26

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Tues September 23

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License & Registration Appts

15 Sullivan Ave  
Liberty, NY

**BLOOMINGBURG**

Thurs July 31

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Thurs August 28

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Thurs September 25

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License & Registration Appts

13 North Rd  
Bloomingburg, NY

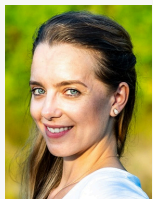
# MEET THE NEW (& FAMILIAR) FACES NOW AT WORK!

I'm pleased to introduce you to three people who are primed to make a major difference on behalf of our citizens - one new hire and two recent promotions.

**Ramone Wilson** is our first full-time Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission. He's very experienced in "meeting people where they're at," by providing both services and an open ear to those in need. Our search for this position dovetailed with his quest to constantly make a meaningful difference in people's lives, and I'm excited to see how he and the commissioners will revitalize this department, not just with human rights but also with consumer affairs.



Having long had her office right next to mine, I can confidently say Sullivan County taxpayers are at the forefront of **Christine Panos'** mind. A five-year veteran of County government, she has spent the past three years in our Compliance Office, ensuring we are always adhering to State and Federal laws, and our own policies. She has now become our Compliance Officer. This is crucial work that keeps us away from fines, litigation and other costly sanctions. And it protects the people we serve, giving them the highest-quality services.



**Tim Blais** has just been promoted to Road Maintenance Superintendent, overseeing around 60 people engaged in paving, patching, ditching, plowing and salting County highways. Any of us who drive truly depend upon him and his team, scattered across our garages in Barryville, Maplewood, Livingston Manor and Callicoon. He's no novice at this, having spent 28 years (and counting) in our Division of Public Works.



## JOINING THE RANKS

Getting involved and making a difference isn't just for everyone else with "more" time or abilities. There are so many opportunities - or more accurately, needs - that are available for you to consider, regardless of your life circumstances.

Get a sense of these opportunities at our first Sullivan County Volunteer Fair, scheduled for Saturday, May 17 at Cornell Cooperative Extension on Ferndale-Loomis Road. Over 20 organizations seeking volunteers will be there from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## A NET-ZERO ENERGY OFFICE? YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT

Built more than three decades ago for a law firm, our District Attorney's Office on Bushnell Avenue in Monticello has notably become our first net-zero-energy building in all of County government.



The heating/ventilation system was converted wholly to air-to-air electric heat pumps from 2023-2024, and on our most recent utility bill, all of the electric to heat, cool and operate the building was remotely

credited from our solar array in Liberty. This achievement was made possible by the vision of Kristin Janowski and Ryan Brown in our Division of Public Works and Stephen Stuart in our Office of Sustainable Energy. They saw and seized the opportunity to replace an old, inefficient, oil-fired heating and chill water cooling system with cold-climate air source heat pumps. We're following through on cost-effective sustainability initiatives to eliminate wasteful energy use and cut down on our carbon footprint.



Memorial Day Services in Sullivan County include Phillipsport on Saturday, May 24; Narrowsburg on Sunday, May 25; and Kauneonga Lake, Barryville, Liberty, Eldred, Fremont Center, Livingston Manor, Long Eddy, Glen Spey, Summitville, Wurtsboro, Grahamsville, Roscoe and Woodridge on Monday, May 26. For the detailed list, visit [sullivanyny.gov](http://sullivanyny.gov).

## A DAY TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE ALL



Sullivan County's official Memorial Day service is held at the Veterans Cemetery on Sunset Lake Road in Liberty. Photos on this page are from the 2024 gathering. The 2025 ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 26.

