

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



## WE MUST BE EVER-VIGILANT ABOUT SCAMS

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

I was privileged to attend a cybersecurity exercise our Information Technology Services Division and the State's Cyber Incident Response Team organized in June. The goal was to work through scenarios where County computer systems were compromised, putting people's private information and taxpayer funds at risk. Though completely hypothetical, these scenarios were based on real situations that have occurred elsewhere in the State and nation.

I'm grateful County government has not just one team but several that tirelessly work to protect your information and my information from the relentless attacks of scammers:

- ITS deals with 1 billion malware attacks every month (you read that right)
- The Treasurer's Office, our Audit Dept. and the Management & Budget Division are constantly on guard for check fraud
- The Office for the Aging routinely shares info on how we all can avoid such crimes
- And, of course, our Sheriff's Office encourages any scam victims to contact them (845-794-7100)
- Learn more: [dos.ny.gov/scam-prevention](https://dos.ny.gov/scam-prevention)



Tim Saxe from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Cyber Incident Response Team was the primary facilitator for the County's cybersecurity tabletop exercise, held this past June at the Kartrite in Monticello.

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## NEW TERMINAL, NEW AIRPORT BROCHURE

With a new terminal now in operation at Sullivan County International Airport, we're serious about aggressively marketing the extensive services and infrastructure the Airport offers to the business jet community.

With a runway long enough to land a Boeing 727 less than 20 minutes by air from NYC, the Airport is in a prime position to cater to corporate and cargo aircraft, and a new brochure makes that known.



Check it out in full at [www.sullivanyny.gov/departments/airport](http://www.sullivanyny.gov/departments/airport).



## THE PATH TO THE 'NEXT BIG THING'

You've probably seen pieces of orange piping (like the one pictured above) sticking up at odd angles along roadsides in Sullivan County. That's the surest sign that high-speed fiber-optic cabling is being installed in the neighborhood, and plenty more is coming. Thanks to a \$30 million NYS ConnectALL grant and our partnership with Archtop Fiber, 60-70% of the County will have access to new broadband Internet service by this time next year.

Wondering when your locale will get it? Visit [www.connectsullivan.com](http://www.connectsullivan.com) to view the map.

## BUDGET PREP IS UNDER WAY ACROSS DEPTS.

As I detailed in the last newsletter, the County continues to see a significant drop in sales tax revenue - one that makes planning very challenging for the 2027 budget.

As a result, I recently sent a memo to all commissioners, directors and department heads, asking them to submit budgets for their offices that are at or less than the same County cost in the

2026 budget, excluding salary and benefits.

I also requested them to find ways to reduce costs by 10% via expense cuts, revenue enhancements or a combination of both.

This represents our initial effort not only to craft a 2027 budget (which I will present to legislators in November) but to avoid a tax increase that could top 30% if we made no changes from 2026 to 2027.



## OUR OWN 'WALKWAY ACROSS THE HUDSON'

If you've ever been to Ulster/Dutchess counties' Walkway Over the Hudson, you know how thrilling and enjoyable a stroll across an old railroad bridge can be. Well, Sullivan County has its own version just about to debut!

Utilizing the 150-year-old piers embedded in either side of the Neversink River, two crane operators carefully positioned a steel pedestrian/bicycle bridge in the same spot where an iron railroad bridge had once leapt across the valley. The New York, Ontario & Western Railway (O&W) had finished its 85-year run in 1957, and for the

next seven decades, nature gradually reclaimed the scenic location. But as our O&W Rail Trail grew, plenty of people rediscovered this spot, albeit without a bridge to connect two sections of the trail.

Later this year, we'll open the (re)connection, and I have a strong feeling that the O&W's old path between Woodridge and South Fallsburg will be more popular than ever before, with hikers and bikers able to pause over the beautiful Neversink and take in the view that generations of railroad passengers enjoyed!



## JOIN THEIR RANKS...

Everyone's invited to be a part of the 2026 Sullivan County Volunteer Fair, running from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29 at the Monticello Firehouse on Richardson Avenue in Monticello. Dozens of volunteer organizations will be there to compete for your attention and time, as the need for volunteers remains as high as ever. But the commitment does not need to be huge – some organizations are just asking for an hour or two every month. And a volunteer does not necessarily need to be able to lift items, stand for a long time or drive far away. Check it out!

# A TRULY LOCAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION!



AT LEFT: Legislators Amanda Ward, Luis Alvarez, Cat Scott and Nadia Rajsz, along with Human Rights Executive Director Ramone Wilson, honor Deborah Mack. BELOW: NYS Supreme Court Justice William Little stands between fellow Justice Sherri Brooks-Morton and 3rd Judicial District Administrative Judge Danielle Jose-Decker.

Legislators and other County leaders joined with our local court system to honor two Monticello residents who make us proud, not just on Juneteenth but on every day of the year!

Throughout the morning of June 19, we heard about the amazing accomplishments, tenacity and trailblazing efforts of Deborah Mack, the first African-American woman to lead multiple post offices in the Hudson Valley, and William Little, recently elected to the NYS Supreme Court judiciary.

We are privileged to call both of them neighbors and friends!



## SHOWING OUR PRIDE, SHARING OUR STORIES



Legislators dedicated a portion of their June meetings to celebrating Disability Pride Month, which is observed in July. Representatives of the differently-abled community, and the agencies and people who serve them, joined the event, letting everyone know how proud we are of those who courageously and continuously demonstrate that so much is possible in Sullivan County & beyond!