

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



WHY THE ADULT CARE CENTER IS CLOSING

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

I'm sharing news of something we've been endeavoring to avoid for years but has now become a reality: the Sullivan County Adult Care Center - better known as the Care Center at Sunset Lake - in Liberty will cease operating in approximately the next 90 days.

Nearly 90 people will need to find other employment. Over 90 residents will be transferred to other skilled-care facilities. And our community will have one less nursing home and short-term rehabilitation option.

None of that is great to share. In fact, the next few months will be full of intense efforts to find other jobs for the employees and other homes for the residents, while winding down operations at the Care Center and determining its next best use.

The question I expect to be asked most often is, why? And my answer will be the same every time: Sullivan County, like so many other counties around the State and nation have already determined, simply can no longer afford to run a nursing home. The costs are tremendous, the reimbursements insufficient, the staffing challenges neverending, and the requirements always increasing.

Legislators past and present tried to find solutions: first a sale, then a lease, then a consulting agreement. None bore fruit, and taxpayers continued to subsidize a costly, aging facility that, in the private sector, could and should pay for itself.

Couple that ongoing cost with a drop in sales tax revenues and it became clear to County leaders that we could not sustain the Care Center without a significant, painfully high tax increase in 2027.

I want to commend the staff of the Care Center for the work they will be and are doing to make this transition as smooth as possible for the people for whom they care. Families can be assured that we are doing everything we can to relocate their loved ones to a safe and appropriate facility. As to what comes next at that location, we're not sure, but we all have an interest in that future, and legislators will be discussing it in the months to come.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

FUNDING SUPPORTS
MENTAL HEALTH - 2

HOMELESS SHELTER
MAKING PROGRESS - 3

A BEVY OF
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
YOU! - 4



Students from Eldred and Fallsburg are leading the way as Hope Squad members in their schools. They also came together for an educational exchange, meeting with students from Michigan Hope Squad via video.

BUILDING STRONGER YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS THROUGH SHAPE AND HOPE SQUAD

Sullivan County is investing in the mental health and well-being of our youth through innovative school-based initiatives supported by opioid settlement funds awarded to Sullivan 180.

Alongside Sullivan 180's Youth Mental Health Program, schools are strengthening prevention, early intervention, and systems to help students feel connected, supported, and empowered.

The School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) initiative helps schools better understand their current mental health systems and identify opportunities for growth. Through the SHAPE process, schools assess areas such as mental health policies, referral pathways, family engagement, and student support services. This

information helps schools develop action plans to strengthen their approach to youth mental health and ensure students have access to the resources they need.

A key part of this work is the expansion of Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that trains students to recognize warning signs, support their peers, and connect classmates with trusted adults. Hope Squads create a culture of belonging and connection within schools while giving students a meaningful role in promoting mental health awareness and reducing stigma. Sullivan 180 currently partners with Fallsburg and Eldred School Districts, where Hope Squads are making an impact both within their schools and beyond. Fallsburg students recently represented Sullivan County at Mental Health Matters Day in Albany, sharing their commitment to youth mental health and suicide prevention. Students from Fallsburg and Eldred have also come together to learn from and celebrate with one another through a Hope Squad Educational Exchange.

Together, these efforts are helping build stronger school communities where young people have access to knowledge, resources, connections, and support.

You're invited to a
Celebration of Our Community
featuring guest speaker Julia Hotz,
author of *The Connection Cure*
Wednesday, September 23, 2026
5:30 PM Social & Networking
6:30 PM Program
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
200 Hurd Road, Bethel, NY 12720
RSVP today by scanning the QR Code,
visiting Sullivan180.org, or calling
(845) 295-2680.

SULLIVAN 180





PROVIDING SPACE FOR THOSE WITHOUT ANY

Legislators in July authorized me to sign a letter of intent with St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Monticello to purchase their former school building on Old Liberty Road, close to Broadway. The letter stipulates a sale price of \$85,000, if our nonprofit partner, HONOR, is successful in obtaining a State grant to renovate the building and turn it into a transitional housing space for our homeless citizens.



Our intent is to house families or single individuals there for a time, helping them transition to a place

of their own. It will be securely staffed 24/7 by HONOR, a seasoned operator from Middletown.

TAX FORECLOSURE AUCTION IS ONLINE-ONLY

The 2026 Sullivan County Real Estate Tax Foreclosure Auction will be held online only from Monday, September 14 through Wednesday, September 16.

County Treasurer Kathleen Lara encourages potential bidders to register by September 14 at <https://aarauctions.com/servlet/Search.do?auctionId=8250> to receive a packet via email

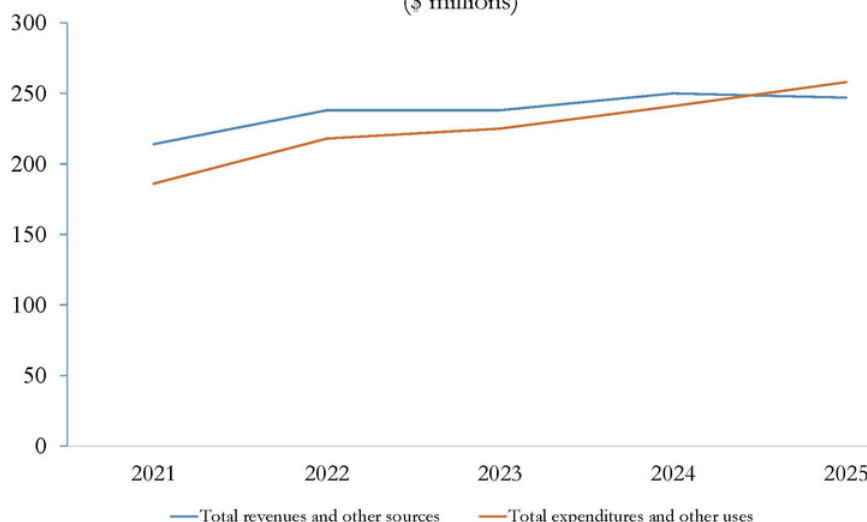
explaining the terms and conditions of the September 14-16 auction, along with the foreclosure process and associated liens. Images and details of foreclosed properties are available on that website.

Bidding opens September 14 at 10 a.m. and concludes September 16 at 10 a.m.

More information is at nysauctions.com.

AUDIT SHOWS EXPENSES OUTPACE REVENUE

Sullivan County
General Fund – Revenue and Other Sources vs. Expenditures and Other Uses
(\$ millions)



Our independent auditors, Drescher & Malecki, made their annual visit to the Legislature in August and noted that for the first time in many years, what the County paid out exceeded what returned to us in 2025. That's why I'm taking a very careful and conservative approach to the 2027 budget, which will be presented to legislators at the end of October (and will be a focus of my next newsletter).

SULLIVAN VOLUNTEERS MAKES AN IMPACT



Jeff Lambert, Nicholas Wells and Lise-Anne Deoul were some of the friendly faces folks got to see at our annual Volunteer Fair, held this year at the Monticello Firehouse. Organized by Sullivan Volunteers Program Coordinator Monika Roosa, the event showcased nearly two dozen agencies in need of volunteers throughout Sullivan County.

Sign up for the next Grant Workshops!

I'm very proud of the work undertaken every day by our Department of Grants Administration. They are awesomely community-oriented, and they're at it again! They will host two free Grant Project Planning Workshops on Tuesday, September 22 in the Legislative Hearing Room of the Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello. For the convenience of all, the workshops will be offered at two separate times, from 9-10 a.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The workshops will include a high-level introduction to the steps necessary for thorough project planning and are ideal for municipal leadership, for-profit businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.

Toss the hazardous trash on Sept. 20

Did you miss our Spring Household Hazardous Waste Event? Don't worry, we have another one coming up! Head over to the Monticello Transfer Station at 91 Landfill Drive on Sunday, September 20 anytime between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. to get rid of those solvents, acids, mercury-containing devices, chemicals, poisons, fire extinguishers - anything that's hazardous (but not radioactive, thank you!).

Just remember to also bring photo ID or another form of documentation proving you live in Sullivan County.

Oh, and be sure to safely package whatever you have - our folks don't need to deal with leaks and odors!

Questions? Contact 845-807-0291.

OUR ROLLOUT OF BROADBAND CONTINUES!

Have you checked out your home or business' proximity to our new fiber-optic cable route? We've got a great interactive map for that! In partnership with Archtop Fiber and through funding from NYS' ConnectALL Program, we're actively burying cable throughout the County, to offer blazingly fast high-speed Internet to as many of our residents and businesspeople as possible. See how close we are to you at www.connectsullivan.com!

Check Availability

Check to see if you can get connected!

