

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



SULLIVAN COUNTY DELIVERS FOR ITS YOUTH

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

While we always seek more ways to serve and assist children and teens in Sullivan County, we already do a lot - likely more than you know. And the breadth of that work spans the County, not just in our population centers.

So let's take a quick look:

- **Youth Bureau** - That's right: we have an office devoted solely to local youth (ages 0-21) and the organizations who serve them. Led by Cathie Paci and housed in our Office for the Aging at the Government Center, the Bureau works with local businesses to employ young people, provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to area youth organizations and schools, and constantly seeks opportunities to expand its reach.
- **Center for Workforce Development** - Known as the Sullivan County Career Center, Director Loreen Gebelein's team renders crucial assistance to young people entering the world of work (and the employers hiring them). From resume preparation to the Summer Youth Employment Program, they exist to increase and support everyone who wants to make a living in the County.
- **Sullivan Promise** - This program has been a HUGE gamechanger for hundreds of families throughout the County. It covers the cost of tuition for a full two years at SUNY Sullivan and is available to any new high school senior who lives in Sullivan County and commits to attending our gem of an institution of higher learning. (It's worked pretty well for the college, too...)

- **Internship Program** - In addition to all of the above, County government itself offers paid internship opportunities in many of our departments. The program is open to both high school- and college-level students, and we don't just relegate them to filing paperwork and other drudgery. We pair them with offices and personnel who match their interests and can guide and mentor them, giving them a truly valuable and inspiring experience.

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THE FINAL TOUCHES ON OUR SOLID WASTE PLAN

Per State requirements, our Division of Public Works has submitted our Final Solid Waste Management Plan to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. By the time you read this, it may have already been approved by the DEC, since we incorporated all their changes from a previously submitted draft.

While the Plan does include mention of a waste-to-energy plant the Legislature is considering in Monticello, it does not commit or obligate us to a specific course. Rather, the Plan is meant to show the State and the public that we are thinking ahead about how to handle our trash.

The Plan, which will be updated every two years, includes details on our composting efforts, along with options should the upstate Seneca Meadows landfill close and we have to ship elsewhere.

Don't take my word for it! Read it for yourself at www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/SolidWasteRecycling.

WHAT COMES AFTER THE DOT IS IMPORTANT

I've mentioned it before, but it bears repeating: Sullivan County government's email addresses are changing from ".us" to ".gov."

Our website already has made the switch - www.sullivanyny.us no longer works. Instead, you need to use www.sullivanyny.gov.

Our email addresses still work both ways, but by next year, I anticipate only the ".gov" versions will make it to their destinations (like info@sullivanyny.gov). We're not doing this to give you a hassle - we were required to make the change by State and Federal authorities.

HAZARDOUS WASTE? WE CAN TAKE IT!

It's popular, it's handy, and it's back! Sullivan County's next Household Hazardous Waste Day is set for September 28 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monticello Transfer Station on Landfill Drive. It's frankly incredible how much nasty junk you can get rid of on that day - all for FREE, by the way. Just be sure to bring ID verifying County residency.

Take a look at the list below to see what's acceptable and what's not.

That said, if something on your list is not acceptable at this event, it may well be something we can still take on other days. Call us at 845-807-0291 or email recycling@sullivanyny.gov to find out for sure.

ACCEPTABLE		UNACCEPTABLE
Paint	Smoke detectors	Household garbage
Solvents	Fire extinguishers	Commercial/industrial/agricultural waste
Stains	Cleaning products	Medical waste/ pharmaceuticals
Ink	Poisons	Radioactive material
Pool chemicals	Roofing tar	Explosives
Acids	Bases	Ammunition
Wood preservatives	Adhesives	Bulk liquids/drums/tanks larger than 5 gallons
Fluorescent bulbs	Creosote	LP/gas tanks
Mercury containing devices	Stale fuels	Electronics
Pesticides/herbicides	Antifreeze	Tires
Batteries/ automotive batteries		Refrigeration devices



**THIS IMAGE IS NOT REAL
... BUT IT WILL BE SOON!**

Work is well under way on a restored Neversink River crossing of the long-defunct New York, Ontario & Western (O&W) Railway between Woodridge and South Fallsburg. The water, rocks, trees and stone pier in the above photo currently exist, but the bridge is just a rendering of what we hope to inaugurate next year. As guided by our Planning Division, led by the Town of Fallsburg and funded by nearly \$3.8 million in grants, contractors are diligently clearing and grading the old right-of-way on the west side of the Neversink. By this time next year, pedestrians and bicyclists may enjoy what generations of rail travelers once saw on their way to our mountains!

WELCOMING OUR NEW CARE CENTER ADMINISTRATOR

I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Kayshawn Macharie as the new Licensed Administrator of the Sullivan County Adult Care Center, better known as the Care Center at Sunset Lake.

Kayshawn exemplifies commitment, trust and compassion. I'm excited to see how he and the staff will make the Care Center the first choice of people needing both short- and long-term services.

A native of Rockland County, Kayshawn possesses both the right credentials and the right attitude to render compassionate, competent care to Care Center residents and provide effective, responsive leadership to the hardworking employees at the Center.



THE SAFETY OF ALL

If you've recently visited the Government Center in Monticello, you've had to pass through the body scanner (and if you had a bag, send that through a separate scanner).

Using sophisticated and safe technology, the system only scans for weapons like guns and knives. You can walk through without removing your shoes, watch, cellphone, belt or other items a regular metal detector would pick up.

This has been in the works for many years and has long been a request of our workers and the people they serve.

It's not intended to be a hassle or intrusive, and we continue to welcome anyone who has business to conduct in the building.

Now, just like virtually all our other public facilities, the Government Center will be a safer, more secure space for everyone who visits and works there.



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

Close to 20 teens from around the County spent a week with our Public Safety team in July, meeting local firefighters, police officers, EMTs and forest rangers, and learning how they do their jobs (and why they love their jobs!). Our second annual Emergency Services Youth Academy proved an outstanding success, encouraging local young people to consider volunteering or even pursuing a career with emergency response agencies.



Participants learned how to start, maintain and end a search & rescue operation.



Teens got to work their muscles practicing skills with the Sheriff's Office, including prying open doors.



Both LifeNet and the State Police flew their helicopters to the Academy.



The State Police and the Sheriff's Office demonstrated how their K-9 units can subdue criminals, and yet also be friendly ambassadors of their agencies.