

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



IF WE HAD A MILLION DOLLARS ...

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

While divided on a number of issues, a bipartisan majority in Congress did agree on a \$1.5 trillion spending bill that the President signed into law in March, and Sullivan County will be one of the beneficiaries.

Thanks to the hard work of our federal representatives, particularly Congressman Antonio Delgado and Senator Chuck Schumer, we'll be receiving a \$1.1 million grant to complete a gap in our existing O&W Rail Trail between South Fallsburg and Woodridge. This gap includes about a mile of trail and a long-gone bridge over the Neversink River, which we plan to resurrect with a smaller, pedestrian- and bike-friendly crossing.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

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FOR THE SEASON
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A concept of how the O&W Rail Trail bridge over the Neversink River might look

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE OUTSIDE

The 2022 parks season here won't be like any before. I'm not exaggerating. Let me explain:

- Pending State approval, Lake Superior State Park in Bethel (which we manage) will have 2 miles of new walking and hiking trails under construction, in addition to the popular swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking areas that will be open
- Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg and Minisink Battleground Park in Barryville will be staffed and programmed by our partner The Delaware Company, a nonprofit devoted to maximizing our historical assets
- Our D&H Canal Linear Park's Interpretive Center in Summitville - featuring dioramas and rare photos that tell the story of the canal (the path of which is mere steps from the front door) - will fully reopen now that the COVID pandemic has lessened
- The Cultural Center in Hurleyville (better known



Paddleboats are available to rent during the summer at Lake Superior State Park



A lock on the Delaware & Hudson Canal, as viewed from the walking path at the D&H Canal Linear Park in Summitville

as the County Museum) will debut a series of just-discovered photos of Hortonville native Frederick Cook's Arctic explorations in the early 20th century, adding to an incredible collection that's absolutely worth a day's visit.

This is not to ignore our Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park and our Livingston Manor Covered Bridge Park, both of which will still offer picnic tables, creekside trails and, of course, the bridges themselves. Special thanks to our Office of Parks, Recreation and Beautification, led by Brian Scardefield, who spends all year ensuring you'll feel welcome and have fun!

And there's more to come ...

Building on our legacy of outdoor family fun, we're currently preparing to develop a new Delaware River access near Barryville and a Riverside Park in Callicoon.

Both will take full advantage of the Delaware's spectacular scenery and recreational opportunities, plus the Callicoon park will be within easy walking distance of the downtown business district.

AIMING TO MAKE US ROADWORTHY IN 2022

Thanks to a healthy fiscal status and the Legislature's wise leadership, we're finally in a position to begin getting caught up on road and bridgework across Sullivan County.

Without racking up any additional debt, our Division of Public Works crews are well into preparations for this work, to include nearly \$10 million in paving and chip sealing, plus \$6.3 million (from federal funds) to redo all of East Broadway in Monticello.

The map below also shows where we'll be putting \$1.5 million in bridgework, including a full bridge replacement in Parksville. (If you'd like a larger version of the map to read, head to www.sullivanyny.us/Departments/PublicWorks/HighwaysBridges.)

Please note that this list and the map focus only on County roads and bridges. Towns, villages and New York State are responsible for many other roads and bridges in Sullivan County, and likely all of those municipalities will be undertaking some sort of repair/rehab program this year.

As this work progresses - and especially if there will

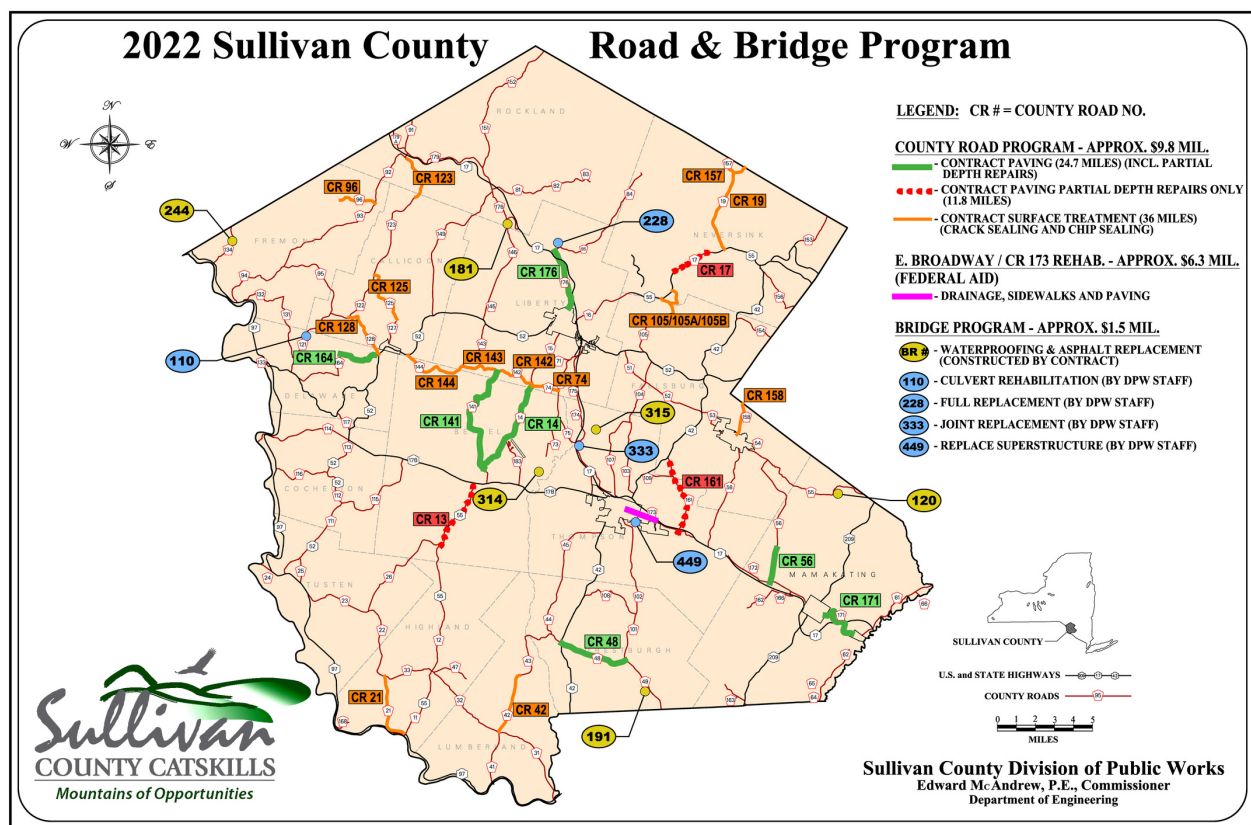
be single-lane or full road closures - we'll post updates on social media. We never lose sight of the fact that these roads and bridges are important conduits, and detours add time and gas to your commute.

The part you play ...

Now it's your turn.

To put it bluntly, our roadsides get trashed, especially this time of year. Garbage of all kinds is plowed, tossed, dropped and blown onto shoulders and into ditches. It's not a good look for us.

So legislators want to make it as easy as possible for you to help clean up our roads. Between April 1 and June 30, our transfer stations won't charge you a thing for dropping off bags of roadside litter during operational hours. Just bring a free disposal coupon, available at your town/village hall, County-operated transfer station, or the Sullivan County Parks, Recreation and Beautification Department in the Government Center in Monticello.



Tim Benson, left, and Gary Lapolt take care of this little-known but sizable leachate treatment plant at the edge of our landfill in Monticello - which, while closed, still requires a lot of attention.



KEEPING IT CLEAN IS WHAT THEY DO

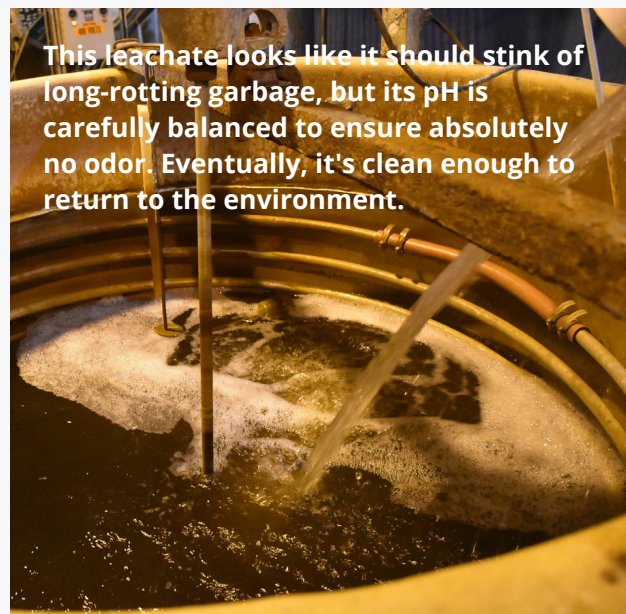
If you've never been to our transfer stations or old landfill, you're missing out!

Probably sounds like I've lost my mind, but honestly, our waste disposal locations are staffed by some of the friendliest, most helpful people in the County. Even the employees who don't regularly help the public directly are focused on ensuring our trash doesn't become a problem.

Take, for example, the guys who run the plant that treats the 15,000 gallons of liquid leaching every day out of the long-closed County Landfill in Monticello. Building Maintenance Mechanic Tim Benson and Maintenance Assistant Gary Lapolt monitor pumps and piping that are as far as 120 feet underground, pumps that deliver the leachate to their plant, where pH levels are so carefully adjusted that there is literally NO foul smell in the building.

They treat the leachate, then treat it again, then treat it again, before sending it over to Monticello's sewer plant, where it's treated one more time and released into a nearby brook as crystal-clear water. Under Tim and Gary's watchful eye, the worst of the chemicals and solids in the leachate are compressed into hardpacked waste that's then shipped to an upstate landfill for safe disposal.

I'm proud to note this was the first plant of its kind in New York State, and I'm also proud (as taxpayers should be, as well) to have County employees like these two men, who not only handle the leachate but the gas flaring system, constant DEC reporting requirements, and the mowing of 300 acres, among many other duties. And they do all this with passion, pride and professionalism.



This leachate looks like it should stink of long-rotting garbage, but its pH is carefully balanced to ensure absolutely no odor. Eventually, it's clean enough to return to the environment.