

# INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



# 2025

## WHAT WE KNOW, AND WHAT WE'LL FIND OUT

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

As I write this, 2025 has just dawned, as fresh as the snow that's gently falling outside my window. The snowfall looks beautiful, but I know it won't last. What will follow? Hard to tell. While we can count on winter eventually giving way to spring, will that come with blizzards and floods, or with soft rain and light wind? Like the weather, Sullivan County experiences cycles. And they can be just as hard to predict as seasonal changes. Times of plenty and times of pain don't start at some appointed hour. That said, we can anticipate change - in fact, we're constantly looking for it in County government.

I know, for example, that broadband Internet access will begin spreading to every corner of the County in 2025 (read the story inside). And I know it will change the residential and business landscape all around us.

I also know that Move Sullivan will expand our routes to Livingston Manor, Roscoe and Jeffersonville in 2025, and we'll soon know how transformative that will be for people living and working in those communities.

I know that we're tackling our housing affordability crisis with real money, not just words, in 2025. And I know we're going to use those millions of dollars to change lives, bring families together, and keep our younger generation here longer.

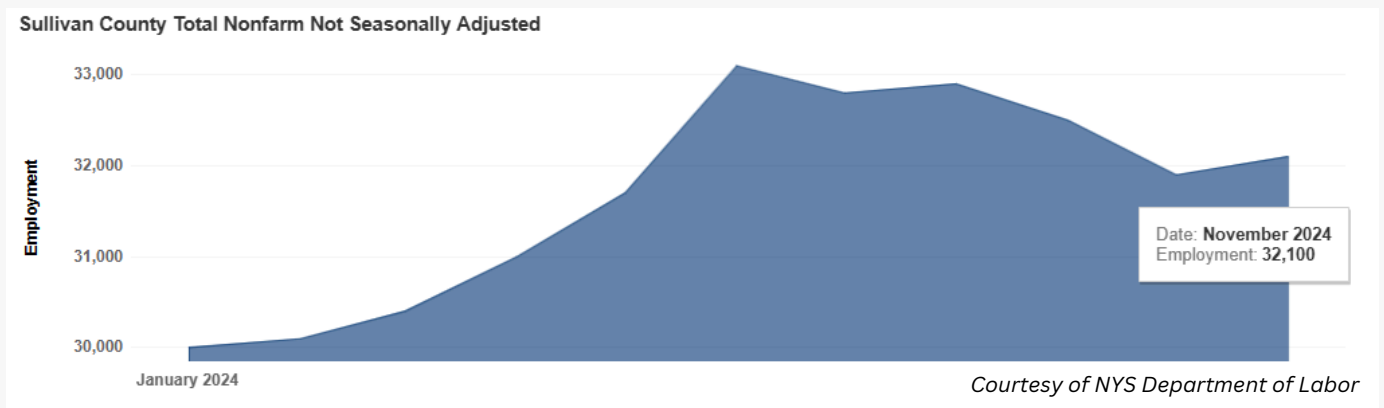
Unfortunately, I also know our revenues aren't growing as fast as they have. As 2025 progresses, I'll be paying attention to all these concerns and more - and if you're reading this, I'm glad you are too!

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

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The amount of people employed in Sullivan County has significantly increased just this past year alone, rising from 30,000 in January to over 32,000 in November. The trend in the above graph indicates we’re sustaining much of that increase into our “off-season” months.

## WE’RE A TOP PERFORMER STATEWIDE IN JOBS

For the past three years, I’ve watched in amazement as Sullivan County continues to dominate job growth month after month, often grabbing the #1 spot in all of New York State. Just this past November, in fact, we once again had the highest rate of year-over-year job growth of any county or city Statewide - a full percentage point above #2-ranked Cortland County.

Tourism and hospitality jobs dominate, of course, but our economy is more diverse than that. Financial services and logging/construction trades also saw appreciable growth.

Together with our economic development agencies, we aim to continue this trend by attracting livable wage-paying companies across industry sectors.

## LEGISLATORS ADOPT ‘25 COUNTY BUDGET

Via an 8-1 vote in December, legislators approved the 2025 Sullivan County Budget.

The \$303 million budget comes with a 2.5% tax levy increase to cover general cost increases and the new EMS fly car system but does not propose incurring new debt.

The budget includes \$2 million for a Housing Trust Fund to address the housing crisis in the County, plus \$65,000 to continue our popular local workforce development partnership with BOCES, whereby area residents can learn skills at no cost to them. The budget also sets aside funds to negotiate expiring labor contracts.

## MOVING FORWARD WITH OUR BROADBAND PARTNER

On the heels of receiving the largest grant in our history - \$30 million from the State and Feds - we’ve inked a 10-year agreement with Archtop Fiber to provide high-speed Internet access to the underserved/unserved areas of Sullivan County.

The specifics of the deal are awaiting approval by the State, but generally speaking, it’s an agreement for us to lease the broadband infrastructure (wires, routers, antennae and other equipment) to Archtop Fiber for the next decade. Archtop will handle the installation, billing and technical aspects.

We don’t want to be in the business of providing this service - just in giving it a jumpstart, considering how much of the County does not have access to broadband.

While we await a couple final approvals, Archtop has the cabling and other equipment ready to be installed, and I expect that various parts of the County will see service - both wired and wireless - offered by the end of this year.

# WHERE TO FIND HELP WHEN YOU'RE SHIVERING

Put simply, if it's a potentially life-threatening emergency, call 911.

If it's that someone's in need of heat or shelter but not in immediate life-threatening jeopardy, they should call the non-emergency line of their local police department or the Sheriff's Office (845-794-7100). Police have the phone number of our on-call Temporary Assistance housing specialist, and they use it regularly.

Our warming centers are open from 8 p.m.-8 a.m. every night through April: St. John Street Episcopal Church in Monticello and Liberty United Methodist Church on North Main Street in Liberty.

Longer-term, if someone is concerned for their ongoing safety because they cannot afford adequate supplies or to heat their homes, they can contact Social Services at 845-292-0100 during normal business hours to request SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) benefits.

Additionally, those over 50 can reach out to our Office for the Aging (845-807-0241), and anyone who is a veteran or an immediate family member of a veteran can call our Veterans Service Agency at 845-807-0233. Each office has specific services just for those folks.

Don't forget too that the County has maintained its Community Assistance Center since the COVID pandemic, which can be reached at 845-807-0925 during the week. They can help with a variety of immediate needs, including food and supplies.

## USE 'SULLIVANNY.GOV' - NOT 'SULLIVANNY.US'

By Federal mandate, we have to switch our website and email addresses from "sullivanny.us" to "sullivanny.gov."

The change is already afoot - you can visit [sullivanny.gov](http://sullivanny.gov) and find our website, and you can email any of us using the .gov address and you'll reach us!

The old .us addresses will stop working on December 31, 2025, but I'd encourage you to start updating your email lists and browser favorites now.

## RETURN OF THE ACADEMY

I'm pleased to confirm that the Emergency Services Youth Academy our Public Safety Division debuted last summer is coming back this summer.

In its inaugural, weeklong run last July, seven teenagers were introduced to all sorts of jobs - both volunteer and paid - in emergency response, from police and medical helicopter piloting to bomb disposal and search & rescue. They talked with local people and regional leaders who are real-life firefighters, paramedics, pilots, police officers and nurses.

We're hoping to have a larger turnout of teens (ages 14-16) at this year's free-to-attend Academy, which will run from July 21-25. If you know of someone who may be interested, let them know to give us a call at 845-807-0509 or email [scesy@Sullivanny.gov](mailto:scesy@ Sullivanny.gov)!

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEWEST LEADERS!

I'm pleased to announce we've recently hired two talented professionals to oversee two of our most public-facing offices:

- Dr. Jessie Moore, most recently of Garnet Health, is our Public Health Director, leading 60 staff in providing education, vaccination and



home health services to residents & visitors.

- Monika Roosa, a Wurtsboro resident, is our new RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Director, overseeing more than 100 volunteers who daily fan out across the County to fill a wide variety of important needs.





# ON GUARD

In collaboration with the NYS Division of Homeland Security, our Information Technology Services Division hosted an informative, extremely useful and very timely Cybersecurity Summit at the Kartrite in December. We learned that we face nearly a billion threats to County digital assets every month, and how we all can play a role in protecting data.

**WHO ARE THE HACKERS**  
**THE ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT**

- FOREIGN NATIONALS**
- HACKTIVISTS / ANARCHISTS**
- ORGANIZED CYBER CRIMINALS**

DARkSide REvil  
Carbon Spyder



## TAKE A BOUGH

The County Museum in Hurleyville is a treasure trove of history that's worth visiting any time of the year, but every December, its auditorium glitters with lights, tinsel and themed holiday exhibits. Even our Office of Parks, Recreation and Beautification (which oversees the facility) got in on the fun this year with an outdoors-themed tree (seen at left)! Other themes included local history, gingerbread men and Hanukkah.

