

Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development ▶ Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency ▶ Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce ▶ Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association ▶ Sullivan County Democrat

Excitement builds for a successful 2021

STORY AND PHOTOS BY FRED STABBERT III

Floors are being waxed, windows washed and new furniture put into place as Sullivan County braces for its own Grand Opening this Spring. "I think our economy is

going to rebound faster than people expect," Sullivan County Partnership President and CEO Marc Baez said last week. "That's because of all the new projects that are ready to open this spring and



Above: Cider Maker Stuart Madany of the Seminary Hill Orchard & Cidery checks on his cider last week. Stuart said the Cidery has 60 varieties of apples and pears to make the most appealing ciders.

At left: The Eldred Preserve contains many custom-designed elements that give the resort a distinctive feel. This wall in The Old Homestead Restaurant was designed in California, and the lighting fixture was designed to look like stars when viewed from below.

summer as well as those already under construction including in Neversink and Mamakating."

The excitement is almost palpable as tourists and year-round residents wait for the opening of some new restaurants and resorts as well as approval of projects now on the drawing board.

In Eldred, the Eldred Preserve is hoping for a soft opening in the beginning of May, according to Chief Operating Officer Scott Samuelson.

"We are working on hiring our manager this week and

will look add more staff – like waiters and waitresses – next week," Samuelson said.

The \$30 million resort includes The Old Homestead Restaurant & Lounge, Eldred Preserve and The Bradstan Boutique Hotel.

Nearly 60 workers from various construction trades are working on the final details of the resort, and when warmer weather finally removes all the snow, landscapers will put the finishing touches on the project.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ready for More... The Sequel

To the People:

With the news today that New York State restaurants will be allowed to increase capacity to 75% occupancy and the continued progress to get more and more people vaccinated for COVID-19, the proverbial "back to normal" conditions seem more of a reality day by day.

While there are definitely areas of the economy that have been devastated, overall, Sullivan County may be positioned for a significant comeback.

At 6.2% unemployment, just 2% higher than pre-pandemic, a real estate sector that is on fire, the Sullivan County Partnership's efforts to continue our economic development activities throughout this crisis augers well to repeat the 'Ready for More' campaign which brought us signature tourism projects that catalyzed the economy prior to COVID.

Consider the list of projects we anticipate coming to fruition that will have a significant impact on the economy moving forward.

- The reopening of the Kartrite Resort and Indoor Water Park.
- The opening of the Eldred Preserve.
- The opening of Chatwal Lodge at The Chapin Estates.
- The opening of the Hampton Inn.
- The continued investment by Foster Supply Hospitality in strategic boutique destination projects.
- The anticipated investment by RGG realty at the site behind the former Apollo Mall.
- The Center for Discovery's specialty children's care center.
- The attraction of an Eco-Retreat tech company.
- The continued investment in Hurleyville's business corridor.
- Three major tourism destination projects conducting due diligence for signature projects representing hundreds of millions of dollars of investment.
- Callicoon Hills, Seminary Hill Cidery, and many other boutique projects poised to open this spring and summer.



CEO/President Marc Baez

These represent a portion of what will likely be a boom to our economy, supported predominantly by tourism, but enhanced by other projects that will help diversify the economy one project at a time.

We have experienced significant interest in E-Commerce projects that are finding it more difficult each day to expand in other parts of the Hudson Valley, driven by pressure to serve a market undergoing an ever-growing paradigm shift in how consumers purchase retail products and food goods using online alternatives to traditional in-person buying options.

Of course, all of this is predicated on how fast we can open up the economy.

Stay tuned... the 'Ready for More' Sequel may just be better than the original.

Sincerely,

Marc Baez
President, Sullivan County Partnership

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EXCITEMENT

From front page

According to Samuelson, introductory room rates will be from \$400 to \$650 per night.

The events space has also been redesigned to accommodate a maximum of 150 using three retractable windows that will open up to an outdoor space that can be covered and enclosed.

And of course, the Old Homestead Restaurant will be in full swing, offering steaks done to perfection and a true farm-to-table-experience.

A mezzanine-level piano bar will overlook the main dining area, which include an enclosed sunroom, private dining areas and outdoor seating, weather permitting.

In Callicoon, the Seminary Hill Orchard & Cidery is just weeks away from opening as final details get approved.

The spectacular views from the Ciderdy's main tasting room overlook the Delaware River Valley and one of the Ciderdy's orchards.

Light fare will be available as well as an assortment of ciders on tap. A beautiful Yamaha grand piano sits in the corner, ready to entertain guests as they sit at the long, wooden tables in the vaulted tasting room.

Outdoor seating on the spacious deck will be provided as weather warms.

Cider Maker Stuart Madany is excited about the opening and has eight fermentation and carbonation tanks filled and ready for guests.

"We have 60 varieties of apples and pears to choose from," Madany said. "We are going to start blending and bottling soon."

In Callicoon Center, the Callicoon Hills is going



Above: This view from the tasting room of the Seminary Hill Orchard & Cidery will change with the seasons, giving visitors a beautiful vista of the Delaware River Valley.

At Right: Rooms at the Callicoon Hills are comfortable and spacious and full of country charm.

retro – reviving a once popular Borscht Belt era resort into a country retreat.

Callicoon Hills will feature 65 guest rooms, multiple event venues – including an event barn – indoor conference space and on-site restaurant, bar, catering program and coffee shop.

The resort is expected to open in June, embracing a 115-year-old history with vintage furniture or peices made by local fabricators.

Managing partners, Justin Watzka and Kathleen Bunnage, said they were inspired b the history of the property and south to make it a place where guests could sit back and relax.

In White Lake, The Chatwell Lodge is finishing more than two years of construction and is also planning a June opening.

The luxury property will feature private suites and glamping tents, a farm-to-table restaurant, a banquet hall, wine cellar and more.



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Springing into the Sullivan Catskills

With vaccinations ramping up, the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association (SCVA) is looking forward as spring-time awakens the Sullivan Catskills landscape.

Our tourism businesses are eager for a healthy and prosperous year. The spirit of our Sullivan Catskills tourism industry shined last year as businesses set aside time-tested operations and found new and innovative business models. Many of these ideas will continue and be expanded upon with our assistance.

The SCVA is already at work promoting the grand openings of four new destinations to our legendary vacation destination. Callicoon Hills, The Eldred Preserve, Tango Café and The Chatwal Lodge will open to visitors, adding to our existing roster of tourist attractions including: Resorts World Catskills, Kartrite Resort and Waterpark, YO1 Wellness Center, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, The Museum at Bethel Woods, Forestburgh Playhouse, Villa Roma



The Dove Trail, above left, remains a popular tourist attraction and the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Assn. plans on adding more doves to the flock this year. Above right, the Annual Literature Exchange will be held at the SCVA's new headquarters at 15 Sullivan Ave, Liberty on a date to be announced.

Resort and Conference Center, The Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail, The Good Taste Beverage Trail and a plethora of outdoor activities including fly fishing, hiking, and biking,

kayaking, canoeing, and golfing.

National Travel and Tourism Week kicks off May 2 to May 8 and SCVA will hold its annual Literature

Exchange at our new offices at 15 Sullivan Avenue in Liberty for businesses to network and exchange brochures. SCVA is also planning a virtual craft fair in time for Mother's

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Trout fishing season opens on April 1 in New York and thousands of anglers will be traveling to the Sullivan Catskills throughout the season to test our streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.

increase from the previous month. With the start of fishing season, the reopening of our campsites and seasonal Catskill-icious restaurants, farmers markets, and outdoor venues, SCVA anticipates that those numbers will grow even more as vaccinations are administered and people begin to travel again.

Membership is also increasing, and the 2021 Travel Guide is flying off the shelf. The Sullivan Catskills travel guide is distributed at multiple Thruway stops throughout New York State.

New restaurants, lodging and service businesses are signing up to become a member of the SCVA to take advantage of the low-cost, high return benefits associated with membership.

To find out more about the SCVA membership contact the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association at 845-747-4449 or visit us at www.sullivan-catskills.com.

Day on May 1.

In 2019 the SCVA and partners unveiled 50 dove sculptures perched throughout the county. These 50 doves commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Woodstock festival.

Each dove was hand painted by a

local artist, and captures the bird's location and essence of the Sullivan Catskills in its design. The hashtag #SullivanCatskillsDoveTrail started sprouting up on social media and locals and visitors alike found themselves on the quest to visit every dove.

SCVA plans to add to more doves to the flock, as it the trail continues to drive tourist to area businesses.

Interest in the Sullivan Catskills is on the rise.

Page views at SullivanCatskills.com have skyrocketed to over 4.5 million – 43,612 in just 30 days; a 25%

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The state of Sullivan County Real Estate during COVID-19

BY JONATHAN SUNSHINE,
ASSOCIATE BROKER
THE SUNSHINE GROUP
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PRESIDENT, SULLIVAN COUNTY
BOARD OF REALTORS

The current real estate market in Sullivan County is unprecedented. Highest and Best, Bidding Wars and escalating home prices, all with sales in record time.

Which sounds great, except, unfortunately, some home buyers are being priced out of the market. Metropolitan buyers with cash-in-hand seem to be king.

Lakefront homes and properties with some type of water

feature are #1 and generally the first to sell. Also popular are properties that can be used as Airbnb, when not used by the homeowner, to help offset the cost.

Some buyers are willing to do the work to bring a property up to their individual tastes, so the condition of the home becomes less important. Homes with a country feel, open floor plans, updated kitchen and baths, high speed internet and a sense of privacy go amazingly fast.

Fixer-uppers are not currently as popular but may become an only option as prices increase.

As in many other counties, inventory is exceptionally low. We see a daily decrease in new

listings coming on the market. Listings in all categories – land, commercial and residential – have begun to slow down. Residential sales are still tracking high, as is new construction but commercial sales are slow.

Here are a few 2021 Sullivan County Real Estate statistics:

- Residential closings between January and February went from 156 in January to 132 in February and Commercial closings went from 4 in January to 3 in February.

- Pending sales in January were 295 and in February, 267.

- New residential listings went from 54 to 34 and land listings saw an increase from 495 to 501 in February.

Without new properties com-



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ing on the market, sales will slow considerably. Fixer-uppers are great options and buyers are picking them up, but then there is the issue of getting tradesman to do the work because they are all in demand.

Sullivan County has always been a mix of many cultures, races, and religions. We enjoy the diversity and hope to continue to welcome everyone who wants to locate here.

Folks come here, buy a home, shop in our businesses, and expand our economy and community. The diversity has brought a wide variety of commerce to our area such as specialized main street retail stores, restaurants, and various other businesses.

Everyone wins!

The influx of buyers seems to come mainly from the five boroughs of New York City. COVID-19 enabled and often encouraged NYC residents to

work from home. Instead of renting an apartment for many thousands of dollars a month, they can buy a home in Sullivan County and pay a fraction of that to live in the country.

They can still commute back to the city a couple of times a month to get their 'fix of city life.' Sullivan County country living is about breathing fresh clean air with space to move about at a slower pace, some say that's heaven!

To recap, the current buyer demands high speed internet, modern updated homes with a water feature, views, and land.

No close neighbors, peace and quiet, room to breathe without having to wear a mask... this is it!

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Although, a Starbucks and a Whole Foods would be nice, can you get those for us? Maybe someday!



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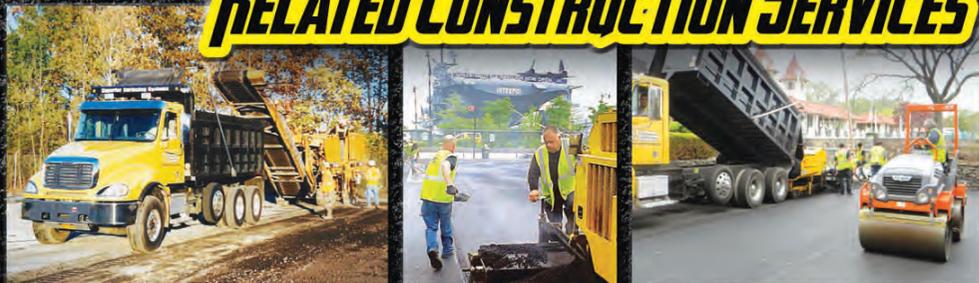
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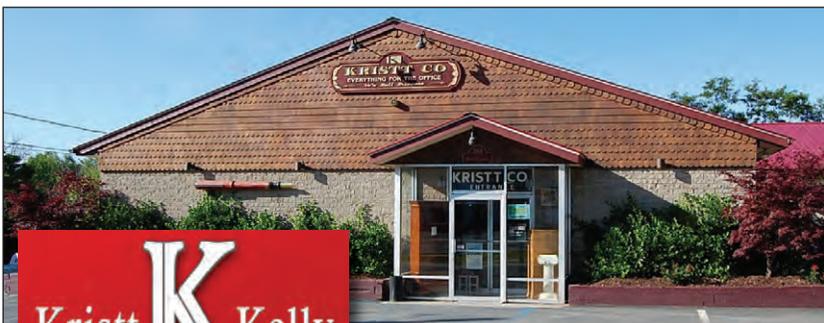


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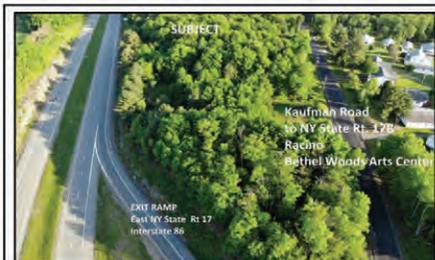
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Cornell Cooperative Extension delivers 51 Thank You Bags to County Farms



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CCE Healthy Schools Coordinator SueAnn Boyd delivers an Ag Thank you Bag to Tom Bose of Bose Dairy Farms.

After an extremely volatile year, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Sullivan County applauds the consistent work of Sullivan County's agriculture professionals, providing food for our communities while adjusting operations, increasing workloads, and donating product and time throughout the county. CCE proudly delivered 51 "All for Ag Thank You Bags" to farm operations across Sullivan County, filled with gifts and messages from staff and partner organizations.

"We enjoy what we do here on the farm, and we're glad that we have people like the staff at Extension to support the community," said Tom and Deborah Bose of Bose Dairy Farms.

"At times like these it is important to help people and let them know they are valued. I hope everyone you gave these bags to appreciate it as much as I have," said Amy Erlwein of Erlwein Farms and CCE board vice president.

This winter, online nominations were open for community members to share their appreciation of their favorite local farming friends. Parents received kind words from children, children received thoughtful words from parents, and all types of neighbors throughout the community expressed their gratitude for the valuable work of Sullivan County's farmers.

"We know that a strong local food system is an investment in our well-being and security," said Colleen Monaghan, CCE Executive Director. "Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County is here to support our farmers."

CCE thanks the following partners for their generous donations towards this effort: Jeff Bank, Sullivan 180, Sullivan Catskills Visitor's Association, Sullivan Renaissance, and Taste NY.

For more information, contact CCE Agriculture Program Coordinator Ashley Tully at 845-292-6180, Ext. 112 or aet92@cornell.edu.



CCE Healthy Schools Coordinator SueAnn Boyd (left) delivers an Ag Thank you Bag to Amy Erlwein of Erlwein Farms. 51 Thank You Bags were delivered across the county.

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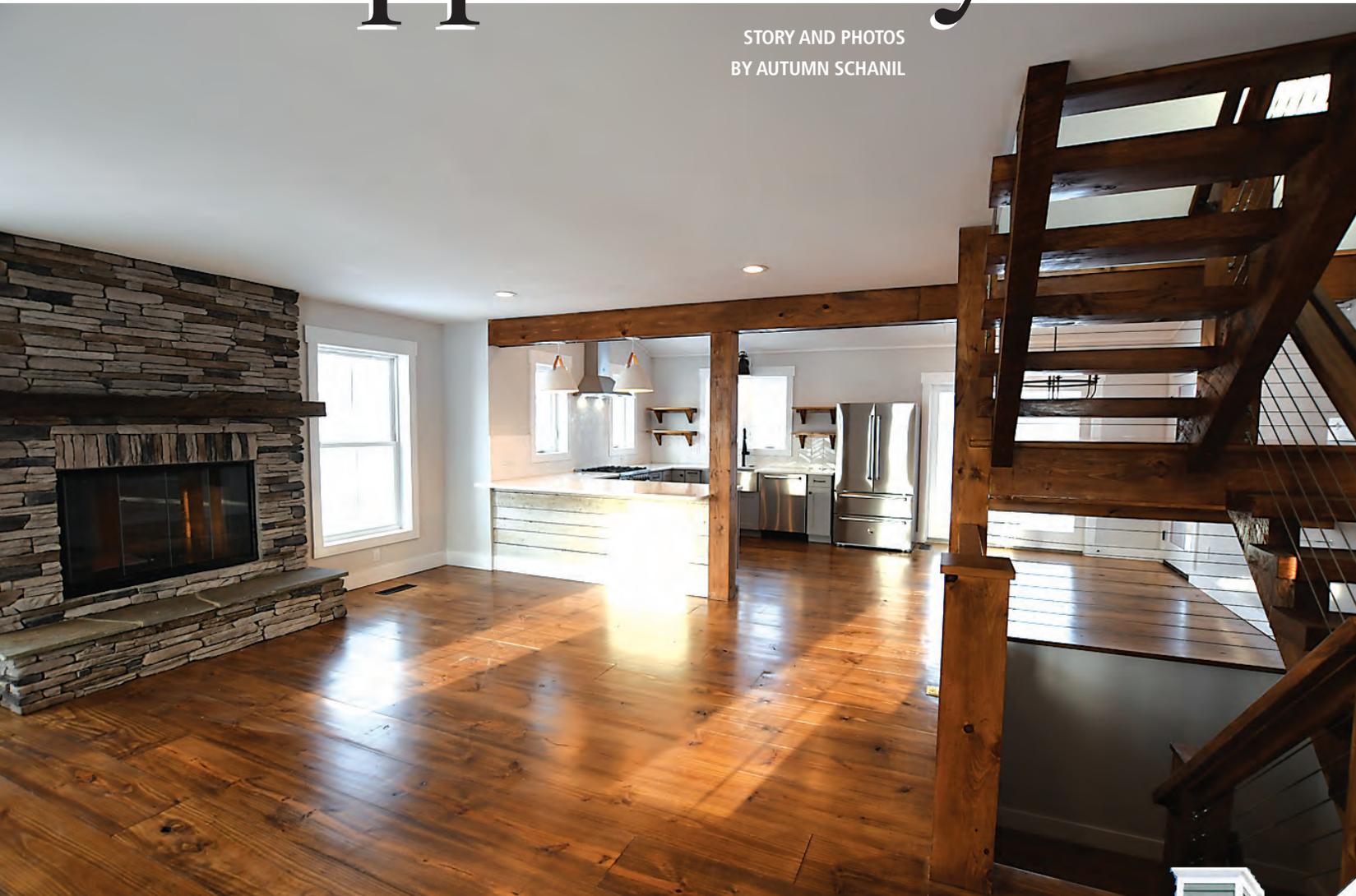
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Opportunity within a

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL



At left: Hardwood floors, fireplaces and custom-kitchens are a signature of a Catskill Farms home.

Above: This Catskill Farms home is great to experience, in person and out.

Building smaller, affordable homes and cottages has always been a large part of Catskill Farms and founder Charles Petersheim's vision, defining their building and design philosophy of "elegance through simplicity," and "less is more."

But in March of last year, as the first weeks of the pandemic began to impact the globe, no one would have guessed that there would be such a sudden change in the Real Estate Market, leaving Catskill Farms with eight homes under 1,200 square feet as the needs of home-buyers began to change.

"People were, and are, no longer looking for small and cozy," explained Petersheim. "Everybody wants bigger and better. They're living more full-time in their home, and they need extra space. People were seeing themselves in it much more than the four-to-six days a month, which has been the average of our 18-year history of building homes. There's now a want for three bedrooms and up."

With Catskill Homes' assortment of designs and

affordability, they were able to quickly adapt to the needs of the market, while also taking on more opportunity.

"We are buying a subdivision in North Branch, in the Town of Fremont, from a company that subdivided it back in 2004 or 2005, and it's been sitting there since," Petersheim stated. "It's the old Reichmann pond property. We've been given the opportunity to come in and build it out."

Most local residents are familiar with the property and pond as a popular fishing spot. The property is about 100 acres, give or take, that was subdivided into 22 building lots back in the early 2000's but was since left undeveloped.

"We had a relationship with the owner of this North Branch property because we worked with them previously on building out another one of their subdivision lots in Bethel," explained Petersheim. "So, currently our plan is to build an assortment of homes, or a cluster of homes, of various price points on this subdivision."

Petersheim is looking to get the project off the ground and begin construction sometime in the



Larger homes, with three-plus bedrooms and finished basements

community



stone designed piece of

ms home inside

Spring, with the hopes of building at least four to six homes over the next couple of years.

Each home is expected to have at least five to six acres with plenty of privacy without isolation. Part of what Petersheim and Catskill Homes pride themselves on is carefully pairing the land with the type of home they build



and the needs of their client.

And North Branch has recently seen development with new storage units, a Post Office, and Rease's Cup coffee shop, where a barn and cow pasture once stood for decades.

"I think this is going to be a great thing for the town, and the truth is there has to be something more than



just land and a brand," Petersheim said. "There has to be a larger strategy. What these small developments do, or at least what the hope is, is it helps stabilize and create opportunity within a community, without taxing the resources of the community. It's typically a win-win."

At left: Open air design is a trademark of a Catskill Farms home.

Above: Catskill Farms' Lead Project Designer Amanda Barton discusses the current projects with Catskill Farms owner Chuck Petersheim.



nts, are now the norm for Catskill Farms homes.



Staying in touch with guests while you prepare a gourmet meal is no problem in this Catskill Farms home.

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce - We Are Not Your Parents' Chamber

BY JAIME SCHMEISER
PRESIDENT & CEO
SULLIVAN COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

If your parents were business owners, they may have belonged to the local chamber. If they did, it was likely one of the first things they did when they opened their business.

They hung an open sign on the window and applied for chamber membership.

People of that age knew that was how business got done. There was only one way to network – in person – and the chamber has offered that expertly and in all incarnations.

But we're in a new "normal" and there's a lot more to running a business than simply attending a networking event.

You may think you no longer need the chamber. But...

If you haven't looked into chamber membership recently, you may

be surprised how much it's changed.

Our Chamber Has Moved Beyond Ribbon Cuttings and Coffees

OK, don't misunderstand. We still love those things and welcoming a new business into town by hosting a ribbon cutting with a ridiculously large pair of scissors is just as much fun as it looks.

And we do those often.

During this unprecedented pandemic we are also tying our community together with ribbon "tyings" virtually. We also still love coffee and connecting people at those types of functions.

But our Chamber is now taking a more personalized approach to serving you and helping you see membership as an investment in your

business and branding your company.

Our Chamber Offers Learning Opportunities

The world changes fast these days and we are at the forefront of these things, making sure our members are prepared for the changes and understand critical business components like social media.

We also host sessions that prepare our members for the unfortunate realities of businesses today – like COVID-19 safety protocols and sexual harassment. And our Chamber extends these learning opportunities to all employees of member businesses.

Today's Sullivan County Chamber - Directing Web Traffic to Chamber Members

Our Chamber is using strong web and social media followings, to drive traffic to member websites and social media platforms using member spotlights, directories, member content, and blogs.

Chamber members are part of an effective, interlocked network that benefits from the Chamber's large social media following.

Our Chamber Board of Directors, CEO and Staff Are Current or Former Business Owners

One of the reasons our chamber understands the plight of business is not just because we studied it in school. We know because we are a part of your community and often have owned at least one business ourselves.

Not only do you have the power

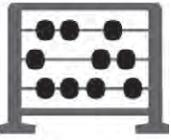


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Sullivan County



The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce has expanded its outreach during the pandemic to help assist businesses with finding the right employees, publicity and networking.

of decades of chamber knowledge at your disposal, you also have help from a fellow business owner.

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce is Looking for Your Future Employees Today

Our Chamber works closely with the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, Sullivan Catskills Visitor Association, Workforce Development Board, schools and others to ensure that tomorrow's workforce has what's needed to be successful when you hire them.

Our Chamber has a hand in ensuring the community has enough training in critical areas of growth industries and is involved in all aspects of quality of life issues.

Chambers Advocate at all levels for programs and legislation that is Pro-Business

Our Chamber is active at a local, state, and federal level to ensure the needs of businesses are addressed and spoken for. Our Chamber ensures every voice of business is heard.

Our Chamber Shares Good Content

Most businesses are eagerly sifting through the Interwebs looking for content that is of value to their audience. The Sullivan County Chamber

can be a good source of inspirational community stories and local events. Just follow the us on social media for valuable content delivered daily.

You know...the kind that makes you feel good.

Our Chamber Tells the Business Story of our County

Who communicates to the outside world when your County is open for business? If you've not been around for this last "pandemic infused year", this is probably not a question you ever think of.

But if you have experienced it, the Sullivan County Chamber is the pro-business advocate who is working and will continue to work even after this is all over. We communicate to the outside world that our community is ready for business.

Think Sullivan County Chamber is out of touch with your business' needs? Then you haven't looked into our Chamber or its offerings recently. If you want to grow your business leveraging new tactics, it's time to get in contact with us.

If you're already a member of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, consider sharing this article with someone who hasn't discovered the benefits of Chamber membership yet.

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Parksville Priorities

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

In the early 1800s Martin and Eber Hall were one of the first pioneering families to arrive and settle in the village that in 1904 would be named Parksville, after William Parks' lasting influence.

Once a swamp surrounded by hills along the Beaverkill River, Parksville became more forested and dry, attracting new residents who developed a small but bustling community of merchants and mill workers.

Parksville's popularity grew with the Ontario & Western Railway (O&W) line in the 20th century, becoming a sought out summer destination for people from the city, in which Parksville again transformed into hotels and resorts, traffic jams in the center of town, and shops of all kinds. But after the Great Depression and the O&W Railway's decreasing popularity in the 1950s, tourism and life passing through Parksville came to a standstill, causing many businesses to close their doors.

In the 1980s and 90s a new highway, Route 17, was directed right through the hamlet – including a stoplight in front of Fiddle's Ice Cream Parlor – encouraging local business owners to open up shops along Main Street and Route 17 like the Dead End Cafe, owned by Tom and Michele Caltabellotta, a Diner, antique shop Memories, a video store, beauty salon, Fiddles Ice Cream and Pizza Parlor, and even a tattoo shop, for a brief revival of the village.

But just like before, Parksville would see a downfall as Route 17 was converted into Interstate 86 and redirected, now just an exit off the highway rather than a welcome pit-stop to road travelers. Many businesses felt the impact and closed their doors while others managed to continue operation.

Recently-elected Town of Liberty Supervisor Frank DeMayo, Confidential Secretary Nick Rusin, and a community of people who currently identify themselves as 'Parksville's Priorities' plan to change



all of that and focus on not just reviving Parksville, but keeping it thriving.

"This group, Parksville Priorities, has stayed together for a very long time with a continued passion to get things going in Parksville again," stated DeMayo, "so Nick and I just said OK, we have to really advance this. We have some really talented people within this group, and they're all excited and willing to lend their expertise to help move things along."

The group meets once a month to not only discuss ideas but to come together as a supportive community. According to DeMayo and Rusin, there is a lot to be done in the hamlet but they want to start small and continue to build on those little successes.

"We're looking to apply for the

\$200,000 Silver Feather Award this year," said DeMayo. "We feel that would benefit us the most at this point of where we are in terms of planning."

Currently they plan to focus on Main Street and the entrance to Parksville from the highway. One of their first ideas is to turn the small corner property, owned by Dead End Cafe's Tom Caltabellotta, into a small park. Think little walkways, flowers, perhaps a gazebo, perhaps even a small food stand.

"It's right there diagonally across from Cabernet Frank's, who always has great music and events going on in the summertime, so I think these spaces could really benefit and feed off of each other to bring a bit of life back," stated Rusin, "and it would be

Above: New signage and a clean up of Main Street will be a main focus to start the revitalization of Parksville.

At left: There are hopes to turn this small corner property at the intersection into a beautiful park.

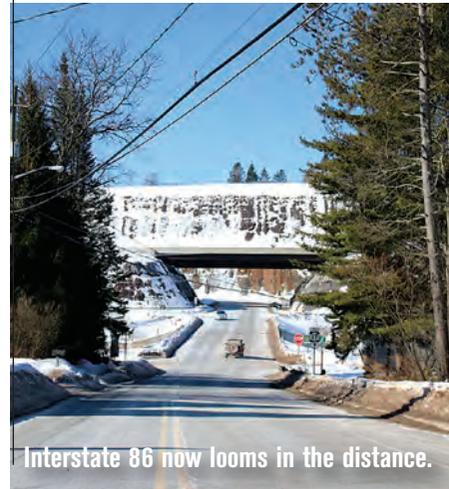
a beautiful entry point to folks dropping in off of I-86."

Think small, but start

They'd also like to invest in better signage off the highway and on Main Street.

"We have to think realistically, because as much as I'd like to say walkways, paving, lighting, and all of that on Main Street," DeMayo said, "we have to walk before we can run. We want to build on the small things and then eventually start to think about expanding that vision."

"Fiddles and the old Diner are



Interstate 86 now looms in the distance.



The entrance to Parksville's Rail Trail is adjacent to Cabernet Frank's, wrapping behind the building and continuing alongside the Beaverkill River.

going to take a bit longer to correct, as there are some sewer and other issues that we're currently facing," he continued, "so we thought, let's focus on Main Street and the entrance of the highway for now."

DeMayo continued to explain that although the current focus is on small projects, they can see the more service commercial area expanding and encompassing the Rolling River Cafe, the synagogue, the gas station, the diner, and even up to the beloved antique shop, Memories.

"It's easier for us to apply for grants and sink our teeth into the smaller projects," added Rusin, "and then from there we can start to think about expanding beyond it."

"I can definitely see the Rail Trail being a main project for us to work on as well, connecting our trail to that of Livingston Manor and possibly Liberty," he said.

According to Rusin, seven buildings in the hamlet just recently changed hands and there are talks of wanting to bring in a recording studio, a woodworking shop, and an artisan shop, along with an interested buyer who would like to resurrect the Dead End Cafe into a restaurant again.

There has even been discussion of turning Main Street into a one way street from the corner of Cabernet Frank's down to the Dead End Cafe to minimize vehicle traffic and encourage pedestrian traffic, especially during the summer months.

This, of course, would mean a need to provide and enhance parking on both sides.

Other resources

They'll also be utilizing the Restore New York Grant that was awarded to three properties in the hamlet, allowing the individuals who purchase the properties to use the funds to do

anything they'd like, or need to do, within the square footage of the structure.

According to Rusin, that would mean anything from structural work like a new roof or plumbing, to the overall cosmetic work of the building. At the moment there are two

properties, 857 Parksville Road and 32 Main Street, that once the buyers close, they can begin to use the funding.

"There's a lot being talked about at the moment," said DeMayo, "and we want to keep the momentum going. We want to clean up and get Parksville looking like the special place that it is."

"Having worked with Frank and this group of people for the past few months, it's really a point of pride for them. They're really sick of Parksville being called a ghost town," Rusin added. "They have a lot of love and pride for Parksville and they want to see something happen, so that's what we're trying to do."

If you'd like to be a part of Parksville Priorities and attend their monthly meetings you can email Nick Rusin at n.rusin@townofliberty.org



One of the buildings Parksville is most recognized for is the brick-built pharmacy that stands at the intersection to the hamlet.

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MINDING OUR BUSINESS

Mutt in Jeff opens new kennels

Mutt in Jeff has just completed Phase 1 of renovating its entire kennel facility – including the updating of a 600 square-foot boarding area complete with 10 brand new luxury kennels for dogs, two triple-decker cages for cats and a state-of-the-art climate control system.

Further upgrades will continue throughout the year, adding spacious play yards and more new kennels. Mutt in Jeff is supplementing the physical improvements with extra comfort and safety touches for its boarders including new varieties of bedding, the playing of movies and videos during the day, better lighting and the installation of security cameras throughout the kennel.



Established in 1978, Mutt in Jeff is the longest operating kennel in Western Sullivan County. Its staff brings more than 70 years of combined experience in caring for pets. In addition to boarding, Mutt in Jeff also offers a full-service grooming salon and a pet gift shop.

For more information or to make a reservation/appointment, call 845-482-5995, text 845-423-8028 or go to muttjefppetcare.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New state-of-the-art luxury kennels at Mutt in Jeff in Jeffersonville provide ample space for all-sized dogs as well as privacy, safety and comfort.

Catskill Watershed appoints a new Executive Director

On March 2, the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) Board of Directors appointed Jason Merwin as the new Executive Director.

Mr. Merwin will replace long time CWC Executive Director, Alan Rosa as he nears his retirement from the organization after over two and a half decades of service.

Mr. Merwin has been an employee of CWC for nine years and has been acting as Assistant Executive Director for the previous three years. Mr. Merwin is a 2004 graduate of Gilboa-Conesville Central School and has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Central Florida and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Marist College.

Outgoing Executive Director, Alan Rosa held the post since 1998. Prior to this Mr. Rosa was the first President of the CWC Board of Directors and was intimately involved with the creation of the corporation.

Alan has been a passionate and dedicated advocate for the watershed communities since the early 1990's. While serving as the elected Supervisor of the Town of Middletown, Delaware County, Alan was the lead negotiator for the local



**Catskill Watershed Corporation
Executive Director Jason Merwin**

watershed communities and the Coalition of Watershed Towns for over five years of discussions with the City of New York, State of New York, Environmental Protection Agency, and various environmental groups.

Those negotiations resulted in the landmark 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement which continues to serve as the basis of all of the Watershed Programs benefiting the local communities. Alan's per-

spective, insight, and quiet leadership guided CWC and the watershed communities through numerous successes including opening of City land for recreation and hunting, supporting local businesses with grants immediately following Hurricane Irene, as well as continuation of all CWC Programs.

In other action, the CWC Board of Directors also awarded funding for replacement septic systems and additional construction costs to a total of 13 homeowners in eight towns in Delaware, Greene, and Ulster

Counties.

Funding from the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program was approved for construction costs to complete the construction of recommended flood mitigation measures for a homeowner in the Town of Prattsville.

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development, and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River. www.cwconline.org.

Hudson Valley Restoration Co. expands regional footprint

NEW HAMPTON – Advanced DRI, formerly Hudson Valley DKI, recently merged with A. Molly Company, a full-service environmental, construction and restoration firm serving customers in the state of New Jersey.

Together, Advanced DRI, based in New Hampton, and A. Molly Company will operate under the parent company, Advanced Disaster Recovery Inc., while continuing to provide customers with the same level of high-quality service under

their current names.

“Customers of both Advanced DRI and A. Molly Company can expect to receive the same exceptional and prompt service for which they are known, backed by the same team of experienced, certified technicians,” said Greg Boatwright, CEO of Advanced Disaster Recovery Inc. “The merger provides the size and scale to support our customers, especially the larger, multi-location commercial customers, and further our position as

MINDING OUR BUSINESS

the premier restoration company in the northeast region.”

Advanced DRI has remained committed to delivering exceptional emergency and disaster-recovery services throughout the Hudson Valley region for more than 40 years. Earlier this year, the company announced its rebranding campaign, including a new name (formerly Hudson Valley DKI), solidifying the company's commitment to delivering exceptional emergency and disaster-recovery services in the Hudson Valley, Catskills, northern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

Advanced DRI provides emergency recovery services for wind, fire, smoke and water damage; catastrophe response; contents restoration; environmental issues; mold remediation; healthcare and environmental services; flooding repair; and construction services.

The merger is a result of Advanced Disaster Recovery Inc.'s recent partnership with Brookstone Partners, a private equity firm based in Manhattan. With assistance from Brookstone

Partners, Advanced Disaster Recovery Inc. has built an investment platform to continue its expansion into new markets.

“We are excited to work with Advanced Disaster Recovery Inc. and grow the company's market share through strategic acquisitions in the Northeast,” said Michael Toporek, Founder and Managing General Partner at Brookstone Partners. “Together, Advanced DRI and A. Molly Company will continue to provide their respective customers unmatched service with rapid response times, and the united entity will be stronger than ever.”

A. Molly Company was founded in 1999 and has become a trusted and well-respected business in the Fairfield, N.J. market. Services available include water damage restoration; mold, asbestos and lead removal; fire and smoke restoration; wind damage; biohazard and trauma cleanup; rebuild and restoration; cleaning services; and inspection services.

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MINDING OUR BUSINESS

Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan announces addition of LaTanya Bryant to Committee

The Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan (CFOS) is proud to announce that LaTanya Bryant has joined its Finance and Investment Committee. This committee oversees the Foundation's financial and investment activities.

A rising banking professional, Bryant is currently employed as the Assistant Store Manager for TD Bank in Newburgh, where she has worked for three and a half years. Bryant has long been an active volunteer for The Endometriosis Foundation of America, but this is her first time serving on a non-profit committee.

"The Community Foundation's mission of helping people and

organizations make a difference in our community now and forever reminds me of Mahatma Gandhi's quote 'Be the change you wish to see in the world,'" said Bryant. "It's a beautiful sentiment and one that reminds us how everyone has the power to make an impact. The fact that the Community Foundation helps everyone with their power to make that impact is amazing and to be a part of that is even more so."

Bryant brings diversity, equity, and inclusion to the role as well as a passion for the cause.

"I am an African American Lesbian Woman, and I want to give back to the community," said Bryant. "I have a strong connec-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LaTanya Bryant

The rising banking professional brings passion and diversity to the Finance and Investment Committee

tion and passion for the work being done by the Community Foundation, and I am enthusiastic and willing to go the extra mile."

"We are thrilled to have LaTanya as the most recent addition to our already strong Finance and Investment Committee," said Elizabeth Rowley, CFOS President and CEO. "She brings a fresh outlook and ideas to the table along with the willingness to listen and learn from others."

To learn more, visit cfosny.org.



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