

SULLIVAN COUNTY BUSINESS EDGE

JUNE 2023

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



With a runway measuring 6,298 feet in length, Sullivan County International Airport can handle jets of any size.

Investing in the Airport

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK,
SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER

is investing in all of us

I've heard a variation of this question from time to time about the Sullivan County International Airport: "I don't use the Airport. How does it benefit me?"

I get why the question is being asked. I don't use the Airport myself either. I'm not a pilot, and it's been a few decades since a passenger jet provided scheduled service to any destination (including Canada, which is how the Airport earned the "International" moniker).

But that reflects an outdated

understanding of what airports are – and specifically what our Airport can be.

Think of a vast parking lot, where corporate jets squeezed out of New York City's airports can find a home. And the owners of those jets are willing to pay us for the privilege of hangaring only a few minutes' flight time from their primary market area.

Or imagine the Airport with a distribution warehouse nearby, with cargo planes easily accommodated by the resurfaced 6,298-foot runway and adjacent



taxiway, not to mention the Instrument Landing System that permits bad-weather

operations. Plus, the tarmac's got plenty of room for offloading all those packages we ordered a day or two ago.

Then again, who needs to imagine? HatzolAir already stores their jets at the Airport, where they plan to construct their headquarters in support of their ongoing charitable mission to fly the gravely ill to the world's best hospitals.

All these users also need to fuel their planes, for which the Airport is already equipped to serve them. The profit from those sales goes directly into County coffers, as do the sales taxes users pay, the room and property taxes pilots and their affluent passengers generate, and the fees hangar les-

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Sullivan County International Airport (MSV)

Built: 1968

Opened: 1969

Elevation: 1,403 feet above sea level

Runway: 6,298 feet long, 150 feet wide, asphalt-paved, outfitted with Instrument Landing System (ILS)

Fuel: 100LL and Jet A

Hangars: 43 spaces totaling 79,459 square feet

Tiedown Space: 18 spots

Emergency Services: Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Truck onsite

2022 Revenues: \$845,791.82

2022 Expenditures: \$1,336,487.34

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TO THE PEOPLE

Summer and Optimism Go Hand in Hand

As summer arrives and businesses get ready for the busy tourist season ahead, we move forward post covid now for a full year, looking to build on the comeback momentum created over the past year. It always feels more positive when summer arrives and everyone gets busy with business or personal projects, family activities, travel and all that comes with the warmer weather.

The goal to continue building economic growth, business, and job opportunities in our Sullivan Catskills remains, with signs that are showing progress toward that end. Already we have added 200 more jobs year over year and our unemployment numbers for April are at an all-time low at 2.5

%, well under the New State average of 3.7% for the same time period. With a national debt crisis averted, hopefully some measure of predictability in the marketplace can begin positively impacting inflationary trends. While there is some nervousness on the development side with the higher cost of financing projects, there are still carry over projects from last year and some new activity driving the economy for now. Public sector capital projects are also helping to keep workers busy here and throughout the Hudson Valley with much more to come over the next decade. So, despite some jitters nationally and statewide, local optimism persists. Look around..... our Main Streets continue to be rebuilt with the Livingston Manor transformation continuing and now Liberty beginning to join the party. Virtually all of our main streets are now buzzing with activity. The County's



CEO/President Marc Baez

airport terminal project promises much more activity and will be a hub (pun intended) of increased activity at the Sullivan County Airport.

At the Partnership we continue to assist developers in getting sites approved while providing technical assistance to current projects by facilitating solutions to development challenges related to water, sewer, energy, environmental, and other development issues. The Sullivan County visitors Association is seeing enhanced interest as they come back from promoting the Sullivan Catskills at trade shows and special events. Some SCVA members are experiencing an uptick in bookings already for the summer and well into the fall months. The Sullivan County Chamber is busy getting ready for its

annual Bagel festival, an event that has grown regionally now and continues to grow each year bringing thousands of visitors to Monticello, a boon for the area the second weekend in August. Our IDA continues to provide a steady, sophisticated program of incentives and business expertise to help us compete in a very challenging business climate. Together, our Sullivan Catskills economic development team continues to be united in working toward a more prosperous future for the businesses, residents, and visitors in the Sullivan Catskills. Have a wonderful summer filled with optimism and success!

Sincerely,

Marc Baez
President and CEO
Sullivan County Partnership



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
LEFT: The runway at Sullivan County International Airport is more than a mile long, 6,298 feet to be exact.

AT RIGHT: A Sullivan Catskills Visitors Assn. dove graces the lawn.

BELOW: Sullivan County International Airport is located in White Lake.



\$18.5 million grant from New York State – will see our circa-1968 terminal demolished and replaced with a larger, more energy-efficient version, complete with rentable office space for aviation businesses and a proposed second-floor restaurant with panoramic views.

The goal here is not to enhance a “playground for the rich.” Nor is it to realize the Airport founders’ original dream of offering regular passenger service. The primary goal is to make the Airport self-sustaining, if not a revenue source that will reliably counter the ever-present pressure to increase taxes.

And I think we can make that happen in just a few years.

AIRPORT: Continued from front page sees annually remit.

In other words, Sullivan County is sitting on a major potential revenue-generator, and the current Legislature has directed County staff to work toward realizing – indeed, maximizing – that potential. And why shouldn't we? The State

and the Federal governments typically pay 50-100% of improvement costs (for which we'd be liable if we ever sold the property to private interests). Their grants have enabled us to renovate much of the aging infrastructure at the Airport, bringing it up to modern standards.

The latest project – utilizing an

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Tourism and Hospitality

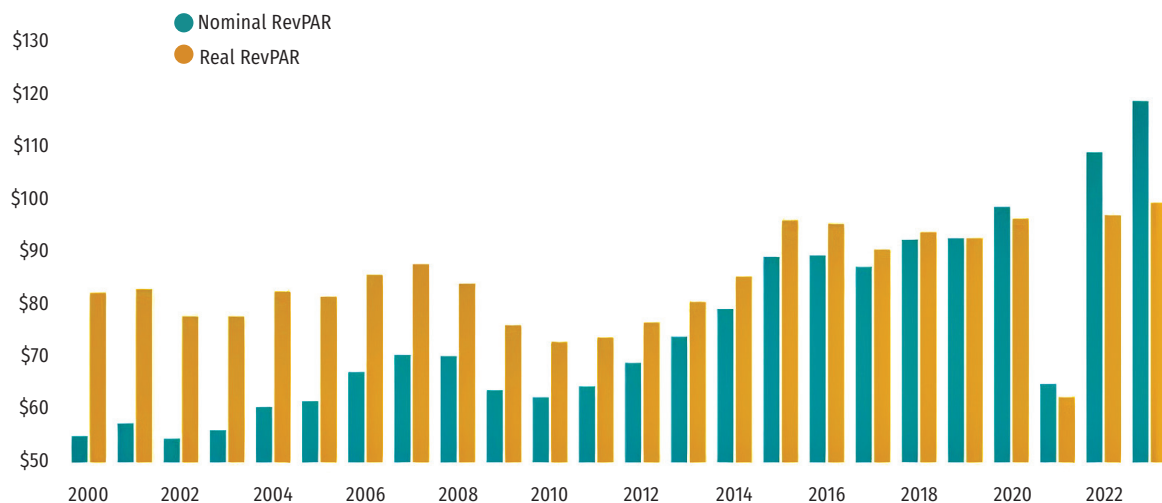
The Growth Continues



BY GUS SCACCO, CEO
HUDSON VALLEY
INVESTMENT ADVISORS

Real RevPAR during Presidents' Day weekend was a record

U.S. RevPAR, 3-day Presidents' Day weekend (Friday - Sunday)



It appears that the “PostCovid” environment has seen an economic revival on both a national and local basis. Under mandates, the Tourism and Hospitality industries were ones that were most restricted.

What does a potential post Covid environment look like?

We can use the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918 as a guideline for a potential outcome as that post flu period helped to usher in the “Roaring ‘20s” in which individuals wanted to live life more fully.

As the current pandemic subsides, we believe the same type of environment is happening today. The expectation is for strong growth as Tourism and Hospitality friction is reduced.

Historically, the expansion of the hospitality market has been supported by solid economic growth. The current rebound in demand has been extremely strong but has dealt with the negative impacts of labor shortages, political concerns and increasing inflation.

In spite of these facts the Tourism and Hospitality industries appear to be accelerating and rebounding above “pre pandemic” levels. The chart above points to the strong 2023 President’s Day weekend for hotels

and historical trends in Revenue Per Available Room (“RevPAR”).

We believe that these trends will continue nationally and on a local basis. Demand for these services will help add to the U.S. and Hudson Valley economies as consumers pent up demand continues to increase wallet share in tourism and hospitality over the coming years.

On a regional basis, the Hudson Valleys’ tourism revenue has seen continued improvement with Covid opening up the region to people who became acquainted to the area.

The limitation of travel during Covid gave people within a few hours’ drive of the Hudson Valley familiarity with the recreational benefits of the area. We believe the tourism venues such as Bethel Woods, LEGOLAND, craft breweries and casino gaming has helped to add to interest in the area and will help support continued growth.

Even larger is the Food and Beverage sector which accounted for close to \$800 billion in total U.S. sales in 2022, with approximately 15 million employees.

The large majority of restaurants (90%) have fewer than 50 employees and 70% are single unit operations.

The industry is truly entrepreneurial with 80% of owners starting their careers in entry level positions.

Locally, the Hudson Valley has seen an influx from tourism and greater level of business travelers. The most recent data saw private sector jobs increase by 3% to 23k. Overall employment growth was led by healthcare and education (+10.4k) with the second most jobs added from Leisure and Hospitality (+6.3k) or 27% of private sector job growth. This points to the importance of this area of the Hudson Valley economy which it appears will continue to outpace most economic sectors and be a vital area for regional employment growth over the coming years.

Overall, the support that these sectors provide is an important area for current and future economic growth nationally and the Hudson Valley Region.

We believe that the ability of the local area to be a destination will support new restaurants, hotels, and areas of entertainment. These new areas of growth will provide opportunities not only for these businesses but also the supporting services that help these companies to start, grow and expanding into an ever larger part of the local infrastructure.



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Why Workforce Development is a big deal for small business

BY JAIME SCHMEISER
PRESIDENT AND CEO
SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Many small and medium-sized business owners think that workforce development isn't in their "lane." They leave it to the big guys to work with the chamber and community leaders to ensure the large businesses have the skilled employees they need for the future. But unless you are a business of one and plan on remaining that way, workforce development should be a concern of all sizes of businesses. Here's why you should want to get involved:

Why Small Companies Should Get Involved in Workforce Development

While workforce development may seem like a daunting task for

small companies, there are several compelling reasons why they should actively engage in these initiatives:

* Access to a Skilled Workforce:

By participating in workforce development activities with the chamber and beyond, small businesses can play a pivotal role in shaping the skills and competencies of the future workforce. This provides them with a pool of well-prepared candidates who can contribute to their growth and success. A single small business isn't the main employer of the area but collectively, there's a good chance they are. Workforce development initiatives should consider and incorporate the needs of all employers when possible. The Sullivan County Chamber can't do that if you don't get involved.



* **Enhanced Competitiveness:** A highly skilled workforce gives small companies a competitive edge in the marketplace. By investing in employee development, businesses can improve productivity, innovate more effectively, and adapt to industry changes with greater agility. While your company

may not have the budget to fund employee development, a workforce development initiative might. Working with leaders in workforce development can help you contribute your voice to the initiative while also benefiting from their programs.

• **Talent Retention and Attraction:** Workforce development initiatives

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signal to existing and potential employees that the company and area value employee growth and development. This fosters a positive work environment, boosts employee morale, and increases retention rates. Moreover, small businesses that actively participate in these initiatives become more attractive to job seekers who prioritize professional growth and development. And may help get the small company's name out there in the job market.

• Building Stronger Networks:

Engaging in workforce development activities provides small companies with opportunities to build relationships with educational institutions, industry peers, and other stakeholders. These connections can lead to collaborations, partnerships, and access to valuable resources and knowledge.

While small businesses may have limited resources compared to larger corporations, they have a unique opportunity to make a significant impact on workforce development. By engaging with the Sullivan

County Chamber of Commerce, local educational institutions, industry associations, and larger companies in the area, a small business owner can provide valuable insights into what's needed in the years ahead. Workforce development is not only crucial for individual companies but also for the overall economic growth and sustainability of our community.

Many small business owners think that as an employer of only a handful of people, their insights aren't critical to our community's plans. However, small business often comprises the largest employment segment in the area. Hearing from businesses under 200 employees is just as important as hearing from the largest employer. If small business owners don't step forward to share their needs, the only ones who will be heard are big businesses and unless you think their employment needs and yours are the same, it's time to speak up.

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Liberty continues to build towards the future with new business and community development

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY FRED STABBERT III



Town of Liberty Supervisor Frank DeMayo, left, stopped to chat with Munson Diner owner Stavros Kritikos last week. The Diner recently partnered with Bridge and Tunnel Brewery to deliver food to its patrons... a win-win for both businesses.



Liberty businessman Bruce Davidson is in the process of remodeling the Liberty Theater with the help of a Restore New York Grant. The lobby, when completed, will look identical to the original.



ABOVE: Supervisor Frank DeMayo, left, got an update on the progress at Sullivan County Golf Club from operator Tom Coyne.

LEFT: Supervisor Frank DeMayo, left, stopped on Main St. recently to chat with a postman outside the Liberty Theater.

RIGHT: The recently opened Bridge and Tunnel Brewery is located at 50 Chestnut St. in the Village, right on the O & W Rail Trail.



Located in the heart of Sullivan County, at the crossroads of Routes 17, 52 and 55, the Town of Liberty is primed for growth.

And with the help of millions of dollars of grants, private investment dollars, newly-formed community groups, and a lot of sweat equity, Liberty Town Supervisor Frank DeMayo hopes his town continues on its upward trajectory.

Investment Dollars

A handful of business owners have either opened new businesses or are in the process of rebuilding existing buildings in anticipation of an opening.

Two projects in particular are investing millions of dollars into the Liberty economy – namely the Liberty Theater on Main Street and The Green Building on the corner of Main and Chestnut.

Several years ago, the Liberty Theater received a \$1 million Restore New York Grant and is working hard to restore the former landmark building.

“The theater still needs a lot of work,” Supervisor DeMayo said. “But the offices upstairs are complete and ready to rent. They did an incredible job.”

Workmen at the site last week were busy working on restoring the lobby of the theater to its original glory and plans were to remove the seats in the theater for reupholstering.

Owner Bruce Davidson's vision is for Liberty's theater to be as active and attractive as it once was with adjoining office spaces complimenting the project.

Nearly across the street from the theater is the historic Green Building, located at the corner of Chestnut and Main.

“Local developer Abraham Mizrahi recently bought out Mark Hirsch, who owned several buildings along Main St.,” DeMayo said.

DeMayo said Mizrahi, who is CEO of Fast Build, has big plans for the Green building.

“He is proposing retail space in the downstairs and apartments upstairs,” he said.

One problem is that village zoning does not allow for apartments in the second story of buildings along Main St., but DeMayo hopes the village can remedy the situation with a zoning change.

Recently the Town of Liberty was awarded a \$1.15 million Restore New York grant to help in the reconstruction of the Green building.

According to the grant, “This 45,000 square foot rehabilitation project will re-establish 15,000 square feet of prime commercial real estate on the ground floor.

“An additional 30,000 square feet on the second and third levels will be renovated and used as additional office space, or pending zoning changes, apartments

that will add to Liberty's housing stock,” the grant concludes.

Now Open

West 17 Brewery, located on Sullivan Ave. in the former Last Licks building, is “doing great,” DeMayo said.

The owners made physical improvements to the building, and it has now become a popular destination.

Another popular spot is the Bridge and Tunnel Brewery at 50 Lake St. in the village.

“They recently won a Gold Medal at the 2023 NY Governor's Cup,” DeMayo said.

The self-built micro-brewery is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in Liberty and is located right on the O & W Rail Trail, which DeMayo said is an added bonus.

And most recently the Brewery partnered with the Munson Diner just down the hill, to deliver food orders to the brewery so patrons can enjoy a little food with their beer.

Munson Diner owner Stavros Kritikos said, “We are here to support each other.”

Another new face on the Liberty business scene is Tom Coyne, who has been hired to operate the Sullivan County Golf Club.

Coyne is a golf author, writer, podcast host and

senior editor at The Golfer's Journal, who brings more than 20 years experience to the golf club.

He is focused primarily on improving the playing conditions at the club and has new Toro equipment to maintain the nine-hole course and recently had a company review the course's agronomy needs.

“We already have 100 non-resident members who signed up to support the club,” Coyne said. “I would love to get more of our community out here.”

Community Groups

“The town is working very hard to establish a good working relationship with the Village of Liberty,” DeMayo said. “And there are several groups now focused on improving Liberty.”

One of those groups is Liberty Rising, a 20-member group of volunteers who formed three months ago.

They are dedicated to connecting residents to

community events, entertainment, news and each other through the township.

The Greater Liberty Chamber, which like all chambers had a rough go during COVID-19, is now back up and running with Russell Reeves handing off the baton to Jack Podeleski. A July 4 celebration is in the works and many organizations and businesses are participating.

DeMayo said the Town of Liberty is also seeing a lot of diversity with nearly 30 percent of village residents being of Latino descent.

“Many storefronts along Main St. in the village are filling up with Latino businesses,” DeMayo pointed out. “They are really great people.”

“We recently organized a Cinco de Mayo celebration and 600 to 700 people showed up,” DeMayo said.

He gives credit to Liberty Police Chief Steve D'Agata, Parks and Rec Assistant Recreation Director James

Guara, and local resident Denise Paty.

“Parkville is still hot,” DeMayo added. “Parkville Priorities is a group of volunteers who are really active in the community, organizing festivals, parades and really getting Parkville going.

“The hamlet also received an \$800,000 Restore New York Grant to rehab three buildings,” he said.

More to Come

Infrastructure improvements throughout the sprawling township are also very important, and DeMayo said sewer and water projects are ongoing.

With approvals already in place for a million square feet of distribution center in Ferndale, DeMayo said extending water and sewer lines is important.

A new solar array is already approved and being built between Old Route 17 and existing Route 17 in Ferndale, near the electric company's substation.



The recent Catskill Cuisine at Bethel Woods featured many celebrity chefs and helped promote the many great dining experiences in the Sullivan Catskill.

BY THE SULLIVAN CATSKILLS VISITORS ASSOCIATION

Sullivan Catskills summer is heating up

The Sullivan Catskills has long enjoyed a robust and exciting summer season. As visitors flock here, you may find it difficult to get a reservation on a Saturday night or a parking spot at the Sunday farmer's market. But these increased numbers mean business is good all around.

The summer kicked off with some exciting events, including Catskill Cuisine, Shad Fest, the Livingston Manor Trout Parade, The Soapbox Derby in Liberty, NY and more! The Forestburgh Playhouse begins its exciting summer season on June 20 with a stellar lineup of plays and musicals.

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is bringing in some big acts this summer, such as Shania Twain, Sam Hunt, and Rod Stewart, showcasing amazing musical talents to big audiences at their state-of-the-art amphitheater in Bethel.

There are also many parades, street fairs, and festivals that showcase our

local communities, from the 27th Annual Callicoon Tractor Parade to Narrowsburg's Riverfest. Our small towns and natural beauty are admired by residents and visitors alike.

New Doves on the Dove Trail

We are pleased to announce nine more doves will be added to the

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The Livingston Manor Trout Parade always draws a big crowd to the hamlet and is a tradition like no other.

Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail. A new dove was already unveiled in the fall at Eagle Valley Realty in Narrowsburg, and nine more will be added by the end of July.

The Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail, with support from Sullivan 180, has been instrumental in fostering community engagement and cultural appreciation since its inception in 2019.

The trail has become a popular

attraction, drawing art enthusiasts, families, and nature lovers alike. Through its unique combination of art, nature, and local heritage, the trail offers a one-of-a-kind experience that celebrates the rich diversity and creative spirit of the Sullivan Catskills.

The SCVA will continue the Dove Trail as a legacy project to bring global awareness and enhance the footprint of the Sullivan Catskills and to continue the economic impact it has

brought to the county.

Social Media Training

The SCVA held another virtual social media training workshop with our digital agency, Awestruck. This second session delved a little deeper into Instagram, covering hashtags, the Explore page, how to create Reels, and more.

This training is offered to our hospitality businesses at no cost. The feedback has been exceptionally positive, saying it helped them learn more about how to use social media and get more creative with their online business approach.

You can join the Sullivan County Visitors Association at any time and take advantage of marketing solutions to help promote and grow your business. You'll enjoy increased exposure and more visibility in traditional, digital, and social media channels. Call 845-747-4449.

Destination Marketing Organization

On June 15 and 16, the SCVA will host the quarterly meeting of New York State Destination Marketing Organizations at The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark where CEOs and Directors of Sales will

work to strategically promote each of their destinations.

It's a huge triumph to host this meeting here in the Sullivan Catskills, where leaders from all over the state will come together.

Nine more doves will be added to the Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail. This one was recently unveiled in Monticello by NAMI of Sullivan County.



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Job fairs and professional development

Events that support SUNY Sullivan's Workforce Development Mission

Building on its longstanding mission to be the workforce hub for the Sullivan Catskills, SUNY Sullivan hosted a series of three job fairs, conferences, and networking events on campus this spring aimed at providing students and area residents with new career and professional development opportunities in the region's evolving economy.

SUNY Sullivan Dean of Student Success and Workforce Development Dr. Jennifer Wrage said the job fairs and other events are part of the College's focus on providing avenues for Sullivan County residents to explore different career pathways.

"Hosting job fairs and professional development events enables students and community members to explore emerging industries and talk to employers who are seeking to build their workforce," said Dr. Wrage. "Whether individuals are new to a



SUNY Sullivan hosted a summit on Earth Day to promote solar energy or other green industries.

field, looking to change careers, or seeking a promotion within their current industry, the College provided career pathway information for everyone this spring through a new Healthcare Conference, the College's Career and Job Fair, and a clean energy summit focused on green technology jobs."

In March, more than 100 people attended a two-day healthcare conference organized by SUNY

Sullivan's Health Sciences Program to provide professional development, networking, and recruiting opportunities to the College's students and regional health care employers. Held on campus and at Resorts World Catskills, the inaugural conference offered students and medical practitioners

the opportunity to learn firsthand from experts in the field about topics vital to the delivery of quality patient care, and to receive continuing Education units.

Brandon Bedenbender, Director of Clinical Education of SUNY Sullivan's Respiratory Care Program and organizer of the conference, said he hopes the conference will become an annual event, and that he's already

received requests for next year.

"While SUNY Sullivan offers outstanding programs in Respiratory Care, Nursing, Emergency Medical Technician, and Medical Assistant; all of these disciplines will have to work together as a team when students enter the field as professionals," said Bedenbender, "I think it is important for our upcoming graduates to build these relationships now so they will be even more prepared for entering into the workforce. This type of teamwork is what distinguishes the SUNY Sullivan graduates and why we have such strong support from the community and our clinical affiliates."

Vendors at the conferences included The Center for Discovery, Crystal Run Health, Sunset Lake Rehab, Roscoe Rehab, Binghamton University, Post University and many others.

In April, SUNY Sullivan Career Center's Career & Job Fair attracted a crowd of regional businesses and



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job seekers to campus. More than 30 regional businesses, including some of the area's largest employers, participated in the fair, which was open to students and the public.

"It was a good turnout and we had job seekers come from Pennsylvania over four hours away and stayed in a local hotel overnight to make it here. The group indicated they really wanted to find a job in New York," said SUNY Sullivan Career Development & Transfer Advisor Klu Padu.

Local business representatives said the job fair was a great opportunity to connect with students and others at the College, as well as the local community.

"We definitely want to encourage local students to apply to The Center for Discovery," said Center for Discovery Field Recruiter Toni Castillo, who said the job fair provided a more direct and personal way of reaching potential applicants. "There are immense career growth opportunities at The Center for Discovery, right here in Sullivan County."

"The job fair is super helpful," said Bethel Woods Human Resources Manager Lauren Jones. "It allows us to get into the community, (and

it allows us to speak to students, faculty, and staff. We've had a few students come in just to see what was happening at the job fair, which is really great and exciting to see."

Job fair participants included Garnet Health, LEGOLAND New York, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Allbright Electric, Granite Associates, NYS Department of Corrections, New Hope Community, Sullivan County Public Health, and many other leading regional businesses.

Also this spring, as part of the College's annual Earth Day celebration, SUNY Sullivan hosted a green job fair and stakeholder summit, in partnership with Clean Energy Careers NY, New Yorkers for Clean Power, and Mid-Hudson Valley Clean Energy Hub. The summit focused on workforce development for solar energy, weatherization, energy auditing, heat pumps, geothermal, insulation, and other green industries.

In addition to a keynote



More than 30 businesses were on hand at the Job Fair at SUNY Sullivan

talk by Sullivan County Acting Commissioner of Planning, Community Development & Environmental Management Heather Brown, and Dwayne R. Norris, Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of Soulful Synergy, the event included a job fair walk-through, local workforce expert panel, networking lunch, and breakout sessions that explored workforce skills and ways to increase awareness of green job opportunities.

According to Clean Energy NY, New York State's Climate Action Plan is the most aggressive climate and clean energy initiative in the nation and will require a massive investment in the economy. The number of clean energy jobs in New York is predicted

to increase by more than 200,000 this decade, greatly accelerating the need for an educated and skilled workforce.

"This job fair and summit directly ties in with the mission and goals of SUNY Sullivan, including the College's Green Building Technology AAS degree program," said Sustainability Coordinator Larry Reeger, who highlighted that the new Sullivan Promise Scholarship offers Sullivan County residents who earn a high school diploma or GED in 2023 the opportunity to receive free tuition and fees to attend SUNY Sullivan.

Other summit participants included the SUNY Sullivan Green Building Technology Program, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy, LaBella Associates, New York Power Authority, and New York Department of Labor.

Registration for fall semester and the second Summer Session of classes at SUNY Sullivan is open. To learn more about classes, micro-credentials, and other opportunities at SUNY Sullivan, including the Sullivan Promise Scholarship, visit sunysullivan.edu.

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(Standing left to right)
Lara-GHVARC, JT-GHVARC,
Robert-GHVARC, Town of
Fallsburg Supervisor Kathy
Rappaport, Chris-GHVARC,
Amy Robillard-Foodbank
of the Hudson Valley,
Ashley-GHVARC and
Jeremy-GHVARC (sitting).



First monthly pop-up food pantry a success

The Town of Fallsburg, in collaboration with the Hudson Valley Food Bank, The Arc Greater Hudson Valley, River Valley Estates, and Fidelis Care, is thrilled to announce the outstanding success of the inaugural monthly Pop-Up Food Pantry. This community-driven initiative has made a significant impact by providing essential food supplies to over 70 individuals and families facing food insecurity in our town.

The Pop-Up Food Pantry, which took place on May 30, 2023, at River Valley Estates, brought together local organizations, and government officials who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success. The event was able to provide much-needed sustenance and relief to those experiencing

difficult circumstances.

The Pop-Up Food Pantry served as a vital resource, offering a wide range of nutritious food items, including fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, and proteins. Volunteers were on hand to assist individuals and families in selecting items that met their specific dietary needs and preferences, ensuring that no one left empty-handed.

Kathy Rappaport, Town Supervisor, expressed her gratitude for the community's support and the success of the Pop-Up Food Pantry, stating, "We are incredibly proud of the response and impact of our first monthly Pop-Up Food Pantry. This collaborative effort made possible through the generosity of the Hudson Valley Food Bank, The Greater ARC, and River Valley Estates, has

provided much-needed relief to our neighbors facing food insecurity. We are committed to continuing these monthly events to ensure that no member of our community goes hungry. The success of the first Pop-Up Food Pantry in Fallsburg highlights the power of compassionate community and civic collaboration."

The Town of Fallsburg extends its deepest appreciation to the Hudson Valley Food Bank, The Arc Greater Hudson Valley, River Valley Estates and Fidelis Care. Their commitment to alleviating food insecurity is a testament to the strength and compassion of our community.

For more information about future Pop-Up Food Pantry events please contact the Town Hall at 845-434-8810 or check out our social media pages.

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Radio Catskill wins four Excellence in Broadcasting Awards



Jason Dole, a long-time Radio Catskill contributor, recently won an award from the New York State Broadcasters Association for his Election 2022 coverage along with Patricio Robayo.

Radio Catskill has received four awards from The New York State Broadcasters Association (NYSBA) in the 57th Annual Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting competition.

The station won in the following categories:

- Best Coverage of Spot News: "Roe V Wade Reaction," Patricio Robayo, producer
- Best Feature Story: "The Local Edition: Hope Not Handcuffs," Patricio Robayo, producer
- Best Interview: "Ukraine - One Year Later," Patricio Robayo, producer
- Best Election Coverage: "Election 2022," Jason Dole and Patricio Robayo, producers

"I'm so proud of our small and mighty team," said Radio Catskill General Manager Tim Bruno. "Patricio and Jason are committed to bringing our listeners the best local news every day and these awards from their peers is a testament to their



outstanding work."

The Excellence in Broadcasting Awards will be presented in Binghamton, NY, on September 20 at the NYSBA Serving NY Regional Award luncheon.

DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTOS

Patricio Robayo, seen here enjoying a game of chess, recently helped Radio Catskill win four awards from the New York State Broadcasters Association.



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