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SULLIVAN COUNTY SEEKING INPUT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS, SURVEY LAUNCHED TO HELP COUNTY PLAN FOR EXPANDED SERVICE AND SEEK FUNDING

Sullivan County residents, business owners, and visitors are all encouraged to participate in a new survey about broadband internet and cell phone service that is being conducted by the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management (DPEM). Strong participation in the survey is important to help the County plan, advocate, and seek funding for service expansion and improvements.

The survey can be completed online at <https://surveymonkey.com/s/sullivanbroadband> or at the Sullivan County website, <http://co.sullivan.ny.us>. Paper copies will be available at Town and Village halls, public libraries, and other venues, and can also be obtained by calling DPEM at (845) 807-0527. Additionally, paper copies are being mailed to addresses shown on County coverage maps as not having access to wireline broadband.

Although the New York State Broadband Office maintains maps showing where people have access to high speed internet, these official maps appear to report that more of Sullivan County has access to service than is actually the case. Additionally, coverage maps do not measure or document other types of information needed for applications to state and federal funding programs, such as the quality of service and how Sullivan County residents use their internet. The survey is intended to collect information required to make the case for expanded telecommunications services in Sullivan County, and is part of an ongoing initiative to work with service providers, funding agencies, local municipalities and consumers to increase internet access and cell phone coverage.

For more information about the survey, or telecommunications effort, please contact the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management at (845) 807-0527 or planning@co.sullivan.ny.us.



NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICER'S WEEK

May 3-9, 2015

Thank you for your
service!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Telecommunications Survey Launched

SULLIVAN COUNTY ANNOUNCES AUCTION OF COUNTY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY

Sullivan County Treasurer Nancy Buck would like to advise residents that the next auction of County-owned real property will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 and Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 10:00 am at The Sullivan, located at 283 Rock Hill Drive, Rock Hill, New York. Registration will be held each day commencing at 8:00 am.

First-time bidders are strongly urged to attend the Bidder's Seminar and Early Registration on Monday, June 9, 2015, also located at The Sullivan. Early registration begins at 5:00 pm. The Bidder's Seminar begins at 6:00 pm and Early Registration will be re-convened after the Seminar. Bidders are also welcome to register online at NYSAuctions.com for online bidding.

Auction brochures will be available in mid-May 2015 at the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office, located on the first floor of the Sullivan County Government Center at 100 North Street, Monticello, New York. Brochures are also available by calling Haroff Auction & Realty, Inc. at (800) 292-7653 or Absolute Auctions & Realty, Inc. at (800) 243-0061. By visiting NYSAuctions.com, bidders can have access to a more detailed list of the properties being offered at the auction with expanded photographs of improved properties.

For more information please contact the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office at (845) 807-0200.

“When you volunteer, you are not just helping others—you are helping yourself. Volunteering leads to new discoveries and new friends. Plus, studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life “

HOTEL & MOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX

The Sullivan County Treasurer's Office would like to remind all residents that there is a Hotel & Motel Room Occupancy Tax that has been in effect since 1989.

This law includes anyone who rents out a building or portion of a building for lodging on an overnight basis including, but not limited to, hotels, motels, personal homes, inns, bungalow colonies, clubs, boarding houses, and bed & breakfasts. All of these entities are required to apply for a Room Tax Certificate through the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office, which authorizes them to collect the 5% Room Tax on behalf of the Treasurer and submit this tax to the Treasurer's Office on a quarterly basis.

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ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING CLASS PROVIDED TO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN

Local businessmen and women participated in an eight session entrepreneurial training class hosted by the Division of Planning and Environmental Management. Below, Denise Frangipane spoke to the group about the Proud to Be Sullivan campaign, and the importance to business success of a positive attitude. Applications are now being accepted through May 31st for the next training session, to be held in later summer/early fall. The County will also host a training session on May 20th to help qualified businesses get certified as minority, women and/or veteran-owned business enterprises (MWVBE). For more information on these programs, contact planning@co.sullivan.ny.us or (845) 807-0527.



RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: BECOME A RSVP VOLUNTEER!

RSVP is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. You can use the skills and talents you have learned over the years, or develop new ones while serving in a variety of volunteer activities within your community. Service opportunities are as diverse as the communities in which volunteers serve. RSVP is sponsored by the Sullivan County Legislature and the Office For the Aging.

RSVP offers a full range of volunteer opportunities in 40+ local organizations. With RSVP you choose how and where you want to serve. You choose the amount of time you want to give. And you choose whether you want to draw on your skills or develop new ones. In short, you find the opportunity that's right for you.

RSVP volunteers choose how, where, and how often they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours to 40 hours per week.

With RSVP, you'll receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where you serve providing supplemental insurance while on duty.

And remember: When you volunteer, you are not just helping others—you are helping yourself. Volunteering leads to new discoveries and new friends. Plus, studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program benefits the community, the organization, and the volunteer. Think of what you can do when you give your time to help your community:

- **Help your community:** Know that you are giving your time, talent, wisdom, and experience to your community and neighbors who need you.
- **Help yourself:** Through service, you can add to the quality and health of your life. Research indicates that volunteers enjoy better health, make new friendships, stay active and involved in the community, and learn new skills.
- **Make a difference:** Be part of a national movement to transform America through the involvement of its citizens.
- **Save money for the organizations you serve:** By donating your time and skills, you help make funds go farther for organizations that address critical needs in our community.

RSVP values the contributions our volunteers make through service to their communities. Their knowledge, skills and life experience are of immeasurable value to the organizations and people they touch.

- **Teamwork:** Many volunteers serve in teams, building affiliations and mutual support, engaging in joint problem-solving, and drawing on the complimentary skills of the team members.
- **Diversity:** Senior Corps volunteers represent a diverse range of incomes, ages, genders, physical abilities, and ethnic and racial backgrounds. But they share a common desire to make a difference.
- **Capability:** Everyone has unique gifts to share, and our volunteers make significant contributions by putting their best talents to work, as leaders, entrepreneurs, organizers, builders, caregivers and mentors.
- **Presence:** The high number of RSVP volunteers and their level of commitment make them an essential resource in meeting critical community needs.
- **Flexibility:** Volunteers can move in and out of options as their circumstances and interests change, and as the community agencies' needs for volunteers change.

SO GET INVOLVED AND JOIN RSVP TODAY!

Call Caryn Matthews, RSVP Project Director, @ (845) 807-0251

SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY

For those who have served their country in one of the branches of the U.S. Military, there are a variety of programs available. One program that a veteran may be eligible for is VA Medical, the Nation's largest integrated health care system.

VA Medical provides comprehensive medical care and enrollment should be considered by all Veterans. Basic eligibility requires active duty service (other than for training only) and a discharge under conditions other than dishonorable. There are however many other requirements and conditions that must be met for enrollment.

The Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency is ready to explain this program, eligibility requirements and assist with the completion of the 1010EZ application form.

The VA Medical application, like all requests for VA benefits, requires a DD-214 or a Discharge Document (WWII Veterans) to be included with submission. If you do not have proof of discharge, our office will assist you with completion and submission of a SF-180, Request for Military Records. Military service and medical treatment records may also be requested with this form. The request can be submitted on the internet, however, the form must be signed in order to be processed.

The same SF-180 form may be used to request medals, decorations, and awards earned by a service member. Next of kin may also use this form to request a reissue (a death certificate is required in these instances).

If you are a veteran of the U.S. Military, we encourage you to contact the Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency and make sure that you have maximized your access to the programs and services that you have earned. The phone number is (845) 807-0233.

HOTEL & MOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX (CONTINUED)

For those facilities that are already in compliance with the Room Tax Law, we are pleased to announce that there is a new filing form on the website that we hope will be easier for your use.

The Local Law, application for certificate, and filing form are all located on the County website. Go to:

<http://co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/DepartmentsAM/CountyTreasurer/tabid/3417/Default.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please call (845) 807-0210 and ask for Room Tax.

The County Manager is the full time Chief Executive and Administrative Head of the County of Sullivan. He and his dedicated staff are prepared to answer your questions and to hear your comments.

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SULLIVAN COUNTY PROBATION: PROVIDING PUBLIC SAFETY FOR OVER FIVE DECADES



The Sullivan County Probation Department is the second oldest in New York State, having been established on July 1, 1960 after a pilot program that was initiated during 1959. The objective of Probation supervision is first and foremost ensuring public safety while preparing a probationer for an independent law-abiding lifestyle. Due to the variety of functions performed by Probation, the department is organized into specialized units.

Intake provides preliminary proceedings for Family Court regarding issues of domestic violence (family offenses) and juvenile delinquency complaints. It provides intervention services for individuals and their families including assessment and referrals to various providers without formal court proceedings. This results in time and cost savings to the community through the diversion of JD cases from Family Court and avoidance of long-term intervention and costly out-of-home placements.

Investigations and reports for the Criminal and Family Courts constitute an important part of probation work. Pre-Sentence Reports (for criminal courts) and Pre-Disposition Reports (for Family Court) provide a concise record of the subject's legal and social background, an analysis of both, and a recommendation for disposition, primarily to assist in the judicial decision making process. The reports are also relied upon by Probation Officers assigned supervision of a probationer for planning and risk classification. Additionally, Pre-Sentence Reports of defendants sentenced to prison by the County Court are utilized by the NYS DOCCS to classify inmates for placement in appropriate correctional facilities, as well as programs for inmates, etc. At the same time, the NYS Division of Parole utilizes the Pre-Sentence Report to calculate possible release dates and begin planning for post-release supervision.

At the time of sentencing, Conditions of Probation are imposed by the Court and the Probation Department is charged with supervising the probationer and enforcing these conditions. The Department also collects DNA samples from probationers for submission to the NYS DNA Databank. The Probation Department additionally supervises probationers from other states and counties.

Juveniles on probation pursuant to Family Court Order are at greater risk of out-of-home (and out-of-county) institutional placement. These juveniles are intensively supervised in the community by a probation officer.

In addition to general supervision caseloads, the Department has a variety of specialized caseloads supervised by officers with appropriate training for high-risk sex offenders, DWI, youthful offenders, domestic violence probationers, as well as Family Court juvenile offenders.

The Alternatives to Incarceration Program (ATI) began in 1987 as a response to the overcrowding situation in our local jail. This program allows for a reduced jail population with a significant savings for the County.

The Community Service Program allows selected offenders to perform hours at local public and not-for-profit agencies. Offenders are sentenced to perform anywhere from 10-500 hours in lieu of jail time. There are many worksites throughout the County, including local DPWs, Sullivan Renaissance, litter-pluck projects, United Way, CACHE, SPCA, churches and food pantries.

The Pre-Trial Release Program (PTR) allows defendants, who cannot post bail, to be screened and interviewed via video conferencing for possible release. If deemed appropriate, he or she is monitored by a Probation Officer until the court renders a disposition or sentence. The program has a low FTA rate (failure to report), which is the cornerstone of the program's existence. Overall, this program helps alleviate jail overcrowding with a substantial savings for the County.

Probation is a conduit for the various courts to ensure victims are reimbursed for their losses and court fines/surcharges are paid. During 2014, \$86,073 in restitution was disbursed to victims. Additional funds were added to the County's general fund due to the collection of probation supervision fees, restitution surcharges, and court fines.

As one can see, the Probation Department covers a wide breadth of functions while meeting its primary obligation of ensuring public safety.