Where has the time gone?

Here we are in 2021, two decades and a year since we first invited you to join the effort to enhance the appearance of Sullivan County while building community pride and spirit. Not only did you accept this invitation, but this effort was brought to a whole new level with our tidy towns, colorful gardens, miles of trails, and enjoyable parks. For 21 years you have worked tirelessly to bring the vision for your communities alive for all to enjoy.

Throughout this time you encouraged your children to volunteer. Your children became interns; and these interns are now adults who are taking the reins to lead. Long standing volunteers have moved on; and new volunteers have stepped in with great enthusiasm to carry the torch. This is the evolution of a grassroots movement that is sustainable because it is deeply rooted. What more could we ask for!

We are delighted that Sullivan Renaissance has been able to support your efforts to bring projects to fruition. You have made Sullivan County a welcoming place for all; and a community we are proud to call home. For this and so much more, we thank you.

Most Sincerely,

Sandra Bly
Chair, Sullivan Renaissance

Denise Frangipane
Executive Director
Since 2001, Sullivan Renaissance has invested over $5 million in grants to Sullivan County organizations and municipalities. These grants have leveraged over 13.5 million dollars in beautification, healthy initiatives, and community development throughout Sullivan County. During this period, Sullivan Renaissance also secured an additional $2.6 million in Federal and New York State grant funding used for downtown revitalization, municipal & community development projects, and special gateway initiatives throughout Sullivan County.¹

¹The $2.6 million reflects $1.8 million from Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther & former NY Senator John Bonacic, $125,000 SAM Grant from former Senator Jen Metzger, $50,000 secured through Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther for the SC International Airport improvements, $190,000 HUD Grant secured by former Congressman Maurice Hinchey for HUD for Monticello Gateway Initiatives, and $200,000 from NYSERDA for Solar Initiatives.
Welcome Shannon Cilento!
Shannon joined Sullivan Renaissance on November 1, 2021. She is leading the Municipal Partnership and Community Impact Grant Programs. She will work closely with municipalities to accomplish their goals to care for public spaces, building healthy communities, enhance code enforcement and support environmental stewardship and historic preservation.

Connect with Shannon at 845-295-2434 or Shannon@sullivanrenaissance.org
Despite any obstacles that carried over into 2021, the Sullivan Renaissance Steering Committee continued to champion and cheer on our volunteers in many ways. Steering Committee members supported G2R - Get Ready to Renaissance, our annual kick-off event. They participated regularly in grant review, joined in our campaign to combat litter and accompanied us for Clean Sweeps and seminars. They continue to bring fresh ideas to the table and offer ongoing support to our communities. We are forever grateful to them for helping the mission of Sullivan Renaissance to remain relevant and impactful.

Leni Binder
Daniel Briggs
Kathy Davidoff
Gay Donofrio
Cora Edwards
John Evans
Hon. Josephine V. Finn
Foster Supply Hospitality
- Sarah Banks
Danielle Gaebel
Ruby Gold
Amanda Langseder
Jacquie Leventoff
Dali Levy
Barry Lewis
Lorraine Lopez-Janove
Arly Marin-Leon
Steve Melendez
Liza Mitchell
Klu Padu
Joyce Salimeno-Gitlin
Brian Scardefield
Jaime Schmeiser
Gerald J. Skoda
Nicole Slevin Nikolados
Fred Stabbert III
Anna Lise Dyhr Vogel
Rabbi Larry Zierler

Photos: John Evans, Leni Binder and Cora Edwards attend a Steering Committee Meeting; Rennie the Rooster catches up with Fred Stabbert on a visit to Callicoon; Anna Lise Dyhr Vogel lends her horticulture knowledge to the crew; Barry Lewis shows off his Sullivan Renaissance swag; Steve Melendez reminds volunteers how we feel about them; Rabbi Larry Zierler lends a hand litter plucking at the Fallsburg Clean Sweep.
This year we took the show on the road in a colorful blooming van! Look for us in your community. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sullivan Renaissance and White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First hosted a bulb planting seminar at the Methodist Church’s newly installed garden.

Maiden voyage to the Narrowsburg Union for a staff meeting, a tour of the building and the many services they offer.

Sleepy Hollow Trail Clean Up Day resulted in a safe path for children making their way to and from Monticello School. “Dry shoes and positive affirmations” was the mantra for the day, set by Shanita Artson, resident and community volunteer.

Sullivan Renaissance staff, joined by Steering Committee member, Dan Briggs, weeded gardens and pruned shrubs at the Long Eddy Hose Company to honor first responders in a National Day of Service project.

Rennie buzzes by to say hello to friends at the Narrowsburg Honeybee Festival.
Parksville Clean Sweep was a day of sprucing up the rail trail entrance gardens and Veterans Memorial.

Reverend Francis Waite of Livingston Manor United Methodist Church gave his smile of approval for the new van.

When you spot the van near a garden, you can be sure that Sullivan Renaissance is on the job checking in with volunteers, or visiting for a proposed project.

Rabbi Zierler, Sullivan Renaissance Steering Committee Member, assists with mulching during Clean Sweep in South Fallsburg.

We will be on the road in 2022- recruiting volunteers, holding on-site seminars, and sharing information about our programs and resources. See you out there!

Additional Community Outreach in 2021: Liberty Unity Festival, Walnut Mountain Park; Bagel Festival, Monticello; Giant Pumpkin Party, Grahamsville; Upper Delaware Council Litter Sweep, Route 97 Corridor; Backstage at Bethel Woods Event; DeHoyos Park Litter Pluck, Monticello; Jeffersonville Jamboree; Liberty O&W Rail Trail Cleanup; Parksville First Annual Halloween Parade.
WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The actions of Sullivan Renaissance Volunteers lead to a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful Sullivan County. Volunteers demonstrate environmental stewardship by removing litter and planting trees, flowers, and gardens to strengthen our green spaces. They restore trails and parks to encourage community connections, play and physical activity. Here is just a snapshot of the dedication of our community volunteers!

This season over **400 volunteers** contributed over **5250 hours** to Sullivan Renaissance projects.
Our Volunteers Love Us Back!

Volunteering to create and maintain beautiful spaces makes an impact; not only on the observer or participant in the space, but also on the volunteer that contributes their most precious resource - time and energy. Here are some perspectives from our volunteers.

“We believe our gardens beautify our neighborhood and create a space where our neighbors and visitors will be able to relax and enjoy the exterior of the library. Community outreach is a core value to our library and we feel these gardens and spaces are both a physical representation of that value and evidence of the care and time our volunteers put into their work. We strongly recommend any community or organization in Sullivan County get involved with Sullivan Renaissance.”

~ Pamela Rice, Mamakating Library

“Our Beautification Grant is the ongoing impetus for us to join together for the common goal of making White Sulphur Springs a welcoming, inclusive and enjoyable community. We are a part of something bigger, not just a hamlet on its own. This grant, and the ones received all around Sullivan County create a force. It is impressive, especially when we can gather after the projects are finished and see what has been accomplished by all of the volunteers, county-wide. We are part of the change.”

Marian Hosking, White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First

“Our volunteer group increased this year. Several individuals came to us via inquiries made to Sullivan Renaissance. Some learned of us from our Facebook page and one through personal contact. Three of our new volunteers have recently moved into the area. This year we have three young adults who, in past years, were employed by Sullivan Renaissance as interns and now volunteer with us.”

~ Diane Foster, Livingston Manor Renaissance
Mini Grants
Two groups stepped into the Sullivan Renaissance Beautification program with a Mini Grant to start their beautification journey.
* Western Sullivan Public Library Delaware Free Branch beautified their entrance.
* St. John’s Street Cemetery, Inc. in Monticello installed a new sign with plans to add a garden.

Project Highlight:
Western Sullivan Public Library used their mini grant to create a welcoming entrance at their Callicoon location.

“This grant gave the library the chance to work with a professional garden designer. We were able to incorporate native perennials and other plants that would thrive in the spaces.”
~ Audra Everett, Library Director
Garden Grants
These projects consisted of new entrance gardens, containers, foundation plantings to create welcoming entrances. Three of the projects are first year participants.

* Daniel Pierce Library
* Fallsburg Jr/Sr High School
* Forestburgh Playhouse

* Kauneonga Lake Fire Department
* Mamakating Environmental Education Center
* Mamakating Library

Project Highlight:
Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School returned to the program this year since 2012 to beautify the school entrance. The Ecology Club and student volunteers transformed the entrance from lackluster space to an inviting place.

“The gardens have put a wonderful focus on a frequently used space. We have received many compliments!”
~ Kristen Meyers, Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School

Ecology Club and student volunteers working to beautify their space
**Beautification**

**Maintenance Grants** support previously funded Sullivan Renaissance groups in their efforts to care for and spruce up their gardens.

* BATS for Veterans
* Dynamite Youth Center
* Liberty United Methodist Church
* Livingston Manor United Methodist Church
* Monticello United Methodist Church
* St. John’s Episcopal Church
* St. Peter’s Church in Liberty
* The Club at Smallwood
* Youngsville 4H Busy Beavers

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*Project Highlight:*

*Liberty United Methodist Church* continues to beautify with eye-catching containers and gardens that are easy to spot on Main Street in Liberty.
Community Beautification Grants were awarded to create and maintain streetscapes, welcome signs, public gardens, and parks.

* Callicoon Business Association
* Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce
* Hurleyville Sullivan First
* Jeffersonville JEMS
* Livingston Manor Renaissance
* Narrowsburg Beautification Group
* Phillipsport Community Center Association
* Town of Forestburgh - Greatful Deadheaders
* Town of Lumberland Parks & Recreation
* White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First

“The flower displays are always changing, highlighting different combinations each year. Our merchants love the crowds the gardens draw. The opportunity to work with one’s neighbors can expand your awareness and help form a nurturing and supportive community, and respect for the land we live on.”

Wanda Gangel,
Narrowsburg Beautification Group

Project Highlight:
Narrowsburg Beautification has been in the program since 2008, beautifying their community one garden at a time. They have created multi-season gardens by incorporating pumpkins and gourds into flowerbeds, providing an enchanting transition from summer to fall.
Volunteering is Smart!

The Sullivan Renaissance Scholarship is made possible through a donor advised fund established with the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan. Scholarships are available for undergraduate spring semester studies. Candidates must be a resident of Sullivan County and demonstrate that they have volunteered for a Sullivan Renaissance project in a significant way. Volunteer activities may include gardening, beautification/caring for public spaces, project documentation, outreach or fundraising. Applicants include a personal essay explaining their volunteer experience, how it impacted them personally.

“My volunteer experience will not end anytime soon. I find it to put a smile on my face after I am done with a project, hoping that the good karma I gave to someone will be passed along to another lucky recipient.”

Victor Blinov, Phillipsport Community Volunteer Politics, Economics and Law, SUNY Old Westbury

“Each volunteer activity I have been a member of has enriched my view on life. After working with Sullivan Renaissance I realized that I found a passion in my life that I do not want to give up.”

Nicole Davis, Livingston Manor Volunteer Siena College School of Business

“After almost 7 years of working with Livingston Manor Renaissance, I can say quite sincerely that there is nothing more fulfilling than the work we do. They have taught me so many lessons about life (and gardening).”

Nathaniel DePaul, Livingston Manor Volunteer Politics & Economics, SUNY Albany

Volunteering has made Andralyn more aware of the inner workings of local communities, instilling a new pride for where she lives. Painting the dove has been a labor of love, allowing her to show just how much the town means to her, and the opportunities she has had to grow.

Andralyn LaGattuta, White Sulphur Springs Volunteer Arts & Extended Media, Russell Sage College

Jesse commented that he learned the values that people have for their community and how much work they are willing to put into maintaining their small town. When taking a step back, he noticed how beautiful the community was through the eyes and camera lenses of residents and visitors.

Jesse Ouimet, Livingston Manor Volunteer Aspiring Architect, SUNY Alfred

“Volunteerism was stitched in the fabric of my character. It has always been second nature in my family to put others before ourselves and demonstrate selflessness, especially in your community. Volunteering and helping others is vital.”

Dylan Price, Town of Forestburgh Volunteer Broadcast Journalism, Penn State University
Healthy Community Initiatives

The Healthy Community Initiatives Grant Program supports efforts to enhance and promote the physical and environmental health of communities. Grants are available for development of walking, bicycling, hiking or nature trails, park improvements, purchase of recreational equipment, creation and care of community and edible gardens, parks, trails, tree planting initiatives, and education about environmental and conservation issues of local interest.

The Healthy Community Initiatives program also offers smaller grants for programs that promote physical activity such as establishing a children’s run, a 5K, public yoga or a litter cleanup or events that combine physical activity with litter pluck.

2021 Grant Recap

* Catskill Claws, Inc  
  Bikes and Helmets
* Cornell Cooperative Extension  
  Sullivan County  
  Sullivan Fresh Rx Produce Program
* Dynamite Youth Center  
  Edible Garden
* Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre  
  Family Yoga in the Park
* Liberty Central School  
  Yoga4Classrooms Leader Training and Supplies
* Livingston Manor Central School  
  - Smoothie Bike  
  - Farm to School Project
* Monticello United Methodist Church  
  Farm to Table Garden
* Roscoe Central School  
  Farm to School Project
* Sullivan 180/Sullivan County BOCES  
  Nalox Box Project
* The Museum at Bethel Woods  
  Bindy Bazaar Gentle Path Trail
* Town of Neversink  
  Community Ice Rink Expansion
* Upper Delaware Council, Inc.  
  Litter Collection Kits
Healthy Community Initiatives

Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River Litter Kits
Cleaning up our region’s litter is important not only for beautification, but to maintain the pristine water quality, biodiversity, and ecological health of the Delaware River. In 2019, the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, almost half of which is in Sullivan County, welcomed over 215,000 visitors and generated $11.6 million for our local economy.

A recent study completed by the Upper Delaware National Park Service found microplastics present in 100% of water and sediment samples, 94% of fish, and 45% percent of mussels. Microplastics, the direct result of litter, endangering pristine water quality and being ingested by aquatic organisms. Reducing the amount of litter present in the Upper Delaware corridor, may slow and even reverse the negative impacts microplastics have on our ecosystem.

Sullivan Fresh Rx Produce Program
is a pilot partnership between Garnet Health and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County Fresh Market on the Move. With support from a Sullivan Renaissance Healthy Community Initiatives Grant, 1,000 coupons, totaling $5,000 were distributed for fresh, healthy produce sourced from farms in Sullivan County and the surrounding region.

Livingston Manor Farm to School
Sullivan Renaissance funded a Cryo-vac system to preserve fresh, local produce that will be used in the cafeteria in the Livingston Manor, Roscoe and Downsville school districts.

Fruit and vegetable prescriptions written by Garnet Health and the Sullivan County Department of Public Health providers are redeemable at farmers’ markets.

Thousands of pounds of fresh, locally sourced vegetables have been preserved with the Cryo-vac to use in cafeteria meals at Livingston Manor, Roscoe and Downsville school districts throughout the year.

Denise Frangipane (left) is joined at the litter pluck event by Legislator Nadia Rajsz (right)
Healthy Community Initiatives

Bindy Bazaar “Gentle Path” This project aims to restore and preserve a historic trail that was part of the Bindy Bazaar at the 1969 Woodstock Festival. Organizers cleared a series of trails through a wooded area on Max Yasgur’s property to act as a natural passage from the outside world into the festival. The Museum at Bethel Woods is actively working to map and understand these trails according to available literature, historic maps, Woodstock photos and videos and physical clues in the woods itself. An archaeologist used a metal detector to find and map the metal wires attached to the trees that were left from the Woodstock festival; insuring the path is historically accurate.

Catskill Claws
Contributed by Keith Stephenson, Founder, Team Director and Head Coach

Sullivan Renaissance provided a Healthy Community Initiatives grant to support our team, the Catskill Claws. Student athletes develop mountain bike skills they can use long after high school toward a healthy, active lifestyle while exploring the great outdoors. As a sanctioned National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) team, Catskill Claws strives to embody the NICA values - building strong minds, bodies, character, and communities through cycling; as well as fostering inclusivity, encouraging good sportsmanship, building social skills and building a student athlete’s confidence.

Catskill Claws Mountain Bike Team had an incredible 2021 season. We ranked 12th in the New York state league with several of our athletes medaling at race events. It is such a wonderful sport for young people from 6th to 12th grade. They had a lot of fun and we anticipate all of them returning for the 2022 season.

Anyone interested in finding out more can visit www.catskillclawsmtb.org. We are always looking for adult volunteers to coach and support this enriching program.
The Catskill Edible Garden Project (CEGP) works with schools and community organizations to design edible gardens as living, outdoor educational and gathering spaces. These projects offer access to healthy food and exposure to agriculture as an important aspect of our community and culture. They also provide “hands-on” experience and time outside for engaging and connecting with the environment. Children experience sharing; engage in independent observation; learn about food and where it comes from; adopt healthy habits; reconnect with and explore their place in nature; build on a variety of school lessons; and strengthen a sense of place and pride. New gardens were installed this summer at Fallsburg Jr Sr High School, Livingston Manor Elementary School, and Rubin Pollack Education Center.

The Catskill Edible Garden Project is a partnership between Sullivan Renaissance, Catskill Mountainkeeper, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County.

Catskill Edible Garden Sites
- Fallsburg Jr Sr High School
- Hebrew Day School, Kiamesha Lake
- Liberty Elementary School
- Liberty Middle School
- Liberty High School
- Livingston Manor Elementary School

Monticello School District
- Emma C. Chase Elementary School, Wurtsboro
- George L. Cooke Elementary School
- Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary School
- Robert J. Kaiser Middle School
- Roscoe Central School
- Rubin Pollack Education Center
- Sullivan West Elementary School, Jeffersonville
- White Sulphur Springs | SC BOCES

George L. Cooke School Garden, Monticello
contributed by Elisa Mendels,
George L. Cooke School Garden Coordinator

The Catskill Edible Garden Project support helped with the purchase of tables to expand an outdoor learning area.

This year at the Cooke School we created a gardening club to help with the sustainability of our garden. We now have a club that consists of 10 school staff. We made t-shirts (with my Cricut!) and call ourselves the Cooke Garden Guardians. We met up this summer to maintain our garden and take turns watering. It is such a relief to know that we have an entire group who is dedicated to our garden and outdoor learning space.

We received a $3,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation toward a new shed and extra equipment for the outdoor learning space.

Students at Monticello School District’s George L. Cooke School utilize the expanded outdoor learning space.

The Cooke School was one of three Sullivan County Schools to be awarded a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation to expand their garden. They were able to leverage the success and grant funding from the Catskill Edible Garden Project to prove their investment to the project. Sullivan West and Kenneth L. Rutherford School join them in this recognition.
Square Foot Gardening at Sullivan West
contributed by Sheila Schultz, Sullivan West Garden Coordinator

This year the grant we received went toward materials to build a Square Foot Garden (SFG) in our project at the Sullivan West Elementary School. SFG is a method of gardening developed by Mel Bartholomew, a retired civil engineer and efficiency expert. It began in 1976 as a simple alternative to row gardening. The method focuses on soil, plant spacing, weed, and pest control.

Our grant was used to buy peat moss and vermiculite. Compost was donated by Rosehaven Alpaca Farm in Bethel. The soil is one aspect that makes SFG work. The peat moss keeps the soil loose, the vermiculite holds the moisture, and the compost provides the nutrients. All three components allow plants to be grown in close proximity to each other. In each “square foot,” plants are spaced depending on size (you can plant 16 carrots, onions, and radishes in each square. Larger plants such as corn, tomatoes, cucumber, and eggplant are planted one per square foot). Crops are also trained to grow vertically, saving space. Pests are kept under control because of the variety of crops planted together.

From an education perspective, Square Foot Gardening easily lends itself to:

* **Math:** Building a grid, counting out seeds, determining how plant size affects a plants growth needs.
* **Science:** Water conservation, purpose of different materials.
* **Food:** Students lean how to step out of a comfort zone of their usual food.
* **Social Studies:** SFG is used in developing countries as a way to grow food with few resources.
* **STEM:** Building trellises with available materials.

At Sullivan West, each student was given their own bed to plant whatever they wanted. This resulted in a sense of ownership and enthusiasm that I have not seen before in the kids. They worked hard to make this happen, because it was theirs.

Many of the lessons taught were spontaneous and resulted in an immediate hands-on experience. We learn from our mistakes is a mantra that all gardeners must understand. Our success and failures are what drive us to search and come up with better methods for our next season’s garden. I hope this garden experience will help the students learn this important life lesson.
Sullivan Renaissance’s Municipal Partnership Grant Program provides funding for municipalities to care for public spaces, enhance code enforcement, build healthy communities and promote environmental stewardship. In its sixth year the program provided matching funds up to $20,000 to:

* Town of Bethel
* Town of Fallsburg
* Town of Liberty
* Town of Mamakating
* Town of Rockland
* Town of Thompson
* Village of Monticello
* Village of Woodridge

**Care of Public Spaces** was the highlight of the program this year, with investments in recreation to promote healthier communities also being a focus. Participating municipalities beautified parks, municipal buildings and downtown areas; making their towns attractive and vibrant for residents and visitors. They also promoted art, history and events that activated these places.

“I know from personal testimony of local residents how grateful they are to see people taking responsibility for our public spaces. It becomes infectious, and people tend to treat these spaces with more respect and dignity when they see the effort put in. I’ve had the privilege of speaking to the same families week after week who come down to LaPolt park and enjoy the beautiful public space we can provide for them. And I’m reminded just how important these public projects are to local residents by the constant displays of thankfulness and gratitude they show. I would recommend to every municipality to participate. The results are tangible. People learn and grow respect for their community, and the effort also attracts new visitors who in-turn help support the local community,”

~Nick Rusin,
Town of Liberty, Grant Manager

Bethel continued work on their Heritage Trail.

Liberty installed a new series of banners showcasing the artwork of Liberty High School students.

Fallsburg unveiled a mural of the Sandberg Creek created by artist Laurie Kilgore, and added river rocks for a three dimensional feel.
The Town of Thompson installed and landscaped new welcome signs throughout town.

The Town of Mamakating continued work on their trails, opening a new connection this fall.

The Village of Monticello is working with the Monticello Rotary and the Town of Thompson to replace the pavilion at DeHoyos Park.

The Village of Woodridge added amenities to their historic plane at Krieger Park, already a popular location for activity.

“The Beautification has become incredibly important to bringing tourism into our communities…” ~ Chrissy Rutledge, Town of Rockland.

The Town of Rockland continued working on their gardens throughout Roscoe, including their Dove garden.
Community Impact

The Community Impact Grant Program invests significant funding into transformative capital projects. The Golden Feather Award in the amount of $400,000 is made possible with support from Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther. The Silver Feather Award in the amount of $250,000 is funded through the Stoddard Fund, a bequest from former Sullivan Renaissance judge, and Liberty resident, Tim Stoddard. Recipients are selected based on their impact, readiness, and the municipality’s capacity to complete the project. The 2021 Community Impact Grants were awarded to the Village of Monticello and the Town of Highland.

Community Impact Grants are multi-year efforts that move projects beyond the dream phase into implementation. These projects either singularly, or collectively with other investment, are transformational and will have a positive impact on the quality of life for residents within that community; and a broader impact on Sullivan County. The program is the intersection of community visioning and planning; with public and private investment.

Village of Monticello, Golden Feather Award

The Village of Monticello received the Golden Feather Award for the redevelopment of DeHoyos Park and Dillon Park. This project comes directly from a joint parks study done by the Village of Monticello and the Town of Thompson. The intention is to replace failing infrastructure and bring new amenities to both DeHoyos and Dillon Parks. There are also plans to create a walking trail connecting the parks. Already the Village of Monticello, in partnership with the Monticello Rotary and the Town of Thompson, are replacing the pavilion with support from a Sullivan Renaissance Municipal Partnership Grant.

A preliminary concept plan shows the area of focus for the work to be done at DeHoyos and Dillon Parks in the Village of Monticello.
**Community Impact**

**Town of Highland, Silver Feather Award**

The Town of Highland received the Silver Feather Award for the Delaware River Access Project which includes scenic recreation, beautification, public art, vista clearing, and a connection to history via the tow path leading to the Roebling Bridge. The overall access project includes 5 specific focus areas that will be tied together through wayfinding signage. At various access points different facets of the project become central.

Several community partners have joined the Town of Highland including the Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway, The Delaware Company, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Sullivan County Planning Department, and the Sullivan County Legislature.

![An aerial map showing the focus areas for the Delaware River Access projects throughout the Town of Highland.](image1)

![Artist concept and proposed colors to be used in the Barry Public Art Cul De Sac Project.](image2)
Business Assistance

Sullivan Renaissance continued support of business efforts to improve aesthetics and enhance their curb appeal through the Business Assistance Grant Program. These grants are matching and reimbursable up to $2,500.00. This year’s projects included new signage and plantings, façade improvements and the installation of art, lighting and outdoor seating. In addition to the grants, Sullivan Renaissance offered technical assistance and design consultation.

* Bethel Self Storage, Bethel
* Brothers II Auto Body, South Fallsburg
* Caroline Akt Realty, White Lake
* Catskill CycleWorks, Jeffersonville
* Cochecton Corner, LLC, Cochecton
* Liberty Fitness Center, Liberty

* Spinning Plates dba The Walk In, Livingston Manor
* The Junction, Roscoe
* The Tusten Cup, Narrowsburg
* Valley Daycare, Mongaup Valley

Caroline Akt Realty added a handsome sign and garden. Caroline shared that she felt the project exceeded her expectations because of the assistance with landscape design.

The Tusten Cup installed ceiling fans for added comfort in the new outdoor seating area. They also updated the benches in the front of the store going above and beyond making their place inviting.

The Walk In aimed to add tables, chairs and planters to make their outside space look as beautiful as possible...Score!
Neighborhood Revitalization grants fund projects that involve beautification, block revitalization and community engagement in residential neighborhoods. The program also supports public art and events that promote cultural diversity and community celebration.

**ENGN Civic Creative Center** partnered with the Latino Alliance to produce the first annual Liberty Unity Festival held at Walnut Mountain Park in Liberty.

**The Nesin Cultural Arts** collaborated with artist Laurie Kilgore to engage students in creating a mural at their home, the Suzanne Stanway Arts Haven on Saint John Street in Monticello. This project was designed and created over several months by middle and high school students of the NCA Visual Arts Program, under Laurie’s direction.

**The Mountaindale Business Association** will be installing several artistic banners throughout their hamlet highlighting three unique attributes of Mountain Dale.
Neighborhood Revitalization

The Sullivan County Dove Trail
Sullivan Renaissance partnered with the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association on this year’s class of doves for the Dove Trail by offering a limited number of grants up to $500 to offset the cost of installing, painting or landscaping the doves. Initiated as a way of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Woodstock Festival, this project continues to be of great interest to residents and visitors; bringing smiles to many locations throughout the county.

Doves that received funding through Sullivan Renaissance included:
* Happy Days Campground
* Annie’s Ruff Cut
* Neversink Agricultural Society
* Radio Catskill WJFF
* Swiss Rose, LLC
* White Lake Homes
Events & Seminars

G2R Winter Symposium
Get Ready to Renaissance!
In 2021 Sullivan Renaissance spread our wings even further and tried new ways of connecting with our community while still facing COVID. With much support from our talented IT Department, we produced our first ever virtual Get Ready to Renaissance event in January. Over 100 people gathered online to take a photographic trip down memory lane spanning 20 years of Renaissance. We also shared what the program would offer in 2021. A keynote from Sims Foster, Foster Supply Hospitality, reminded us how Sullivan County is like plants – we sleep, creep, and leap. We visited with the Town of Fallsburg, who showed us how they plan to use the Community Impact Grant to lengthen a portion of the O & W Rail Trail. Staff delighted in sharing information about their programs and interacting with our participants.

Monthy Seminars
February
Renaissance Grants 101
*presented by Sullivan Renaissance Staff*

March
Make a Lasting Impression: Signage, Landscaping and Façade Improvement Ideas for Businesses
*presented by Dorene Warner, W Design*

April
Finding Great Volunteer: They’re Out There!
*presented by Leah Worrell, Partnerships for Parks*

May
Gardening 101
*presented by Jess Brey, for Wave Hill*

June
Interpretive Botanical Walk at Forest Reserve at Smallwood
*presented by Heather Housekeeper, The Botanical Hiker*

July
Tree Identification Walk at Walnut Mountain, Liberty
*presented by Lisa Lyons, Morgan Outdoors and Kate O’Connor, Beaverkill Land Trust*

August
Interpretive Historical Walk on Bindy Bazaar Trails at Bethel Woods
*presented by Museum at Bethel Woods - Dr. Neal Hitch, Senior Curator at the Museum at Bethel Woods and Eleanor Hein, Landscape Preservation Fellow*

October
Bulb Planting Demonstration
*presented by Sullivan Renaissance Staff and White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First*

November
Businesses that Renaissance
*presented by Sullivan Renaissance Staff and Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce*

December
Municipal Grant Program Workshop
*presented by Sullivan Renaissance Staff, Sullivan County Division for Planning, and Local Town/Village Supervisors*
Sullivan Renaissance Interns

Being a Sullivan Renaissance Intern is hands-on, hard work. Interns contribute to the goals of municipal and community beautification while gaining practical experience, and learning about their own abilities and work style. They lead the way through action by caring for gardens, parks, containers and flower boxes in public spaces and on main streets. They weed, water, litter pluck and deadhead spent flowers to encourage continued blooms.

The 2021 class of interns worked alongside community volunteers, municipal staff, Sullivan Renaissance Steering Committee members and staff to make a difference in their neighborhoods and get the job done. The Interns also participated in weekly leadership sessions held throughout the county where they discussed current events, visited Renaissance projects and examined different leadership styles and skills.

Interns volunteered at the Sleepy Hollow Trail Clean Up Day as a service learning project. They worked with the Sullivan Renaissance Staff and volunteers from the Sleepy Hollow Community, Sullivan 180, and Catskill Mountainkeeper to clean up the Trail. The project was inspired by Shanita Artson, a parent/resident at Sleepy Hollow to realize her dream of “dry shoes and positive affirmations” for safe travel connecting Sleepy Hollow to the Monticello School. The interns worked as a community to support this vision to become a reality. The highlight of the day was when the children of Sleepy Hollow came out to paint rocks, make stone walls, and move mulch!

Front Row: Abigail Bizjak and Kristina Davis • Missing from photo: MaKenna Cooper, Kansas Miner, Gavin Racette
So, You want to Be a Sullivan Renaissance Intern...

Things I have learned during my internship that could be beneficial for you to know:

It may be overwhelming seeing all of these gardens, but it's not that much once you get going. Even if you just tackle one per day that can help you. I learned to plan out my week. I would say “okay on Monday I am going to accomplish the 2 headed trout garden and on Tuesday I will take care of the dove garden.” Simple things like that make it so much easier to not become overwhelmed with everything.

Take your time with these gardens. If you just pull weeds really fast, and don't pay attention to anything, they will grow back even faster and you will just have to do it all over again. The key is to go slow and make sure you try and get every weed. Now this does not mean to go on the opposite side of the spectrum and take 4 hours pulling weeds at one garden. Just take your time. That is the key to weeds.

This one is all about the watering cart. Just to warn you - this thing is a beast to handle. When filling it you have to pull it up onto the curb and into the mulch. Then you have to fight to get it to connect to the spigot. I recommend to fill it for about 7 minutes so that it is not too full; but full enough. The worst part is getting this heavy cart down the curb without tipping it over. I found that if you go backwards and pull it down, handle first, things go a lot smoother.

Saying “good morning” to people is really important. It builds a connection with people and they usually will compliment you on something that looks nice in the town. It is a win win either way. Just be polite and others will do the same.

That's all of the tips that I have. I promise you will get the hang of this whole thing.

Kansas Miner
Town of Rockland, 2021 Intern

Hear More from Sullivan Renaissance Interns
Check out “Ambitious with Dylan Price” Podcast Episode 108
Dylan is a multi-year intern who hosts a podcast where he has interviewed professional sports stars, celebrities, and yes - Changemaker superstars of Sullivan Renaissance.

When I started the internship I was focused on the wonderful employment opportunity and wages. After working for a few weeks in the internship program, I began taking great pride in the fact that I was making a difference in the lives of those who live and work around the town. I have learned that the smallest changes can affect everything around you.

- Keegan Stroop,
Village of Woodridge, 2021 Intern
2021 Grant Participants

B.A.T.S.
Bethel Self Storage
Brother's II Auto Body
Callicoon Business Association
Caroline Akt Realty, LLC
Catskill Claws, Inc.
Catskill CycleWorks
Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum
Civil Air Patrol
Cocheeton Corner LLC
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Daniel Pierce Library
Delaware Valley Opera
Dynamite Youth Center
ENGN Civic Creative Center
Fallsburg Central School District
Forestburgh Playhouse
Foundation for Mexican Art & Culture
Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce
Happy Days Campground
High Voltage Catskills
Hurleyville Performing Arts Center
Hurleyville Sullivan First
Jeffersonville JEMS
Kauneonga Lake Fire District
Liberty Central School District
Liberty United Methodist Church
Little Beaverkill, LLC
Livingston Manor Central School District
Livingston Manor Renaissance
Livingston Manor United Methodist Church
Mamakating Environmental Education Center
Mamakating Library
Matsons (Annie's) Ruff Cut
Monticello School District
Monticello United Methodist Church
Mountaintale Business Association
Narrowsburg Beautification Group
Nesin Cultural Arts, Inc.
Neversink Agricultural Society
Phillipsport Community Center Assoc. Inc.
Radio Catskill
Roscoe Central School
Smallwood Civic Association
Spinning Plates LLC dba The Walk-in
St. John St. Cemetery, Inc.
St. John’s Episcopal Church
St. Peter’s Church, Liberty
Sullivan 180/Sullivan County BOCES
Sullivan West School District
Swiss Rose, LLC
The Club at Smallwood
The Junction
The Liberty Fitness Center, Inc.
The Museum at Bethel Woods
Town of Bethel
Town of Fallsburg
Town of Forestburgh
Town of Highland
Town of Liberty
Town of Lumberland Parks & Recreation
Town of Mamakating
Town of Neversink
Town of Rockland
Town of Thompson
Town of Tusten
Tusten Cup
Upper Delaware Council, Inc.
Valley Daycare
Village of Monticello
Village of Woodridge
Western Sullivan Public Library
White Lake Homes
White Sulphur Springs Inn
White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First
YoungsvilleBusy Beavers 4-H

Partners, Individuals and Organizations

The Arc of the Greater Hudson Valley
Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
Bold Gold Media Group
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Workforce Development
The Community Foundation of Orange & Sullivan
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sullivan County
Delaware Valley Job Corps
Antonio Delgado, Congressman
The Gerry Foundation
James Granell
Grantee Associates
Aileen Gunther, New York State Assemblywoman
Mike Martucci, New York State Senator
John Northrup
Ian Pamer
Radio Catskill
James Reilly
River Reporter
Dawn Ryder
SUNY Sullivan
Sullivan 180
Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
Sullivan County Democrat
Sullivan County Division of Planning & Community Development
Sullivan County Parks & Recreation
Sullivan County Personnel
Sullivan County Probation
Kim Torrens

Garden Design Panel

Janet Barbare
Jess Brey
Gay Donofrio
Alison Filosa
Dennis Hewston
Eustacia Marsales
Dian Metzko
Cindy Muri
Karins Ruff Skalla
Anna Lise Vogel
Scott Woods

Business Assistance Grant Review Panel

Sarah Banks
Leni Binder
Sue Ann Boyd
Kathy Davidoff
Danielle Gaebel
Julio Garacicocha
Jacqueline Leventoff
Jerry Skoda

Municipal Partnership Grant Review Panel

Freda Eisenberg
Nicole Francesce
Michael Newhard
Jerry Skoda

Seminar Presenters

Jess Brey
Sims Foster
Neal Hitch
Eleanor Hines
Heather Housekeeper
Lisa Lyons
Kate O'Connor
Jaime Schmeiser
Dorene Warner
Leah Worrell
Steven Vegliante

Long Eddy National Day of Service Participants

Dan Briggs
Brian Brustman
Daniel Rush
Town of Fremont

Parksville Clean Sweep Participants

Hope Blecher
Cabernet Frank’s
Lucas Dame
Frank DeMayo, Supervisor
Harriet Dorfman
Kytt MacManus
Nick Rusin
Kate Rusin
Town of Liberty

Sleepy Hollow Trail Cleanup Day

Shanita Artson
Sue Ann Boyd
Barry Brown
Rafael Carreon
Jose Codero
Fernando DesJesus
Dominique Dupress
Nyle Dupree
Dr. Matthew Evans
Tanya Franco-Nikolai
Alexandra Gerry
Taylor Jaffe, Catskill Mountainkeeper
Kim Martin
Carita McCallion
Wilmer Mendez
Monroe Properties
Monticello School District
NYSEG
Sullivan 180
Bill Pummer
Yankiel X. Rivera
Dean A. Rivera Torregrosa
Diana Rivera Torregrosa
Fanny Sorto
Giana Sorto
Layla Sorto
Kyree Wright
Rattana Yang
Nelson Yang

South Fallsburg Clean Sweep Participants

Ellen Bresky
Joyce Caracci, Volunteer Corps Member
Gommo’s Bake Shop
Melissa Melko
NYSEG & John Fisher
Aidan Tambascio
Town of Fallsburg
Town of Fallsburg Police
Steve Vegliante, Supervisor
Rabbi Larry Zierler
Merchant Discount Providers
Alden’s Country Gardens
American Storage Building, Inc.
Baer Landscaping
Black Oak Buildings
Broadway Home
Back Environmental Solutions
Catskill Outdoor Furniture
Country Bum’kin Antiques
Crystal Run Farms Sand and Gravel
DJM Landscaping
Elm Garden Design
Fallsburg Lumber
Finehand Signs
Garden State Koi & Aquatic Center
Gemini Graphyx Custom Signs
Graphic Detail/Paul Kean Artworks, Inc.
Green Design
Grey’s Woodworks
Harnett Designs Woodworking Studio
JB Mak Building Supplies
Kohler Lumber
Kristt Company
Liberty Trading Post
M&K Landscaping
Makovic Homes
MDL Excavating
Mountain Bear Crafts
Outdoor Media/Keller Signs
Partymaster
Schmidts Rentals
Schmidts Wholesale
Steingart Associates
Superior Building Supply
T.J.E Landscape
Thompson Sanitation
Tree Stalkers Tree Care
Tri-State Mechanical Plumbing & Heating
Windows on Broadway
Wurtsboro Electric Service
Yaun Company
Zigmund Computer & Technical Services
Zigmund Landscaping & Construction Services

Garden Centers, Greenhouses and Nurseries
Catskill Native Nursery
Delaware Valley Farm & Garden
Everlasting Spring Garden Center
Hillside Greenhouse
L&M Greenhouses
Laurel Grove Greenhouses
LePetit Jardin
Liberty Agway Home & Garden
Manza Farms
Monticello Farm, Home & Garden
Monticello Greenhouses
Root n’ Roost Farms
Silver Leaf Greenhouse
Stephenson’s Garden Center
Story's Neversink Plant Co.
The Cutting Garden
Zakarin & Sons

Sullivan Renaissance
Steering Committee
Leni Binder
Daniel Briggs
Kathy Davidoff
Gay Donofrio
Cora Edwards
John Evans
Hon. Josephine V. Finn
Foster Supply Hospitality - Sarah Banks
Danielle Gaebel
Ruby Gold
Amanda Langseder
Jacque Leventoff
Dali Levy
Barry Lewis
Lorraine Lopez-Janove
Arl Civil Marin-Leon
Steve Melendez
Lisa Mitchell
Klu Padu
Joyce Salimeno-Gitlin
Brian Scardefield
Jaime Schmeiser
Gerald J. Skoda
Nicole Slevin Nikolados
Fred Stabbert III
Anna Lise Dyhr Vogel
Rabbi Larry Zierler