

# “Welcome to Liberty”

**Y**es, Welcome to Liberty! Located just 90 Minutes from Manhattan in the foothills of the Catskills Mountains just minutes from the original Woodstock festival site, lies Liberty, a quiet and picturesque town. Here you can experience the best of all worlds; you can enjoy a walk and picnic in the woods, at a park or by the lake Saturday morning, yet still have dinner and enjoy a Broadway show in New York City, all in the same day.

Within minutes there is so much to do, find and explore! Hit a hole in one at our 25+ excellent golf courses, cheer for your favorite horse at the Monticello Race Track, take in the excitement of car racing at the White Lake Speedway, swim, boat, fish, tube, kayak, ski, and snorkel in our lakes and rivers, take the kids miniature golfing, put on your 10 gallon hat and go horseback riding or go fly a kite at the annual Kite festival. During the winter month's put on your woolies and go downhill or cross-country skiing, ride a snowmobile, ice fish or stay cozy by a warm fire. Any time of the year is the right time to visit our many antique shops, attend an antique show, or a concert, see a play or musical at the Forestburgh Playhouse, see a Cabaret show, shop till you drop at 100's of unique shops, stores and businesses.

Enjoy the beauty of the Catskills by visiting Walnut Mountain and it's biking trails, use our many walking and hiking trails, enjoy some of the most spectacular foliage in the entire country, stay at a Bed & Breakfast, visit the Eagle Institute, watch fresh cider being pressed, visit a working ranch, visit a Fort or battlegrounds, climb a mountain, see a spectacular 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display in the park, go camping, go to our area is own 100+ year running “Little Worlds Fair”, or just sit back on an Adirondack chair in your own back yard.

Our growing community offers excellence in education and a fantastic year-round park and recreation program. The Liberty area is a great choice for a new home, a vacation home or to establish your business. Prices are still very reasonable and our area is experiencing a renaissance unseen since the early heydays. There are so many great things happening in Liberty and the surrounding area, new homes are popping up, the original Woodstock festival site is

scheduled for groundbreaking this year for Sullivan Counties own Performing Arts Center, Kohl's has opened a huge distribution center bringing with it 1,000 jobs, Sullivan County has just achieved Empire Zone status bringing huge tax breaks for new and existing business, and of course there is the Governors approval of Casinos and slot machines at the race track.

The Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce and its tireless members have, and continue to, play a large part in Liberty's renaissance. Our Revitalization Committee has hired the top rated firm, the LA group, a landscape architect and engineering firm, whose past projects have included Saratoga Springs NY, to research, design and draw up architectural renderings for the restoration of Liberty's downtown. *Read more about our Revitalization Committee on page 12.*

Our local theater was just purchased by a New York Developer, Two Twelve Associates, who has already begun refurbishing it. A national chain discount store has just opened downtown, a 3-story bank building has been purchase by Village Properties and refurbishment is complete, with office space on the top floors and a mini-mall being constructed on the first floor.

Yet another part of our Chamber, the A.L.I.V.E. group, last year won the Gerry Foundations Sullivan County Renaissance award of a \$10,000 grant. They won the award for their restoration of Liberty's LaPolt Park. This year's ambitious project and use of the grant monies are focused on renovation of Liberty's downtown storefronts. *Read more about A.L.I.V.E. on page 8.*

One of the Liberty Chamber of Commerce shining success stories was the creation of the Liberty Museum. Renovation continues on the (original) Poellman House, originally constructed in 1894. The museum has become home to our annual New Year's Eve Liberty Bell Drop as well as many cultural events and ever-changing exhibits. *Read more about our museum on pages 32 & 33.*

I would like to extend a special note of thanks to the Welcome to Liberty Committee and especially Etta Barbanti of the Barbanti Group, Lynn Killian of Killian Association Management Services, and Manon Fortier of

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