



Orange County Government  
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**County Executive Neuhaus highlights accomplishments of past year in  
2017 State of the County Address**

*County's finances are strong and administration is focused on bright future*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus delivered his fourth State of the County address to a large audience on Thursday night at the Emergency Services Center auditorium.

The address highlighted several accomplishments of the past year, as well as the County's vision for the future.

Neuhaus was introduced on Thursday night by Ed Harrison, the General Manager of Stewart International Airport.

“Orange County has cut spending, reduced the County tax rate, and worked to invigorate the private sector,” Neuhaus said. “Our real estate market is growing and there are significant investments being made. The State of our County is strong and the future is looking bright for our residents. I’m proud of all that my administration and the Legislature have accomplished working collaboratively over the past year.”

Added Steve Brescia, Chairman of the Orange County Legislature: “It has been a pleasure working with County Executive Neuhaus and his team over the past year. Together, we have made the tough choices to turn Orange County around. We have made Orange County a place where business is welcome and our residents have access to good-paying jobs and a wonderful quality of life. County Executive

Neuhaus understands that healthy communities need economic vitality. I look forward to continuing the momentum that we have right now in Orange County.”

Accomplishments highlighted in the State of the County address include:

- Citing the leadership of County Executive Neuhaus, Moody’s removed the Negative Outlook on Orange County’s finances and revised it to show stable finances in September of 2016
- The popular Heritage Trail is under expansion into both the City of Middletown and the Village of Harriman
- Neuhaus helped negotiate the agreement which brought Norwegian Airlines to Stewart International Airport
- The Neuhaus administration successfully reduced the cost of County government through successful retirement incentive programs
- According to State Department of Labor statistics, Orange County unemployment is down from 6.4 percent to 4.8 percent,
- Neuhaus’ efforts have doubled the County’s unassigned fund balance
- The County generated \$1.8 million via a deed sale held last month, more than tripling the total of the County’s last auction in 2012 (\$527,700)
- Traffic on the County’s redesigned Tourism website has doubled in the past two years
- Hotel/motel tax revenue increased nine percent from 2015 (\$3.2 million) to 2016 (\$3.498 million)
- Neuhaus signed a water agreement with the City of Middletown to develop the County’s Indigot properties to promote economic development, particularly along the 17M Corridor. This will lead to significant revenue for the City of Middletown and has fast tracked the Amy’s Kitchen project

New initiatives proposed by Neuhaus include:

- Neuhaus signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BOCES to develop a Trade Union School in Newburgh through Orange-Ulster BOCES
- Neuhaus announced that the Sullivan County casino, which will open in March 2018, will partner with Orange County to train more than 600 new workers at a Table Games Training School for good-paying positions at the resort. The casino development will create 2,200 total jobs

- The County will work in cooperation with SUNY Orange to bring new college classrooms to Port Jervis
- Neuhaus signed the revised Sanitary Code, which will enable the County to enforce health code related violations in cooperation with localities

For more information, contact Justin Rodriguez, Assistant to the County Executive for Communications and Media Relations at 845.291.3255 or [jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com](mailto:jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com).

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*Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus delivers the 2017 State of the County Address on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at the County's Emergency Services Center in Goshen.*