

Steuben County Newsletter

May / June 2019



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

While County government has remained very busy in recent months, we keep an eye to Albany to assess the impact of the State budget and the remainder of the legislative session. Our initial read is that this budget has done much more harm than good for the County. While we were pleased to see the State enact legislation to capture sales tax on all internet sales, it is extremely frustrating that the Governor and Legislature chose to take \$60 million off the top to pay for the cuts they made to AIM funding. We are happy our Towns and Villages did not lose this funding, but strongly object to the raid of sales tax revenues that belong to local government.

In this newsletter, you will find additional updates from the State budget, specifically from Elections and the District Attorney. You will also find important training and grant opportunities, along with departmental updates.

As always, we will work hard to advocate for the needs of our residents and remain in close communication with our stakeholders and partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Hauryski".

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

Elections - How does the Election Law change impact you?

The primary date(s) have been combined, so from here on out any Primary Election held in NYS will be held on the 4th Tuesday in June. We will no longer hold Primary Elections in September.

The change to the primary date also changes the petition/caucus calendar. If you are interested in running for an office that is up this year, the Designating petition filing period is already over, but you can still do an Independent petition, stop into the office and the staff will help you with the party name and symbol for your petition. Independent petition filing is May 21, thru May 28 at the Board of Election. The last day to file a certificate of nomination from a town caucus is July 25th.

All town offices should have received the new voter registration forms in the mail. If you have not received them please contact our office 607-664-2260. Please discard any previous voter registration forms that you might have. The new voter registration forms that we recently sent you have been updated with the new party affiliations by the NYS Board of Election.

You can find what offices are up for the current year, what petitions /caucus have been filed, petition challenges, election results, dates and times for an election, frequently asked questions and close to an election you can view the ballot you will be voting on go to www.steubencony.org/boe.

We are always looking for Election Inspectors. If you know of anyone that might be interested in becoming an Election Inspector have them call the office at 607-664-2240 and ask for Angie, and she will get them set up for the new inspectors training class.

The Board of Election's office is now located in the new County Annex Building located on 20 East Morris Street, Bath. We are just across the street from the main County Office Building. Our mailing address is still 3 E. Pulteney Square, Bath, NY.

Emergency Services – Training Opportunity

Steuben County Emergency Service will host a FEMA Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness Course on May 29 & 30. This course will be focused on the partnership and coordination between the National Weather Service, State, and Local Officials. The goal is to enhance the ability to recognize potentially hazardous weather and flooding situations and coordinate an effective response to these weather events. Participants will determine their community's vulnerability to identified hazards and how to interpret National Weather Service information products. The course target audience is local Emergency Managers, Highway Superintendents, event planners and others that might be interested in knowing the specifics of weather in our region and how it affects our events and communities.

This two-day course will be taught at the Civil Defense Training Center, 7220 State Route 54 in Bath from 8:30-4:30 each day. Registration is through the Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS). To register, login or create an account at <https://nyslearn.ny.gov/index.html>. The course number is 04-14-0271-01-01-46-19001. Deadline for registration is May 15, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact the Emergency Services Office at 607-664-2910.

District Attorney – Office Updates

2019 is shaping up to be a busy year in the District Attorney's Office. Case numbers through April are running on the same record pace that we ran in 2018 – caused largely by drug-driven crimes. We continue to do our best to aggressively and innovatively deal with both high levels of cases and drug issues.

We continue to move forward with the goals set forth in the Comprehensive Opioid Prevention Effort (COPE). I am happy to say that Youth Court in the City of Hornell is up and running – with the first set of trained students handling matters involving their peers, and changing the youth culture in the City of Hornell. Given all of the hard work done by members of the Hornell City School District and other volunteers including the Hornell City Court Judge David Coddington, the Sherriff, and members of this Office, in the near future, we will be able to provide a ready-made program to other communities throughout Steuben County.

The Community Impact Program will kick off with its first session during the first week of May. This education-based program will provide those charged with drug driven crime with: a look at addiction and recovery from the point of view of someone in recovery; an opportunity to hear from family members who have lost loved ones to drug addiction to bring home the reality of what they are doing to those close to them; and information from treatment providers about how we here in Steuben County are here to support and help with recovery. This program, quarterbacked by Julie Haar with the help of many, will be held at the Public Safety Building quarterly and hopefully will send a message directly to those who need it most – resulting in increased treatment and recovery attendance.

Actions of the Governor and State Legislature continue to increase the work required of the Office without funding or assistance to meet new requirements. The Centralized Arraignment Part (CAP) – a countywide process for providing now state-mandated counsel at every arraignment is up and running – requiring appearances twice a day, 7 days/week and 365 days/year. The DA and ADA's are covering this court which meets outside of normal working hours, as is the Public Defender. As projected by County

Officials (and contrary to the prediction of State proponents) this has proven to be an extremely busy and labor-intensive endeavor – with multiple arraignments happening almost every morning (from 8:30 to 10:30am) and evening (from 5:30 to 7:30pm). Local Court Judges, the Sherriff, our City Court Judges, the Public Defender and DA are all pulling together to meet this unfunded mandate – the State however is doing nothing to meet the cost demands or make the process easier – much to our frustration. The cost here is significant, and is born essentially by the County.

To deal with this reality, the DA's Office is pleased to welcome Anna Ciesla to the Office as an Assistant District Attorney – a recent graduate of Buffalo University Law School, Anna will be covering the CAP Court, and when time permits handling other cases in the Office. Because of CAP needs – her “full time” schedule entails many nights and weekends. She has been a great addition to the Office and will do great things here in Steuben County.

Albany also dropped new Discovery and Bail legislation on the State with the passage of the budget in April. This new legislation, which did not include any funding for prosecution or law enforcement, will require a huge increase in workload for this Office. Mandatory discovery in all criminal cases (felony and misdemeanor – around 6,000 cases annually in this County) within 15 days of arrest will increase our Discovery workload, and cost, by a factor of 10 or 15 or more on an incredibly tight timetable – we are still trying to figure out a new process which is inconsistent with many provisions of the existing Criminal Procedure Law. To address this massive change, our most senior ADA, Michael McCartney, has been assigned, as a large part of his duties, to create and implement the processes needed within the Office to deal with this law when it becomes effective on January 1, 2020. Between this and the bail reform statute (which requires many new court hearings) – we will see significant needs for staffing changes over the next year.

It has already been a very eventful year for the criminal justice system in New York State – and promises to continue to be so, as sweeping changes to the criminal justice system are made in Albany, with, as seems to be the norm, no concern or provision for cost or for those of us who must implement them.

Office for the Aging – Program Updates

The Steuben County Office for the Aging receives calls weekly regarding leaky roof issues. The USDA/Rural Development grant/loan program is currently the only home repair program that has funding available. Arbor Housing and Development, Community Progress, Inc., and Habitat for Humanity have applicant waiting lists, with no new funds yet available for 2019. RESTORE (Residential Emergency Services to Offer [Home] Repairs to the Elderly) is a funding source particularly in demand by resident owners in mobile home parks because, apart from weatherization help, RESTORE is the only repair grant available to residents in park locations. RESTORE is also accessible to any qualifying homeowner age 60+ who owns their land, thus putting even greater pressure on this emergency program. Income and resource requirements do vary by program. Not all grant programs provide 100% funding.

Steuben seniors are fortunate to have these local agencies working diligently to secure funds from various grant sources, but because of ongoing limits to funding, our goal to assist with aging in place is more challenging. A healthy, safe and secure shelter is crucial to the success of our elders with limited resources to remain in their homes. Please call OFA at 607-664-2298 and we will help you navigate the options for your needs.

Public Works – Safety Enhancements

To enhance the safety of our workplace, the Public Works Department just installed AED (automatic external defibrillator) units at all of our shops. To date, we have 93 employees trained in the public works department on how to use them. They are in the following locations: Bath County Landfill;

Station 2 Maintenance Shop; Bridge Shop; Kanakadea Park; Prattsburgh Shop; Howard Shop; Cohocton Shop; Caton Shop; Curtiss Shop; Woodhull Shop; Greenwood Shop; Erwin Transfer Station; Wayland Transfer Station; Hornell Transfer Station; Leachate Plant; and Mt. Washington Shop.

Planning Department – State Grant Opportunity & “Controlling Junk”

NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets has announced a grant opportunity that may be of interest to municipalities. They are currently accepting applications on a rolling basis, or as long as funding remains available:

Municipal Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grant

The purpose of this grant is to provide financial and technical assistance to assist municipalities in developing agricultural and farmland protection plans and to assist both in the implementation of such plans. The intent is for these plans to help maintain the economic viability of the State’s agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Two municipalities may apply jointly, however if applying jointly, one municipality must be designated as the lead municipality for contract purposes. Maximum funding available to a municipality to develop a new or updated agricultural and farmland protection plan is set at \$25,000 or \$50,000 for two municipalities applying jointly. Municipalities must provide a twenty-five percent match of cash or in-kind services. A minimum of twenty percent of that match must be cash

The following is a list of eligible costs:

- Personal services, including fringe benefits for professional, secretarial, and legal services related directly to the development of the plan; Consultant services (professional, technical, operational); Travel (at State government rates); Conducting public hearings; Expendable supplies; Printing and communication

More information can be found at the following web address:

<https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/rfps.html>

Or contact Matt Sousa, Senior Planner, 607-664-2266 or planning@steubencountyny.gov

“Controlling Junk”

Spring has sprung in the Southern Tier and that means it is time for a little spring cleaning. For local Towns and Villages that could mean adopting or enforcing local property maintenance codes. The NYS Department of State, Division of local Government has issued a guide for local governments that discusses the State Motor Vehicle Junkyard Law (GML §136), the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code which includes the Property Maintenance Code, and finally provides guidance on regulating junk at the local level.

For more information on GML §136 and the Uniform Code please reference the DOS guidance document “Controlling Junk” at <https://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/Controllingjunk.pdf>. This guide also includes a sample junkyard law for those municipalities that are interested in regulating junk in a way that more specifically meets their own needs.

Other useful links include:

GML §136: <https://codes.findlaw.com/ny/general-municipal-law/gmu-sect-136.html>

NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, Part 1226: Property Maintenance:

[https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I89d742a5c22411ddb9e5b2e06f1b2e15?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/I89d742a5c22411ddb9e5b2e06f1b2e15?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))