

Steuben County Newsletter

November/December 2017



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

With the New Year approaching, the county is wrapping up the 2018 budget and looking to continue other important initiatives. One effort that you'll see highlighted below, the broadband survey, is of critical importance for our region. In partnership with Yates County, Steuben is collecting data to determine broadband internet coverage for our region, which will give us information needed to advocate for additional state funds to fill in the gaps. Please read below, complete the survey, and help how you can.

The county remains hopeful for a prosperous 2018, and wishes you all the best for the holiday season!

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

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

Broadband Survey - Help Needed!

Steuben County is sponsoring a six-month, online survey to collect data on broadband coverage in the County. The goal is to determine who has service, who doesn't, and who needs better service-provider options. It is our hope that the results of this survey will help expand broadband coverage to residents who currently don't have coverage, improve coverage for those with poor service, and increase the number of service-provider options available.

Our preference is for residents to take the short, online version of the survey as it includes a speed test, so residents can log the actual speeds they're experiencing at home. For those without adequate service at home, a paper-copy of the survey is also available. The online version as well as printable, hard copies of the survey can be accessed at www.steubencony.org/broadband.

We are requesting help from our municipal partners in getting as many of our residents to complete the survey as possible prior to April 16, 2018, when the survey will close. You can help by posting the flyer in your offices, making paper copies available, announcing the survey at your Board meetings, talking to residents about the survey, letting people know they run a speed test for their address, and collecting completed paper surveys at your offices and mailing/delivering them to:

County Manager's Office, ATTN: Mitch Alger
3 E. Pulteney Sq.
Bath, NY 14810.

Office for the Aging

Finding housing just got a lot easier thanks to the great work of the Steuben County Planning Department! Through the miracle of technology, you can visit the Steuben County Government website at

www.steubencony.org (follow the Department tab to Office for the Aging). You will then see a “Housing for Older Adults” icon that will lead you to maps showing various options for housing that provide different levels of care. Not sure what you need? There are descriptions included that will guide you through the various types of housing and care facilities. Still have questions? The caring professionals at the NYCONNECTS program within the Office for the Aging can walk you through the decision making. We give unbiased information and never tell you what you must do. The choices are all yours. Visit us on our webpage or call us at 607-664-2322 for confidential assistance.

Youth Bureau

Each fall, students across Steuben County begin another exciting school year, and for the past seven years, many children and families have made the Steuben County Strong Kids Safe Kids (SKSK) Festival a regular part of the excitement. Organized by Prevent Child Abuse Steuben, a task force in which the Youth Bureau participates, the SKSK Festival provides free family fun and educational activities for children from birth through 6th grade. Over 25 programs and agencies provide a wide variety of games and activities, including the “Passport to Fitness”, which enables participants to earn a gold medal and prize by participating in ten fitness activities.

This year, over 250 kids and their parents filled the Bath Haverling High School Gym on September 16th, from schools and communities across Steuben County. Participants completed over 210 passports, and also received more than 100 bike helmets, as well as prizes at dozens of games and activities. Over 50 community volunteers made the day possible, as did this year’s event sponsors: Simmons Rockwell, Wilkins RV, Arnot Health, the Sports Fanatic of Hornell, and the Tyrtle Beach Youth Fund.

Public Health

Steuben County Public Health was recently notified that they are being awarded \$48,000 from the New York State Department of Health in recognition of the work that has been completed to address chronic disease since 2015. The department submitted documentation in June 2017 proving they met 16 areas of required standards in the categories of data analysis, health promotion strategies, efforts to address risk factors, establishment and engagement of community health partners, and engagement with the community on policies and strategies related to health. This process was made easier by the rigorous efforts Public Health completed in May 2017 to apply for national accreditation. The results of the national accreditation process are expected in the spring of 2018.

Steuben County Public Health held a dental donation drive in honor of October’s National Dental Hygiene Month. The department would like to thank everyone who donated dental supplies and would especially like to recognize the dental health providers who donated hundreds of items: Dr. Melissa Brown Orthodontics for Children and Adults, Addison Family Dentistry, and Corning Dental Associates. Over 890 dental items were donated, and they will be distributed to local food pantries to give to families in Steuben County.

The third annual Baby Café Holiday Party will be held on Friday, December 8 at the Dormann Library in Bath. As in years past, free pictures will be taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and tons of other family fun activities will be available. The party is scheduled for 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, following the regular Baby Café session from 9:00 – 10:30 am. As always, the staff will be available to answer questions and help anyone who has questions related to breastfeeding and other baby-related items. The Baby Café is open every Friday at the Dormann Library in the Empire Room from 9:00 – 10:30 am. Free diapers and free charm bracelets and charms are available for moms in addition to the great support offered by the staff of Certified Lactation Consultants (CLCs) and other families in attendance.

Social Services

Applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will be accepted beginning Nov. 13, according to the Steuben County Department of Social Services. HEAP applications can be filed in person at locations listed below; online at www.mybenefits.ny.gov; or can be mailed to applicants who call the county Department of Social Services (DSS) for the forms at (607) 664-2500.

Those wishing to file HEAP applications in person may do so starting Nov. 13, at Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. 117 E. Steuben St., Bath or the county DSS office, 3 E. Pulteney Square, Bath. Applications also may be filed:

- From 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Office for the Aging on Broadway Mall, Hornell, on the following dates: Dec. 5 and Dec. 19, Jan. 2, Jan. 16 and Jan. 30.
- From 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Steuben County Courthouse at 10 W. First St. Corning on the following dates: Dec. 7 and Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Jan. 18 and Feb. 1. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis in both locations.

Important Information:

- 1) Applicants receiving Temporary Assistance and/or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits should contact the Department of Social Services to learn if they automatically qualify for a regular HEAP benefit.
- 2) If an applicant or member of their household is over age 60, or is disabled and receiving SSI or Social Security Disability they can get help filing the HEAP application from the county Office for the Aging.
- 3) Applicants may return the completed form to any HEAP location, listed above, to be seen in person or leave the application and request a phone interview.
- 4) Applicants also may mail in completed applications and request a phone interview.
- 5) Applications may also be filed on line at www.mybenefits.ny.gov
- 6) Applications for emergency HEAP benefits will be available Jan. 2.: Households low on fuel or in shut-off status may qualify for Emergency HEAP
 - All households who have not received a regular HEAP benefit during the 2017 season must come to one of the above locations and for a face-to-face interview if applying for Emergency HEAP.
 - Households facing shut-off or needing fuel that have received a regular HEAP benefit may apply to DSS by telephone. A new application may not be needed.

Applications for heating equipment repair and replacement are available Nov. 6, and will be accepted only at the Steuben DSS office. Only homeowners who have lived at that residence for 12 months preceding the date of application are eligible for heating equipment repair and replacement. Those with questions regarding eligibility or the application process may visit www.otda.state.ny.us/otda/heap or call:

- Steuben County Department of Social Services: (607) 664-2500 or (800) 346-2211 or by dialing 2-1-1.
- Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc: (607) 776-2125 or (800) 553-2033.
- Steuben County Office for the Aging: Bath at (607) 664-2298; Corning at (607) 936-4661, or Hornell at (607) 281-3635.
- New York State HEAP Bureau: (800) 342-3009