

Steuben County Newsletter

March / April 2018



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

Our County unfortunately rang in March with a storm that caused significant tree damage, power outages, and accidents. Kuddos go to our first responders, utility workers, and volunteers that helped us navigate a very dangerous situation. Here's hoping March will go out like a lamb.

This edition of the County Newsletter highlights one of the most important initiatives that will be discussed and implemented in 2018, the Comprehensive Opioid Prevention Effort (COPE). I urge you all to become more informed on this issue and to support our substance abuse prevention efforts in any way you can.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

District Attorney & Sheriff – Comprehensive Opioid Prevention Effort

The Steuben County District Attorney and Sheriff, in conjunction with County staff and stakeholders have proposed the Comprehensive Opioid Prevention Effort (COPE) in an effort to innovate the way in which the community addresses the most serious drug epidemic in recent memory.

COPE is a multi-faceted approach that focuses on treatment, education, and enforcement. Specific proposed actions of this initiative include:

- **Creation of a Community Impact Panel (CIP) for “Drug Related” Crime** – similar to STOP DWI’s Victim Impact Panel, require appropriate drug crime defendants to attend and hear first-hand the dangers of drugs, stories of success, failure, and consequence, and to demonstrate the resources available for recovery.
- **Initiation of Youth Courts, with the Hornell area as a pilot** - Youth Courts provide a non-judicial forum for resolution of these offenses – by peers. Sentences can be anything from rehab, school based alternatives to community service – even CIP attendance. The key to the success of these Courts is culture change and youth engagement. Students judge their peers – “defendants” are told by their peers what is and is not acceptable within their community.
- **Youth Prevention Program Competition** - The Youth Prevention Program Competition would be open to ALL Steuben County High Schools and Middle Schools. Each school would submit two things – a program aimed at impacting some facet of the opioid epidemic and a “business plan” for actually implementing their program. A panel of judges would select a High School and Middle School winner and fund their prevention initiative.

- Creation of an “incarcerated-patient” treatment program – Expand the utilization of substance abuse counselors in the Steuben County Jail to lead more inmates on the road to recovery and to reduce recidivism.
- Enhanced NARCAN/OD Reporting – Establish a local law or program that requires the reporting of overdoses in the County and the administration of NARCAN. The goal would be for a substance abuse counselor to then reach out to those individuals to offer access to services.
- Creation of a multi-County drug initiative intelligence sharing group - Our goal will be to utilize connections to Yates, Livingston and Monroe Counties – along with the New York State Police – to create a cooperative intelligence sharing multi-county Drug Initiative. Sharing information, combining resources and coordinating investigations will maximize our effectiveness – enhancing our ability to identify, investigate and stop those who bring drugs into Steuben and traffic in surrounding counties as well.
- Hiring four additional Steuben County Deputy Sheriffs for drug interdiction and investigations – Steuben County is severely understaffed to confront this epidemic and is operating with less than 20% of the drug investigators in comparison to a decade ago. By strengthening interdiction and investigative resources, the goal is to prevent drugs from entering our community and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking.

COPE is an evolving initiative that requires the support of the community at-large. Much more information will be shared as the program is implemented.

Broadband Survey – Final Call!

Steuben County’s broadband survey will remain active until April 16, 2018. We are again requesting the support of our municipal partners in getting residents to fill out the survey.

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. 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
(607) 664-2245

Real Property Tax

Real Property Tax Service Agency staff has been working with the Town of Lindley to assist them with some of the assessment duties while they search for a suitable candidate for their recently implemented sole assessor position. Some of the tasks being performed by Real Property staff are reviewing exemption renewal applications and obtaining additional information from property owners as needed, entering property transfers into the NYS ORPTS RPSV4 database, entering name and address changes into the RPSV4 database and assisting property owners with issues and answering their questions.

The revaluation project in the Town of Bath is nearing completion with disclosure notices being mailed to all property owners by GAR Associates, the revaluation contractor hired by the town. Property

owners with questions concerning their 2018 assessments should direct their questions to GAR Associates at the following phone number: 866-910-1776. GAR Associates will be conducting informal review sessions with property owners starting Saturday March 10th and running through Friday March 23rd. These sessions will be held at the Steuben County Civil Defense Center on State Route 54 in Bath. GAR Associates has also set up a website dedicated to the revaluation project and that site is: <http://townofbath.sdnys.com/index.aspx> .

Public Health

Steuben County Public Health is celebrating 100 years of service in 2018. In recognition, there will be events held throughout the year, including the Easter Party being held at the Bath Baby Café on Friday, March 30th from 11:00-1:00. The Baby Café is a drop in, supportive environment for families and is staffed by Certified Lactation Counselors to answer any questions or help with concerns that breastfeeding moms might have. All events are free at the Baby Café, and there will be cookie decorating, visits with the Easter Bunny, and face painting along with diapers and wipes as giveaways. The Baby Café is open every Friday regularly from 9:00 – 10:30 am. Free diapers, wipes, and charm bracelets are available on regular café days. For more information, contact Steuben County Public Health at 607-664-2438.

Office for the Aging

Very often, family caregivers do not identify themselves as caregivers. “I just help my dad” or “I try to be a good friend by helping when I can”. To fail to recognize one’s role as caregiver may mean overlooking the supports that are available or, more importantly, ignoring your own needs. At the Steuben County Office for the Aging, we help caregivers because we understand their challenges, often having to navigate a very complex health and human service system.

If you think you might be a caregiver, we want to talk to you! Our Caregiver Program offers individual consultations, group support, learning seminars, and more. The NYCONNECTS Program, also through the Office for the Aging, can give you expert, up to date information on all matters related to accessing care and services. Supporting an older person in the community is made easier when you let us help you make informed decisions. Call 607-664-2298 for free, confidential assistance.

*******PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL YOUR TOWN, VILLAGE, AND CITY BOARD MEMBERS AND ANY STAKEHOLDERS YOU FEEL APPROPRIATE*******