

Steuben County Newsletter

September / October 2018



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

As Fall approaches, the County and the Towns within Steuben are fully engaged in preparation of our budgets for the coming year. We face many challenges in 2019, specifically with the implementation of state mandates such as Raise the Age and indigent defense reform. The County will be forced to hire additional staff, while also reallocating existing resources. These are no small feats and will have a significant impact on County operations.

While difficult, we are meeting the challenges head-on, just like our partner municipalities do in each of their budgets. We look forward to a pleasant Fall and will stay in touch on important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Hauryski".

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

Community Services

Partnership with Canisteo Valley Family Practice

Steuben County Community Services has partnered with Canisteo Valley Family Practice to offer an array of services at one location. Both the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Programs of SCCS have staff available onsite at CVFP, located at 111 Loder Street in Hornell. This allows medical clients of CVFP to receive onsite behavioral health and substance abuse services if desired and/or needed. This can provide clients with the convenience of a holistic treatment approach at one location. These services are all currently available at CVFP and will continue to expand as desire and need grow.

Information regarding referral and services can be obtained by calling Kim Jessup or Lynn Lewis at (607) 664-2255.

Steuben County Suicide Prevention Coalition

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, almost 45,000 Americans die by suicide each year, making suicide the tenth leading cause of death overall and the second leading cause of death for our youth. The National Institute of Mental Health identifies suicide as a major public health problem. The effects of suicide go beyond the person who acts to take his or her life: it can have a lasting impact on family, friends, and communities. Suicide is complex and multi-determined. Most, but not all, people who die by suicide exhibit warning signs which can include, but are not limited to, talking about wanting to die, looking for ways to kill oneself, exhibiting feelings of hopelessness or having no purpose, talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain, talking about being a burden to others, increased use of alcohol or drugs, behaving recklessly, acting anxious or agitated, sleeping too little or too much, isolation, or displaying extreme mood changes.

The Steuben County Suicide Prevention Coalition (SCSPC) was formed in 2012 and is comprised of volunteers from professional backgrounds and community members passionate about saving lives. Awareness about this serious public health concern and education on how to help someone in crisis is a strong tool to reducing the tragic and unnecessary loss of life to suicide. SCSPC is dedicated to giving hope to those at risk and those who have been impacted by suicide through reducing stigma, raising awareness, and connecting people to resources to create a healthier, safer community. Upcoming events this fall include the Choosing Hope Vendor Fair on September 15th at the Hornell VFW, the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day event on November 17th at CareFirst in Painted Post, and monthly support groups held in Addison and Hornell. For more information about the SCSPC, please contact Jessica Frawley at 115 Liberty Street Bath NY 14843 or 607-664-2255. If you or someone you know is experiencing thoughts of suicide, please ask for help: Steuben County Mental Health and ask for crisis at 607-664-2255 during business hours and 607-937-7800 after hours; National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255); Crisis Text Line by texting any word to 741741.

Real Property Tax Service Agency

Important Information regarding the Enhanced STAR exemption: Legislation was passed as part of the 2019-2020 New York State Budget that now requires all property owners applying or reapplying for the Enhanced STAR exemption to participate in the Income Verification Program (IVP). The Income Verification Program allows NYS Department of Taxation & Finance to verify the property owner's income and thereby determine whether they qualify for the Enhanced STAR exemption. The IVP has been in effect for a number of years on a voluntary basis but with the passage of this legislation, participation in the IVP becomes mandatory in order for the Enhanced STAR exemption to be applied to the property owner's 2019-20 school taxes.

For property owners currently participating in the IVP no action is required to continue receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption. If you are also receiving the Senior Citizens exemption that applies to town/city, county, village or school taxes, a separate application is required to be filed annually with your assessor.

For those not currently participating in the IVP, you must submit the following forms to your assessor prior to March 1, 2019 **(January 1, 2019 for City of Hornell):** **Form RP-425-IVP, Supplement to Forms RP-425-E and RP-425-Rnw, and either: Form RP-425-E, Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption for the 2019-2020 School Year (if upgrading from Basic STAR to Enhanced STAR) or Form RP-425-Rnw, Renewal Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption for the 2019-2020 School Year (for renewal applicants).** In the first year, the assessor will verify the property owner's eligibility based on the income information provided to them by the property owner. In the following years, NYS DTF will verify your income eligibility; you will not need to reapply for the exemption or provide income information to your assessor.

As previously stated, if you are applying for the Senior Citizen exemption that applies to town/city, county, village or school taxes, a separate application is required to be filed with your assessor prior to January 1 or March 1 depending on where your residence is located. The applicable forms are: **Form RP-467, Application for Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens (for first-time applicants) or Form RP-467-Rnw, Renewal Application for Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens (for renewal applicants).** Renewal applicants should receive renewal applications from their assessor prior to the deadline. All of these forms are available on the NYS DTF website (www.tax.ny.gov), from your assessor or from the Real Property Tax Service Agency. For additional information, property owners can access the following website <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/ivp.htm> or the Steuben County website, www.steubencony.org or call the Real Property Tax Service Agency at 607-664-2373.

Planning Department

This Fall, the Steuben County Planning Department will be providing their annual training for planning board and zoning board members. This year's training will consist of four separate topics, each one hour long. This will allow attendees to learn about a variety of local planning and zoning issues that have come up throughout 2018 while completing all of their required annual training hours in one night. The agenda for the evening is still not set so please contact Matt Sousa at msousa@steubencountyny.gov with any ideas for topics.

Office for the Aging

Family caregiving is hard work and many don't even realize that they are caregivers! "Oh, I just help my dad" or "well, my mom does not live with me, so I am really not a caregiver". If you don't recognize the role you are in, it is easy to overlook the strain you are under. We want to support you in this very important job, because you make a difference to those you help. Our upcoming events may be just what you need to thrive in this challenging role.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers series starts Wednesday, Sept 26, 2018 from 1:00-2:30PM at the Dansville Library. It's a six-week educational program for family and friends who are caring for older adults suffering with long-term illnesses. FREE class provides skills and confidence to take better care of yourself while caring for others. Call 585-335-4358 to reserve your spot.

"Speaking of Stroke: Learning a whole new lifestyle" on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 12pm-2pm. FREE and open to the public. Join the conversation with a local author, stroke survivors and panel of medical professionals. We will provide information on programs and services that are available in our community to help.

Call Steuben County Office for the Aging for more information on caregiving 607-664-2298.

Youth Bureau

As a busy season of Summer Recreation programs comes to an end, and school-based services are ramping up, the Steuben County Youth Bureau is actively planning three significant events for Steuben County youth and youth-service providers:

- **The 2018 Strong Kids Safe Kids Festival** will be held on Saturday, September 15th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Bath-Haverling High School gym. This free family event provides a variety of fun and educational activities for children ages birth-12 and their families. The Passport to Fitness program, carnival-games, art activities, and more, will include the entire family in the fun festivities. The NYS Police will provide a free car seat check for families, and the Sheriff Dept. will distribute bike helmets while they last.
- **A Vulnerable Youth Summit** will be held on Tuesday, October 30th, at the Bath Presbyterian Church, tentatively from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Summit will kick off the county's efforts to increase public awareness about runaway/homeless youth and sexually exploited youth. Service agencies, schools, parents, and other stakeholders from across the county are invited to join us for a keynote presentation, panel discussion, and conversation about the prevalence and needs of effected youth, as well as the development of resources and strategies to identify and support vulnerable youth.
- **The 2018 Youth Leadership Summit** will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at the Steuben County Office Complex in Bath. Participation is open by invitation to Steuben County students in grades 10-

12, and recent graduates. Highlights of the full day event will include an interactive leadership training workshop and a student forum with elected state and local representatives. Invited officials include NYS Senator Thomas O'Mara, NYS Assemblyman Philip Palmesano, Steuben County Legislative Chairman Joseph Hauryski, and Steuben County Manager Jack Wheeler.

Information is available on the above events or other Youth Bureau activities by calling the Steuben County Youth Bureau at (607) 664-2119, or emailing bcaudill@steubencountyny.gov.

Public Health

Emergency Preparedness

Matthew Marmor started work in the position of the Public Health Emergency Coordinator this summer. Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness program builds and strengthens our capability to effectively respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. Our current focus is on the detailed planning and staffing necessary to receive and dispense critical medications that prevent, protect from, or treat conditions associated with biological or emerging infectious diseases. Our public health emergency plans rely heavily on local volunteers to meet our response mission. This includes the unique emergency need to fill over eighty positions at any public point of dispensing site opened to serve the people in our communities.

The ServSTEUBEN Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Unit officially enrolls community members, with or without medical training, which are willing to support public health during public health emergencies. Our greatest need is for pre-identified and pre-trained volunteers during a public health emergency. Please join ServSTEUBEN MRC today by signing up through New York State's Volunteer Program portal <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pub/servny/>. For questions or assistance registering as a ServSTEUBEN MRC volunteer please call the Public Health Department at 607-664-2438. This year the ServSTEUBEN MRC is celebrating its fifth anniversary under the Steuben County Public Health Department.

Lead Prevention

Steuben County Public Health is celebrating National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 21-27. Lead poisoning is preventable and is concerning because lead exposure can lead to developmental disabilities in children. All children must be tested for lead levels at ages 1 and 2 by New York State law; testing is the only way to find out if children have lead poisoning. Children can be tested at their doctor's office or lab. Lead can be found in paint from 1978 and prior which may be found in older homes. Young children often explore their environments with their hands, which then go into their mouths. Lead tastes sweet, and even tiny amounts like in a thumb nail sized paint chip or dust, can lead to dangerous levels in the bloodstream. Currently, only 1 out of 3 children are tested for lead. Help us increase lead testing rates by spreading the word about the importance of testing and lead poisoning prevention. For more information visit <https://steubencony.org/pages.asp?PID=707>.