

Steuben County Newsletter

November / December 2019



*****Please Distribute to All Interested Board Members and the Public*****

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

As 2019 draws to a close, it's a time to reflect on the many accomplishments we've had this year and to prepare for the coming challenges in 2020. The County is in the final stages of the budget process, and we are pleased to present a draft budget that slightly increases the tax levy, while lowering the average tax rate and falling well within the tax cap limit.

This is also a time for me personally to reflect on my years on this legislature, as my term comes to an end at the close of the year. I feel that we have achieved many important goals, and I hope that I am leaving the County in a better place than I found it. I've made many meaningful relationships in my tenure and I'm confident the County is in good hands with the quality elected and appointed officials in office.

Thank you all for your support and partnership and I'm excited to see great things continue in Steuben County.

Sincerely,

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

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

Public Works

2019 Shared Services Projects

Steuben County continues to partner with municipalities on important shared services projects, helping to create efficiencies and reduce costs to taxpayers. Below is a summary of projects with local municipalities in 2019:

- **Road Grinding and/or Liquid Asphalt Injection:** Town of Pulteney (Depew Road) 1.3 miles; Town of Howard (Davis Road) 0.5 miles; Town of Rathbone 1.0 miles; Town of Canisteo 2.0 miles; Town of Wayne (Keuka Hill Road) 0.6 miles.
- **Gravel Installation:** Town of Wayne (Keuka Hill Road) 0.6 miles; Town of Rathbone (Merring Road) 1.0 miles; Town of Canisteo (Pierce Road) 2.0 miles.
- **Chip Seal Installation:** Town of Woodhull, 4 miles; Town of Troupsburg, 1.75 miles; Town of West Union, 0.5 miles; Town of Canisteo, 3 miles; Town of Rathbone, 2 miles; Town of Addison, 1.5 miles; Town of Tuscarora, Completed Chip seal on 8 roads; Town of Dansville; Town of Greenwood, 3 roads.

- **Paving:** Village of Bath, 1715 Tons; Village of Wayland , 800 Tons; Steuben County Fairgrounds, 17 Tons; Town of Pulteney, 800 Tons; Village of Arkport, 332 Tons; Wilson Hollow Road Bridge (Town of Hornby). 271 Tons; Nicholson Road Bridge (Town of Howard). 97 Tons; Spaulding Road Bridge (Town of Wheeler). 24 Tons; Beartown Road Bridge (Town of Erwin). 54 Tons; Clymo Road Bridge (Town of Avoca) 42 Tons; Taggart Road Bridge (Town of Urbana); Town of Urbana (Fish Hatchery Road).
- **Shoulders:** Town of Bath, 0.4 miles; Town of Jasper, 0.3 miles; Town of Cohocton, 4 miles; Town of Dansville, 1 mile; Town of Pulteney, 1 mile; Town of Prattsburgh, 2 miles; Town of Wayne (Keuka Hill Road) 0.6 miles.
- **Road Striping:** Town of Corning (Goff Road, Marland Road, Bailey Creek, Gorton Road), 9 miles; Town of Corning (Powderhouse Road), 1.5 miles; Town of Wayne (Keuka Hill Road), 0.6 miles; Town of Pultney (Judson Road, Brown Road, Cross Road, Dug Road) 2.6 miles; Town of Dansville (Sandy Hill) 2.2 miles; Village of Avoca (Main Street) 1.4 miles

Social Services

Adoption Day

The Steuben County Legislature has proclaimed the month of November as Adoption Awareness Month in Steuben County in recognition of the adoptive and foster families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. On Friday, November 8th, the Department of Social Services will be celebrating National Adoption Day with all children who have been adopted within the last year as well as the children who will be adopted during Steuben County's Adoption Day. The Department is pleased to report 11 adoptions have been completed year to date and with upwards of 10 additional adoptions to be completed that day.

An excerpt from the proclamation reads "As we celebrate the benefits of our abundance, and give thanks for the blessings of families coming together, it is our hope that all children awaiting adoption will find a safe and permanent family." This day represents a true celebration of permanency.

Vulnerable Youth Summit

The Department of Social Services sponsored the second annual Steuben County Vulnerable Youth Summit on Wednesday, October 23, 2019. The summit included information and discussion on the efforts to assist youth who are identified, or at risk of becoming victims of labor and/or sex trafficking. This includes runaway and homeless youth.

Those in attendance represented 18 youth service agencies; County Legislator, Carol Ferratella; New York State Office of Children and Family Services; NY State Police; Allegany DSS; Steuben County Sheriff, and Steuben County Departments including: Probation, Community Services, Public Health and multiple community members.

The summit began with keynote speaker Salka Valerio, a human trafficking survivor and advocate, who provided awareness and insights by sharing her own experience with trafficking. Those in attendance were introduced to the "Not a Number" prevention curriculum and the meeting concluded with an overview by DSS Commissioner Kathryn Muller of the progress being made in opening the Steuben County Children's Advocacy Center.

The Safe Harbour sex trafficking initiative is the combined efforts of the County's Department of Social Services and Youth Bureau and is further supported by the New York State office of Children and Family Services.

Public Health

New National Diabetes Prevention Program Classes Start in 2020

Steuben County Public Health has been running National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) classes since 2015 and has seen dozens succeed in losing weight and reducing their risk for developing type 2 diabetes. The program is open to anyone who is at risk for developing diabetes and has never been diagnosed with diabetes. Past participants of the program have said they've "lost weight; learned more about eating a balanced food plan" and are "reading labels better." When asked what made participants continue throughout the program, one said, it was "fun, motivational, and I found out it was possible to eat and enjoy food and still lose weight." Individual participants have lost over 50 pounds due to the program this year. The program is covered by Medicare and Medicaid and costs \$150 for others for the two year program.

For more information on the program, eligibility requirements, and to sign up, contact Public Health at 607-664-2438 or visit <https://steubencony.org/pages.asp?PID=13934>. Registration forms can also be found at <https://tinyurl.com/NDPPReg>. Classes are expected to start in early 2020 in Bath in the afternoon and Hornell in the evening.

Appalachian Leadership Institute

Steuben County Youth Bureau Coordinator Bill Caudill is participating in the 2019-2020 Appalachian Leadership Institute, a 9-month training initiative sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The Appalachian Leadership Institute was designed to create a diverse network of 40 Fellows from across the federally recognized Appalachian Region who are "passionate about helping their communities thrive". In addition to Bill, the other representative from NYS is Beau Harbin, a Cortland County Legislator. The Fellows include a teacher, two mayors, a district attorney, and others representing community development, economic development, planning, tourism boards, and other fields.

The Orientation Session was held in Morehead, KY in October to lay the foundation for the six future sessions. The three day session included two inspiring keynote addresses from individuals who have "climbed the ladder" and become difference making leaders.

- Megan Brennan, Postmaster General of the United States, the first female to hold the position. Brennan began with the USPS as a rural letter carrier in Lancaster, PA. Key points of her presentation were to, "Understand what is happening around you", and to, "stay ahead of the curve (of change)" – certainly key issues relevant to the future of the Postal Service.
- Paul Patton, former Kentucky Governor, who began his career in a family owned coal mine. He is the former President and current Chancellor of Pikeville University, one of few medical schools training doctors for rural Appalachia. His leadership advice was to, "Never be afraid to fail."

The key learning assignment for the session was a "Backcasting" exercise, in which groups envisioned the future of the Appalachian Region – both an optimistic "light" version and a worst-case "dark" version – and identified key markers that would indicate our progression toward, or away from, one version or the other. It was interesting to note the concerns on which the states generally agreed, including the opioid epidemic, outmigration of youth, struggling communities, and lack of health and medical services. The group walked downtown Mt. Sterling, KY, which is finding creative uses for vacant downtown spaces, and discussed a pre-assigned reading, the book, "Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945", by Ron Eller, a somewhat chronological account of the development of Appalachia over the past 75 years.

The orientation session provided opportunities for networking and shared learning, as well as a general optimism for the future of the Appalachian Region. Future sessions, will focus on Identifying Economic Opportunities, Cultivating a Ready Workforce, Building Critical Infrastructure, Capitalizing on Natural and Cultural Assets, and Developing Community Capacity.