

Steuben County Newsletter

May / June 2018



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

After a long winter, spring has arrived, and with it a number of important initiatives in County government. This edition highlights mental health awareness, volunteer recognition, and important information on State codes related to junk accumulation.

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful spring as we continue to focus on the peoples' business. Also, please forward this newsletter to all board members and any stakeholders you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Hauryski".

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

NYS Open Meetings Law & Freedom of Information Law Training – City of Corning

The City of Corning will be hosting a training session conducted by Bob Freeman, Executive Director of the New York State Committee on Open Government. Mr. Freeman is the foremost expert on the NYS Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law.

The training will be held at the Corning Senior Center on Tuesday, May 29th @ 6:00 pm. Any local government officials who are interested are invited to attend. There is no cost to the training and light refreshments will be served.

If you would like to attend, please call Dee Hill in the Corning City Manager's Office at 607-962-0340 ext. 1112.

Community Services – Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and it is important for the community to recognize the issue and highlight available services. One in four people will be affected by a mental health disorder at some point in their lives. Approximately, 450 million people worldwide currently have a mental health condition. And, in the U.S., one in five teenagers has a serious mental health issue impacting their daily lives.

Mental health needs can vary from mild to severe and may encompass components of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, attention deficits, mood dysregulation, dementia, thought dysregulation, communication issues, as well as other components. Mental Health issues can be momentary events, sporadic in nature, or more lifelong struggles. They may be situational stemming from a life event such as divorce, financial struggles, medical issues or stress, and/or they can be systemic and stem from genetic make-up, medical issues, and environmental circumstances.

Seeking help can be a positive step in managing the symptoms of mental health needs. Steuben County Department of Community Services offers services designed to assess and treat individuals with all types of mental health needs. There are a variety of programs covering assessment and therapy, care coordination, crisis management, and psychiatric assessment. Clinicians are there to provide a person-centered experience to assist individuals in managing their symptoms and progressing toward leading a healthier life. The clinic offers Open Access (walk-in) appointments for intake at the Hornell, Corning, and Bath locations. Please call [607-664-2255](tel:607-664-2255) to obtain the hours of operation and to also to obtain any needed assistance for you or your loved one.

Other resources include: [1-800-273-TALK](tel:1-800-273-TALK) the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; [607-937-7800](tel:607-937-7800) for After-hours crisis line; www.networkofcare.org, www.omh.ny.gov and www.afsp.org.

Public Health – Centennial Celebration

Steuben County Public Health is proudly celebrating 100 years of service to the community! Please join Public Health at their celebration being held on Friday, June 8th from 6 – 9 pm at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport. Tastings from local wineries, breweries, and distilleries will be offered along with catered appetizers, a silent auction, raffles, live music by Unoriginal Gravity, and – of course – cupcakes! Tickets are on sale for \$15 before the day of the event at the Public Health office located in the County Office Building in Bath, Vines and Barrels Wine and Liquor Warehouse on State Route 54 in Bath, and online at <https://tinyurl.com/100yeartickets>. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20. Proceeds from the auction and raffles will go to the Finger Lakes Trails Conference to maintain and upgrade trails in Steuben County. The trails are a wonderful, free way to enjoy what our county has to offer outdoors.

Office for the Aging – Volunteer Updates

May is Older Americans Month and an ideal opportunity to showcase the valuable contribution older adult volunteers make in their communities. Phyllis Rathbun of North Cohocton and Glenn Davis of Avoca were honored by the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) as shining examples of service. The highly successful ramp program, the “Ramp Guys,” was also honored with the AgingNY Volunteer Innovation Award. RSVP recognized volunteer service at its 45th annual volunteer recognition event, with special recognition going to Rick Packer of Hornell and Mary “Betty” Langendorfer of Bath. Volunteers of the Hornell ProAction Senior Nutrition site also received special recognition for their tireless effort delivering meals the homebound. These volunteers showcase the dynamic abilities and endless compassion of our older adults, supporting education, aging independence, disaster services, food pantry support and much, much more with their service. There is more work that needs to be done, none of which could be accomplished without or older adult volunteers! If you would like to experience the rewards of giving back to your community, contact the RSVP Program of the Steuben County Office for the Aging at [607-664-2298](tel:607-664-2298).

Planning Department – Code Information

Junk motor vehicles and unmaintained properties are often a headache for small towns and villages. In rural areas of NY such as Steuben County, where the pastoral landscape drives tourism, these unsightly properties can stunt economic development and growth. Fortunately 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.

The State motor vehicle junkyard law applies in any municipality that has not enacted its own local law regulating motor vehicle junkyards. If a local municipality has enacted its own junk yard regulations then that law automatically trumps GML §136 even if the local law is less restrictive. GML §136 directs that “no person shall operate, establish or maintain a junkyard until that person has obtained a license to do so and has obtained a certificate of approval for the location of the junkyard.” According to GML §136 a junkyard is defined as a property with...” two or more unregistered, old, or secondhand motor vehicles.”

NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) contains provisions related to outdoor storage of materials in the Property Maintenance Code section. As with GML §136, the Uniform Code does not apply in municipalities that have adopted their own local property maintenance code. Junked Motor vehicles are also addressed in §302.8 of the Uniform Code, however it should be noted that §302.8 does not apply to unlicensed vehicles used by farm operations in a county adopted, State certified, agricultural district. The uniform Code also requires that all properties comply with the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) which lays out the responsibilities of property owners for the basic upkeep and maintenance of said property.

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 at the local level.

Real Property Tax Service Agency – Pictometry Information

Steuben County sponsors the online application known as Pictometry or Connect Explorer. This is a web based application that gives the municipal assessors the ability to view aerial photography of properties with the property boundary lines imposed over the aerial image. This allows them to see structures on remote properties that may be difficult to access as well as find structures that have been constructed but not reported or conversely, structures that have been removed or demolished and not reported. The assessor would have more accurate inventory of structures on properties and thereby assess the properties in their municipality more fairly and uniformly. The application gives the assessor the ability to obtain an approximate measurement of the area of structures, identify the types of structures and the number of structures on properties. An additional feature called ChangeFinder was made available to the assessors at no cost which allowed them to compare aerial imagery from an earlier flyover to the most current one to identify changes in the inventory. This provided the assessor and their staff another way to find structures that were added or removed and then adjust assessments as necessary. The County has also been absorbing the cost of more frequent “flyovers” so that the aerial imagery stays fairly up to date. The Pictometry application is also utilized by Code Enforcement Officers as well as emergency response personnel. Pictometry is administered through Steuben County’s 911-E Department and a User Agreement is required to be signed and notarized for each user wishing to have access. Any assessor or their staff not currently using Pictometry can gain access by contacting the Real Property Tax Director, Wendy Jordan at [607-664-2375](tel:607-664-2375) or Alan Brown, GIS Technician for 911-E at [607-664-2996](tel:607-664-2996).

Public Works – Municipal Roadside Cleanup Days

The Steuben County Legislature has once again approved municipal cleanup days, where Towns, Villages, and Cities can bring roadside debris to the County Landfill free of charge. There is a limit per municipality of 20 tons of garbage and 10 tons of tires. Each municipality has a two week window during the year to schedule their roadside cleanup program with the County. For additional information and to schedule, please contact John Emo at [\(607\) 346-5176](tel:607-346-5176).