

Steuben County Newsletter

September / October 2017



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK....

As summer comes to a close, budget season for the County and Towns commences. As always, 2018 will be a difficult budget year, with the anticipation of additional State mandates resulting from Raise the Age and indigent defense. Like all of our partner municipalities, we will develop a budget that pays for State requirements, addresses local needs, and is fair to the taxpayer.

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

Joseph Hauryski
Chairman
Steuben County Legislature

Shared Services Plan

The Steuben County Shared Services Panel has met multiple times over the spring/summer and have drafted a Shared Services Plan that identifies approximately \$1.9M in cost avoidance/savings to taxpayers. The Steuben County Legislature has reviewed this plan, and the County Manager conducted the three required public hearings, with virtually no public participation received. The Shared Services Panel will vote on this plan prior to September 15th, and it will then be submitted to the State. We are hopeful that the Governor follows through on his pledge to provide matching funds in the next State budget.

District Attorney Updates

With Labor Day, we wrap up a very busy spring/summer trial season in the District Attorney's Office. Since April, the Office has completed 15 felony trials in Steuben County Court. The trial run was occasioned by an Office of Court Administration (OCA) push to move cases here in the County, and we tried/resolved these cases and many more before not only our three elected Steuben County Court Judges, but also before four additional visiting County/Supreme Court Judges sent in by OCA to handle our caseload here in Steuben County. The trial crunch caused an "all hands on deck" situation for the Office – forcing reallocation of duties, a putting trials first and adding felony trial caseloads to ADA's traditionally assigned a full local court case load. The District Attorney personally, and successfully, tried 7 of those cases from April through August in effort avoid overburdening already taxed staff.

Highlights of that unprecedented trial run include successful prosecutions of:

Joseph and Iryn Meyers – for the arson/murder of David O'Dell in Wayland on February 15, 2016. Both Defendants were tried and convicted, as charged, of Murder and Arson in the First Degree; along with insurance fraud. Joseph Meyers received a 23 years to life sentence; and Iryn Meyers faces similar sanction when she appears for sentencing in October.

Dakota Miller – for the murder of 18 month old Ian Maniski-Huff in November of 2015. Miller, a predicate felon, was convicted after trial before visiting Ontario County Court Judge Brian Dennis of Murder in the

Second in the brutal beating death of an 18 month old child in Hornell. This emotional trial lasted three weeks and Defendant faces life in prison when he appears for sentencing on September 5, 2017.

Kenneth Calkins – for Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree. This crime, which involved the rape of a 5 year old child in Bath, happened in 2006, but the victim, then 5, was too traumatized to speak, after 11 years the Victim came forward, and after trial Defendant was convicted as charged. Calkins was sentenced to 15 years in a New York State Prison on June 28, 2017.

Ruben Bailey – for Criminal Sex Act Third and Tampering with Physical Evidence. Bailey, an escalating sex offender with multiple prior misdemeanor convictions, was tried on two indictments, and convicted for sex acts against a 14 year old girl in Corning and his efforts to destroy evidence of those crimes. He is now serving a 4 to 6 year sentence in State Prison, and will be subject to 8 years of post-release supervision as a registered sex offender after his time is served.

Bruno Langevin – for Sexual Abuse First Degree and Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree. Here, Defendant was convicted of committing multiple sexual acts against a child less than eight years of age. Langevin is now serving a 12 year sentence in a State Prison, and will be supervised for an additional 10 years upon his release.

Successful felony verdicts were also obtained in a contractor fraud case involving a senior citizen victim; burglary, bail jumping, and a number of other cases.

District Attorney Baker is thankful for the amazing effort and dedication put forth by the entire prosecution team – attorneys and support staff alike - for the high level of professionalism and shear effort during this period to bring these cases and so many others to successful conclusions for the victims and people of Steuben County. The staff of the District Attorney’s Office went above and beyond this summer, working many extra hours to prepare and try these cases – to make justice happen for the citizens of Steuben County.

Aside from trying cases, the DA’s Office continued in its efforts to deal with the drug epidemic threatening the County. Thru the District Attorney’s Drug Initiative and the coordinating role played by DA Investigator Walt Mackney, the Office, in cooperation with the Bath Village Police Department, Corning City Police Department, Steuben County Sheriff’s Office and the New York State Police – executed Operation Street Sweeper wrapping up a three month joint investigative effort by putting 12 Bath area narcotics dealers behind bars on a total of 18 sealed indictments in mid-July. Those cases are now pending in County Court.

The District Attorney is also pleased to announce that our successful efforts with the SWIFT, welfare fraud, taskforce have been recognized by New York State; and, the Office has been awarded renewal of our CARP grant – to fund, at zero taxpayer cost, our continued efforts to curb welfare fraud through investigation and prosecution. Here in the DA’s Office we continue to make every effort to serve and protect the People of Steuben County, as both citizens and taxpayers. We look forward to an exciting fall combining existing strategies and efforts with new programs in the offing to enhance public safety.

Emergency Services

The Steuben County Office of Emergency Services has some new programs to assist County residents in preparing for disasters and emergencies. The *Ready Steuben* App is now available for download to Smart Phones and Tablets. The *Ready Steuben* mobile app is designed to keep Steuben County citizens, businesses, and visitors prepared for and alerted to emergencies. It hosts many features that allow for its users to give and receive information during emergencies and disasters. It also allows users to prepare for events with important safety checklists to build their own emergency kits. The new mobile app is available for download free of charge from the iPhone and Google Play (Android) app stores.

In addition, the office has recently completed work on their “Functional Needs Database”. The Functional Needs Database will help the County identify and assist individuals with functional/special needs during an evacuation. Local residents or agencies can enter individuals into the secure database which will catalog individuals and their needs, map the evacuation area, which helps the County to deploy the essential resources to those who need it. To access this important new tool click on the following link: <https://www.delta-fnr.com/steubenny>

Office for the Aging – Public Input Sought

The Steuben County Office for the Aging is required by New York State to provide an opportunity for public comment on our annual plan for services for the upcoming year. Our public hearing will be held on *September 21, 2017 at 9 am* at the First Presbyterian Church on Pulteney Square in Bath. The hearing takes place prior to of a series of workshops on a variety of topics followed by a luncheon. Those wanting to have input on the annual plan can attend the public hearing only or sign up for the rest of the day’s activities by calling 607-664-2298. This event is handicap accessible and special accommodations can be made for other disabilities with prior request. Please visit the Office for the Aging tab on the county website under News and Events for more information. <https://www.steubencony.org>

Youth Bureau Updates

The beginning of another school year is full of “reminders”. Of course there’s always the reminder to be aware of school busses, and to PLEASE drive carefully around busses and around school crossings. The start of the year is also a great reminder of the important role that “After-School” programs play the lives of children and youth.

The Steuben County Youth Bureau administers state funding from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to support four youth centers in Steuben County. Located in Addison, Canisteo, Corning, and Hornell, these centers provide a safe place for children and youth to socialize and participate in a variety of positive developmental activities, including sports, arts and crafts, recreation, and career exploration. Centers also provide healthy snacks and meals for participants, helping to stretch family budgets a little further. Additional information can be found on the county webpage, under the Departments and Services tab.

Upcoming events in which the Youth Bureau is involved include:

- Strong Kids Safe Kids Family Festival, Sept. 16th, Bath
- LIGHTS-ON After School Rally, Oct. 13th, Corning
- Jack Lisi Youth Awards Fall Reception, Oct. 26th, Coopers Plains
- Steuben Youth Leadership Summit, Nov. 18th, site to be determined

For info on any of these events, contact the Youth Bureau at (607) 664-2119.

Public Health Updates

The S2AY Rural Health Network has a Cancer Services Fund to help residents with cancer-related expenses. Eligible cancer-related expenses include medical bills, co-pays, deductibles, prescriptions, testing, durable medical equipment, special foods or over the counter medicines (including lotions, supplements, etc.) and transportation costs, including mileage reimbursement for travel to medical appointments.

To receive the funds, participants must:

- Live in Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, or Yates County
- Have a family income less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level or have extreme financial hardship caused by cancer.

For more information on the program or to request funds, contact the S2AY Rural Health Network at 607-962-8459.

September is National Preparedness Month. Hurricane Harvey may seem like a “distant” catastrophe, especially if it didn’t touch you personally through family or friends. Did you know that flooding is the #1 rated hazard for Steuben County? On a lesser scale than Harvey, you most likely have had to deal with flooding. Once a hurricane makes landfall, the time to prepare has passed. Even three to four days ahead of the storm may be too late, since grocery stores may already be emptied of essential supplies. Make a family disaster plan. Stock your grab and go kit with some basic supplies. The CDC has compiled a wealth of information on hurricanes and tropical storms. See www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes. Now is the time to prepare! Consider volunteering; never self-deploy. There are many great organizations looking for capable volunteers. See www.readysteuben.com for a few local organizations.