



# SSSF

Steuben Senior Services Fund, Inc.  
*Building a Resource for Aging in Place*



## WINTER 2020      A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER      VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

Welcome to Wayne's Welcome, a newsletter about services and happenings in the Town of Wayne, NY. This newsletter is compiled and distributed by the Steuben Senior Services Fund, Inc. to help spread information throughout the community. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, or if you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please call the Town Clerk, at (607) 292-3450. Please consider going green by receiving this via email!!

### **Aging in Place News**

Oh what a time to be alive! It seems that everywhere you look technology is growing and expanding. Just about everywhere you turn you hear about new advancements in healthcare, leisure activities, in the work place, and the list goes on and on. Have you ever considered how technology can impact your life and well-being? Well devices such as the "Echo Dot or Show" can help you with all kinds of personal video conference with loved ones or medical providers, even provide reminders for you. Basically Alexa (the voice of Echo Dot or Show) can virtually assist you with most activities all by voice command.

Another great option for the use of technology is aging in place. With innovative technology offered by our Full Circle America program we offer in-home monitoring. The goal of the Full Circle America program is to allow for safe and effective aging in place. Interested in learning about how smart technology or Full Circle America can enhance your life and help you remain in your home with ease? Reach out to Steuben Senior Services Fund at 607-664-2298, and we can provide you with a free consultation. All of our services come with a no-obligation free 6 month trial!

### **Do You Need Help?**

- Understanding your Medicare benefits?
- Sorting through options to keep you at home safely?
- Understanding Medicare supplements and open enrollment?
- Finding someone to help you with meals and grocery shopping?
- Getting to doctor's appointments?
- Finding a volunteer position where you can use your talents and skills to help others?
- Applying for home repair and weatherization grants or utility assistance funds?
- Finding assistance with housekeeping, laundry and personal care?
- Managing your chronic condition?
- Connecting with family and friends?
- Handling the care of your loved one?

Call the Office for the Aging/ NY Connects at 607-664-2298 for information about all of the services mentioned and so much more! We are here to help you enjoy your senior years!

## Greetings from the Town of Wayne Supervisor – Tom Dunbar

Wow, what a year. Starting with my first day as supervisor where I found the office had been stripped of all the Town Supervisors' documents. After calls to our attorneys, a police investigation, and some quite contentious meetings with the town board a subset of records were returned. The investigation is still ongoing and hopefully soon there will be some sort of resolution.

Our bookkeeper retired the day before I started so that left us without the ability to perform the tasks of keeping up on payroll, balancing bank statements, paying bills and creating the Town AUD (Annual Update Document) required by the State comptrollers office. Special thanks go out to our accounting software vendor, Williamson Law and Debra Castle for stepping up to train me as bookkeeper. Its' a work in progress and I still rely on Debra to assist when I get into a new section of the books.

To date I have not hired a replacement bookkeeper as it was suggested by my accounting friends that I learn it first and then bring in some help. I am getting close so you may see a job advertisement sometime soon. Do not get nervous though, our books are in great order. Our bills are all paid and we have spent significantly less this year than last, so our Town is in good fiscal shape.

A soon-to-be resident, William Derrick, has offered a donation to enable the Town to acquire the NYSEG hydro plant land west of Keuka Village Road. A possible Hydro acquisition has always been a very contentious subject in our town and this year proved to be no different. We have a citizens group formed to provide input to the board Hydro Committee as well as a detailed analysis from our attorneys that will guide us through the process. Then COVID took off and the project stalled on AvanGrid's part. AvanGrid is now the parent company of NYSEG. We have had several quick contacts with AvanGrid that end with "we'll get back to you". Once we begin a conversation, we will convene the citizens group to work with our Board Hydro Committee consisting of John Walton and myself. Regardless of whatever and whenever something happens or does not, I sincerely thank Bill for his more than generous offer.

Next was trying to follow our Governors COVID response orders to close the town hall and stop meetings in person. This resulted in more calls to attorneys and the issuance of a Town Supervisor executive order to close our facilities so that we did not violate the governor's emergency state law. We experimented with WebEx and Zoom to continue town business remotely. In the beginning there were several technology issues to get through and at this point we can hold remote meetings efficiently.

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### MEAD-PRICE AMERICAN LEGION POST 1208

4926 County Route 26  
Wayne NY 14893  
(607) 292-6223



Hours: Sundays open at 1 PM to 6 PM Monday -Saturday open at 3 PM—9PM

3x5 American Flags for sale for \$18 each. The flag drop box is on the front porch for disposal of old American Flags

Keep an eye out for the drive through kids Christmas party! Kids will drive through and collect a small gift from us! Time and date to be announced.

Check out the facebook page to see anything new! Due to COVID-19 all events are subject to change facebook is a great way to stay updated.

## Greetings from your Town Clerk-Bill Mahr

2020 has definitely been one of the most challenging times in our little Town of Wayne's history, let alone our country! The impacts of the Coronavirus on our Town Hall day to day operations were significant but not unsurmountable.

Our Wayne Town Hall was closed to our citizens in mid-March and was unable to re-open until the end of July. During that time our Town of Wayne Staff operated on their normal schedule and communicated with our public on a regular basis.

We so appreciate the patience and understanding that our residents exhibited while we all dealt with the pandemic. After thorough research and with guidance by New York State our Town Hall was re-opened with a safety plan in place for all Town of Wayne employees, volunteers and our residents. This plan included but was not limited to plexiglass dividers around all employee and volunteer desks and in our Town Hall meeting room. Social distancing markers were placed and the wearing of masks have been strictly observed. Regular daily sanitizing duties have been shared among our staff in order to keep everyone safe.

Wayne Town Hall has been conducting its meetings for the Town, Planning and Zoning boards using a hybrid combination of both in person and Zoom conferencing. Currently, only 12 citizens are allowed in the Town Hall meeting room. These 12 people are in addition to the Board members, committee members and officers. This is not ideal but necessary for now.

On a positive note, although the pandemic caused a delay in our popular Town of Wayne events such as the Town Clean-up Day and the Rabies Clinic, by working together we achieved great success with both of these activities once they were rescheduled! Thank you to all who assisted working these events!!

As we transition into our winter season, your Town Hall will continue to adhere to whatever NYS requirements are put into place for the safety of all!

Thank you again for your patience as we look ahead to the upcoming holiday season and hopefully, a healthier 2021!!

Stay safe everyone and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call us or email anytime!! We are there for you!!

Respectfully yours,

Bill Mahr

Town of Wayne Clerk

clerk@townofwayneny.com

(607)292-3450

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## Famous Natives and Locations in Wayne

Wayne native Jonathan Goble is said to have invented the rickshaw in 1859. He was a Marine who traveled with Commodore Matthew Perry's squadron which opened Japan to western trade. He later returned as a Baptist missionary and was inspired to invent the rickshaw in order to transport his invalid wife around the streets of Tokyo.

A famous landmark in the township was the Keuka Hotel, built in 1895 on the shores of Lake Keuka. Hoagy Carmichael was the pianist and vocalist at the hotel for two seasons and local legend has it that his hit Stardust was written while at the Keuka hotel.

Francis M. McDowell, one of the seven founders of the National Grange and its treasurer for 21 years was born in Wayne, NY. In the 1860s, he returned to Wayne to grow grapes on the shores of Lake Keuka. He was also involved with his brother-in-law Samuel Hallett, in several enterprises. Samuel Hallett is known for building the largest home in Wayne, known as the "Aisle of Pines". It was a 20-column mansion, built in 1854, but it burned to the ground in 1974.

## Message from the Highway Superintendent

The pandemic created many challenges for the Wayne Highway department. This year resources had to be re-deployed to service the majority of the town's roads within the constraint of a very limited time frame.

Work slowed considerably as the health and safety of the employees became foremost. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions caused projects delays due to social distancing restrictions, lack of available county resources, and re-scheduling of projects following the town shut down. Road maintenance and mowing activities resumed in late June. All dirt and seasonal roads received critical annual maintenance. Ditching and culvert replacements, though delayed, got underway finally. Oil & stone resurfacing was performed on Alderman, Silsbee, Hyatt Hill and Ridge Road in September. Unfortunately, there are issues with the Coryell Road repair project that were exacerbated by the Covid delays. Going forward Coryell will be a priority for the department.

We also had to reschedule the town clean up from May to September. The event was very successful. Many thanks to the workers and volunteers who assisted with the event.

As you may be aware, the Wayne Highway department is responsible for maintaining approximately 35 centerline miles of roads in our town. Other roads such as Grove Springs Road (County Rte 94) and West Waneta Lake Road (County Rte. 87) are the responsibility of Steuben County. Please be patient as our community and county work to recover from this very strange year.

Thank you for your support.

Doug Howard  
Highway Superintendent  
[highway@townofwayneny.com](mailto:highway@townofwayneny.com)  
607-281-5156



## From the Town of Wayne Supervisor – Tom Dunbar (continued from page 2)

This did highlight an issue that is a problem for our town: suitable internet access. Many residents live in areas where access is limited or not available. I have heard from several folks that would like this problem resolved and we have one solution coming soon. Our Horvath cell tower that stands on the town grounds is near completion. Once online an option for the homes in the area could be using a Verizon “Jetpack” internet hotspot. There may be other cell vendors going onto the tower but for now it will be Verizon only. The tower is wired all except a connection to the new NYSEG transformer for power.

On the positive side, non-local property owners and “snowbirds” can now keep up on town business by zooming in. We have had several attendees from Florida, the Boston area and near Philadelphia. We will continue the zoom attendee option moving forward since it is a great way to participate without having to travel. It also removes the “You can’t do town business until the lake people come back” statements that have restricted moving projects forward in the past.

This year we went through a property re-assessment to bring the town up to full value assessment. I know many are concerned about the levels of increase and some have been challenged. Look at your tax bill when it comes in and you may be a bit surprised. With an increase in the overall tax base and a level Town budget the per thousand tax rates will be smaller. If you still feel that it is too much, I encourage you to visit our assessor and have a discussion. While it cannot be changed for this year it can for the next if you have a good argument.

Our highway department has chosen to unionize in a process that began in the summer of 2019. We negotiated with the Teamsters Union and reached a tentative agreement this summer that failed acceptance by the board. Negotiation is ongoing with a new negotiating group comprised of our attorneys, Shona Freeman, and John Walton.

I have a focus on technology improvement that will improve services to our residents. We implemented a camera system oversight to our compost location. This has enabled us to increase the number of days it is open while decreasing the compost budget. Our Town hall infrastructure has been updated to enable improved network security and capability. In addition, it allows us to work remotely which may become an issue again with the resurgence of COVID. To assist residents who do not have suitable internet we now have a stronger Wi-Fi signal that reaches the parking lot. From there you can get internet access and participate in meetings.

Our 2021 budget has been approved and we have a new line item for Senior Services. Under this line is our commitment to the Aging in Place program that provides this newsletter. As we have seen with the pandemic, aging in place is now more desirable than ever. Technology improvements are the key in my view. We need good internet connections to allow automated data transfers to those who would assist us in our homes. Sensors and software can enable our health care facilities to monitor our conditions and quickly respond when needed.

To improve communication and transparency we have started a new Facebook page for the town. We will try to keep this updated with information you may want to reference for the proceedings of your government and concerns from residents and landowners. Our traditional website has shown some limitations for communication which apparently do not have a solution. Please email me directly at [supervisor@townofwayneny.com](mailto:supervisor@townofwayneny.com) and I will try to have your concern addressed.

COVID does not seem to be going away soon and we are learning much about the method of transmission. It is now well documented that transmission as an aerosol (floating in the air) is a major vector. To reduce your risk it is important to recognize this and provide as much fresh air ventilation as you can tolerate and limit the length of time you are in spaces that may have an accumulation of the virus. Warm your space before company arrives and open the windows while they are there is a good policy.

Every once and a while nature provides a bit of an artistic flair. One rogue branch of our rose bush reached up and perfectly framed itself in one of our windows. Being next to the window it is surviving the frosty evenings and continues to bloom away as shown in the image below. Stay safe and well in this holiday season.

Kind Regards,

Tom



**Steuben Senior Services  
Fund, Inc.  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, NY 14810**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Bath, NY  
Permit No. 10001**

# WAYNE'S WELCOME

## TOWN OF WAYNE NEWS AND NOTES

Benjamin Franklin said “Nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes,” and it’s that time of year for the later. Your 2021 Town and County Property Taxes are due Friday, January 31, 2021. If you did not get your tax bill, please contact Bill Mahr, Town Clerk and Tax Collector. Dates for penalty fees will be based on the postmark on the envelope, not when we receive them. A penalty will be added to all taxes received after January 31. Taxes can be paid at the Town Hall in January, February, and March. No tax payments will be accepted by the town after March 31st. If you have any questions, contact Bill at 607-292-3450 or Steuben County at 607-664-2373.

March 1st is the deadline for any STAR exemption paperwork. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or sign up, you can contact the town assessor, Dave Oliver on Tuesdays at the town Hall 607-292-3450.

### PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

Open to the Public

7:00 pm at the Town Hall

2nd Monday of each month

January 11, February 8, March 8

### ZONING BOARD MEETINGS

Open to the public

7:00 pm at the Town Hall

1st Monday of each month – when needed

### Town of Wayne Board Members

**Tom Dunbar, Supervisor:** 607-742-0665 [supervisor@townofwayneny.com](mailto:supervisor@townofwayneny.com)

**Mike Haff:** 607-731-4562 [mhaff@hilliardcorp.com](mailto:mhaff@hilliardcorp.com)

**Shona Freeman:** 954-242-1866 [shonafreeman1@gmail.com](mailto:shonafreeman1@gmail.com)

**Elizabeth Kenyon:** 607-292-6874 [elizabethkenyonboard@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethkenyonboard@gmail.com)

**John Walton:** 908-399-3999 [jjwalton@att.net](mailto:jjwalton@att.net)