



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

March – May 2016

Doesn't it appear as if the County is always in turmoil over something? Well, it is. If it's not the court expansion, the Siemens contract, or the railroad, now it's our form of government. We have a few at large supervisors who are not happy with the county form of government and feel we should go to legislators. At our March meeting Steve Aquario, who has worked at NYSAC for 25 years, was there to explain our choices. He saw nothing wrong with a Board of Supervisors and felt that if is not broken, why fix it? If we went to legislators there would be 1 vote per just over 7000 people, that's approximately 5 of our small towns having 1 representative and 1 vote. Bigger yet would be the impact on our sales tax. Definitely something to consider as we receive a healthy amount in sales tax money.

April 10-16, 2016 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Warren County reaffirms its commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during this week and throughout the year. Our gratitude goes out to the community members, victim service providers and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving the county's response to all victims of crime that they may find assistance, support, justice and peace.

At our March Warren County meeting we had a lengthy discussion on the railroad. Again, there were supervisors (as you probably saw in the Post Star) who are opposed to it. They were overlooking the benefit it gave to small towns. We should be working together to see if we can't help each other out, but that is not always the case. We did authorize an extension agreement with Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC and the Town of Corinth. We approved the updated workplace violence policy as well as approving revisions to the Warren County purchasing Policy. We awarded a bid and authorized an agreement with BBG& G Advertising Inc. for tourism consultant services to evaluate and analyze Warren County's tourism strategies. Staff from BBG&G are now meeting with supervisors, businessmen and other groups to see how effective the tourism department is in promoting Warren County. I met this past week with a representative. They are trying to get an idea of how the county could better help each town, what each town has to offer and if we could work with other towns to do activities.

At the April meeting May was proclaimed as Older Americans Month. Every citizen was urged to take time this month to engage with our older citizens. The state has come up with more of its mandates. Warren County already pays more than \$1,000,000 for indigent legal services, but the state is changing the rule which take effect in October, so even budgeting for 2017 will be difficult. With the new mandates the county's cost will double. Further, the state has paid the salary for the District Attorney for over 50 years, but it got left out of the budget. The county has to come up with an additional \$30,000.00 for the increase. We passed a resolution to go to the state requesting that they pass legislation to pay for the increase. All these mandates impact the county budget and the taxes you pay.

On the town level we have dealt with our fuel oil tank issue and satisfied DEC's requirements, changed health insurance from CDHP to Blue Shield in order to not experience a 19% increase, were recipients of a grant through the LGA to help pay for staff at the boat launch this summer. The park attendants, lifeguards and visitor center staff have been hired for the summer.

Hazardous Cleanup Day was in Warrensburg May 21st. The county received a matching grant from DEC for this cleanup. This was very successful as 27- 55 gallon drums were filled along with many containers. The second Household Hazardous Waste Day was June 18, 2016 in Queensbury. Warren County offered a fishing clinic and Open House on May 14th at the Warren County Fish Hatchery in Warrensburg. There was a tour of the hatchery; fishing techniques were shown, fly tying demonstrations, etc. It was free admission and free lunch. Free raffles for fishing gear were held every hour. Up Yonda Farm, Trout Unlimited, Crossroads Outdoors, and Nemecc's Sport Shop donated items for the raffle. I am sorry that I was too late getting this out for you to attend. Over 500 participants attended over 200 were children which is what they were hoping for) and it was an overall wonderful event.

Congratulations to Bob and Jan Whitaker for being the POST STAR's shining stars! As you know they head up the AARP program for doing taxes. It has been a very successful program and greatly appreciated by those who take advantage of it. Bob and Jan are very involved in many community activities.

Another year with another great Memorial Day Parade, thanks to Mike and Maureen Cherubini, their committee and the Senior Citizen group. If you are not involved then you aren't aware of how early the planning starts and how much time goes into making it all happen. Tom James was the speaker for the day and gave a wonderful talk.

I trust you have noticed how nice our park looks this year with our new building for the park attendants. Much work was done there to get things spruced up. Have you seen our new sign out in front of the Community Center? I think Willie Grant from Port Henry did a wonderful job.

NYS requires an update of our Hazard Mitigation Plan every 5 years. Our ZEO, Cathy Clark, has spent hours completing this for us. The review period closes on June 24th. You may want to review it. Go to www.warrenswed.org. This link will get you directly to the webpage for documents-<http://www.warrencountynyhmp.com/Pages/docsreview.aspx>. The public can submit comments directly to our ZEO or to Warren County Soil and Water.

In May our Inter-County meeting was in Herkimer County. We had a tour of Feldmier Industries in Little Falls. This company makes stainless steel containers. They supply to dairies, yogurt makers, wastewater treatment plants, etc. They build tanks that range from 1,000 gallons up to 80,000. It is a family owned business that has revenues of \$80 million a year. They employ 180 people, many who have come from the Herkimer BOCES. What a fascinating operation in addition to employing people in that area!

Enjoy the summer. I am here every day, so feel free to stop by.