

# Cayuga County Administrator's MONTHLY REPORT

Reporting Period: January 1 - 31, 2019



## New County Website



State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli & Special Assistant to the Comptroller, Darrel Aubertine, discuss the OSC audit of Cayuga County with Administrator Woods



Sheriff Schenck and Undersheriff Smith attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Millennium Luncheon



Winners of the Health Department's county-wide school contest to design artwork that shows the negative effects of smoking and vaping



Probation Officer Murley participated in annual Point in Time Census of the Homeless



Cayuga County Government  
[www.cayugacounty.us](http://www.cayugacounty.us)

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## Department Updates

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### County Administrator's Message

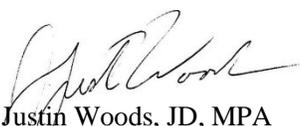
Happy New Year! Please find our latest edition of the County Administrator's Monthly Report. The Monthly Report is designed to provide up-to-date data and information on the operations of County Government. Within you will find monthly updates from departments and contract agencies, and special reports.

January has been an exciting and busy month in Cayuga County. First and foremost, we launched our new County website. Our project team worked at an incredible pace to complete the redesign of the County's website in less than five months. This was a team effort, supported by the Legislature, and executed by a dedicated county-wide project team. We are still adding content and rolling out new features, but please visit <https://www.cayugacounty.us> and let us know what you think!

January has also been a month of transition. New leadership started in the Department of Public Works, and key staff in Information Technology, Human Resources, and Emergency Management departments retired or left to pursue other opportunities. In the short-term, this challenges our operations to keep pace with daily needs, but it also provides exciting opportunities to rethink how these offices may provide critical operational support to the County in more efficient ways, and it gives us the opportunity to add some new staff that brings a fresh perspective to the County.

Lastly, several legislators, department heads and I attended the annual NYSAC Legislative Conference in Albany. Over 600 attendees convened in bipartisan standing committee meetings, training workshops, keynote addresses, and business meetings to develop a series of policy positions on issues that will impact New York State's county governments. County leaders are closely watching and preparing for voting reforms, adult-use marijuana legalization, bail reform, property tax cap permanency, cashless bail, community college funding, and the budget impacts of state-mandated programs.

On behalf of the Cayuga County employees and department heads, we hope the Legislature finds this report an informative tool that assists them in serving their constituents as policymakers, and we hope it provides transparency and useful information to the community at large. As always, we look forward to hearing your feedback!



J. Justin Woods, JD, MPA  
County Administrator

## ADMINISTRATION

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### County Administrator's Office

J. Justin Woods, JD, MPA

*County Administrator*

- Participated in Facilitated Intense Negotiations with CSEA that lead to a tentative labor agreement which was voted down by the Union.
- Participated in the search process for a new Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director.
- Facilitated a smooth leadership transition in the IT Department until a new IT Director is hired.
- Launched County website, including 30 departments and 19 towns and villages. The new website launched January 28, 2019 after less than five months of preparation and includes a number of citizen engagement features and intuitive search functions for residents. Please join me in congratulating Monika Salvage and the entire web team on a fantastic job!
- With legislative approval, hired David Gardner and Carl Martel as Director and Deputy Director of Public Works for the newly created Department of Public Works. Please join me in welcoming them to the team!
- Attended a Corporate Compliance Committee meeting.
- Participated in a meeting to discuss the Regional Water & Sewer Master Plan and its potential for users in the Aurora area.
- Attended the Economic Forecast Luncheon organized by the Cayuga Economic Development Agency, and the NAACP Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Luncheon.
- We are in the process of reviewing and reorganizing Emergency Management operations.

## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

- Attended the NYSAC Legislative Conference in Albany, but left a little early when my wife went into labor with our fourth child. Jessa Louise-Violet Woods was born healthy on January 30.



### Department of Human Resources

**Michael T. Russell**

*Human Resources Administrator*

**YEAR-TO-DATE COMBINED TRANSACTIONS: 77**

- County departments: 38 total transactions
- Schools, Towns, Villages, BOCES & Special Districts:

<b>17</b>	Schools
<b>15</b>	Towns
<b>3</b>	Villages
<b>4</b>	BOCES
<b>0</b>	CCC
<b>0</b>	Seymour Library
<b>0</b>	Soil & Water
<b>0</b>	Water & Sewer
<b>39</b>	<b>Total Transactions</b>

- Specific personnel action that was taken (year to date):

Transaction Type	No.
Permanent Appointments	19
Provisional Appointments	2
Contingent-Permanent Appointments	0
End of Probationary Period	21
Layoffs Due to Abolishment of Positions	0
Layoffs Due to Lack of Funds or Work	0
Promotions	2
Reinstatements	1
Removals	3
Resignations	6
Retirements	0
Seasonal Appointments	0
Temporary Appointments	1

- Exams administered & Application fees collected:

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

Exams Administered		Application Fees Collected:	
January Only	1	January Only	\$210
Year-to-Date	1	Year-to-Date	\$210

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

### Information Technology

#### Paul Bornemann

##### *Interim Chief Information Officer*

- Transitioned IT Director/CIO role on an interim basis to Paul Bornemann and Pat Stack as interim Deputy IT Director.
- Assessed the current IT environment, resource needs, assets, policies, and security approach.
- Met with department leadership to understand their needs.
- Reviewed security requirements and posture to rebalance with user functionality.
- Met with strategic vendors providing the County with IT products and services, with a focus on ensuring County staff and the community with systems that provide the best overall value.
- Supported move to new County website and planned retirement of legacy website.
- Implemented upgrades to many County IT systems, including Exchange, Wireless Networks, and the Northwoods DSS/OCFS system.
- Migrated DSS users from NYS-owned desktops to County-owned devices.
- Worked with IT team for continuous improvement in service delivery.
- Helpdesk support activity:
  - In process from prior months: 224
  - New Requests this month: 441
  - Resolved this month: 463
  - Currently in process: 202

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



## Department of Planning & Economic Development

Stephen F. Lynch, AICP

*Director*

### WATER QUALITY

- **WATERSHED RULES & REGULATIONS:** Staff is finalizing the draft Watershed R&R for final presentation to the Steering Committee and Extended Staff Working Group.
- **OWASCO FLATS PROJECT:** Phase One state grant funding has been completed and closed out. In early spring of 2019, planning staff and the contractor will assess the project and finalize Phase One. Staff still plans to request legislative authorization to submit a 2019 CFA grant to fund remaining project components within Owasco Flats.

### PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- **EMERSON PARK \$482,000 CFA GRANT – DEAUVILLE ISLAND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:** Staff working with landscape architects on design and bid documents. Construction planned for late summer - early fall 2019.
- **EMERSON PARK STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE:** \$212,000 in grant funding for this project has been received from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation and the County has an executed professional services contract with Biederman Redevelopment Ventures of New York (“BRV”) to prepare the Emerson Park Strategic Programming Plan. The Planning and Parks staff are hosting the BRV team on January 31<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> for the initial kick-off meetings. Select stakeholders from Tourism, Planning, Economic Development, the Emerson Foundation, and certain park venues will participate in these two days of introductory meetings. As the project moves forward, there will be ample opportunity for a range of stakeholders (and the general public) to participate. We will keep the Legislature well-informed with opportunities to attend meetings with BRV.
- **STERLING NATURE CENTER FACILITY DESIGN:** Beardsley Architects of Auburn is under contract to prepare schematic building design and construction cost estimates. The project team met a number of times with the architects in January and finalized the general site

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

location for the proposed facility. The next steps will be the preparation of schematic facility designs and cost estimates.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT–COORDINATION WITH CEDA

- **CAYUGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LOAN PROGRAM:** The Planning Director and Administrative Assistant are staff to the CCDC loan program. Staff is currently working with the Bonadio Group CPAs on the annual financial audit.

### CLEAN & RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

- **\$250,000 NYSERDA CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY GRANT:**
- **CCPUSA Strategic Plan Component:** In late January, staff circulated an RFP for professional services for the Organizational / Operational Strategic Plan for the County Public Utility Services Agency. Proposals are due in March.
- **Purchase of County Hybrid-Electric Fleet Vehicles:** The grant is funding purchase of two 2018 KIA NIRO PHEV FWD (Hybrid, Plug-In) SUVs. The vehicles were secured, as required, under the state mini-bid procurement. The County is now arranging for vehicle delivery and processing. The vehicles costs were slightly higher than the grant budget allocation (estimated during the grant application process and before the state mini-bid) and the Planning Department will seek a no-cost budget change with the grantor to cover the approximate \$3K cost differential with a reallocation of grant funds.
- **Purchase and Installation of Two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** The department is finalizing equipment purchase and installation quotes for establishing two dual-port stations in the County. One dual-port station will be located adjacent to the County Office Building (wall mounted) and the second station will be installed in Frontenac Park, adjacent to the Union Springs municipal facility. The grant requires that the stations are either used for County fleet vehicles or made available to the general public. The plan is to have the COB station dedicated to the new County fleet vehicles discussed above, and the Union Springs charging station to be available to the public. A Memorandum of Agreement should be prepared and executed between the County and the Village of Union Springs regarding the Village's commitment to maintain and operate the US charging station during the term of the grant (4 years) and thereafter.
- **Lighting Upgrades at the County Jail:** The Superintendent from Buildings and Grounds is working with the facility staff at the Jail to finalize the specific scope of lighting upgrades within the grant budget

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

and documenting the projected annual energy savings as required by the grant. This component of the grant cannot move forward until that scope and energy savings assessment is complete.

### TOWN & VILLAGE ASSISTANCE

- MUNICIPAL LAND USE PLANNING UNDERWAY AND PENDING:

Village of Moravia Comprehensive Plan – 2017 CFA grant award – Work commenced in October and will continue through 2019.

Town of Moravia Comprehensive Plan – 2018 CFA grant application submitted 7/27/18 – Announcement of state grant award in December. Expect state grant contracts in Q1-Q2 2019. Staff has commenced work.

Village of Union Springs / Town of Springport LWRP – Planning work completed. Delays in state reviews will push grant closing out into Q2 2019.

Village of Fair Haven Zoning Ordinance Updates for the Central Business District Area – Village has requested an extension of the project to adjust the proposed ordinance after public input. Work will be completed by end of March 2019.

Town of Victory Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grant – Grant approved; work began in December and will continue through 2019.

Village of Fair Haven – Town of Sterling Joint Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (“LWRP”) – Senior Planner Kari Terwilliger and Planner Kiva VanDerGeest have worked with the Village and Town to agree on County submission of an LWRP grant application in the upcoming state Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) round. The county grant application would be prepared by staff at no cost to the Town/Village and submitted on their behalf. If funded, the Town and Village would commit some matching (cash) funds to the effort (with some in-kind staff hours added to create a competitive grant application). With a state funding award, the County Planning staff would take on the +/- 2-year project and receive the grant funds as reimbursement our work. Successful completion of a joint Town-Village LWRP from the Department of State will position the municipalities to successfully apply for implementation funds from the state.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

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### County Attorney's Office

Christopher Palermo, Esq.

*County Attorney*

- Supported annual organization and contracting.
- Assisting with interim oversight of IT.
- Reviewing bylaws and statutes of subsidiary entities.
- Involved with several HR/legal matters, including Chief Assistant temporarily assigned to HR/Civil Service.
- Facilitating CCC real estate transactions.
- Finalizing lease and subdivision for the solar project.
- Consolidated legal research software accounts throughout most of the County departments, resulting in annual savings.
- Continuing to assess opportunities for streamlining legal services/contracts, and assessing the County legal department.

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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### Board of Elections

Cherl A. Heary (R)

Katie Lacey (D)

*Commissioners*



- Staff processed 1,191 records changes, including 78 new registrations.
- We conducted our annual full staff review meeting. Staff members are encouraged to bring up operations issues, problems, suggestions after our busy election season. We discussed goals, spent considerable time on anticipated elections law changes and its impact on our operations, particularly staffing needs.
- Commissioners surveyed and selected new polling locations for the Towns of Scipio and Moravia. In both cases, the polling place was moved to a fire hall. All voters in both towns will be notified of the change.
- Commissioner Lacey attended the Election Commissioner's conference. Most of the meetings dealt with anticipated election law changes and equipment needs of local counties.
- The deputies completed the extensive NYS elections report.
- The deputies prepared information for the new county website.
- Election Reform Laws – Recent changes will have a major impact on the local election operations, the most immediate one being the calendar revisions resulting from the single June primary. We have notified local Town Clerks and Supervisors and local political party officials of the new political calendar as well as offices up for election this year. By far, the greatest impact will be the institution of early voting for the general election this year. In the coming weeks, we will need to determine voting locations, equipment needs, staffing, and budget impact.

## CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

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### Clerk of the Legislature

**Sheila Smith**

*Clerk of the Legislature*

#### AUDITING

- Completed auditing for the effective date of 1/1/19, a couple of minor corrections.

#### POLICY GROUP

- No report.

#### CODIFICATION

- Received a letter from LoriAnn, Account Manager General Code. She has taken a new job and Todd Metcalfe will be taking over the process of codifying the County's Local Laws. I will be setting up a meeting with him in the near future.

#### OTHER

- Amanda Morgan, Deputy Clerk, has done the training for the new website. We have cleaned up the Clerk of the Legislature page and will move forward with updating and getting myself trained.

## COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

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### Employment & Training Cayuga Works Career Center

**Ann Kubarek**

*Director*

- In January, over 800 people used the services of the Cayuga Works Career Center and 113 individuals participated in the various employment and job readiness workshops that are offered at the Career Center.
- Currently, there are 364 jobs posting for Cayuga County listed in the New York State Job Bank, which is the database the New York State Workforce Development system uses to centralize job postings for area employers. This platform is available to employers at no cost to post their job openings and to interface with available workers.  
<https://newyork.us.jobs/index.asp>
- The Cayuga-Cortland Workforce Development area met all performance standards under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the program year 2017 (7/1/17-6/30/18).
- A workgroup has been formed to address the development of the Workforce Development Center planned for the Cooperative Extension building on Grant Avenue. Stakeholders from Cayuga Community College, Cayuga Works Career Center, and Cornell Cooperative Extension will meet weekly with the architect and building staff to formulate the best use of the space and function in the building rehabilitation project.
- Unemployment data:

	Cayuga County	New York State	United States
Dec 2018	4.1%	3.8%	3.7%
Dec 2017	5.1%	4.4%	3.9%

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## Department Updates

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### Dept. of Social Services | Mental Health

#### Raymond Bizzari

##### *Director of Community Services*

- The acuity and suicidality of kids and adolescents in the foster care, mental health population is alarming.
- There are continued stresses in the foster care system related to home finding, capacity, etc.
- Adult guardianships continue to increase.
- Continued realignment in the family and children services including a good plan for IV-E eligibility.
- Continue working on the homeless services, Raise the Age, and Special Juvenile Services Plan.
- Beginning work on the County's Consolidated Mental Hygiene Services plan.
- Continued work on Value-Based Payments methodology and readiness. Governor's budget proposed extending Part 599 clinic rates into 2022. This is good news.
- Meeting with school districts to implement a new lethality assessment protocol derived from the FBI findings post-Columbine. We believe it's a best practice model.
- Started evaluation about potentially integrating Youth Bureau into DSS.

## COUNTY CLERK

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### County Clerk's Office

Susan M. Dwyer

*County Clerk*

#### DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Total retention to Clerks Office (in-office transactions): \$46,856
- Total transactions completed in our DMV office: 5,561
- Total online transactions conducted by Cayuga County residents: 1,529
- Total online County sharing retention: \$0
- Total Sales Tax collected and paid to the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance: \$83,375
- Total YTD DMV retention (in-office transactions and online sharing): 46,856
- Difference between YTD Revenue and YTD Budget: -\$4,811

#### CLERK'S RECORDING OFFICE

- Total amount remitted to County Treasurer: \$120,158
- List of the transactions processed in which fees are collected:
  - 599 land documents: Deeds, easements, mortgages, mortgage discharges & assignments, etc. (this includes electronically-submitted recordings)
- 8 survey maps filed
- 53 business certificates: DBA/Partnership/Corporation – new, amendments, discontinuances
- 98 passport applications submitted to the US Department of State and 161 passport photos for passport processing, passport renewals (\$5,770)
- 22 judgments filed and docketed: Supreme Court, lower courts, State of NY
- 55 Notary Public transactions: New and renewals (this does not include the number of documents that were notarized by staff as free service mandated by the State of New York)

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## Department Updates

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Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

- 95 Supreme Court Index Numbers issued: Supreme Court cases started this month
- 18 Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) transactions: New, continuation, termination, search
- 2 military discharge filed (Veterans are not charged a fee to file or obtain copies of their DD214)
- WEBSITE: Haley Brechue continued to be part of the new county website team as well as creating and working on updating the County Clerks page for the new website. She participated in many trainings and team meetings in preparation for the new county website which is set to be unveiled at the end of the month. Great job Haley!
- January 7 & 8: Staff trained with IQS, our vendor, in preparation for the commencement of e-filing.
- January 13, 14, & 15: Attended the New York State Association of County Clerks (NYSACC) Winter Conference in Albany, NY. We discussed upcoming legislative issues, networked about changes in our offices and attempted to meet with our state representatives. Unfortunately, they were all voting until late into the evening and as a result, they were unable to meet with us. We put together a list of legislative priorities which included: requesting an increase in the County share of the DMV revenue which will keep more money in the county; Encourage legislation regarding the signing and recording of a Modification, Extension, or Renewal of an Energy, Oil, Gas, or Mineral Land Lease companies to include the land owner's signature on any of the changes in a lease agreement; Encourage legislation providing for County-level transparency of Limited Liability Companies so we would have an index in our offices; Support the expansion of e-filing with the Office of Court Administration; Support legislation reforming the Local Government Records Management Fund; Support legislation amending Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law which would help safeguard a person's personal information by limiting who could and would have access to those records.  
Other topics we discussed were; updates on The SAFE Act; the fact that the majority in Albany (Assembly & Senate) will be pushing through legislation on issuing driver's licenses to illegal aliens. This will directly affect all of our staff in the DMV and we do not have specific information about what types of documents we will be required to accept/reject.  
I serve on the following NYSACC Committees: Chairperson of the Audit Committee; Legislative Committee, County Clerks Centennial

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## Department Updates

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Committee, and I am one of three clerks to serve on the State Donate Life Task Force.

- January 17 & 18: We had a skype training from the New York State Court Electronic Filing (NYSCEF) to prepare us for the January 23 commencement of e-filing court papers in our office.
- January 22: Appointed the following people to serve on the Records Advisory Committee: William Hulik, Jr.; Mary Ann Marr; Sarah Donovan; and Hon. Joseph DeForest.
- January 23: We commenced e-filing of court papers in our office and received and successfully e-filed our first court case. Congratulations to the hard work of all of our staff!
- Issued media communications to educate the public about becoming an organ donor, inform them about why it's important to use our local DMV Office, and encourage veterans and local businesses to participate in our veterans discount program called Return The Favor.

### RECORDS RETENTION CENTER

- Health and Human Services Department shredding continues
- District Attorney's Office scanning project continues
- Board of Elections scanning
- The number of documents scanned in January: 29,128
- Records requests in January: 120

### HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

- 16 in-person visitors to the office with queries and research projects
- 14 queries through phone, email and letter requests
- Project to digitize the Auburn "Advertiser Journal" newspaper, in collaboration with the Seymour Library, was initiated. When completed, this local newspaper (1913-1931) from our collection will be made available to the public on "NYHistoricnewspapers.org".
- Work continues to index and organize extensive photo collections and Special Collections
- Considerable time spent organizing and generating content for our new pages on the County website

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

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### E-911 Center

Denise Spingler

*911 Administrator*

#### CENTER UPDATES

- Hiring two new employees – March 2019
- 2019 Initiative – Staff relationships/building responder trust – Currently, law enforcement responders are shadowing staff to gain a better understanding of what happens in dispatch; dispatchers will shadow officers in the field, including fire departments.

#### ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- Received Grant Site Visit Report – Recommendations reviewed; corrections made and reported back to DHSES
- Received a letter from Arc of Seneca thanking 911 for allowing citizens with specials needs to register information ahead of time before emergencies happen.
- Quarterly grant reporting completed – 2013 SIEC Grant closed
- NYS NextGen911 Working Group – meeting in Albany to discuss plans for NYS project: Goals for NYS NextGen 911 deployment statewide; funded by NYS
- NYSPILL – New York State Spillman Users Group – Hosted by Cayuga County – BOCES – Feb 2019
- AVL EMS Project – Working on the potential deployment of AVL units to interested EMS agencies in Cayuga County. We are in the early stages of the project trying to gain an idea of the interested partners and the logistics involved as we move forward. This is a grant-funded program.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Emergency Management Office

Stephen F. Lynch, AICP

*Director of Planning (Interim Management Oversight)*

- Unexpected resignations have resulted in a single full-time staff person (and 15 PT employees) in the Emergency Management Office, Deputy Director Niel Rivenburgh.
- On an interim basis, Planning Director Steve Lynch is providing management oversight of the EMO office, and Kim Taggerty has been temporarily reassigned from the Administrator's Office to provide administrative support. Additional administrative support for purchasing, procurement, and grants, as needed, will be provided by the County Administrator's Office and the Planning Department.
- Outreach and communication regarding the staffing changes at the EMO office have been made to various stakeholders, including but not limited to Emergency Services Coordinators & Fire Inspectors, Fire Chiefs & Ambulance Providers, Fire Training and Grant Agencies.
- A meeting of the Deputy Coordinators was held to discuss coordination of support for emergency operations and the steps the County is taking to facilitate the transition in the EMO.
- The EMO continues to monitor weather and extreme cold conditions and is communicating with stakeholders as needed.
- Environmental Engineer Bruce Natale (Planning Dept.) and Niel Rivenburgh at EMO are monitoring rivers and streams for frazzle ice and potential ice jams.
- The EMO Office is moving forward with ongoing EMS classes including two Certified First Responder classes, one EMT Original class, and one EMT Original / Refresher class.
- On the immediate horizon is working with state and local partners on next year's fire training schedule and initiating a three-county regional Haz-Mat Plan project that will be grant funded and contractor-driven (Cortland, Cayuga, Tompkins Counties).

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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### Health Department

Kathleen Cuddy, MPH

*Public Health Director*

- The Cayuga County Health Department was notified by the New York State Department of Health that we were awarded funds for having attained the goals set for the focused performance improvement in 2018. The achievement was based on the early and accurate adoption of electronic submissions of Environmental Health documents and forms throughout 2018 and ongoing. The Cayuga County Health Department will receive the maximum performance incentive allowed for this category (\$30,000) to put toward our Article 6 state aid work.

Additionally, congratulations to our Communicable Disease and Environmental staff who respond to legionella. The disease control and environmental inspection required to appropriately test, treat, and respond to disease and sources of legionella in a timely and thorough manner netted us an additional \$10,000 to go toward state aid related activity.

- The Cayuga County Health Department is pleased to invite Healthcare, Mental Health, and Social Work personnel to training on

“Motivational Interviewing as a Way of Being in Healthcare: Smoking and Vaping”

The training will be Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 5 pm. 1.5 CMEs are available. Dinner is included. There is no charge, but reservations are required by calling 315-253-1560.

This topic provides ongoing education on one of our goals for 2019 to address the reduction in tobacco use and vaping and is funded through a grant attained by the Health Department.

Dr. Beth Gero, a specialist in tobacco use and vaping cessation, provided additional training opportunities by presenting on 2/5/19 to an all-school assembly at Auburn Junior High, providing a presentation to members of the public that evening and presenting an additional seminar to Union Springs middle school on 2/7/19.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Office for the Aging

**Brenda Wiemann**

*Director*

- Contracted with Coburn Design for a publicity campaign to educate Medicare-eligible community members about the unbiased health insurance counseling services offered through our office. The Facebook campaign reached 6,374 people over 2 months. In addition, large promotional magnets were placed on four SCAT Vans and three print-ready ads are ready to use ongoing.
- One of our Aging Services Specialists is now managing the department website page and new Facebook page.
- Served 66,085 home-delivered and congregate meals to seniors in 2018.
- Provided 11,425 hours of aide service to area seniors in 2018.
- Provided over 1,400 contacts with over 600 individuals to assist with benefits eligibility and long-term care options counseling in 2018 through NYConnects.
- Work continues with the Administrator, B&G, Real Property, and representatives from the Boyle Center to evaluate the feasibility of consolidating OFA into one location at the Boyle Center.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Veteran's Service Agency

#### Jessica Strassle

##### *Director*

- Supported 358 veterans including 84 walk-in clients, 36 scheduled appointments, and 111 follow up services provided for existing clients.
- Submitted 14 new claims for disability benefits. Aided 7 families with receiving burial benefits for deceased veterans. Submitted 3 applications for health care insurance and connected 14 veterans to the Auburn Clinic or Syracuse Hospital.
- Met with 4 veterans in the home unable to visit the office. Met with 3 veterans at the doctor's office to help advocate for care.
- Connected 3 veterans to Aide and Attendance, which allows the veteran to live successfully in the community and receive assistance with activities of daily living.
- Helped 1 veteran apply for life insurance. Connected 3 veterans to emergency funding in the community to assist with paying utilities.
- Transported 120 veterans to and from Syracuse VAMC for scheduled doctor appointments.
- 6 claims were awarded with monthly earnings totaling \$11,503 and retroactive payments were made to local veterans with service connection totaling \$22,295 in VA payments. Monthly payments to veterans will range from \$135 – \$4,564 for compensation benefits.
- Participated in an unemployment seminar with the Department of Labor and educated 7 veterans about veteran's benefits. Participated in the veteran's appreciation week at Cayuga Community College and raffled off a donated laptop.
- A Veteran Service Officer is scheduled to be available in the clerk's office in the following towns:
  - Town of Venice, January 23, 2019 from 2:30p.m.-4:30p.m.
  - Town of Summerhill, February 20, 2019 from 2:00p.m.-4:30p.m.
  - Town of Conquest, March 8, 2019 from 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

## JUSTICE SYSTEM



### Assigned Counsel | Stop DWI

**Lloyd E. Hoskins**

*Director*

#### ASSIGNED COUNSEL PROGRAM: TOTAL ASSIGNMENTS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
<b><u>FAMILY COURT</u></b>													
2013	44	20	24	36	51	31	47	27	31	32	45	26	414
2014	50	35	42	46	25	39	42	34	41	41	33	26	454
2015	37	29	22	45	36	31	20	34	45	56	33	47	435
2016	45	34	42	44	42	34	27	34	54	47	28	25	456
2017	35	75	45	44	57	43	46	63	51	49	29	44	581
<b>2018</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>748</b>
<b><u>COUNTY COURT</u></b>													
2013	18	21	23	21	20	21	33	36	21	26	12	24	276
2014	08	14	18	11	25	20	20	13	16	07	13	19	184
2015	10	22	16	12	12	17	19	05	11	07	03	20	154
2016	04	04	17	08	14	10	10	12	13	19	12	10	133
2017	05	10	12	17	13	16	13	07	12	08	03	10	126
<b>2018</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>95</b>
<b><u>CITY COURT</u></b>													
2013	83	51	58	62	63	49	60	63	50	61	49	58	707
2014	60	38	44	57	62	57	39	53	53	40	75	51	629
2015	51	35	67	58	46	56	47	39	50	66	49	58	622
2016	53	46	60	46	58	55	58	75	51	63	37	46	648
2017	40	39	60	32	54	52	60	64	65	43	30	58	597
<b>2018</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>595</b>
<b><u>JUSTICE COURT</u></b>													
2013	37	27	26	31	25	21	27	28	18	47	20	38	345
2014	27	41	36	27	26	24	19	25	37	26	16	25	329
2015	25	24	26	23	28	31	24	30	31	23	26	26	317
2016	25	27	27	32	35	24	22	39	33	21	16	38	339
2017	35	29	37	27	34	16	30	36	22	26	31	24	347
<b>2018</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>414</b>
<b><u>PAROLE APPEAL</u></b>													

## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

2013	18	01	10	09	03	14	17	03	09	12	08	07	111
2014	03	20	03	12	06	12	11	13	08	12	05	13	118
2015	04	05	10	22	15	13	16	05	08	09	07	14	128
2016	11	09	08	06	10	15	12	10	10	07	03	23	124
2017	07	11	18	19	04	12	03	20	09	07	13	04	127
<b>2018</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>102</b>

### APPELLATE DIVISION

2013	02	00	03	00	03	03	01	01	05	03	02	04	27
2014	05	01	00	03	03	02	01	00	04	00	05	00	24
2015	03	00	00	03	06	06	02	01	02	02	00	04	29
2016	02	03	04	02	04	00	03	03	01	01	00	02	25
2017	01	04	03	02	01	03	03	01	02	03	00	01	24
<b>2018</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	2013	202	120	144	159	165	139	185	158	134	181	136	157	1,880
<b>TOTAL</b>	2014	153	149	143	156	147	154	132	138	159	126	147	134	1,738
<b>TOTAL</b>	2015	130	115	141	163	143	154	128	114	147	163	118	169	1,685
<b>TOTAL</b>	2016	140	123	158	138	163	138	132	173	162	158	96	144	1,725
<b>TOTAL</b>	2017	123	168	175	141	163	142	155	191	161	136	106	141	1,802
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>1,969</b>

### **2018 COUNTY STOP-DWI DATA**

<b>January 2018</b>	# of DWI Arrests	Average BAC	Average Age	M	F
Sheriff's Office	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Auburn Police Department	5	.14	29	4	1
State Police	5	.11	45	3	2
<b>February 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Auburn Police Department	1	n/a	24	1	0
State Police	3	.22	49	2	1
<b>March 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	3	.12	42	2	1
Auburn Police Department	2	.11	49	1	1
State Police	9	.15	35	5	4
<b>April 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	3	.16	56	2	1
Auburn Police Department	3	.23	35	3	0
State Police	10	.13	46	8	2
<b>May 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	2	.04	38	2	0
Auburn Police Department	6	.16	41	5	1
State Police	10	.15	33	10	0
<b>June 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	5	.14	35	3	2
Auburn Police Department	7	.19	39	5	2
State Police	11	.12	38	7	4

## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

<b>July 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	1	n/a	28	1	0
Auburn Police Department	5	.20	35	3	2
State Police	10	.11	36	8	2
<b>August 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	6	.16	44	5	1
Auburn Police Department	2	.17	39	0	2
State Police	11	.13	33	9	2
<b>September 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	1	.10	50	1	0
Auburn Police Department	5	.23	31	4	1
State Police	12	.12	35	9	3
<b>October 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	4	.12	39	3	1
Auburn Police Department	4	.16	28	3	1
State Police	12	.12	40	7	5
<b>November 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	4	.15	33	2	2
Auburn Police Department	4	.18	35	3	1
State Police	12	.17	38	7	5
<b>December 2018</b>					
Sheriff's Office	3	.14	38	1	2
Auburn Police Department	4	.17	35	3	1
State Police	8	.13	37	6	2
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>.147</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>138 (72%)</b>	<b>55 (28%)</b>
<b>Sheriff's Office</b>	<b>32 (16%)</b>	<b>.125</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Auburn Police Department</b>	<b>48 (25%)</b>	<b>.176</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>State Police</b>	<b>113 (59%)</b>	<b>.138</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>32</b>

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Coroner's Office

Dr. Adam Duckett, MD

*County Coroner*

- Total calls/cases responded to through January 2019: 6

Sent to OCME: 5

Signed by PCP: 0

Signed by Dr. Duckett: 1

Age @ time of death:	
00-10	0
11-20	0
21-30	0
31-40	0
41-50	2
51-60	4
61-70	0
71-80	0
81-90	0
91-100	0
Unidentified	0

Number of calls received, by month:	
January 2019	6
February 2019	0
March 2019	0
April 2019	0
May 2019	0
June 2019	0
July 2019	0
August 2019	0
September 2019	0
October 2019	0
November 2019	
December 2019	

- Total calls/cases responded to through January 2018: 5

- 2018 Update:

- The department responded to 99 calls/66 went to OCME, 13 signed by PCP, 20 signed by Dr. Duckett.
- There were 22 confirmed drug overdose deaths confirmed by OCME (ages ranging 23 yrs to 63 yrs).
- Also confirmed 5 suicides and 3 MVA deaths.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### District Attorney's Office

**Jon E. Budelmann**

*District Attorney*

- **New ADA starting** – On January 9, 2019 we offered the open Assistant District Attorney position to our newest Assistant District Attorney Joshua Bennett. ADA Bennett is now finishing his notice period to Onondaga County and will start here on February 11, 2019 with the HR New Employee Orientation program. I had previously offered Josh a FT ADA position in 2016 but due to residency issues, he went to Onondaga County. ADA Bennett began prosecuting in October 2016 and has conducted 2 (misd) jury trials, 8 bench trials, approximately 20 hearings, on-call rotation, city judge rotations, preliminary hearing rotations, assigned to 2 Justice courts, and walk-in attorney. He is finishing as the senior attorney in Municipal Courts (since October 2017). He is currently on a three-month walk-in/centralized arraignment rotation. When Josh starts, it will bring us up to full employment capacity for the first time in over a year.
- **Online Traffic Ticket Reduction program** – We are finalizing the preparations for a full rollout of the Online Traffic Ticket Reduction program. Adventfs.com has been building the webpage to collect information to fill a database for us. In addition, they have entered all Cayuga County courts, all possible vehicle and traffic charges eligible for reductions. They have also been designing a partially pre-filled (with data from the defendant) and fillable (by traffic ADA) PDF. That will be emailed to the defendant and courts after they have paid their fee and completed their online traffic safety education program.
- **Residency waiver for ADAs and Sr. ADAs** – Senators Antonacci and Helming are moving forward a bill in the Senate and partnering with members of the Assembly to create a Public Officers Law §3 Residency Requirement Exemption for Senior/Assistant District Attorneys, allowing them to reside outside Cayuga County (in contiguous Counties).
- **Sweeping Criminal Justice System changes likely coming** – The State of New York is proposing a number of sweeping changes to the Criminal Justice System that will impact and seriously increase our County costs.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Probation Department

Jay DeWispelaere

*Director*

- **Probation Officers in the Community:** On January 30, 2019 Probation Officers Betsy Kavanagh and John Murley volunteered as part of the annual Point in Time census of the homeless. On one of the coldest nights of the year, volunteers from our community fanned out across Cayuga County in an effort to identify homeless individuals. Sponsored by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, this annual event ties in with efforts to reduce homelessness nationwide.

During the course of their duties, it is not uncommon for Probation Officers to encounter homelessness. The impacts of substance abuse, mental illness, and long-term incarceration often impact the abilities of individuals, and occasionally families, to secure stable housing. Youth involved with the justice system may also become homeless due to conflicts with parents and caregivers. Officers encounter these circumstances in the community, during routine check-ins or during interviews while preparing investigations. Officers attempt to intervene by making referrals for services through a variety of agencies, including Cayuga County Department of Social Services, the Rescue Mission, and Chapel House.

Thank you, Officer Murley and Officer Kavanagh for taking the time to participate in this year's count.

- **Training:** Late in 2018, the state Division of Criminal Justice Services announced a new training standard for all Probation Officers. In response to new requirements implemented by the Federal government, New York State will require all new Probation Officers to attend eleven hours of Use of Force Training. The previous standard for Probation Officers was three hours during their initial training cycle. This new standard, approved by the Municipal Police Training Council and DCJS, expands the information officers receive about laws that govern the use of force by law enforcement officers and situations during which officers may or may not use force. Additionally, the new training standard allows officers to engage in "reality-based training," during which officers role-play stressful or challenging situations as a way of building decision-making skills in a manner classroom instruction cannot. In addition to the initial eleven-hour requirement, officers attending a basic firearms school will receive another eleven-hour Use

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

of Force module. Every year thereafter during the course of their careers, officers will annually receive one hour of in-service Use of Force training. In another change to past training practices, this hour of in-service training is now standardized and will be presented by DCJS in a web-based format.

### CAYUGA COUNTY PROBATION STATS FOR JANUARY

PROBATION DEPARTMENT METRIC	2018	2019
Total Number of Probation Supervision Cases	851	696
New Probation Supervision Cases	31	30
Court Ordered Presentence Investigation Requests	21	41
Court Ordered Presentence Investigations Completed	31	26
Number of Violations of Probation Filed	11	22
Number of Predispositional Investigation Ordered	1	3
Number of Predispositional Investigation Completed	0	0
Number of Alco-Sensor Intoximeter Tests Given	283	170
Restitution Collected	\$8,352	\$6,507
Surcharge Collected	\$436	\$327

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Sheriff's Department

#### Brian Schenck

#### *Sheriff*

- Members of the entire Sheriff's Office were recognized by Sheriff Schenck for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on January 9th.
- The Sheriff's Office hosted Cattaraugus County Sheriff Tim Whitcomb as he presented on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on January 15th. Numerous members of the Sheriff's Office attended as well as members of many other Law Enforcement agencies and First Responders.
- Three Deputies attended training on the hazards of the opiate Fentanyl and how to handle it when encountered in the field.
- One Deputy began specialized training to become a student resource officer and will transition to the BOCES Campus upon completion.
- Sheriff Schenck attended the January Sheriff's Training Conference in Albany hosted by the New York State Sheriff's Association from January 22nd through January 24th.
- Sheriff Schenck and Undersheriff Smith attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Millennium Luncheon at the Sunset Restaurant on January 25th.
- The Snowmobile Unit was detailed to a snowmobile event in the Town of Sennett on January 27th.
- Sheriff Schenck presented to the Cayuga County Association of Villages at their January meeting at the Sunset Restaurant on January 29th.
- Members of the Criminal Investigations Division provided a presentation on "Safety for Social Workers" to the staff at Cayuga Centers on January 31st.
- For the month of December, our Custody Division recorded the following information:
  - Avg. daily jail population: 154 (HI: 163)
  - Inmates Admissions: 116 (Males: 99, Females: 17)
  - Inmates Discharged: 120 (Males: 98, Females: 22)
  - Avg. daily number of Federal Inmates: 44 (HI: 51) (Processed in: 24)
  - Avg. daily number of boarded in from other jails: 5.74(HI: 9)

## PUBLIC WORKS

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### Department of Public Works

**David L. Gardner**

*Director of Public Works*

#### PUBLIC WORKS

- New Director assumed administrative supervision and responsibility of the consolidated operations of the Highway Department, Weights and Measures, Engineering and Surveying, Support Staff, Garages, Signs, Parks and Trails, Museums, and Buildings.
- Director conducted initial counseling with direct subordinate leaders and met with all personnel assigned to the subordinate organizations under my supervision.
- Completed the 2019-2022 Local Design Services Agreement (LDSA) Program assessment.
- Director attended the New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Albany and participated at the Transportation & Public Works Standing Committee and Intergovernmental Affairs & General Government Standing Committee meetings.
- Deputy Director attended the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highway Winter Conference.

#### HIGHWAY

- Temporary office trailer was delivered to the Auburn Garage. Power and IT are operational. Office staff will relocate to a trailer in February while renovations are underway in the office administrative building.
- Highway office layout was determined for the new office renovations. Asbestos was found in both the ceiling and floor but the walls were free of any hazardous material.
- Met with Enterprise Fleet Management staff to discuss potentially leasing our fleet or part of our fleet in the future.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

- Final CHIPS reimbursement for 2018 was completed and submitted to New York State.
- Stewarts Corner Project: Silverline Construction Inc. submitted a request for additional funding to purchase the appropriate amount of fill material to complete the project. The DPW will assess this requirement in February. Approved budget: \$600,000, Funded amount: \$571,000. Bank Run Gravel: \$29,160, Trucking: \$24,300.

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- 279 work orders processed in January (134 for Downtown and 145 for Public Safety).
- Replaced the shut-off and check valves in the Auburn Fire Department.
- Syracuse Sheet Metal Co. Inc. made a temporary repair to Historic Post Office roof with a permanent fix being made when weather permits.

### PARKS & TRAILS

- The Ward W. O'Hara Agricultural Museum and the Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center winter hours began January 2 and are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; Sundays 11:00 AM-4:00 PM; Closed Wednesday and Thursday
- Emerson Park remains open dawn to dusk for walkers to enjoy the beauty of Owasco Lake. Lakeside Dog Park is also open dawn to dusk.
- We are accepting applications for seasonal help for Parks and Trails.
- Parks and Planning are working with Biederman Redevelopment Ventures to design a programming plan for Emerson Park.

### WEIGHTS & MEASURES

- Milk tanks: There are 94 dairy farms, seven fewer than last year in Cayuga County. Several of the remaining farms increased their tank capacity. As a result, the current 127 milk tanks have an increased overall capacity of 12,020 gallons.
- Replaced two load cells in scales. One at Helena Chemical in Genoa and the other at Nucor Steel. Due to the extremely cold weather, the scales could not be recertified at the time and were rescheduled for February 2.

## REAL PROPERTY & TAX SERVICES



### Department of Real Property Tax Services

**Kelly Anderson, CCD**

*Director*

#### THE 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

- 2018 was a very busy year for the Real Property Office. The amount of information provided to parties outside of the department rose by over 25% and the typical monthly activities listed below were 10.2% above the average for the last 5 years. Corrections to tax rolls were down 40%, while the number of properties that transferred and tax map adjustments were slightly higher than normal.

Quarterly Totals	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	5 Year Average
<b><u>Tax Roll Corrections</u></b>	22	7	30	8	67	112
<b><u>Sale of Real Property Activity</u></b>						
Sales Transmittals	446	584	609	651	2,290	2,215
Parcels Transferred	511	683	659	743	2,596	2,692
Tax Map Update Δ's	597	454	377	539	1,967	1,847
<b><u>Customer Service Items</u></b>						
Email Responses	3,226	3,540	2,844	3,577	13,187	10,389
Map, Deed, Survey Prints	177	160	95	85	517	834
Other Misc Prints, Images	50	10	-	-	60	667
Email Maps & Files	518	693	629	575	2,415	2,067
Owner/Address Δ's	337	60	112	164	673	758

- In 2018, we continued to provide contracted assessment services in two towns and entered into a contract with a third for Data Collection in 2019. As part of the Cayuga County Shared Services Plan initiative, the Real Property Director facilitated a session with the panel members on the option of county-coordinated assessing which generated discussions and interest from several towns. We expect that interest will grow as local assessors look to retire and towns experience recruitment challenges.

## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

- The work done in Real Property facilitated the levy of more than \$152 million in tax revenue in 2018.

Revenue Generating Activities	Count	Pages	Tax Dollars
<b>2018 Assessment Rolls</b>			
Tentative Rolls	23	9,101	
Final Assessment Rolls	23	9,371	
<b>2018 Town County Taxes</b>			
Town/County Tax Bills	38,454	76,908	\$ <b>59,046,483.27</b>
Town/County Tax Rolls	24		
<b>2018 Village Taxes</b>			
Village Tax Bills	3,827	7,654	\$ <b>2,296,912.81</b>
Village Tax Rolls	9		
<b>2018 School Taxes</b>			\$ <b>90,605,570.63</b>
School Tax Rolls	10		
School Tax Bills	40,027	80,054	
<b>2018 Tax Foreclosure/Auction</b>			
Profit/Loss			\$ <b>256,169.39</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,351</b>	<b>164,616</b>	<b>\$ 152,205,136.10</b>

- A considerable amount of time was also dedicated to the Town of Niles revaluation project which will be in effect for the 2019 Assessment year (7/1/2019). Additionally, the office welcomed 2 new employees that are training in all areas of assessment and tax administration in an effort to create greater depth and flexibility in the services we provide to the public, county departments and other municipalities.
- Our department's GIS Analyst created and launched a new interactive GIS website called Tax Map Online (TMO) which is mobile device compatible and allows users to access real property tax and assessment information all in one place. There are many powerful tools built into this application to assist the public and government officials.
- In 2017, the County became a pilot for the creation, testing and implementation of new statewide assessment software called ACES (Assessment Community Enterprise System) which is being funded by New York State and lead by Taxation & Finance and the Office of Information Technology Services with support from the County Real Property Directors and municipal Assessors. The project is currently in the build-out phase with testing expected by year-end and implementation in 2020.

## TREASURER

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### Treasurer's Office

James H. Orman

*Treasurer*

#### THE 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

- Last year, the accounting team conducted approximately 35,100 transactions. They also processed about 32,600 checks.
- The tax collection team conducted over 24,700 transactions. This continued to be accomplished after reducing the staff by one person three years ago. Also, we have sent out second notices for tax liens owed. This marked the fifth year we have done that and actually reduced taxes in arrears owed. This has been successfully done under the direction of Jennie Indelicato.
- Our payroll team has processed about 21,800 checks. This marked the third full year after our long-time payroll supervisor left for another position in NYS. Our succession plan of training and moving up in-house employees worked.
- During 2009, we initiated efforts to have the County's bond rating reviewed. The rating at that time was Baa with a negative outlook. Our rating was successfully upgraded and continues to be an A1 rating. This has allowed the County to borrow monies at a reduced interest rate since then. Through 2017, these collective efforts have resulted in a total savings of \$1,900,000.
- Eight years ago we instituted organizational changes within our office that would affect the tax levy in a positive manner. These changes were completed with the assistance of Ways & Means and the full Legislature. We reorganized within our office and effectively downsized our office while increasing efficiency. I am pleased to report the cumulative savings over this period of time has now exceeded \$1,680,000.

## CONTRACT AGENCY UPDATES

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### Water & Sewer Authority

Jeanine Wilson

*Director of Operations*

#### WATER/SEWER UPDATES

- Springport/CCWSA collaboration continues to be successful, sharing laborers and equipment, cutting costs of services to customers. New home connections continue and a new development (winery) connection is to be scheduled weather permitting.
- Extreme cold weather conditions create issues with water and sewer appurtenances, especially when the temperature rises and lowers rapidly. Extra care and caution is deemed necessary.
- The final drafted agreement is under review with legal teams. Execution of document imminent. Discussions continue with the Village of Union Springs to seek collaboration and shared service arrangement with possible opportunities to complete infrastructure upgrade project. Meetings continue with the potential of shared services with additional towns and villages for water and sewer infrastructure operations.
- The expectation is that a water line extension will be completed, connected at Montross Lane to supply water to a portion of Route 34 (north), Sennett this spring. The public supply will provide service to properties that have requested water from CCWSA.

#### COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT 2

- Preventative maintenance – testing and daily operations standard throughout cold weather season. Mild weather provided time to jet/flush a portion of the district’s sewer lines. Annual cleansing helps prevent negative issues.
- Annual review and updates to the inventory, properties, and system equipment are complete.
- Ongoing collaboration with town assessor, village code enforcement and County Real Property staff.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

- Preparation for the spring opening of Fair Haven - NY State Park - and seasonal use homes/cottages and parks.

### MASTER REGIONAL PLAN AND REPORT

- B&L and CCWSA are preparing the final report for water and sewer condition assessments and recommended opportunities for a second water source for the county. The draft report was released to the County Legislature, City representatives, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Municipal Partners and publicly for continued conversation prior to the final bound publication. The final draft was also submitted for public comment. Comments will be received through February 14th.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Meetings and discussions continue to set a roadmap to provide safe, secure water and sewer services to benefit various areas of the county. Assistance from the County Legislature continues to be a necessary part of this process.
- FY18 Financial Report/Audit is underway with Inero, CPAs. The report must be complete and submitted to the Authority Budget Office by March 31 annually. Preparation of the draft to be submitted to our board for review in February.
- CCWSA has opportunities for growing our agency's service area; therefore, we are continuing to search for a more efficient office environment, preferably with a building for operations. If anyone has suggestions please contact the director to discuss.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Cayuga Economic Development Agency

Tracy Verrier

*Executive Director*

- **Grant/Loan/IDA Activity:** Downtown Revitalization Initiative – The last LPC meeting was January 22 at 3:30 pm. At this meeting, the LPC started to generate the list of projects to be proposed for funding to the State for consideration. A final list is due as part of the strategic investment plan in March. The next LPC meeting will be February 26 at 3:30 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, and a Public Workshop will be held March 6 at 6 pm, also at the Hilton Garden Inn.
- **Testimonial:** “At Aurora Ale and Lager, we hoped to expand our production capacity but were new to raising funds on a larger scale. The team at CEDA was extremely helpful walking us through the whole process. We hope to be a more integral part of the community as we expand and having the support of the county development agency is a great start!” John Evans, Aurora Ale & Lager
- **Workforce Development:** CEDA is partnering with BOCES, Auburn School District, CCC, and the Chamber to organize a Career Fair for 11th and 12th-grade students from around Cayuga County. The Career Fair will be on March 21st in the CCC Gym and will help students learn about what career opportunities are available in Cayuga County. The goals are to encourage students to stay local and to expose them to career areas they have not considered. Various industries will be represented
- Ms. Verrier attended a conference exploring how to leverage anchor institutions (e.g. colleges, hospitals, government, major employers, etc.) and create collaborations among them to generate local economic activity and wealth. Methods for ‘anchor collaboratives’ are diverse and unique from community to community with goals/focuses ranging from public health to mixed-income housing. Economic development strategies include localizing procurement of the anchors and incubating worker-owned cooperatives to fill service gaps in the community and within anchors. This was related to the community wealth building initiative recommended by Justin Woods.
- **Economic Forecast Luncheon:** The 2019 luncheon was held on January 24, 2019. The keynote speaker was Mr. Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research and Policy with Americans for the Arts. Randy highlighted the

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## Department Updates

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Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

importance of arts in the economy, as well as in the human experience. A study conducted nationally measured the economic impact of arts, and Auburn was one community included in that study. Some key highlights from that study include:

Arts organizations are employers and they procure goods and services locally to support other local businesses in our economy.

Arts are an export. In Auburn, 40% of arts events attendees come from outside of Cayuga County and 69% of those attendees came to Cayuga County specifically for the arts event. Non-local visitors on average spend \$45 per person in addition to the admission cost for the event (on dinner, drinks, transportation, lodging, etc.). As such, arts are bringing a significant amount of money into the community.

Local people attending arts events spend an average of \$31.47 per person per event not including the cost of admission. Furthermore, almost 50% of local attendees reported that if the art event they attended didn't happen, they would have gone to a different community for a similar event. As such, the arts are also keeping local dollars here.

Finally, the broadly defined "arts industry", which includes feeder industries that supply products and services to the arts, makes up 4.2% of national GDP and 7.8% of New York State's economy (\$114B) according to the US Department of Commerce.

- Most recent economic data (NYS DOL):

Number of establishments: 1,757 (Q2 2018 - down from 1,761 in Q2 2017)

- Number of jobs: 25,896 (Q2 2018 - up from 25,834 in Q2 2017)

- Number of private sector jobs: 19,062 (Q2 2018 - down from 19,874 in Q2 2017. However, while the quarter overall was down, June was up from 20,426 in 2017 to 20,655 in 2018)

- Unemployment rate: 4.1% (December 2018 - down from 5.3% in December 2017)

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Soil & Water Conservation District

Doug Kierst

*Executive Director*

#### AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Staff completed weekly construction site inspections on one SPDES permitted construction site at an agricultural operation.
- Staff began construction of an access road on a farm operation in the Owasco Lake Watershed. The Best Management Practice (BMP) is one of several components to an overall erosion control system that will be installed on the farm. Funding for the project is available through the Owasco Lake Enhanced Watershed Action Plan.
- Staff is working with two agricultural operations in the Owasco Lake Watershed to complete nutrient management planning through the Agricultural Environmental Management Program. One additional farm is in the process of having their plan revised and updated. The information that is collected in the plans will be utilized to secure funding to implement water quality protecting BMPs.
- Staff continues to work on plans of work for grant funding we received through the Ag Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program, the CAFO Waste Storage Grant Program and the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program.
- Staff is in the process of developing grant proposals that are eligible for the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program to assist several agricultural operations in need of funding to implement water quality protecting BMPs.
- Staff responded to two concerns regarding drainage and manure handling procedures. No immediate threats to water quality were identified.
- Staff continues to participate in the process to revise the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations.
- Staff continues to participate in numerous water quality related committees and working groups.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

### NON-AGRICULTURAL & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

- Staff completed construction site compliance inspections at two municipal SPDES permitted construction sites.
- SWCD continues to meet with landowners and public officials to evaluate natural resource concerns in the Cayuga, Owasco, and Skaneateles Lake Watersheds. The Cayuga SWCD has grant funding available to implement water quality protecting BMPs throughout the watersheds. The potential projects are being planned and the necessary permits are being sought in advance of the upcoming construction season.
- Staff continues to work on the plan of work for grant funding we received through the Water Quality Improvement Project Program.
- Staff hosted a NYS DEC-endorsed a 4-hour training for contractors, municipal officials, engineers and other groups that may be interested in learning about erosion and sediment control methods on January 8th. We have 2 more workshops scheduled for February. Contact the SWCD for additional information on the classes or to register to attend one.

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## Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019



### Convention & Visitor's Bureau (Tourism Office)

**Karen Kuhl**

*Executive Director*

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS – EDITORIAL PLACEMENTS

- 12/26/18, Best Products (647.3k unique monthly visitors) <https://www.bestproducts.com/fun-things-to-do/g25572802/cheap-weekend-getaway-ideas/>
- 1/19/19, Backroad Planet (21K UMV) <https://backroadplanet.com/most-haunted-places-in-new-york/?fbclid=IwAR1bNmTm0pIkYUTeXbdAGZ4IQryuUrjni9Uflsz5AlYxRPiO3O7oK243Q4>
- 1/19/19, Getaway Mavens (19,127 UMV) <https://www.getawaymavens.com/35-surprisingly-romantic-escapes-in-new-york-state/>
- 1/17/19, WAUB Radio Interview
- 1/25-1/26, Participated in NYTimes Travel Show

#### OCCUPANCY / REVPAR / ADR FOR NOVEMBER

- Occupancy: 37.2%, YTD 50.8%
- ADR (average daily rate): \$94.03, YTD \$108.90
- RevPar (revenue per available room): \$34.97, YTD \$55.30

#### MARKETING

- Inquiries – 134 inquiries received for the month of November, 111 inquiries received for the month of December, 12,525 YTD
- E-marketing – 8,420 unique visits to tourcayuga.com for the month of January, (up 300% over 2017) due to a Facebook marketing campaign.

#### OTHER PROGRAMS & NEWS

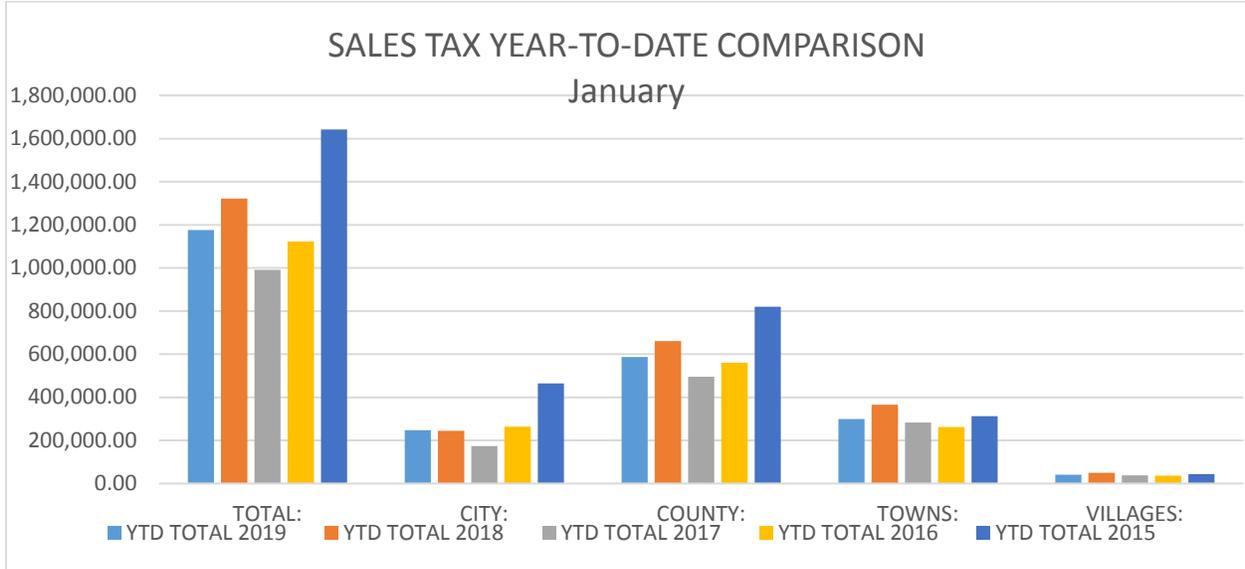
- E-learning –To date, 100 people have completed the program.

# Department Updates

Reporting Period: Jan. 1-31, 2019

## OTHER REPORTS

### Sales Tax Report



2018



NYSAC<sup>®</sup>

Year in Review

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# New York State Association of Counties

## 2018 Year in Review

As the New York State Association of Counties prepares our 2019 advocacy efforts, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on results from 2018.

In 2018, NYSAC advanced many state legislative, regulatory, and budget proposals that would benefit counties. NYSAC also worked to deflect and neutralize proposals that would impose new costs or create new administrative burdens on counties. These efforts are highlighted here as some of NYSAC's 2018 key advocacy efforts on behalf of counties.

The final 2018-19 State Budget contained provisions NYSAC negotiated to improve funding for programs counties administer. NYSAC also weighed in on a variety of regulatory and administrative proposals to ensure state agencies are aware of the impact new regulations would have on county governments. NYSAC followed many statewide judicial proceedings and, in several cases, wrote court briefs about how key court cases would impact counties across the state.

Beyond the traditional legislative achievements that we illustrate each year, NYSAC's success is measured in other ways, such as the formation of collaborative partnerships with legislators, the Governor's office, state agencies, or stakeholder groups. Our goal is to develop reform proposals on programs important to counties and ensure that the county voice continues to ring loud and clear in Albany. To this end, NYSAC staff:

- Attended more than 1,000 meetings, hosted 4 webinars and 10 podcasts;
- Reviewed, monitored, and commented on more than 1,400 bills and provided written or oral testimony to numerous state legislative committees;
- Attended meetings in 31 counties, New York City, and Washington DC;
- Continued legal support to counties in the opioid epidemic battle;
- Provided legal support, memos, and guidance to County Attorneys;
- Provided legal training classes (CLEs) at the annual County Attorneys' Association Conference;
- Facilitated new, and expanded existing, private sector partnerships to help improve local government service delivery and reduce costs;
- Assisted counties with local law development and interpretation, charter revisions, and employee-related matters; and
- Represented county government on several advisory panels, including the Medicaid Waiver DSRIP Panel; Advisory Council for the Retirement System; Raise the Age and other juvenile justice reform panels; Invasive Species Advisory Committee; and the Special Education Fiscal Advisory Workgroup, among others.

NYSAC is proud to represent county officials at the state and national level, while promoting the critical services counties provide. We will continue to forge these partnerships to improve the future for New York counties and our communities.

For more information on NYSAC's continued advocacy efforts, look for NYSAC's 2019 Legislative Program and 2019 Legislative Platform, please visit our website at <http://www.nysac.org/legislativeplatform>.

## **Victories:**

- **Local Farm Fresh Products Incentives in School**
  - The enacted State Budget incentivizes school districts to use more local farm-fresh products by increasing the reimbursement schools receive for lunches if a district purchases at least 30% of their ingredients from New York producers.
- **Modification of State Aid to Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
  - The enacted State Budget amends the soil and water conservation districts law to provide that financial assistance be distributed equally to districts. NYSAC supported and fought for this initiative.
- **Voluntary Public Water System Consolidation Study**
  - The enacted State Budget requires NYS Department of Health (DOH) to create a study to evaluate the feasibility of voluntarily joining public water systems to improve water quality.
- **The Attack on Harmful Algal Blooms**
  - The State will implement a \$65 million initiative to combat harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Upstate New York.
- **Renew Funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)**
  - The enacted State Budget continues funding for the EPF at \$300 million.
- **Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Reform**
  - The BOA Program provides financial and technical assistance to municipalities and community-based organizations. Communities can apply for designation and receive the accompanying brownfield development tax credits. The enacted State Budget enhances the BOA program to allow plans that are financed with local or other state funding to also apply for designation.
- **Eliminate the 25% Local Match for Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Funds**
  - The enacted State Budget eliminates the State requirement that recipients of CSBG funds secure a 25% local match, effective October 1, 2018.
- **County-wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI)**
  - The enacted State Budget included \$225 million of state matching funds for shared services.
- **Indigent Legal Defense Reform**
  - New York State will fund 100% of the costs to implement the *Hurrell-Harring* decision.
- **Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility (RTA)**
  - The enacted State Budget includes \$100 million to implement the RTA law. This funding is designed to ensure that New York State compensates counties for 100% of incremental costs associated with implementing the RTA law.
  - NYSAC was also successful in advocating for DASNY to provide capital design and construction services to counties.
- **Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment Funding**
  - The enacted State Budget included \$3.75 million for services and expenses of jail-based substance use disorder treatment and transition services. OASAS, in consultation with LGUs, county sheriffs and other stakeholders, will implement this program.
- **Interoperable Emergency Communication Funding**
  - NYSAC successfully championed for a fifth straight year a substantial allocation of funds for the Statewide Interoperable Emergency Communication (SICG) grant program.
- **Additional CHIPS Funding**
  - NYSAC was also successful in obtaining additional CHIPS funding for harsh winter conditions for a second straight year. \$65 million was allocated to assist counties with the impact to local roads.
  - The enacted State Budget also continues \$100 million in highway aid through the PAVE NY program and BRIDGE NY program.
- **Bank Settlement Funds- Special Infrastructure Account**
  - NYSAC supported efforts to direct one-time settlement funds for regional infrastructure needs. A total of \$3.1 billion was allocated for this purpose.

## **Opportunities for Continued Advocacy:**

- **Children with Special Needs**
  - NYSAC continues to work with the State on implementing reforms to the Early Intervention (E.I.) and Special Needs Pre-K programs. This includes:
    - Reforming the E.I. program to ensure sufficient provider capacity exists and to hold counties harmless for delays that occur due to a lack of available providers.
    - Ensure third party insurance collections are maximized in the E.I. program.
    - Reimburse counties 69.5% of preschool special education costs as statutorily required.
    - Expand Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to include children with special needs.
- **Community College FIT Chargebacks (Fashion Institute of Technology)**
  - State Education Law requires the State to reimburse counties for FIT chargebacks. Counties are currently paying tuition for students pursuing 4 and 6-year degrees at FIT.
- **Shovel-Ready / Market-Ready Sites**
  - NYSAC supports reactivating and funding a Build Now/ Shovel Ready Certification Program to incentivize planning and developing market ready sites across the State. NYSAC also supports NYS investing \$50 million in this program.
- **County-wide Shared Services Initiative**
  - NYSAC is advocating to allow for a portion of the \$225 million allocation to be available for counties for implementation and plan development.
- **Health Insurance and Workers Compensation Pools**
  - NYSAC continues to support state law and regulatory changes that will reform Article 47 to allow for fewer contracted lives, reduce reserve requirements, and expand eligibility to other public entities.
  - NYSAC also continues to advocate for legislation that will allow counties to take advantage of economies of scale and shared services to reduce costs and improve workers compensation protections for public employees.
- **Design Build for Major Local Government Construction**
  - Advocate for counties and NYC to have the same flexibility as NYS to allow for design build options.
- **Scaffold Law Repeal**
  - NYSAC will continue to advocate for a full repeal of the Scaffold Law or reforms to include a pure standard of comparative negligence.
- **Wicks Reform**
  - NYSAC continues to advocate for a full repeal of the Wicks Law.
- **Home Rule Authorizations**
  - 2018 concluded with four counties not receiving state legislative approval to renew their mortgage tax. Over the past several years, counties have been held hostage over sales tax and other home rule authorization requests. NYSAC continues to advocate for permanent status or longer authorization periods to help avoid this problem from continuing.
- **Raise the Age Implementation**
  - NYSAC will continue to advocate for the continued commitment to fully fund 100% of all new costs associated with changing the age of criminal responsibility for counties.
  - NYSAC will also continue to advocate for de-linking the adherence to the state property tax cap as an eligibility requirement for full state reimbursement costs incurred to implement the new state mandate.
- **District Attorney Salary Increase**
  - For the fourth straight year, the State has failed to fund 100% of DA salary increases. NYSAC continues to advocate for a restoration of the state match for this mandate.
- **No New Unfunded Mandate Legislation**
  - Counties strongly encourage the Governor and State Legislature to enact a “No New Unfunded Mandates” legislation and to cap current state mandated costs at a growth rate that does not exceed the annual inflation factor provided by the state-imposed property tax cap.

- **Medicaid Takeover**
  - The zero percent growth cap for local Medicaid costs continues to be funded each year. NYSAC will continue to advocate for an elimination of the local share of Medicaid as a mutually beneficial way to help lower property taxes.
- **Restoration of Revenue Loss Due to the Seneca Nation Dispute**
  - Sixteen counties in Western New York continue to be negatively affected by the dispute between the Seneca Nation and State with regard to revenue sharing. NYSAC continues to advocate for either a state funding stream for the loss of this revenue or a settlement with the Seneca Nation to restore this revenue stream to counties.
- **Sports Betting**
  - NYSAC continues to advocate for the legalization of sports betting. The State should also consider a method where pre-existing gaming facilities could be involved in sports gaming services in order to retain revenue locally.
- **Funding Support for Unattended Death Investigations**
  - Prior to 2011, counties received a 36% state match for their coroner and medical examiner programs. NYSAC is urging the State Legislature and Governor to include funding that would provide for a 50-50 state and local match for counties investigating unattended deaths.
- **Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUD)**
  - NYSAC calls on the Governor to establish a recurring appropriation in the Governor's proposed 2019-2020 Executive Budget for the establishment of permanent jail-based SUD treatment and transition services programs in every county correctional facility.
- **Interoperable Emergency Communication Funds**
  - NYSAC will continue to advocate for more timely disbursements of these grants for the years in which they are allocated.

These opportunities for continued advocacy correspond with NYSAC's 2019 priorities and build upon successes in 2018. For the comprehensive list of NYSAC's 2019 advocacy targets please visit the NYSAC website at <http://www.nysac.org/legislativeplatform> and to view the 2019 Legislative Program and the 2019 Legislative Platform.

# Board of Directors



# NYSAC Staff

*Partial Listing*

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Sullivan County

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Westchester County

Hon A. Douglas Berwanger  
Wyoming County

**Stephen J. Acquario**

*Executive Director*

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**NYSAC**<sup>®</sup>

NEW YORK STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**Tentative**

**2019 State of the State  
And State Budget Release  
Highlights**

January 15, 2019

Charles H. Nesbitt, Jr., President  
Stephen J. Acquario, Executive Director

# 2019 State of the State and State Budget Release Highlights

## TAXATION

### Personal Income Taxes

The Governor is proposing to continue the gradual reduction of income taxes for middle income earners. With the middle-class tax cuts of 2016, rates have been lowered from:

- 6.85 percent to 6.21 percent for taxpayers in the \$40,000-\$150,000 income bracket, and
- to 6.49 percent in the \$150,000-\$300,000 income bracket,
- The rates will continue to drop to 5.5 percent and 6 percent, respectively, when the cuts are fully phased in—an up to 20 percent cut in income tax rates for the middle class and produce a projected \$4.2 billion in annual savings for six million filers by 2025.

Governor Cuomo is proposing a five-year extension of the current tax rate on millionaires through 2024. This will preserve an estimated \$4.4 billion annually according to the Governor. The millionaires tax was scheduled to sunset at the end of 2019, but it has been repeatedly extended since it was first enacted.

### Internet Sales Tax Fairness and Conformity

The Budget proposes to require remote sellers to collect sales tax in internet purchases, largely based on the parameters laid out in the recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision of *Wayfair v South Dakota*. The State is estimating that on a full annual basis as much as \$280 million in legally owed sales tax is not being collected because of purchases made through the Internet.

### Discontinuation of the Sales Tax Exemption for Energy Service Companies

The Executive Budget eliminates the sales tax exemption on the non-residential transmission and distribution of gas or electricity when purchased from an Energy Service Company (ESCO). Enacted in the early 2000s to incentivize consumer choice, the Governor no longer believes this exemption is necessary now that ESCOs are established entities (New York City eliminated this tax exemption in 2009). Local governments outside of New York City would receive up to \$48 million if the exemption is repealed.

### Make Permanent the Property Tax Cap

The Governor's Budget proposes to make the Property tax cap permanent. The tax cap is currently under a five-year renewal period which would be eliminated under the Governor's proposal.

### Changes to Real Property Tax Administration

The Executive Budget would allow local governments to provide real property assessment relief as soon as a disaster emergency is declared, rather than waiting for special legislation so impacted property owners could obtain relief sooner. This legislation is especially important if a disaster occurs after the end of a legislative session. The Budget:

- Makes disaster emergency relief permanently available;
- Authorizes a county-level Board of Assessment Review;
- Allows an assessor training credit without providing reimbursement, if the assessor chooses;
- Allows for electronic notifications of special franchise, telecom ceilings, and equalization rates;
- Changes the special franchise taxable status date from July 1 to January 1; and establishes a reporting requirement for power plants.

# 2019 State of the State and State Budget Release Highlights

## Adult Use Recreational Legalization and Taxation

The Governor's budget proposes to legalize the adult recreational use of marijuana, combined with the expansion of industrial hemp and justice reforms related to prior arrests for marijuana related crimes. On the taxation side, the Budget proposes three taxes on adult-use marijuana:

- Cultivation Tax imposed at the rate of \$1 per dry weight gram of cannabis flower and \$0.25 per dry weight gram of cannabis trim.
- Wholesale Excise/Business Tax imposed on the sale by a wholesaler to a retail dispensary at the rate of 20 percent of the invoice price.
- Local Sales Tax is imposed on the same sale by a wholesaler to a retail dispensary at the rate of 2 percent of the invoice price but collected in trust for, and on account of, the county in which the retail dispensary is located.

We are still reviewing how this local sales tax collection and distribution will work.

## Agriculture

- Fund programs to support New York's farmers, including creating a \$15 million challenge for food and agricultural manufacturing and providing distilled spirits producers with the same privileges as other alcohol beverage producers.

## Cannabis Legalization

- Legalize adult-use recreational marijuana, allow counties and large cities to opt out, and automatically seal certain cannabis-related criminal records.
- Adult Use Recreational Legalization and Taxation
  - The Governor's budget proposes to legalize the adult recreational use of marijuana, combined with the expansion of industrial hemp and justice reforms related to prior arrests for marijuana related crimes. On the taxation side, the Budget proposes three taxes on adult-use marijuana:
    - Cultivation Tax imposed at the rate of \$1 per dry weight gram of cannabis flower and \$0.25 per dry weight gram of cannabis trim.
    - Wholesale Excise/Business Tax imposed on the sale by a wholesaler to a retail dispensary at the rate of 20 percent of the invoice price.
    - Local Sales Tax is imposed on the same sale by a wholesaler to a retail dispensary at the rate of 2 percent of the invoice price but collected in trust for, and on account of, the county in which the retail dispensary is located.

## Criminal Justice/ Judiciary

- Bail Reform
  - Reduces pretrial detention before arraignment by mandating that police issue appearance tickets instead of making custodial arrests in low-level cases;
  - Eliminate money as a means of deciding who is free and who is not. Instead, people will be released first on their own recognizance, or, only if the judge makes necessary findings, under pretrial conditions;

## 2019 State of the State and State Budget Release Highlights

- There will be a new procedure whereby a district attorney can move for a hearing to determine whether a limited subset of eligible defendants may be held in jail pretrial.
- Discovery Process
  - This bill will provide prosecutors the ability to petition a court for a protective order, shielding identifying information when necessary to ensure the safety of witnesses and the sanctity of the judicial process.
- Ensure the Right to a Speedy Trial
  - Courts will be required to take a more proactive role in actively advising litigants on how time will be charged
- Grand Jury Proceedings Reform
  - Legislation will allow witnesses located out-of-state or more than 100 miles from the grand jury location to testify via a secure video conference connection, rather than require in-person testimony.
  - Expansion of the Criminal Procedure Law to allow all businesses to authenticate by certification any records they keep and maintain in the ordinary course of business.
  - Allows lack of consent to be established by sworn certification for identity theft cases, as it currently is in larceny, forgery, and criminal possession of stolen property cases.
  - The Criminal Procedure Law will be amended to authorize “grant of use” immunity rather than transactional immunity, thereby conforming New York law to federal law and the law of most other states and allowing prosecutors to more rigorously investigate complex crimes.
  - Amends the accomplice corroboration requirement of the Criminal Procedure Law to allow cross-corroboration by a separate accomplice.
- Child Victims Act
  - Under current law, child sexual abuse offenses cannot be prosecuted more than five years after they occur and, in most cases, civil lawsuits for this conduct must be brought by the victim’s 21st birthday. This budget advances the Child Victims Act which will increase the length of time during which a child sex abuser may be held criminally accountable. It will also allow abuse victims to commence a civil lawsuit at any time until they reach age 50. Also, the legislation would create a one-year window for victims whose claims have previously been time-barred to bring suit.
- Interest Rate on Court Judgments. The Executive Budget changes the interest rate paid by the State and local governments on court judgments or accrued claims from the current fixed nine percent rate to a market rate. Eliminating the fixed rate will generate savings for local governments and encourage timely court proceedings.
- Red Light Camera Extension
  - City of New York- 150 authorized cameras extended through 12/1/2024
  - County of Nassau- 100 authorized cameras extended through 12/1/2024
  - County of Suffolk- 100 authorized cameras extended through 12/1/2024

# 2019 State of the State and State Budget Release Highlights

## Economic Development

- Invest in Round Nine of the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) and Round Four of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI).

## Elections

- Voting Reform Package
  - Allow Universal Vote By Mail
  - Enact Statewide Early Voting
  - Permit Same-Day Registration
  - Make It Easier to Register to Vote
  - Synchronize Federal and State Elections
  - Make Election Day a Holiday
  - Permit Pre-Registration for Minors (16 and 17 year old's)
  - Eliminate Restrictions on Voting Before Noon in Upstate Primaries
  - Ensure Registration Portability Across the State

## Environmental Conservation

- Launch a "Green New Deal," which will include a mandate of 100% clean power by 2040, a path to carbon neutrality, and a fund to help communities impacted by the transition from closing power plants to renewable energy.
- Expand the Bottle Bill to include most non-alcoholic drinks.
- Implement a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.
- Continue the \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).
- Provide an additional \$2.5 billion for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act to help address emerging contaminants, such as 1,4-dioxane, PFCs, and harmful algal blooms (HABs).

## Ethics

- Campaign Finance Reform-Public Financing of Elections:
  - The Governor's Budget has a 6:1 public financing matching ratio for small donations, lowering campaign contribution Limits, and bans corporate contributions.
- Candidates for Statewide Office to Disclose Their Tax Returns
  - Under this proposal, candidates for the State Assembly and the State Senate will be required to provide the past five years of federal and state tax returns to the state board of elections as a condition of getting on the ballot for a general election.
- Require Financial Disclosures by Local Elected Officials
  - This proposal would require local elected officials to submit financial disclosure information to the State operated JCOPE.
- Expand the Length and Scope of Post State Employment Restrictions
  - This proposal would increase the existing "two-year bar" that prevents state employees from interacting with their former agency from two years to five years.

# 2019 State of the State and State Budget Release Highlights

- Reforms to FOIL
  - Under this proposal the New York Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) would apply to the State Legislature.

## Gaming

- Off-Track Betting (OTB) Reforms. The Executive Budget includes four OTB reforms. 1) Allows OTBs to remove racing operations from their business or merge with another OTB; 2) Requires OTBs to maintain financial records; 3) Allows an OTB internal auditor to review expenses and report to the OTB Board; and 4) Allows Capital OTB to show televised races at Rivers Casino.
- NOT IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET- Sports Gaming. However this topic was addressed in the State of the State with the Governor indicating he is seeking legalization of Sports Betting in 2019. This may come in the form of regulations from the NYS Gaming

## Human Services

- \$25 Million for Poverty Reduction in Rochester
  - FLREDC will commit an additional \$25 million of its URI award for two projects identified in their strategic plan to address two key RMAPI priorities: systems coordination and community building:
    - \$15 million for System Integration Project in Monroe County
    - \$10 million for Revitalize Rochester Fund
- Participate in SNAP On-Line Purchasing Pilot
  - In 2019, New York State is scheduled to be the first state in the nation to participate in an Online Purchasing Pilot program that will allow individuals to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase food online for pick-up or delivery.
- Invest in Community Based Supports for Aging New Yorkers.
  - Governor Cuomo proposes investing \$15 million in community-based supports for aging New Yorkers

## Labor

- \$175 Million Workforce Initiative
  - The Governor's Budget includes a \$175 million commitment for workforce training programs in New York State (it is unclear at this time if this funding is for the 2019-20 fiscal year or spread over multiple years).
- Janus Related Restrictions of Employee Information on Local Governments
  - In 2018 NYS prohibited State entities from disclosing personal contact information for State employees to outside parties. It is anticipated this disclosure prohibition will be extended to local governments in the Governor's Budget.
- Banning Credit Checks for Employment
  - This proposal would ban private and public companies in New York for using credit reports are when making hiring determinations.

# 2019 State of the State and State Budget Release Highlights

## Public Health

- Raise the minimum sales age for tobacco and e-cigarette products from 18 to 21, end the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes in pharmacies, and introduce a tax on e-cigarettes.
- Invest \$200 million in an opioid crisis response.

## Public Safety

- Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force
  - Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force will identify solutions and develop policies addressing the lack of cellular coverage in areas of need. Recommendations for enhancing cellular coverage in unserved areas, including the Adirondacks and Catskills.
- Track Uses of Force by Law Enforcement
  - Requirement that all New York law enforcement agencies have a use-of-force policy implemented and report all use-of-force incidents resulting in death or serious injury.
- Raise the Age
  - Doubles the amount of RTA funding to \$200 million in order to expand state and local resources to support a continuum of evidence-based services, including prevention, diversion, treatment, reintegration, and supervision.

## Transportation

- Building 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure
  - Executive budget proposal pledges \$150 billion for infrastructure over the next 5 years, and includes:
    - Instituting congestion pricing in Manhattan to fund MTA capital program from 2020-2024 and in the future,
    - Overhauling the MTA to create clear line of authority and responsibility,
    - Increasing support for public transportation in regions across the state, and
    - Expanding design build to more state agencies.

## Veterans

- The Governor's Budget proposes a coordinated initiative involving both private and public sector service providers. The Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Project will be expanded from 16 counties to all 62. State personnel will receive training in how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to identify veterans, especially homeless veterans, and connect them with veteran-specific services. The State will also launch a telehealth services pilot program to reach Native American veterans.