



April 26, 2013

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Tug Hill Times

Tug Hill Times is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

NYS Grants Reform Project Launches Web-Based Grants Management System

A web-based grants management system, Grants Gateway, will be launched at stages this year. This site is intended to be a one-stop location that will improve the way grants are administered by the State. The system will be rolled out in phases that include:

- ◆ Opportunity Portal (Spring 2013) – A simple way to search for grant opportunities and register to receive notifications.
- ◆ Document Vault (Spring 2013) – A secure online document repository for the grantees to store and share commonly requested documents.
- ◆ Online Contracts (Fall 2013) – Ability for grantees to apply for, develop and execute contracts online.
- ◆ Online Claims (Fall 2013) – Ability to submit a request for payment, supporting documentation and track status online.

Municipalities are beginning to see letters from the Division of Budget with additional information on the process along with a registration form that will be used to input your organization's information into the system and authorize your grant administrators to use the system. The form, asks for key information that is required in completing most grant applications, such as your Federal ID, SFS Vendor ID and DUNS Number.

If you do not know your NYS Vendor ID, you may contact the Statewide Financial System Help Desk at HelpDesk@sfs.ny.gov or call toll free at (855) 8363 and be ready to provide your Federal ID number. DUNS numbers can be searched online at <https://www.dandb.com> by clicking on 'D & B DUNS number' at the upper right and then selecting 'search for D & B DUNS' from the drop down.

Training opportunities will be offered and organizations are asked to visit www.GrantsReform.ny.gov to stay up to date with the NYS Grants Reform effort. Questions about the process can be sent to GrantsReform@budget.ny.gov. Commission staff are also available to assist you throughout this process and can be reached at tughill@tughill.org or (888) 785-2380.

NEW Lewis County Map Viewer

The Tug Hill Commission has been assisting Lewis County Real Property in the use of an online mapping program called "GIS Cloud". Lewis County Real Property recently created their own online mapping application called "Lewis County, NY" from the GIS Cloud platform. The link to this site is as follows: <http://editor.giscloud.com/map/111328/lewis-county-ny>.

Some people might be aware of the current mapping application for Lewis County called "Lewis County Map Viewer". The Tug Hill Commission will be working with Lewis County Real Property in the near future in combining the two applications into the newest one, "Lewis County, NY". The two agencies will be able to work together in sharing data between each other, as well as providing information in the form of map data to the public and the communities in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission.





In celebration of Earth Day, Commission staffers Gerry Ritter and Katie Malinowski and Commissioners Ken Vigus and Arnie Talgo joined with officials from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, and the Town of Forestport to recognize Forestport Elementary school and students for participating in the Name The State Forest contest. The winning name, Punkeyville State Forest, was nominated by two students, Phoenix Swasey (5th grade) and Dylan Cabic (4th grade). The two winners, as well as the runner up, Joshua Guernsey (5th grade), and the school were all presented plaques with the name of the State Forest. The second place

submission was "Wildcat State Forest."

The 518-acre state forest located in the Town of Forestport, Oneida County was purchased late in 2012. It protects almost one mile of the Black River shoreline, expanding recreation and forest management opportunities on lands in the foothills area between the Tug Hill Plateau and the Adirondack Park.

"Punkeyville State Forest is a great name. It provides a strong historical link since Punkeyville was the early name of the settlement that is now called Forestport," Judy Drabicki, DEC Region 6 Director said.



From Left: Commissioner Arnie Talgo, Woodsy (Katie Malinowski) and Commissioner Ken Vigus.

Revised Flood Insurance Study and New Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Oswego County

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently completed a revised Flood Insurance Study and new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for all Oswego County municipalities. Communities that wish to continue participating in the flood insurance program are required to adopt the new maps by revising their existing floodplain management ordinances. NYSDEC has information on updated model ordinances at their website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/39341.html>. The new models include new language that more closely meshes with the current NYS building code. Oswego County municipalities have until June 18th to adopt the new measures. FEMA recommends that communities contact William Nechamen, the National Flood Insurance Program state coordinator at (518) 402-8146 with questions about the process.

Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program is based on an agreement between local communities and the Federal Government that states if a community will adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risks to new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas (100-year floodplain, or areas subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding per year), the Federal Government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. If communities do not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program then insurance companies cannot write policies for that community and federally regulated lending institutions are prohibited from issuing mortgages for properties within mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas as depicted on the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Jefferson County SWCD to Host 4-Hour Contractor Training in Erosion & Sediment Control May 16

The Jefferson County SWCD is hosting a 4 hour Contractor Training in Erosion & Sediment Control on May 16 from 8:30 am- 12:30 pm. in the West Room at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown. Cost is \$75 per person.

To download a registration form visit the website at <http://www.jeffersoncountyswcd.org/> and click on the "registration form" link.

For more information please call Jake at 782-2749 or email jmambrose@centralny.twcbc.com.



CTHC Spring Meeting and Dinner

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The Annual Cooperative Tug Hill Council's Spring Meeting and Dinner was held Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the Central Hotel in Glenfield. There was a good turnout for the event with thirteen of the sixteen CTHC towns represented. There were a total of thirty-six people present including CTHC Supervisors and representatives, and distinguished guests.

Following dinner, the meeting was held including: presentation of the financial report, Election of Officers, a presentation by the Tug Hill Commission, discussion of another Legislator's meeting and possible village membership, and supervisor's topics. Phil Street, Katie Malinowski and John Bartow from the Tug Hill Commission gave presentations on the road mapping and special areas mapping projects that are ongoing and also a presentation on issues involving the core forest of Tug Hill. The presentations were very informative and well received by the attendees. Officers were elected for the year including Roger Tibbetts, Chairman; Doug Dietrich, Vice Chairman, Merianne Shelmidine, Secretary; and Ian Klingbail, Carla Bauer, Steve Bernat and Rosalie White, directors.

Jeanne Wooding, Associate Circuit Rider since March 2002, is retiring as of May 31, 2013. She was presented with a gift of appreciation from the Council and also with a certificate of appreciation from the Tug Hill Commission for her long years of service to the Tug Hill region. Though we wish Jeanne all the best in her retirement, she will be dearly missed by us all. Anyone interested in applying for the Associate Circuit Rider job should see the Council's website at www.tughillcouncil.com for details.

Details will be forthcoming on the date and location of the Legislators meeting soon. Watch for information in the Tug Hill Times for details and your Circuit Riders will also keep you informed.

Wilna Urges Federal Funding To Complete Cleanup Of Superfund Site

The Town of Wilna Board unanimously approved sending a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting the demolition of the crumbling and decayed industrial buildings and to remediate contaminated ground & water issues/concerns at the "Crown Cleaners of Watertown Superfund Site." The \$7.2 million multi-year remediation initiative was funded through the 2012 federal budget and did not carry over to the 2013 budget year.

The 9-acre industrial site was placed on the Superfund list by EPA in 1991, due to ground & water contamination from the former dry cleaning facility. Over the past 20-years, EPA has completed a series of ground & water contamination research, tests and studies. In 2012, town/village residents, local officials and interested parties were presented a Record of Decision (ROD) to identify the preferred recommendation in addressing issues/concerns on the site. In preparing to guide future development along the waterfront, the town also resolved property ownership issues in June 2012 by taking ownership of the property, to guide future development of the waterfront site as a recreation park. However, building demolition, ground & water remediation and clean-up efforts by EPA are still pending in 2013 and contingent upon accessing available funds.

The letter from Wilna to the EPA was also sent to federal and state legislative representatives to provide updated information in a coordinated effort to identify available funds to complete the clean-up effort of the Crown Cleaners site.

Jefferson County Planning Department Organizing Emerald Ash Borer Training May 8

The New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) will offer a 2-part training session on the Emerald Ash Borer on Wednesday, May 8 at 8:00 a.m. in the large conference room at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, 203 North Hamilton Street in Watertown.

The "first detector" portion of the training, from 8:00-9:00 a.m., is designed to increase EAB awareness among anyone who cuts or trims trees, helping them to better recognize and report signs of EAB. The planning portion of the training, from 9:15-10:00 a.m. is designed for anyone who has a role in creating preparedness plans to limit impacts from EAB, and will demonstrate the importance of being proactive in EAB planning.

This free event is being organized by the Jefferson County Planning Department at the request of the DEC, with assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County and the Tug Hill Commission. Space is limited, so please reserve by calling the Planning Department at 785-3144 (9:00-5:00 p.m. weekdays) or emailing planning@co.jefferson.ny.us. Refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Voss, County Planning Department, at 785-3144 or jenniferv@co.jefferson.ny.us.

Contact us at:**NYS Tug Hill Commission**

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CaRDI Report Released for Upstate NY

Cornell's Community and Regional Development Institute have re-released its report "Upstate New York in Profile: Trends, Projections and Community & Economic Development Issues." The document can serve as a resource for decision-makers at multiple levels of government and community organizations, to help leaders and decision makers track trends over time, examine projections, and consider public opinion on a host of emerging policy issues in key development areas of upstate New York. The chart book integrates New York State-based survey data, census and other secondary data sources, and provides important links to more information on several key community development topics such as energy, food systems, economic development, schools, and health care.

You can download the complete document by going to the following website: <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/oneida>. Go to the "News" section and look for "**CaRDI Report**".

**Grants Available From Lowe's**

Lowe's home improvement stores announced its 2013 Community Partners grant program. The program helps build better communities by providing monetary assistance to non-profit organizations and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology upgrades as well as safety improvements. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$100,000, with most projects falling between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Lowe's also offers a Lowe's Heroes Employee Volunteer Program as another opportunity for support for local communities. Lowe's can provide to some grant recipients help to supplement the labor of projects. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak to their local store manager** to see if this is a possibility before applying. The application can be downloaded by going to the following link : <http://www.cybergrants.com/lowes/startapp.html>. The first 2013 cycle will be open from March 1 to April 30, 2013, and the second cycle will be open from June 1 to July 30, 2013. Applicants will be notified within approximately 90 days of the deadline.

Additionally the company also offers a **Small Grants Program (less than \$2,000)**. The small grants program is seeking smaller-scale assistance for non-educational focused projects. These grants range from \$100 to \$2,000. Small grant project requests must also fit within the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation guidelines. These requests are received on a rolling basis, with no specific cycle dates. The application can be found at: <http://responsibility.lowes.com/community-relations/lowes-grant-programs/?pageType=cr>. To apply, email a project description and budget outline to community@lowes.com with a "Small Grant Request" subject line. Due to the large volume of requests, they are unable to respond to all requests and will only notify you if you receive funding, approximately three weeks after submission. For assistance in applying, please contact your circuit rider or call the Commission office at 1-888-785-2380.