



December 5, 2014

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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.

North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments Meet

Over the past two weeks both the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments (COG) met with Commission staff to conduct COG business and review updates from the Tug Hill Commission. North Shore communities (Central Square, Cleveland, Constantia, and West Monroe) continue to work on a variety of projects, ranging from sewer system upgrades and expansions to recreational access improvements. Salmon Rivers communities (Albion, Amboy, Orwell, and Parish Town & Village) are working on official road maps and are considering some records management projects. Commission staff reviewed the draft 2015-19 Commission Strategic Plan as well as renewals of the COG intermunicipal agreements and discussed property tax cap and local government efficiency plans.

Both COGs plan to meet during the first quarter of 2015 to elect officers and continue forward momentum on projects.

CTHC Executive Committee to Meet

The Executive Committee of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council will be holding their final meeting of the year on Friday December 12th. The meeting will be held at the Harrisburg Municipal Building on Cobb Road at 7 pm. The Committee will be concluding their business for the year as well as discussing ongoing projects and preparing goals for next year. The Tug Hill Commission will also be in attendance to discuss their Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 with the Committee. For more information or a copy of the agenda contact Circuit Rider Angie Kimball at ange-la@tughill.org or 599-8825.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet

The Tug Hill Commission will hold its next meeting on Monday, December 15 from 10:00 -12:00pm at the Commission office on the 6th floor of the Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the Commission, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils, and review of major projects and activities in the region. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting.

2014 Consolidated Funding Awards (CFA)

The 2014 CFA Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, December 10 at 10:30 am in Albany. To watch the ceremony live go to <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/> or Governor Cuomo's website: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/>.

2015 Newly Elected Town Officials School

Friday, January 9, 2015
DoubleTree, 225 Water Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

Tentative Agenda :

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Open Meetings Law & How To Run A Town Board Meeting
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Ethics & Governance
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Fiscal Responsibilities of Town Board Members
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Fiscal Stress Monitoring: An Overview
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Town Policies: Purchasing, Competitive Bidding, Accounting Procedure, Etc



For more information and to register for this training follow this link:

<http://twnytowns.s3.amazonaws.com/articles/Registration%20%26%20Agenda%202015%20NETO.pdf>

Local Government Training Webinars For Planning Officials

The Department of State's Local Government Training program will be conducting three pilot webinars in December. The schedule for the December webinars is below, along with the registration links and passwords for each.

To register click each link, to be taken to a registration page for the course. Scroll to the bottom and click "register." The next page that comes up will ask for the registration password. (Those are below the link to each course.) The third page will ask for names and email addresses of registrants.

After each webinar certificates will be sent to the email addresses of those registrants who participated.

Thursday, December 11

"Rural Planning"

6:00 – 8:00 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t2291854aa5ac3ba58e82fcc1c6f96895>

Registration password: RuralPlanning

Friday, December 19

"Public Meetings and Hearings"

10:00 – 11:30 am

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=td1aea376b6f0ed346e2b188f732fba4c>

Registration password: dosdEC19mAh

Monday, December 29

"Smart Growth"

6:00 – 7:30 pm

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t7e7bf3559c58485fb890518431607525>

Registration password: DOS122914SmGr

Learners can participate in these webinars individually or in groups. Members of the audience will be able to participate and ask questions by typing from their computers questions that will be visible to the presenters on their monitors.

For more information on these webinars please call 518-473-3355.

Online Holiday Shopping – Tips for Keeping Your Information Secure

The holidays are right around the corner and consumers are being bombarded with ads for discounted merchandise, free shipping, and other special deals during the holiday season and in particular for Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Last year, more than \$1.7 billion was spent online on Cyber Monday, making it the highest volume day in history for online sales. Online sales are expected to be significant again this year.

How can you maximize your transaction security? If the offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Don't get blindsided by the lure of great discounts – the security of your information is what's most important. If you aren't prepared and cautious, you could become the next cybercrime victim, the cost of which could far exceed any savings you might have received from the retailer.

When purchasing online this holiday season - and all year long - keep these tips in mind to help minimize your risk:

Secure Your Mobile Device and Computer

Be sure to keep the operating system and application software updated/patched on all of your computers and mobile devices. Be sure to check that your anti-virus/anti-spyware software is running and receiving automatic updates. Confirm that your firewall is enabled.

Use Passwords

Always create a password when creating accounts with merchants. Using passwords is one of the simplest and most important steps to take in securing your devices, computers, and accounts. If you need to create an account with the merchant, be sure to use a strong password. Always use more than 10 characters, with numbers, special characters, and upper and lower case letters. Use a unique password for every unique site.

Do Not Use Public Computers or Public Wireless For Your Online Shopping

Be cautious when using public computers or public wireless networks while shopping online. Public computers may contain malicious software that steals your credit card information when you place your order. Criminals may be intercepting traffic on public wireless networks to steal credit card numbers and other confidential information.

Pay By Credit Card, Not Debit Card

Pay with a credit card rather than debit card. Debit cards do not have the same consumer protections as credit cards. Credit cards are protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act and may limit your liability if your information was used improperly. Check your credit card statements regularly.

Know Your Online Shopping Merchants

Limit your online shopping to merchants you know and trust. If you have questions about a merchant, check with the Better Business Bureau or the Federal Trade Commission. Confirm the online seller's physical address, where available, and phone number in case you have questions or problems.

Look for "HTTPS" When Making An Online Purchase.

Always look for the "s" in the URL when purchasing items online. The "s" in "https" stands for "secure" and indicates that communication with the webpage is encrypted.

Additional Information:

- ◆ Enterprise Information Security Office Website: <http://www.its.ny.gov/eiso>
- ◆ Enterprise Information Security Office Newsletters:
<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ocs/awareness-training-events/news/>
- ◆ New York State Attorney General's Office - <http://www.ag.ny.gov/>
- ◆ New York State Division of Consumer Protection - <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/>
- ◆ The Better Business Bureau - <http://www.bbb.org>
- ◆ The Federal Trade Commission - <http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov>

Contact us at:

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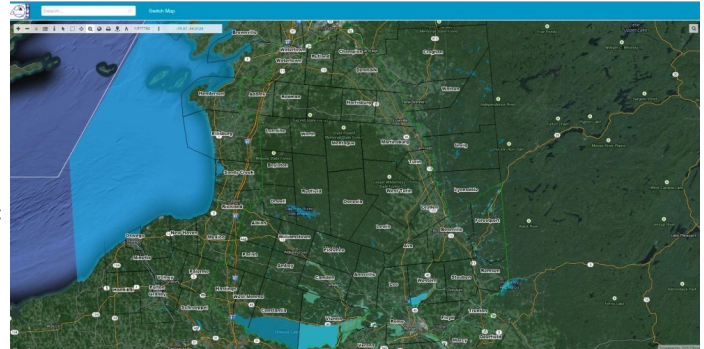
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Tug Hill Regional Map Viewer

The Tug Hill Commission has a new public regional map viewer, which can be viewed by going to www.tughill.giscloud.com. You can also go to the Tug Hill Commission website <http://www.tughill.org/> and click on "Assistance" and "GIS Services" to get there. This viewer can be used to host local government data, if the local government does not mind it being public data. There is no cost to the local government to do this. The Commission is working with some local governments now and partnering with some to show their data on this regional map viewer for Tug Hill.

The Commission also has the ability to share private maps with a local government utilizing this application, so that when working on a project, only the local government and the Commission can see the online map for that project, until it is finalized. This platform also does allow for some mobile editing capabilities. Both of these require a certain license to use, which the Commission has some limited licenses to share. We will be sharing these on a project by project basis when needed. Local governments can purchase their own license if they see the benefit in doing so.

The Commission makes no claim to the accuracy or completeness of the data included in these applications. The Commission only does periodic updates, so if you are looking for the most complete data, you will need to go to the source of that data.



You can also go to the Tug Hill Commission website and click on "Assistance">"GIS Services">"Resources" for links to other map viewers that are available. The Commission's applications are mainly a tool for planning purposes.

We may look to do a webinar training on this regional map viewer in the near future. If interested please contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 785-2380 or [micky@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).

Water Tower Tour In Deferiet

The villages of Deferiet and Herrings recently hosted a tour of the newly – constructed water tower along NYS Route 3A in the village of Deferiet for local officials, agency representatives and interested parties. The final initiative to construct the water main along NYS Route 3 and connect it to the new water storage tank is currently underway.

Funded by the Department of State through the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program and US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, the project is a culmination of an 8-year initiative to address contaminated water issues from a 1991 chemical spill at the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. in Herrings and upgrade equipment at 2-well houses in Deferiet. The \$4 million joint water project, was initiated in 2006 and is part of a 2-phase initiative to provide a reliable source of clean drinking water to village residents.