

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Camden Facing Another School Closure

Within the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, the Camden Central School District is soon presenting the Board of Education with a plan to close Annsville Elementary School.

A letter sent home to parents last week indicated that the plan to close the school at the end of this year will be presented to the school board on March 5 at 6 p.m. at the high school auditorium in Camden. The board is tentatively scheduled to vote on the recommendation at the regularly scheduled board meeting on March 13. Overall declining enrollment has been cited as the reason for the recommendation.

Preliminary information indicated that all Annsville students, with the exception of Pre-K, would be integrated into Camden Elementary School. All pre-K students district-wide will attend McConnellsville Elementary School. The Camden and McConnellsville sites are the district's only other elementary schools following the closure of North Bay Elementary in 2014.

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Don't Forget to Register for the LGC!

Registration for the March 29, 2018 Local Government Conference at the \$50 level must be postmarked by March 8, so don't delay! Registrations postmarked March 9 through March 19 will cost \$100, and registration postmarked March 20 until the day of the event will cost \$150.

There are two easy ways to register:

- 1. Online:** Go to <https://lgc2018.eventbrite.com> to pay electronically until March 19th.
- 2. Mail:** Complete and print the [registration form](#) to pay with a check or voucher.

The form is a fillable pdf, which can be typed in, printed, and mailed to the office with payment. Alternatively, the blank form can be printed and filled in by hand, and then mailed to the office with payment.

Detailed session descriptions are available on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/lgc2018/>.

Please call our office toll-free in the region at 888-785-2380 with questions about the event. We look forward to seeing you there!



Home Depot Foundation Community Impact Grants

The Home Depot Foundation offers grant awards up to \$5,000 to 501©3 organizations and tax-exempt public services agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services and are required to be complete within six months of approval date.

The items below should be considered before submitting an application:

1. Population Service – These grants focus on serving veterans within local communities. Does your project benefit an individual, veteran family, or community of veterans? If not, is your organization providing support for diverse and underserved communities?
2. Volunteer Drive – How is your organization engaging the local community to better serve veterans in your community? Is your project volunteer friendly whereby you can engage people of all skill levels?
3. Impact - Will this project required continued support in the future? Is your organization prepared to continue with ongoing support as needed? How will you measure the impact and outcomes of this project?
4. Safety – Is your organization focused on ensuring ADA compliance and safety regulations are maintained? Does your organization have policies in place to ensure volunteers are safe?

Applications will required an IRS determination letter or Form 990 and a detailed project budget. Decisions will be made within 4-6 weeks after submission, and the application is scheduled to be open through December 31, 2018. If your organization is a school, park, community center or any organization being funded by local government, please use the link for "Government Funded Organizations."

To apply, go to <https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>.

Algal Bloom Summit March 6 in Syracuse

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced dates and locations of four summits on harmful algal blooms. Oneida Lake, which defines part of the southern boundary of the Tug Hill region, has experienced these algal blooms in recent years. The summit closest to Tug Hill is planned for Tuesday, March 6 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at SUNY ESF Gateway Center Building, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210, with free parking available in all ESF designated lots.

The full text of the governor's press release can be found at: www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-regional-harmful-algal-bloom-summits

Free QGIS Training in Syracuse March 12th

The Tug Hill Commission in partnership with the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, will be hosting a free QGIS training in Syracuse on March 12th. Keith Jenkins from Cornell University will be doing a basic training on QGIS, followed by a training from Mickey Dietrich on how to access the commission's GIS and online database. The training will be tailored toward local governments, no previous GIS experience is necessary. Please contact Mickey Dietrich for more information and to register, since there will be limited seating. You can reach him at (315) 785-2389 or email him at mickey@tughill.org.



Roundtable Discussion to be held in Syracuse

A roundtable discussion titled **State and Federal Funding, Financing, and Resources for Municipal Infrastructure** will be held on Thursday March 15, 2018 at the Center of Excellence, Room 203, 727 E. Washington Street, Syracuse, NY 13210. (Parking is available adjacent to the building.)

This discussion is meant to help municipal supervisors and mayors, council/board members, town clerks and managers, DPW staff, town planners, engineers, and other interested community leaders prepare for the upcoming funding process for municipal infrastructure. The meeting will feature updates on funding and financing programs for municipal infrastructure from several agencies, dialogue on the importance and opportunities for co-funding, and panel discussion with opportunity for audience participation. Several state and federal agencies will be represented, including: NYSHCR, RCAP, NYS EFC, NYS DOH, USDA RD, and NYS DOS.

Agenda:

9:30-10am	Registration and coffee
10:00am	Introductions
10:15am	Overview of Consolidated Funding Application process
10:30am	Funding roundtable
12:00pm	Lunch; invited speaker - Harmful Algal Blooms
1:00pm	Adjourn

Please contact Kathy Forrest, (315)443-1131 or kpforres@syr.edu with registration questions. Please contact Meredith Perreault, (315)443-3741, or maperrea@syr.edu with program questions. For complete information and to register, go to <http://efc.syr.edu/03-15-18-roundtable/>

GIS Resources for Local Governments Technical Paper Updated

The commission recently updated its **GIS Resources for Local Governments** technical paper, to provide updated information on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for municipal officials. The paper has information about map viewers, considerations about staffing, data and applications, and links to other resources.

The paper is available for download at <http://www.tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/>, or hard copies can be request by calling the commission office toll-free at 888-785-2380.

ISSUE PAPER SERIES

GIS Resources for Local Governments

February 2018



NEW YORK STATE TUG HILL COMMISSION

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The Tug Hill Commission Technical and Issue Paper Series are designed to help local officials and citizens in the Tug Hill region and other rural parts of New York State. The Technical Paper Series provides guidance on procedures based on questions frequently received by the Commission. The Issue Paper Series provides background on key issues facing the region without taking advocacy positions. Other papers in each series are available from the Tug Hill Commission. Please call us or visit our website for more information.



Farm Families Under Stress

Agriculture, and particularly dairy farming, is a big part of the economy and the landscape in many areas of Tug Hill. Unfortunately, New York State farm families are experiencing higher levels of financial and emotional stress due in part to several years of low commodity prices. This is an especially difficult time for dairy farmers because regional conditions in dairy markets have further reduced farm revenues.

Agricultural related agencies and organizations are working to get the word out about resources available to help.

NY FarmNet: NY FarmNet provides completely free and confidential on-farm services for farmers and farm families in New York. Specializing in personal wellbeing, stress management, family communication, financial analysis, business planning, transition planning, and estate planning, FarmNet financial and personal consultants guide farm families through periods of transition, opportunity or challenge. 1-800-547-3276, www.nyfarmnet.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK), www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Crisis Text Line: Text "START" to 741-741, www.crisistextline.org

New York State County Mental Health Directory: http://www.clmhd.org/contact_local_mental_hygiene_departments/

Contact Us

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Adirondack Park Local Government Conference

Crowne Plaza Lake Placid, New York

April 18 & 19, 2018

More information is available on APA's website www.apa.ny.gov

The Conference is presented by the NYS Adirondack Park Agency, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, Empire State Development, NYS Department of State, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.