



July 6, 2012

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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.

Tug Hill GIS User Group Meeting Recap

The Tug Hill GIS User Group met on June 21st at Carthage Central High School (CCHS). Organizations in attendance included CCHS, City of Watertown, Town of LeRay, Town of Philadelphia, Village of Lowville, Jefferson County, St. Lawrence County, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, DANC, ESRI, NYS Office of Cyber Security, and the Tug Hill Commission. Efficiency and working together were the themes of the day.

Frank Winters of OCS spoke about how his agency is hosting some county tax parcel data as Web Map Services (WMS) at no cost. This is a voluntary program for counties that do not have WMS capabilities. He also presented the Orthoimagery Map Viewer and Street Address Mapping (SAM) for next generation 911. The WMS layers are available at <http://gisservices.dhSES.ny.gov>.

Pete Walsemann, CCHS, talked about how his "Intro to GIS" class has partnered with surrounding communities to complete projects. His class has been recognized with two GIS partnership awards and their projects have included mapping recreational trails, infrastructure mapping, and 3D model building. Mr. Walsemann's class is a good example of schools and communities working together to solve technical problems, while teaching students problem solving.

Other speakers included Chris French, from ESRI, who spoke about ArcGIS Online and how to view different WMS layers and Sid Burgess, from YouTown, who conducted a webinar on YouTown, an application used to post events, news, maps, and other relevant information for local governments.

There are plenty of opportunities for working together and utilizing readily available services. The ability for the public and local governments to utilize GIS is increasing and being made easier. If you have any questions or would like more information on any of these presentations, contact Mickey Dietrich at mickey@tughill.org or (315) 785-2380.

Clean Energy Conference a Success

Over 250 people attended the first Annual North Country Clean Energy Conference in Lake Placid on June 21 and 22. Forty-five presentations were given in 6 track areas: Solar, Wind, Hydro, Biomass, Conservation & Efficiency, and Special Topics. Commission staff member Katie Malinowski organized and moderated the wind track. Links to the complete presentations are available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/00eni32rjg9s28a/LwL1DPy-0Y>

Understanding the Budget Process

Fall is right around the corner (didn't summer just get here?!?) and so is the beginning of the budget process for towns. Check out the Office of the State Comptroller's publication entitled "Understanding the Budget Process" for details about budgets. This guide is a resource for those governing bodies and officials who are responsible for preparing, developing, and monitoring the annual budget. The guide provides the groundwork for the development, preparation, and monitoring of the annual budget.

An annual budget, sometimes referred to as the operating budget, is the document that details the financial plan of the local government or school district for a fiscal year. The annual budget is perhaps an entity's most vital document and should be developed using all of the most current and accurate information available

So, before you have too much fun in the sun, download this publication and read all about the budget process! Go to: <http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lmg/budgetprocess08.pdf>.

Town Budget Calendar

1. The budget officer furnishes the heads of administrative units with the prescribed forms	We recommend the estimate forms be furnished to the units no later than September 1st.
2. The administrative unit heads submit estimates to the budget officer.	On or before September 20th. Budget officer prepares estimate for each administrative unit that fails to submit an estimate. (Town Law Section 104)
3. The budget officer files the tentative budget with the town clerk.	Not later than September 30th. (Town Law Section 106)
4. The town clerk presents the tentative budget to town board.	On or before October 5th. (Town Law Section 106)
5. The town board makes revisions and prepares the preliminary budget; preliminary budget filed with town clerk.	Prior to public hearing. (Town Law Section 106)
6. Notice of public hearing.	At least five days shall elapse between the date of first publication and the date specified for public hearing. (Town Law Section 108)
7. The public hearing is held	On or before the Thursday immediately following the general election. The hearing may be adjourned from day to day but not beyond November 15th. (Town Law Section 108)
8. Final revisions to the preliminary budget are made.	After public hearing but prior to adoption. (Town Law Section 109)
9. The budget is adopted by the governing board.	Not later than November 20th. (Town Law Section 109)

For more information about the Tax Cap, go to the NYS Comptrollers webpage at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/cap.htm> and for frequently asked questions, go to <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/faqs.htm>. The New York Conference of Mayors lists these and other sites related to the Tax Cap on their webpage at <http://nycom.org/>.

Training Session for Property Maintenance and Code Violations

Many Towns and Villages are experiencing the ongoing problem of property maintenance, neglectful and absentee landlords and repeat or habitual offenders of state and local building and zoning codes. The City of Rome has developed some very useful and successful policies and procedures to address these problems. Representatives from Rome, along with other local officials with experience in this field, will be presenting the steps the city follows in a training workshop scheduled for **Thursday, July 26, 2012 at Kunsela Hall, SUNYIT, Utica**. The sign in will start at 6:00 PM with the session running from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Pre-registration is requested. Town and village officials, codes officers, building inspectors, planning and zoning boards, justices, town/village attorneys are encouraged to attend.

A panel of local official with experience in this field will be discussing the following topics: Establishing a local law to address codes and property maintenance issues, Non-compliance issues, Enforcement procedures, Timeline for compliance, Judicial Interaction, and Alternative strategies. There will be a panel discussion followed by an ample question and answer period.

The workshop is sponsored by the Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties. The workshop fee is \$15.00 and light refreshments will be available. Registration information can be found at: <http://lgec.org/content>. Checks should be made out to The College Association and be sent to: Continuing Professional Education, LGEC Registration, SUNYIT, 100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13502. Phone: 315-792-7270, Fax: 315-792-7278.

Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute - July 11, 2012

This summer, the Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute (CMCI) will open its doors for one day to clerks who are interested in experiencing the Institute, but are unable to attend for the entire four days. This is an opportunity to participate in classes and understand the relevance of CMCI to local and county government leadership and the caliber of the training that clerks receive during their week at Cornell.

Clerks who have not yet experienced the Institute but who are curious may fully participate for that day, gaining credit for classes taken towards their certification through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Clerks are also encouraged to bring a local official to experience the one day as a community and leadership development opportunity (the registration form includes information about that).

The following classes will be offered: Public Relations, Public Issues and Local Public Policy; Information Access; and, Rural Broadband.

Local officials will participate in classes at the Masters level as well as one tailored specifically for them on Agriculture and Food Systems. For further information contact Susan Smith at 607-255-9510 or e-mail st237@cornell.edu. For the brochure and to register go to the CaRDI website: www.cardi.cornell.edu and choose Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute.

Sea Lamprey Barrier Installation on Orwell Brook

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, is currently installing the first Sea Lamprey barrier on a U.S. tributary to Lake Ontario on Orwell Brook in the Town of Albion, Oswego County. Orwell Brook, along with Trout Brook and Little Sandy Creek, is one of the premier natural reproducing salmon and steelhead streams in New York. The GLFC employs a host of techniques to control invasive sea lamprey populations, including chemicals that are highly specific to sea lampreys, traps and barriers. With the new barrier on Orwell Brook, sea lamprey will be prevented from moving upstream to reproduce at critical times of the year by the use of stop logs that create too high of a barrier for

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Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

Registration for 2012 Planning and Zoning Summer Schools

July 25 • Albany Law School • Albany

July 27 • Marriott Buffalo Niagara • Am-
herst

July 31 • Hyatt House • Fishkill

August 3 • Woodcliff Hotel • Fairport

Registration materials are available at
[http://nycom.org/documents/
pzflyer.pdf](http://nycom.org/documents/pzflyer.pdf).

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lamprey, but allow fish like steelhead to pass. The stop logs will be removed from the barrier outside of the lamprey's spawning period, improving passage for other aquatic organisms. It is a less labor intensive, less expensive, and more effective method of lamprey control over the long-term.

From the GLFC website (www.glfc.org): "Lampreys have been enormously destructive since they invaded the Great Lakes. Sea lampreys attach to fish with a sucking disk and sharp teeth. Sea lampreys feed on body fluids, often scarring and killing host fish. During its life as a parasite, each sea lamprey can kill 40 or more pounds of fish. Sea lampreys are so destructive that under some conditions, only one of seven fish attacked by a sea lamprey will survive. Sea lampreys prey on all species of large Great Lakes fish such as lake trout, salmon, rainbow trout (steelhead), whitefish, chubs, burbot, walleye, catfish, and even sturgeon. Sea lampreys have had a serious negative impact on the Great Lakes fishery. Because sea lampreys did not evolve with naturally occurring Great Lakes fish species, their aggressive, predaceous behavior gave them a strong advantage over their native fish prey. "



Champion VFD Submits Application

The Champion Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) submitted an application for funding to purchase 27 new Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and Turnout Gear, 6 Closed-Circuit SCBA, Washer-Extractor and personal escape ropes with NFPA Carabiners through the 2012 Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program. If approved, the CVFD will replace obsolete and damaged equipment to increase the safety of firefighters while complying with NFPA and OSHA regulations.

The CVFD has 15 new active firefighters to replace the 8 retiring firefighters while increasing its ranks by 7 additional active firefighters. Providing fire protection and emergency management services to a 3-square mile area located in the Town of Champion, the demand for service has increased by 27% over the past 3-years. CVFD also serves to provide back-up equipment and active firefighters to neighboring communities on an as needed basis through mutual aid to maximize limited regional/state and federal funding.