



March 16, 2012

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.

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Local Official Testifies Before State Mandate Relief Council

Village of Parish Mayor Leon Heagle testified at a recent public hearing conducted by the New York State Mandate Relief Council, held at the State Office Building in Watertown. Mayor Heagle, who is also the chairman of the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments, spoke on



both local and regional concerns before a panel which included Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy, State Senator Patty Richie, State Senator Betty Little, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush and Assemblyman William Magnarelli, Chair of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Local Government. Concerns communicated by Mayor Heagle included:

- Mandates on local roads, including low-volume local road standards, the need for passage of the Low Volume Roads legislation (S. 3641-A/A. 836-A), and oil-and-stone as a reimbursable road treatment under CHIPS.
- Shared services at local initiative, including state barriers to local cooperation. Mayor Heagle cited the difficulties imposed by the state upon Harrisburg, Montague and Pinckney in their justice court consolidation.
- Improvements to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) to remove its imposition where it is redundant with the comprehensive planning process, and to incorporate it into existing procedures where it is necessary.
- Changes based on a survey of Tug Hill municipalities, including redundant filing requirements, fee exemptions and individual notice requirements to Refinements to the tax levy cap imposed on municipalities to exempt tax levy growth factors beyond local control.

State Senator Patty Richie continues to request input from taxpayers and local governments toward "making government more efficient and providing better value for our hard-earned tax dollars." Submit your ideas at <http://www.nysenate.gov/press-release/your-turn-submit-your-ideas-mandate-relief>.

Tug Hill Communities Submit Over \$70,000 in Records Management Grant Applications

Several communities in the Tug Hill Region submitted applications to the New York State Archives office for funding under the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) program. Tug Hill Commission staff worked with local Records Management Officers in the following communities to submit the applications by the March 1st deadline:

The **Town of Rodman** requested \$4,767 under the files management category to purchase a modern filing cabinet for daily active records use and storage. The **Town of Worth** requested \$13,595 for the construction of a fire-safe storage area in the back of the town hall to house inactive records. The town plans to remodel a current storage area that will accommodate boxed records on new steel shelving units. Included in the project is the organization of records and development of records management policies and procedures.

The **Town of Osceola**, in a collaborative effort between the offices of the Town Clerk and the Town Historian, submitted an application for \$6,372 under the data conversion and access improvement category. The project includes scanning several series of historical records by a qualified vendor. The records will then be accessible electronically for everyday use. The town intends to keep all originals due to their historic value.

The **Town of Pinckney** submitted an application for \$11,735 to remodel a portion of the town hall for inactive records storage. The climate-controlled, fire-safe room will include steel shelving, boxes and materials, reorganization and transfer of records to the new storage room.

The **Village of Herrings** submitted an application for \$17,526 to inventory, organize, and process (re-file or purge) active and inactive records as well as construct a secure records storage facility adjacent to the Clerk's office. The proposed project will also establish a records management plan to guide future records management policies, procedures and practices to access and maintain information.

The **Village of Remsen** requested \$8,900 under the files management category to purchase shelving and a map cabinet. The **Town of Forestport** requested \$7,500 under the files management category to inventory and reorganize inactive records, along with developing a cross-reference list and other tools to improve retrieval efforts.

State Archives expects to make award announcements later this year, with projects to be completed by June 31, 2013. It is best to begin work on your next records management project early. Please call the Commission at 1-888-785-2380 or your regional State Archives advisory officer, Kent Stuetz, at (315) 793-2780 for more information about next steps in preparing for the 2013 grant cycle. LGRMIF information can be found at http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/grants/grants_lgrmif.shtml.



REMINDER

The Commission needs nominations for Tug Hill Sages. A nomination form and nomination guidelines are available on our website www.tughill.org.

Return nominations to us no later than **April 10, 2012.**



The Town of Lee kicked off its bicentennial celebration at a special Town Board meeting on March 3, the same date the first Town of Lee meeting was held in 1812. Close to 100 people attended the celebration which included a brief history of the town, a special stamp cancellation, cake, and comments from local and state officials.

Supervisor John Urtz read the minutes from the initial 1812 meeting. Town historian Virginia Ackerman said that session included appointments of some still-existing positions plus long-ago titles like "overseers of the poor" and "fence masters." Of the 21 people listed to be "overseers of highways" in their districts, she said only two of the last names are not still in the local telephone directory.

The town board appointed a committee which has been working hard on events to celebrate the bicentennial from now through October 27, 2012. Historical photos and facts along with many of these events are listed on the Lee 2012 Bicentennial Anniversary Calendar currently for sale for \$2.00 at the Town Clerk's office. Also a commemorative brochure has also been developed and is being mailed to the town's residents later this month.

Land Use Planning Workshop Notice: Dealing With "Junky" Yards and Messy Conditions

Date: Thursday April 19, 2012
Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Place: Jefferson Community College
1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown, NY 13601
Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002 at Jefferson
Community College
Parking in lot C or D
RSVP: Strongly encouraged by April 16th



The Jefferson County Department of Planning, NYS Tug Hill Commission and the Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College (JCC) are co-sponsoring a land use training session featuring Attorney Raymond A. Meier. As a lawyer in private practice, Mr. Meier has provided legal counsel to a wide variety of clients and has handled numerous zoning and other land use matters, representing both municipal boards and applicants. The evening's agenda is as follows:

6:30 - 6:35 pm: Welcome and Opening Remarks
6:35 - 8:00 pm: Presentation by Attorney Ray Meier
8:00 - 8:30 pm: Questions and Answers

The presentation by Mr. Meier will cover property maintenance issues associated with residential property, the reasons for local property maintenance laws, review of various types of regulations addressing the upkeep of private property, how the NYS Building Code deals with property maintenance and other issues associated with junk yards and messy conditions. The difficult process of enforcement will also be discussed.

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by **Monday April 16th**. Please call the Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email planning@co.jefferson.ny.us to confirm your attendance. If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training Requirement.

Aquifer Update Meeting Well Attended - Presentation Available

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Over 30 people attended the Tug Hill Aquifer update meeting on February 28th at the Sandy Creek Town Hall. Todd Miller from USGS presented a summary of what data has been collected to date. Work planned for 2012 includes:

- Using passive seismic technology, define aquifer thickness (depth to bedrock) in the outer fringe areas in the northern part of the study area, with a concentration in the Sandy Creek Valley from Lisk Bridge to Rodman;
- Continue to collect well records;
- Install 2-3 data loggers in northern part of aquifer; and,
- Construct geologic columns that depict subsurface geology

Due to lack of funds, the timeline for completion of the study has been pushed out, and detailed data has not been collected for the Oneida County section of the aquifer. For the central and northern sections, after 2012 a significant amount of funding will be needed to do required computer modeling. That will directly result in a final management tool to help guide development and land use decisions into the future.

The full presentation is available online at: http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/TugHill_Progress2011_for_Katie_022812.pdf.

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNYREDC) to Hold Public Forum Thursday, March 22

The Central New York Regional Economic Development Council will hold a public forum on Thursday, March 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Morgan Room in Hubbard Hall, Cazenovia College. The meeting is scheduled to provide an overview of the CNYREDC, an overview of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process, and a discussion on ongoing public engagement in the regional economic development process. The agenda for next Thursday's meeting can be found at <http://nyworks.ny.gov/themes/nyopenrc/rc-files/centralny/cnyredcpublic.pdf>.

Wood Products Development Council to Meet March 19th



The Wood Products Development Council invites you to attend their next meeting at Fort Drum on Monday, March 19th, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Commons at Dillenbeck Corners, P4350 Second Street, Fort Drum, NY 13602.

The Wood Products Development Council is a public-private partnership established under law to promote the forest products industry, ranging from paper to maple syrup to furniture and lumber. In addition to private industry, the Council has representation from Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and Empire State Development. At next Monday's meeting, the proposed biomass project at Fort Drum will be discussed. This meeting is open to the public and lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please contact Karen Dybas at 518-457-2771 or Karen.dybas@agriculture.ny.gov so that an accurate headcount for lunch can be planned.

The **Local Government Conference** is fast
approaching on **March 29th!**
We are on track to have a record attendance this year.
Please call the Commission for a registration form or visit our
website at www.tughill.org to download a copy.



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's Tug Hill Bird Quest

Calling all Teachers, Students & Parents -- Join the Tug Hill Bird Quest Classroom Feeder Team Program this Spring. Bring the outdoors in and join schools throughout the region during the Tug Hill Bird Quest - Classroom Feeder Teams. This is taking place the week of May 14th - 18th. Your class will receive a free bird feeder, seed, and educational materials. Contact Fawn at the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for more information at (315) 779-2239 or tughilladmin@nnyemail.com. **The deadline to register is April 23.**

Clean Up the Black River this Earth Day - April 21st

Mark your Calendar now! Join your friends and neighbors to celebrate Earth Day and clean up the Black River. **The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust invites you to Veterans Memorial Park in Watertown on Saturday, April 21st from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.** Bring your family and friends! This is a great way to get kids involved in their community. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. For more information and to RSVP contact Linda Garrett at (315) 779-8240 or thtomorr@northnet.org.



Fishing in New York

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) offers a variety of free maps with information that should be useful to novices, infrequent anglers, and even very experienced ones that are headed to unfamiliar territory. To order the I FISH NY Guide to Freshwater Fishing in New York State, send your name and address to fwfish@gw.dec.state.ny.us Other useful information can be found at the following web sites:

Fishing Hotlines: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishhotlines.html> - weekly updates on fishing conditions on selected waters.

Freshwater Places to Fish in NY: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7749.html>

Public Fishing Rights maps: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html>.

Lake Contour Maps: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9920.html>

Publicly accessible boat launch sites: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7832.html>

Get Maps: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/42978.html> has Google Maps locations to Public fishing rights, boat launches and lake contour maps.



NYS Tug Hill Commission

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www.dos.state.ny.us/coog

GIS Training Survey

The Commission is reaching out to local officials, by way of an online survey, to learn about the types of GIS training needed in applications at the municipal level. The survey can be accessed at <http://xww.surveymonkey.com/s/V7K7CSY> or you can go to our website <http://www.tughill.org>, choose “Assistance” in the menu, then choose “GIS Services [THRAM].” On the GIS page, click on “GIS Training Survey,” and this will take you to the survey. Most all of the GIS applications listed in the survey are free to use. There may be a cost if more advanced capabilities are needed.

Please indicate in the survey whether you would prefer online or onsite training. If you have an idea about training, but it is not listed, please fill-in the “Other” field on the first question. This information will help us provide more meaningful training opportunities. If you have any questions, contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 or mickey@tughill.org.

JIMI Update

The JIMI (Joint Infrastructure Management Initiative) project is continuing to move forward and be incorporated within the participant’s everyday operations. With the assistance of the Jefferson County Highway Department and Tug Hill Commission, the Jefferson County group has focused on installing equipment to allow participating towns and villages access to stored data using the Cartegraph software, with a goal to be fully operational by April 1st. Participants in the Lewis County group opted to update Cartegraph software to a newer version before completing implementation. They are now working on downloading additional data into their database. When complete, other participants will be brought online.

A model demonstration project, participating towns and villages are reporting increased efficiencies and effectiveness in using the new technology. For example, in response to a water line break in one community, the DPW crew was able to pinpoint the location of the shut off valve to repair the break using the Carlson Surveyor + GPS receiver. As the Carlson unit gets real-time centimeter accuracy, it is proving to be a valuable tool in relocating below ground assets and while reducing repair costs.

In addition, the Carthage Central High School’s “Intro to GIS” class has recently setup a partnership with the Town of Champion to assist them in data collection and updates of their assets for planning purposes to be incorporated into the Cartegraph system. A good example of partnering, students have the opportunity to apply classroom experience with field experience under the direction of the instructor using high-end. With assistance and support from the Tug Hill Commission, the school has in the past partnered with the Village of Carthage, Village of West Carthage, and RACOG to collect and update municipal asset information.