



May 30, 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.

Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Applications Extended to June 30

The NBRC federal grant program is available to participating member states, local governments, non-profits, and Native American entities for projects within the NBRC region. In NY, that includes the 14 counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence. Eligible projects must develop the transportation, water, sewer, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure of the region; assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development; provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped; promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and, to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources. This year, projects that promote transportation, utilities and telecommunications will receive extra points in scoring. The maximum grant for any applicant is \$250,000, and projects in all four Tug Hill counties require a 20% match. Approximately \$4.5 million is available in this round of funding.

For more information, see the NYS Department of State's webpage at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/rfa-14-nbrc/index.html> or contact the Commission offices at 785-2380.



CTHC Spring Meeting Held

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council held their spring meeting on May 22nd at the Tug Hill Hideaway in West Leyden with 12 of the 16 towns attending. Following a delicious meal, the Council elected officers for 2014-15. Roger Tibbetts from Rodman remains as Chairman, with Doug Dietrich from Martinsburg continuing as Vice Chairman. Carla Bauer from Redfield was elected as Secretary, taking the place of Merianne Shelmidine who decided to run as Director instead for the year. Rounding out the Directors were Ian Klingbail from Lewis, Steve Bernat from Harrisburg and Rosalie White from Leyden. The Council also reviewed and approved updated Special Areas maps from the towns of Florence and Lorraine. John Bartow and Phil Street from the Tug Hill Commission also updated the Council on the ongoing Highway mapping project, the recent meeting of the revitalized East Branch of Fish Creek working group, the TAUNY Cultural Heritage project and the results of the recent Local Leaders Survey. The scheduled guest speaker for the night Bob MaKenzie, Lewis County's Emergency Medical Services Coordinator was unfortunately unable to attend due to some flooding from a nasty storm that blew through that afternoon. The Fall Legislators meeting and Supervisors topics were also discussed before the meeting adjourned.

Fiscal Oversight/Red Flags for Fraud



**Presented by:
The Office of the State Comptroller
Syracuse Regional Office**



DATE: Monday, June 16, 2014
TIME: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Parish Village Gym
2938 East Main Street
Parish, NY 13131

This training program is designed to assist village and town officials in carrying out their fiscal oversight responsibility. Topics to be covered include:

- What are the board's fiscal oversight duties?
- What is the purpose of an audit and who is responsible?
- An overview of the records of the chief fiscal officer (Supervisor or Treasurer)
- An overview of the fiscal responsibilities of the Justice and Clerk
- Important audit concerns and key records to look at (a checklist approach)
- What do you do if questions are raised during the audit process?
- What are the major red flags for fraud you should watch for?
- What do you do if you suspect fraud?

Registration is requested for the Training Program

Please contact:

Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2380 or 888-785-2380

Please RSVP by June 13, 2014

THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS TRAINING PROGRAM

Legal Aspects of Records Management Workshop

CNY State Archives – Final Showing Edition

There is one more opportunity this year to see the Legal Aspects of Records Management workshop in CNY. Free seats still available at the Lewis County Courthouse in Lowville next Tuesday, June 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

The law has a great impact on records. It influences how we manage them, access them, secure them, and how long we keep them. This brand new course will explore how statutory laws and court decisions affect records management programs and the importance of a good records management program in protecting your organization during law suits.

This workshop will: Explain the legal requirements of a records management program; review federal and state laws that greatly impact records management; review court cases that affect records management; explain how the legal discovery process works; explain the consequences of not preserving records; provide practical steps for going forward.

If you or other members of your local government would like to attend any of these sessions, which are free to all, please follow the link below to the NYS Archives workshop registration webpage. Scroll down this page to find the workshop, date and location you desire and complete the registration process. This process must be completed for each person who wishes to attend this workshop. Additional workshops are listed on this webpage that are available throughout New York State.

<http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>

Early Summer Camping Special

New York State is offering an [Early Summer Camping Special](#) for 112 state campgrounds across New York. The special offer includes \$5 per night off regular rates through June 26 for campers making reservations using the promo code **EARLYCAMP14**.

Book your campground online at newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com or over the phone at 800-456-CAMP. The deal covers virtually all campgrounds operated by New York State Parks and the Department of



Environmental Conservation in nearly every region. Before booking the Early Summer Camping Special, be sure to check out the [new online campground virtual tours](#) to get a firsthand look at select campgrounds.

St. Lawrence Town Installs Pellet Heating System

As reported in the Watertown Daily Times on May 17, 2014, the Town of Louisville recently installed a wood pellet heating system at its municipal building. The total cost of the system was \$120,000. A grant from the River Valley Development Association paid for \$90,000 of the system, and the Town paid the remaining \$30,000. According to the article, the town purchased 65.5 tons of wood pellets in the 2013-14 heating season at a cost of about \$12,120. Using the formula that one ton of pellets is equal to 120 gallons of fuel, at \$3.28 per gallon, Councilman O'Keefe said the town would have spent approximately \$25,777 on fuel, for a savings of 53%.

Town of Wilna Explores Energy Efficiency Options

Eligible to apply for NYSERDA funding through the 2014 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process, the Town of Wilna Board approved a motion at the May 12th meeting to explore options and opportunities to upgrade the old heating and cooling system with energy efficient equipment through the “Existing Facilities Program.” In addition, members of the board expressed interested in developing a long-term alternative energy plan to reduce costs to local residents & business owners.

In preparing to submit a CFA by the June 16th deadline, the town is working with an energy consultant to identify pre-approved HVAC equipment, equipment specifications, energy savings and cost.

Officials Attend Workers’ on Workers Compensation Insurance

Over thirty local officials attended a presentation at SUNYIT on Municipal Options for Workers’ Compensation Insurance by Michael Kenneally, Executive Director of NY COMP Alliance and Loren Walsh, Vice President of Marketing. Peter Baynes, Executive Director at NYCOM was also in attendance and made some brief remarks on the increased costs in NYS for workers’ compensation insurance and the importance of municipal officials understanding the type of policy they have in place. The session was sponsored by the Local Government Education Committee of Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

Local officials were give an introduction to workers’ compensation insurance, comparing options for providing worker’s compensation insurance available to municipalities and what every municipality should know about its workers’ compensation insurance. The difference between traditional insurance and self insurance was covered. Self insurance includes group self insurance, individual self insurance and a county self insurance plan.

New York Comp Alliance is a group self-insured workers' compensation program, designed exclusively for municipal corporations (including school districts) in New York State. It is sponsored by the Association of Towns of the State of New York and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM). As part of a group self-insurance program members pool their resources together to provide workers' compensation coverage for their respective employees.

WORKSHOP	WHEN/WHERE	CONTACT
Black River Watershed Conference	June 4, 8:00am-4:00pm @ Tug Hill Vineyards, Lowville	Carla Luther 376-6122 or cluther@lewiscountyny.org
2014 Land Use Training Sessions for Lewis County Planning Board and ZBA Members	June 4, 6:00-9:00pm @ Legislative Chambers, Lewis County Court House, Lowville	Lewis County Planning Department 376-5422 or syoung@lewiscountyny.org
NY Rural Economic Development Roundtable	June 13, 10:00am-1:00pm @ Jefferson Community College, Watertown	Michael Mannigan 782-7289 ext. 122 or michael.mannigan@ny.usda.gov

Contact us at:

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