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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.

New Scenic Byway Signs Improve the View

You may have noticed new byway signage in your travels throughout the region, such as the ones pictured below. There are more than 2,000 miles of roads in New York State's Scenic Byways system, transportation corridors that have particular scenic, recreational, cultural, natural or archaeological significance. There are four State Designated Scenic Byways traversing the Tug Hill Region, they are: the Revolutionary Trail, the Black River Trail, Maple Traditions and Olympic Trail.

In 2013 the Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byway legislation was signed into law, which capped off a multi-year effort to reroute the Black River Trail to follow the Black River, and to create a new Maple Traditions route from Lowville to Ogdensburg and Canton. Each byway has gone through an extensive Corridor Management Planning (CMP) process, led by stakeholder groups. Communities along the scenic byway are eligible for federal funds through the state Department of



Transportation for enhancements that implement CMP recommendations. For more information on the scenic byway program please visit <https://www.dot.ny.gov/display/programs/scenic-byways/lists>.

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) administers the North Country's 13 Scenic Byways. Information on communities, sites to see, and planning your trip can be found at <http://www.adirondackscenicbyways.org/index.html>.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet

December 14th at 10:00am at the Commission Office

317 Washington St., Watertown NY.

Land Ownership and Protected Lands Issue Paper Available

The Commission just released a new Issue Paper titled "Land Ownership and Protected Lands in the Tug Hill Region." You can find this paper on our website at <http://www.tughill.org/publications/white-papers/>.

The paper identifies and describes protected lands in the Tug Hill region and will serve as a baseline of the quantity of protected lands in the region for future trends analyses. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Commission office or your circuit rider.

NOCCOG Towns to Welcome New Officials

Following the November 3rd elections, several communities in the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will soon be welcoming new officials in January.

In Camden, current Councilman Rich Norton will assume the role of Supervisor after an uncontested race. Norton will replace Dan Yerdon, who is retiring from the post after 25 years. In Vienna, Councilman Bill Graham won the Supervisor seat which will be vacated by Walter Keeney who did not seek re-election.

In Forestport, former Planning Board Chairman TJ Entwistle won election after challenging incumbent Parker Snead. Boonville will also welcome a new Supervisor with the election of Harold "Dick" LeClair.

Several new council members will also take their newly elected seats in January, including Forestport's William Rockhill; Vienna's Jason Spellcy; Lee's Joseph Goetz and Josh Szyper; Boonville's James Galler; and Floyd's Fred Mazza. Tracy Northrup will assume the role of Clerk in Forestport. To assist newly elected officials, NOCCOG and the Tug Hill Commission will be providing introductory information and training dates, including newly elected training sponsored by the Association of Towns on January 6-8, 2016 in Rochester and January 13-15 in Albany. Newly elected training sponsored by LGEC is also planned for January 21st in the Town of Trenton. More details will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

Lewis County Sponsoring NYMIR Training December 14

The New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal is providing a lunch and learn training session on Monday, December 14 from noon to 3 pm at the Lowville Fire Hall, 5420 Parkway Drive, Lowville. The first topic will be on social media, and will address exposures a municipality can face and how cyber coverage can assist with costs associated in the event of a cyber incident. The second topic will be intermunicipal agreements in an era of shared services.

Please RSVP to NYMIR Online University or Erin Barilla, NYMIR, (518) 437-1171 x318 or ebarilla@wrightinsurance.com.

Municipal Restructuring Fund Program to be Released Mid-December

The NYS DOS held a Local Government Innovation Conference on November 17th to share information on their new Municipal Restructuring Fund to be released mid-December. The program was originally announced in the Governor's 2015-16 budget, is being funded at \$150 million from bank settlements, and will be a one-time program. While details are still being worked out, the structure of the program will generally follow two tracks and is based on the Environmental Facilities Corporation model of scoring projects and developing a priority list. There will be two tracks for potential projects to follow: the Venture track that will be phased for projects that aren't fully developed, and the Fast Track for projects well vetted and ready for implementation.

The program will differ from the Local Government Efficiency program in that it will be non-competitive, and DOS staff will be available to assist communities in developing their project. There will be more than one chance to apply per year for the funding, which will not be included in the Consolidated Funding Application.

An example of a funding scenario would be a county that projects a \$1 million/year savings from their proposed project. With a 10 year savings of \$10 million then calculated for present value of \$9.4 million, the grant award would be 20% of that 10 years present value savings, \$1.88 million, or the cost of the project, whichever is less.

Once announced in mid-December, DOS plans to hold innovation clinics around the state in January to share more details about the program and start soliciting projects. More information about the program and clinics will be shared as soon as it is available.

Upcoming Trainings for Newly Elected Officials

Webinar: Just Elected - What Do You Do Now?

December 10, 2015, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Hosted By: The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) and The Association of Towns of the State of NY,
<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/academy/webinarstraining.htm>

Training: New Town Officials School

January 6 - 8, 2016, DoubleTree Hotel, Rochester, New York

January 13 - 15, 2016, The Desmond Hotel, Albany, New York

Intended to help town supervisors, town clerks, board members, highway superintendents, town attorneys, and town fiscal personnel get settled into their new position by covering a broad array of topics; **register on the Association of Towns Website:** www.nytowns.org

Tips for Secure Online Holiday Shopping

Cyber Monday once again ranked as the heaviest spending day of the year. In 2014 an estimated \$2.04 billion was spent on Cyber Monday. Online sales grew 8.5% compared to 2013, with mobile sales reaching 22% of total Cyber Monday online sales.

When purchasing online this holiday season – and all year long – keep the following tips in mind:

Secure your mobile device and computer.

Shop with trusted merchants.

Look for “HTTPS” when making an online purchase.

Use strong passwords

Use common sense to avoid scams.

Do not use public computers or public wireless for your online shopping.

Pay by credit card rather than debit card.

Keep a paper trail.

Review privacy policies.



If you encounter problems with an online shopping site, contact the merchant or the site operator directly. You may also contact the following organizations:

New York State Attorney General's Office: www.ag.ny.gov/

New York State Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection: www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/

The Better Business Bureau: www.bbb.org

The Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov/

For additional information about safe online shopping, please visit the following sites:

NYS Office of Information Technology Services: www.its.ny.gov/eiso

US-CERT: www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST07-001.html

OnGuard Online: www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0020-shopping-online

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse: www.privacyrights.org/Privacy-When-You-Shop

Contact us at:

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USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. This program assists qualified applicants that are not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms. **Applications for this program are accepted year round.**

Eligible applicants include: Most State and local governmental entities; Private non-profits; Federally-recognized Tribes. Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with fewer than 10,000 people. Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of: Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution; Sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; Solid waste collection, disposal and closure; Storm water collection, transmission and disposal. In some cases, funding may also be available for related activities such as: Legal and engineering fees; Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits and equipment; Start-up operations and maintenance; Interest incurred during construction; Purchase of existing facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service; Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project. For complete information on this program, visit: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>.

For more information, contact Stanley Telega, State Director at (315) 477-6400 or visit www.rd.usda.gov/ny.

Climate Smart Webinar Series

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) (www.dec.ny.gov/energy/84359.html) regularly hosts monthly Climate Smart Webinars to educate local governments on issues related to climate change, strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing community resiliency. All webinars will begin at 10:30am and last approximately 90 minutes. Access information will be distributed via the CSC listserv. Signing up is an easy and convenient way to learn about new CSC resources, funding opportunities, upcoming webinars, workshops and other climate-related events. Visit DEC's website and enter your email address in the box entitled "Receive Email Updates and News from NYSDEC." Check the box next to "Climate Change Office" and "Climate Smart Communities" from the list of subscription topics. To view the schedule go to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/86246.html>.

Park and Trail Partnership Program

The Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the NYS Office of Parks, Preservation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) new Park and Trail Partnership Program grant program is designed to enhance the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of New York State parks, trails and state historic sites by investing in the organizations that support these treasured places. The Park and Trail Partnership Program is a \$500,000 capacity-building matching grants program for the Friends groups that support the state parks system. It is jointly administered by PTNY and OPRHP.

Visit <http://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/park-trail-partnership-program> for complete information. **Grant deadline submission is December 4, 2015.**