

JULY 27, 2018

Leona Chereshnoski Honored as a “Woman of Distinction”

Commissioner Leona Chereshnoski was honored by Senator Patty Ritchie on Wednesday, July 25 as part of the Senator’s annual “Women of Distinction” ceremony in Alexandria Bay. Leona, the longest serving current Tug Hill Commission board member, was initially appointed to the board in November 1983. A resident of Lorraine, with long-term family ties to Osceola, she has a long history of civic and community involvement, including: Treasurer, NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers’ Association; Secretary, Osceola Snowmobile Club; NYS Library Association; Jefferson Lewis Library Association; and election observer for the Town of Lorraine. She is also the librarian, Osceola Public Library; the owner of Old Lard’s Barn Bed and Breakfast, and is a retired librarian from the South Jefferson Central School.



She and her husband, Ray, raised their three children Sherry, Pete, and Jackie in Lorraine, where Ray operated a logging business and served terms as town justice and highway superintendent. After raising her children, Leona went to college at age 47 and finished her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five and a half years, while working full-time at the South Jefferson Central School as librarian and taking care of her family. Leona’s mother Alice Clemens, a renowned fiddle player, was honored as a Tug Hill Sage in 1993, and her husband Ray received the same honor in 2006. Leona and her family were highlighted in the Venerable Folks of Tug Hill exhibit in 2016.

Congratulations Leona!!



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State Comptroller Announces Tax Levy Limit for 2019 Town Budgets

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has announced the tax levy limit for local government units whose fiscal years end December 31. These local governments, which include towns and counties, will have a tax levy limit of two percent for the 2019 fiscal year. Comptroller DiNapoli notes that this is the first time that the levy limit (which is either two percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower) has been at two percent since 2013.

The full announcement from the comptroller can be found at:

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/press/releases/july18/071218.htm>

The comptroller’s web page concerning the tax levy limit for local governments can be found at:

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm>

NOCCOG Accepting Executive Board Nominations

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments is accepting nominations for a member to serve on the five person executive board. The board typically meets quarterly to attend to regular COG business and receive updates on ongoing activities. Election of the new officer will occur at the annual NOCCOG business and dinner meeting on Thursday, September 27th at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome. In addition to electing a new executive committee member, our guest speaker will be Khris Dodson, from Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, who will be discussing project and grant preparedness.

The vacancy to be filled was previously held by long time board member and Tug Hill Commissioner Arnie Talgo from Steuben, who passed away earlier this year.



2018-19 Justice Court Assistance Plan Grants Available

The Justice Court Assistance Plan (JCAP) grants for 2018-19 are now available. The Unified Court System’s budget includes \$3 million in JCAP funding for this fiscal year, with the maximum grant amount per court at \$30,000 (joint applications may have a maximum amount of \$60,000). All town and village courts can apply for funding in many areas including office equipment and furniture, security equipment and court room and court facility improvements and renovations. The application must be filed by justice court personnel, so if boards are aware of an area needing funding, they should coordinate with their court personnel to submit an application.

The deadline to apply is **October 11, 2018**. Most of the application must be submitted online. The signature page, board resolution, estimates and the court’s budget can be either mailed, emailed or faxed in. Court personnel will be able to access the page which includes the fax number, email address and the user name and password to access the application at the town and village courts webpage www.nycourts.gov/courts/townandvillage. If you need assistance completing the application process, contact the Office of Justice Court Support at 1-800-232-0630 or your circuit rider.

Since the JCAP program was established in 1999, local justice courts have received over \$35 million in equipment and other resources. There was \$3 million awarded in the 2017-18 JCAP grant cycle, with over \$4 million requested in 366 applications. The average award in 2017-18 was \$9,000, and \$1.8 million of the funding went toward construction and security enhancements.

Emerald Ash Borer Survey—Please Respond!

Since Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed in northern Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties, a partnership of state & county agencies, local organizations and interested parties is working to determine the awareness of municipalities about Emerald Ash Borer.

A brief online survey has been created to help with determining this awareness: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZcugvef8I_ktXCYS2Jn4CCOx6b7IJWdVPU-ag3-07EqjRw/viewform?usp=sf_link



The group is currently planning to conduct a workshop this October, and responses from the survey will be used in the planning process. Thanks for your time in taking the survey.

LAKE-EFFECT RESEARCH AT SUNY OSWEGO

And How We Use it to Prepare Others

Monday, September 24, 2018, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Town of Sandy Creek Town Hall

1992 Harwood Drive, Sandy Creek, NY 13145

Learn about results from the Ontario Winter Lake-effect Systems (OWLeS) project and how SUNY Oswego forecasts storms for the NYS Department of Transportation and local schools.

Presenters

Matthew Seymour and Nicholas Rodick, co-forecast leaders of the Lake-Effect Storm Prediction and Research Center (LESPaRC). Matt is a senior meteorology major at SUNY Oswego, and his research interests include lake-effect snow and severe convective storms. He is best known for his weather photography and providing year-round forecasts to a social media audience in Central New York. Nick is a junior in meteorology at SUNY Oswego, and his research interests are tornado formation over complex terrain and lake-effect snow storms. Nick is known for storm chasing in the U.S. Great Plains and Upstate NY.

Scott Steiger, Associate Professor of Meteorology at SUNY Oswego. Scott's research interests are lake-effect storms and severe thunderstorms. He leads the college's annual storm observation and forecasting program, in which he brings students out to the U.S. Great Plains to observe and study thunderstorms firsthand.

This presentation is being organized by the NYS Tug Hill Commission.
Please RSVP to gwen@tughill.org or 315-785-2380 by September 20.



CFA Applications Submitted

Commission staff has been busy working with the towns of Ava, Florence, Trenton and Williamstown on consolidated funding applications. Four grant applications were submitted this week to two different grant programs. The towns of Ava, Florence and Williamstown have all applied for funding to the Water Quality Improvement Program through the NYSDEC to construct salt/sand sheds for their highway departments. Covering the salt/sand pile has a multitude of benefits including the prevention of potentially contaminated runoff, which could impact drinking water, and increased town efficiency. If awarded, the program will pay up to 50% of the construction costs with the towns cost-sharing the rest through cash and in-kind services.

The town of Trenton has applied to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for funding to improve accessibility in the town park that includes installation of a therapeutic swing along with other playground equipment. The project will also construct ADA parking spaces and accessible connector pathways to park amenities, such as the main pavilion, playground, ballfield, basketball court and swim/beach bath house. The town saw this as an opportunity to respond to their citizens and user groups who have requested the addition of equipment that can be enjoyed by children and adults with a broader range of abilities. If funded, the grant will pay up to 75% of the project costs, with the town cost-sharing the rest through cash and in-kind services. Grant awards should be announced by the end of the year.

Thank you to the communities and all involved with helping to develop these projects!

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!

Census Webinars Available in August

The US Census Bureau will offer a series of webinars over the summer months. These webinars were created for those in the Northeast USA, but may be viewed by anyone for a general understanding. To register, go to <https://gallery.mailchimp.com/41582489d184e3ce3e388e952/files/3472b6fc-7876-4382-97a6-7be4f76dce2e/USCensusSummer18Webinars.pdf>.

Economic Data

Wednesday, August 1, 2018, 10:00 am

Session will give an overview of the types of economic data collected by the Census Bureau.

Preparing Your Community for the 2020 Census

Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 10:00 am

Session will cover how communities can prepare for the 2020 Census. There will be an overview of 2020 Census operation and complete count committees.

ACS: A WEALTH OF HEALTH DATA

Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 10:00 am

Session will explain the ACS, the health and insurance questions on the ACS form, and demonstrate how to get information within American Factfinder pertaining to disabilities and health insurance.