Tug Hill Times

July 31, 2015

2016 Tax Cap Figures Released by Comptroller

The NYS Comptroller recently released this coming year's tax cap figure on his website. Known as the 2% tax cap, in 2016 it will actually be a 0.73% tax cap. The tax cap is technically the lesser of the rate of inflation of 2% and inflation rates have recently been very low. In 2015, the tax cap was at 1.56%. In 2012 and 2013 it was at 2%.

The full report is available on the Comptroller's website: http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/research/snapshot/taxcaptightens0715.pdf

Second Tug Hill Village to Dissolve

The Village of Prospect will become the second Tug Hill village to dissolve following a referendum on July 21st. Of the 98 votes cast, 91 voted in favor of dissolution.

The vote was precipitated by two Worker's Compensation claims involving firefighters, initially prompting the abolition of the fire department a few years ago. The village then opted to leave Oneida County's self-insurance plan, leaving its 290 residents responsible for the repayment of more than $500,000 in debt associated with the claims. Through dissolution, the village is now able to negotiate repayment over a twenty year period. Once the village dissolves and becomes a hamlet of the Town of Trenton, a special debt district will be created to form the tax base to repay the debt. The village is also liquidating its assets to offset the cost to taxpayers.

Village and Town officials are now working with the NYS Department of State, Center for Government Research, and the Tug Hill Commission to apply for implementation grants, as the Town of Trenton prepares to absorb functions previously provided by village government.

The dissolution is the second among Tug Hill communities in recent years. The Village of Altmar in Oswego County dissolved in 2013.

NEW YORK STATE WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS

Boonville Oneida County Fairgrounds
ROUTE 294, BOONVILLE, NEW YORK
The 2015 Woodsmen's Field Days will be held on August 21, 22, & 23.
For more information, visit the website www.starwebhosting.net/woodsmen

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants Available

The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced approximately $13.9 million in funding available for projects for:

- Invasive Species Prevention: innovative approaches to reduce the risk from a variety of pathways including, but not limited to, movement through canals and waterways; accidental contamination of nursery, water garden, and live bait products; uninformed use of invasive species in landscaping and water gardens; and internet sales of invasive species; EPA expects to provide approximately $2.5 million for approximately 5 to 8 projects in amounts up to a maximum of $500,000.
- Invasive Species Control: ongoing need for enhancing the capacity for managing invasive species in the Great Lakes. Funding for on-the-ground and in-the-water control projects can assist ecological restoration and help create long-term stewardship; EPA expects to provide approximately $5,200,000 for approximately 8 to 12 projects in amounts up to a maximum of $650,000 that control invasive species and initiate long-term stewardship of project sites.
- Urban Watershed Management Implementation: nonpoint sources are now the primary contributors of many pollutants to the Great Lakes and their tributaries; implementation of best management practices addressing those sources can have multiple benefits, including simultaneous reductions in runoff of soils, nutrients, pesticides, and other nonpoint source pollutants; EPA expects to provide approximately $2,700,000 for approximately 6 to 10 project, maximum amount of federal funds for any project in this category is $500,000; an eligible urban watershed is defined as including urban and downtown areas, city neighborhoods, suburban municipalities, and exurban communities and unincorporated areas characterized by encroaching urban sprawl where the urban land use has a documented impact on water quality; Proposals are limited to projects implementing an urban component(s) of existing watershed-based plans that are consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance.
- Agricultural Watershed Management Implementation: same nonpoint sources issues as urban; EPA expects to provide approximately $3,000,000 for approximately 6 to 8 projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the Great Lakes; maximum amount of federal funds that will be awarded for any project in this category is $500,000; Projects submitted in this category must be projects implementing agricultural best management practices or management measures from watershed-based plans that are consistent with the components outlined in EPA's Nine Elements Guidance.

There is an information webinar on August 13. Applications are due September 28. More information at http://www2.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/great-lakes-restoration-initiative-2015-rfa.

Work Started on Huge Central New York Race Park Project

Lots of dirt is moving at the planned site of a big motor and harness racing park that local officials hope will bring needed employment and development to the Oswego County town of Hastings 22 miles north of Syracuse.

For the past several months, crews have been clearing 200,000 cubic yards of topsoil and grading a 150-acre site between Route 11 and Interstate 81, about halfway between Brewerton and Central Square.

The work marks the beginning of construction on racing entrepreneur Glenn Donnelly's Central New York Raceway Park after four years of planning. Donnelly said the complex will feature a 2.2-mile road course, a half-mile synthetic dirt oval track for harness and dirt car racing, a 56-bay NASCAR-style garage, a 15,000-seat grandstand, and a five-story "command center" with a 300-seat restaurant, VIP suites, a video production studio and offices.

Donnelly, the founder of DIRT Motorsports, said he hopes to have the park's major feature, its 2.2-mile road course, ready for testing in October and open for leasing by car clubs starting in May of next year. He said he plans to start construction on the park's buildings in November. They will take six months to build. But even if the buildings take longer than that to complete, he said he still will be able to lease the road course to car clubs.

The park's main source of revenue will be car clubs that lease the facility so their members can race their Corvettes, Porsches and other high-performance cars around the 2.2-mile road course.

For more information about the race park go to www.facebook.com/CNYRP or the website at www.centralnyracewaypark.com/. Full story and pictures at www.syracuse.com.

Phishing Attacks - Are You at Risk?

One of the most common online scams is called phishing. Phishing is an attempt by an individual or group to solicit personal information from unsuspecting users by masquerading as a trustworthy entity. Online scammers will pose as legitimate businesses, organizations or individuals. If they are able to gain the trust of their victims, they can leverage this trust to convince victims to willingly give up information or click on malicious links or attachments. Online scammers can make their communications appear to be those of legitimate businesses or organizations by spoofing the email address, creating a fake website with legitimate logos, and even providing phone numbers to an illegitimate customer service center operated by the scammers.

Two common types of phishing attacks:

- **Phishing Email –** One of the best known forms of phishing is an email scam. An email, purporting to be from a popular company, may ask you to click on a link in order to fix a problem with your account. In other instances, the email message may threaten to close your account if you do not respond.   Scammers often use threats that your security has been compromised in order to increase the likelihood that the recipient will respond.

- **Spear Phishing -** Spear phishing is a personalized email attack in which a specific organization or individual is targeted. These attacks are prepared using information about an individual to make the email appear to be legitimate and induce the recipient to divulge sensitive information or download a malicious file. Such preparation is often based on extensive information gathering on the targets and has become one of the favored methods used in cyber espionage. Phishing scams can be difficult to identify, however, being aware of the threat and being vigilant in examining emails can reduce the risk that you will fall prey to such an attack.

Recommendations:

- Be cautious about all communications you receive, including those that purport to be from "trusted entities." Be careful when clicking any links contained within those messages. If in doubt, do not click.
- Do not send your personal information via email. Legitimate businesses will not ask users to send sensitive personal information through email.
- Keep an eye out for telltale signs - poor spelling or grammar, the use of threats, the URL does not match that of the legitimate site.
- Be wary of how much information you post online. The less information you post, the less data you make available to a cybercriminal for use in developing a potential attack or scam.

Additional Resources:

- Enterprise Information Security Office Newsletters: http://www.its.ny.gov/eiso/awareness-training-events/news
Annual New York State Cyber Security Conference: http://www.its.ny.gov/eiso/conference/2015/
Microsoft: http://www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/phishing-symptoms.aspx
Anti-Phishing Working Group: http://www.antiphishing.org/resources/overview/avoid-phishing-scams
Using Cyber Common Sense to Combat Threats to Privacy and Security: http://www.mitre.org/publications/project-stories/using-cyber-common-sense-to-combat-threats-to-privacy-and-security

For more information about the Enterprise Information Security Office and how to keep safe online, please visit www.its.ny.gov/eiso .

10th Combat Aviation Brigade's OH58D Kiowa Warriors Fly to Glory one last time!

Aerial Cavalrymen of 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), flew all 30 of the squadrons' Observational Helicopter-58D Kiowa Warriors in formation over Fort Drum, N.Y. and surrounding areas July 27, 2015. After more than 20 years at the installation, the OH-58D were retired after a final flight July 28, 2015, as a part of the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative, which will replace the Kiowa Warriors with a combination of Attack-Helicopter 64 Apaches and unmanned aerial vehicles. A testament to all those who have worked to maintain and pilot the Kiowas throughout the years, all the soldiers they've saved and all the freedoms they've protected. (Army Photo by Spc. Osama Ayyad, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Public Affairs Office)/Released)

Windows 10 Out Soon – Should You Upgrade?

Microsoft has announced that its newest version of Windows, Windows 10, is available starting on Monday, July 27. Windows 10 is a free upgrade for users whose computers are licensed for Windows 7, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1.

Should you upgrade? It might be best to wait a little while. The upgrade will be available for a year from when Microsoft first offers its availability. Since this upgrade is only for more recent versions of Windows, these versions continue to receive updates from Microsoft and continue to be as functional and secure as they are now. This free upgrade offer does not extend to older versions of Windows such as Windows 2000 and Windows XP, which Microsoft no longer supports, and Windows Vista, whose extended support runs out on April 11, 2017.

The advantage of waiting at least a little while on the upgrade to Windows 10 is that with every new release of Windows, there is a period when Microsoft is learning about and correcting situations that did not appear during pre-release product development. Waiting a little while may result in a smoother upgrade experience and a more stable product after installation. In addition, you may wish to check with the people behind the software you use, especially any mission-critical software, and look to them for guidance on the best time to upgrade.

When you are ready to upgrade, expect it to take some time. The download is in the vicinity of 3 GB, so a high speed connection will be necessary, and you will need considerable free space on your computer's storage capacity.

For more information about Windows 10 and upgrading, Microsoft has a web page addressing frequently asked questions: www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-faq

Emerging GIS in NYS Survey

The Fund for the City of New York has commissioned the NYS GIS Association to assess the extent and availability of GIS in municipal governments across New York State with an eye to assist interested municipalities start and further develop GIS capabilities.

- The New York State GIS Association is a non-profit organization that is committed to supporting GIS in its many settings throughout the state and connecting users to the resources they need to advance.
- GIS is a computer-based system that allows for the storage of the location of real world features along with information related to those features, enabling map creation and data management. Overlays of different features at the same location can allow for analysis of relationships between features and custom solutions to issues.

Whether you are currently using GIS or not, your input will help us. Please take the survey and help to assess the needs and increase GIS resources for municipalities throughout New York State. If you currently utilize GIS services and it is through an outside organization, please enter them in question 5 of the survey, along with your response to that question.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSGISGRANT