

April 27, 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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## Regional Economic Development Councils Announce CFA Timetables

All three Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) have met over the last few weeks. Meeting highlights for all REDCs have included a review of what was learned from the first Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process last year, and how that will improve the 2012 process. Each REDC is also developing a NYSERDA Cleaner

Greener Sustainability Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and deploy renewable energy. These plans are scheduled for completion by the end of 2012. After the NYSERDA plans are completed, there should be a round of funding to implement projects identified in the plans. In the Central New York REDC, the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board is taking the lead; in North Country the Adirondack North Country Association is taking the lead.

Additionally, at the meetings, the 2012 CFA process has been announced in broad strokes. The CFA is tentatively scheduled to be released spring 2012, with an application deadline of mid-summer, scoring due in late summer, and awards announced in early fall. For communities that are thinking of a CFA, contact the Commission to discuss your project and how it can be moved forward.

Central New York REDC CFA workshops are tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 18 at SUNY Cortland, Wednesday, May 30 at SUNY Oswego, and Wednesday, June 13 at Onondaga Community College (OCC). There will be a North Country REDC CFA workshop May 18 in Watertown, and Mohawk Valley will announce their May workshop dates shortly.

Stay tuned for more dates and times regarding public participation sessions. Each REDC will also be meeting again in June. Information about the REDCs can be found at <http://nyworks.ny.gov/>.



The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust was awarded a two-year grant that will enable the accredited, 21-year old land trust with 6,815 acres under conservation easement, to hire a full-time Land Protection Manager to oversee the land trust's rapidly growing farmland protection program, developed in partnership with Ft. Drum and the US Department of Defense. The \$75,000 grant award comes from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program. The purpose of the grants, funded through New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, is to increase the pace, improve the quality and ensure the permanence of voluntary conservation of private lands, which will result in significant environmental and economic benefits for communities throughout New York. Under this program, \$1.4 million total were awarded to 53 nonprofit land trusts across the state.



### Ban on Residential Burning Remains in Effect

All residential brush burning is prohibited in smaller communities during the state's historically high fire-risk period from March 16 - May 14. While the brush burn regulation allows residential brush burning for most of the year in towns with a population of less than 20,000, it prohibits open burning in all communities during early spring when the bulk of New York's wildfires typically occur. The state regulations prohibit the burning of garbage at all times and in all places. The Towns of Forestport and Remsen in Oneida County are designated as "fire towns," meaning open burning is prohibited in these municipalities without a written permit from the DEC.



Several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, warm temperatures and winds. Open burning is the largest single cause of wildfires in New York State.

### Albion Seeks Grant for Altmar Dissolution Implementation

The Albion town board met on Tuesday, April 24, passing a resolution to apply for a grant that will assist in the dissolution of the Village of Altmar and to discuss the next steps in the process. Town officials and the Commission staff gathered to discuss applying for a \$50,000 grant from the State.

In 2010, the Village of Altmar successfully applied to the Department of State's Local Government Efficiency program to fund a dissolution study, which was completed by the Center for Government Research Inc. and can be found online at [www.cgr.org/altmar](http://www.cgr.org/altmar). Based on that Plan, in December 2011, voters chose to dissolve the Village of Altmar into the Town of Albion. In accordance with the terms of the dissolution, Altmar will dissolve and become part of Albion on June 1, 2013.

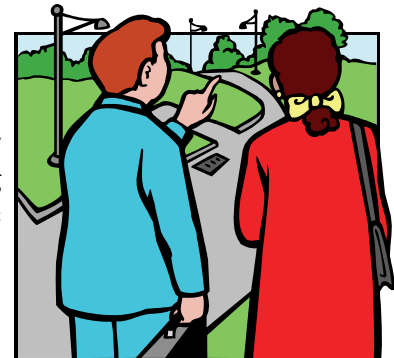
The current grant application will be submitted by the town to assist with funding implementation of the Plan, including costs associated with the formation of a not-for-profit town-wide fire protection corporation; establishment of a lighting district; transfer of the cemetery, village assets and records from the village to the town and transition of village laws.

Commission staff provided ArcGIS Online training to the Town of West Turin on April 17th at the library in Constableville. The Town of West Turin's Town Board and Planning Board have been looking at updated Special Areas maps and when the paper maps became cluttered with information, the Commission created an ArcGIS online map, which allowed the Town to use the maps interactively online. The group learned how to search the data displayed on the map and how to look at the different special areas individually to confirm location and accuracy. This allowed the board members to make recommendations for changes and to more easily spot discrepancies in the information provided. These changes and recommendations will be made in the near future. ArcGIS Online is proving to be useful in making dynamic and interactive maps accessible for free to municipalities using a computer with internet access. As a side benefit, it helps to save on paper and should allow for faster turnaround times on most projects. For more information, call Mickey Dietrich at the Commission or email him at [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).



### Lowville to Revisit Zoning Law

The Village of Lowville is about embark on a major overhaul of its zoning law. The result is intended to simplify enforcement and bring the law into better compliance with the village's 2009 comprehensive plan update. Revitalizing the downtown and ensuring quality development on the southern edge of the village are key components of the plan.



### EPA Outlines Herrings' Remediation Plan

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that it will spend about \$7 million to remediate soil and groundwater contaminants and demolish the main building at the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. site in the Village of Herrings once final design plans are complete. In conjunction with EPA and with assistance from the NYS DEC and Tug Hill Commission, the Town of Wilna and Village of Herrings are nearing completion of their efforts to acquire the privately owned 9.3 acre parcel to provide public access to outdoor recreational opportunities along the Black River Waterfront.

Located in the Black River Watershed and along the Olympic Byway on NYS Rt. 3 and Blueway Corridor, the site had languished as a Superfund Site since 1991, following a chemical spill that contaminated the village water supply with tetrachloroethylene. According to Michael J. Basile, spokesperson for EPA, clean-up efforts will begin in 3-5 months. Visit the EPA's website for more information about the site: [www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/crowncleaners/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/crowncleaners/index.html).

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Thank you!

### **Earth Day in Watertown on April 30th**



Come celebrate Earth Day at the Dulles  
State Office Building, 317 Washington  
Street, Watertown, NY 13601 from  
10:00 am until 4:00 pm on Monday,  
April 30th. The Tug Hill Commission  
will have a display and "mood pencils"  
to hand out. Other local agencies will  
have hands-on displays, activities and  
freebies. This is a free event and all are  
invited to attend.

## **Meeting On Altmar and Williamstown Elementary Schools**

Some preliminary information to help identifies reuses for the Altmar and Williamstown elementary schools will be discussed at a meeting at **7:00 pm on April 30th in the Altmar-Albion Municipal Building.**

The Altmar-Parish-Williamstown school district is closing Altmar and Parish elementary schools this June to open its two-building campus in Parish. Williamstown Elementary closed in 2008.

Fairweather Consulting of New Paltz and DiMarco Group of Rochester have been studying all three buildings to come up with alternate uses. Representatives from the consulting team will be at the meeting to share the preliminary engineering reports for Altmar and Williamstown and demographic data for the communities, that will help define the market potential for potential reuses.



## **Town of Remsen Starts Work on Updating Comprehensive Plan**

The Town of Remsen Planning Board recently began work on updating its comprehensive plan. The board developed a survey that was mailed out to town and village residents in the beginning of April. Among the many items to be addressed in the plan are the preservation of open space and the study of possible land uses in the town and the village periphery. The Planning Board will be working with Tug Hill Commission staff on learning about demographic and land use trends in the town, as well as reviewing the results from the community survey.

