

AUGUST 12, 2016

Digital Counties Survey 2016: Winners Make Collaboration, Innovation, Civic Engagement Top Priorities

As in the past, New York State counties who have been recognized by the Center for Digital Government for their use of technology. Counties are ranked within size groupings. There were four counties in NYS that were recognized and they were: Westchester County, Dutchess County, Oneida County, and Tompkins County. Oneida County came in 8th.

Returning to the top 10, New York's Oneida County had a strong year of progress in citizen engagement and a commitment to transparency. One of the programs currently underway is the implementation of Laserfiche Rio for the Board of Legislators, which will use the system for communications, resolutions and agendas. Once the project is completed, the public will be able to easily search and navigate these postings, simplifying access to the data and county rules. Currently, the District Attorney's Office is using the system to share records with defense attorneys for e-discovery.

One of the county's most successful steps has been the creation of an Innovation Team to devise strategies and advise the county executive on communication both internally and with the public. The team has devised ways to deliver newsletters to constituents focused on county progress in an effort to keep morale high and instill civic pride. The team also decided to consolidate E-911 services for the cities of Rome and Utica and the town of New Hartford into the county command center, saving taxpayers an estimated \$2 million yearly.

The complete article is available www.govtech.com/dc/articles/Digital-Counties-Survey-2016-Results.html?page=1

Zombie Properties and Land Banks

Tuesday, August 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., check-in 6:00 p.m. at the NYS Office Building, 207 Genesee Street, Utica, first floor conference room. Sponsored by the Local Government Education Committee. There is a \$5 fee to attend the workshop. Pre-registration by August, 26.

Who should attend: Planning Board members, ZBA members, Codes Officers, T/V board members, Supervisors/Mayors. This workshop will count as training credit for Planning board and ZBA members.

This program will address methods of handling zombie properties and properties that have fallen into disrepair. Speakers will discuss the new state legislation.

For a brochure and registration form visit www.lgec.org.

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State Archives Training Online

The New York State Archives announced that all its training sessions for the remainder of 2016 have been posted to the Archives' website. They have many training opportunities across the state to choose from, and if you can't make it to a workshop, you can attend one of the webinars from the comfort of your home or office. To view the list of available training, and to register for a workshop or webinar please visit www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule.

Black River Watershed Nine Element Plan Complete

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation recently approved the ***Black River Nine Element (9E) Watershed Management Plan: Reducing Phosphorus, Nitrogen, and Sediment Loading in Priority Sub Watersheds***. The plan can be viewed online at: www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/.

The 9E plan builds on the existing state funded Black River Watershed Management Plan by meeting EPA requirements for watershed management plans. By meeting these requirements, the Black River Watershed is eligible and more competitive for Clean Water Act, EPA, and Water Quality Improvement Project funding. The 9E Plan provides information for project planning and design, concise background information and data for the Black River watershed, and a list of state and federal funding resources that can be used to leverage funding for projects identified in the plan is available in the appendix. It also provides a mechanism for tracking progress towards improving water quality and links to DEC water quality monitoring to evaluate success of implementation.

Many stakeholders were involved in the development and review of the plan, including the NYS Tug Hill Commission, Lewis and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NYSDEC, the Development Authority of the North Country and the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition. Implementation of projects identified in the plan that can be completed by leveraging state and federal funding will improve recreation, drinking, and fishing water resources for Black River communities and visitors to the region.

Running Your Highway Department

This course covers the roles and responsibilities involved in managing a small to medium sized department. The materials covered will be of use to any highway or public works superintendent. The course will be held October 11 from 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, 203 North Hamilton Street, Watertown.

Run your department efficiently and find ways to improve the quality of your highway system within budget constraints

Who should Attend - Recently elected or appointed town or village highway superintendents or public works officials who supervise staff.

Workshop manual and Resources (Estimating project costs spreadsheet, estimating project costs spreadsheet, budget needs spreadsheet, and personnel policy) covered in the workshop can be found on the website at www.clrp.cornell.edu/workshops/managing.html

The course Cost is \$50 per attendee. Sign-in starts at 8:00 a.m.

To register go to www.clrp.cornell.edu/forms/reg_form_fall.pdf and complete the form.

The 27th Annual New York And Digital Government Summit

September 15 & 16, 2016
Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY

Government Technology's New York Digital Government Summit is designed to help spread best practices and spur innovation in the public sector. This year's topics include:

- Cognitive Technologies – Helping us to Outthink Real Problems
- The Cloud Tsunami – Are You Ready?
- Mobile is How You Browse
- Securing the Citizen Experience
- New Approaches to Analytics Information Technology Service Management – A Compelling Future for your Organization
- IT Worker of the Future
- Metrics That Matter: Measuring the Impact of Technology
- Breaking Silos – Better Together Than Apart
- Fighting the Hard Fight – Trends in Security
- Disaster Preparedness and Response

For questions or assistance registering, contact Lee Vang at (916) 932-1300, ext. 1407 or by email at lvang@govtech.com

To register for the summit, go to www.govtech.com/events/New-York-Digital-Government-Summit.html



To Pre-Register
Contact the Tug Hill Commission
at

Phone: 1-888-785-2380

email: tughill@tughill.org



The Office of the State Comptroller,
Syracuse Regional Office, Presents

TOWN BUDGET PROCESS WORKSHOP

Tuesday August 30: 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Albion Town Hall,
15 Bridge Street, Altmar, NY

Wednesday August 31: 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Turin Shared
Community Building, 6312 E Main Street, Turin, NY

Designed to assist town officials in preparing annual budgets.
Topics include:

- Overview of the budgetary responsibilities of town officials
- How to develop a structurally balanced budget
- Key elements of the annual budget
- Tools for assisting town officials in the budget process
- Monitoring and amending the annual budget
- Operating within the 2% tax levy cap
- Question and answer period

Sponsored by:

*NYS Tug Hill
Commission*

*Cooperative Tug
Hill Council*

*North Shore Council of
Governments*

Salmon Rivers Council of Governments

River Area Council of Governments

*Northern Oneida County Council
of Governments*

2016 Black River Trash Bash

Five trash cleanup spots, so far, have been identified for this year's Black River Trash Bash. The dates, sites and contacts are below. If you would like to organize a cleanup, please contact Jennifer Harvill at the Tug Hill Commission at 785-2380.

- Date TBD - Haderondah 4H Club. Inlet and Fulton Chain Area - for more information, please contact Jennifer Hartsig at 247-4924.
- September 21 - Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. Black River Trail - for more information, please contact Christine Watkins at 782-2749.
- September 24 - Lyons Falls Alive - Boat launches, Burdick's Crossing and Davis Bridge Road - for more information, please contact Rocky Fawcett at 348-9991.
- September Date TBD - Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee - for more information, please contact Nichelle Billhardt at 376-6122.
- October 1 - Adirondack Communities Advisory League - Hawkinsville Dam - for more information, please contact Ian Klingbail at 942-2610.

This year will mark the 31st year the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society (ALS) has organized, supported and funded New York's participation in this important Beach Cleanup event. For more info, go to www.najomawi.com/. Last year, **45 Black River Trash Bash volunteers and workers removed over 450 pounds of garbage and recyclables from the shores of the Black River.**

We are looking forward to assistance from Alder Creek Beverages for a donation of bottled water for the volunteers, White's Lumber for a donation of work gloves for the volunteers and the Development Authority of the North Country for waste hauling. We hope you'll consider joining or forming a group for this special event!

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

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!

Stakeholders Tour Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. Superfund Site

The town of Wilna invited stakeholders to an on-site tour of the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc., Superfund Site on August 9th at 9:30 a.m. to advance next step planning initiatives at the 9+ acre site. Building upon federal and state initiatives to remediate contaminants from the Black River site, the town recently submitted a request for funding through the 2016 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to contract for professional landscape and design services to document the community's vision for development, provide recommendations and develop implementation strategies.

Jeff Bechel, EPA on-site Project Coordinator, provided representatives from the DEC, EPA, Tug Hill Commission and JCSWD with a guided tour of the landscape and overview of clean-up efforts to guide next steps in the redevelopment of the site as an outdoor recreation park. According to Mr. Bechel, PAH soil clean-up, and building and water tower demolition will be completed in September/October 2016. Additional groundwater monitoring wells are being installed to provide information to complete a "Groundwater Treatment Plan" and will remain at the western portion of the site.