



August 23, 2013

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September 2, 2013



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.

CTHC Fall Meeting and Dinner

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council's Fall Meeting and Dinner will be held Thursday September 26, 2013 at the Steak and Brew, 4497 Route 26, Turin, NY. Cocktails will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost of the dinner is \$23.00 (with tip included), and representatives dinners are paid for by the Cooperative Tug Hill Council. Items on the agenda include: passing the 2014 budget; updates on several ongoing Tug Hill Commission projects; guest speaker Jackie Mahoney, the new Lewis County Trail Coordinator and a discussion regarding the next Legislators meeting and our new Associate Circuit Rider, Beth Steria will be introduced.



Invitations have been mailed to all CTHC Representatives. Please make your reservation to attend by calling 1-888-785-2380 or by contacting your Circuit Rider. We hope to see you there. Bring any ideas you have for topics you would like our Legislators to cover at the next meeting, tentatively set for October.

Justice Court Grants

The town and village Courts play a vital role in the New York State Unified Court System. These courts have broad jurisdiction and they hear both civil and criminal matters. The Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) contacted town and village justices in July inviting them to apply for a 2013-14 JCAP Grant. The maximum JCAP grant is \$30,000 per court. The money can be used for a variety of purposes including office and security equipment, furniture, courtroom and court faculty improvements and renovations. Applications for JCAP grants may be submitted by the Justice Courts or by towns and villages on behalf of the court. Applications and accompanying paperwork should be submitted **by October 15, 2013**. The application itself must be submitted online; however the following items must be submitted by mail as hard copies:

- Estimates
- Board resolutions
- Court's Annual Budget
- Signature Page

A link to the online grant application can be found on the Town and Village Courts website at: www.nycourts.gov/justicecourts.

If you are interested or need assistance in applying for a JCAP grant, please let your circuit rider know ASAP. If you have any questions about JCAP, please contact the Office of Justice Court Support at 1-800-232-0630.

SEQR REFRESHER AND THE NEW EAF



WEDNESDAY
September 11, 2013
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002
Jefferson Community College 1220 Coffeen St. Watertown, NY



The Jefferson County Department of Planning and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are co-sponsoring a land use training session on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the new Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) featuring Christopher Eastman and J-D Wood from the New York State Department of State. Christopher Eastman is manager of the Land Use Training and Technical Assistance program and J-D Wood is a Land Use Training Specialist.

This refresher on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) includes an overview of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), Type I, Type II, and Unlisted actions and the sequence of making a positive or negative declaration on a project's potential to have an adverse impact on the environment. The new online Environmental Assessment Forms that are rolling out in October will also be discussed and explained.

6:30-6:35 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks
6:35-8:30 pm Presentation by Christopher Eastman and J-D Wood
8:30-9:00 pm Question and answer period

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by Monday, September 9th. Please call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email planning@co.jefferson.ny.us.

If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two and a half hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training requirement.

2013 LAND USE TRAINING SESSIONS FOR LEWIS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS



Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning will sponsor two 3 hour training sessions. These sessions are open to all Lewis County Municipal Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members. Each session will take place in the Legislative Chambers, Lewis County Court House, 7660 North State Street, Lowville, NY 13367.

SESSION # 1 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2013 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Two topics will be covered during this session.

SPEAKER: NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE - DIVISION OF PLANNING
TOPIC # 1 - RURAL PLANNING (2 HRS) 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
TOPIC # 2 - SPECIAL USE PERMITS (1 HR) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SESSION # 2 - NOVEMBER 7, 2013 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

SPEAKER: NICHELLE BIILLHARDT, DIRECTOR -LEWIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
TOPIC - WATERSHED PLANNING - FLOOD PLAINS - WETLANDS PROGRAMS (1.5 HRS.) 6 :00 PM - 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: PHILIP STREET, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING—NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION
TOPIC - SITE PLAN REVIEW & SUBDIVISION PROCEDURES (1.5 HRS.) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

For more information or to register contact: Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning
7660 North State Street, Room 324, Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 376-5422 or email: syoung@lewiscountyny.org

GASB 34 ITS EFFECT ON FUNDING OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Presented by
Bowers & Company CPAs



THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Cost: FREE

Check in: 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Presentations: 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Ramada Inn
6300 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Please register online at
www.bcpllc.com
by
Friday, September 20, 2013

For more information,
please contact
our Watertown office
at (315) 788-7690
or email to adc@bcpllc.com

TOPICS

**Michael Mannigan, Area Specialist, Watertown LSO Rural Development,
United States Department of Agriculture**

- Summary of Rural Development Grant Program
- Application Requirements
- GASB 34 Audit Requirements

Liz Bush, CPA, Bowers & Company CPAs

- What a municipality can expect of a CPA firm
- Auditing of the Financial Statements
- Background of GASB 34
- Complexity of GASB 34
- Why appraisals are needed as part of the process

Todd Sampsell, Regional Sales Manager - Industrial Appraisal Company

- The areas an Appraiser covers:
 - Buildings, Equipment, Land, Vehicles, Site Improvements and Infrastructure
- Tagging: optional for small municipalities, but recommended for larger entities
- Insuring to Value - Appraisal Replacement Cost Values for your Buildings and Equipment
- Benefits of completing an appraisal

Contact us at:**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

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Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics An Online Training

This interactive online course is sponsored by Extension (Enhancing Rural Capacity and Entrepreneurs and Their Communities), USDA's Regional Rural Development Centers, Cornell University and University of Vermont Extension joining efforts to offer a professional development program for those working/interested in Community Development.

Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics, level one of the Foundations of Practice in Community Development program, provides an introduction to community development core competencies, focusing on the ability to understand community of place, the nature of public issues, the dynamics and interdependencies of the various segments of the community, and the basics of community development work. Open to all individuals working in a community context this course is offered as an entry level course in community development. No prior knowledge or experience is required; beginning and veteran community development professionals have found value in this course.

The seven-week series will begin October 3, 2013 and conclude November 14, 2013 every Thursday from 2:00 - 3:30 pm (EST). Each week features a 90-minute webinar focusing on topics that include demographics, economic development, strategic planning and power structures. Supplemental resources and online discussion opportunities will be available on the course website.

To learn more about this online training and registration information visit this link: <http://www.extension.org/pages/68894/understanding-communities-and-their-dynamics#.UhJi0pK1HjX>



2014 Tax Cap Tightening – 1.66%

The NYS Office of the State Comptroller recently released information on its website regarding the 2014 tax cap calculation. The guidance says "Why Is the Tax Cap Tightening? Local governments in New York State have operated for two years under a Property Tax Cap in which the growth in the property tax levy is limited to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, with some exceptions. Up until recently, most local governments have had their levy growth limited to the 2 percent, but now as inflation lags, this component of the formula is falling below 2 percent for many local governments. Local governments with a fiscal year ending July 31 were the first to see their levy growth factor drop below 2 percent when it fell to 1.96 for 2013. This affected only a small number of localities (2 cities and 6 villages). Similarly, a handful of entities having a September 30th fiscal year end were limited to only 1.79 percent growth. As inflation continues to lag, local governments that operate on a calendar fiscal year will also be facing a levy growth factor of less than 2 percent--1.66 percent."

For more information, see the OSC website:

http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/pdf/formula_tightening.pdf
<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/pdf/growthfactors.pdf>