



**December 19, 2014**

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**KEEP CALM**  
there are  
**still 6 days**  
**til Christmas**

# 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.

## 2014 NYS Village Clerks of the Year

Congratulations to Darlene Rexford, Clerk-Treasurer and Lori Cashel, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Village of Adams named 2014 NYS Village Clerks of the Year for the New York State Association of City and Village Clerks (NYSACVC). Mrs. Rexford has worked for the village for almost 24 years. Mrs. Cashel has worked for the village for 25 years. Mayor Phillip Chatterton was present at the NYSACVC training event and presented the awards to both Mrs. Rexford and Mrs. Cashel.



Lori Cashel, Patrick Farrell NYSACVC President and Darlene Rexford

## NYS Department of Health Completes Review of High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing

The acting Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner recommended this week that high-volume hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking for short) should not move forward in NYS. The proposed method of capturing natural gas from underground shale formations has been under review by both DOH and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for several years. DEC Commissioner Martens then commented that he will issue a findings statement early next to prohibit hydrofracking in NYS.

The DOH press release and full report can be found on their website at [http://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2014/2014-12-17\\_fracking\\_report.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2014/2014-12-17_fracking_report.htm).

More information is also available on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/46288.html>.

# Municipal Mini-grants for Asset Management Inventory Development

A call for proposals through the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center's (Syracuse EFC) mini-grant program is offered with support from United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD). The purpose of this mini-grant program is to provide municipalities with additional resources needed to fully conduct a water or wastewater Asset Management (AM) inventory. The Village of Lyons Falls successfully applied to this program in 2014. Three grants will be funded in 2015. This program intends to serve communities with a population not in excess of 10,000 in rural areas.

Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 PM on January 16, 2015. The full Request for Proposals is available at [http://syracusecoe.org/EFC/images/allmedia/publications/EFC-2015-AM\\_Inventory\\_Mini-Grant-RFP.pdf](http://syracusecoe.org/EFC/images/allmedia/publications/EFC-2015-AM_Inventory_Mini-Grant-RFP.pdf). Any questions regarding this opportunity should be directed to Brad DeFrees at [badeefree@syr.edu](mailto:badeefree@syr.edu).

## 2015 Training School and Annual Meeting February 15 - 18, 2015

Registration is open for the Association of Towns 2015 Training School and Annual Meeting on February 15-18, 2015 at the Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

Fees and Deadlines: \$100 per member and \$125 (non-member) before January 26, 2015.

Registrations postmarked between January 26, 2015 and February 5, 2015 will be processed at the onsite registration rates: \$135 members; \$160 non-members.



For more information and to register go to:

[http://www.nytowns.org/sites/default/files/2015%20registration%20forms%20-%20mag%20no%20page%20numbers\\_0.pdf](http://www.nytowns.org/sites/default/files/2015%20registration%20forms%20-%20mag%20no%20page%20numbers_0.pdf)

## FDRLO Petition Available Online

As the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO) prepares a response to the Army's analysis of how a reduction of 16,000 soldiers would affect Fort Drum and the surrounding communities, an online petition has been created for signatures and comments. Similar petitions are being circulated at other installations where reductions are being considered, and the number of signatures and positive comments are an important indication of community support.

The online petition is available at <http://www.drum2025.com/>.

More information about FDRLO is available on the organization's website, <http://www.fdrlo.org/>.

## SEQR Workshop Held in Parish

Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Phil Street conducted a two hour workshop on SEQR, the State Environmental Quality Review process on Monday, December 1, at the Parish Village Gym. Attendees included representatives of local planning boards, zoning boards of appeals, codes officers, and municipal board members. Street presented information on the SEQR process as it is commonly encountered by towns and villages in the process of municipal actions including project and subdivision reviews and consideration of environmental impacts from other municipal actions under consideration.

The workshop was also good for two hours training credit toward the annual training requirement for planning and zoning board of appeals members.

## **New Association of Towns Energy Initiative**

The Association of Towns of the State of New York (AoT) has launched an initiative to assist New York towns with energy savings. Electric and gas utility costs make up a significant portion of town budgets, with uses including but not limited to light, heat, street lights, and water and sewer operations.

The AoT conducted a survey of towns this summer to get information about town energy use and potential interest in participation in alternate methods of energy purchase to save money. The results was the creation of the Municipal Energy Program. Among the potential benefits of the Municipal Energy Program is the opportunity for cost savings through leveraged buying power from a larger combined customer base.

Other advantages cited by the Aot include the potential for year over year savings, services customized to an individual municipality's needs, and improved tools for energy use monitoring and analysis.

More information about the Municipal Energy Program can be found on the Association of Towns web site at [www.nytowns.org/node/1333](http://www.nytowns.org/node/1333), and the link for those interested in the program is <http://www2.pro-starenergy.com/l/55302/2014-10-14/5qt>

## **New Black River Initiative Newsletter**

The Black River Initiative is a multi-pronged approach to protect and improve the water quality, recreational opportunities and communities along the Black River. Encompassing the Black River Blueway Trail, Black River Watershed, and Black River Trail Scenic Byway, the Winter 2014 newsletter highlighting current activities is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/BlackRnewsletter2.pdf>

## **Sustain Our Great Lakes Funding Opportunity Anticipated in January**

On January 7, the 2015 *Sustain Our Great Lakes* Request for Proposals will be available at [www.sustainourgreatlakes.org](http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org). Grant funding for work in the Great Lakes basin will be awarded in two categories:

- Stream and Riparian Restoration
- Coastal Wetland Restoration

*Sustain Our Great Lakes* is a public-private partnership that supports habitat restoration throughout the Great Lakes basin. Administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the program receives funding and other support from the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies. A significant portion of program funding is provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a federal program designed to protect, restore and enhance the Great Lakes ecosystem. Since 2006, *Sustain Our Great Lakes* has awarded 226 grants worth \$49.1 million, which has leveraged \$49.3 million in matching contributions, for a total investment of \$98.4 million.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and state, tribal and local governments. Pre-proposals will be due on February 18, 2015.

A webinar will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 11am to 12pm.

Webinar participants will learn about funding priorities and the application process, see examples of past projects, receive tips for submitting competitive proposals, and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Participants can **register** at <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2472649181973332226>

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# Happy Holidays



At the Tug Hill Commission

