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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.



Village of Camden Awarded REDC Funding

The Village of Camden in northern Oneida County is preparing to undertake two substantial projects following the announcement of Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council awards earlier this month.

Tug Hill Commission staff assisted with consolidated funding applications (CFA) for the community which are eligible for reimbursement totaling more than half a million dollars for both projects.

The village's core downtown business district will undergo façade renovations and other improvements utilizing \$380,800 awarded through the Office of Housing and Community Renewal. Additionally, \$160,300 awarded through the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation will fund the construction of a walking path along the west branch of Fish Creek linking the downtown business district to Forest Park, a popular recreation spot.

It is the village's second attempt at acquiring funding through the CFA process for both projects.

Snowmobile Clubs Awarded REDC Funding

Two clubs on Tug Hill will receive funding to purchase new grooming equipment from the Recreational Trails Program, administered by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and applied for through the Regional Economic Development Council CFA process. Barnes Corners Sno Pals (\$200,000) and Pulaski-Boylston Snowmobile Club (\$168,040) both submitted successful applications with the assistance of Tug Hill Commission staff.

Town of Albion Awarded Water System Planning Grant

Albion successfully applied for funding through the CFA to study the potential for public water in portions of the town. Using NYS Housing and Community Renewable Community Development Block Grant planning funds \$47,500, the town will undertake a feasibility assessment, preliminary engineering report, income survey, environmental/SEQR, and funding/project development in stages. If favorable, the development of a public water system could help the town pursue economic development opportunities, building on the conversion of the former elementary school into the Tailwater Lodge.

Reminder for ALL Not-for-Profits

Important reminder for not-for-profits: ALL not-for-profit applicants must now pre-qualify on the NYS Grants Gateway website at www.grantsreform.ny.gov/grantees in order to apply for certain grants. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the process of registering and pre-qualifying immediately as this is a lengthy process.

CTHC Towns Welcome New Officials

The November 2015 elections brought changes to the elected officials in several CTHC towns. CTHC welcomes the newly elected officers who for the most part, will be taking office in January 2016.

New supervisors to join the council's town ranks include; Christine Newton - Boylston; Kurt Riordan - Montague; Mike Findlay - Osceola; and Joanne D'Ambrosi -Turin. Due to resignations by former supervisors Ms. Newton and Ms. D'Ambrosi are already serving their towns.

Several towns welcome new board members; Anthony Nellenback - Lewis; Lois Compo - Leyden; Joseph Hodges and Lester Hobbs - Lorraine; Tina Goutermont and Richard Loomis - Montague; Mallory Sullivan and Valerie Witzigman - Osceola; Stuart Tamblin - Rodman; and Jane Gillette and Lydia Wojnowski -Turin.

Three towns have elected new town clerks due to their current clerks not seeking re-election. Lewis - Heidi Fey; Lorraine - Melinda Milne; and Turin - Sheena Dickinson. Additionally, Lewis, after successfully having legislation passed allowing a change in the residency requirements for the town justice position, has elected Justice Bill Carrier, who was also elected for another term in Osceola. Finally, Worth elected Katelyn Macklen to their assessor board.

Welcome aboard to our new officials and welcome back to all of our successful incumbents!

Black River Initiative Newsletter Available

The Winter 2015 Black River Initiative Newsletter is now available on our website at www.tughill.org/2015/12/16/black-river-initiative-winter-2015-newsletter/. In it is important information and updates on the draft addendum to the Black River Watershed Management Plan, Great Lakes workgroups, WAVE training, invasive species, the storm-water coalition, Black River watershed conference and other projects that advance efforts to protect and improve water quality, recreational opportunities, and communities along the Black River.

Thank you to all the partners that contributed articles, especially Emily Sheridan, Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, who pulled this publication together.

Six Town Community Fund Announces Grants

The first round of grants from the Six Town Community Fund committee was recently announced, and are listed below. The fund was created to benefit the towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman and Worth in perpetuity.

- South Jefferson Central School, which will receive \$1,300 to provide support for training at the district's adventure education course.
- The Rohde Center, 2 E. Church St., in Adams, which will receive \$1,000 to assist with costs for its 2016 community walk/run.
- The Adams Revitalization Committee, which was awarded \$600 to support its 2016 Adams Community Concert Series.
- South Jefferson Rescue Squad, Inc., which was awarded \$600 for its recent capital project.
- The town of Lorraine, which will receive \$500 to restore signage commemorating the community's military members.
- The Henderson Free Library, which will receive \$500 to help develop an outdoor reading area.
- Harbor View Housing Development Fund Company, Inc., which was awarded \$500 to enhance programming offered to elderly residents.

Property Tax Cap New Limits Announced

The NYS Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) recently released the property tax cap for municipalities with fiscal years that start June 1, which is typically villages. They will be limited to 0.12 percent growth in their property taxes. Village boards could override the cap with a 60% vote of its members next spring.

For a complete look at the property tax cap since it was instituted in 2012, see the comptroller's website: www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/pdf/inflation_allowablegrowthfactors.pdf

OSC Launches Academy for Local Officials

OSC has reorganized their training offerings keep a new academy operated by their Division of Local Government and School Accountability. It includes in-person and online training opportunities for a variety of local officials. OSC also regularly produces technical advisory bulletins and publications that address a variety of local government topics that are vital to understanding and managing local governments' interests. To find out more about the Academy for New York State Local Officials, call 1-866-321-8503 or visit: www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/academy/index.htm OSC staff are regular presenters at the Tug Hill Local Government Conference, and often provide evening trainings around Tug Hill on topics of local concern.

CTHC Executive Committee Meets

The executive committee of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council met on Thursday, December 3rd at the town hall in Martinsburg. Following reading and approval of the minutes and financial reports, the committee heard updates on the possible changes the DEC is considering to the RPTL 480a program and also discussed an update of a survey on internet access in three CTHC towns. The commission's Acting Executive Director Katie Malinowski also updated the committee on the process which has been under way to find a new executive director and presented the committee members with a new white paper the commission has generated on Protected Lands on Tug Hill. The executive committee also heard an update on the town information survey they have been completing and a report on the November 2015 election changes. The committee discussed a tentative date and location for the 2016 spring meeting and information will be going out as soon as details have been firmed up. Committee members also discussed several other administrative matters prior to adjourning.

Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Deadline Moved Up

The 2016 grant deadline for the Northern Border Regional Commission funds is expected to be in March, moved forward from a summer deadline where it has been for several years. The NBRC is also working on an improved website and application process, that should be unveiled in the first part of 2016.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

On December 7th, 2015, the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the availability of funding to fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Management Service (EMS) organizations and State Fire Training Academies through the FY2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program to enhance public and firefighter safety under the Operations and Safety; Vehicle Acquisition and Regional Projects categories. Jurisdictions serving 20,000 or fewer residents are required to provide no less than 5% of the total project cost as local match to be considered for up to 95% of the eligible project cost. Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM January 15, 2016. Additional information is available through the following website: www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program.

DEC Seeks Landowners to Assist with Wild Turkey Research

Contact us at:

NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th Floor of the Dulles State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region, for over 40 years.

Please help us reduce our costs and let us send you this newsletter electronically. Send an email request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380. Electronic versions appear in full color!

Studies have shown that wild turkey populations over the past 15 years have declined in many parts of New York State. In an effort to better understand the factors influencing population changes and how these changes affect turkey management, DEC is beginning the final year of a four-year study. This project will help guide management efforts and provide wildlife managers with current estimates of harvest and survival rates for female wild turkeys, or hens.

Beginning in January, DEC will embark on a statewide effort to capture wild turkey hens and fit them with leg bands to obtain accurate data on survival and harvest. A small number of these birds will also be tagged with satellite radio-transmitters. All of the work will be done by DEC personnel on both public and private lands from January through March. The research will be concentrated in DEC Regions 3 through 9.

DEC is looking for landowners in DEC Regions 3 through 9 interested in allowing birds to be trapped on their land, as well as alerting project coordinators when they see turkeys on their property on a regular basis. Once turkeys are trapped and banded, they will immediately be released at the same location. Not all locations are suitable for deploying capture equipment, so landowners should contact their regional project coordinator to discuss the suitability of their property. Observations of turkey flocks during January through March can be reported to the project coordinator for that region or can be reported using the [Winter Flock Survey](#) form found on DEC's website.

For more information on this project, contact the regional project coordinator or DEC by e-mail at wildlife@dec.ny.gov. "Turkey Study" should be listed as the subject line in any e-mails.

DEC Region	Project Coordinator	Counties
6	Jeff Eller (315) 785-2262 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601	Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and St. Lawrence
7	Lance Clark (607) 753-3095 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, NY 13045	Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and Tompkins
Central Office	Michael Schiavone (518) 402-8886 NYSDEC, Bureau of Wildlife 625 Broadway, 5 th Floor Albany, NY 12233-4754	Statewide Coordination

GPS Demonstration

Local governments looking to utilize their smart phones or tablets for data collection in the field, this GPS demonstration is what you may be looking for. On January 7th, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Tug Hill Commission office there will be a demonstration of different Bluetooth GPS receivers and how they can be utilized with iPhones, iPads, and Android devices. Their capabilities range from 1cm to 60cm in accuracy. The price point is less than the traditional GPS units with these types of capabilities and you are able to use your phone! Local governments interested in attending the demonstration should RSVP in advance, as seating is limited. Contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 or email mickey@tughill.org.