

DECEMBER 29, 2017

## 2017 Black River Initiative Newsletter Available

The 2017 Black River Initiative newsletter was developed in coordination with organizations throughout the Black River watershed to highlight efforts underway to improve the water quality, natural resources, recreation and quality of life throughout the region. Projects highlighted this year include:



Whittaker Falls. Photo by Emily Sheridan

- Wastewater treatment upgrades
- Great Lakes Action Agenda northeast sub basin work group
- Great Lakes culvert assessment pilot project
- Annual Black River trash bash
- Water quality sampling in the Black River
- Partnering to manage invasive species
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust updates
- Fort Drum Joint Land Use Study
- Municipal partners plant trees and educate the public
- Black River trail expansion and stewardship
- Town of Wilna Crown Cleaners update
- Black River Watershed Conference
- Lewis County Early Flood Prediction System
- Agricultural best management practices in Lewis County and the Annual Lewis County Riverfest.

To learn more and read these articles- go to <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/>. Thanks to the organizations for all their efforts, and for contributing to this newsletter!

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## Lyons Falls Drafts First Zoning Law

The village of Lyons Falls established a zoning commission in October of 2016 to prepare a first zoning law for the village. The zoning commission worked diligently throughout the past year and developed a draft for public comment. A public hearing was held in the evening of November 13<sup>th</sup> at the village fire hall, and the commission finalized their report to the village board on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The village board will now consider the recommendations of the commission and decide whether to pursue the effort further, including holding one or more public hearings.

The impetus for the zoning effort was a result of recommendations in the village's Brownfield Opportunity Area study, a program initiated through the redevelopment of the former Lyons Falls Paper Mill site. The proposed zoning would establish a site review process for use by the village board in reviewing large scale residential and nonresidential development in the village, in furtherance of the goals of the study.

# Free January 10 Info Session for Preservation Grants

Not-for-profit groups and municipalities are invited to attend a free information session on Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants (TAG), the signature grant programs of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the Preservation League.

The session will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown. The League's Manager of Technical & Grant Programs, Frances Gubler, will explain the requirements of the grants, the process of applying, and discuss some successful previous applicants.

The session will focus on Preserve New York grants and is co-sponsored by the Northern New York Community Foundation and the NYS Tug Hill Commission. **There is no cost to attend but reservations are required.** Please contact the League at (518) 462-5658 x10 or visit [www.preservenys.org/grants](http://www.preservenys.org/grants) to RSVP online.

**Applications for the TAGs will be due by March 26, 2018 for Preserve New York grants.** Not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status and units of local government are eligible to apply. Arts and cultural organizations are particularly encouraged to apply or support applications. Applicants cannot apply to Preserve New York and the New York State Council on the Arts for the same project.

The grants can be used for historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys. These grants help awardees conserve, protect and use their cultural resources, and are an important catalyst in realizing community preservation goals.

Guidelines and a list of frequently asked questions are available on the League's website at [www.preservenys.org/preserve-new-york](http://www.preservenys.org/preserve-new-york). Applications are not available online. Prospective applicants must discuss their proposed project with Frances Gubler at the League by calling (518) 462-5658 x 10 or by email at [fgubler@preservenys.org](mailto:fgubler@preservenys.org).

# Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop January 27

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**, or HWA, is an invasive forest pest that causes hemlock tree mortality. A free workshop is being held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 :00 - 3:45 p.m. at Delta Lake State Park, 8797 State Route 46, Rome NY.

Loss of hemlock populations dramatically reduces species biodiversity, which diminishes forests and the overall ecological health of infested areas. **Workshop topics will include:**

- HWA biology/impacts/infestation symptoms/treatment
- HWA distribution in NYS
- Early detection techniques
- Report sightings using iMapinvasives.org (citizen science)
- Guided hemlock ID & ecology field session

The workshop is organized by the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM), Cornell University, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and iMapinvasives.org.

For more information and to pre-register, contact **Megan Pistolese (SLELO PRISM Educator)**, 315-387-3600 x 7724, [megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org).

Participants are asked to bring their own food/beverages and to dress for inclement weather for an outdoor session.



# Save the Date for Training for Newly Elected Officials

The Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer County is planning a Newly Elected Training for the evening of January 25th at the Town of Trenton offices, Route 12, Barneveld. This session will include a panel of seasoned officials from the region who will answer questions and share experiences. Although we call it newly elected, any official is welcome to attend to network and learn from some of most experienced leaders. More details and registration information will follow in January.

## FY 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Due February 2

Fiscal Year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grants began accepting applications on December 26, 2017, and are due by February 2, 2018 at 5 pm Eastern Time. The grants are made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Grants Program Directorate. The AFG grant program allows applications in three areas: 1) Operations and Safety, 2) Vehicle Acquisition and 3) Regional Projects. Each activity has its own eligibility requirements, with grant documents available at: <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>. The program goal is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The funds "provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability and support community resilience."

Funding **may be applied for** by fire departments, non-affiliated EMS agencies and State Fire Training Academies. Those **ineligible to apply** include federal fire departments, fire departments and non-affiliated EMS agencies that are not independent entities, fire-based EMS organizations, auxiliaries, hospitals, fire service associations and state or local governmental agencies.

Matching requirements for AFG grants are determined by community size. For all Tug Hill towns and villages, the match amount is 5% since the populations are less than 20,000 residents. To apply, organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). Be aware that it can take up to four weeks after submitting the SAM registration for it to become active and then recognized by the Grants.gov system. Information on obtaining a DUNS number and registering in SAM is available at: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

## Sustain Our Great Lakes Grants Pre-proposals Due February 13

On January 8, 2018 *Sustain Our Great Lakes* will solicit applications for funding to restore and enhance habitat in the Great Lakes basin. The Request for Proposals will be available at [www.sustainourgreatlakes.org](http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org). In 2018, grant funding will be awarded in four categories:

- Stream and Riparian Habitat
- Coastal Wetlands
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- *Special Initiative: Technical Assistance for Michigan Landowners*

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and state, tribal and local governments. **Pre-proposals will be due February 13, 2018.**

A webinar will be held on January 16, 2018, where participants will learn about funding priorities and the application process, receive tips for submitting competitive proposals, and have the opportunity to ask questions. The webinar will begin at **11:00 a.m. Eastern Time/10:00 a.m. Central Time** and last for approximately 1 hour.

# Did You Know...Oaths of Office

Public Officers Law section 10 and Town Law section 25 require that every public officer "...take and subscribe" an oath of office "before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths..." and to file that oath of office before he or she performs any official duties. The oath of office for an elective office must be taken and filed before or within thirty days after the commencement of the term of office. The oath of office for an appointive office must be taken and filed within thirty days after notice of appointment or within thirty days after the commencement of the term of office. All "town officers" are subject to this requirement – any position where the functions and duties directly affect the citizens of the town and involve the exercise of the powers of the town, would be considered a town officer (including deputies, planning and zoning board members, assessment review board members etc.)

The above cited section of the Public Officers Law also outlines who may administer an oath of office. These include notary publics, town councilmen or town justices in the town they serve, town supervisors or town clerks if they have taken their oath of office, justices of the State Supreme Court or Court of Appeals and several others (see Public Officers Law section 10). Once the oath has been completed the oath of office needs to be filed with the town clerk's office, and town justices and court clerks must additionally file an oath of office with the county clerk and the Office of Court Administration. The oath of office is good for the term of the office for which it is taken.

Taking and filing an oath of office is very important because if an individual refuses or fails to file in the time limit established by law, the office automatically becomes vacant per Public Officers Law section 30 (1)(h). Taking and filing the oath late **does not** cure the vacancy. If the appointing body so desires it may fill the vacancy that occurs in this instance. The only exemption to this time frame deals with members of the Armed Forces who are absent from the county they reside in at the time of appointment and this case has its own time requirements. The actions of officers who continue to serve in their positions after a failure to file their oath are still considered valid under Public Officers Law section 15, but the officer can be notified of the vacancy by the town and then replaced at any time.

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

# Spectrum's Broadband Expansion Plans in New York State – Do They Include Your Address?

If you live in a town or village where Spectrum is a franchisee, there is a new web site that will tell you whether your address is included in the New York State broadband expansion plan service area.

Go to <https://bldlkup.com> and enter your address to reach Spectrum's New York State Broadband Expansion Address Lookup page.

Under the terms of Public Service Commission approval for the merger of Charter Communications and Time Warner, Charter was required to extend its network to pass an additional 145,000 homes and businesses across the State by 2020.

New York State's Broadband for All web page can be found at [www.ny.gov/programs/broadband-all](http://www.ny.gov/programs/broadband-all).