



January 4, 2013

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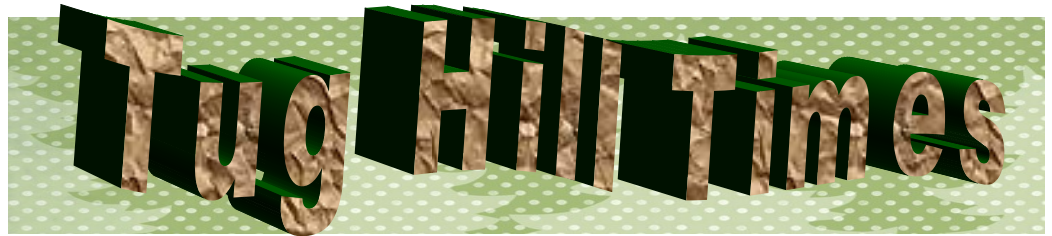
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HAPPY NEW YEAR



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.

DEC Environmental Justice Grants Opened; Deadline March 8

DEC will make available approximately \$1,164,000 in state assistance funding for the 2012-2013 grant cycle. This year the Office of Environmental Justice is offering two funding categories: **Community Impact Grants and Green Gems Grants.**

Community Impact Grants will fund from \$10,000 up to \$50,000 for projects that address exposure of the communities served by the applicant organizations to multiple environmental harms and risks. All proposals must include research that will be used to expand the knowledge or understanding of the affected community. The Community Impact Grants are a continuation of the EJ Grants awarded in previous years. Approximately 85% to 90% of the available funds will be awarded for Community Impact Grants. **Green Gems Grants** is a new category, and will fund from \$2,500 up to \$10,000 for smaller scale projects that involve education, stewardship, or monitoring activities related to parks, open space, community gardens or green infrastructure. Green Gems Grant projects must include a research and educational component that will be used to expand the knowledge or understanding of the affected community. Approximately 10% to 15% of the available funds will be awarded for Green Gems Grants.

More information, including projects awarded funding in past year and scoring criteria, are available on DEC's website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/31226.html>. DEC will also be listing dates and locations of information sessions about the grant program shortly.



Comptroller Releases Local Government Infrastructure Report

State Comptroller DiNapoli released a report entitled *"Growing Cracks in the Foundation: Local Governments are Losing Ground on Addressing Vital Infrastructure Needs"* last month, which highlights the sewer, water, and transportation needs in NY. The Comptroller estimates the 20-year investment needed for State and local infrastructure at \$250 billion; the estimate for how much funding will actually be available is \$161 billion. The entire report is available online at: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/infrastructure.pdf>.

NYSERDA Offering Rebates

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is offering rebates for the purchase of certain energy-efficient appliances and equipment purchased by small municipal governments. There is a small amount of funding still available, according to their website. For more information, go to <https://nysappliancerebates.com/>.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting February 10-11, 2013, Hotel Albany

As your municipality confronts the second year of the property tax cap, along with rapidly rising expenses and limited revenue options, it is more important than ever that we convince the Governor and the Legislature that the State, too, has a role to play in reducing NY's property taxes – and a tax cap alone is not the answer. Cities and villages are doing their part and making the difficult decisions. However, without an increase in state aid and significant relief from state mandates, there will be deeper cuts in essential services and the municipal employees that provide those services. Join NYCOM in Albany to help deliver this message. For more information about the Legislative Meeting and to register for the event, go to www.nycom.org.

Comment Period on Proposed Hydrofracking Regulations Ends January 11

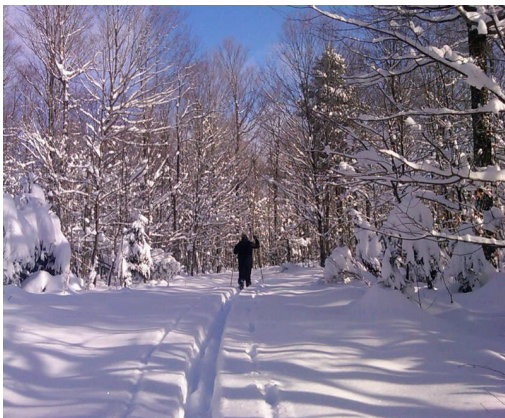
DEC has made the proposed regulations regarding high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF or hydrofracking for short) available on their website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>. Comments will be accepted through 5 pm on January 11.



Enjoy the Winter Wonderland on the Tug Hill!



Get ready to experience breathtaking sights on the Glasier Trail in Rodman. The trail was established in September of 2011 with a 1 mile walking trail. In the summer/fall of 2012 the trail was extended for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The trail is maintained by the Development of the North Country Solid Waste Management Facility. Grooming is planned throughout the season.



The trail has three loops which vary distance from 8/10 of a mile, 1-3/4 of a mile and the full outside parameter is 3 miles. Put your cross country skis or snowshoes on inside the lean-to at the beginning of the trailhead and start out to experience nature's beauty on the trail.



The trailhead is located at the Solid Waste Management Facility Main Entrance on Route 177 in Rodman.

Winter Treks



Bring your friends and family and join Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust on one or all of their upcoming winter treks! The first snow-filled outing of the New Year will be a snowshoe trip along the beautiful Independence River on Saturday, January 19th, 2013 at 10am. This is an easy to moderate 2-mile trip, so all ages and ability levels are welcome! And, as with all Tug Hill Tomorrow treks, this snowshoe is free of charge and open to everyone. Just bring your own snacks, water, appropriate clothing, and snowshoes (we have a limited number of snowshoes available to lend, both child and adult sizes). Those interested should plan for lunch after the snowshoe at the River Valley Inn.

Participants should meet at the intersection of Chases Lake Road and Nortonville Road in the town of Greig. For further directions or to RSVP, visit www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org, email tughilloutreach@nynmail.com or call (315) 779-2239.

The second trek of the year will be a chance to ski cross country! A cross country ski trip is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 2013 beginning at 9am at the newly acquired Joseph A. Blake Jr. Wildlife Sanctuary in the town of Rutland. Please note these trails are not groomed. Another snowshoe trip is scheduled for Sunday, February 17th at 2:00pm on one of the protected properties in West Turin. Again, if interested in attending any of these treks, please contact Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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Assisting communities and citizens for over 39 years.



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reduce our costs by
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electronically through your email.
(Electronic versions appear in full color!)

Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

Did You Receive It?

Registrations forms have
been mailed for the

Tug Hill Commission's
24th Annual Local
Government Conference on
March 28, 2013 at
Jefferson Community College.

Plan Ahead For Upcoming Events

Next Week

Community Facilities Program
Thursday, January 10, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
At Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY
In the Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will be holding an informational meeting to explain the Community Facilities program. Public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts should attend. Community Facilities program can make loans and/or grants to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Projects can include but are not limited to municipal buildings, emergency service facilities and equipment, libraries, and food pantries.

For additional information
about the Community Facilities Program,
go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html.

February

Association of Towns Annual
Conference
February 17th – 20th, 2013 in
New York City

For more conference information go to:
www.nytowns.org or contact AOT at
(518)465-7933

April

NY Planning Federation Annual Conference
April 21st – 23rd, 2013 at the Gideon Putnam
Resort & Hotel
24 Gideon Putnam Road,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

For more conference information go to:
www.nypf.org or contact NYPF at
(518)512-5270