

JULY 14, 2017

Commission Staff Visit Camden

On Tuesday, July 11 commission staff spent the day in the village of Camden. The day began in Forest Park, with a staff meeting and cookout, followed by a tour of the village with Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer Tyler Henry.

Forest Park is a village-owned park of over 100 acres set in a forested area along the West Branch of Fish Creek. A park since the late 1800's, it includes almost 2 miles of trails and numerous pavilions and other amenities for visitors to enjoy.



The village of Camden is getting ready to build a half mile section of its Riverwalk in the downtown area, funded in part by a 2015 NYS Office of Parks and Recreation grant. The Riverwalk will connect Forest Park to the downtown area and improve access to the park near the covered bridge.

The village is also about to see six downtown buildings make significant façade and other improvements with a 2015 New York Main Street grant.

The village is also working on a significant update to its zoning law. The law has not been comprehensively reviewed and revised in many years. A recently adopted village comprehensive plan will give useful guidance to changes and updates to the village zoning district map and district regulations.

Special thanks to our tour guide Tyler Henry!



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2017-18 Justice Court Assistance Plan (JCAP) Grants Available

The Justice Court Assistance Plan (JCAP) grants for 2017/18 are now available. The Unified Court Systems budget includes \$2.9 million in JCAP funding for this fiscal year, with the maximum grant amount per Court at \$30,000 (joint applications may have a maximum amount of \$60,000). Courts can apply for funding in many areas including office equipment and furniture, security equipment and court room and court facility improvements and renovations. The application must be filed by Justice Court personnel, so if Boards are aware of an area needing funding, they should coordinate with their Court personnel to submit an application. The deadline to apply is **October 12, 2017**. The majority of the application must be submitted online, with the signature page, Board resolution, estimates and the Courts budget being either mailed, emailed or faxed in. Court personnel will be able to access the page which includes the fax number, email address and the user name and password to access the application by visiting the Town and Village Courts webpage at www.nycourts.gov/courts/townandvillage. If you need assistance completing the application process, you can contact the Office of Justice Court Support at 1-800-232-0630 or contact your circuit rider.

SAVE THE DATE: Tug Hill Commission Annual Meeting

The Tug Hill Commission's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at the Boonville VFW. Look for more details in September. We hope to see you there!

Property Maintenance Workshop for Homeowners

A property maintenance workshop for homeowners will be presented by Codes Enforcement Officer Joe Mueller on July 26th at 6pm in the Annsville Town Hall on Main Street in Taberg. The free session will focus on basics of property maintenance under the New York State Building Code. All are welcome to attend.

Salary Survey Underway in NOCCOG

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments is currently conducting a bi-annual salary survey which, once compiled, provides valuable information for all eighteen participating municipalities during the budget process.

The survey is sent out every other year to create a spreadsheet of costs associated with staff in the twelve towns and six villages in northern Oneida County, including supervisors and mayors, board members, clerks, assessors, and codes officers. Public works positions are also included, such as highway personnel and water department staff, along with planning and zoning boards.

The information includes population and budget information to help municipalities compare with those that are similar in size and structure. Although it is not intended to directly impact decisions about salary, the survey is a useful tool in determining if salaries are within a typical range compared to neighboring and similar communities. The survey was sent to Clerks for completion the first week of July, and with full cooperation, information received will be compiled and returned to communities for Boards use in mid-August prior to budget negotiations.

NYS GIS Association Emerging GIS Project

The NYS GIS (Geographic Information System) Association has been providing assistance to the Village of Croghan, as part of their Emerging GIS Initiative pilot project. The goal of the initiative is to help rural communities start their own GIS/GPS programs. This is a "lessons learned" project that demonstrates various partnerships that could benefit other communities. The effort has been headed by NYS GIS Association board member Pete Walsemann from Carthage High School and Past-President, Mickey Dietrich who is also with the commission.

Carthage High School has partnered on this project with students from their "Intro to GIS" class assisting with the mapping efforts. This provides students with real-life experience in a rapidly growing field. Commission intern Robbie Fredericks has assisted with some of the GPS mapping through a partnership between the commission and the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Syracuse University. EFC has also provided support through their intern, Alexandra Tornell Logan.



Left to right Alexandra Tornell Logan, Robbie Fredericks, and Leif Ostrum.

Partnerships can be useful for any community getting started with GIS. Partnering with other local governments that have GIS/GPS capabilities can speed the learning curve. The Village of West Carthage provided some support through their intern, Leif Ostrum, who had hands-on experience with GIS/GPS mapping from a prior internship which was part of a partnership between Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the commission.

The NYS GIS Association is planning to complete this project soon and release results that may help other communities with their GIS start-up programs. The multiple partnerships that were demonstrated may provide useful examples for other communities looking to have GIS/GPS programs on a limited budget.

EAB Workshops for Forest Landowners

Informational meetings for forest owners are set for Wednesday, August 16, at the West Monroe Town Hall, and for Thursday, August 17 at the Boonville Town and Village Office Building. Both workshops will run from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Officials from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets will be on hand to present information on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and to answer questions you might have about your property. Please check our website for a complete agenda as we get closer to the date. Please RSVP by August 11th to Jennifer Harvill jennifer@tughill.org or 785-2380.

Emerald ash borer was confirmed in 2016 in Oneida County by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. The EAB is a small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green, white and black ash. Damage from EAB is caused by the larvae, which feed just below the ash tree's bark. The tunnels they create disrupt water and nutrient transport, causing branches, and eventually the entire tree, to die. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Other signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, splits in the bark, and extensive sprouting from the roots and trunk. Infested trees may also exhibit woodpecker damage from larvae extraction.

Forest landowners can also request a DEC Forester visit their woodlot and develop a free Forest Stewardship Plan. This plan would address the landowner's objectives and discuss how the arrival (or proximity) of EAB could impact the owner's forest resources. Forest owners can schedule a site visit by contacting their local DEC Forestry office. To learn more about EAB, as well as efforts to reduce its negative impact and save trees, visit DEC's website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Paddle Planned August 5, Westdale

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) is holding a paddle event on **Saturday, August 5th** from **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** on the West Branch of Fish Creek.

This easygoing paddle will be 2-3 miles in length. Kayaker and THTLT board member Janet Thompson will be the trip leader. Bring your kayak or canoe, lunch, life vest (PFD) and sunscreen. THTLT will provide extra snacks and water.

Plan to meet in the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) public fishing parking area in Westdale. We will be out on the river rain or shine. The put in location is located northwest of Camden on route 13, and roughly 5 miles southeast of Williamstown. When you reach Westdale, turn north onto Cemetery Road and look for the DEC parking area on your right.

Please RSVP for this paddle by contacting Community Programs Manager Lianna Lee at 315-779-2239 or email tughilladmin@nnyemail.com.



Contact Us

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

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Webinar, July 20 Proper Use of Encumbrances

The NYS Office of the State Comptroller will offer a webinar "Proper Use of Encumbrances" on Thursday, July 20, 2017 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. There is often confusion about how to use encumbrances in governmental accounting. This presentation will explain the purpose of encumbrances, when they should be used and the benefits of a properly established encumbrance system. We will also discuss the necessary accounting entries and the impact of encumbrances on the budget. Participants can submit questions throughout the webinar. <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/academy/webinarstraining.htm>

Officials Fall Training School September 11-15

Fall Training School for City & Village Officials, will be held September 11-15 in Saratoga Springs. NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials) and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) collaborate to deliver a program designed primarily for clerks, finance officers, managers, administrators, attorneys, mayors, trustees and council members. OSC staff will present sessions and provide technical assistance at an information booth. Visit <https://www.nycom.org/> for details and registration information.