



June 27, 2014

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Happy Independence Day

Thanks to all those who serve

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.



Commission Meets in Forestport

The Commission met on Thursday, June 26 in the Town of Forestport at the Woodgate Common School, District. The historical building was used as one-room school house through the mid 1970's, and is now owned by the town and used by a variety of community groups, including Girl Scouts and summer recreation. Joining the Commissioners as guests were Nancy Kardash, Councilperson for Forestport, and Wayne McIlroy, President of the Village of Carthage. NOCCOG Circuit Rider Gerry Ritter provided an update on a variety of projects in the northern Oneida County area. The Commissioners recognized Gerry for her many years of service to the Commission and to NOCCOG and wished her the best of luck in her upcoming retirement.



Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program

Grants, up to \$5,000, are available to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies that are using volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. Applications are available through August 15, 2014. Priority is placed on volunteer projects that fit the following criteria:

- Projects that serve veterans and their families, whether that's repairing homes or improving facilities
- Projects that involve veterans volunteering to help other veterans in the communities where they live

More competitive grant proposals will specifically identify projects for veterans and will include housing repairs, modifications, and weatherization work.

Proposals should be submitted through the online application process only, available here:

<http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>

Grant Guidelines

- **Only registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies (e.g. Police/Fire Departments) are eligible to apply.** In very limited circumstances, applications that are submitted by organizations that do not meet this guideline will be considered, but only to the extent that they are requesting funds to support a charitable purpose as defined by the IRS.
- Grants must support work completed by community volunteers
- Projects must be completed within six months following notification that the grant has been awarded.
- Grants are solely given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.
- Organizations who have received funding through The Home Depot Foundation's Community Impact Grant Program must wait 12 months after notification of award before applying for additional grants through this program.
- Organizations must be in existence for at least one year.
- Organizations should be willing to submit stories and pictures of the project upon completion.

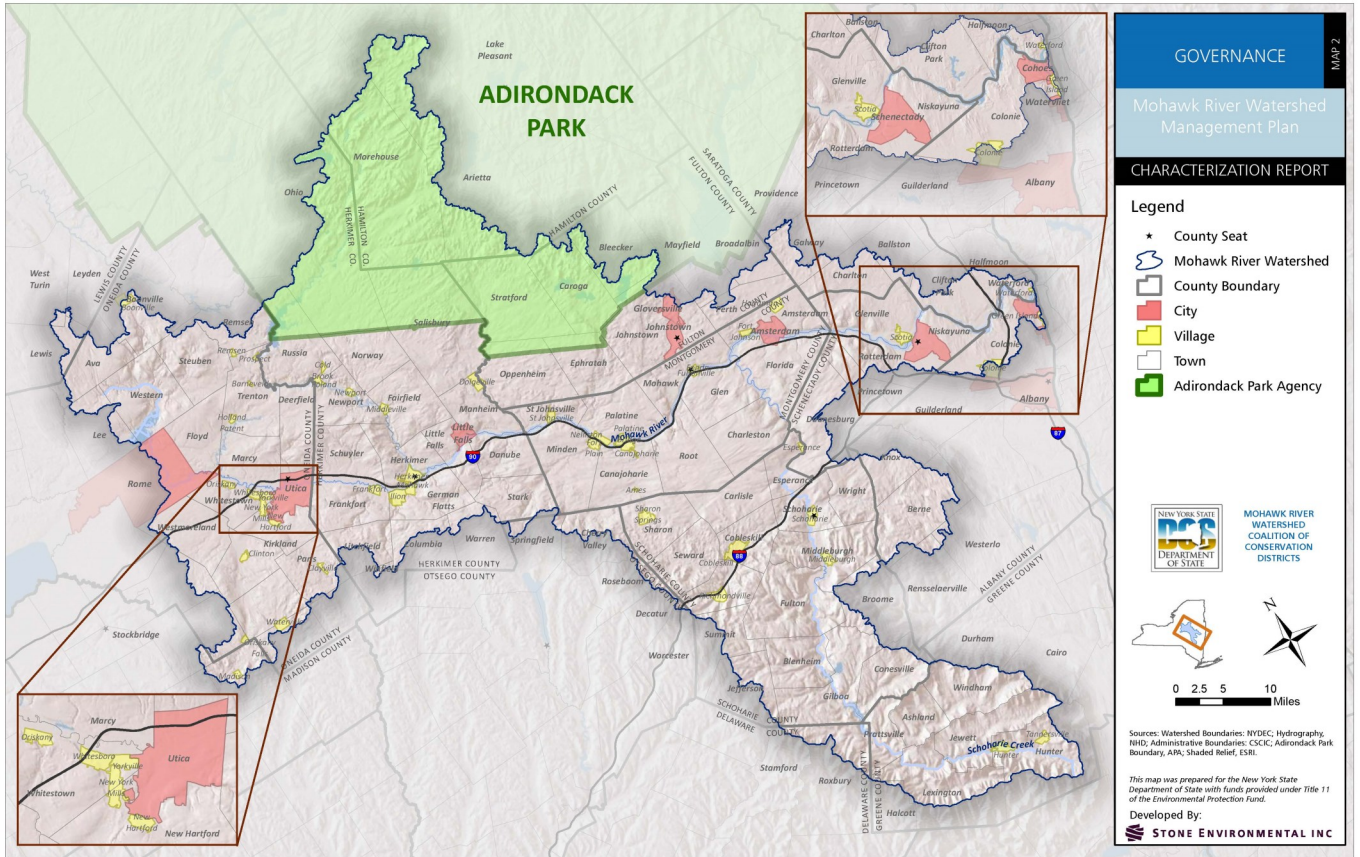
Proposals for the following community improvement activities will be considered:

- Repairs, refurbishments, and modifications to low-income and/or transitional veteran's housing, or community facilities (schools, community centers, senior centers, etc.)
- Weatherizing or increasing energy efficiency of low-income and/or transitional veterans' housing, or community facilities
- Engage veterans as volunteers to help other veterans in their community through service projects focusing on the renovation, repair and improvement of homes and other properties serving veterans
- Planting trees or community gardens and/or landscaping community facilities that serve veterans

Canal Goes Green

The NYS Canal Corporation is going green by converting a work boat that used a 1980's-era diesel engine to an battery-powered all-electric powertrain system. The boat is a 1928 tug boat used as a dredge tender to remove the buoys and for other canal work, and the new all electric system eliminates exhaust emissions and the potential for fuel spills, while lowering maintenance costs and reducing noise. The all-electric craft was unveiled in mid-June at the Aqua Vino Restaurant dock in Utica.

More information is available at www.canals.ny.gov.



Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan

The Mohawk River Watershed Coalition was formed in 2011 by the watershed's Soil & Water Conservation Districts to work together to address the needs of the people living and working in communities within the Mohawk River Watershed. The Coalition has a website with some materials available at <http://mohawkriver.org>. There is also a useful mapping tool on the website.

Change in New York State Boating Regulations

A new law in New York State took effect on May 1, 2014, that requires that anyone born on or after May 1, 1996, who wants to operate a motor boat obtain a Safety Certificate by completing an approved eight hour course. This new law will ensure that over time, all recreational boaters navigating New York's waters will have the necessary knowledge required to operate a motorboat safely.

Courses may be completed and certificates obtained through the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), U.S. Power Squadrons or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. A list of approved courses is available on the State Parks website at nysparks.com.

OPRHP has also been working to provide boaters with more and better access to New York's waterways. The 2014-15 state budget includes a third round of \$100 million in funding to create new public access locations and restore state marinas, boat launches, fish hatcheries and campgrounds at State Parks and State Launches.

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

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“The Case for GIS Open Data” Webinar Scheduled

Join State Geographic Information Officer (GIO) Bill Johnson for a webinar presentation on “The Case for GIS Open Data.” This will be a reprise of a presentation Bill gave last month at the Long Island GIS (LIGIS) meeting. Open Data is a growing trend across the country and Bill will explain what this means and why it is important for GIS practitioners and policy-makers in the public sector to understand its implications.

This webinar will take place on July 10, 2014 from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Here is the link to the registration page: https://nysgisa.clickwebinar.com/The_Case_for_Open_GIS_Data/register?lang=en
You can also go to the NYS GIS Association website for information about this webinar at www.nygis.net

While this webinar is sponsored by the NYS GIS Association for members, you do not have to be a member to view this webinar. However, if you like the webinars that the Association puts on, it would be great to have you become a member for only \$10/year, so we can continue to offer these types of informational and training programs. There are many benefits that you get besides webinars that the Professional Development Committee puts on. For more information go the NYS GIS Association website. You don't have to be a GIS Professional to be a member. It is open to anyone who has an interest in geospatial technology and its uses.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Mickey Dietrich from the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 or email him at mickey@tughill.org.



Leyden Begins Work on Master Plan

The Town of Leyden has authorized its Planning Board to embark on the creation of a master plan to guide development in the community. The Board is working now to collect demographic information and mapping resources as a background for analysis of conditions in the town. The Planning Board also intends to hold a visioning session over the summer to further scope issues affecting the town.