



March 30, 2012

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.

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Record Number of Conference Attendees At The 23rd Annual Local Government Conference

Over 700 people attended the Tug Hill Commission's Local Government Conference at Jefferson Community College on March 29th. The day was filled with sessions about such topics as mandate relief, green infrastructure, protecting wildlife habitat, the tax cap and social media in municipal uses. The Commission set out to improve the flow of the conference by offering a condensed Keynote session at 8:30 am. This allowed four concurrent sessions, rather than three concurrent sessions, as in past years. The Commission is looking forward to compiling survey results to know if this was a good move.

This year's keynote speaker, Brigadier General Kenneth R. Dahl, Deputy Commanding General For Support, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), gave a poignant account of his experiences in Afghanistan and contrasted their rural life to life as we know it in the North Country. He also spoke about the importance of connecting the military community with the local communities in terms of health care, education and municipal services.



As the 23rd annual LGC closes, you can be assured that planning for the 24th annual LGC will now be under way! Thanks to all who were a part of this conference. And we thank you for your comments. We read every survey and take every comment, verbal or written, into consideration for future conferences.

REMINDER

The Commission needs nominations for Tug Hill Sages. A nomination form and nomination guidelines are available on our website www.tughill.org.

Return nominations to us no later than April 10, 2012.



Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Funding Round Announced

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Applications are due to the NYS Department of State by **May 15, 2012**. Eligible applicants are local governments and nonprofit entities. All four Tug Hill counties are considered “distressed counties” which qualifies projects in those categories for up to 80% grant funding.

Eligible projects must develop the transportation, water, sewer, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure of the region; assist the region in obtaining job skills and employment related education, as well as entrepreneurship, technology and business development; provide basic health care and other public services for those areas that are severely economically distressed and underdeveloped; promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open spaces in a manner consistent with economic development goals; and, to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources. In order to score well, projects must be able to document how they retain existing jobs or create new jobs.

Application forms and additional information should be available on the Department of State’s website (<http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/>) soon. In the meantime, contact Katie at the Commission offices with questions.

Invasive Species Problem? Project Nomination Forms Accepted Until April 13

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM for short) is preparing for the 2012 field season. If a local municipality knows of an invasive species problem (such as Giant Hogweed or Swallowwort) in their town or village, they can fill out a project nomination form so that SLELO PRISM knows of this problem and can help figure out the best way to manage it. All four Tug Hill counties are included in SLELO’s geography. For more information about SLELO and invasive species check out their website at <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/>. For a copy of the project nomination form, contact Katie at the Commission offices.

Camden Survey to be Completed Soon!

The Village of Camden is eagerly awaiting the results of a new survey that was distributed to residents and land-owners earlier this year. The survey is designed to gauge opinions on a wide variety of economic, land use, and community service issues. The results of the survey will be incorporated into a new comprehensive plan under development currently by the Planning Board. Among the many items to be addressed in the plan are the preservation of the downtown area and the study of possible land uses at the village periphery.

DOS Division of Local Governments Website Overhauled

Good news! The Division of Local Government website has been overhauled and they highly encourage you to visit, forward to local officials you work with, and tell them what you like about it, what about it you don’t think works well, and what you think might be missing from it. Check it out at www.dos.ny.gov/lg/. The new training section is located at www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lut/index.html.

An exciting addition to the Division’s website are interactive online courses that will be more convenient and more enjoyable for local officials to take. There is no need to register to take these courses, and a certificate is available at the end of each course for learners who have taken the course and passed the quiz. Learners need only click on the links to launch the courses. Each course has a site with a link to the online course as well as additional information on the subject of the course. This link will take you to the main page for DOS interactive online courses: www.dos.ny.gov/lg/onlinetraining/interactive.html.

You can provide feedback on these online interactive courses by contacting Christopher Eastman, Manager, Local Government Training, NY Department of State, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231, (518) 473-3367, christopher.eastman@dos.state.ny.us.

Parish Receives Update on the Future of Parish Elementary

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Parish citizens recently received an update on efforts toward planning for a future new purpose for Parish Elementary School, which is planned to cease its use as a school in September 2012. The three dozen area citizens and officials were briefed by Peter Fairweather of Fairweather Consulting, who has been working with the DiMarco Group on evaluating the structure and its suitability for a variety of uses.



Earlier public meetings had indicated senior citizen housing as the prime desired new use for the school, but the investment and tax climate makes that a very difficult prospect at this time. A variety of other uses, though, may be both financially feasible and a good match to market demand and local preferences.

Carla DeShaw, Dean of Community Education and Workforce Development from Cayuga Community College was present, as the community college represents one of those potential future uses. While the college would not be able to re-use the entire building, it may be one of the 'pieces of the puzzle' that comes together to complete a re-use strategy for the building. Parish represents a good location for the college's use, with its proximity to the I-81 corridor.

Next steps in the process includes finding additional uses which may also be able to use part of the building, projecting costs for adaptive re-use and operation, and creating a sustainable financial plan. Additional community meetings will be scheduled as the project progresses.

The Parish Elementary School proposed re-use plan and notices of future meetings can be found online at www.parishschoolplan.ning.com.

Training for Planning Board and ZBA Members

The Town of Schuyler in Herkimer County is holding its annual training for Planning Board and ZBA members from 6:00 pm -10:00 pm on **Wednesday, May 2**. The training will be held at the Schuyler Town Hall, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13501. Check in will start at 5:00 and the following course will be offered:

6:00-7:30 PM Smart Growth

Presented by Christopher Eastman and John-David Wood, NYS Dept. of State

7:45- 9:00 PM Hydrofracking

Presented by Wayne Mc Farland, P.E.,DDE, Principal Energy & Environmental Engineer , GHD Consulting Engineers, Cazenovia

9:15- 10:00PM Renewable Energy Systems – The Homeowner's Experience

Presented by Deerfield resident Greg Sacco

Additional information and registration forms can be downloaded at: www.townofschuyler.com/trainingreg_form.pdf. The registration deadline is **Wednesday, April 25th** and no registrations will be accepted after this date. No refunds will be issued after April 25 (unless seating capacity has been exhausted). To register go to the following website: www.townofschuyler.com/training.pdf. Payment for the \$20.00 registration fee should be payable to: Town of Schuyler, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13502. Please note that **no phone, email or fax registrations will be accepted**. If you have any questions, please contact Bette Szesny at 724-7305.

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Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

Save the Date
For the 2nd Annual
Black River
Watershed Conference
June 6, 2012

at the
Carthage Elks Lodge

Brought to you by the Tug Hill
Commission, Lewis County Soil
and Water Conservation District
and NYS Department of Environ-
mental Conservation Region 6.

Pre-Planning for Farm Emergencies



Next to mining, agriculture has the second high-
est rate of work-related injuries and fat-
alities in the United State. For the
emergency responders called to
such incidents, many of the haz-
ards, they potentially face may not
be obvious. It is therefore crucial
that farmers help their fire fighters and
EMT's understand where some of the most serious dangers are lo-
cated.

On Tuesday **April 3, 2012** a Pre-Planning for Farm Emergencies
will take place at Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension
from **6:00pm- 8:00pm**, at 121 Second Street Oriskany. The goal
and objectives of this pre-planning presentation will include:

- How to prepare a safety plan
- What information is critical when calling in an emergency to 911
- What information should be reviewed with employees
- What an "Emergency Action Tube" is and how to use it

The sessions will be presented by Erik Merrel, an instructor with
the National Farmmedic Training Program, and a certified NYS
AEMT-Critical Care paramedic. Please register for this important
informational class with Bonnie Collins at OCCCE at 315-736-
3394 x104.

New Regulations in the Open Meeting Law

In February 2012, an amendment to the Open Meetings Law was
enacted that impacts governmental agencies such as municipalities
and school districts and went into effect.

The new regulations have generated many questions from municipal
clerks and municipal boards. The Local Government Education
Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties has scheduled an in-
formational session with Bob Freeman, Executive Director of the
Committee of Open Government for NYS Department of State to
answer questions about these new regulations as well other ques-
tions on FOIL and the Open Meetings Law.

The session will be held on Thursday, **April 16 from 6:30 pm - 8:30
pm** at the Kunsela Hall Auditorium at SUNYIT, Utica. Pre - regis-
tration is requested by **April 10**. There is a \$15 fee for the work-
shop and light refreshments will be served. Please make checks
payable to the Collage Association. Registration forms and addi-
tional information can be found at [http://lgcc.org/content/
Generic/View/16](http://lgcc.org/content/Generic/View/16) or by calling 792-7270 at SUNYIT.