

May 11, 2012

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TO CONTACT THE
TUG HILL
COMMISSION:

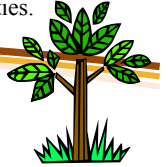
Phone toll free within
the region:
1-888-785-2380
or e-mail:
tughill@tughill.org

Please visit our
website:
www.tughill.org



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.



DEC Urban Forestry Grants Available

Applications are now being accepted by DEC to support community urban forestry projects. Eligible projects include tree inventories and management plans, tree and shrub planting and maintenance, and invasive pest detection studies. Proposals will be evaluated on their cost effectiveness, projected benefits, use of recommended standards in implementation, community outreach, education and support, and regional economic impact.

Grants will be available to municipalities, public benefit corporations, public authorities, school districts and not-for-profit organizations that have a public ownership interest in the property or are acting on behalf of a public property owner. Grants will range from \$2,500 to \$50,000, depending on municipal population, with a 50/50 match requirement. Additionally, \$1,000 Quick Start Arbor Day grants - with no match requirement - will be available to help communities generate support for a new municipal tree program with an Arbor Day celebration.

Applications will be accepted at the DEC Central Office by hand delivery at the address below until **4:00 pm on June 21, 2012 or mailed and postmarked by June 21, 2012** to: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4253. For more information, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html>. If you need assistance applying, please contact the Commission.

Funding Available for Vehicles to Transport Elderly and Disabled

The NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is soliciting grant applications to the Section 5310 Grant Program, which funds 80% of the vehicle purchase cost, with the remaining 20% provided by the applicant organization as the local match. Eligible applicants are not-for-profit organizations incorporated within the State of New York that provide services to elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities. Public bodies (i.e. municipalities, County level governments) which certify that no not-for-profit organizations are available in the area to provide transportation services *or* that is approved by the State to coordinate transportation services for elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities are also eligible to apply. **Applications are due June 1, 2012.**

Details are available on DOT's website: <https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/policy-and-strategy/public-transportation/specialized-transportation/5310/section%205310-application-material>.

Consolidated Funding Application Now Open

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The new application process to access most state grants, known as the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), is now open for 2012 projects, with grant applications **due July 16, 2012**. A wide variety of funding is included in this process. The list below highlights only a portion of the funding available. If you are interested in any of these, please give us a call. Of most interest to Tug Hill municipalities may be the following programs:

Empire State Development

- Up to \$ 150 million for *Regional Council Capital Fund*
- Up to \$ 20 million for *Empire State Economic Development Fund*
- Up to \$ 4 million for *Urban and Community Development Program*

All three of these funds are geared toward business investment, infrastructure investment, and economic growth investment. Funds may be used for acquisition or leasing of land, buildings, machinery, equipment; demolition and environmental remediation; new construction, renovation; planning and feasibility studies related to a capital project. Eligible applicants include not-for-profits; local development corporations, municipalities, and academic institutions.

Homes and Community Renewal

- Up to \$ 28 million in *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)* funding: CDBG funds economic development, public infrastructure (water/sewer/stormwater), and public facilities. Eligible applicants include non-entitlement municipalities.
- Up to \$ 5.2 million for the *New York Main Street Program*: This program focuses on downtown revitalization in terms of building renovation and streetscape enhancement. Municipalities and non-profits are eligible to apply.
- Up to \$ 4 million *Rural Assistance Revitalization Projects*: The purpose of this program is to help communities restore and improve housing, commercial areas, and public/community facilities in rural areas. Nonprofits in cities, towns and village having a populations of less than 25,000 are eligible to apply.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

- Up to \$ 16 million for *Municipal Parks, Historic Preservation, and Heritage Area Projects*: This program comes from the Environmental Protection Fund for the acquisition, planning, development and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas.

Department of State

- Up to \$ 15 million for *Local Waterfront Revitalization*: To assist communities in preparing or implementing regional and local strategies for community and waterfront development; redevelopment hamlets, downtowns and urban waterfronts; planning or constructing land and water base trails; and preparing or implementing a watershed management plan. Municipalities are eligible to apply.

Canal Corporation

- Up to \$ 1 million for the *Canalway Grants Program*: Funding to expand public access, increase recreational use, improve services for motorized and non-motorized boaters, increase tourism, and stimulate private investment along the canal. Municipalities and nonprofits eligible to apply. Includes Black River Canal system.

Environmental Facilities Corporation

- \$ TBD for the *Green Innovation Grant Program*: Funding for projects that improve water quality and demonstrate green infrastructure with the goal of managing rain where it falls and reducing runoff.

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NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

- Up to \$10 million for the **Existing Facilities Program** to encourage applicants to implement cost-effective energy efficiency projects that deliver energy savings. Applicants can include municipalities and Not-for-profit Corporations.
- Up to \$16 million for the **New Construction Program**, which provides technical assistance and financial incentives to promote the installation of energy-efficient electric equipment in new and substantially renovated commercial and industrial buildings. Applicants can include municipalities and Not-for-profit Corporations.
- Up to \$12 million for the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program**, a cost-share award for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or carbon abatement projects that address the regional priorities of the Regional Economic Development Councils. Applicants can include county, town, city or villages, local development corporations, non-profit organizations and others. Categories include renewable energy technologies and wastewater treatment facilities.



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

- Up to \$2 million for **Clean Water State Revolving Fund Engineering Planning Grant Program**, for municipalities to help pay for certain wastewater treatment systems. The goal of this effort is to get projects on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan.

CFA Workshops will be held statewide. CFA workshops near the Tug Hill Region include:

May 14, 2012 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm at Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica, NY

May 18, 2012 from 1:00 - 3:30 pm at the State Office Building, Watertown, NY

May 30, 2012 from 1:00 - 3:30 pm at SUNY Oswego, Lanigan Hall, Oswego, NY

For a complete schedule of CFA workshops, application guide and the application, go to <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>

Lyons Falls to Host Public Presentation On Brownfield Study

Learn about the Draft Nomination Study, including recommendations and action items, at a public meeting on **Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 6:30 pm** at the Forest Church Fellowship Hall, Center Street, Lyons Falls. There will also be an opportunity for public input on the draft report. The Executive Summary, and the Draft Nomination Study can be viewed at <http://lyonsfallsboa.wordpress.com/14-2/upcoming-meetings/>.

Vision Statement

Lyons Falls is a thriving, historic, four-season Village located at the confluence of the Black and Moose Rivers.

Opportunities for employment and education in this friendly, vibrant community encourage multi-generations of residents to make the Village their home.

The Village's many assets, including varied infrastructure, support a sustainable, diverse economy. This easy-going, rural setting co-exists with adventure tourism opportunities and family-oriented activities.

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) will be holding its spring meeting and dinner beginning at 6:00 pm on May 24, 2012 at the Hide-A-Way Restaurant, Fish Creek Road, West Leyden, NY. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. The meeting will follow dinner. Meeting topics will include election of new officers, an update on trails and the SNIRT run, the Tug Hill Commission report, which includes Special Areas, Low Volume Roads, Coordinator and the CTHC Website and Town Supervisor topics.

CTHC Representatives' dinners will be paid for by CTHC. Guests cost \$15, which includes tip. **To RSVP, call us at 1-888-785-2380 or email felicia@tughill.org by May 14, 2012.**

Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner Meeting - May 31, 2012

The Tug Hill Commission annual dinner meeting will be held on May 31, 2012 at the Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road, Rome, NY. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. We have invited NYS Secretary of State Cesar A. Peralas to speak. We will also be recognizing past Tug Hill Sages, inducting new Tug Hill Sages and presenting new, individualized Tug Hill Regional Maps to all 62 of the Region's towns and villages.

The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person and is required **no later than May 17, 2012**. Checks can be made payable to "Tug Hill Commission." **Please call 1-888-785-2380 or email felicia@tughill.org with any questions or to RSVP.**

Black River and Maple Traditions Scenic Byway Meetings Being Planned

Corridor Management Plans (CMPs) for both of these byways are in draft form and have been reviewed by the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee. In an effort to address comments and finalize the plans, three public meetings have been scheduled in communities along the routes. Please stay tuned for details on the venues. For now, please take note of the dates and locations being planned. If you have any questions, please give us a call!

Tuesday, June 5 in Watertown

Tuesday, June 12 in Canton

Wednesday, June 13 in Boonville



Towns Pass Resolutions for Low Volume Roads Mandate Relief

Several towns around Tug Hill this month are passing resolutions calling on the Governor's Mandate Relief Council to work on passage of the Low Volume Roads legislation that would codify in statute the ability for rural towns to designate and manage Low Volume Roads, including minimum maintenance roads, to a standard more designed for these rural roads. The Mandate Relief Council has a process by which local governments, through a resolution from the governing board, may call for specific statutory mandate relief. Towns are specifically requesting that this legislation be codified in State law. Thus far this month the Towns of Montague, Pinckney, Osceola, Redfield, Williamstown and Worth have passed such resolutions and forwarded on to the Mandate Relief Council and area state legislators. Other towns and some Councils of Government may well pass such resolutions over the coming weeks. Any town interested in more information on these resolutions may call Phil Street at 1-888-785-2380 or email phil@tughill.org.

Every year, damage caused by excavation equipment results in thousands of interruptions to vital utility services such as natural gas, telephone, cable television, water and sewer. These damages often have effects beyond the loss of service. Road closures and evacuations frequently occur, disrupting the residents and businesses in our communities. Sometimes the consequences are even more severe, including destroyed buildings, serious injuries, or even fatalities. The NYS Damage Prevention Councils are tracking issues from excavation safety to raising public awareness by hosting breakfasts and sponsoring safety training seminars for excavators and facility operators alike. The local DPC is inviting municipalities, excavators and utilities for a complimentary breakfast and informational session at their underground damage prevention and safe digging event at the following location:

Tuesday, May 15 at the Rusty Rail, NY RT 5 & 13, Canastota

Registration will begin at 7:00AM with breakfast at 7:30. The program will provide those attending with valuable information about Dig Safely New York operations (one-call center), the potential hazards of underground utilities, methods of safe digging and an overview of state enforcement. There will also be an overview of the Automated Positive Response system (APR), a law change commencing May 31, 2012. Industry professionals will be available to answer questions and furnish you with information for safe and efficient excavations. You can register by online at: http://www.digsafelynewyork.com/Events_Calendar/registration.asp or by contacting Jim Flint, 315-506-9822 or jcflint@digsafelynewyork.com or Donna Shave, at 518-895-2221 or dshave@digsafelynewyork.com.

Oneida Lake Association Holds Annual Meeting

The Oneida Lake Association held its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 2 at the Cicero-North Syracuse High School Auditorium. The well-attended meeting included information on the following:

- Updates on invasive species and their impacts on Oneida Lake. Zebra mussels and quagga mussels have resulted in clearer Oneida Lake waters. This has altered weed growth patterns in the lake, as sunlight now penetrates to greater depths. The round goby has not been detected in Oneida Lake yet, but have been in nearby waterways connected to Oneida Lake.
- The lake's walleye and perch populations are stable, although at a lower level than the peaks of decades past. The bass population is also doing well. The NYSDEC (new York State Department of Environmental Conservation) fish hatchery at Constantia reported an earlier-than-usual spawning season in 2012. White perch continue to be one of the most abundant species in Oneida Lake.
- Sturgeon, which are being raised by the Constantia hatchery and have been stocked in the lake since 1995, are now reaching reproductive age. Sturgeon are a large, long-lived and slow-maturing species of fish.
- Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle attended the meeting and in her presentation to the group, pledged to continue efforts to reinstate Federal funds for cormorant hazing. Increased cormorant populations have been correlated with significant decreases in Oneida Lake fish populations, with concomitant negative economic impacts in fishing and tourism.
- The Oneida Lake Association announced its position statement against year-round catch-and-release bass fishing on Oneida Lake, a recent policy proposal by the NYSDEC.

The Oneida Lake Association, including the Association's Spring 2012 Bulletin, can be found at www.oneidalakeassociation.org.

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

Mailing address:
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th
Floor of the
Dulles State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Fax: 315-785-2574
E-mail: tughill@tughill.org
Web: www.tughill.org

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citizens for over 38 years.**



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Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!



Local Government Management Guide on Information Technology Governance

The Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability, has released its latest Local Government Management Guide that addresses Information Technology Governance. To access the Guide, go to www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmg/itgovernance.pdf. Many local governments and school districts invest a considerable amount of resources in information technology (IT) including computers and related equipment, software, and costs related to Internet access and personnel training. IT systems are critical tools for storing important financial and nonfinancial information, accessing the Internet, communicating through email and reporting to State and federal agencies.

The new guide is intended to make the oversight of information technology less daunting by providing a template for understanding and strengthening controls over IT. It includes a Security Self-Assessment structured around twelve key areas of IT security that is intended to help you exercise effective oversight of IT operations and serve as a starting point for discussions with personnel who are responsible for the day-to-day management of your computer operations. Please email localgov@osc.state.ny.us if you have questions about the guidance or need assistance interpreting the self-assessment results.

**Remember to Register for the
Second Annual
Black River Watershed Conference
June 6, 2012
Carthage Elks Lodge, Carthage, NY
Go to www.tughill.org/proj/2012-black-river-watershed-conference/ for an
agenda and registration form.**