



May 16, 2014

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Village of Camden Adopts New Comprehensive Plan
- East Branch Fish Creek Working Group Meets
- Tug Hill Commission to Meet
- NY Rural Economic Development Roundtable
- New York State Cyber Security Conference and Annual Symposium on Information Assurance
- 2014 Land Use Training Sessions for Lewis County Planning Board and ZBA Members
- Municipal/Commercial Solar Workshop
- Town of Martinsburg Utilizing GPS on Road Project
- Municipal Options for Workers' Compensation Insurance



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.

Village of Camden Adopts New Comprehensive Plan

The Village of Camden recently adopted a new comprehensive plan. The plan, developed by the planning board, is intended to prioritize capital investments and provide direction for future development within the community. The plan provides a framework for the existing zoning and subdivision controls and will help assure that growth will be in accordance with plans for future water, sewer and street development. Key components of the plan are downtown revitalization, the improvement of public infrastructure, and identifying potential sites for future housing development.

East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group Meets

Over 35 people met last night (5/15) at The Alpine in Constableville to hear updates from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Molpus, and The Nature Conservancy. Since the Working Group last met five years ago, the Recreation Plan has been finalized, numerous improvements have been made to roads and bridges on the property, and a new PILOT agreement was negotiated between The Nature Conservancy and the affected taxing jurisdictions. Upcoming changes at the end of 2016 regarding public access and camp leasing structure were discussed, and there was good discussion on a variety of topics including ATV access, timber harvesting, and property taxes. The Working Group agreed to meet again in May 2015 to continue the discussion as changes get closer. In the meantime, staff from the Tug Hill Commission as well as other partners will follow up on several of the discussion points.

Information on the conservation easement and state forest, including several maps and the Recreation Management Plan, are available on the DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/7991.html>.

Thanks to everyone for making the time to join us last night. Please contact the Commission if you have any questions.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet

The Tug Hill Commission will hold its next meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2014, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Ridgeview Inn Restaurant located at 6912 Bar-do Rd., Lowville, NY. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the Commission, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils, and discussion and review of major projects and activities in the region. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting. Following the commission meeting the SuperCOG meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

NY Rural Economic Development Roundtable

Page 2

You're invited to join the USDA Rural Development for a Rural Economic Development Roundtable on Friday, June 13, 2014 at Jefferson Community College from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. discussing business, agriculture, infrastructure and housing programs. Representatives from over a dozen Federal, State, Local, and Private funding agencies will be on hand to offer program insight, application details, as well as discuss available funding and answer your questions.

Break Out Room # 1: **Business Programs & Related Funding**

Small Business Administration and Empire State Development, Rural Development, NYS Housing & Community Renewal, NY Small Business Development Center

Break Out Room # 2: **Utilities Programs & Community Facilities**

NY Environmental Facilities Corporation, NY Rural Water Association, Rural Development, NYS Broadband

Break Out Room # 3: **Farming & Agricultural Opportunities**

Farm Service Agency, Farm Credit East, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rural Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service

For more information contact Michael Mannigan 315-782-7289 Ext. 122 or email Michael.Mannigan@ny.usda.gov.

Please RSVP to Gary Pereira by email Gary.Pereira@ny.usda.gov (cc Michael.Mannigan@ny.usda.gov as well). Please include which session you are interested in attending (Infrastructure / Business / Agriculture/ Housing) either in the subject line or in the body of your email.

Please RSVP by close of business on Monday, June 9, 2014.

17th Annual New York State Cyber Security Conference and 9th Annual Symposium on Information Assurance

June 3 - 4, 2014
Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY

Prominent security experts will be presenting the latest topics and issues in cyber security.

June 3 - Keynote will be provided by the Governor's Cyber Security Advisory Board.

June 4 - Keynote will be provided by Michael Daniel, Special Assistant to the President and White House Cybersecurity Coordinator.

NEW FOR 2014:

Panoply Cyber-Challenge and Hands-on training classes in Digital Forensics and Cyber Incident Analysis
(Please note training classes are currently full. If you are interested in being waitlisted, please sign up.)

This two day event is co-hosted by the New York State Office of Information Technology Services Enterprise Information Security Office, the University at Albany's School of Business and College of Computing and Information, and The NYS Forum, Inc.

For more information and to register go to: www.dhses.ny.gov/go/conference2014

Cost to Attend:

- Free to government and public sector employees
- \$50 for not-for-profit employees*
- \$200 for private sector employees*

*Group discount of 20% for 5 or more employees from the same organization.

2014 Land Use Training Sessions for Lewis County Planning Board and ZBA Members

This year we will offer two 3-hour training split season (spring and fall) sessions. These sessions are open to all Lewis County municipal planning board and zoning board of appeals members. Each session will take place in the Legislative Chambers, Lewis County Court House, 7660 North State Street, Lowville, New York.

Spring Session: June 4, 2014, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

The New York Department of State presents “SEQR Basics” and “Environmental Assessment Forms for the 21st Century.” This training session will be delivered via a webinar, a new initiative from the Dept. of State.

Fall Session: September 24, 2014, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Special Use Permits - Some uses require additional review and should be granted permission only if the application meets certain conditions. These special uses include gas stations, dog kennels, and uses with drive-through windows. The special use permit is also used for development in environmentally sensitive zones with overlays such as for wetlands, steep slopes, and along scenic ridgelines. Scenarios in which the special use permit tool is most helpful will be discussed, along with rules local boards must follow for reviewing and approving applications for special use permits. Code Enforcement Officers may receive 2 hours of In-Service Credit.

Role-Play in a Mock Meeting and Hearing on Use and Area Variance Applications

Members of the audience will become members of a mock zoning board of appeals, applicants, and members of the public in a role play that illustrates how local officials should and should not conduct public business. A discussion of best practices will follow.

For more information and registration information contact:

Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning
7660 North State Street; Room 324
Lowville, New York 13367
315-376-5422 or email: skulzer@lewiscountyny.org

Municipal/Commercial Solar Workshop

**May 29, 2014
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Oswegatchie Town Hall, 51 State Street, Heuvelton

This workshop will highlight solar power incentives for your business or municipality with little or no upfront costs. There are a broad range of options including subsidization by local investors with high rates of return. Your system could actually be funded by people in your community!

Speakers include:

Kimberly DesChamp, CITEC Business Solutions
Matt Rankin, Larson Engineers
Jennifer Perry, Adirondack North Country Association
Jim Kurtz, RER Energy Group

Reservations are not required, but would be appreciated. Please contact Tim Tuttle at 315-344-2400 ext. 2 with number attending.

Refreshments will be served.

Town of Martinsburg Utilizing GPS on Road Project

The Town of Martinsburg Highway Department is utilizing their GPS unit for repaving of a road. They were utilizing the GPS to help set grades, which is important for proper water drainage from the road. They were also using the GPS to assist with the application of asphalt to help maintain straight edges and lines. The Town of Martinsburg is a JIMI participant and received their GPS equipment through that project. However, they were utilizing the Town of Lowville's GPS receiver, as their GPS was being repaired. This shows the cooperation and shared services that take place between Highway Superintendents, which is a good example of the efficiencies of shared services between local governments. If you have any questions about this road project, feel free to contact Tyler Jones at the Town of Martinsburg, (315) 376-2309. For GPS information contact Mickey Dietrich at the Commission office.



Contact us at:

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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Assisting Communities and citizens for over 40 years.

Registrations for the Black River Watershed Conference on June 4, 2014 8:00-1:00 p.m. at the Tug Hill Vineyard, 4051 Yancey Rd., Lowville, NY 13367 have been mailed. Please RSVP by May 23, 2014. For more information or to register call 376-6122 or email Carla Luther at cluther@lewiscountyny.org.

Municipal Options for Workers' Compensation Insurance

The workshop Municipal Options for Workers' Compensation Insurance will be held Thursday, May 22nd at Kunsela Hall at SUNYIT from 6:30- 8:30 p.m. The presentation will be by Michael Kenneally and Loren Pratt from NY COMP Alliance. The presentation will discuss workers' compensation programs and the different choices municipal officials have for this type of insurance coverage. Whether you are in a county self-insured plan, individually self-insured or self-insured through a group or state program, this presentation will help you understand your options to protect your taxpayers from the lingering effects of costly workers compensation claims. How your workers' compensation costs are determined, the effect that excess insurance can have on your costs and the advantage of using investment income to discount the costs of claims over time will be covered.

The session is sponsored by the Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties and is open to all interested local officials, fire department officers and fire commissioners. For additional information and registration forms please visit the website at www.LGEC.org.

The registration fee is \$15.00 and sign in will start at 6:00 p.m. You are strongly encouraged to pre-register by Monday, May 19th. Payments should be made payable to the College Association and mailed to the Office of Continuing Professional Education, SUNYIT, 100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13504.

Please help us reduce our costs and let us send you this newsletter electronically. Send an email request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380. Electronic versions appear in full color!