



November 18, 2011

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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.

Regional Economic Development Councils Release Plans

After nearly four months of meetings, public information sessions, and data gathering, all three Regional Economic Development Councils that encompass the Tug Hill Region have released their final Strategic Plans. Although much of the emphasis of these plans has been on the more urban areas (i.e. Utica/Rome, Syracuse) each has, to varying degrees, referenced activities or items important to Tug Hill communities. The adopted plans can be viewed at <http://nyworks.ny.gov/>.

Central New York REDC Cites Tug Hill, Working Lands in Strategic Plan

In its strategic plan, the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) cites the significance of Tug Hill, its landscape character and its working lands to the region's economy and character:

"The Central New York region also has vast working landscapes in support of its agriculture and forest industrial sectors. From the Tug Hill to Tully Valley, the region's natural resources have a long history of production and employment. While industrial trends have changed over time, these sectors continue to provide economic opportunity for the region and state as a whole. The vast majority of this working landscape is in private ownership. To remain viable, strategies, policies, and programs are necessary to assist landowners in retaining these landscapes, and to support agriculture and forest-related economies. Through tax policy and land conservation efforts, including working landscape easements, the region can retain these economic sectors and a landscape character that is valuable to residents of the region."

North Country REDC Strategic Plan Recognizes Tug Hill as Unique

In the North Country REDC's strategic plan, the Tug Hill Plateau, among other significant natural features in the North Country, was said to be internationally recognized. Additionally, the plan says, *"the North Country has natural resources that are unparalleled in the rest of the State and the entire Northeast. These resources offer raw materials for manufacturing, renewable energy sources and a high quality of life for residents. The region is the largest source of fresh water in New York State. Its forests offer an opportunity to maintain and grow sustainable forestry related industries. The wood and paper sector has the potential to simultaneously sustain an industry and the woodlands of the North Country."*

Priority projects listed in the plan are expected to launch the region's transformation by focusing on high-tech and traditional manufacturing, green energy production, arts & culture, tourism and agriculture. Some of the Tug Hill Region's projects cited in the plan include improvements at the Kraft Foods plant in Lowville, remediation and site development at the old paper mill in Lyons Falls, development of branding for the North Country region and conversion of the Black River

(Continued on page 2)

Generation Facility to biomass.

Mohawk Valley REDC Strategic Plan Recognizes Rural Strengths

Farming is listed as a defining industry in the Mohawk Valley Region, and provides for opportunities to attract new farming populations to maintain and invest in existing farms, opportunities in agri-business, agri-tourism, clean-tech and renewable energy initiatives and dairy and food processing production facilities. It also lists as a strength the Region’s abundant water supply for drinking, recreation, and industry as well a defining characteristic of the region from a quality of life perspective. Significant resources include the Mohawk River, Erie Canal, numerous lakes and streams, Lake Delta and Hinckley Reservoir. Waterfront development initiatives and opportunities in the region play an important role in New York State’s efforts to revitalize the canal corridor and its tributaries.

One proposed project potentially impacting the Tug Hill Region is the Griffiss Utility Services Corporation renewable energy project. The focus of the project would be on the use biomass for energy, which the forests of the Tug Hill Region could provide. There is also a proposed Mohawk Valley Brownfield Area Opportunity Fund that would assist redevelopment of underutilized sites in the Region.



Harden Properties For Sale in Oswego and Oneida Counties



In September 2011, Harden Furniture Company, Inc. completed a major corporate restructuring resulting in the separation of the Harden Furniture manufacturing plant in McConnellsville from the over 9,000 acres of the company’s forest lands, which are located in the southwest portion of the Tug Hill Plateau. The parcels, ranging in size from 26 to 3,022 acres, are located in 13 towns in Oneida and Oswego Counties.

These forest land acres were recently posted online for a "bid sale." LandVest is serving as the broker for the

properties and information about the parcels and the sale process can be viewed on their website at <http://www.landvest.com/property/13807649/Central-NY>. Bids are due on January 31, 2012.





ReCharge New York (RNY) is a statewide economic development power program for qualified businesses and not-for-profit corporations. The program is designed to retain and create jobs through allocations of low-cost power. More information about the program is available online at <http://www.nypa.gov/rechargeny/>.

How to Apply

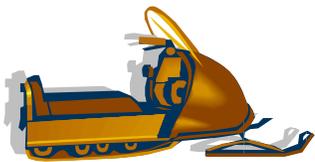
RNY applications are available online through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The CFA is a single application for accessing multiple funding sources from the state. Please note that if you started to complete a CFA prior to September 29th, you must re-register on the CFA website (and receive a new token/password) to submit an application for RNY power. The deadline for submitting a completed CFA application for Recharge New York power is **November 30th**.

Who is Eligible?

While the program is open to businesses and non-profit organizations (as defined in subdivision five of paragraph (a) of section 102 of the not-for-profit corporation law), certain entities are not eligible, which includes all retail businesses, sports venues, gaming or entertainment-related establishments, and places of overnight accommodation.

For assistance and more information, please contact Brian Adey, Director of District Operations at Senator Griffo's Office, at (315) 793-9072 or adey@nysenate.gov.

Snowmobile Club Awarded Funds



The "Missing Link Snowmobile Club, Inc" (MLSC) has been awarded \$155,800 under the 2011 SAFETEA-LU Recreational Trails Program (RTP) through the Federal Highway Administration and NYS Department of Transportation to purchase a new snowmobile trail groomer. A not-for-profit organization, the MLSC maintains 66-miles of primary and secondary trails in NYS Corridor 5 across parts of northern Lewis and southern Jefferson counties that inter-connect the Tug Hill Region to state corridors leading to the Adirondacks.

The new groomer will replace 2 older models with a multi-terrain, self-propelled track vehicle with drags featuring the latest in design and construction. Members of the MLSC serve as volunteer staff in maintaining the trails from December to April that support coordinated local, regional and statewide efforts to strengthen the economy through the tourism industry. Commission staff assisted with writing Missing Link's grant application.



Association of Towns to Hold Training for Newly Elected Officials in Early 2012

NYS Association of Towns is holding training for newly elected officials on January 4-6, 2012 in Rochester and January 11-13, 2012 in Albany. You only need to attend one training school since the second date is a repeat of the first. Both locations are easily accessible from the NYS Thruway. All supervisors, town board members, fiscal personnel, and town clerks are encouraged to attend.

There is a fee of \$200 per person which is payable in advance of the program. This fee covers the cost of tuition, course materials, breakfasts, lunches and coffee breaks. To register for this training, go to Association of Towns website at www.nytowns.org. Pre-registration is encouraged to guarantee that space will be available.

NYSERDA Offers New Construction Program Funding

The NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is accepting applications for its New Construction Program. Funding is available to enhance the energy efficiency of new and renovated buildings. Money is available to conduct technical reviews of energy efficiency improvements in building designs and to offset a portion of capital costs to purchase and install energy efficient equipment. Additional incentives for green buildings and industrial & process efficiency are available.

State and local governments, businesses, not-for profit and private institutions, public and private schools, colleges and universities, multifamily buildings, and health care facilities. A total of \$83 million is available, and the **deadline is December 30, 2011**. For more information see <http://nyserda.ny.gov/Page-Sections/Commercial-and-Industrial/Programs/New-Construction-Program.aspx>.

New Report on Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds and Bats Available

The Great Lakes Wind Collaborative has released a new report compiling bird and bat monitoring data from a number of wind turbine sites in the Great Lakes region. The report found mortality rates for songbirds ranging from 2.5 bird deaths per year per turbine at an Ontario, Canada site to 11.8 at a Wisconsin site. Additional research on raptors and waterfowl found them to be less prone to turbine collisions than songbirds, while bat mortality was very similar to songbirds, ranging from two to 11 bat deaths a year per turbine.

The full report is available from the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative web site at <http://www.glc.org/energy/wind/sosworkshop/pdf/Scientific-Assessment-Report-final.pdf>.

Prepare for Records Management Grants!

As we await notification of the current year's grant recipients, this is a reminder that the grant application deadline for the 2012-2013 cycle of Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) is just around the corner on February 1, 2012.

Attendance at a grant information session is a critical step in developing a successful grant proposal. There have been changes in the LGRMIF grant program, and the sessions listed below are the only venue where the revised application process is going to be covered in detail. After these sessions are completed, Kent Stuetz will be available to visit and discuss your proposal on an individual basis at your convenience.

Grant information sessions will be held in CNY at the following times and locations:

Jefferson County Public Health Building
(Watertown) - Tuesday, November 29th

Onondaga Town Hall (near Syracuse) - Wednesday, December 7th

Marcy Town Hall (near Utica) - Thursday, December 15th

These information sessions begin at 9:00 am and conclude near 12:00 pm. You are welcome to bring whoever will assist you in writing your grant, and there is no attendance fee.

To register, please visit our workshop registration webpage at: <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=LG&cat=05>.

If you have any questions, email or call Kent Stuetz at (315) 542-5909 (cell) or kstuetz@mail.nysed.gov.



2012 Association of Towns Training School and Annual Meeting February 19-22, 2012 – New York City



For more information about this training event, go to Association of Towns website at www.nytowns.org. All town officials are encouraged to attend. These two full days of training are well worth the trip to the Big Apple!

What Do You Do Now?

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

Just Elected - What Do You Do Now?

Webinar: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Whether you are a newly elected official or a returning veteran, carrying out your town duties promises to be an exciting, challenging adventure. The prospects for progress and success are bright, but you may have already found yourself wondering, "What Do I Do Now?" To help ease your transition, the Office of the State Comptroller and the Association of Towns invites all newly elected and continuing town officials throughout the State to participate in a live webinar. Our goal is to help you start off on the right track.

Topics Include:

- Powers and Duties
- Town Budgets
- Transitional Issues
- Conducting Town Board Meetings
- Freedom of Information Law
- Open Meetings Law
- Appointments
- Home Rule Law
- Financial Reporting
- Conflicts of Interest
- Other Town Issues

To register for the Webinar at: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/672307926>. For a flyer on the webinar: <http://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/training/pdf/newlyelected122011.pdf>.

Alternatively, you can attend this webinar at SUNY IT, 12 Horatio St., Utica, NY 13504 at Kunsela, Hall Café. Again, this is the same webinar as listed above. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm with the webinar beginning at 6:30 pm. In addition to viewing the webinar at this common location, a panel of local officials will be present to answer questions following the webinar. The cost of attending the webinar at SUNY IT is \$15, which covers the room charges and refreshments. For more information and to register, contact Sue Kimak at 315-792-7270. See <http://LGEC.org> for more details.



COGs to Host Project Review

Workshop

The North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments will host a training session on subdivision review, site plan review and special permits, to be conducted by Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Philip Street. This training session will be held at the West Monroe Town Hall, 46 County Route 11, West Monroe, New York on **Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.**

This two hour training session is intended to provide an overview of the process of reviewing subdivision proposals, site plan proposals and special permits. The intended audience is planning board members, ZBA members, and other municipal officials who wish to gain a better understanding of project reviews by planning boards.

Preregistration is requested. Please preregister by calling the Tug Hill Commission offices at its toll-free number, 888-785-2380 or by e-mailing tughill@tughill.org. This session is good for two hours credit for planning board and ZBA members needing training hours.

Register for ZBA Training

Registration is still open for the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments on a training session on ZBA basics. Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Philip Street will conduct this training session at the Parish Village Gym, 2938 East Main Street, Parish, New York on **Monday, November 21, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.**

This two hour training session is intended to provide an overview of how zoning boards of appeal operate in New York State. The intended audience is ZBA members, planning board members, and other municipal officials who wish to gain a better understanding of ZBA powers and duties, and the zoning appeals process.

Preregistration is requested by calling the Tug Hill Commission offices at its toll-free number 888-785-2380 or by emailing tughill@tughill.org. This session is good for two hours credit for planning board and ZBA members needing training hours.

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

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**Assisting communities and
citizens for over 38 years.**



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(Electronic versions appear in full
color!) Please contact the
Commission for assistance.
Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

The NYS Tug Hill Commission's
23rd Annual
Local Government Conference
will take place
Thursday March 29, 2012
at
Jefferson Community College

Commission Assists with ANCA Scenic Byways Project

A group of local stakeholders representing the Lake Ontario and Tug Hill Region met on Tuesday, November 15 at the Jefferson County Historical Society Museum in Water- town to assist Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) consultant, Fuller Communications, with identifying the distinct features and attributes of our area for use in creation of an interpretive traveler's guide. The concept of the guide is still in development, but will include a brochure along with web-based access to maps, sample itin- eraries, community highlights and cultural heritage events and offer- ings, as well as agricultural and food-related experiences in the region that "enhance the Adirondack North Country experience."



ANCA's Scenic Byways Program is funding the interpretive guide for traveler with the working title "Experiencing the Traditions, Foods, and Cultures of the Adirondack North Country." This traveler's re- source will highlight cultural heritage, agricultural, food, and rural as- sets within the 14 county ANCA region. The project is meant to com- plement promotional efforts for the twelve North Country New York State Scenic Byways and the two National Scenic Byways and one All- American Road through highlighting hands-on personal experi- ences—things travelers will see, visit, and events they can attend that allow them to interact with our rural communities. Traveler experi- ences will include opportunities to observe present and past agricul- tural traditions, enjoy food-related events, and places and events to interact with artisans, musicians, and performers.

For the purpose of gathering local traditions, food, and culture re- source information, the project area has been organized in five major geographic areas: St. Lawrence River Valley and Adirondack Foot- hills, Adirondack Mountains, Lake Ontario Coast & Tug Hill Plateau, Mohawk River Valley, and the Champlain Valley. The guide will en- able travelers to plan and experience their visits within a specific geo- graphic area, by major topics of interests for the entire region, as well as by Scenic Byways. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2012. For more information, please contact Sharon O'Brien, ANCA Scenic Byways Program Coordinator at (518) 891-6200 or Fuller Communications at (518) 483-7154. See [http:// adirondackscenicbyways.org/byway.html](http://adirondackscenicbyways.org/byway.html) for more information about ANCA's Scenic Byways Program.

