



November 21, 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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## Meeting on Adirondack Railroad

Over 60 people attended the meeting on the Future of the Adirondack Railroad on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Boonville. The meeting was hosted by the Tug Hill Commission and Northern Oneida County Council of Governments and focused on the recent MOU signed by Iowa Pacific Holdings (IPH) and the Adirondack Rail Preservation Society (ARPS). Bill Branson, President of ARPS gave an overview of the recent MOU and history of ARPS operation of the Adirondack Rail Service. Kate Fish, Executive Director of the Adirondack North Country Association, and Kelly Blazosky, Director of Oneida County Tourism, discussed how further development of rail service in the corridor could spur economic and community development in the region.



Local officials and stakeholders from NOCCOG, as well as Utica and points north along the corridor to Tupper Lake, then had the opportunity to ask questions and express their views on the future use and development of the corridor. Several people spoke in favor of the further rail development and several folks raised concerns about other recreational uses that could use the corridor including hikers,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## DEC's Urban Forestry Tree Grants Announced

Seven Tug Hill communities (out of the seven Tug Hill communities that applied) were chosen to be funded through the NYS Urban and Community Forestry Program. This program provides technical assistance to communities through local DEC Urban Foresters and ReLeaf volunteers and financial assistance through a competitive cost-share grant.

The cost-share grants provide funding for trees, soil, labor and materials needed to complete the projects. Awards will be matched locally with in-kind services and donations such as volunteer labor and additional purchases. The Tug Hill Commission was pleased to offer technical assistance with the grant applications to the communities listed below.

Three recipients for tree planting projects included the Village of Adams - \$8,351; the Town of Trenton - \$5,000; and, the Town of Forestport - \$3,900. In addition, Quick Start grants of \$1,000 each were awarded to four Tug Hill communities to help create local tree planting programs and Arbor Day celebrations. The Villages of Remsen, Central Square and Camden, and the Town of Ava were chosen for Quick Start grants. Only nine Quick State grants were awarded statewide. Congratulations to everyone that worked so hard on these projects and applications!

***(Railroad Meeting Continued from page 1)***

bikers and snowmobilers. Some advocated for removing rails along the corridor from Thendera north. Others spoke to the need to retain rails and develop the corridor for much more recreational related development. Still others spoke of the need to accommodate all users and not to preclude any one user group.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm with everyone in agreement that further discussions need to occur. While there may be differing opinions about the long term use of the corridor, it is clear that everyone wants the corridor to be a major part of the Tug Hill and Adirondack communities along it. Most certainly a continuation of the conversation will occur.

**Black River Initiative Advisory Committee Meets**

The Black River Initiative Advisory Committee is a consolidation of three core groups that have helped guide three complementary projects throughout the years: the Black River Blueway Trail, Black River Trail Scenic Byway, and Black River Watershed. With the existing Blueway implementation grants nearly complete and the Byway recently endorsed by the State Scenic Byway Advisory Committee, we are in a position to streamline our efforts to improve and promote the river and its communities.

On November 14 at the Champion Town Hall, the Committee, comprising people representing municipalities, recreation and tourism organizations and citizen groups met to discuss possible projects, events and marketing methods for the entire 144-mile Black River Trail corridor. The group believes that coordinated decision making is the best way to serve Black River communities and protect it as the important resource that it is.

At the meeting, the group recapped the Black River Trail (Blueway and Byway) and Watershed projects and dedicated much discussion to framing a strategy going forward. This included how the Black River Trail may benefit from regional economic development support of tourism corridors and water based recreation, which may increase the success of consolidated funding applications. The group also discussed several other opportunities and topics in what resulted in a lively and productive discussion. Commission staff is now working to compile the results and gather requested information for participants.

If you would like to be involved with this group, please contact Carla Malmgren at the Tug Hill Commission at [carla@tughill.org](mailto:carla@tughill.org) or 315-785-2380. The group will meet again in early March of 2013.

**Town of Floyd Aims for the Sun**

The Town of Floyd is working to reduce energy costs to become a more energy efficient local government. The Town is working to secure funding to install solar equipment in order to enjoy clean, renewable energy from the sun, reduce electric bills, protect taxpayers from rising electric bills, reduce harmful emissions and be less dependent on fossil fuels and imported oil. Lloyd Miller, a concerned Town resident and Town Constable, worked with Charles Planow, board member to find money to accomplish their goal of efficiency and convert to solar energy.



An energy audit was conducted and showed that the Town of Floyd municipal building would save taxpayer money if a solar system were to be installed. The gross system price is estimated to be approximated \$192,866, taking full advantage of CCAP, NYSERDA rebates and AGT Solar rebates. The system would net taxpayers a cumulative net savings of \$170,927 over the next 25 years.

The Town has been formally nominated by Assembly Anthony J. Brindisi to receive funding from the State Assembly's Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP) in the amount of \$100,000.

## Tips for the Trade: A NYS DEC Workshop for Professionals, Municipal Official, Tree Boards, Planning and Zoning Boards and Community Tree Enthusiasts

This workshop will take place **Tuesday December 11, 2012 at the Demonstration Kitchen at the NY S Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY.** Registration starts at 8:30 am and the program ends at 3:30 pm. Continuing Education credits applied for—LA, DEC, ISA, CNLP. This workshop qualifies for Planning Board and Zoning Board training.



Speaker and topics include: Dr. Nina Bassuk, Cornell University—What Trees Should go Where and Why; Rob Cole, NYS DEC—Focus on Emerald Ash Borer; Jessie Lyons, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County—How to maintain tree health throughout the year; Barbra Neal, Green Legacy Tree Consultants—Soil Basics and Challenges of Urban Soils; and Tim Toland, SUNY ESF, Thoughts on Tree Protection During Construction.

The Fee for this workshop is \$15 when paid by 12/7/12 or \$25 after 12/7/12. Lunch is included. There will be no refunds, but substitutions will be allowed. For more information or questions, please contact Matt Swayze of DEC Region 7 at (607) 753-3095 ext. 220 or [msswayze@dec.state.ny.us](mailto:msswayze@dec.state.ny.us).



### Records Grants Information Sessions

Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant information sessions will be presented in Central New York following the schedule noted below. These grant information sessions are being held in anticipation of receiving approval for the 2013-2014 LGRMIF requests for applications, entitled Grant Application Guide. **The grant info sessions listed below will each begin at 9:00 am and will conclude by noon.** All are welcome to attend, but you should register for the desired session via the online registration system through the following link. <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>. By doing so you will be sent the information you need to print and bring to the workshop. You will also note on the site additional grant information sessions offered throughout the state on other dates.

**Tuesday, November 27th**  
Rome City Hall  
Oneida County

**Thursday December 6th**  
Jefferson County Public Health Building  
Watertown

**Tuesday January 8th**  
Clay Town Hall  
Onondaga County

Attending one of these sessions, along with applying the principles discussed there, will greatly improve your success in obtaining an LGRMIF grant. In addition to these public workshops, Kent Stuetz will be available to meet with you at your local government office to discuss your specific needs. It cannot be stressed enough the importance of including Kent, your State Archives Regional Advisory Officer, in the grant application process. He will do anything in his power to appropriately assist you through each phase of the process.

If you have any question relating to records management or records grants, contact Kent Stuetz, NYS Archives, CNY Regional Office, 315-542-5909 or [kstuetz@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:kstuetz@mail.nysed.gov).

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Please contact the  
Commission for assistance.

Thank you!

## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The Tug Hill Commission's  
24th Annual Local Govern-  
ment Conference will be held  
March 28, 2013 at Jefferson  
Community College. Watch for  
coming details. If you have  
ideas for presentation topics or  
presenters, please let us know!

## **NYSERDA Rebate Program for Small Municipal Governments**

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The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced the "Buy Green, Save Green Rebates for NYS Local Governments" launched September 25, 2012 with \$1,100,000 available for rebates. Rebates totaling \$567,185.01 have been reserved to date. When all rebate funds are reserved NYSEDA will accept a limited number of Wait List applications. To qualify, eligible equipment must be purchased on or after September 25, 2012 and you must apply before the date that available funding runs out, or February 1, 2013, whichever comes first.

**The rebates will pay 75 percent of the purchase price of eligible products**, which include ENERGY STAR(r) refrigerators, dehumidifiers, commercial dishwashers, room air conditioners, imaging equipment (including copiers and fax machines; digital duplicators; printers, scanners and all-in-one devices; and mailing machines), as well as compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and light emitting diode light bulbs (LEDs) in quantities of 10 or more. Advanced power strips in quantities of two or more will also be eligible for the rebate. Since there is no ENERGY STAR designation for power strips, a list of eligible power strips is posted at <http://nysappliancerebates.com>.

The rebate program is for local governments that meet all three of the following eligibility requirements:

- 1) They are New York State small municipal governments that were included in the 2007 Census of Governments as currently incorporated municipalities.
- 2) They have a governance structure that includes an elected official and a governing body.
- 3) They have not received a direct EECBG allocation of Department of Energy formula grant.

Eligible municipalities are listed on <http://www.nysappliancerebates.com> along with municipalities that are ineligible for this program due to receiving a direct EECBG allocation already. Details about the program and information on eligible products can also be found on <http://www.nysappliancerebates.com>. Sewer districts, school districts, fire districts and other sub-components of eligible villages, towns, cities and counties are not eligible under DOE's criteria.

The purchase price for an individual piece of equipment cannot exceed \$4,999, and each eligible municipality can receive up to \$20,000 total in rebates. Appliances and equipment may be purchased at any location. Rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for completed applications, which will be available on <http://www.nysappliancerebates.com/> or by calling 1-877-NYSMART or 1-877-697-6278 starting September 25, 2012. **Purchases made before September 25, 2012 are not eligible for rebates.** Call the Commission if you need assistance!