

October 21, 2011

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Property Tax Report
- REDC News
- Tax Cap Training
- Maple News
- Training
- ReLeaf Grants
- Ava News
- Lyons Falls BOA News
- Official Road Mapping
- Conflict Resolution

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The NYS Tug Hill Commission's

23rd Annual

Local Government Conference

will take place

Thursday March 29, 2012

at

Jefferson Community College

Please save the date and contact us with ideas for speakers and topics!

DEC Awards Clean Air Grants

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced awards for "Clean Air Grants," to 13 New York communities. The grants are designed to assist counties, towns and villages in reducing open burning of leaves and other organic materials, educate residents about the dangers of open burning and assist with the purchasing of recycling and composting equipment.

Four Tug Hill Communities will benefit from these grants!

- **Town of Constantia**, Oswego County, to assist in the purchase of a commercial leaf vacuum that will be shared with the **Village of Cleveland** to more efficiently manage organic waste in both communities.
- **Town of Pinckney**, Lewis County, to assist in the purchase of a commercial wood chipper to give area residents a safer option for disposing branches and other tree waste. The Town will partner with the Tug Hill Commission and Development Authority of the North County to educate residents about the availability of the chipping service, the dangers of open burning and how they can get wood chips and mulch from the program. Commission staff assisted the Town of Pinckney with their grant application.
- **Town of Boonville**, Oneida County, to repair and refurbish a municipal leaf collection vacuum to reduce the possible loss of life and property that can often result from open burning and the added burden it puts on local volunteer fire companies.

Property Taxes on Tug Hill Report

Analysis of how the cost of local services impacts the tax burden of Tug Hill residents is the focus of a new report soon to be released by the Commission. In particular, this paper summarizes the issues surrounding increasing real property tax levies and provides preliminary expenditure trend analysis among various units of government and taxing jurisdictions in the Tug Hill Region. Several case studies are used to demonstrate how rural communities differ from urban and suburban communities in their funding and expenditure practices.

North County REDC Community Forum

The North County Regional Economic Development Council is holding a community forum designed to get your input and aid us in the creation of a five-year economic development plan. The last forum will be held on Wednesday, October 26 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Lowville Academy and Central School, Large Group Instructional Auditorium, 7668 State Street, Lowville, NY 13367. Seating may be limited so please register early. To register and for more information, please go to: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/north-country>.

Tax Cap Training

December 8, 2011 in Adams

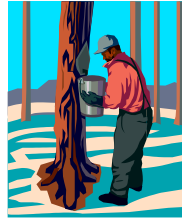
The North County Clerk's Association is sponsoring a Tax Cap training on December 8th at the Adams Fire Hall, time still to be determined. Barbara VanEpps from the NY Conference of Mayors will be giving the training. RSVPs are required, so please email the Village of Adams Clerk, Darlene Rexford, at adamsvil@frontiernet.net to reserve your spot.



Association of Towns 2012 Training School and Annual Meeting

The Association of Towns has announced its 2012 Training School and Annual Meeting February 19 through February 22. For questions and to obtain a registration form, please contact Linda Shannon at the Association of Towns at (518) 465-7933 or visit the website at www.nytowns.org.

Link Maple Farm Wins State Honors



Link Maple Farm in the Town of Annsville won the Grand Champion Blue Ribbon at the 2011 NY State Fair Maple Syrup Competition.

A representative from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Maple Team judged over 150 entries for this year's competition. Syrup samples are judged on color, sugar content, and clarity and of course taste. Link Maple Farms also took first place in the Grade A Light and Dark category and second place in the Medium syrup category.



Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council Upcoming Meetings

The Draft Strategic Plan will be presented for comment at the three forums being held throughout the Mohawk Valley REDC Region:

November 1, 2011

Griffiss Institute, Oneida County
725 Daedalian Drive
Rome, NY 13441
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

November 2, 2011

Johnstown Senior Citizens Center,
Fulton County
109 East Main Street
Johnstown, NY 12095
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

November 3, 2011

Cobleskill/Richmondville Central School
Library, Schoharie County
155 Washington Avenue
Cobleskill, NY 12043
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

The next Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council Meeting will be held on **October 26th** at SUNY Oneonta at 11:00 am, where the draft plan will be adopted. The Mohawk Valley REDC website is: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley>.

American Forests Global ReLeaf Program Grants

Global ReLeaf provides cost-share grants for restoration tree-planting projects conducted by nonprofit organizations and public agencies in the U.S. and around the world. These grants are expected to be strongly leveraged with other funds and in-kind resources. Grant funds may be used to support a variety of activities associated with restoration tree planting (e.g. seedling acquisition, site preparation, transportation, equipment and supplies, contractors and volunteer organizing). Projects must be conducted on: public lands designated for long-term conservation purposes or private lands with credible assurance of long-term conservation uses (e.g. conservation easement), management capacity and public access. Only non-profit, community, and government organizations may apply. **The deadline is November 1, 2011.** For more information:

<http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/global-releaf-projects/global-releaf-grant-application/>.



Tax Cap Guidance Update

An official guidance document has been jointly published by the Department of Taxation and Finance and the Department of State for compliance with the tax levy limit as set forth in General Municipal Law §3-c. The official guidance document is at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/capguidelines.pdf>.

For guidance on adopting a local law, go to http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lg/publications/Adopting_Local_Laws_in_New_York_State.pdf.

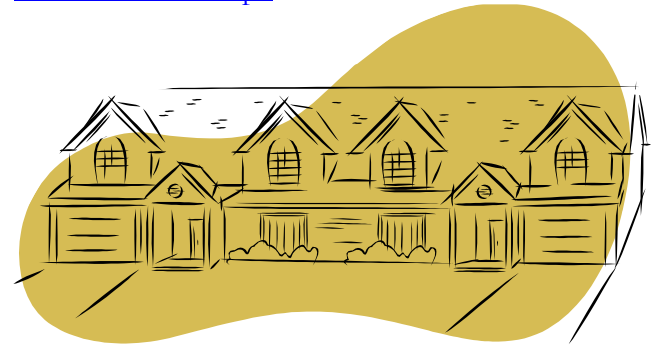
The Comptroller's Office has a good deal of levy cap information on their web page: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm>. The Comptroller's Office offers assistance with the levy cap Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at (518) 473-0006.

Ava Comprehensive Plan Update in Progress

The Town of Ava is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan. The plan, recently reviewed by the Planning Board, is intended to prioritize investments and provide direction for future development within the community. The plan provides a framework for the existing land development controls and will help assure that the growth of the area will be in accordance with community goals. Some of these goals include: retaining the rural atmosphere; encouraging orderly residential growth; and maintaining clean air, water, and land.

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

The Association of Towns will be holding a training session titled "Newly Elected Officials 2012 Training School." There are two locations: January 4, 5 and 6 in Rochester, NY and January 11, 12 and 13 in Albany, NY. There is a \$200 fee for each person attending and this covers the cost of tuition, materials, breakfasts, lunches and coffee breaks. For a registration form and more information about the agenda and lodging, please go to the Association of Towns website at <http://www.nytowns.org/web/2008/09/announcements.aspx>.



Lyons Falls Brownfield Opportunity Area Project News

The second public meeting was held on October 12th in Lyons Falls, where Elan Planning presented their *Preliminary Landuse and Redevelopment Program*. The presentation can be found here: <http://lyonsfallsboa.wordpress.com/14-2/>. If you missed the presentation and would still like to comment, please visit the presentation online and provide comments at the website.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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



Northern Oneida County Council of Government Official Road Mapping



The twelve towns from NOCCOG have just completed the first phase of an official road mapping project. This project involved gathering GPS points at dead end roads and other designated areas, going through the CHIPS inventory and producing draft maps. The draft maps of each towns' roads were created using data collected and compiled from a number of sources including GPS, the CHIPS inventory, and the Highway Superintendents' knowledge of their roads.

The second phase of the project involved review of the maps and making any changes needed before adopting the official road map. The third phase involves adopting the official road map. As of today, two towns have completed all three phases and have adopted their official road map: Camden and Steuben. A few more towns have completed the second phase and are nearing the end of the third phase.

The Highway Superintendents did an excellent job working with Commission staff and should be commended on a job well done. Without their efforts, none of this would have been possible.

Conflict Resolution Workshop

The Local Government Education Committee of Oneida & Herkimer Counties has scheduled a workshop on relations between the Municipal Board and the Highway Superintendent. The session will be held on **Thursday, November 10, 2011 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM in the Café at Kunsela Hall, SUNYIT in Utica.** Presentations, given by two experienced professionals in this field (Lori Mithen DeMasi, Counsel Association of Towns of the State of New York and Laura Skibinski, Esq., NYS Office of the State Comptroller Legal Services), will include such information as:

- The fiscal roles and responsibilities of the highway superintendent and the town board
- The budget process in relation to the Town Board and the Highway Superintendent including proper charges to the highway fund, Highway Law § 284, etc.
- Creating, funding and classification of positions
- Hiring, working hours, firing, discipline & accrual of time

Pre-registration is required by November 1st. There is a **\$15.00** charge for the workshop and checks should be made payable to the College Association. Visit the Local Government Education Committee website at www.lgec.org for more information and a registration form. Refreshments will be served!