



**October 23, 2015**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- NYSDOT Digitizes Roads
- Land Use Planning Workshop
- Approved Local Government Efficiency Plans Announced
- Restrictive Local Laws Affecting Farmland
- NY Launches Geographic Information Gateway
- October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month
- Newly Elected Official 2016 Association of Towns Training School
- Tug Hill Commission to Meet in Western
- Westward Waters UMP Update
- Fund-a-Farmer Grants
- New York State Moose Study



# 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.

## **NYSDOT Digitizes Roads**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is requiring the states to create and administer digital GIS files of all roads receiving funding. Thus, the NYSDOT has begun a program of creating digitized GIS coverages of New York's county and town roads and village streets. Their schedule for rolling out draft maps and revised road mileages in the state highway inventory for Oneida, Jefferson and Lewis Counties is this fall, and Oswego County by spring of next year. NYSDOT will be discussing the draft maps with local governments to make corrections and get proper paperwork for abandoned roads on file through this process. Correct road mileages are important as they are the basis for the local highway aid formulas under the Comprehensive Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).

The Tug Hill Commission has, in the past few years, worked with most of our 41 towns on creating accurate GIS road map inventories. These maps and digitized GIS coverages are freely available for any municipality which wishes to use them in their discussions with NYSDOT.

## **Land Use Planning Workshop**

State Agency Permits – Part 2  
NYS DEC and DOT Permit

Monday, October 26, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm  
Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002

Jefferson Community College 1220 Coffeen St., Watertown, NY

### AGENDA

6:30-6:35 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks

6:35-8:00 pm Presentation by Tom Voss, NYS DEC & Michael Burgess, NYS DOT

8:00-8:30 pm Question and answer period

RSVP's are strongly encouraged by Friday, October 23th. Please call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or Email: [planning@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.jefferson.ny.us)

If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two (2) hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training Requirement.

## **Approved Local Government Efficiency Plans Announced**

The NYS Division of Budget has released the list of communities whose local government efficiency plans have been approved. The full list of approved plans here: <http://rochester.nydatabases.com/database/nys-efficiency-plans>.

Submission and approval of an efficiency plan, along with staying under the property tax cap, qualifies homeowners to receive "property tax freeze checks". More information on the program is available on DOB's website at <https://www.budget.ny.gov/govEfficiencyPlans/govEfficiencyPlans.html>.

# Restrictive Local Laws Affecting Farmland

The Agricultural Districts Law protects farmers against local laws which unreasonably restrict farm operations located within an agricultural district. Staff at the Department of Ag and Markets, together with Department legal staff, review both existing and proposed laws to determine if they are compatible with farm operations. In cases where a local law is determined to be unreasonable, staff will work with the involved local government to develop mutually accepted modifications. If a local government is unwilling to modify a restrictive law, the Department is authorized to take action to compel compliance with the Agricultural Districts Law. In a landmark decision, the State Court of Appeals ruled that the opinion of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets should be given deference in the interpretation and administration of this important right to farm protection.

Requests for review must be provided to the Department in writing and include a completed Section 305-a Review Form. Questions concerning the review of restrictive local laws can be directed to Bob Somers at 518-457-2713 or at bob.somers@agriculture.ny.gov.

The Department of Ag and Markets also has guidelines for the following uses affecting farming. Visit the website at <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/agservices/agdistricts.html> for more information.

## Guidance Documents

- Application to Request a Review Pursuant to Section 305-a of the AML
- Start-up Farm Operations Must Also Complete and Submit this Questionnaire
- Brochure entitled Local Laws and Agricultural Districts: How Do They Relate
- Guideline for Definition of Farm Operation
- Guideline for Start Up Farm Operations
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Farm Worker Housing
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Nutrient Management Practices (i.e. Land Application of Animal Waste, Recognizable and Non-recognizable Food Waste, Sewage Sludge and Septage, Animal Waste Storage/Management)
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting the Control of Farm Animals
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Farm Operations' Use of Wetlands
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Direct Farm Marketing Activities
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting On-Farm Composting Facilities
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Temporary Greenhouses
- Guideline for Review of Local Zoning and Planning Laws
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Commercial Horse Boarding Operations and Commercial Equine Operations
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Junk and Junkyards
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Small Wind Energy Production Facilities and Solar Devices
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Nursery Operation
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting On-Farm Open Burning
- Guideline for Review of Local Laws Affecting Farm Distilleries, Breweries and Wineries

## NY Launches Geographic Information Gateway

The New York Department of State just launched the New York Geographic Information Gateway - <http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/#/home>. The Gateway is a new educational, interactive and user-friendly website that identifies New York's diverse land and offshore assets. It provides the public access to free and reliable geographic data, including over 400 datasets, a map viewer and interactive stories describing how the NY Department of State's Office of Planning and Development uses geospatial information in its planning and development efforts. It offers real-time information, interactive tools, and expert knowledge on New York's resources, including climate change and community resilience.

As described in the Secretary of State's press release ([www.dos.ny.gov/press/2015/advisoryNY09-28.html](http://www.dos.ny.gov/press/2015/advisoryNY09-28.html)), the Gateway will empower residents, businesses and local governments to improve resiliency, grow the economy and invest in New York State Communities.

# October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month!

The NYS Office of Information Technology Services Enterprise Information Security Office (NYS ITS EISO) is joining with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its partners across the country to share tips on how we can protect our information at work, at home, and on the go. Help keep your identity, and your information more secure by following these cyber security dos and don'ts:

## DO

- Use hard-to-guess passwords or passphrases. A password should have a minimum of 10 characters using upper case and lower case letters, numbers and special characters.
- Use different passwords for different accounts.
- Keep your passwords or passphrases confidential.
- Use privacy settings on social media sites to restrict access to your personal information.
- Pay attention to phishing traps in email and watch for telltale signs of a scam.
- Lock your computer and mobile phone when not in use.
- Remember that wireless is inherently insecure. Avoid using public Wi-Fi hotspots.
- Report all suspicious activity and cyber incidents to your manager.

## DON'T

- Post any private or sensitive information, such as credit card numbers, passwords or other private information, on public sites, including social media sites.
- Open mail or attachments from an untrusted source. If you receive a suspicious email, delete it and report it to your manager.
- Click on links from an unknown or untrusted source. Cyber attackers often use them to trick you into visiting malicious sites and downloading malware that can be used to steal data and damage networks.
- Respond to unsolicited phone calls or emails requesting confidential data.
- Install unauthorized programs on your work computer. Malicious applications often pose as legitimate software.
- Leave devices unattended. Keep all mobile devices, such as laptops and cell phones physically secured.
- Leave wireless or Bluetooth turned on when not in use.

Online safety and security are shared responsibilities, and we each have an obligation to protect our identities and our information online. Visit the following sites to learn more:

NYS ITS EISO: [www.its.ny.gov/eiso](http://www.its.ny.gov/eiso)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month](http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month)

StaySafeOnline.org: [www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/](http://www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/)

Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center - <https://msisac.cisecurity.org/>

## **Newly Elected Official 2016 Association of Towns Training School**

The Association of Towns of the State of New York has announced the dates for its biannual training for newly elected officials. The same training is being offered in two locations:

January 6-8 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Rochester

January 13-15 at the Desmond Hotel & Conference Center in Albany

More details will be available soon on the Association of Towns website, [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org). This training is an excellent opportunity for a newly elected town official (supervisors, town board members, fiscal personnel and town clerks primarily) to get a thorough orientation to the position they are just entering.

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill  
Commission**

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1-888-785-2380.  
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## **Tug Hill Commission to Meet in Western**

**Monday, November, 9, 10:00-11:30 am**

Town of Western Town Hall, 9219 Main Street, Westernville, NY 13486

### **Westward Waters UMP Update**

Commission staff attended the DEC's Westward Waters Unit Management Plan public meeting on October 14th. While, much of the unit, which consists of seventeen state forests located in thirteen units on eastern edge of Lewis County, is outside the Tug Hill region, you may be interested in commenting on the UMP or learning more about the area. Many of the comments made at the public meeting related to the Otter Creek Horse Trails and Lake Bonapart. Any person or group that would like to on the draft unit management plan can contact Ed Sykes at NYSDEC, 7327 State Hwy 812, Lowville, New York 13367 or e-mail [r6.ump@dec.ny.gov](mailto:r6.ump@dec.ny.gov).

Please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91857.html> to find out more about how to comment or to learn more about the UMP.

### **Fund-a-Farmer Grants**

Fund-a-Farmer is currently accepting applications for the 2016 round of grant funding. For complete information, visit <http://www.fundafarmer.org/>. The grants target working, independent, family farmers who raise pigs, broiler chickens, laying hens, turkeys, dairy cows and/or beef cattle, and prioritize projects that transition farms to being pasture-based or that improve existing pasture. Applications will only be considered from farms already considered highly welfare-oriented as determined by holding one of the following certifications for their animals or actively working toward one of these certifications: AGA certified grassfed, certified humane, USDA certified organic, animal welfare approved, certified naturally grown, or Global Animal Partnership levels 4-5+. The Deadline for the grant application, which is accepted online only, is November 3, 2015. <https://www.fundafarmer.org/apply-for-grant/>.

### **New York State Moose Study**

The Department of Environmental Conservation, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the Cornell University Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and the Wildlife Conservation Society Adirondack Program are conducting a multi-year research project to obtain information on the status of New York State's moose population and the factors that influence moose survival and reproductive rate. The goal of the Adirondack moose study is to gather data that will be used to create a moose management plan for New York State.

In February 2015, twelve moose were captured in the Adirondacks, fitted with GPS radio collars and released. The movements of all twelve of the moose continue to be tracked remotely. Of the nine cows that were collared, seven had calves and two of those had twins. An article on the moose study in the current edition of the [Conservationist](#).

DEC and its partners are also seeking information from the public regarding moose sightings to provide data for this study. If you sight a moose please report it to the DEC by calling the Region 5 Wildlife office at [518-897-1291](tel:518-897-1291) or by completing and submitting the electronic reporting form. A link to the form can be found at the bottom of the [DEC Moose web page](#).