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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Gerry Ritter Receives Genesis Award
- Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition Receives WQIP Grant
- Open Space Conservation Plan
- Black River Trash Bash
- NYCOM Planning & Zoning Webinars
- The Formation and Functionality of a Fire District
- Renewable Heat NY Grants Available for Cordwood Boilers
- NYS Wine Region of the Year
- Tug Hill Commission Meeting Scheduled
- NOCCOG Annual Dinner Held



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.

Gerry Ritter Receives Genesis Award

Retired circuit rider Gerry Ritter was honored at the annual Genesis Group luncheon last week with the 2014 Joseph R. Carucci Legacy Award. It is bestowed on special leaders in the Mohawk Valley region that embody Carucci's qualities of hard work, high standards, integrity and trust. During her career as a municipal management consultant or "circuit rider," Gerry served on or contributed to numerous



committees including the Local Government Education Committee of Oneida & Herkimer Counties, CAP-21, Digital Towpath Cooperative, Oneida County Association of Towns, Keep America Beautiful Mohawk Valley, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Governmental Policy Liaison Committee for Oneida & Herkimer Counties,



and the Genesis Group of the Mohawk Valley. She also served on several subcommittees of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Council and attended numerous meetings of the Council in the last three years.

Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition Receives WQIP Grant

NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grants were announced this week, and the Town of LeRay, on behalf of all 9 member municipalities that belong to the Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition, was awarded \$100,000. The grant will help support the efforts of the Coalition to meet the permit requirements of the newly designated MS4 (municipal separate stormwater sewer systems) area.

The 9 member municipalities are the Towns of LeRay, Rutland and Watertown; the Villages of Black River, Brownville, Carthage, Dexter, and West Carthage; and the City of Watertown. It is likely that Jefferson County will also join the Coalition in the near future. Technical assistance to the group is being provided by the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Jefferson County Planning Department, and the Tug Hill Commission.

Open Space Conservation Plan

The NYSDEC 2014 Open Space Conservation Plan is now available for review. New York's Open Space Conservation Plan serves as the blueprint for the State's land conservation efforts. The Open Space Plan is required by law to be revised every three years.

New York's Open Space Conservation Plan provides four overarching objectives to direct our priorities, policies, and actions:

- Promoting Outdoor Recreation
- Addressing Climate Change
- Ensuring Clean Water, Air and Land for a Healthy Public and Vibrant Economy
- Protecting, Using and Conserving Our Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage

The Plan provides a number of actions that we can take in pursuit of each objective and a listing of associated programs and policies. The Plan also contains a statewide list of priority conservation projects that are eligible for funding through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

NYS DEC and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) will hold public hearings in each DEC region on this Draft Plan. Copies of the Draft Plan are available at NYS DEC and OPRHP regional offices or may be requested by email to LF.Lands@dec.ny.gov. Public comments will be accepted until 4:45 on December 17, 2014.

For more information on regional public hearings, or to review the draft conservation plan, please visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/317.html#Hearing>

Black River Trash Bash

The Black River, winding from Forestport to Dexter, is one of the North Country's most important natural resources. The Black River Trash Bash is an annual watershed-wide event to clean up along the River and document what litters its shores.

Data collected over the last month has been collected and compiled from three locations along the Black River and sent to the American Littoral Society (ALS), who collects data from all over New York State to be included in the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/>.

This year, 28 participants from Lyons Falls Alive, the Adirondack Community Advisory League, and the Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee collected 570 pounds of trash from the shore of the Black River. To illustrate the type and quantity of trash items collected, here are just a few examples from the data cards turned in by the volunteers from this year's event: 610 cigarette butts, 330 food wrappers, 27 pieces of construction materials, 44 tobacco wrappers, 1 rug, a sneaker and 22 diapers. Of the 570 pounds of trash removed from 4.5 miles of shoreline, 45 pounds were recycled and diverted from the landfill to the county recycling center.

This year, the Trash Bash event is grateful for another collaborator. The Development Authority of the North Country provided trash hauling from the Lewis County locations to their Solid Waste Management facility in Rodman.

This event was sponsored in part by the ALS and organized locally by the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Tug Hill Commission. Many thanks go out to Nirvana Spring Water and White's Lumber for their donations of water and gloves for the event. And many thanks go out to the captains of the cleanup sites. We hope to increase public participation in solving the problem of litter and pollution and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the River.

NYCOM Planning & Zoning Webinars

The following webinars are open to officials/employees of NYCOM members, including non-planning board and non-ZBA members.

- **NOVEMBER 5, 2014**
A primer on the Open Meetings Law, Minutes, Meeting Procedures and Public Hearings for ZBA's & Planning Boards
- **NOVEMBER 12, 2014**
SEQRA for ZBA & Planning Board Actions
- **NOVEMBER 19, 2014**
The Basic Procedures for Reviewing Variance, Special Use Permit, Site Plan Approval and Other Applications
- **DECEMBER 3, 2014**
An Overview of Dealing with Grandfathered Uses, Adult Establishments and Cell Towers

The cost of participating in each Webinar Wednesday is \$15. If you are registering for all four Planning and Zoning Webinars, the cost for the entire series is \$50. If you wish to participate in more than one webinar, you will need to register for EACH ONE separately.

Annual Planning & Zoning Training Requirement: Note that each of these webinars will last one hour. If your city or village allows webinars as a valid form of training, individuals who participate in each of the four webinars will satisfy the State's four-hour annual training requirement for planning board and ZBA members.

For registration information please go to: <http://www.nycom.org/component/content/article/15-events-and-workshops/709-planning-zoning-webinars.html>

The Formation and Functionality of a Fire District Should You or Should You Not Consolidate Fire Protection

Tuesday November 18, 2014
6:30 to 8:30 pm Check-in: 6:00 pm
SUNY Polytechnic Institute Kunsela Hall - Room A112

Who Should Attend:

- Supervisors & Mayors
- Council Members & Trustees
- Clerks & Treasurers
- Firemen & Chiefs

A panel of local & state officials will be available to discuss the municipal process of restructuring fire protection. This is your chance to ask questions of those who are considering or have recently been through this process.

Members from:

- Trenton Joint Fire District - Commission Chair Geri Speich and Commissioner Truman Williams
- Village of Dolgeville & Town of Manheim - Mayor Bruce Lyon and Supervisor John Haughton
- Department of State - Sean Maguire

The cost is \$15. PRE-REGISTRATION must be received by Friday, November 14. Please visit www.lgec.org and click on "upcoming workshops" for a brochure and registration information.

Sponsored by the:
Local Government Education Committee

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the
6th Floor of the Dulles
State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the
region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

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Renewable Heat NY Grants Available for Cordwood Boilers

Renewable Heat NY, a new program being offered by NYSERDA, includes incentives for advanced cordwood boiler heating systems with full thermal storage for installation in residential and small commercial sectors. The incentive is for up to \$8000, based on 20% of installed costs up to \$4000 per unit with an additional \$4000 for documented removal and destruction of a previously installed and functioning Outdoor or Indoor Wood Boiler. For more information, see <http://www.nyserd.org/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs/Renewables/Renewable-Heat-NY/Advanced-Cordwood-Boiler.aspx>.

Incentives are also available for a variety of other wood heating systems. Details available at <http://www.nyserd.org/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs/Renewables/Renewable-Heat-NY.aspx>

NYS Wine Region of the Year

New York State has been honored with the title of "Wine Region of the Year" by Wine Enthusiast magazine. The award will be presented at the Wine Star Awards gala dinner on January 26 at the New York Public Library. Adam Strum, Publisher and Editor of Wine Enthusiast, said, "The New York wine industry has accelerated tremendously during the past four years, making New York State one of the most vibrant and promising wine regions in the world." Jim Trezise, President of the New York Wine and Grape Foundation, said, "Being named 'Wine Region of the Year' in Wine Enthusiast's Wine Star Awards is a huge honor and a reflection of our overall goal—'To have the New York grape and wine industry recognized as a world leader in quality, productivity, and social responsibility.'

Tug Hill Commission Meeting Scheduled

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, November 17th from 10:00 a.m. - Noon at the Holland Patent Village Offices located at 9544 Depot Street, Holland Patent. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the Commission, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils, and discussion with the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments 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.

NOCCOG Annual Dinner Held

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments held their annual meeting last Thursday, October 23 at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome. With over 100 state and local officials in attendance, the evening provided an opportunity for the 19 towns and villages that comprise NOCCOG to network and share projects and progress over the past year. The group was also given a presentation by Pat Vincent of Vincent Heating & Cooling, Inc. in Poland, NY, where they are spearheading state efforts to provide bulk pellet delivery services to upstate NY.