

NOCCOG Holds Annual Dinner

OCTOBER 6, 2017

On September 29th, NOCCOG held its annual dinner and business meeting at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome, with about 70 local officials and leaders in attendance. Senator Joseph Griffo and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush also stopped in to meet with and hear concerns from local officials. With pressure intensifying for communities to cut costs and share services, NOCCOG collaboration will continue with efforts to aid in creating more efficient emergency services, consolidating justice courts, and sharing professional staff such as Assessors and Codes Officers.



Left to right: NOCCOG Circuit Rider Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Senator Joseph Griffo, Vienna Supervisor Bill Graham, and Vienna Councilwoman Lorraine Padavan

In This Issue

- NOCCOG Dinner Held
- Venerable Folks
- Commission Meeting
- CTHC Holds Fall Meeting
- Cyber Security Month
- Ice Jam Education
- Tug Hill Calendars
- Integrating Trees Webinar
- Be Aware
- COG Insert

Focus On The COG - Special Insert

This edition features the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, the work they are doing and the major things happening in their part of Tug Hill.

Venerable Folks on Display in Lewis County

The Venerable Folks of Tug Hill traveling exhibit can be viewed at the Lewis County Historical Society now until October 13. The Historical Society is located at 7552 S State St, Lowville, NY 13367, call (315) 376-8957 for information about hours.



Commission Meeting October 16, Floyd

The next board meeting of the Tug Hill Commission will be at 10 am on Monday, October 16 at the Town of Floyd Municipal Building, **8299 Old Floyd Road, Rome, NY 13440**. Following the meeting will be a tour of the Floyd Town Park with Supervisor Willie Streiff.

CTHC Fall Meeting Held

On Thursday September 28th the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual fall meeting at the Tug Hill Hideaway in West Leyden. Twelve of the eighteen CTHC towns and villages were present, along with several members of the Tug Hill Commission, commission staff and several other guests, for a total of 43 people.

Following approval of the previous meeting's minutes and the most recent available financial report, the budget for the upcoming year was discussed. Chairman Roger Tibbetts presented the proposed budget for 2018. The budget showed some changes of funding for various budget categories, but kept overall spending at the 2017 level. With the addition of two villages to the Council's membership this year, the projection showed that dues should be able to remain at current levels for several years to come. After the presentation the proposed budget was approved by the Council.

Following the budget approval, the evening's speakers, Marguerite Wells and Jenny Briot spoke about their local wind projects. Ms. Briot (Avangrid) spoke about the three projects they have in portions of the CTHC area; Deer River, Mad River and Roaring Brook. Ms. Wells (Invenergy) gave the Council an overview of the Number 3 wind project which her company is undertaking. After the presentations both ladies took questions and comments from the audience.

Matt Johnson from the Tug Hill Commission staff then presented information on the updated Resource Management Plan (RMP). The update work was accomplished in part with the help of Robbie Fredericks, an intern shared by the commission and CTHC. Phil Street from the commission also provided some historical perspective on the original RMP crafted in 1976 and the use of the updated document in creating comp plans for the CTHC towns. Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski updated the Council on the ongoing work on the minimum maintenance road issue, as well as providing several other updates.

The meeting closed with new business, during which the Special Areas map from the Town of Osceola was reviewed and approved to add to the Council's regional map and concluded as usual with Supervisor topics. Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting and provide their input and we will see you in the spring!

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) is promoting National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Celebrated each October, National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) is a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure that all digital citizens have the resources they need to stay safer, more secure and better able to protect their personal information online. ITS is providing several educational resources to the public, including an electronic Cyber Security Toolkit. The toolkit material can be found on the ITS website at <https://its.ny.gov/NCSAM17>.

For more information and resources on NCSAM, please visit the following sites:

- NYS Information Technology Services Enterprise Information Security Office: <https://its.ny.gov/eiso>
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>
- StaySafeOnline.org: <https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>



Ice Jam Education and Training Workshop in Watertown, October 18

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Cold Waters Region Laboratory, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Weather Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and New York Department of Environmental Conservation will present information related to ice jam processes as part of an upcoming education and training workshop.

The workshop will include, but not be limited to:

- *Ice characterization or types of ice formations
- *Summary of local historical jams in communities within the respective region
- *Mitigation techniques: advanced measures, emergency measures, and permanent measures
- *Ice observer training
- *Learn how to input events into the ice jam database
- *Ice jam observation considerations

Persons encouraged to attend this meeting include representatives from Indian Nations, elected officials, police and sheriff officers, town engineers, building enforcement and zoning staff, emergency managers, as well as first responders and emergency personnel.

For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ice-jam-education-and-training-workshops-for-new-york-state-tickets-38154981577>



2018 Tug Hill Calendars are now available!

Go to the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for more information: <http://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/store/> Cover photo by Ezekiel Siegrist.

Free Webinar: Integrating Trees into Stormwater Management Design and Policy

Trees are valuable tools for managing and reducing stormwater flows and runoff. This webinar will be October 11 from 1:00 –2: 15 p.m. and will feature lessons from a sanitation district in Northern Kentucky, where a reforestation project to manage stormwater was implemented. Larry Wiseman will then introduce a new interactive guide (<http://treesandstormwater.org/>) that includes hundreds of carefully-selected case studies, methods, benefit calculators, and guidance on how adding trees can boost overall system performance, often at lower costs will be shared. The guide informs local decision makers of options and best practices for including trees in stormwater facility design regulations and policies.

For complete information, to sign up for the webinar and to view future and past webinars, go to https://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/?utm_source=+February+Urban+Forest+Connections+Webinar&utm_campaign=Urban+Forest+Connections+Webinar&utm_medium=email

Be Aware and Be Safe

Recently, a group from Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District, participating in the Black River Trash Bash near Eatonville at the Otter Creek State Forest, found a meth lab. While the items did not at first appear dangerous, it was recognized that the chemicals inside were extremely combustible and could easily cause fires, explosions and injuries.

These stories are more and more common in our rural communities. Unfortunately, this is a sign of the times and it is important to be aware of our surroundings to remain safe. This event prompted us to get in touch with the New York State Police for more information.

What to do if you discover a one-pot clandestine drug laboratory:

- Don't touch it and leave items where they are found
- Move to a location up wind and keep others away
- Contact local law enforcement agency or New York State Police
- Call 911 if something is smoking or burning and notify EMS if exposed to chemicals or have difficulty breathing
- Remove contaminated clothing or footwear and flush exposed skin or eyes with clean water

In addition, there is information from Homeland Security and Emergency Services <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/oct/>, advising to report suspicious activity to supervisors, local law enforcement or the NYS Intelligence Center 1-866-SAFENYS (1-866-723-3697). An app is available from the App Store or Google Play called "See Send" to report suspicious activity from a smart phone: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/see-something-send-something>.

Informational materials (pamphlets, magnets, informational cards, etc.) and training for your employees, emergency responders, volunteers, community groups, etc. are available by contacting Trooper Dustin Hite at (315) 542-8482 or dustin.hite@troopers.ny.gov.

Locally, information is available from:

- Lewis County: Robert Mackenzie at Lewis County EMS, (315) 376-5303 or robertmackenzie@lewiscounty.ny.gov.
- Oneida County: Jodi Warren, Director of Prevention Services at the Center for Family Life and Recovery, Inc. (315) 768-2643 or jwarren@cflrinc.org.
- Jefferson County: The Metro-Jefferson Drug Task Force <http://www.co.jefferson.ny.us/index.aspx?page=286>
- Oswego County: Drug Tip Line, 315-349-8222 or 888-728-9535.

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380

Toll Free within the region:

1-888-785-2380

Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Items Commonly Found at a One-Pot Clandestine Drug Laboratory



Plastic drink bottles



Instant cold ice packs



Camping fuel



Coffee filters



Sulfuric acid



Pseudoephedrine or ephedrine based products and packaging



Sodium hydroxide (drain cleaner)



Ethyl ether (engine starter fluid)



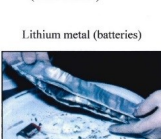
Table salt



Rock salt



Ammonium nitrate / fertilizers



Lithium metal (batteries)



Water

Focus On The COG

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) is a coalition of twelve towns and six villages in the northern half of Oneida County. NOCCOG is an independent unit of government bound by an inter-municipal agreement, and has provided technical and planning assistance and a unified voice to these, for the most part, smaller and more rural communities of Oneida County since its formation in 1981. NOCCOG is situated at the southern side of the Tug Hill Plateau and includes a little over 48,000 people. The NOCCOG governing board is comprised of the town supervisors and village mayors, or their designee. The full council meets once a year to set work goals, adopt a budget for the year, elect the executive board for the following year and to hear about major issues and projects in the NOCCOG area. The annual meeting for 2017 was held on September 28th at the Delta Lake Inn, Rome with over 70 local officials and leaders in attendance. The NOCCOG Executive Board is comprised of a chairman, vice-chairman, fiscal officer and two directors. The executive board meets quarterly to direct NOCCOG programs and provide communications back to member towns and villages.

Meet NOCCOG's Circuit Riders

One full time local government advisor, or "circuit rider", employed by the NYS Tug Hill Commission oversees daily operations with two part time advisors providing indispensable assistance. While Jennifer Armstrong-Symonds performs her full time duties, part time advisors Sue Martin and Harlan Moonen provide vital support. All three circuit riders attend dozens of monthly meetings across the region including town and village board meetings sharing announcements of grant and training opportunities; as well as providing connections to resources and face to face interaction that makes the circuit rider model so effective.

Jenn is a graduate of SUNY IT in Utica with a B.A. in Sociology. She has worked for several regional newspapers as a staff writer covering local issues before becoming the NOCCOG circuit-rider.



Harlan was a Geologist and Resource Conservationist for USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service from 1967 until 1994. He resides in Verona and has been serving as Assistant Circuit Rider for twenty years, bringing a wealth of experience to the organization.



Susan has a bachelor's degree in business management, a master's degree in education and is a certified NYS school district administrator. She served as an instructional specialist with the Mohawk Valley Regional Information Center at the Madison- Oneida BOCES

in Verona. Sue resides in Barneveld and has been with NOCCOG since 2007.

With thirty years combined experience between the two Assistants, NOCCOG is well served.

Current NOCCOG Projects

Among the projects that NOCCOG has assisted communities with recently are grant applications for salt storage facilities in Boonville and Remsen, park improvements in Floyd and Ava, storm water management in the village of Remsen, as well as dissolution planning in the village of Barneveld. Several area municipalities are also working to create a GIS inventory of assets with assistance of the Tug Hill Commission. Additionally, NOCCOG staff work with volunteers in the Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties to provide training opportunities to local officials, including sessions to help identify risk of fraud, GIS, and newly elected trainings. NOCCOG also worked on updating their brochure and logo this year.



Tug Hill COG Map

