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# 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.

## South Main Street Trailhead Ribbon Cutting

Village of West Carthage officials and representatives, local donors, contributors and agency funders joined together at the 2.1 acre South Main Street Trailhead on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00 p.m. for an outdoor luncheon and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate its completion. Officially renamed the "West Carthage River Bend Park," the outdoor recreational facility features handicap accessibility and provides outdoor recreational enthusiasts with opportunities to kayak/canoe, fish and picnic. The park also features pedestrian walkways and scenic vistas along the Black River.



Constructed by Powis Construction at a cost of \$178,800, the project included the installation of a precast boat launch and dock, retaining wall, handicap accessible walkway and parking area and user-friendly access entrance to the park. Funded with \$114,908 through the Department of Transportation: Recreational Trails Program in 2009, a fundraising committee was formed in 2013. The committee identified alternative options/opportunities to address gaps in project funding. According to Ron Blinebry, chair of the West Carthage Planning Board and South Main Street Trailhead Project Committee, the park was a coordinated effort between Jefferson County Highway Department, village DPW crews, Town of Champion, as well as volunteers and donors from both Carthage and West Carthage. As the village celebrates completion of the first phase of the project, members of the ad hoc committee are exploring opportunities to inter-connect motorized/non-motorized trails from the park to the downtown area as the second phase to the project.

Assisted and supported by GYMO Engineering Firm, NYS Tug Hill Commission, DEC/ACOE and OPRHP, the project advances recommendations outlined in the Destination Blueway: a Waterfront Plan for the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage. The project provides linkages to existing motorized and non-motorized trails.

## Tug Hill Staff Member to Head NYS GIS Association

Congratulations to Mickey Dietrich, GIS Specialist at the Commission since 2002, who will serve as the NYS GIS Association President for calendar year 2016. The Watertown Daily Times did a very nice write-up on Mickey and the new initiatives being undertaken by the Association. You can find the full article at [www.watertowndailytimes.com/news04/lowville-resident-slated-to-head-state-gis-association-20150930](http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news04/lowville-resident-slated-to-head-state-gis-association-20150930).

# Town of Lewis Awarded Records Management Grant

The Town of Lewis, Lewis County, was recently awarded funding from New York State Archives under the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) program's Inactive Records category.

Lewis will receive \$23,240 to remodel a portion of the town offices, located in the hamlet of West Leyden, to create 378 cubic feet of boxed inactive records storage. The project includes building a fire-resistant and climate controlled records room equipped with steel shelving.

Please contact State Archives Regional Advisory Officer, Kent Stuetz, at 1-315-542-5909 or via email at [Kent.Stuetz@nysed.gov](mailto:Kent.Stuetz@nysed.gov) for assistance with your municipality's records management project. Communities may also contact Commission staff at 1-888-785-2380 for assistance.



Steuben Monument

## Commission Staff Visit Trenton Falls and Steuben Memorial

Tug Hill Commission staff spend October 5<sup>th</sup> visiting the eastern NOCCOG communities of Trenton, Remsen and Steuben gaining insight into the historical significance of several area locations.



Trenton Falls

The tour began in Trenton, with a guided hike of the Trenton Falls Scenic Trail, developed by Brookfield Renewable Power and the Town of Trenton to provide the public supervised access to the site which includes a hydroelectric facility. Informational panels along the mile long trail provide historical and geological information about the site. The tour was accompanied by Brookfield Power's Mike Ripp.



Commission staff in front of replica cabin.

Following lunch at the Soda Fountain in the Village of Remsen, staff took the scenic drive along Starr Hill Road to visit the Baron von Steuben Memorial, a NYS Historic Site. Steuben is credited with providing critical training to the Army during the American Revolution. Along with a replica of a cabin that Steuben built for himself, the site includes a large monument in the Sacred Grove, the final resting place of Steuben's remains.



Mike Ripp, Brookfield Power provides tour for Commission staff

Staff have been routinely touring various sites throughout the region to gain a stronger understanding of the historical and economic events that have shape communities the Commission serves.

## NOCCOG Annual Meeting, October 29

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will hold its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting and dinner on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m. Over 100 local government officials from northern Oneida County will be in attendance for an evening of networking and information sharing. NOCCOG will also hold its annual business meeting, including adoption of the 2016 budget and election of 2016 officers. Additionally, this year's meeting will feature a presentation from Alicia Dicks, President of Oneida-Herkimer Community Foundation and Co-Chair of MV500; providing an update to local leadership regarding the efforts of the MV500 committee in the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council's effort to secure a portion of Governor Cuomo's Upstate Revitalization funding.

The cost is \$21 per person. Please RSVP no later than October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jennifer Armstrong, NOCCOG, 20 Glen Ridge Drive, Taberg NY 13471.

## **Town of Lewis Justice Legislation Signed**

The Town of Lewis has had an intermittent vacancy in their town justice position for the past several years. Currently the town court is covered by the Town Justice from the Town of Osceola through a temporary appointment by Judge Torme, the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Administrative Judge's Office. Due to the disparity in size and registered voters between Lewis and Osceola, the towns found the idea of a traditional court consolidation via the Uniform Justice Court Act (UCJA) Section 106b unappealing. At the request of the towns of Lewis and Osceola, Tug Hill Commission staff, with input from representatives of the state court system, drafted legislation changing the residency requirement for the justice position to allow any eligible person from Lewis or Osceola to run for the justice position in the Town of Lewis and submitted it to their state legislative representatives, Senator Joe Griffo and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush. After review and assistance from these state legislative representatives and their staff, as well as their assistance with the negotiations with the appropriate legislative committees, the proposed law was widened to allow any eligible person from Lewis, Osceola, Leyden or West Turin to run for election as the Town of Lewis justice. This amended legislation passed both Houses of the Legislature this summer. On September 15<sup>th</sup> this bill was delivered to the Governor's office and on September 25<sup>th</sup> he signed the bill into law, allowing Lewis to hopefully correct the vacancy that has persisted in this important position. If you are having difficulty in filling positions in your justice court, please feel free to contact the Commission at (888)785-2380 and we will try and help find the best solution for your town.

## **Training for Planning and Zoning Officials**

Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Phil Street will be in the Town of Lee on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide training to planning and zoning officials. The workshop will cover the procedural aspects of site plan review, special use permits and subdivisions. The session will take place from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Lee Town Hall located at 5808 Stokes Lee Center Road, Lee Center, NY. The training is FREE of charge, but please RSVP to the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments at [jarmstrong@tughill.org](mailto:jarmstrong@tughill.org) or 371-7612.

## **CTHC Fall Meeting Held**

On Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual fall meeting at the Steak and Brew Restaurant in Turin. Thirteen of the sixteen CTHC towns were present, along with several members of the Tug Hill Commission and Commission staff, and several guests. A total of 34 people were in attendance.

Following approval of the previous meeting's minutes and the most recent available financial report, the budget for the upcoming year was discussed. After discussion, the proposed budget was approved as the final budget for 2016.

Commission staff updated the Council on the progress of the highway and special areas mapping projects, and the Council approved the special area map from the Town of Worth. They also discussed: the search that is under way for a new executive director of the Commission; the preliminary results of an internet survey conducted in Rodman, Turin and Harrisburg in preparation for the Governor's new broadband initiative; the Venerable Folks of Tug Hill project; and the proposed Tug Hill traverse hiking trail project. The proposed meeting with the state legislators was discussed and as there have been some scheduling issues, the meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. The Council also received an update on an ongoing information study they have undertaken and discussed the invitations that had been sent to the villages in the region to join the Council.

The speaker for the evening was Norm Wallace, Director of Operations for NOCA Ambulance and long-time member of Camden Ambulance, who spoke generally about ambulance certificates of need and specifically about the process that Camden Ambulance, Florence and Osceola have undergone to obtain their certificate from the state. The meeting closed with supervisor topics, including a discussion of manure pits and the Right to Farm Law, as well as some GIS mapping the state is doing which may influence CHIPs mileage. Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting and provide their input. We will see you all next spring!



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appear in full color!

## 2015 Black River Trash Bash Update

The results from the 2015 Black River Trash Bash are coming in and are being compiled so that they can be sent to the American Littoral Society and onto the Coastal Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. Our Black River Trash Bash beach captains reported 431 pounds of trash collected during the 2015 event! This includes over 40 pounds of recyclables that were removed from the trash stream and recycled.



Members of Lyons Falls Alive and South Lewis Students

Events took place at Hawkinsville Dam (Adirondack Communities Advisory League), Lyons Falls (Lyons Falls Alive and South Lewis Students), Castorland Fishing Access Site (Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee), City of Watertown (Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committee) and, at our newest addition to the Black River Trash Bash, the Fulton Chain of Lakes (Haderondah 4H Club).

We would like to extend a hearty thanks to our beach captains, their clubs and groups, White's Lumber (for their donation of work gloves), Nirvana (for their donation of water), the Development Authority of the North Country (for providing trash hauling services) and to the NYS Department Of Transportation in Lewis County (for providing trash grabbers).

## New Website for NYS Senate

A more user-friendly website was unveiled by the NYS Senate this week. Accessible at [www.nysenate.gov](http://www.nysenate.gov), the new interface is much easier to read on mobile devices, and makes searching for senators, committees, and pending legislation simpler.

## Commission Staff Attend SEFA (State Employees Federated Appeal) Kickoff Meeting

Felicia Passino and Gwen Decker attended the Jefferson/Lewis SEFA Kickoff meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Keewaydin State Park. SEFA is a great way for New York State employees to support and give back to local non-profit agencies through easy payroll deduction. Bob Gorman, Executive Director of NNY United Way spoke about how much of an impact the SEFA dollars make and Joanna Loomis, Director of Development from Watertown Urban Mission spoke about how the donations directly affect their organization and various programs.

For information about SEFA go to [sefanys.org/about\\_sefa/files/2015%20SEFA%20Coordinators.pdf](http://sefanys.org/about_sefa/files/2015%20SEFA%20Coordinators.pdf) to contact a coordinator in your area and learn how you can provide support.