



September 9, 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.

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TO CONTACT THE
TUG HILL
COMMISSION:

Phone toll free within
the region:
1-888-785-2380
or e-mail:
tughill@tughill.org

Please visit our
website:
www.tughill.org



North Country REDC To Hold Community Forum

The North Country Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) is holding three community forums designed to get public input in the creation of a five-year economic development plan. (The North Country REDC includes Jefferson and Lewis Counties.) The closest forum to the Tug Hill Region will be in Watertown from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on **Monday September 19th at Jefferson Community College**, James McVean College Center Building, Sturtz Theater, 1220 Coffeen Street. The other two meetings will be in Plattsburg on September 12th and Tupper Lake on September 14th. For information on any of these meetings, please go to: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/north-country-forum>.

This economic development plan will emphasize the North Country's strengths and unique assets. Each of these first public forums will begin with an overview of the purpose of the REDC and the strategic planning process. There will be a brief question and answer period relating to the process before moving into an open forum for public comment, offering an opportunity to provide ideas and suggestions on initiatives and projects, as well as the issues and opportunities facing the region. Seating may be limited so please register early. Register online at: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/north-country-community-forums-registration-form>. For questions, please email: nys-northcountry@empire.state.ny.us or call (315) 785-7907.

Mohawk Valley REDC to Hold Public Forum

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, which includes Oneida County, will be holding three Community Workshops to share its vision statement for this region, as well as the results of an exercise that identified the regions strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). The closest meeting to the Tug Hill Region is on **Monday, September 19th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY, Room 225 of the Information Technology Building**. Other meeting locations include Amsterdam on September 28th and Cooperstown on September 29th.

Stakeholder group meetings are also being scheduled for September and October in the Mohawk Valley REDC region. Identified groups include: Healthcare, Education, Tourism, Agricultural Forestry and Natural Resources, Housing and Community Development, Manufacturing and Small Businesses. Meeting times, dates and locations will be posted on the MVREDC website. You can review and comment on the draft vision statement and the results of the SWOT exercise, also, by going to the website at: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley>.

Tax Levy Limit (“Tax Cap”) Training Scheduled for September

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Tax cap training workshops have been scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm at the Boonville Municipal Building (13149 State Route 12) and Wednesday, September 21st at 7:00 pm at the West Monroe Town Hall (46 County Route 11). Two representatives from the Syracuse Regional Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) will present both workshops.

This training program is designed to be timely in assisting calendar year officials (towns, counties, cities, and fire districts) in preparing their annual budgets. However, the material presented will also be useful for non-calendar year government officials (villages, school districts) when it comes time to prepare their annual budgets. All are encouraged to attend. Topics to be covered include an overview of the budgetary responsibilities of municipalities in working within the tax levy limit legislation; resources available to local government leaders to assist with tax levy limit calculations, and suggestions for how to live within the tax levy limit legislation from year to year. There will be ample time for a question and answer period.

The workshop is free of charge. **Registration is requested by Monday September 19th** by calling the Tug Hill Commission at 1-888-785-2380 or via email at tughill@tughill.org.

Revised Draft Supplemental GEIS On “Hydrofracking” Released

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on September 7, 2011. It is available on their website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>, as well as several related fact sheets. Note that in addition to environmental impacts, fact sheets/reports on economic and community impacts have also been prepared.

DEC plans to hold four public hearings during the comment period for the SGEIS and regulations in November. The meetings will be held in counties in the Marcellus Shale area, as well as New York City. Dates and locations will be announced shortly.

Public comments will be accepted through the close of business on December 12, 2011 by two methods only:

- Electronic submission using a web-based comment form available on DEC's website (preferred method); or
- Paper submission mailed or delivered to: Attn: dSGEIS Comments, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-6510. Please include the name, address, and affiliation (if any) of the commenter.

Due to the expected volume, comments that are faxed, telephoned, or emailed to the DEC will not be accepted for the official record. This is to ensure that all comments are captured properly and can be included during the review process.

Parish Public Meeting Shows Housing As A Viable Option

Approximately 35 people attended a public meeting on September 8th at the Parish Elementary School to hear the last updates from Fairweather Consulting, the consultant preparing the reuse plan for the Village and Town of Parish. Housing, either for seniors or working families, seems to be the most viable reuse when demographics, housing availability, and community preferences are all taken into consideration. The presentation, as well as full results from the community survey, are available on the project website <http://parishschoolplan.ning.com/>.

Fairweather Consulting, working together with its partner the DiMarco Group, will soon be assisting the Williamstown and Altmar Elementary Schools as well.

Consolidated Funding Application Released

The new NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), a new process tied to the State Regional Economic Development Councils, was released on September 2, 2011. The CFA will be used as a single source application to apply for \$1 billion in economic development funding. The Governor has directed nine State agencies to make resources available through the CFA process: Empire State Development, NYS Canal Corp., Energy Research and Development Authority, Environmental Facilities Corp., Homes and Community Renewal, Department of Labor, Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Department of State, and Department of Transportation. ***Applications will be due October 31, 2011.***

A submitted CFA will be forwarded electronically to the Regional Council that covers the project's geographic area. The Regional Council will then review and rank the applications based on a set of regional endorsement standards and assign the project from 0 to 20 points. Additionally, applications will undergo a technical review by State agencies administering those programs, after which they will notify the Regional Council as to whether or not projects are eligible for funding. State agency scoring criteria will account for 80% of the score, whereas the remaining 20% will be based on the Regional Council review.

A CFA guidance document can be found at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/assets/CFAApplicationProcess.pdf>, which gives an overview of how to use the online application, the review process, and the role of the Regional Economic Development Councils. A more in-depth, 142-page guidance document can be found at <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/assets/AvailableCFAResources.pdf>.

Free Training for Oneida County Highway Employees and Municipal Officials

All training will be held at the Rome City Yard on Martin St. (D.P.W.). For more information and to RSVP, please contact Tony Nash at 339-7774 (Office) or 838-0441 (Cell) or email tnash@romecitygov.com. ***Again, this is for Oneida County only.***

September 2011

OSHA Part 1

September 14: 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Chain Saw

September 16: 7:30 - 8:30 am or 9:00 - 10:00 am or 10:30 - 11:30 am

Trenching Awareness

September 23: 7:30 - 8:30 am or 8:30 - 9:30 am or 9:30 - 10:30 am or 10:30 - 11:30 am or 12:00 - 1:00 pm

October 2011

Snowplow training

October 3 -7: 7:30 am - 2:00 pm each day

April 2012

Flagging

April 10: 7:30 - 10:30 am
or 10:30 - 2:30 pm

April 11: 7:30 - 10:30 am
or 10:30 - 2:30 pm

April 12: 7:30 - 10:30 am

Slips, Trips & Falls

April 19: 7:30 - 8:30 am or 8:30 - 9:30 am or 9:30 - 10:30 am or 10:30 - 11:30 am or 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Workplace Violence Prevention

April 27: Class times to be scheduled

Portable Hand & Power Tools

April 30: 7:30 - 8:30 am or 8:30 - 9:30 am or 9:30 - 10:30 am or 10:30 - 11:30 am or 12:00 - 1:00 pm

May 2012

OSHA Part 2

May 7: 7:30 - 11:30 am or 12:00 - 4:00 pm

May 8: 7:30 - 11:30 am or 12:00 - 4:00 pm

May 9: 7:30 - 11:30 am



Town of Rodman Energy Efficiency Project

The Town of Rodman, with assistance from the Tug Hill Commission, submitted a Renewable Energy Improvement Project grant application to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) back in February of 2010. The application was fully funded for \$174,000, with the Town contributing an additional \$12,000, and is a success story for the Town of Rodman.



The intent of the project was to zero out electrical consumption at the Town garage by installing 144 solar panels and a 3-phase utility interactive inverter. Since the system became operational in early May 2011, there has been a decline in power bills during the months of May, June and July. It will take approximately a year for the Town and National Grid to review the Town's electric usage post construction.

The pictures show the solar panels located on the roof of the garage and the electrical panels which serve to collect the electricity and send it back to National Grid through the net metering process.



Free Hydrofracking Workshop September 21st

A free workshop given by David and Hellen Slottje, attorneys from the Community Environmental Defense Council, Inc., will be given on **Wednesday, September 21st at 6:30 pm at the Church of the Annunciation, School Gym, 7616 E. South Street, Clark Mills, NY, 13323.** Topics will include: Health, Safety and Community Assets, Municipal Home Rule Law, Zoning, Comprehensive Plans, Moratorium, Legal Challenges, Heavy Industrial Usage Ban, Truck Traffic Regulation and others.

This workshop is open to any local Town Supervisors, Town Board members, Zoning and Planning Board Members, Mayors, Town Attorneys and citizens. Registration is required. Please contact Garry Colarusso at gcolarusso@roadrunner.com or (315) 525-8566 and include your name, town position and contact information.

Professional Development Session for Municipal Officials on September 28th

The Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning is pleased to sponsor a professional development session presented by CaRDI—Cornell University's Community and Regional Development Institute. CaRDI is a center of dialogue and collaboration addressing needs at the local, state and national levels. They specialize in providing training, based on research and data, for elected and appointed officials and community leaders to foster informed decision making. Mayors, supervisors, trustees, and town council members are strongly encouraged to attend. The session is open to Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida, and St. Lawrence Counties.

The session will take place on **September 28th** from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (check in begins at 12:30 PM) at the Glenfield Fire Hall, 6229 Blue Street, Glenfield, NY. **Please RSVP your attendance before September 21, 2011 by calling 315-376-5422 or sending an e-mail to syoung@lewiscountyny.org.**

This afternoon session will cover many topics including Local Government's Role in Economic Development; Community Capacity Building; Schools Districts and Municipalities in the Context of Shared Services and a Tax Cap; and Community, Energy and Land Use Implications.



As part of the Tug Hill Commission's ongoing outreach and focus on communities' GIS and technology needs, there will be a GIS and technology presentation on **September 19th, 2011 at the Boonville Town Hall from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. This presentation is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The goal of the presentation is to raise awareness of the different GIS and technology applications that are currently available to local government officials that can aid in decision making, as well as assist with their duties. Many of the solutions presented are free or low cost.

This presentation will also help to shape the Commission's future course and direction with GIS and technology and assist with the development of future with training sessions or workshops. Those attending will be asked to pick the GIS and technology topics most important to them, thus providing feedback to the Commission on what sessions to offer in the future.

The first hour will provide an overview of different GIS and technology applications. Some of the content of will include Google Maps, Google Earth, Google SketchUp, Bing Maps, county tax parcel viewers, MapWindow GIS, mobile applications, Doodle, DropBox and others. The presentation will also include an overview of THRAM website and how that might be improved. The second hour will include more in depth demonstrations and discussions on the applications that attendees would like to see more of.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 785-2389 or email him at mickey@tughill.org.

Workshop on Regulating Specific Land Uses

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002

Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY



The Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, Jefferson County Department of Planning, NYS Tug Hill Commission, and The Center for Community Studies at JCC are co-sponsoring a training session featuring Scott Chatfield, Esq. Mr. Chatfield, Esq. is an attorney in private practice focusing on municipal law. He is a member of the New York Planning Federation Board of Directors, representing the Central New York Region. Mr. Chatfield is an author and frequent lecturer on legal issues.

This session will discuss certain land uses and the extent to which local governments may regulate them. Land uses to be covered will include: mining, day care facilities, group homes, adult uses, religious institutions, mobile homes, and billboards. Come prepared to ask questions and add other types of land uses your town or village has trouble including in the community.

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by September 19th. Please call The Center for Community Studies at (315) 786-2333 or email hbarben@sunyjefferson.edu. If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training requirement.

Save The Date! Lyons Fall BOA Nomination Study Public Meeting

The Lyons Falls Brownfield Area Opportunity (BOA) Nomination Study is progressing and plans are underway for a public presentation on the preliminary Land Use and Development Scenarios on the evening of **October 12th** in Lyons Falls. Please save the date! For more information about this project, please visit the project website at <http://lyonsfallsboa.wordpress.com/>.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Mailing address:

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

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

Phone: (315) 785-2380

Fax: (315) 785-2574

E-mail: tughill@tughill.org

Web: www.tughill.org

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Please contact the Commission for assistance.

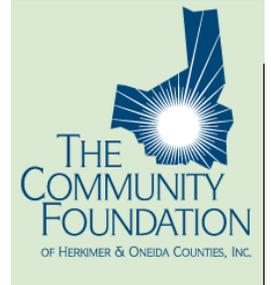
CLEAN AIR COOL PLANET

Clean Air Cool Planet, a non-profit group that seeks to solve global warming problems through civic engagement, education and effective policy, has a Community Catalyst Fund! Visit <http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/smallgrants/> for possible funding solutions to your community's projects that improve environmental sustainability, reduce energy use, and promote environmental stewardship. Grants will range in size from \$250-\$2,500 per project. There are no deadlines and projects will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Community Foundation Introduces Simplified Grant Program

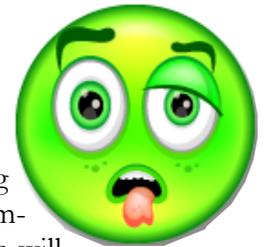
The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties is introducing a simplified mini-grant program for not-for-profit organizations that provide vital community services. Not-for-profits that need funding of \$20,000 or less for capacity building purposes are urged to apply. Capacity building is defined as something that "improves organization capacity and competence such as administrative systems, management, financial resources and governance."

The application for this new mini-grant is significantly shorter than the standard grant application. Anyone interested in more information on the mini-grant program can contact Foundation Senior program Officer Jan Squadrito at (315) 735-8212 or jsquadrito@foundationhoc.org.



Is Dealing With Health Insurance Rates Making You Sick?

Municipalities are struggling with the increasing costs of providing health insurance for their employees. It is forecasted that many existing plans will raise their rates over 12% for 2012. Information on different health insurance plans, employee benefit trends, health insurance savings accounts, price comparisons on programs and medications and the federal healthcare reform timeline are all important issues facing town and village boards as well as their employees.



The Local Government Education Committee of Oneida and Herkimer Counties has scheduled a training session to address these issues. The session will be held on **Thursday, September 28, 2011 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm in the Café at Kunsela Hall, SUNYIT in Utica**. The training will feature presentations by two local experienced employee benefit/risk management specialists. Mary Luker from Gilroy Kernan and Gilroy, Utica, has over 20 years experience in the insurance field and specializes in human resource compliance. Ron Santino, an employee benefit specialist with Paradigm Consulting in Utica, specializes in employee benefits and health insurance programs.

Pre-registration is required by September 23rd. There is a \$15.00 charge for the workshop and checks should be made payable to the College Association. There is still time to reserve a seat for this workshop by calling (315) 866-4671. Visit the Local Government Education Committee website at www.lgec.org for more information and a registration form.