



May 6, 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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2011 Local Government Conference Survey Results

The 2011 Local Government Conference survey results are in and can be viewed on the Tug Hill Commission's website at www.tughill.org. This year's conference attracted 636 local officials, exhibitors and speakers, the second highest attendance in its 22 year history (in 2008, attendance was 656). All 23 sessions received high marks and the keynote address given by Jay Rifenberg received a 99% rating of excellent/good. Overall, conference attendees rated the conference 98% very helpful/helpful. The food provided by Savory Café was a big hit and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Visit the Commission's website to see the final survey results.

Black River Watershed Annual Conference to be Held June 8th in Croghan

The First Annual Black River Watershed Conference will be held on June 8th at the Croghan Fire Hall in Croghan, NY. Registration will begin at 8:45 am with speakers starting at 9:00 am and ending at 4:00 pm. The \$10 fee for the conference will cover lunch, which is being provided by the Croghan Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary. Speakers will cover a range of topics including a summary of the Black River Watershed Plan, ongoing research and monitoring, invasive species, recreation, dam safety and regulations and environmental remediation. During the lunch break, there will be a presentation on the history of the Black River Canal.



This event is being organized and presented by the Tug Hill Commission and the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is being sponsored financially by the Black River Advisory Council.

If you would like to register for this event, please contact Carla Luther at the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District at (315) 376-6122 or cluther@lewiscountyny.org. The Commission would be happy to mail or email you a registration sheet with more details about the day and topics covered. Please contact Jennifer Harvill at (315) 785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org if you would like a registration sheet.

Camden School Recognized by DEC

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced the winners of the Green Schools Challenge, a program to recognize schools that are working to improve solid waste management by developing waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and/or recycled product purchasing and packaging programs.

The Green Schools Challenge provides a tool for school recycling coordinators, student environmental clubs and facility service professionals to engage their school community in recycling and waste reduction in a fun and friendly way.



Camden Elementary School received the “Most Improved School” award. They have reduced their garbage amount by 46 percent and increased their recycling rate by 63 percent for the Green School Challenge. One of their initiatives to reach that reduction is the Zero-Waste Lunch. Teachers are incorporating environmental awareness into their curricula.

Each of the school winners, including Camden, will receive \$250 award to use to support their recycling/composting initiatives.

GIS Funding Sources

Here is a link you can use to view some GIS funding sources available. This site may not be complete, but is a good starting point. Feel free to contact the Tug Hill Commission for more information on grants listed or possible other funding sources.

<http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/coordinationprogram/reports/funding/index.cfm>



Town of Trenton Receives Green Innovation Grant

The Town of Trenton was recently notified by the New York State Environmentally Facilities Corporation that it is one of 40 recipients state-wide chosen for environmentally innovative projects through the Green Innovation Grant Program. The town has been approved for \$275,500 in funding for a sewer project in Hinckley. The remaining cost of the project, \$581,000, will be funded by a combination of grants and loans from USDA.

The Hinckley sewer project will support the construction of a decentralized waste water system to intercept raw sewage currently being discharged into West Canada Creek from approximately 15 residents in the hamlet of Hinckley. The project, as presented in the grant application, provides a highly innovative solution to improving water quality and public health without incurring the cost of providing infrastructure for an entire community. The untreated sewage will be pumped into a central septic tank for initial treatment and then through buried sand filter for secondary treatment.

The Green Innovative Grant Program is funded through the US EPA as part of the New York State Revolving Fund Program.



Northern Border Regional Commission Funded: Grant Applications out in June Page 3

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) was originally authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, with the focus to help address the community and economic development needs of the most severely distressed portions of the Northern Forest region. All four Tug Hill counties are included in that region. The continuing resolution for the remainder of federal fiscal year 2011 - passed by Congress on April 15 - includes \$1.5 million in appropriations for the NBRC, the same level it was funded in 2010. Last year it awarded over \$1 million in grants to economic development projects across the Northern Forest, including \$150,000 to Lewis County to fund monitoring systems and gathering of asset information in GIS for Martinsburg, Lyons Falls, and Port Leyden. With the FY11 appropriation, NBRC Federal Co-chair Sandy Blitz reports that the Commission will have a grant award program this year. He expects the grant announcement to be available in June.



If you think your community may have a project that would qualify or you would like more information, please contact your circuit rider or Katie Malinowski at the Watertown office.

2011 NYS GeoSpatial Summit

The New York State GeoSpatial Summit will take place June 15 & 16 at the Welch-Allyn Lodge in Skaneateles, NY. The reception will take place on June 15th, with the main event taking place on June 16th. Speakers for the main event are Keith Masback from the US GeoIntel Foundation, Chris Holmes of OpenGeo, Kyle Schmachteffer from GeoEye and Worldview 3 remote sensing systems, Nicolas de Monchaux from Urban Mapping, Mike Dobson of TeleMapics, and Adena Schutzberg of Directions Magazine. For more information visit the Summit's website at <http://www.nygeosummit.org>.

Training Session at JCC May 25th "Making Your Community Livable: A Conversation for the Future"

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 Bill Armbruster, Associate State Director of AARP. Mr. Armbruster oversees advocacy initiative and grass roots activities at the state, federal, and local levels, education of consumers, professionals, and elected officials, as well as community service initiatives for the 27 counties of western and central New York. He has been with AARP for 11 years representing the needs of New Yorkers as they age.



The session will run from 6:30 to 8:30 and will answer the following questions: What does it take to make your community livable? Do people want to live in your community? Can they raise their kids and grow old in your community? Complete streets, universal design, visitability are all concepts that we need to have discussions around as we plan for the future of our communities and residents. Learn about these concepts and see what other communities are doing to address these issues and have conversations about the future. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers at the end.

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by May 23rd. 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.

Training for Planning Boards and ZBAs



The Town of Schuyler in Herkimer County is holding its annual training for Planning Board and ZBA members from 6:00-10:00 pm on Wednesday, June 1st at the Schuyler Town Hall, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13501. Check-in will start at 5:00 and the following course will be offered:

6:00-8:00 pm: ***Rural Planning***, presented by Christopher Eastman and John-David Wood, NYS Dept. of State

8:20-8:50 pm: ***Legal Implications of Gas Drilling***, presented by Michelle Kennedy, Esq., Attorney and Mentor

9:00-10:00 pm: ***Funding Sources for Municipalities***, presented by: Jane E. Rice, Planning Division Manager, Environmental Research and Design, Syracuse

Complete information and registration forms can download at: <http://www.townofschuyler.com/muniform.pdf>. The registration deadline is Friday, May 20, 2011 and no registrations will be accepted after this date.

Spring Workshops Offered by NYS Archives

The NYS State Archives is offering two upcoming workshops. Complete information on the workshops can be found at <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>.

Digitizing Your Historical Photographs: Wednesday, May 18th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at Cazenovia Public Library, 100 Albany St. (Rt. 20), Cazenovia, NY 13035. Digitizing historical photographs can be a great way to share your history with a wider audience and save wear and tear on the original. The workshop will address what you can digitize and why you should do it, present the scanning process and the creation of the metadata for the scanned item, and discuss how you can use digitized photographs.

Electronic Document Imaging: Wednesday, May 25th from 9:00AM – 1:00PM at Village of Adams, 3 S Main Street, Adams, NY 13605. Although imaging systems can store and quickly retrieve a large volume of documents, they can rarely be justified on that basis alone. To make optimal use of this technology, state agencies and local governments must first understand imaging technology

NOTE: There is a new process for SARA Workshops. You must print and bring your workshop handouts with you. The handouts will be made available electronically for you to print in advance at http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/workshops/workshops_handouts.shtml. You will receive an email reminder with instructions for downloading handouts from our website within one week of the date of this event. If you need help, email ARCHTRAIN@mail.nysed.gov. Pre-registration is required by contacting Brittany Turner at bturner@mail.nysed.gov or (518) 473-0130. Please note the Utica NYS Archives office will no longer be handling workshop registrations.



The Town of Steuben has taken the lead in updating its municipal facilities to save on the cost of utilities. Their latest project saw the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall. Commission staff assisted the town with its application to NYSERDA and the town was awarded \$43,470 in funding for the project. Contractor Solar Liberty has been working the last few weeks to install the solar panels, meters, inverters and other necessary components for the project. The new meters will measure the power coming in as well as going out. It is estimated that the solar panels will meet 100% of the need of electrical power for the town hall. If more power is generated than used, the power company (National Grid) will make a payment to the town for the excess power.



This is one of several projects completed by the town to reduce energy costs. The town also worked with the NYS Power Authority who conducted an energy audit on the municipal buildings. The town has seen significant savings by following the recommendations in the audit by replacing existing lighting with LED lights, replacing the hot water heater, installing insulation and replacing an outdated furnace.. It was noted that during the winter the new furnace saved 30% in heating costs.

The town also has received a generator through a FEMA grant that provides power to the town hall in emergency situations. The building is now a certified Red Cross emergency shelter.



Rodman *Also* Has The Power

The Town of Rodman has also installed solar panels at its Town Garage. Commission staff assisted the town with its application to NYSERDA and the town was awarded \$174,120 in funding for the \$186,120 project. The Town of Rodman contributed the remaining \$12,000 towards the project. At the time of the publication of this newsletter, the project in Rodman was nearing completion. A future issue of the Tug Hill Times will have a more complete article about Rodman's solar panels.

Town of Champion Assesses Energy Efficiency At Municipal Office



Through National Grid's Small Business Energy Efficiency Program, the Town of Champion recently completed a free onsite energy audit at its municipal office, located at 10 Broad Street in the Village of West Carthage. Based on information provided through the audit, the town accepted a proposal from National Grid to provide energy efficient equipment and installation of lighting upgrades and occupancy sensors. What's more, National Grid also removed and disposed of the older fluorescent lighting and ballasts using environmentally-friendly disposal methods.

"On the very first day of the energy audit the town realized a \$2,000 cost savings just by changing its natural gas provider," said Supervisor Terry Buckley. "Based on recommendations provided by the auditor, the town expects to see significant savings in the monthly cost of energy by reducing its overall consumption of energy as a result of the lighting upgrades, an obvious improvement to what we were using before."

National Grid's Small Business Energy Efficiency Program provides interest free financing for up to 24-months and covers up to 70% of the installed cost of energy efficiency upgrades. For more information, check out their website at <https://www.powerofaction.com/smallbusiness/> or call 1-800-332-3333.

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Thank you!

Village of Altmar Moving Ahead with Dissolution Plan

Altmar is the first village in New York to approve dissolution under a new state law. As a result, the Village must prepare and approve a dissolution plan by May 31, 2011. A Dissolution Study Committee, assisted by the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), is developing the plan to present to the Village Board. A website at www.cgr.org/altmar has been developed to provide opportunities for citizen participation and input. Visit this website to find out more about the Dissolution Plan, the process and upcoming meetings.

Copenhagen Wins Lewis County Envirothon

Commission staff assisted the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District with the annual Envirothon at Camp Oswegatchie. Envirothon activities begin locally with teams of five high school students competing for the county Envirothon title. Local competitions are sponsored by the county conservation districts, with a helping hand from local environmental or recreational civic groups or environmentally conscious companies. County winners then move on to the state contest where their knowledge is challenged in five areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current issue. In Lewis County this year, South Lewis and Copenhagen schools sent a total of five teams to the competition. Congratulations to Team "Epoch" from Copenhagen on their victory and good luck to them as they move on to the state competition on May 25 and 26 at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York!



For You Phone App Enthusiasts!

Here is a site where you can download an application for Google Mobile Maps to your phone (<http://www.google.com/mobile/maps/>). The program works fully on Android, but some features will work on other phones as well. This mobile phone application allows for navigation, finding nearby places, viewing 3D maps, 3D compass mode, offline reliability for viewing maps, directions, ability to search for businesses or places, see where your friends are at that given moment, see your location on a map, real-time traffic updates, street view, and ability to overlay layers on the map.

We will highlight other applications that are out periodically, so stay tuned.