

Tug Hill Commission Receives Department of State Best Partner Award

October 25, 2019



From left: Mark Pattison, Deputy Secretary of State; Angie Kimball, Cooperative Tug Hill Council Circuit Rider, Tug Hill Commission; Katie Malinowski, Executive Director, Tug Hill Commission; Carla Fowler, Community Development Specialist, Tug Hill Commission; Ann Thane, Director of Local Government Services, NYS Department of State.

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The Tug Hill Commission was honored to receive the Best Partner Award at the NYS Department of State's fifth annual Local Government Innovation Conference last week. The **Best Partner Award** is presented to a local government or municipal support organization that provides significant support for training, technical assistance, local government re-design and innovation. The commission was recognized for providing direct assistance to local governments on Tug Hill with implementation of activities in support of local government reorganization, as well as its continued focus on accessing public resources to strengthen community resources. The commission has historically been a partner with the Department of State through its direct assistance to local governments and training at events such as the annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference. However, as perhaps one of the first regional organizations to prioritize cooperation and shared services, the Tug Hill Commission has more recently become involved in assisting Tug Hill communities as requested, who are considering consolidation and shared services through the Local Government Efficiency Program.

Other award winners at the conference were the **Trail Blazer Award** to the cities of Schenectady, Amsterdam and Gloversville for their commitment to developing a new shared regional code enforcement information platform, now christened the Community Officials Data Exchange (CODE); the **Regional Impact Award** to Wyoming County and its partner local governments in recognition of the significant scope of work they have completed and are pursuing for shared and consolidated services in highway maintenance, code enforcement, and operations and management of water infrastructure; and the **Secretary's Choice Award** to Essex County who, from the perspective of the Division of Local Government, is one of the most progressive counties in the state in terms of their commitment to re-thinking the delivery of public services.

Commissioners Tour Black River Valley Natural

On Monday, October 21 several Tug Hill Commissioners and staff toured Black River Valley Natural in Lyons Falls. Located in one of the remaining former Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper buildings on Center Street, the facility uses local milk and other products to manufacture several varieties of butter, milk, and some cheeses. The owners, who are committed to community revitalization, have plans to add a commercial kitchen and other product lines in the near future.



Black River Valley Natural co-owner Bethany Munn speaks with Tug Hill Commissioners and staff.

Black River Valley Natural products can be found locally at Dolhof True Value, Mercer's Dairy, Hidden Pastures Dairy, and Lowville Producers. For more outlets and information, see their website at <https://www.blackrivervalleynatural.com/>.

RACOG Participates in Fort Drum Internship Program



The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) is currently participating in the Fort Drum Soldier For Life – Technical Assistance Program's internship program. This program helps soldiers who will be transitioning out of the service soon to gain work experience in an area of their interest. There is no cost to participating organizations to be a part of the internship program.

Jeong Park started on August 6 and his internship will run through October 25. Jeong has developed a guide for using the Tug Hill Commission and NOCCOG Bluetooth GPS. He has also completed a draft Black River Navigation report and is currently working on completing a draft Resource Management Plan for RACOG.



Erik Labitoria started September 30 and his internship will run through December 13. Erik is assisting RACOG and the Tug Hill Commission with the LED lighting project, among other projects.

If you have any questions about the program or the interns, you can contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 681-5023 or mick-ey@tughill.org.

Lake Ontario Fishery Public Meeting Pulaski November 7

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will hold three public meetings in November on the status of Lake Ontario's alewife population and the salmon and trout fisheries it supports. An online meeting will also be held to provide additional opportunity for public participation.

The closest meeting to Tug Hill is on **Thursday, November 7: 6:30 - 9 p.m.**, Pulaski High School auditorium, 4624 Salina Street, Pulaski, Oswego County.

Also, an online meeting will take place on **Thursday, November 14: 6:30 - 9 p.m.** For further information, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/118552.html>



Newly Elected Officials Training

TWO LOCATIONS, SAME PRESENTATION

Boonville Municipal Building

December 4, 2019

6-8 pm

13149 NYS Route 12

Boonville, NY 13309

Lorraine Town Hall

December 5, 2019

6-8 pm

20876 Co Rt 189

Lorraine, NY 13659

Presentations will be made by staff from NYS Association of Towns

Topics to be covered include: conflicts of interest, code of ethics and boards of ethics, financial disclosure requirements, typical town offices and their roles, oath of office, and preparing for your first meeting. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers!

FREE Workshop Sponsored By:

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Cooperative Tug Hill Council

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments

River Area Council of Governments

North Shore Council of Governments

Salmon Rivers Council of Governments

To register, please contact the Tug Hill Commission at (315)785-2380, toll free in the Tug Hill Region 1(888)785-2380 or email gwen@tughill.org. Please RSVP by December 2nd.



North Country Transportation Network Workshop November 19

The St. Lawrence Health Initiative is holding a free working on Tuesday, November 19 at Clarkson University in Potsdam on how to grow the North Country's active and healthy transportation network. Nationally renowned active transportation experts Mark Fenton and Jeff Olson will join NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) for a hands-on workshop. Topics include:

- **Essentials of Healthy Community Design and Complete Streets Implementation and Outdoor Walk Audit** with Mark Fenton
- **Asset Mapping & GIS Tools** with DANC and Clarkson University
- **Active Transportation Network Planning Exercise** with Mark Fenton, Jeff Olson of Alta Planning + Design and Clarkson's Construction Engineering Management Consulting Group
- **Learn How a Local Community is Successfully Implementing Complete Streets**
- **How to Secure Funding for Your Community's Active Transportation Activities** with NYS DOT

Register for this free workshop [here](#). For more information, contact Karen Bage at the Health Initiative 315-261-4760 x. 228 or karen@getthehealthyslc.org

2020 Census National Recruiting This Week

The U.S. Census Bureau is looking to recruit over 4,000 individuals in the four-county Tug Hill region this week during National Census Recruiting Week. The breakdown by county is: **Oswego County - 897, Oneida County - 2001, Jefferson County - 1,193 and Lewis County- 298.**

To be eligible for a 2020 Census job, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a valid email address.
- Complete an application and answer assessment questions
- Be registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption, if you are a male born after Dec. 31, 1959.
- Pass a Census-performed criminal background check and a review of criminal records, including fingerprinting.
- Commit to completing training.
- Be available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and/or weekends.

Most jobs require employees to:

- Have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's license, unless public transportation is readily available.
- Have access to a computer with internet and an email account (to complete training).

For more information, go to <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>.

Contact Us

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Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

State Archives Webinars

The New York State Archives announces the schedule for Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) workshops & webinars!

Upcoming **webinars** (click on the webinar title to register):

[Introduction to the LGRMIF Grant Program](#)

Friday, November 1, 2019, 10-11 AM

[LGRMIF Shared Services Grant Information Session](#)

Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, 10-11 AM

[How to Write a Superior LGRMIF Grant Narrative](#)

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, 10-11 AM

For more information go to: <http://>

www.archives.nysed.gov/grants/grants_lgrmif.shtml

A full schedule of workshop locations, webinars and registrations information is available at:

www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule