

December 20, 2019

Grants Awarded in Tug Hill

Awards large and small were announced this week in Tug Hill communities as part of the 2019 Consolidated Funding Application process. Below is a list of the awards.

- Cleveland Water System Improvements \$1 million
- Annsville Salt Storage \$245,779
- Forestport Wastewater Treatment Plant Study \$19,960
- Trenton Salt Storage \$244,444
- Remsen Sewer Line and Bridge Replacement \$375,000
- Remsen Wastewater Treatment Plant Study \$12,500
- Wilna Wastewater Treatment Plant Study \$20,833
- West Carthage (on behalf of RACOG and additional communities) LED Street Lighting \$291,220
- Brantingham Snowmobile Club Groomer \$218,408
- Osceola Ski Sport Resort Cabins \$35,000
- Champion Salt Storage \$150,000
- Castorland Wastewater Treatment Plant Study \$10,750
- Constableville Wastewater Treatment Plant Study \$20,833
- Lowville Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements \$1.6 million
- Lyons Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant Study \$20,833

For a full list of awarded projects, see www.ny.gov/sites/ny.gov/files/atoms/files/2019REDCA2f79hkFinal.pdf.

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Handouts from *Newly Elected Officials* Workshop

In case you missed the workshops on December 4 and 5, you can find the handouts on our website at <https://www.tughill.org/services/training/workshops/>.

2020 Local Government Conference Registration Live

Registration and session information for the March 26, 2020 Local Government Conference (LGC) is now available on our website. If you would like to get a jump start on your 2020 LGC planning, please visit <https://www.tughill.org/services/training/local-government-conference/>. You'll find everything you need including session topics and registration information. ALSO, please watch your mailboxes, as the registration and session information will be mailed out by the first of the year. There are options for on-line and in the mail registration, and we have kept our regular registration rate low at \$50 if post-marked by March 6.

Registration starts at 7:30 am, and the day kicks off with a short keynote at 8:30 am, followed by four separate sessions throughout the day and lunch in the gymnasium. At 4:00 pm, everyone is invited to a reception for an opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues before you head home!

Each of the four sessions will include seven individual presentations for you to choose from. Our goal is to include a variety of subjects in each session that would be useful for a variety of local officials including highway staff, clerks, town and village board, planning board, and zoning board of appeal members and assessors.

(cont. on page 2)

2020 Local Government Conference (cont. from page 1)

Session one topics include: *Employee Handbook Basics, All About Grant Preparedness, Site Plan and Subdivision Review, Spot Zoning, Right-sizing Culverts, Vital Records and The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.*

Session two topics include: *Reserve Funds and Long-Term Planning, Cyber Threat Mitigation, Historic Preservation, Transparency in Planning Proceedings, Municipal Rights of Way, Your Role in a Disaster, and PILOTs for Renewable Energy.*

Session three topics include: *The EMS Crisis and Its Impact on Municipal Budgets, Small Wireless Facilities and 5G in New York State, Translating Comprehensive Plans in the Face of Live Projects, Land Use and SEQRA Case Law Update, Selecting Pavement Preservation Techniques, and Climate Smart Communities.*

Session four topics include: *Social Media and the First Amendment, River Restoration and Resiliency, Ethical Considerations for Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeal, Q&A for Planning and Zoning Boards, Myths of Traffic Calming and Complete Streets, Email Essentials and Siting Utility Scale Solar Projects.*

Assessor's Session: If you are an assessor, you are invited to take part in six hours of certified training broken into a three-hour morning session on *Preparing for an Audit* and a three-hour afternoon session on *Trending Assessments*.

We hope you will enjoy the lineup of sessions we have in store for you. In large part, we rely on your after-conference survey feedback to create the agenda for the following year's conference. Thank you for all the ideas and comments!

CTHC Hires New Associate Circuit Rider

Long-time Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) Associate Circuit Rider Kay Chapman has announced that she will be ending her contract at the end 2019. Kay has contracted as an Associate Circuit Rider since 2006. She will be greatly missed by not only the towns that she covers, but by all the Council members. The Council will say an official goodbye to Kay at the 2020 spring meeting. She is wished much good luck in her "retired" life, although knowing Kay, she will continue to be busy with many things.

Since October, Kay has been breaking in her replacement, new Associate Circuit Rider Karleigh Stuckey. Kay and Karleigh have been attending meetings together so that Karleigh can learn the ropes and learn all she can before Kay leaves us. Karleigh lives in Sandy Creek and has a young daughter, and has another part-time job in Watertown during the day. Starting in January, Karleigh will attend meetings in Adams, Harrisburg, Lorraine, Montague, Pinckney and Rodman on her own, and hopefully other member towns will get a chance to meet her at the spring meeting.

The CTHC thanks Kay for all her years of service and welcomes Karleigh to the fold. We hope to have her services for many years to come!

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Companion Animal Capital Fund

This fund was created to enable eligible organizations to upgrade their facilities to promote better animal care and health and to encourage pet adoption.

Grants can be used to construct, renovate, rehab or acquire buildings and equipment needed to house, treat and care for sheltered dogs and cats.

- ◆ Eligibility: Municipal and incorporated not-for-profit shelters, humane societies, and societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals are eligible applicants.
- ◆ Funding: \$5 million
- ◆ Deadline: January 21, 2020, by 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Makayla Fowler Phone: 518-457-3502 Email: Makayla.Fowler@agriculture.ny.gov Website: www.agriculture.ny.gov/animals/rfp0221-companion-animal-capital-projects-fundround-3

.....Out and About.....

Periodically, for the next year we will be “out and about”, touring natural-resources based businesses that are growing in or near the Tug Hill region. The first of these articles reported on a tour commissioners and staff took of Black River Valley Natural in Lyons Falls, Lewis County. This week we are just outside the region in Jefferson County.

Agbotic Greenhouses in Sackets Harbor Operational

Staff recently toured the Agbotic Greenhouses in Sackets Harbor. After several years of design and testing, six automated, data-driven, and machine learning greenhouses are up and running in the village of Sackets Harbor. Agbotic (www.agbotic.com) is now growing certified organic radish and beet greens, marketed under the “GoodHealthy” brand (www.GoodHealthy.com), for sale throughout the North Country and into greater NYC markets.



Agbotic recently announced a joint effort with Black & Veatch to optimize, standardize, and turn-key deliver the Agbotic Smart Farm model co-located with sustainable energy assets (<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/agbotic-black-veatch-announce-collaboration-232900705.html>). As Agbotic looks to replicate their business model in other areas, potential sites should be either organic farmland or farmland that can easily be certified organic and have access to three-phase power, public water, and sewer. A natural gas service is preferred but not required, particularly as the company looks to increase the use of solar and geothermal technologies.

A Toast to “Tug Hill Phil”

At Phil's recent retirement party, Tug Hill Commission first executive director Ben Coe shared a little poem memorializing Phil's career. Enjoy!

Let me tell you a story 'bout a man named Phil,
Came to a Temporary Commission of his own free will.

Starting on loan from the Regional Planning Board,
Joined the Tug Hill staff in '80 – Let us praise the Lord!

He now knows all the roads in the 41 towns,
The wishes of the people, their ups and their downs.

The planning boards all love him, and ask him for more,
He's helped them shape the future of the fringes and the core.

The legend of his prowess has travelled near and far,
More than forty years of planning and he's become a star.

So now we wish you well, as new dreams you shall fulfill.
Here's a toast and a new title,

We all dub you, TUG HILL PHIL!

~ Ben Coe

Community Choice Aggregation Workshop January 21

The River Area Council of Governments, along with the NYS Tug Hill Commission, will hold a Community Choice Aggregation workshop on January 21, 2020 at the village of West Carthage community room (61 High Street, Carthage, NY 13619). It will be from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and any community interested in learning more about community choice aggregation is welcome to come.

The workshop will be a panel discussion involving presenters from Good Energy, Joules Assets, MEGA, and the New York Power Authority. You will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation. Briefly, community choice aggregation allows participating local governments to procure energy supply service and distributed energy resources for eligible customers in the community.

This workshop is free. Pre-registration is requested. Contact Mickey Dietrich at mickey@tughill.org or at (315) 681-5023.

New York State Archives 2020 Winter Webinar Series

The New York State Archives is offering the following webinars - each webinar below will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run for an hour. Click on the webinar name below for specifics or to register:

Jan. 15 - [*Introduction to Electronic Records Management*](#)

Jan. 29 - [*Inventorying Your Electronic Records*](#)

Feb. 12 - [*Managing Social Media Records*](#)

Feb. 26 - [*Digital Imaging*](#)

March 11 - [*Email Essentials*](#)

Check here to see other training opportunities [NYS Archives workshop registration page](#).

Contact Us

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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](#).

Any guesses
where this
was spotted?



First Day Hikes In and Near Tug Hill January 1, 2020

For several years, recreation areas have promoted "first day" hikes to get people outside and enjoying nature on January 1. Information on many of these can be found at parks.ny.gov/events/first-day-hikes.aspx. Opportunities in and near Tug Hill are listed below, with links or phone numbers for more information.

Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary, Rutland, 11 am. Bring snowshoes or skis if there is snow. tughilltomorrowland-trust.org/events/.

Delta Lake State Park, Western, 10 am. Easy one-mile hike, meet at the Four Seasons Room in the Beach Bathhouse. Hike the Fox Run trail and warm up afterwards around a fire at the beach with hot dogs and s'mores. 315-337-4670./

Robert Wehle State Park, Henderson, 11 am. An easy two-mile hike down Wehle Road to the Snakefoot Trail and back to the maintenance building. Pre-registration required, 315-938-5302.

Fort Ontario, Oswego, 10am. Begins and ends inside the stone fort where hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. 1.5-mile, easy, guided hike. historicfortontario.com/tag/first-day-hike/

Sackets Harbor Historic Battlefield, Sackets Harbor, 1:30 pm. Two-mile hike begins and ends at the Visitor's Center, 315-646-2321.