

October 9, 2020

Constable Chronicles Webinar Series Part 2: *Constable Hall and Everyday Life in the 1800s - Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.*

The Constable Hall Association and the Tug Hill Commission are hosting a series of webinars called "The Constable Chronicles." Part 2, *The Constable Family and Everyday Life in the 1800s*, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. To register via Zoom, go to: [us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nef7I2d2T02DR-mR54_F6Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82463486372). The webinars are free and open to all.

The Constable Chronicles series looks at the Constable Family and Constable Hall, Jewel of the North Country, from a personal perspective with facts, some fiction, and family lore. Part 2 focuses on the people living at Constable Hall in the 1800s and their everyday life on the estate. Narrator Martha Constable Murray, a direct descendant of William Constable Jr., the builder of Constable Hall, will have all the details plus a look at how laundry was done and how butter was made. And yes, there will be that quiz at the end.

Part 1 of "The Constable Chronicles" titled *The Construction, Renovation and Restoration of the Hall*, took place on September 22, 2020 and was also narrated by Martha Constable Murray. In case you missed it, the video recording can be found [here on the Tug Hill Commission's YouTube Channel](#).

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October 19 Commission Board Meeting

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet next on Monday, October 19, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. online at: us02web.zoom.us/j/82463486372, or via phone at (929) 205-6099 US, meeting ID 82463486372. The public is welcome to attend.

Planning and Zoning Board Training Sessions October 27 and 29

Attorneys Jim Burrows and Dave Geurtsen from Conboy, McKay, Bachman and Kendall, LLP will be presenting "*Renewable Energy and Land Use*" on Tuesday, October 27 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Town of Watertown Municipal Building, 22867 County Route 67, Watertown, NY 13601. The presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of the regulatory environment regarding renewable energy projects. Ranging from local zoning laws to Article 10 to the new Office of Renewable Energy Siting proposed regulations, the session will explore the role of local government in regulating land use. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BsUpbOQuQQmUhFGyyO7sUw.

Commission planning director Matt Johnson and planner Alaina Mallette will deliver a training session entitled "*Planning Board Basics*" on Thursday, October 29 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Florence Town Hall, 11897 Thompson Corners-Florence Rd., Camden, NY 13316. This presentation will cover the basic ins and outs of how planning boards function in NYS. Topics include who can serve on planning boards and what is required of planning board members. We will explore several approaches for land use planning, including comprehensive plans and zoning laws and touch on subdivision review, site plan review, and special use permits. We will discuss best practices for running meetings and public hearings in the context of NYS Open Meetings Law. A brief discussion of SEQR and county planning review will also be included. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JJABwIbtRwaAMFOVAnrKbQ.

In-person attendance for both sessions will be limited to the first 23 registrants, and all attendees will be required to socially distance, wear a mask, and answer questions about health and travel. Hand sanitizer will be available, and no walk-ins will be allowed. The training session will also be viewable live via Zoom. When registering, please pay special attention to the question regarding how you plan to attend.

EO 202.67 Extends Remote Public Meeting AND Hearing Ability Through November 3, 2020

The entire Executive Order 202.67 is available at www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20267-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency

RACOG Board Meeting October 21

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) board will meet October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the village of West Carthage Office 61 High St. Carthage . The meeting will be held in the community room.

Four Upcoming Black River Watershed Conference Webinars



There is still time to register for our remaining webinars in the virtual Black River Watershed Conference series. Recordings and presentation materials can be found at tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/black-river-watershed-conference/.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Early History of the Black River

Peter Hayes, Constable Hall & Dr. Laurie Rush, Ft. Drum Cultural Resources

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i3-bEmZvTHy46bu-K3CGsA

Dr. Rush will introduce the history of the Black River from an indigenous perspective, examining its importance as a key waterway connecting peoples of the Eastern Seaboard and the Maritimes with peoples of the Midwest and the Great Lakes. She will also touch on some of Jefferson County's earliest and most important European settlers and developers. Mr. Hayes will discuss the transition of land ownership from the Treaty to Fort Stanwix to the Macomb Purchase. Emphasis will be given to William Constable's role in the purchase, survey and initial selling of the land. The early development of the land will be illustrated by the efforts of William Constable Jr., James LeRay de Chaumont, and Hezekiah Pierrepont – who collectively left us Constable Hall, the LeRay Mansion and the Pierrepont Manor.

Dr. Laurie Rush is the Cultural Resources Manager and Army Archaeologist at Fort Drum. She also serves as the diplomatic liaison between the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum and the Oneida Indian Nation, the Onondaga Nation and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. She has lived and worked in the region since 1983 studying indigenous people of the eastern Great Lakes as well as the stories and history of the towns and villages. Peter Hayes is the Curator at Constable Hall. Peter grew up in Constableville and then completed a 40-year career working in electrical and computer engineering for small technology companies. He recently retired and lives part time in his old Constableville homestead. In addition to being the curator at the Hall, Peter pursues other hobbies such as gardening and interesting (to him) technology projects.

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 · 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Geology of the Black River Watershed - Part 2

Dr. Chris Ebey, Jefferson Community College

To Register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_scOGedUmRve1ceuXs2QQEg

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Black River Dam Relicensing: Who is FERC and How to Get Involved

Emily Carter and Allyson Conner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

To Register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TZ48eadYTOyMFYe1MI3bnO

Thursday, October 29, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Floodplain Regulation for Local Review Boards

Patricia Burke and Christopher Eastman, NYS Department of State

To Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gs1eENq4RHylTR1_X4b_Mw

Port Leyden and Glenfield Communities Input Requested

Both the Glenfield and Port Leyden Elementary buildings are scheduled to be closed September 2021, as part of a campus consolidation in the South Lewis Central School District. A group of school and local government officials have been working together to encourage re-use of the buildings that meets the greater community's needs. This group has prepared a survey to ask for community input on the future of the two buildings.

The survey can be found on the South Lewis District website at www.southlewis.org. The survey is open until October 30.



South Lewis Elementary building.



Glenfield Elementary building.

Public Meetings and Hearing with COVID-19 Webinar October 14

The Jefferson County Planning Department and the NYS Department of State are offering an online webinar “Public Meetings and Hearings with COVID-19” on Wednesday, October 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The session will address the goals and requirements associated with holding meetings, in contrast to the purposes and legal requirements surrounding a public hearing. It will explore the role of the chairperson in conducting effective meetings and hearings and include a discussion of how to manage the public and the media in the context of a hearing or meeting. Also addressed are aspects of the Open Meetings Law, including executive sessions, quorums, minutes, and public notices.

The session speakers are Paula Gilbert and Ebony Map, Local Government Specialists with the NYS Department of State Division of Local Government Services.

[Register here!](#)

Martinsburg Fire District Map

The town of Martinsburg requested that a map be made for the two fire districts within the town. The map will assist first responders and firefighters with their emergency duties. The commission provides mapping services to all Tug Hill communities, free of charge. If your community requires any mapping services, please do not hesitate to contact your circuit rider for more information.

RACOG LED Lighting Project Progress

Design studies have been completed for all participating communities in the New York Power Authority (NYPA) LED street lighting project being spearheaded by the River Area Council of Governments. Some communities have already voted on whether to move forward with the project, with others making decisions this month. The project received a Local Government Efficiency grant award of \$291,000 toward asset management controls for their lighting, making them Smart City ready. Each community also can receive a \$20,000 grant from NYPA for Smart City technology, with no match required. NYPA will also match up to 50% after the initial \$20,000. The limit of matching dollars is dependent on number of lights. Each community should also be eligible for a National Grid incentive, as long as funds are available. The project is being highlighted as a shared service project, with 16 communities in two counties participating in the original grant application.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant-COVID-19 Supplemental Round 2 Application Period Open

FEMA is providing a second opportunity for volunteer and combination fire departments to apply for funding under the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – COVID 19 Supplemental. Through this AFG-S Round 2 funding opportunity, FEMA will directly award funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to support coronavirus (COVID-19) response. This includes reimbursement for applicable PPE expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020. Grants will be awarded, using a competitive process, to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG-S grant opportunity.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available for \$31 million in funding for the Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19 Supplemental Program (AFG-S) to help provide personal protective equipment to firefighters and first responders who are managing emergencies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The application period will close at 5 p.m. ET on Nov. 13, 2020. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Office has developed tools to help potential applicants plan their AFG-S applications. These tools, such as a calculator that can help you understand and determine your organization's cost share for AFG-S grants, can be viewed on the AFGP website at [FY 2020 AFG-S COVID-19 Guidance Documents](#) and/or downloaded to your computer.

Key Questions about the FY20 AFG-S Round 2 application:

Why are only volunteer and combination fire departments eligible in round 2?

By law, 25 percent of available AFG-S funds must be awarded to volunteer fire departments and another 25 percent must be awarded to combination fire departments. This second application period will be limited to those categories of fire departments to fulfill this requirement.

Can my department apply again?

Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in the FY20 AFG-S Round 2 even if they were awarded a grant under the first application period of the FY20 AFG-S. However, such applications must support new capabilities. Departments that applied in the first application period but were unsuccessful must reapply to be considered for funding in this second application period. Applications from the first application period will not automatically carry forward to Round 2 for automatic consideration.

AFG-S Round 2 Webinars:

Please see FEMA's [Webinar Schedule page](#) for information on upcoming live webinars related to the AFG-S application. Webinars will be offered on various dates through the month of October. The presentations will outline important information and reminders about program priorities, eligible costs, how to navigate the grant application, and tips for preparing an AFG-S application.

AFG Help Desk

If you have questions about the AFG-S application or general AFG Program inquiries, call or e-mail the AFG Program Help Desk. The toll-free phone number is 866-274-0960; the e-mail address is firegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The AFG Program Help Desk is open Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. ET.

New York Planning Federation Hosts *Zoning in America* Webinar October 14

The New York Planning Federation (NYPF) is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, October 14 from 12:00 p.m to 1:30 p.m. titled *Zoning in America*. This unique historical perspective will describe the origins of zoning, its use in controlling land developments, its accomplishments and failures, and the emergence of new land use techniques to complement or replace it. Attendees will gain a better understanding of zoning and planning efforts and look at successes and failures and leave with ideas to consider to improve their local efforts.

The speaker is Bill Sharp, recently retired as Deputy Counsel at the New York Department of State. For 34 years, he worked with the Department's Office of Local Government Services and the Office for Planning and Development. Bill has lectured on land use law to the New York State Bar Association, the Association of Towns and the New York Planning Federation, and at meetings of local government officials throughout the State. Certificate of attendance will be issued following the presentation to satisfy the training requirements for NYS planning and zoning board members. AICP members can also earn Certification Maintenance (CM) credits for this activity. Register for this event [HERE](#) or visit nypf.org.

Plant Based Meat and Beverage Developments and Trends October 22

The Jefferson County Farmer's Luncheon Webinar Series will highlight the growth and trends in plant-based food and beverages on October 22. Dr. Cheryl Mitchell, Senior Vice President of Ingredient Manufacturing at Steuben Foods located in western New York State, will be interviewed by Jefferson County Agricultural Coordinator Jay Matteson. The overall focus will be what are these products, and will they impact our traditional meat and dairy industries? The webinar is free and starts at 12:00 p.m. and the public is welcome to participate. Visit www.agricultureevents.com to learn more and register.

Sales of plant - based food alternatives surged in 2019 by 11% to \$4.5 billion according to a report from the Food Business News website by Monica Waltrous dated 12/27/2019. The largest sectors within plant - based sales were meat and dairy alternatives. Will this trend continue? Are there more plant – based products coming to market soon? How does this impact our agricultural industry?

Dr. Mitchell is recognized as a world authority in the processing of grains, nuts, and seeds. She spent the last 40 years creating commercially wholesome ingredients utilizing unique food processing methods that maintain or maximize the nutrients in plant-based resources.

The Farmers' Luncheon Webinars are an interactive opportunity to look at the future of agriculture as we attempt to answer the question, what will agriculture look like in 5 or 10 years. The Farmers' Luncheon Webinar Series is hosted by Jefferson County Economic Development and supported by Midway International Logistics, Great Lakes Cheese Company, Development Authority of North Country, Afgritech LLC – makers of AminoMax feed supplements, National Grid Economic development and Energy Efficiency Programs, American Dairy Association Northeast, Converse Laboratories, Lundy Group of Companies and Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Contact Us

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1-888-785-2380.

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

State Comptroller Announces Tax Levy Limit for 2021 Town Budgets

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has announced the tax levy limit for local government units whose fiscal years end December 31. These local governments, which include towns and counties, will have a tax levy limit of +1.56% for the 2021 fiscal year.

The comptroller's web page concerning the tax levy limit for local governments can be found at: www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm

The 2021 allowable levy growth factors chart for all governments can be found at: www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/property-tax-cap/pdf/inflation_allowablegrowthfactors.pdf

Grants for Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Due October 30

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program has funding available for Recycling Coordination/Education projects. The overall goal of this funding program is to assist municipalities in expanding local waste reduction and recycling programs, and increase participation in those programs. Applications are due by October 30. More information is available at: grantsgateway.ny.gov/intelligrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx?NavItem1=4&ngoid=5001716