

# TUG HILL TIMES



NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION | DULLES STATE OFFICE BUILDING | 317 WASHINGTON STREET | WATERTOWN NY 13601 (315) 785-2380 | [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

July 16, 2021



## In This Issue

- THC at County Fairs
- Solar Energy Survey
- Transportation Alternatives Program Grants
- Justice Court Assistance Grants
- Oneida County AG-Friendly Guide
- Veteran's Appreciation Day
- Records Management Officer Webinar
- Abolition and Underground Railroad Webinar Links Available
- Lewis County Historical Tour
- Lewis County Walk Audits
- Tax Levy Limit for Town Budgets

## Commission Display at County Fairs

For the next three weeks, you can find us on the road at the Jefferson, Lewis, and Oneida County fairs! Come get a free Tug Hill Recreation Guide, learn about the region and the commission, and take the community connectedness survey for a chance to win our ***Tug Hill, Shaping the Future of the Region*** book by Norah Machia. Click on the links in the calendar below for details about each fair.

2021	JULY-AUGUST					
Sunday	Mon.	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		<a href="#">JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR</a>				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<a href="#">JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR</a>		<a href="#">LEWIS COUNTY FAIR</a>				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		<a href="#">ONEIDA COUNTY FAIR</a>				
August 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<a href="#">ONEIDA COUNTY FAIR</a>						

# Municipal Solar Energy Development Survey, July 22 Deadline

Solar energy siting is accelerating across New York, and the New York State Association of Towns and American Farmland Trust want to hear from you about your experience with solar energy development within your town, opinions on where solar arrays should and should not be sited on farmland, and what resources you have and need to balance renewable energy generation and farmland protection. Your input, opinions, and needs are central to this project, and so your participation is essential. **Please take 20-25 minutes to complete [this short survey](#) before Friday, July 23** to help guide smart solar siting decisions and policies at the state and local level in the future!

Only one response per town or county is needed. The person best suited to take the survey is someone who is involved with:

- Crafting local solar laws;
- Crafting local farmland preservation laws;
- Crafting master plans that encompass solar;
- Evaluating solar proposals that have come before the board;
- Training received / needed on solar and / or farmland preservation;
- Local town board or land-use board with no experience, but in need.

## 2021 Transportation Alternatives Program Grants Due September 29

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is making funding available to support bicycle, pedestrian, multi-use path, and non-motorized transportation-related projects and programs. Formally known as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), these funding sources provide reimbursement of up to 80 percent of project-related costs, with the remaining 20 percent provided by project sponsors.

2021 TAP-CMAQ applications are completed and submitted through the NYS Grants Gateway. Projects will be selected through a competitive solicitation process and evaluated on established criteria which include project type, eligible funding source, significance, cost-effectiveness, geographic balance, and benefits to overall investments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in Environmental Justice Communities. Projects must be related to surface transportation. Applications for funding may be developed by any municipality or non-profit incorporated group, but projects must be sponsored either by a municipality, a state agency, or public authority eligible to administer federal TAP and CMAQ transportation funds. The full program guidebook is available [here](#). Applications are due by September 29.

An information webinar will be held Tuesday, July 20, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Register [here](#).

Comments and questions regarding the TAP-CMAQ solicitation may be submitted via email to [TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov](mailto:TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov). Detailed information is available on DOT's website, [www.dot.ny.gov/tap-cmaq](http://www.dot.ny.gov/tap-cmaq).

## 2021-22 JCAP Grants Available

The Justice Court Assistance Plan (JCAP) grants for 2021/22 are now available. The Unified Court System's budget includes \$3 million in JCAP funding for this fiscal year, with the maximum grant amount per court at \$30,000 (joint applications may have a maximum amount of \$60,000). All town and village courts can apply for funding in many areas including office equipment and furniture, security equipment and court room and court facility improvements and renovations.

The application must be filed by justice court personnel, so if boards are aware of an area needing funding, they should coordinate with their court personnel to apply. The deadline to apply is **October 7, 2021**. Most of the application must be submitted online, with the signature page, board resolution, estimates and the courts budget required to be sent separately via U. S. mail or email. Court personnel will be able to access the town and village courts website for all pertinent information at [www.nycourts.gov/courts/townandvillage/judges\\_only/jcap.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/townandvillage/judges_only/jcap.shtml). Specific guidelines for the board resolution or for requests for construction or security equipment are also available on the webpage. If you need assistance contact the Office of Justice Court Support at 1-800-232-0630, [jcap@nycourts.gov](mailto:jcap@nycourts.gov) or your circuit rider and they will help connect you with the right person.

Since the JCAP program was established in 1999, local justice courts have received over \$35 million in equipment and other resources. There was \$3 million available for the 2020/21 JCAP grant cycle and 299 applications were received with awards issued to 187 courts.

# Oneida County Updates AG-Friendly Municipal Guide

Oneida County released an updated and refreshed “Agriculture-Friendly Oneida County” municipal planning guide last month, a document that aids local towns in developing comprehensive plans and policies, establishing agricultural districts, receiving agricultural assessments and setting up land use regulations. The updated document addresses the changing agricultural landscape as it pertains to renewable energy, including the use of agricultural land for solar arrays and other renewable energy uses.

The purpose of the guide is to provide municipalities with:

- A reference guide to be used in developing comprehensive plans and land use regulations, i.e. zoning regulations or amendments to those documents.
- Information regarding current agricultural-related laws and programs — such as NYS Agricultural Districts Law, Agricultural Assessments and Farmland Protection Implementation Grants — that they can support and would encourage landowner participation.
- Information on the process to develop Carbon-Free Energy Sources (Wind and Solar Arrays) on agricultural land.
- A checklist of items they can use to determine if their municipality is agriculture-friendly.
- Information on the characteristics of agriculture-friendly comprehensive plans, land use regulations and municipal policies.
- Information on additional steps municipalities can take on their own to further farmland protection in their municipality, such as a Right to Farm Law or Municipal Farmland Protection Plan.
- Samples of agriculture-related definitions municipalities can use when developing and updating land use regulations. A list of resources municipalities can refer to when adopting or amending comprehensive plans and land use regulations.
- The identification of county contacts municipalities can rely on when adopting or amending comprehensive plans and land use regulations.
- Assistance in the creation of a uniform approach in developing plans, policies and regulations for agriculture throughout the county.

The updated document is available for view and download [here](#) and at [www.cceoneida.com](http://www.cceoneida.com). Oneida County Department of Planning and Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County staff will be providing further assistance by working with municipalities to develop ag-friendly comprehensive plans, land use regulations and municipal farmland protection plans.

## Veteran’s Appreciation Day at Constable Hall

Mark your calendar for the Constable Hall Association’s Veteran’s Appreciation Day Sunday, August 8, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the grounds at 5909 John Street, Constableville.

Activities will include a keynote speaker, historical military displays and military vehicles, historical military discussions, participation by local veterans’ organizations, Constable Hall tours, a 150-plate chicken barbeque, a Cruise-In, patriotic music by the Adirondack Chorus, raffles, and a bake sale. This event and parking are free and open to everyone. Military are encouraged to attend in uniform.

For more information, please visit the Constable Hall Facebook page or call the Hall at 315-397-2323.

## Your Role as a Records Management Officer Webinar July 27

New York State Archives will provide Your Role as a Records Management Officer webinar on Tuesday, July 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. As required by State Education Department regulations, local governments must have a designated Records Management Officer (RMO) who is responsible for its records management program. This webinar will explain why this essential position exists and review the role of the RMO, discuss the attributes of a good records management program and provide the tools necessary for building and maintaining a successful program, and review the services offered by State Archives and other organizations that can help provide support for records management programs.

To register for this webinar click [HERE](#).

# Abolition and Underground Railroad Webinar Series Video Links

The Tug Hill Commission enjoyed hosting the **Abolition and Underground Railroad Webinar Series**. This historical series highlighted the history of abolition and the underground railroad in the town of Florence, Oneida County, and the North Country—see the descriptions below for details. We would like to give a big **"thank you"** to our wonderful presenters for their thoughtful and well-designed presentations.

Title	Presenters	Description	Link
The Underground Railroad: Routes through the North Country	<b>Jacqueline Madison</b> , President, North Country Underground Historical Association	The North Country Underground Historical Association has a wealth of knowledge about routes taken through the North Country to freedom in the 19th and 20th centuries. Jackie will discuss these, the reality and laws that consequently created them, and the people who both made it and used it to find freedom.	<a href="#">Here</a>
A Well-Perfected Organization: The Underground Railroad in Oneida County, N.Y.	<b>Judith Wellman</b> , Historian <b>Jan DeAmicis</b> , Member <b>Mary Hayes Gordon</b> , Member <b>Deirdre Sinnott</b> , Member Oneida County Freedom Trail Commission	The panelists will provide an overview of their current survey of UGRR sites, abolition, and life in Oneida County while tying in their current work to answer key questions in their research: Did the UGRR have tunnels? Was the UGRR a secret movement? Did everyone who left slavery on the UGRR go to Canada? Did only people of European descent keep stations on the UGRR? Did only men travel and work on the UGRR? The panelists will also highlight important women on the UGRR.	<a href="#">Here</a>
The Rise and Fall of the Florence Settlement	<b>Jessica Harney</b> , Teacher, Camden Central School District <b>Matthew Kirk</b> , Principal Investigator and VP, Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. <b>Charles E. Vandrei</b> , Agency Historic Preservation Officer, Archaeologist, NYS DEC	The Florence Settlement, part of 17,000 acres deeded to Irish and black settlers by abolitionist Gerrit Smith, was located in what is now the Florence Hill State Forest in the town of Florence, NY. Research from archaeological digs, archival searches, and more will be presented along with video clips of the site as it is today. The Florence Settlement is a part of Black history on Tug Hill, and the panelists have been involved in efforts to uncover that history and elevate its stories.	<a href="#">Here</a>

Please feel free to share these resources with anyone you think might be interested.

*Links shared in the chat and presentations:*

- North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association and North Star Museum: [www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com/](http://www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com/) and [www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com/museum.php](http://www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com/museum.php)
- The Underground Railroad Consortium of NYS (URCNYS): [www.URCNYS.org](http://www.URCNYS.org)
- Oneida County's Freedom Trail Commission: [www.oneidacountyfreedomtrail.com/](http://www.oneidacountyfreedomtrail.com/)
- Underground Railroad History Project: [undergroundrailroadhistory.org/](http://undergroundrailroadhistory.org/)
- Hartgen Archeological Associates: [www.hartgen.com/](http://www.hartgen.com/)
- Oneida County History Center: [www.oneidacountyhistory.org/](http://www.oneidacountyhistory.org/)
- National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum: [www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org/](http://www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org/)
- Tug Hill Commission past workshops and webinars: [tughill.org/services/training/](http://tughill.org/services/training/)
- The presentations are available at [drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V2buvHRV7mHJW4ZQVz4COAYnrle76VQO?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V2buvHRV7mHJW4ZQVz4COAYnrle76VQO?usp=sharing)



LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

# Lewis County History Tour

HISTORICAL GUIDE ON BUS RIDE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
\$2 ROUND TRIP FARE  
CONTACT 315-397-2323 TO PRE-REGISTER

PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 21ST

THE LEWIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE OPEN AT NOON FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ARRIVE EARLY.

Sunday  
**July 25th**

1:00 PM : Depart Lewis County Historical Society  
1:20 PM : Arrive at Constable Hall  
3:00 PM : Depart Constable Hall  
3:15 PM : Arrive at Florissante Mansion  
4:40 PM : Depart Florissante Mansion  
5:00 PM : Arrive at Lewis County Historical Society

## Contact Us

**NYS Tug Hill Commission**  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380  
Toll Free within the region:  
1-888-785-2380  
Email: [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](http://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call

1-888-785-2380.

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

## Lewis County Walkability Institute Walk Audits

The Lewis County Walkability Institute recently did walk audits for the villages of Castorland, Croghan, and Port Leyden. The institute received grant funding of \$15,000 that will be split between the three participating villages. An initiative of the Lewis County Planning Department, the money will be used for projects such as bike racks, benches, and signage. Led by Anna Platz from the Lewis County Hospital, the group also includes Tim Hunt, Lauryn Tabolt, Lisa Virkler, Kim Vogt, and Mickey Dietrich.

## State Comptroller Announces Tax Levy Limit for 2022 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 2.00% for the 2022 fiscal year, an increase over the 2021 limit of 1.56%. The tax levy limit has been at 2% for three of the past four years.

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](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm)

Past years' 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-and-allowable-levy-growth-factors.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/property-tax-cap/pdf/inflation-and-allowable-levy-growth-factors.pdf)

