



## Local Government Conference Early Registration Deadline March 3

[WWW.TUGHILL.ORG/LGC2023](http://WWW.TUGHILL.ORG/LGC2023)

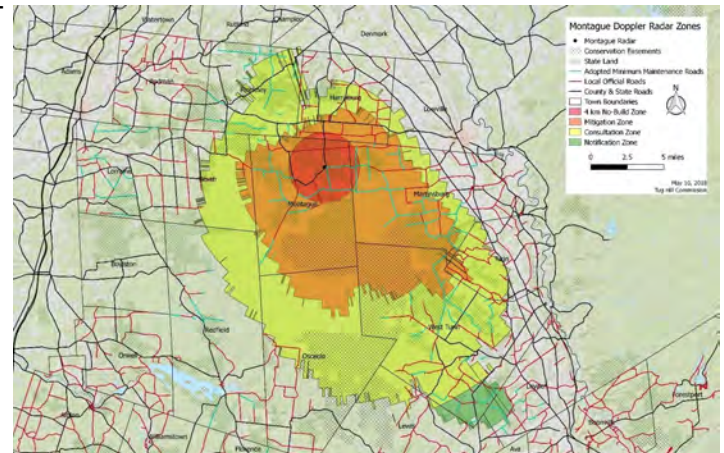
## Montague Doppler Radar Issue Paper Updated

Originally written in 2018, commission staff has revised the Montague Doppler radar paper with updated information about wind farm locations and with review from the National Weather Service as well as the Wheeler Sack Army Airfield and the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Weather Squadron on Fort Drum. Read the updated issue paper [here](#).

The Montague Doppler radar is essential for weather forecasting, especially given the intense lake effect snowfall Tug Hill is known for. The Montague radar is one of 159 radars the National Weather Service (NWS), Department of Defense, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operate throughout the country. The NWS shares resulting weather data with many entities, including the public, media, academia,

and the private weather sector. Fort Drum uses the data to forecast weather conditions for aircraft using the Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield, located on Fort Drum, and to support their mission and resource protection. The FAA uses the data for their mission of safety of air navigation for both commercial and general aviation.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has a [U.S. Wind Turbine Database](#), showing the location of individual turbines and their parent wind farms. The proximity of the wind turbines to the Montague radar can be observed using this resource; the Montague radar is located near the intersection of Parker, Sears Pond, and Rector Roads. The Maple Ridge, Copenhagen, and Roaring Brook wind farms are visible, with the Number Three wind farm still under construction and not yet visible on the map. The National Weather Service has developed siting guidelines to encourage wind farm developers to site new projects in areas that will minimize future wind turbine interference. Collaboration will be key to promote New York's transition to green energy, while preserving the essential functions of the Montague Doppler radar.



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# Commission Senior Planner/Planner Position Announcement

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is hiring either an experienced **Senior Planner** or an entry level **Planner** to assist local governments in the rural Tug Hill region in land use planning, local law development and revision, and general technical support to planning boards and other municipal boards. For the detailed job announcement, see [tughill.org/job-openings/](http://tughill.org/job-openings/).

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to Matt Johnson, [matt@tughill.org](mailto:matt@tughill.org). Application materials are being reviewed on a rolling basis.

## RACOG Economic Visioning Summit 2023



The River Area Council of Governments will be holding their second economic visioning summit at the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center in Glenfield, NY on Thursday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with lunch to follow. The lunch will be provided by the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center culinary class. The event is free to attend.

The summit is meant to promote collaboration between the different industry sectors on projects and partnerships for the benefit of the region and its economic vitality. Register [here](#) for the event.

Below is the draft agenda for the event, subject to change:

**9:00 AM - Introduction/Promotional Video/2022 Summit Results & Opportunities**

**9:15 AM – Events** (*Events for the upcoming year in the region.*)

**9:25 AM - Cybersecurity Training** (*How to protect your business or organization.*)

**9:55 AM - Tug Hill Artisan Roasters** (*The collaboration with Lewis County Planning and Naturally Lewis.*)

**10:15 AM - Joint Economic Resiliency & Recovery Plan** (*Supporting economic revitalization, resiliency and growth in Carthage area communities and their downtowns.*)

**10:35 AM - Maple Ridge Center** (*The past, present, and future for Maple Ridge Center and the opportunities that await.*)

**10:50 AM - Deferiet Old Mill Site** (*The implementation of a Brownfield Opportunity Area, NYSERDA solar farm, and future commercial opportunities.*)

**11:10 AM - Jefferson Lewis BOCES** (*Opportunities for partnerships and internships for local governments, businesses, and organizations.*)

**11:25 AM - Opportunities Jeopardy** (*Fun game of what opportunities are out there for businesses, organizations, and local governments.*)

**12:00 PM – Lunch** (*Lunch is being prepared by the Howard. G. Sackett Technical Center culinary class.*)

Contact Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission at (315) 681-5023 or [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org) with any questions.

## Grant Writing Basics Webinar March 9

The Cornell Local Roads Technical Assistance Program is sponsoring a webinar for anyone interested in learning how to tackle grant or funding applications, or for anyone who would like a refresher on the process, on Thursday, March 9 at 9:00 am.

Writing a grant or funding application can seem like an impossible task if you have never completed one before. It can seem daunting even if you have completed one or more but weren't given any guidance on how to approach the project. During this webinar, learn the basics of how to tackle and complete a grant or funding application. Topics will cover reviewing and understanding what your application requires, organization to collect the application's information, readability of your application, and considerations for strengthening your application's chances of being funded. You won't become a grant or application writing expert by participating in this webinar, but you will take away a method for approaching and completing applications.

The webinar will be provided by Victoria Beale of the Ohio LTAP Center. Victoria has over 19 years of experience in grant and application writing with many successful awards which have provided LTAP's grant funded courses. Click [here](#) to register.

# American Rescue Plan Act Funding Reporting Update

The next annual report for Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs) on their spending of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) (also known as ARPA funds or COVID funds) is due on April 30, 2023. All the towns and villages in the Tug Hill region are defined as NEUs, which are local governments serving less than 50,000 people.

To assist with the filing of these reports, there is information available on the U.S. Treasury's website. There is a large "Self Service Resources" page available at [Treasury.gov](https://www.treasury.gov). The page includes a large question and answer section, written user guides and many webinars to walk you through the reporting process.

The latest user guide on the "Project and Expenditures Report" was released in January 2023 and is available [here](#) as well as on the Tug Hill Commission's ARPA resources webpage at [tughill.org/arpa](https://tughill.org/arpa). There were some minor changes made to this version of the user guide, mainly dealing with changes made to the reporting system for the fourth quarter reporting cycle (for those required to report every quarter, which is NOT Tug Hill communities) regarding subrecipients with international addresses and editing subaward related records under the "Revenue Replacement" categories.

Additional support is also available from the Treasury Department's Office of Recovery Programs Contact Center, which reopened just a few days ago on February 21, 2023. Although for faster service they encourage starting with the self service resources page, the contact center is available to answer questions by email or phone for questions related to these recovery programs. For the SLFRF, contact them at [SLFRF@treasury.gov](mailto:SLFRF@treasury.gov) or (844) 529-9527.

The project and expenditure report will be required to be filed annually by NEUs for the next several years. SLFRF funds can be used for eligible costs incurred from March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2024 and funds can be expended through December 31, 2026, so long as the obligations were incurred by the end of 2024.

## New Volunteer Firefighter/Ambulance Worker Benefit Approved

An amendment to Real Property tax Law Section 466a was signed by Governor Hochul in December of 2022 which allows municipalities, school districts, and fire districts in all the counties of the state to offer a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. Upon certification by the assessor, the new law would allow up to a 10% exemption to the assessed value to the primary residence of the volunteer provided that the applicant is the owner of the property, which is located in a city, town, or village served by the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or ambulance service of which the applicant is an enrolled member and which is used exclusively for residential purposes.

Additional benefits which are left to local control include the option to select anywhere from two to five years of service as the minimum qualification for the law; to include a lifetime exemption benefit for members certified with 20 years or more of service, so long as they reside within the county in which they originally served; and to extend the exemption to widows/widowers of these members receiving the lifetime exemption or those killed in the line of duty with at least five years of service, so long as they remain un-remarried.

One final thing for volunteers to note is that application to the property tax exemption program means that you are no longer allowed to file for the \$200 NYS Income Tax Credit for active volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers using form IT 245. See <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/credits/volunteerfirefighters.htm> and look at the **Note** for information on this prohibition. For additional information, NYCOM has a good fact sheet on the new legislation located [HERE](#) and the NYS Association of Towns also has a draft local law available [HERE](#). The Firefighters Association of NY State (FASNY) also has information available [HERE](#). The new local law must be passed by December 9, 2025.

## Energy Code Enforcement Training March 29

The Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, in cooperation with Newport Ventures and NYSERDA, is offering a free, in person, Energy Code Enforcement Training on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, in Old Forge, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This day long course carries eight hours of NYSDOS in-service learning credits, covering residential and commercial energy code courses that focus on plan review and compliance. Participating municipalities will qualify for 200 Clean Energy Community points.

To register, click [here](#). For more information, contact Amanda Kaier (315) 525-1312, or email her at: [Akaier@mvedd.org](mailto:Akaier@mvedd.org).

# Meet our Intern: An Interview with Chris Barboza

## Where are you from?

I was born in Massachusetts. As a military family, we've been all over – I even lived overseas in Germany for a while. But I like to think of myself as being from the village of Carthage, where I was raised in the early 90s.

## Tell me about growing up in Carthage?

I was fairly involved with the community while growing up, participating in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. My school had a "Students in Government" class, which encouraged awareness and involvement in the government and community. I also liked being active, and I played a sport a season – football, swimming, track, and then soccer in the summertime – in high school.

## What are some of your favorite hobbies?

I like to fish and camp, especially with my family. I've done a little ice fishing before, but I normally prefer to lure fish with my sons. We catch bass, walleye and pike. My oldest likes to go out and do nighttime fishing for bullhead and catfish.

## What brought you to the Tug Hill Region?

Originally, my wife and I thought we might eventually settle down south, where it's warmer. However, when we were stationed at Fort Drum, we had an opportunity to buy a house. Because I had grown up here, we knew the area and the people already. It's quiet and friendly, and we decided this would be a great place to settle down, raise kids, and retire.

## Tell us a little about your experiences in the Army and Fort Drum?

Most of my time here at Fort Drum has been spent doing operations and coordinating events. It involves a lot of logistics and event planning – basically project management. I've coordinated anything from ranges and meetings to big activities like the Regimental Week, the celebration of the MP branch. I've done a lot of work with protection services and security planning throughout my career, the most recent of which involved coordinating security for a four-star general when I was in Florida.

## What projects are you working on for the Tug Hill Commission?

There are a few different projects I've been working on: gathering information for the four-county salary survey comparison, helping circuit rider Angie Kimball update the CTHC website, and updating and adding information to the Friends of the Black River website map.

## What do you enjoy most about working at the Tug Hill Commission so far?

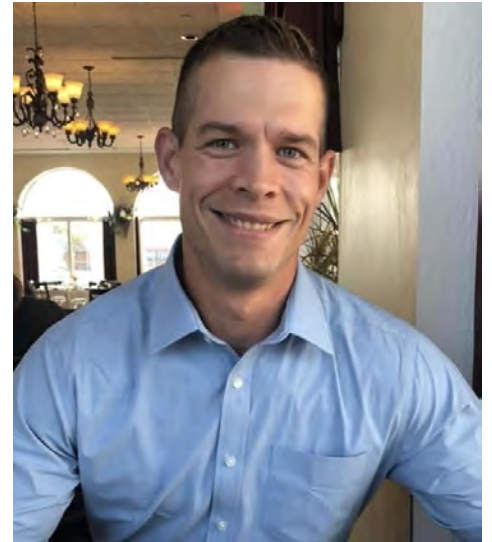
I enjoy the opportunity to give back to the community. And on a personal level, I've really enjoyed the welcoming, close-knit atmosphere in the office and among the circuit riders. In the military, sometimes there is a perception that civilians can be unfriendly or that there is a difference in work ethic. I haven't had that experience here, however, and I think that could change perspectives.

## What is in store for you next after concluding your internship with THC?

To make myself more marketable, I'm going to pursue a project management certification course at Syracuse University. I've also been talking with RACOG about potentially being a part-time associate circuit rider.

## What would you like to share with future Tug Hill Commission interns?

For prospective interns, I wish I could tell them more about THC and what they do. I found this internship opportunity through RACOG, but if you're not specifically looking for this internship, it can be difficult to find if you're not from the area and working with the CSP (Career Skills Program).





WEBINAR:

# Getting Started with NEPA

## What communities need to know to engage with the National Environmental Policy Act

The [National Environmental Policy Act](#) is one the most far-reaching environmental laws in the United States. If you are new to environmental project development and planning, this webinar is a great place to begin learning about NEPA. Join us for a discussion of important NEPA background and processes, knowing when NEPA applies, and what NEPA means for local projects.

**March 6, 2023**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Environmental  
Finance  
Center  
Syracuse University



*This webinar is presented to you by the [NYS Tuq Hill Commission](#), [EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC](#), and the [Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center](#).*

# Venerable Folks Display in Lowville March 6 to 16

The Lowville Public Library will be the latest location to host the traveling Venerable Folks of Tug Hill display over the next several weeks. Starting Monday, March 6 through Thursday, March 16, the portrait paintings by local artist Loretta Lepkowski, along with theme panels documenting the stories of 22 individuals who exemplify the traditions and spirit of Tug Hill, can be viewed during the library's regular business hours. In addition, Loretta will do a free presentation at the library on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

The display subjects represent the resourceful and hardy people of the Tug Hill region: the farmers, loggers, mill workers, doctors, teachers, artists, musicians who contributed to their communities in so many ways; serving on local town boards, in schools, libraries, churches, government, and other organizations. These people carry on traditions of hunting camps, old tyme fiddling, antique collecting, food and dance festivals that celebrate their heritages to pass on to the next generation. This was a collaborative project with Loretta and the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Tug Hill Commission, and Traditional Arts of Upstate New York. Multiple sources of funding and the willingness of the subject families to participate helped to create this exhibit.



## Urban and Community Forestry Grants Public Info Session –March 29

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Urban and Community Forestry Program will host an informational webinar on March 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in advance of the release of the Round 16 Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant Request for Applications. The information session will include changes since the last round of the grant, disadvantaged community criteria, local partnership requirements, application requirements, and time dedicated for questions for prospective grant applicants.

The UCF Round 16 RFA will be available in late Spring 2023. Project categories include planting, maintenance, tree inventories, and community forest management plans.

Register in advance [here](#), and find out more about the program on DEC's [website](#).

**Webinar | Knowledge Transfer:**  
How to make sure you know what you don't know when you experience staffing changes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
**Online via Zoom | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM EST**

### Contact Us

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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](#).