

2024 Local Government Conference News!

Time is running out to take advantage of the regular registration fees for the Local Government Conference. Registration must be completed online or post-marked (if paying by a check in the mail) by Monday, April 1 to receive the regular rates of \$85 per person for the full conference on Thursday, \$25 per person for the Wednesday afternoon infrastructure roundtable, and \$15 for the Wednesday evening reception with sponsors and vendors. [Click here for details](#). Also, if you are planning to spend the night, hotel rooms must be reserved by Monday, April 1, to take advantage of the \$107 per night room rate.

An early thank you to the 2024 event sponsors! At the diamond level: GYMO Architecture and Engineering, P.C. At the gold level: Bernier Carr & Associates, C2AE, Comp Alliance, GAR Associates, LaBella Associates, National Grid, the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, and Williamson Law Book. At the silver level: Adirondack Bank, C&S Companies, MRB Group, NYCLASS, and Siewert Equipment. At the bronze level: the Development Authority of the North Country, Environmental Finance Center, North Shore Council of Governments, River Area Council of Governments, and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments. Sponsorships by these organizations and support from numerous exhibitors keep the conference registration fee affordable for attendees.

And hot off the presses, [several courses](#) offered at the Tug Hill Commission's 33rd Annual Conference are eligible for credit in the Association of Town's [Certified Town Official Program](#). To participate in the program at the conference, simply attend the courses that are indicated as eligible for CTO credit and complete this [sheet](#) with a signed affidavit of attendance. For more information, contact the [Association of Towns](#) of the State of New York.

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Village of Pulaski Snow Memorial Building, 4971 N. Jefferson St., Pulaski, NY 13142. The public is welcome to attend.

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RACOG Economic Visioning Summit March 29

The River Area Council of Governments' Third Annual Economic Visioning Summit will be Friday, March 29 at the Carthage Elk's Lodge. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch, free of charge. There will be presentations on the Denmark highway garage solar project, Fort Drum regional economic impact, Lowville Downtown Revitalization Initiative, Double Play Community Center, Carthage Area Hospital, and traffic safety data & transportation safety coordination. The event will end with a fun and informative game of Jeopardy and lunch. Registration is required and can be completed online [here](#).



Contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 681-5023 or mickey@tughill.org with questions.

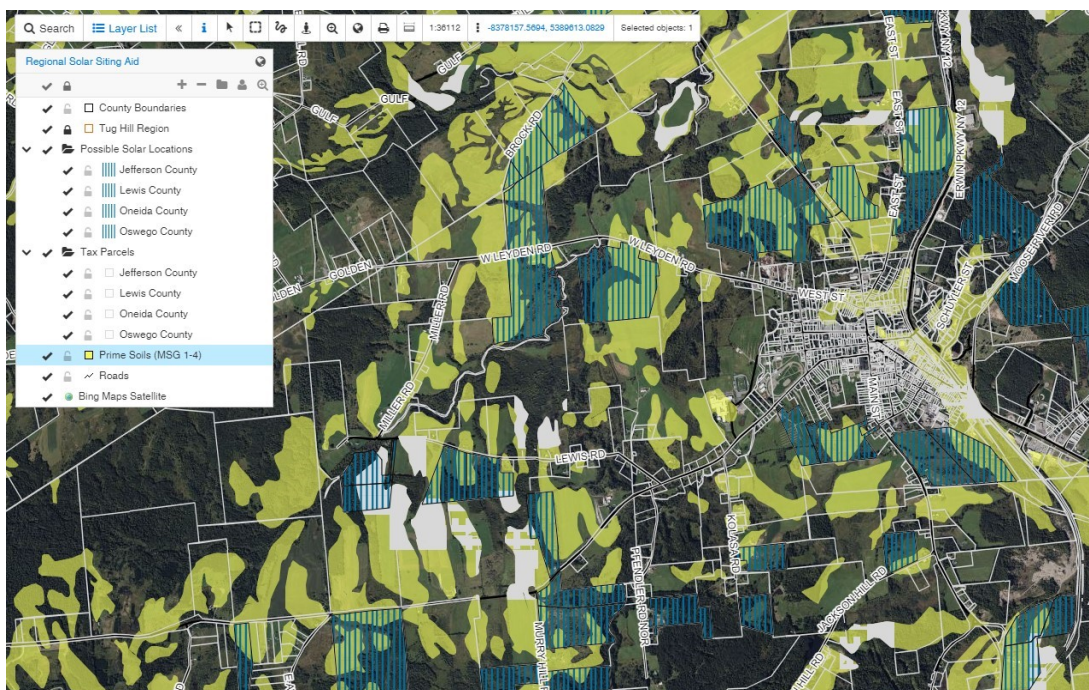
Regional Solar Siting Aid Map Updated

Commission staff have completed an update to the Regional Solar Siting Aid Map located on the Tug Hill GIS page. The new layer titled "Possible Solar Locations" features parcels that meet some basic criteria for large scale solar development. The map aims to help local officials and governments understand where solar could be put within their municipality and inform any planning documents and local laws. The map now features labeled roads, clickable parcels with information, clickable prime agricultural soils with additional information, and now parcels meeting general large scale solar criteria.

The criteria for possible solar location is: larger than 15-acre parcel; residential, agricultural, commercial, vacant, or industrial land use classification; parcel does not include wetlands; and parcel does not include forest cover. There may be parcels identified as possible solar locations on steep slopes, or not near accessible power lines; however, this map aims to be a long term look ahead.

The Tug Hill Commission is not endorsing identified properties for large scale solar development

View the map at tughill.giscloud.com/ by clicking on the "switch map" tab and selecting "Regional Solar Siting Aid."



Tug Hill Winter Wildlife Webinar Series: Part 3 of 4

Next Up – Tug Hill Birds!

Tuesday March 12th at 6PM

Join Irene Mazzocchi, retired Region 6 DEC wildlife biologist and Linda Gibbs, Community Programs Director for Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, for a lesson on Tug Hill birds. They'll talk about bird identification, population trends, habitat protection efforts, ways to help birds every day, and point us toward some ways we can help with citizen science programs.

Register at tinyurl.com/TugHillBirds

View the two previous webinars on Fisher and Marten at:

tughill.org/services/training/



Above, Blue-headed Vireo in Croghan. Left, Pileated Woodpecker in New Bremen. Submitted to the THTLT 2024 calendar by Tyler Clemmons.

Contact info: gabriel@tughill.org | 315-785-2387



LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 26, Lee Town Hall, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

About

Under the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, every Public Water System that is a federally-defined Community Water System or a Nontransient Non-Community Water System must, without exception, develop an initial service line material inventory by October 15, 2024. Also known as a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI), this inventory must include all service lines, regardless of ownership, and make this inventory available to the public.

The NYS Tug Hill Commission and the nonprofit New York Rural Water Association are partnering together to create a free hybrid workshop to help walk communities through the LSLI regulations, provide helpful data collection hints, and review LSLI timelines. NYRWA will discuss their new Technical Assistance program aimed at providing communities with face-to-face, one-on-one assistance with the LSLI spreadsheet.

Presenters



Jamie Herman
Chief Executive Officer
New York Rural Water Association



Mark Roberts
Technical Assistance
New York Rural Water Association

Event Details

This workshop will be held in **hybrid** format.

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lee Town Hall
5808 Stokes Lee Center Road,
Lee Center, NY 13363

.... and via Zoom!

Register

Pre-registration is required to attend this free workshop. **Sign up** at tinyurl.com/lslitughill.

Please contact Taylor McKinney at taylor@tughill.org or (315) 785-2606 if you have any questions or need assistance registering.

Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund Accepting Grant Proposals for 2024



The Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund, at the [Northern New York Community Foundation](#), is accepting grant proposals from nonprofit organizations that serve Boonville, Constableville, and Westernville residents.

The fund was established in 2018 to support programs, projects, and initiatives that broadly impact the quality of life in the three communities. The Northern New York Community Foundation administers this permanent, charitable legacy fund that makes annual grant awards. In 2023, 15 projects and organizations were awarded grant funding totaling \$52,100. This year, up to \$60,000 in grant funding is available.

To be eligible for grants, nonprofits must be classified as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS. Other entities may be eligible depending on the request. The deadline to submit a proposal for consideration is 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 19, 2024. Grant awards will be announced following the Community Foundation's quarterly board meeting in June.

Most grant applications are managed through the online Grant Lifecycle Manager (GLM) portal. Access to the GLM portal and creating a single user account for organizations can be found [here](#). For grant guidelines, or to learn more about this funding opportunity, contact Max DelSignore, Community Foundation Assistant Director, max@nnycf.org or (315)-782-7110.

Tug Hill Communities Earn “Pro-Housing” Designation

The town of Lowville and the village of Pulaski, along with 18 other communities statewide, recently earned the state's Pro-Housing Community designation. The [Pro-Housing Community Program](#) recognizes and rewards municipalities actively working to promote appropriate housing development in their community. The long-term goal of the program is to boost housing supply in New York to make housing and the cost of living more affordable for New Yorkers amidst a national and statewide housing shortage.

Communities can achieve the designation in one of two ways. The most direct path is for a locality to submit documentation confirming that their housing stock has increased by one percent in the previous year or three percent over the previous three years (downstate) or by 0.33 percent in the last year or one percent over the previous three years (upstate). Communities who have not been able to realize that level of housing growth can achieve the designation by passing a resolution stating their commitment to pro-housing principles, streamlining permitting and adopting pro-housing policies, and applying and submitting critical housing and zoning data to the state.

Pro-housing communities receive priority consideration over other localities for \$650 million in state discretionary funding programs such as the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward.

Restore New York Grants Due March 25

Empire State Development (ESD) has launched a new funding round for the Restore New York Communities Initiative, for NYS local government entities (counties, cities, towns, and villages). Restore NY aims to encourage economic and neighborhood development by providing financial assistance regarding the revitalization of commercial and residential properties. Projects involving the demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation, and/or reconstruction of vacant, abandoned, condemned, or surplus properties are eligible under this program.

Interested applicants must submit an “Intent to Apply Form” by **Monday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m.** Forms approved by ESD will then be directed to submit a completed application by **Wednesday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m.** The official application process will occur via the Consolidated Funding Application portal. Intent to Apply Forms can be accessed [here](#); when all fields are complete, hit “Submit” at the bottom of the PDF.

Applications from communities in Empire Zones, Brownfield Opportunity Areas, and communities that can demonstrate economic distress are given priority. Any questions about the program or application process should be directed to your community's regional ESD office, listed [here](#). Please note that submission of a full application requires an application fee, for which proof of payment should be enclosed in the CFA application. For municipalities with a population of 39,999 and under (which includes all towns and villages in Tug Hill), the application fee is \$500.

Federal Aid 101 Webinar April 23

Getting federal aid is only the first step in the process of completing a local project. To make a project successful, the local agency needs to understand the steps as well as the federal and state requirements.



On Tuesday, April 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the NYS Department of Transportation and the Cornell Local Roads Program are sponsoring an online workshop, where David Orr, P.E. will walk through a federal aid project from start to finish, discuss the steps to a successful project, and review issues that have led to problems in the past. Attendees will learn the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved and ways to reduce stress for themselves and the agencies overseeing the work. Attendees will also discover the keys to success, learn how to navigate federal and state requirements, and gain insights into common pitfalls.

There is no cost to attend the webinar, unless PDHs are needed. Three and one-half PDHs are available and require a \$20 registration fee. No partial credit for PDH will be given. The webinar format will be four one-hour blocks with two 15-minute breaks, and a one-hour break for lunch. Click here to [register](#).

Managing Floodplain Development Training April 2-5

In partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and DEC's Floodplain Management Program, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) is offering an introductory floodplain management training, *Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP (L-273)*. This free, four-day course is being offered to community officials involved in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and floodplain management permitting at the local or county level. It will be held at the NYS Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, NY on **April 2-5, 2024**.

Find more information on DHSES's [training registration webpage](#). To register for the course, you will need to be signed in to the DHSES [Learning Management System \(LMS\) Student Portal](#). If you do not have an account in the DHSES LMS, fill out a [New User Account Access Request Webform](#). Accounts take two to five business days to be created.

Fort Drum Career Skills Program's Career Exploration Day

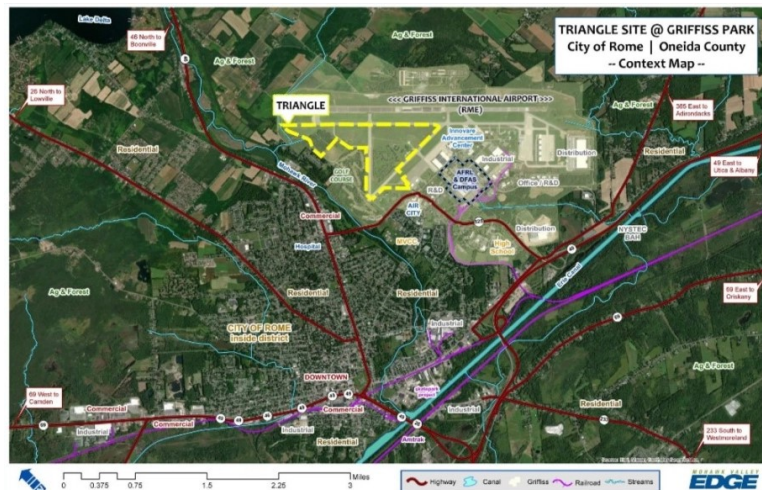
The Fort Drum Career Skills Program (CSP) held their Career Exploration Day on February 26. The CSP provides transitioning service members opportunities to take part in training and internship programs as a way to prepare for post-service employment. The Career Exploration Day is an opportunity for businesses/organizations to interact with transitioning service members to provide information on internship programs and opportunities for employment. Tug Hill Commission Planner Christopher Barboza, attended the event and interacted with service members. He provided information on the skills they could learn by interning with the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) and the commission, and how the skills can transfer to other state/local government agencies.

Oneida County Awarded \$23.6 Million FAST NY Grant

Oneida County has been awarded \$23.6 million to develop a 332-acre parcel at Griffiss International Airport, in Rome, known as the "Triangle Site" into a premier semiconductor supply chain campus.

Oneida County received the largest amount out of seven sites awarded funding under the Focused Attraction of Shovel-Ready Tracts New York (FAST NY) grant program. Along with a local match of \$2,691,000, the funding will allow for the county and its partners, Griffiss Local Development Corporation (GLDC) Mohawk Valley EDGE, C&S Companies and the City of Rome to complete infrastructure and transportation improvements to the Triangle Site, supporting up to 3.9 million square feet of developable area.

Positioned adjacent to Wolfspeed and Micron, Oneida County's 'Triangle Site' at Griffiss is positioned to be the state's premier semiconductor supply chain campus. This is the largest shovel-ready site in the state. Development will unlock up to 2.6 million square feet of new construction and has the potential for 3,000 new jobs.



SANDY CREEKS CLEAN WATER PLANNING **THE RESULTS ARE IN!**

SANDY CREEK TOWN HALL

1992 HARWOOD DRIVE, SANDY CREEK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Zoom option available

Clean Water Planning

SANDY CREEKS WATERSHED

**Do you live or work in Adams, Ellisburg,
Lorraine, Rodman, Worth, Sandy Creek,
Boylston, Pinckney, or Rutland?**

These results pertain to you!

Jefferson and Oswego County Soil and Water
Conservation Districts spent a year sampling
waterways for sediments, nutrients, and other
pollutants.

**Be one of the first to know and provide
valuable community input on the next steps!**

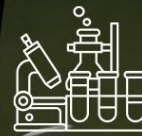
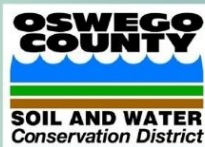
Your engagement and input are invaluable!



Light refreshments will be served

Scan me to register online or go to
tinyurl.com/SandyCreeksMeeting

Register by Phone: (315) 785-2380



*RSVPs requested,
not required*



Annual Burn Ban March 16 through May 14

The annual state ban on outdoor burning begins on March 16 and extends through May 14. With the winter season this year providing much less snow than normal across Tug Hill, the wildfire danger may start earlier than normal, so the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is “advocating extra vigilance before the burn ban goes into effect”. Open burning remains the single greatest cause of wildfires in New York.

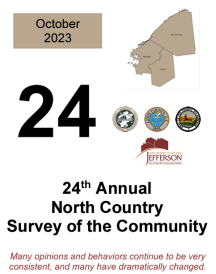
Since the spring burn ban was instituted in 2009, the eight-year annual average number of spring fires decreased by 42.6 percent from 2009 to 2018. Even with the decrease, each year DEC Forest Rangers continue to extinguish dozens of wildfires that burn hundreds of acres. In addition, at the mainly volunteer fire departments in the region, members must leave their jobs and families to respond to wildfires caused by illegal debris fires. Please be cognizant of the dangers of spring burning and refrain from outdoor fires during the burn ban.

The DEC posts a daily [fire danger rating map](#) as soon as there is a moderate risk anywhere in NY State. Violators of the state’s open burning regulations are subject to both criminal and civil enforcement actions, with a minimum fine of \$500 for the first offense.

For more information about NY State’s burn ban and information about the open burning regulations in general check out the Commission’s [white paper](#) or check out the DEC’s “[FIREWISE New York](#)” or “[Open Burning](#)” webpages.

Now Available: “24th Annual North Country Survey of the Community” Results and Analysis

In the last few weeks, the *Center for Community Studies* at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Jefferson Community College released the 24th annual North Country Survey of the Community. Conducted in 2023, the purpose of the annual survey is to gauge the attitudes and opinions of a representative sample of adult citizens in a tri-county area (Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties). These findings provide insight into local citizens’ quality-of-life issues of importance.



The data collection for the North Country Annual Survey of the Community provides an opportunity for undergraduate students at Jefferson Community College to meaningfully participate in a real, research-based learning experience. Professional faculty and staff at the *Center for Community Studies* handle question-phrasing, question-inclusion versus omission, and then the final handling of data, statistical analysis, and reporting.

The report is available to read at the SUNY Jefferson website: click the link [here](#), and scroll down to reach the “Latest Annual Survey” section.

NYS Town Clerk’s Association Conference Registration Open

The NYS Town Clerk’s Association (NYSTCA) will hold their annual conference in Albany at the Crowne Plaza, the Desmond from April 21-24. Classes run the gamut from basic classes for new clerks to current interest topics and classes to help any clerk learn new skills. Presentations on special elections, cyber threat resilience, NYS Retirement, minutes, hybrid meetings, sexual harassment, FOIL and many others are on the agenda, along with presentations from DEC and the Dept. of State Division of Cemeteries.

Credits for both the Association of Towns Certified Town Officials and NYSTCA Registered Municipal Clerk programs are available for certain of the available classes. Full and partial scholarships are also available to help cover registration and lodging costs, with applications due March 29.

Registration for the full conference is \$125 for members (\$225 non-members), or \$90 (\$165 non-members) for a one-day registration. Meals are not included in the conference registration price but have a separate fee. There are also registration packages which include lodging, conference, and meals. The deadline to register is April 15. For the conference schedule and registration information visit the [NYS Town Clerk’s Association website](#).

Contact Us

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To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org.

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