

Pulaski Awarded \$10 Million Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant

The Central NY Regional Economic Development Council recently announced the winners of the eighth round of Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward grants, and the village of Pulaski is the recipient of a \$10 million DRI award – congratulations!

Located in northern Oswego County on the Salmon River, Pulaski is most known as a destination for salmon fishing enthusiasts. Strategically located at the crossroads of Interstate 81 and State Routes 11 and 13, as well as being connected to a freight railroad line running from Canada to Syracuse, Pulaski is easily accessible. The village is also a short distance away from the eastern shore of Lake Ontario and the recently designated Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary. Proposed projects in the village's [DRI application](#) include matching private investments in housing development, retail space upgrades, child-care improvements, hotel space expansion, as well as non-profit and public projects.



Looking northeast over the Salmon River from State Route 11 in downtown Pulaski.

Pulaski has now formed a local planning committee, made up of municipal representatives, community leaders and other stakeholders

and supported by a team of private sector experts and state planners to refine a strategic investment plan. The planning process should be completed by the end of 2025, with projects chosen and construction beginning in 2026.

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15 Years!

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE 2025

MONDAY, JUNE 2
6:00-8:00 PM

Registration Coming Soon

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
9:00AM-3:30PM

WATERSHED WELCOME: AN
EVENING OF CONNECTION &
CONVERSATION

EXPLORING OUR WATERSHED:
INSIGHTS, INNOVATIONS, AND
ACTION

HILTON GARDEN INN WATERTOWN

1290 ARSENAL ST, WATERTOWN, NY 13601

Commission Board Meeting

Monday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Annsville office,
4225 State Route 69, Taberg, 13471. The public is welcome to attend.

Boonville Comprehensive Plan Open House May 8

The town and village of Boonville are updating their comprehensive plan with help from Labella Associates and are seeking input from the public. A public open house will be held on Thursday, May 8, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Erwin Public Library, 104 Schuyler St, Boonville, 13309.

The open house will be in a come-and-go format to allow flexibility for attendees. The event will give residents a chance to share ideas, identify local challenges and opportunities, and help shape the vision and goals for Boonville's future. Community input is a key part of the planning process and the development of the comprehensive plan.



Covered bridge in Boonville.



RACOG Search for Associate Circuit Rider

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) is looking for a new contract associate circuit rider to help provide meeting coverage and share information between municipal board meetings and the RACOG coordinator. The associate would cover approximately two to three meetings a month for municipalities in Jefferson/Lewis Counties along the Black River on the eastern side of the Tug Hill region. The contract would take effect June 1, 2025. For more information or to express interest in the position, contact Mickey Dietrich, mick-ey@tughill.org, (315) 681-5023.

Spring Raptor Migration Over Lake Ontario

On April 10, the Tug Hill Commission partnered with [Braddock Bay Raptor Research](#) (BBRR) for the fourth and final installment of the 2025 Winter Wildlife Webinar series. This presentation on the raptor species that inhabit or migrate through New York as part of their natural range was preceded by separate programs on invasive sea lamprey, native bat species, and the American Chestnut tree.

Daena Ford, president of BBRR, presented to over 40 participants via Zoom. Key highlights of the presentation included an explanation of what traits distinguish raptor species, anthropogenic and disease-related challenges these species face, which raptor species we see in New York and how to identify males, females, and juveniles in the field, and ways for interested persons to become involved in bird conservation and hawkwatching. The presentation concluded with a surprise guest star for the question-and-answer period: a broad-winged hawk. The hawk is one of the four permitted, non-releasable raptors used at BBRR for education and outreach programs. She came under the organization's care after being struck by a car. To see the Zoom video recording, click [here](#). All the Winter Wildlife Webinar Series videos have been added to one playlist on YouTube for easy viewing.



Daena Ford, BBRR President, with a broad-winged hawk.

Daena also provided two resources for prospective hawk-watchers, including a nestbox [camera](#) to the Peregrine Falcon pair Nova and Neander in Rochester, and the Hawkwatch [website](#), where observatories and other organizations report their counts and observations. Derby Hill Bird Observatory, which is just west of Tug Hill on the shore of Lake Ontario in Oswego County, is well-known locally and their daily counts are available on the Hawkwatch website.

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NYSERDA Energy Storage Webinar May 7

New York's Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group (FSWG) is hosting an informational public webinar for local government officials navigating energy storage development in their communities on May 7, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. The FSWG will discuss critical fire safety considerations, regulatory updates, and best practices in the field, along with specific recommendations for local action.

The FSWG has been working to strengthen safety measures for lithium-ion battery energy storage systems. This session will provide insights into the work that has been done so far and highlight immediate actions that can be taken by authorities having jurisdiction to ensure the safe and responsible development of energy storage in their communities. These measures are especially important during the interim period before the next iteration of the state's uniform code takes effect.



Click [here](#) to register. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation, and the webinar will be recorded and posted on the [FSWG website](#) as soon as practicable.

Zoo New York Earth Day Celebration

NYS Tug Hill Commission staff joined Zoo New York on April 19 for their Earth Day at Thompson Park in Watertown. In addition to Zoo New York's ongoing mission to provide education and care for native New York animal species and landscapes, the day's events featured special crafts, activities, and outreach on ways people can get involved in their communities and give back to their natural surroundings. The day's presentations included two special guests: a traditional Haudenosaunee storyteller from the Onondaga Turtle Clan based out of Rochester, New York, as well as Newt, the turtle-tracking dog who assists in turtle conservation research.

The Tug Hill Commission's display included a trivia wheel, regional map handouts, WPBS's "Park It! Tug Hill" video, biodegradable coasters with a mix of flower seeds, and copies of the Tug Hill Recreation Guide. While the Tug Hill Recreation Guide is a resource for year-round, non-motorized recreation opportunities in the region, there's no time like the spring to start planning for which trails to hit! To see the digital version of the recreation guide including our interactive waterfall map, visit www.visittughill.com/.



Planner Maria Covey at the commission's vendor table.

2025 Municipal Bootcamp Webinar May 22 - SEQR

The MRB Group and Hancock Estabrook are offering free annual training sessions to assist local governments, municipal officials, and planning and zoning board members. The next webinar, "**Environmentally Speaking – The Nuts and Bolts of SEQR**" will be held on Thursday, May 22 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Register [here](#).

Overall, the program includes ten hours of remote training designed to provide a comprehensive education that encompasses all aspects of municipal governance. Each program in the series will be provided remotely on the fourth Thursday of each month with subject matter experts from MRB Group and knowledgeable attorneys from Hancock Estabrook, LLP. Many topics can qualify for the education requirements for members of planning boards and zoning boards of appeals, who need four hours of training credits each year, upon approval of individual municipalities.

Is Your Municipality's Contractor Registered with the DOL?

All contractors and subcontractors submitting bids or performing construction work on public work projects or private projects covered by [Article 8 of the Labor Law](#) are required to register with the NYS Department of Labor (DOL) under [Labor Law Section 220-i](#).

Contractors need to register before submitting any new bids or commencing new work on a covered project on or after December 30, 2024. Subcontractors need to register before commencing new work on a covered project on or after December 30, 2024. DOL encourages all contractors and subcontractors to register as soon as possible to obtain a certificate of registration to avoid negatively impacting a bidding period or project schedule. For more information visit the NYSDOL [website](#).

Municipalities should confirm that any contractors or subcontractors performing construction work for their town or village are registered. By actively verifying compliance, potential issues can be avoided. Most contractors are already registered, so it is simply a matter of the boards checking during the bidding process or requiring proof of registration in the original bid requests.

Insurance-Related Work

It is important to note that if work is being completed through an insurance claim—such as storm damage repairs—this does **not** exempt a municipality from following standard procurement procedures. Any work funded by an insurance claim that falls under Article 8 must still comply with public bidding requirements and the DOL contractor registration process. Municipalities should treat these projects the same as any other public work by ensuring registered contractors are used and appropriate bidding protocols are followed.

To search the registry, click [here](#).

PUBLIC WORK CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR REGISTRY



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](#).