

**Executive Committee**

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Thomas McDonald, *Director*  
Lawrence Mierek, *Director*

**Municipal Projects Coordinator**

John Healt  
(315)941-2818  
[jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org)

[noccog.org](http://noccog.org)



**Announcements**

**Town Budget Workshops with Laird Petrie, August 7 & 29**

The NYS Tug Hill Commission and the Tug Hill Councils of Government are pleased to offer two Town Budget Workshops with Laird Petrie. Each no cost session will cover the same topics, with the first on Wednesday, August 7, at the Albion Municipal Building, 15 Bridge Street, Altmar, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. And the second session will be on Thursday, August 29, at the Boonville Municipal Building, 13149 NYS-12, Boonville, also from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



These workshops are designed to assist town officials in preparing their annual budgets. Topics to be discussed include:

- An overview of the budgetary responsibilities town officials
- How to develop a structurally balanced budget
- Key elements of the annual budget
- Tools available for assisting town officials in the budget process
- Monitoring and amending the annual budget
- Operating within the tax levy cap

A question and answer period will follow the session.

To register, call the Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2380, or email at [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org).

**Towns:** *Annsville ~ Ava ~ Boonville ~ Camden ~ Floyd ~ Forestport ~ Lee ~ Remsen ~ Steuben ~ Trenton ~ Vienna ~ Western*

**Villages:** *Boonville ~ Camden ~ Holland Patent ~ Remsen ~ Sylvan Beach*

## **‘Cemetery 101’ Workshop, August 7**

The NYS Department of State [Division of Cemeteries](#) will hold a “Cemetery 101” workshop on Wednesday, August 7 from 4 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Adams Fire Department, 6 North Main St., Adams, 13605. The workshop will cover the basic aspects of successful cemetery operations, provide an opportunity to meet with Division of Cemeteries staff and ask questions and gain insight into best practices. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP, but walk-ins are welcome.

Additional information and a link to RSVP for the Adams workshop can be found at [dos.ny.gov/cemeteries-101](https://dos.ny.gov/cemeteries-101).

## **Vacant Property Clearance Grant Program**

The NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR) is currently accepting applications to its [Vacant Property Clearance Program](#) (VPCP). Eligible applicants are non-entitlement units of general local government (county, town, city, or village), excluding metro- politan cities, urban counties, and Indian Tribes that are designated entitlement communities. A list of eligible communities is available on the OCR [website](#). Joint applications between two or more eligible local governments may be submitted, where the joint effort is required to solve the problem.

The VPCP provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the clearance, demolition, and removal of blighted buildings in commercial and mixed-use neighborhoods that pose a threat to public health and safety. These funds are intended to provide assistance for “demolition-only” activities where a qualified end-use has not been identified or where the property will remain vacant post clearance. Activities will fall into one of two categories:

- Slum/Blight Area (SBA) – Clearance and/or demolition of one or more buildings and/or structures in an area officially designated by the grantee that meets the definition of a slum, blighted, deteriorated or deteriorating area.
- Slum/Blight Spot (SBS) – Clearance and/or demolition of a single building or structure to address and arrest a specific instance of blight or deterioration. An aggregation of scattered spots may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Interested applicants must complete a two-step process, beginning with a pre-application form within the NYS [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#). Based upon the results of the consultation and the pre-submission information, the applicant may be invited to submit a full application for funding within the CFA. Applications will be accepted, and awards made on a rolling basis through December 31, 2024, or until all funds are committed.

## **Gravel and Base Materials Webinar, August 13**



The base of a local road is literally the foundation upon which a highway is built. In this no cost webinar, join the Cornell Local Roads Program, the NYS Department of Transportation, and presenter David Orr, P.E., who will provide a review of soils as they relate to local road construction with a demonstration of simple tests you can use to check the quality of your gravel.

For more information, check out the Cornell Local Roads Program training [webpage](#), or click [here](#) to register.

## OSC Government Accounting Schools

Join the Office of the New York State Comptroller and The Academy for New York State's Local Officials as they present a multi-day school designed to familiarize participants with the basic concepts of governmental accounting and give them a working knowledge of basic bookkeeping procedures such as understanding debits and credits, a discussion of the modified accrual system of accounting, the practice of maintaining the books and records, developing and accounting for the annual budget, as well as the year-end closing process.



There are two online sessions offered on multiple days. *Introduction to Governmental Accounting* is scheduled for September 5 & 6, and again on November 20 & 21. *Accounting Principles and Procedures* is scheduled for October 8 & 9, and again on December 11 & 12. The sessions run from 9 am to 3 pm each day.

These classes are geared for New York State local officials, board members and employees of Counties, Cities, Towns, Villages, Fire Districts, School Districts/BOCES, Public Libraries, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other local special districts.

**Registrations close 3 weeks prior to class start date and seating is limited for each session.** The cost to register is \$85 per local government or district official, board member and employee, and \$170 for all others.

For more information or to register for the classes, click [here](#). For questions, please email [localtraining@osc.ny.gov](mailto:localtraining@osc.ny.gov).

## Real Property Tax Collection Webinar, August 22



NEW YORK STATE  
TOWN CLERKS  
ASSOCIATION

Just in time for the upcoming tax season, the New York State Town Clerks Association and the Association of Towns of New York State are presenting a no cost webinar, *Hot Topics in Real Property Tax Collection*, on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:30 am.

This one hour interactive course, presented by Katie Hodgdon of the Association of Towns, will cover the legislative changes in 2024 that directly impact collecting officers, as well as provide an overview of the tax collection process and delve into some recent hot topics, including the length of collection for school taxes, whether one must accept post-dated checks, when it is appropriate to require a fee for a duplicate bill request and pending changes to the penalty structure, among other things.

For more information, visit the NYSTCA's training [webpage](#), or click [here](#) to register.

## Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner September 19

Invitations have been sent for the Tug Hill Commission's annual dinner, which is scheduled for Thursday, September 19 at the Hayloft at Moonshine Farm in Port Leyden. The cost is \$30 per person and a cash bar is offered. A social hour, with musical entertainment provided by the Cincinnati Creek Band, starts at 5pm, followed with a buffet dinner by the Pine Tree Inn. The scheduled speaker is Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Katie Petronis. This year's dinner is being held in conjunction with the NYS Association of Conservation Commissions annual conference reception.

RSVP's need to be received by September 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information, or if you did not receive an invitation and would like to join, please call the Commission office at (315) 785-2380.

**Towns:** [Annsville](#) ~ [Ava](#) ~ [Boonville](#) ~ [Camden](#) ~ [Floyd](#) ~ [Forestport](#) ~ [Lee](#) ~ [Remsen](#) ~ [Steuben](#) ~ [Trenton](#) ~ [Vienna](#) ~ [Western](#)

**Villages:** [Boonville](#) ~ [Camden](#) ~ [Holland Patent](#) ~ [Remsen](#) ~ [Sylvan Beach](#)

## **NYCOM Fall Training School for City and Village Officials, September 16-20**



Join the New York Conference of Mayors as they present their annual fall training school for city and village officials, September 16 through the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs. There are pricing options for the full conference or for attending individual days. Registrations fees will increase after August 28<sup>th</sup>.

There are four days of concurrent sessions, including such topics as: Understanding Each Officials Roles and Responsibilities: Local Government 101, House on Fire: Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Service Hot Topics, The Freedom of Information Law: Everything You Need to Know About Processing Requests for Records, Where Has Everyone Gone: Recruiting and Retaining Staff, Finally Clean: Municipal Water and Sewer Administration, Working with Your Town and County, and Pro-Housing Communities: What Are They and Why it is Important for Obtaining State Grants.

For more information, to view the full agenda, or to register, visit NYCOM's Fall Training School webpage, [here](#).

## **NOCCOG Annual Fall Dinner Meeting, October 17**

Save the date! The Annual Fall Dinner and Meeting for the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will be held Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Woods Valley Ski Area. The scheduled speaker is Steve Smith, from the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District (MVEDD).



More details to follow!

## **Remp Sawyer Community Fund announces \$57,446 in new grant awards**

Thirteen community projects and organizations that benefit Boonville, Constableville, and Westernville residents will share \$57,446 in funding from the Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation this year.

Support will help build programs and fund projects that broadly impact the quality of life for residents in the three communities. Eighteen organizations applied for funding in the seventh year of the grant program.

The following organizations will receive 2024 grant funding this year:

Boonville Cemetery Association, Constableville for Tomorrow, Boonville Black River Canal Museum, Dodge-Pratt-Northam Art and Community Center, Adirondack Community Chorus, Erwin Library and Institute, Boonville Concert Band, Village of Boonville, Constable Hall Association, Western Town Library, Boonville Search and Rescue Association, Volunteer Transportation Center, and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

Thanks to the enduring generosity of the Sawyers, the fund has provided more than \$350,000 in support to 102 projects and organizations since grant-making efforts began in 2018.

The Kenneth V. and Jeannette Remp Sawyer Community Fund was established in 2018 as a geographic- specific fund to enhance and strengthen the communities of Boonville, Constableville and Westernville. Through the community fund, the Sawyer family established a lasting charitable resource that impacts these communities in perpetuity.