

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



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## **Announcements**

### 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 9:30am to 3:00pm, 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. Discover the keys to success, navigate federal and state requirements with ease, and gain insights into common pitfalls.

There is no cost to attend the webinar, unless professional development hours (PDHs) are needed. 3.5 PDHs are available and require a \$20 registration fee. No partial credit for PDH will be given. The webinar format will be 4 one-hour blocks with two 15-minute breaks, and a 1-hour break for lunch.

Click here to [register](#).

### **NOCCOG Scholarship Program**

The Northern Oneida County council of Governments is very pleased to announce the NOCCOG Scholarship program is continuing in 2024. The program, which started last year, is available to graduating seniors in the NOCCOG area school districts that are attending college in the fall. The current schools involved with the program are Adirondack, Camden, Holland Patent and Remsen.



The award is given to recognize the importance of local government, as well as the often-unacknowledged service, commitment, and dedication of community members who are essential in the daily operation of our towns and villages. Ideally, the candidate has been involved in school or community organizations, volunteering their time, usually behind the scenes, without the desire for recognition. The award is given with the hope the recipient will someday be involved in their local government.

The \$500 award is given upon the successful completion of their first college semester.

If you know of a deserving senior, encourage them to check with their local guidance office and apply!

For more information on the program, please contact John Healt, 315-941-2818, or email, [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).

## NOCCOG Global Positioning System (GPS) Mapping Program

GPS mapping services are offered to the municipalities of the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) at no charge. NOCCOG contracted employees will work with department heads or representatives to determine what data is to be collected and mapped. Collected information will then be provided digitally and can be updated at any time.

Public works departments routinely manage vital infrastructure equipment as well as items such as streets and roadways, parks, traffic signs and signals, street lighting locations, noting the maintenance, age, replacement schedules. GPS service enables municipalities to efficiently collect and store this information, manage, analyze, and deliver data on-demand for a streamlined workflow. This offers municipalities the ability to integrate this information, making their record keeping accurate and up to date.

For information on how GPS mapping may be beneficial for your municipality, contact John Healt at (315) 941-2818, or email [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).

## 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 Community Foundation 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 5pm Friday, April 19, 2023. 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](mailto:max@nnycf.org) or 315-782-7110.

## NYSLTAP - CLRP Foundational Webinars Continue

Join the Cornell Local Roads Program in their ongoing series of free Foundational Webinars focused on the important principles key to local highway agency operations and management. Each webinar offers a convenient way to learn the basics of a particular topic. Taken together, they cover the foundation of local highway issues.



- 4/4 - National Center for Rural Road Safety - [Communication Roadblocks](#) (1pm-2pm)
- 4/4 - NHLTAP - [Free & Almost Free Tools to Improve Public Works Operations](#) (9 am - 10:30am)
- 4/9 - [Winter Operations Myths, Realities and Options for Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Infrastructure](#) (10:30am - 12pm)
- 5/1 - NHLTAP - [Selling Your Pavement Management Plan to Municipal Officials and Your Community](#) (11am - 12pm)
- 5/9 - NHLTAP - [Introduction to RoadResource.org Tools for Pavement Preservation](#) (11am - 12pm)
- 5/22 - FHWA - [Equitable Data Analysis](#) (1pm)

Most online webinars and virtual workshops are worth [Road Master](#) credit based on the length of the session.

## 2024 Town Finance School



Registration is now open for the Annual Town Finance School, sponsored by the Association of Towns of the State of New York and the Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability. The sessions will be held May 7 & 8 in Geneva, and again on May 14 & 16 in Albany. There is a cost to attend, and pre-registration ends April 30<sup>th</sup>. The training is open to all, but there is a discount given to Association of Town members.

Topics to be discussed are: Developing and Managing the Town Budget, Common Town Audit Finding, NYSLRS: Reporting Elected and Appointed Officials, Establishing and Accounting for Reserves, Ask the Auditor - Ask the Attorney, Navigating Town-wide and Part-town Charges, and Common Pitfalls in Budgeting. You can view the agenda with course descriptions [here](#).



For more information, visit [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org). Registration for either school can be completed online [here](#), or click here for a copy of the registration [form](#).

For questions, contact Executive Meeting Coordinator, Patty Kebea at 518-465-7933 or e-mail at [pkebea@nytowns.org](mailto:pkebea@nytowns.org).

### Tug Hill Commission Welcomes New Board Member

At the Monday, March 18 commission board meeting in Pulaski, commissioners welcomed the newest board member, Robert Keller, to his first meeting. Bob was recently appointed to the Tug Hill Commission board by Governor Hochul. At the same time, chairman Jan Bogdanowicz was reappointed by Governor Hochul to his fourth term on the board.



Bob and his wife Carol are 30+ year residents of Boonville. Bob is a Vietnam War veteran and retired from a career with the Social Security Administration. He is also a pilot who has flown for conservation organizations around the Northeast and the nation through a not-for-profit called Light Hawk. His community activities over the years include current board member and immediate past chair of the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, past board member of Trout Unlimited - Tug Hill Black River Chapter, past council member and chair of the Black River-St. Lawrence Resource Conservation & Development Council, and former Tug Hill Resources - Investment for Tomorrow (THRIFT) council member. Bob has been a key volunteer in developing and building the Tug Hill Traverse trail.

At Monday's meeting, Chairman Bogdanowicz recalled his first time working directly with Bob, testifying together in Albany in 2011 when the Tug Hill Commission faced budgetary issues. Commissioner Gerry Ritter, also from Oneida County, acknowledged the benefit of having a second Oneida County representative to the commission board. Welcome Bob!

### Tug Hill Winter Wildlife Webinar Series, Part 4; Brook Trout



Join the Tug Hill Commission on April 11, at 6 pm for the final webinar in the four-part Tug Hill Winter Wildlife Webinar Series, *Brook Trout Conservation & Genetics on Tug Hill and the Adirondacks*.

Presenters include Paul Miller, Trout Unlimited vice-president, Region 6, and Chris Murphy, president of Trout Power. Both will present on brook trout, brook trout genetics, and the work that has been done around this topic on Tug Hill and in the Adirondack Park.

For more information, contact Gabriel Yerden, [gabriel@tughill.org](mailto:gabriel@tughill.org) or (315) 785-2387. Or click [here](#) to register.

Previous webinars are available on the Tug Hill Commission's [Past Workshop Presentations](#) webpage.