



Planning in Delaware County

ISSUE 1

2009

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Greater Catskill Flood Remediation Program By Jessica Ulmer

In July of 2008, the 2008-2009 New York State Budget provided \$15 million to the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation to develop and administer the Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program. The money will be used to purchase homes that have been damaged by flooding since 2004 and are considered to be in danger of flooding again in the future. Delaware County is one of the eleven counties in the Southern Tier and Catskill regions that will receive a portion of this funding. The Delaware County Planning Department placed a press release in several local papers to inform the public

of the voluntary program. Eighteen property owners responded to the press release and submitted their paperwork to the Planning Department for review. Properties are located in Sidney, Walton, Hancock, Hamden and Margaretville. Due to the Programs required criteria for each property and available funding, only nine of the properties were approved. As in the previous flood buyout programs the County has participated in, the homes will be purchased and then demolished. No buildings will be permitted on the vacant properties, they will remain forever green.

Delaware County Agricultural Districts By Kent Manuel

Delaware County has designated May 01st-May 30th, 2009 as the 30-day annual agricultural district inclusion period for 2009. If you have land that is being used for agriculture and you would like to participate in the program, the County will be accepting requests during this 30 day period.

The agricultural district program is designed to provide support for agricultural operations. There are currently eight agricultural districts spanning Delaware County. Benefits of the program include protection against overly restrictive local laws, government funded acquisition or construction projects, and private nuisance suits involving agricultural practices.

Regardless of whether or not your land is in an agricultural district, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets Law provides for a real property tax exemption for qualifying agricultural operations. To be eligible

for an agricultural tax exemption the farm or agricultural business must consist of at least seven (7) acres with average gross sales of \$10,000 annually. Owners of rented land in agricultural use may also qualify. If eligible for an exemption, the farmer pays varying tax rates depending on soil productivity classifications as determined by the County Soil & Water Conservation District. Once part of a district, lands must remain in agricultural use for at least 8 years, or be subject to a tax penalty. For more information on how to receive agricultural assessments in your area, contact your Town Assessor.

To request inclusion of land into an agricultural district, please contact Kent Manuel of the Delaware County Planning Department @ 607-746-2944 or email kent.manuel@co.delaware.ny.us by May 30th, 2009.

The Delaware County Planning Department website URL has changed. The new URL is delawarecountypanningdepartment.com. Along with the new URL, the website has been revamped for easier navigation and quicker loading time. On the main page of the site Delaware County residents may also view a community calendar that shows the dates of town and village board meetings for their respective municipalities.

ARC WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

The Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board has scheduled six workshops for those who anticipate applying for funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The workshops have been scheduled during the second part of April and early May, as shown below:

April 21, 2009 – Otsego County Offices, Middlefield from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

April 21, 2009 – Delaware County Office Building, Delhi from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

April 23, 2009 – Cortland County Planning Offices, Cortland from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

April 29, 2009 – Chenango Town Hall, NYS Route

12 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

April 30, 2009 – Tioga County Offices, Owego from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

May 1, 2009 – Schoharie County Planning Offices, Cobleskill from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

You only need to attend one session. Each workshop will present the application process and schedule to be followed in 2009, application materials, and insight concerning the process of setting funding priorities. The workshops should last about 2 hours each. For further information or questions regarding the ARC program please contact the Delaware County Planning Office at (607) 746-2944.

DELAWARE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Welcome Michael Jastremski!

The Department would like to introduce Michael Jastremski, our new Planner. Michael has been hired to work with communities in the County to implement the recommendations of the East and West Branch Stream Corridor Management Plan. This program is being done in cooperation with Soil & Water Conservation District and New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Michael has roots in Delaware County; his grandmother Margaret Cycon was born in Walton, and moved at a very young age to Sidney, and his mother Karen Cycon-Dermody was born in Sidney. Michael is returning to the area after several years attending universities in various places, including the Adirondacks, western Montana, and most recently Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he earned a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture. We are pleased to have him aboard.

Delaware County Snowmobile Trails

By Jessica Ulmer

Delaware County was approved for 347 miles of trail for the 2008-2009 Snowmobile Grant that is funded by the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Office. The County will receive \$142,875.00 to disperse amongst the seven clubs who maintain the State snowmobile trails in Delaware County. The State sponsored clubs in Delaware County are Otego Snow-Goers, DOCS Snowriders, Central Catskill Trail Association, Hamden Hill Ridge Riders, Maywood Snowriders, Delaware Valley Ridge Riders, and the D&D Snowdiggers. For more information about contacting a local snowmobile club near you please contact Jessica Ulmer at 746-2944.

