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Town of Chemung: Fortuna grant pays dividends for FD

By WARREN HOWELER Times Managing Editor

CHEMUNG - Thanks to a grant from Fortuna Energy Inc., the Chemung Fire Department now has a new piece of equipment to utilize when battling brush fires and performing woodland rescues.

The Chemung Fire Department recently received a \$10,599 grant from Fortuna Energy that the company used to purchase a John Deere Gator.

The vehicle was purchased from Rolling Acres in Wysox and was put into service by the department Wednesday, said Fire Chief Dan Sewalt.

In fact, on Wednesday the department held a special gathering to unveil the vehicle and to thank officials from Fortuna Energy for the grant that was bestowed upon the fire company.

The gathering included a small luncheon that was attended by Fortuna Energy President Jim O'Driscoll and Fortuna Energy Community and Media Relations Administrator Teresa DeGarmo as well as several members of the fire department.

During that luncheon O'Driscoll cut a cake that was specially made to celebrate the grant and the new piece of equipment. The cake featured a picture of the John Deere Gator.

"On behalf of the Chemung Volunteer Fire Company, we want to thank Fortuna Energy from the bottom of our hearts," Chemung Deputy Fire Chief Karl Bowers said to O'Driscoll. "This is a huge milestone for us."

According to information provided by Fortuna Energy Inc., the company was founded in October 2002 and is the most successful natural gas exploration and production company in New York.



Chemung Fire Chief Dan Sewalt, right, and Fortuna Energy Inc. President Jim O'Driscoll, center, sit in the Chemung Fire Department's new John Deere Gator vehicle. At left is Chemung Deputy Fire Chief Karl Bowers. The vehicle was purchased through a grant the department received from Fortuna Energy Inc. Photo by Warren Howeler

