

REMEMBER CCCC IS HERE TO PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- DETAILS ON HOW TO CONTRIBUTE ARE AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. THANKS!
- CURRENT MEMBERS: HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?
- PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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April General Meeting And Board Elections

There will be a General Meeting of the Concerned Citizens and Board Member Election on Thursday, April 6, 2006 at the Franklinville Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

Please notify all interested parties and pass the word around that we need nominees to run for the board. There are several vacancies that need to be filled.

Farmersville Questions

The Farmersville Town's Draft Zoning Ordinance has been given to town board members. What is the status? Do residents care to know about it? Do they know if it has been drafted or what it says? When will it be made public and when will residents be asked for their input? The town board meetings are the third Monday of the month at 7 pm. The next meeting is Mar. 20. The April meeting is on the 17th.

Radioactive Waste Contamination Progress & Appeal for Help

State Senator Cathy Young has provided \$54,000 of \$69,000 needed to study the full cost of the clean-up options for the West Valley nuclear waste site.

We urge you to contact the following members of the WNY delegation to fund the remaining amount through budget member items or other grants.

Please write or email the following Western New York legislators this message, using the text below, or any of the following introduction.

Joseph Giglio (Assembly) 716-373-7103
Robin Schimminger (Assembly) 716-873-2540, Sam Hoyt 716-852-2795, Paul Tokasz 716-852-2791, Mary Lou Rath (716) 633-0331. Email addresses can be found on CCCC's web site.

You can use this sample message:

To Western New York Senators and Assemblymembers:

In early 2007, the U.S. Dept. of Energy will invite comments on a draft environmental impact statement assessing various cleanup options at the West Valley dump site. An important part of the impacts assessment is the cost of each cleanup option to be considered. It is likely DOE will assess costs over a relatively short period, between ten and 100 years. In contrast to DOE's approach, Full Cost Accounting (FCA) includes economic forecasts much further into the future—closer to the length of hazard of the waste being managed. The FCA approach is closer to the true cost, particularly when considering minimal cleanup options. That's because the cost of leaving substantial volumes of contaminated waste in the ground includes the impact of erosion and transport of those wastes downstream in Cattaraugus Creek and to Lake Erie. The FCA approach takes into account the exposure of hikers, swimmers, sports fishing enthusiasts, and those who eat fish caught from these waters. DOE's study is unlikely to take these costs into account. In order to prepare meaningful comments on this issue, we need the facts. The FCA study will provide the facts on actual long-term costs, and thus allow a fair review of the cost of full cleanup. Without such facts, the involved agencies may never

consider the real costs of a lesser cleanup.

Or, use this introduction:

We, the undersigned, request your support of a Full Cost Accounting Study (FCA) on West Valley cleanup options and respectfully request your co-sponsorship of a state budget member item to fund such study. Early next year, the government will release its WV final cleanup plan for public comment. The waste at WV will be radioactive for over ten thousand years, and it is essential to have an independent study comprehensively evaluate the costs of various cleanup options, including the true costs of monitoring and maintaining buried waste over a long time period. The study will also evaluate site erosion factors and the adequacy of the site-wide erosion control proposal.

This economic and geological analysis will not be included in the government's study, and furthermore, it is important to provide an independent analysis at this critical juncture. We believe the FCA study is a useful investment of taxpayer funds to ensure that the public and policymakers have comprehensive information on the economic consequences of WV cleanup options before determining the final cleanup method. Therefore, we are asking the WNY delegation of the NYS legislature to consider our request to obtain funding for a WV Full Cost Accounting Study. It will also provide important cost estimates on the amount of federal cleanup funding needed for the proper cleanup of the site. Thank you for considering our request.

Some Bad News

Leah Burlingame died Saturday. As you may know, she was the widow who was talked into selling her land within a short time after her husband's death in 1989. She was given \$35,000 for the farm, the one near the intersection of Kingsbury Hill Rd. and Rte.98. The only place she could find to live was in a trailer park in Franklinville. She was a steadfast warrior and community organizer and ready to point out who was on the wrong side of the cause. Her home, one of the oldest in town, now lies in neglect.

Efforts Continue to Prevent the Gravel Mine

As anticipated, on March 10 the DEC issued a state mining permit to Giardini Brothers Construction Co. The permit is accompanied by a revised statement explaining why potential impacts from the project would be "non-significant".

CCCC has posted the statement on the website.

Notwithstanding the DEC permit, the Town of Allegany and the City of Olean must decide whether to approve portions of the project within their jurisdictions. In February 2006, the Olean Common Council approved an easement allowing Giardini Brothers Construction Co. to take heavy equipment from Gargoyle Rd. in Allegany to a closed 20.5-acre gravel mine site in Olean. The company proposes to enlarge this site to 70 acres and mine gravel there for 74 years. Soil mining by the company on the site has already begun and can be seen from the Allegheny River Valley Trail.

Mining on the Olean side ("East Site"), where 36 acres would be excavated for 35 years, is prohibited by the zoning code, which designates the area a "Waterfront Conservation District," where new development must be "in harmony with the conservation of the district's general recreational and open space character and the historic environmental areas adjacent to the creek and river."

Local officials should determine whether the project qualifies for approval within a given zoning district. The zoning ordinance elaborates standards, which must be met, before a special exception permit may be issued. These standards are in addition to environmental standards under DEC regulations or under SEQRA. Current zoning in Olean does not allow either soil or gravel mining on the Giardini Company's Olean site.

A project may be approved by the DEC and still be disapproved by a local government body, in which case the project cannot be built or operated.

The public should send comments to the City of Olean Common Council and Planning Board, the Olean Zoning Board of Appeals, the Allegany City Planning Board, and the City of Allegany Zoning board of Appeals, each of which must approve the

project.

Olean Common Council Members—

Glenn VanDixon, gvdixon@cityofolean.org; Michael Kayes, mkayes@cityofolean.org; Ray Wangelin- Council President, rwangelin@cityofolean.org; Linda Edstrom, ledstrom@cityofolean.org; Jeffrey Steiner, jsteiner@cityofolean.org; Rick Smith, rsmith@cityofolean.org; John Padlo, jpadlo@cityofolean.org.

Olean City Planning Board Members—

Tom Barnes, Chair, Craig Polston, David Winicki, Andy Waterman, Kathy Driscoll, Phillip Smith, Jerry Steiner

Olean Zoning Board of Appeals —

LaDorna Fox, Chair (372-4858), Bob Moser (373-3650) Casey Jones (372-3772), Ralph Marra (372-3406), Jeff Gursky (373-

abandoned municipal
water wells



3746), Phil Trask (372-0818), Charlotte Hardy (373-5119)

Allegany Town Planning Board Members—

John E Hare 3678 Karl Rd Allegany, NY 14706-9632 Phone: (716) 373-2547 Robert Phillips Buffalo Road Ext Allegany, NY 14706 Phone: (716) 372-0524 James (Jim) Elling 4028 S Nine Mile Rd Allegany, NY 14706-9713 Phone: (716) 372-2351, Richard (Rick) Kavanagh 21 Harriet St Allegany, NY 14706-1034 Phone: 716) 373-3570, Stephan Gollaher 4 Mile Rd, Allegany, NY 14706 (716) 373-2620

Allegany Zoning Board—

Donald Bigler, chair., Carol Ozzella, John Jones, Joseph Chamberlain, John Gangemi.

Update on Farmersville Landfill

Integrated Waste Systems of Buffalo proposes to build a 20 million ton landfill on Route 98 in Farmersville. However, an issues conference held after an earlier public comment period that ended in January 2004, brought out deficiencies in the IWS proposal involving potential impacts to wetlands and a downstream trout fishery. As a result, the DEC has added new requirements to apply for permits to disturb wetlands and to discharge water into Carpenter Brook, a tributary of Ischua Creek.

Held in April, 2004, over two days at the Machias Fire Hall, the issues conference considered petitions from opponents

of the proposal to hold a hearing on certain issues. Represented at the issues conference were a coalition called the Municipal Intervenor—Cattaraugus County, the city of Olean, the Town of Ischua and the Village of Franklinville—a group of individual landowners, Chautauqua County, Ischua Valley Estates, and Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County.

On August 27, 2004, Judge Casutto notified the petitioners that IWS applications for the new wetlands and water discharge permits require another public review. New petitions will be accepted, and the previous petitioners may supplement their petitions on any issues raised

by the new IWS applications.

A public notice providing instructions on how to petition or simply comment will be published. IWS has not advanced its application since the “2004” issues conference.

Should there continue to be no movement in IWS's application for much longer, it will be more and more questionable whether they have in fact abandoned the project.

Although this looks hopeful for us, we need to remember IWS can still continue their effort to promote their landfill, so we must stay vigilant.

Is the proposed NYS new and better bottle bill really better?

The proposed new and better bottle bill in New York State does not responsibly address the need to recycle waste. Grocery stores should not be the hubs for garbage collection. Waste belongs at the curbside or at a transfer station whereby all packaging in the form of plastic, glass, and metal are sorted and sent to recycling centers to be reprocessed for reuse. Consumers must recycle. Nationwide our government officials have an obligation to protect our health and welfare and to do so is to make the manufacturers responsible for the packaging that they produce.

Bottle returns to grocery stores in N. Y. already create sanitation issues...a place where one purchases and consumes fresh deli goods, baked goods, meat, and produce. The fact of the matter is that many of the return bottles are not rinsed and inside the containers one can find ants, spit, cigarette butts, and dead rodents. Now we are to return plastic juice and water bottles and more and this will be better? What about the empty yogurt containers, foam egg cartons, detergent bottles, vegetable cans, disposable products, and the like? Just because we have a lot of land for landfills in the U.S. do we find it so accommodating to be a throw-away society, yet perceive ourselves to be recyclers since we return our beverage containers and sort a portion of the packaging for curbside pick-up? It

seems reasonable to restructure our waste infrastructure by producing products that continually get recycled and reused, and reduce the need for landfills that bring negative impacts to our health. It will take us to demand it and our government officials to lead the direction.

According to the Food Industry Alliance of NYS, consumers will pay about 15 cents more for a bottle of juice, tea, or water, as 10 cents will go to finance the new bottle bill program and the other 5 cents will be the deposit. And to add to it the consumer has the inconvenience of hauling all of the empty bottles back to the grocery store. Lets ask our legislators to begin working with the manufacturers of all packaging and make them responsible for developing an infrastructure that will do the job right.

All packaging produced and purchased by the consumer should begin its recycling journey for curbside pickup or at the transfer station. From there the packaging should have a destination for recycling. Other places are doing this, as they have no more room for the wasteful packaging. The government must step up to the plate and take responsible control of the wasteful packaging that eventually ends up in a dump.

The United Kingdom and the European Union implemented laws a decade ago that make the manufactures of packaging waste be responsible. For more

information check www.wasteonline.org.uk/resources/InformationSheets/Legislation.htm. For curbside collection in Britain, residents have compartmentalized bins that sort the various recyclables, including compost materials! When you run out of room for storage of waste an alternative must be found and it appears this is the better solution to responsibly recycle.

In an editorial in June 2005 NYS Assembly majority leader Paul Tokasz states that the current bottle bill leaves behind 98 percent of the materials going into landfills and expanding the bill will only capture another .2 percent. Point-two percent over and above the current two percent that the current bottle bill keeps out of landfills, is not a whole lot bigger and better, nor does it address the real need to recycle everything. The January/February 2006 Real Money magazine lists 7 types of plastic used in food packaging, with 3 of them not widely recyclable and having adverse impacts on the food chain and environment, as well as having cancer causing agents in them. Legislators must protect our health and welfare and institute the “best” bill for the “best” solution. Contact your state and federal legislators simply by looking in the blue pages of your telephone book.

-- Maureen Sheahan

Fundraising Efforts are Underway We need Your Help!

One of our board members is now doing craft shows as fund raisers for non-profit organizations. She will be representing CCCC at several craft shows this year selling a variety of different crafts including hand poured soy wax candles, aroma crystals, suncatchers, hand painted wooden eggs, etc. She is hoping to have a website set up soon offering the same goods in case folks miss the shows.

For more information, you can contact Lois Zendarski at doodles1982@aol.com.

From the Treasurer

Dear Supporter of Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County. CCCC is the only non-governmental watchdog for the environment.

Please support CCCC with your ANNUAL membership of \$20 per family (or \$12- Seniors) due the first of each year. Although there has been no recent action by IWS, the issue is not dead and we must keep alert!

On your address label is the date of your last membership/contribution. Please be generous.

Thank you, Marie Comstock Johnson, Treasurer.

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE! GIVE A GIFT OF OUR COOKBOOK—RARE WILD GAME RECIPES AND OTHER BACKWOODS DELICACIES AND BECOME A CCCC MEMBER:

- ___\$30.00 Group/Organization
- ___\$20.00 Individual/Family
- ___\$12.00 Senior/Student
- ___\$???
- ___\$15.00 Cookbook

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (optional): Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County. **Many companies provide matching Contributions. Please see your Human Resources Dept. However, you should know that as a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit Corporation, contributions to CCCC aren't tax-deductible.**

Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County, Inc.
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