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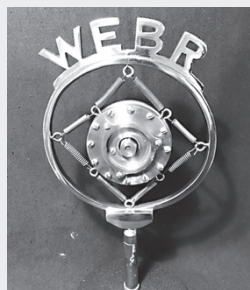
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Slams new waste operation proposal in Lewiston

Why would any town board in Niagara County even consider importing industrial waste if they could just say no? Perhaps if a family member of a board member was partners with the waste operator in another project. Or perhaps if the waste operator were a reliable campaign donor.

The subject EnSol proposal has many flaws, such as its location adjacent to school property and 1,500 feet from a federal site that will undergo a complex and delicate cleanup operation in the next several years.

Welcome to the Town of Lew-

iston, where a new proposal to "recycle" industrial waste has been circulating for two months. Recycling is never a clean process and soil from industrial waste sites is never fully characterized.

The proposal calls for prerequisite soil samples, one or two spoonfuls per 500 tons, for PCBs, VOCs (chemicals), metals, etc.

What is framed as another 30-50 waste trucks per day into Pletcher Road, via one route or another, could easily morph into the 200 CWM trucks per day we took off the roads five years ago when they closed.

The proposal conflicts with the

town's comprehensive plan to sunset rather than grow waste operations of any kind. It requires a "special use" permit the Town Board should have already denied.

To distract from the Town Board's culpability, the proposal is bouncing back and forth between the Environmental Commission, chaired by Jerry Wolfgang, and the Planning Board, chaired by Bill Conrad.

Commission dicker over various forms of project "mitigation" such as noise, fences, setbacks, etc., distracts from the fact that this is a new invitation to the waste industry to set up shop in

Lewiston. (It is wholly unrelated to Modern.)

EnSol is a primary consultant to CWM and other waste companies. Once a special permit is issued, the state takes control of any expansion or change of ownership. Waste industry predators often use "local" applicants to win approvals and then buy the project from them if not already subject to a private side agreement.

Councilman Geiben should recuse himself and the Town Board is urged to just say no, without further ado.

*Amy Witryol
Lewiston*

As New Yorkers plan 'staycations,' FASNY reminds families to stay safe

Submitted by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York

Many New Yorkers could use a summer vacation right about now. Unfortunately, the changing number of COVID-19 cases across the country has many people thinking twice. With safety concerns and travel restrictions, family vacations this summer may just be 'staycations' or at least 'stay close-to-home' vacations.

Staycations may be more popular this summer because travelers from four more states will now have to self-quarantine for 14 days after arriving in New York. Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently announced that people entering (or returning) to New York from Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio and Wisconsin are now subject to the quarantine policy. New York first began requiring quarantines in June for travelers from a number of states where the coronavirus is still spreading rapidly.

The Firemen's Association of the State of New York is reminding residents to practice safety on a 'staycation' by taking some extra precautions to prevent fires, injuries and exposure to COVID-19.

"We understand people have been cooped up for several months and many need to take a break to benefit their mental health," said Steve Klein, President, Firemen's Association of the State of New York, "Whether your family decides to rent a home or cabin, set up camp at a local site or make your backyard an oasis, safe prac-

tices are paramount."

Renting a Home

"If you decide to rent a home or cabin to enjoy New York's beautiful lakes or mountains, families need to make sure there are working smoke detectors and CO2 alarms throughout the house," said Klein.

According to a 2019 study by the NFPA, three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (40%) or smoke alarms that weren't working (17%). In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, more than two of every five (43%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.

"Checking that your vacation spot has working CO2 alarms and smoke detectors is a simple step that can prevent a tragedy," said Klein.

Further, families may be unfamiliar with the layout of a vacation rental property and may not know the best way to exit in an emergency. Once a smoke detector sounds, there may be less than two minutes to get out safely. Practicing an escape plan will ensure that each person is as prepared as possible. Since most fatal fires happen between midnight and 8 a.m., it is important to be prepared before the emergency occurs.

Camping

"New York state has many camping areas to enjoy," said Klein, "but if families decide to camp they should remember to keep fire safety as a priority."

Camping is an exciting summer

pastime. Before building any outdoor fires, time should be taken to learn how to build one safely, how to control it and how to extinguish it properly. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDAFS), four out of five forest fires are started by people. Campers should always check with park rangers and local officials to see if campfires are permitted, especially during the summer when vegetation is dry.

Backyard 'Staycation' and BBQ Safety

A backyard barbecue is a great way to spend time with family and make a delicious meal. All families should make sure they are barbecuing safely during the summer months.

"A BBQ is a great way to cook for the family," Klein said. "Yet, people must exercise caution and keep the grill well away from structures and where people are playing or walking."

According to the NFPA, children under five accounted for an average of 39% of the contact-type burns per year. These burns typically occurred when a child bumped into, touched or fell on the grill or hot coals. Grills should be kept in open areas and be cleaned to prevent grease fires.

Pool Safety

Swimming pools are perfect for cooling off in the summer sun. Even though they are fun for the whole family, it only takes a moment for a child (or adult who cannot swim) to drown. All people with pools should

make water safety a priority.

"In the time it takes to reply to a text or turn off the oven, a child can fall into a pool and drown," said Klein. "All pools should have appropriate barriers to keep children out when adults are not around. When the pool is in use, an adult should be designated to watch in case something goes wrong."

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission states that drownings are the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 4 years old. Residential locations made up 71% of the reported fatal drowning incidents.

Children should never be left unattended near water and proper fencing should be installed to prevent an accident. When playing in or near a pool, someone should always be watching vigilantly. It only takes a moment.

Safety First

So whether it's a staycation in your own backyard, or a 'stay close-to-home' vacation, FASNY reminds residents to wear a mask in accordance with the Governor's executive order, adhere to social distancing protocols and check on local regulations if you are going into a new region.

"On behalf of all of FASNY, we wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer," said Klein.

Founded in 1872, FASNY represents the interests of the more than 105,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in New York. For more information, visit www.fasny.com.

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