

## DEC announces enforcement action against Cascades

Action includes \$375,000 fine; upgrade requirements

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos on Thursday announced the execution of an Order on Consent with Cascades Containerboard Packaging Inc. in Niagara Falls that includes a \$375,000 penalty and requires Cascades to undertake improvements to protect the community's health and quality of life.

The DEC said, "Millions of dollars in new equipment upgrades and other DEC requirements will help ensure Cascades complies with the laws and regulations in place to protect air and water quality in the region."

Seggos noted, "DEC took swift action to hold Cascades Containerboard accountable for intolerable odors that adversely impacted the health and outdoor enjoyment of the surrounding neighborhood, particularly during the summer months. DEC's Consent Order builds upon our comprehensive investigation to find and address the cause of Cascades' violations, and brings the facility into full compliance for the protection of the Niagara Falls community and the region's natural resources."

DEC's investigation this year revealed Cascades, a cardboard manufacturer, violated the state's air and water quality laws and regulations governing operations at its facility at 4001 Packard Road. Violations included: emitting noxious odors to the surrounding neighborhood; failing to properly operate and maintain the anaerobic digester and two activated sludge reactors; operating unpermitted air pollution emissions sources within the facility's wastewater treatment plant, and sludge processing and handling systems; failure to report equipment malfunctions; and releasing hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) emissions that exceeded the allowable ambient H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations off-site.

This enforcement action requires Cascades to pay a civil penalty of \$375,000 with additional penalties if the facility fails to comply with the terms of the consent order. In addition, upon completion of the work required under the order, Cascades will have spent an estimated \$2 million to modify and upgrade operations to prevent a recurrence of its violations.

In all, 19 action items, many of

which have been completed or are ongoing, are required under the terms of the Consent Order to bring Cascades into full compliance, including:

- Conducting comprehensive air sampling to evaluate additional potential sources of odorous emissions;

- Continued monitoring fence-line hydrogen sulfide emissions and immediate mitigation when levels are exceeded;

- Submitting plans to replace temporary covers with permanent covers on sludge reactors, tanks and other emission sources, as well as managing secondary sludge to mitigate potential odors;

- Evaluating operations to find and report any unpermitted emission sources and adding them to its air state facility permit application;

- Evaluating wastewater treatment and identifying improvements and implementation plans to ensure the system's stability; and

- Maintaining a complaint hotline for the public to report complaints; submitting weekly progress reports to DEC summarizing complaints and planned corrective actions.

Additional terms required by the Consent Order supplement operational modifications that Cascades already performed over the past several months at DEC's direction. DEC directed Cascades to adhere to a strict compliance schedule, establish and maintain a 24-hour odor complaint hotline (1-833-461-8898) and email (niagara@cascades.com) for public use, and submit biweekly progress reports to DEC.

Despite initial measures undertaken by Cascades, DEC said verified odor complaints continued to be received from the community throughout the summer, culminating in this Order on Consent.

DEC will require strict adherence to the schedule of compliance under the order and continue air quality monitoring to assess all potential impacts from Cascades' facility while required work is completed.

DEC continues to encourage the public to submit any comments or complaints regarding Cascades operations to dec.sm.rapce.r9@dec.ny.gov.

## Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's to take place at Artpark

The Alzheimer's Association Western New York Chapter will stage the annual Niagara County Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, Oct. 2, in a familiar location: Artpark, 450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston.

A press release noted, "All in-person events will implement safety protocols, including physical distancing, contactless registration, hand-sanitizing stations and more. Masks are not required, but are welcome and will be available on-site. We will continue to closely monitor Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local guidelines to ensure Walk events adhere to recommendations and are safe for attendees. For those who prefer to participate by walking from home, around their neighborhood or on a favorite trail, they can still engage in many Walk-day experiences through the Walk website and mobile app. Information about the app is available in the Walk participation center when participants register at alz.org/WNYwalk."

The Walk to End Alzheimer's is critical to the chapter's efforts to provide care and support for all impacted by dementia across Niagara County, as well as Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties. Money raised by Walk participants ensures the chapter can continue to provide free education programs, support groups, respite training services, a 24/7 helpline and research funding.

Among those who will be participating in the walk is Sister Teresa Miklitsch, OSF. The provincial councilor from the Sisters of St. Francis at Stella Niagara leads the Miklitsch family walk team.

"My sister, the Hon. Catherine (Cathy) M. Miklitsch, died of Alzheimer's on March 12 of this year. I lived with her. She adjusted daily to the impact of her disease. She was a woman of wisdom who served in the Rockland County Family Court in the 9th Judicial District for almost 40 years. Now, we (my family and care partners) walk in her honor and share her story on how to live each day to the fullest," Sister Terri said. "My sisters, Rosemary Miklitsch Rapino and Mary Frances Miklitsch, will walk with me to also honor our mother and poet, Catherine (Kitty) Berry Miklitsch, who died of Alzheimer's on April 10, 2016. One of her final poems is a living testimony to someone with Alzheimer's."

Sister Terri said she sees the same spirit and courage in her



From left, Sister Teresa Miklitsch, OSF; the Hon. Catherine M. Miklitsch and Rosemary Miklitsch Rapino. (Photo courtesy of Sister Teresa Miklitsch)

ministry at Stella Niagara where she witnesses women of wisdom struggle with dementia and Alzheimer's. She sees them as a fulfillment of the mission statement of the Sisters of St. Francis: signs of hope in a struggling world.

Sister Terri has surpassed her fundraising goal of \$1,000 and, for the fourth year in a row, will be recognized as a champion fundraiser by the Alzheimer's Association.

A key feature of the Walk to End Alzheimer's is the Promise Garden, a mission-focused experience that symbolizes the fight against the disease with colorful pinwheel flowers. The flowers come in four colors, which represent a connection to the disease: blue is for those living with dementia, yellow signifies a care partner, purple honors those lost to the disease and orange illustrates support for our fight to end Alzheimer's.

There are no fees to attend, but as this event is the major means of support for the nonprofit Alzheimer's Association, fundraising is strongly encouraged – and incentives are offered for meeting specific goals (including the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's purple T-shirt). Free registration is available at alz.org/WNYwalk. Once registered, participants have access to the online participant center from which they can share their efforts and progress on social media, create personal fundraising emails, share photos or videos of the reasons they are walking and more.

For more information, call Lynn Westcott during traditional business hours at 440-4251 or email LWestcott@alz.org.

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Learn more by calling 626-0600 or 24/7 at 800-272-3900 or alz.org/WNYwalk.

### Real Help For Your Health

Presented by  
**Dr. Glenda R. Rose**  
Chiropractor



#### Spinal nerves deliver health

Here's how your nervous system influences your body's internal functions. Your cells, tissues and organs "speak" to one another in the form of nerve impulses and respond through reflexes.

At each vertebral (spinal bone) level in your spine (backbone), there are communication centers for messages sent to and from the brain. Most everyone has experienced the knee-jerk reflex when you tap your knee. But you probably didn't know that this is actually a spinal reflex!

Similarly, spinal reflexes are involved in regulating thousands of body functions that you aren't aware of, ranging from muscle coordination to blood flow. Specific chiropractic adjustments stimulate nerve reflexes that reduce pain and inflammation as well as enhance your overall health!

Your heart, your kidneys, your lungs, your eyes, as well as many other vital organs and body tissue, depend on healthy nerve transmission to function properly. Chiropractic adjustments can realign your spine and remove nerve interference to relieve your pain and restore your health, naturally.

**Rose Chiropractic, P.C.** is a natural health care practice focusing on health improvement through Nutrition Response Testing<sup>SM</sup> and chiropractic, located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call 754-9039 for your personal program to improved health. In celebration of my 40th year in practice and service to our community, mention my article and get an initial examination and consultation at 50% off.

### Lewiston GOP cocktail party

Lewiston Republican Chairman Karl Frankovitch announced the Lewiston GOP will have its first event since the onset of COVID-19. A cocktail party is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Niagara Falls Country Club in Lewiston. The cost of the event is \$65 per person and \$99 per couple. Reservations can be made by calling 998-0376.

Frankovitch said the main speaker will be Congressman Chris Jacobs, who will give an

update on issues important to the area.

Candidates who will be present include Niagara County Legislator Chairwoman Rebecca Wydysh, Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers Lewiston, Town Supervisor Steve Broderick, Councilman Rob (Robin) Morreale and Niagara County Judge John Ottaviano.

Frankovitch said all current New York state coronavirus guidelines will be followed.

### Attention Town of Wheatfield

The Town of Wheatfield Youth Center is looking for applicants 18 years and older for a recreation aide position. Applicants must be available during the hours

of 5-8pm Monday-Friday  
and 9-12 Saturdays.

Please contact Debbie or Heather at the Youth Center 504-1273 to schedule an interview.

