

FINGER LAKES TIMES

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"The First Amendment ensures that all points of view may be heard; it does not ensure that all points of view are equally likely to prevail."

— **Michael McConnell, U.S. appellate judge, 2006**
Community Media Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposed landfill will raise Arcadia town taxes

To the Editor:
A new landfill has been proposed by a private developer for the town of Arcadia. Arcadia Hills, LLC would own and operate the landfill. If this is allowed to go through, our taxes will go up!

According to our own Arcadia Town Board, taxes will actually rise for the first eight years while the landfill is being developed (Town Board meeting minutes of June 25, 2012). One reason for the increase is that it costs a lot of money and requires a lot of time to open a landfill, perhaps as long as eight years.

After the initial eight years of higher taxes, even though revenues may be coming in from the landfill, the greater likelihood is that we will still be paying more in taxes and not less. What will be the tax impact, for example, of decreasing property values, road repair and increased liability insurance if a new landfill is sited? Who will make up for the lost tax revenue if our tourist-friendly farm stands, ski facilities and Christmas-tree farm customers are turned off by a landfill? Finally, what if a future landfill hurts our many productive farms? Who will make up for those lost tax dollars?

Yes, taxpayers are beginning to ask questions about the real costs of the proposed landfill, and the answers point to higher taxes.

JOE YONDA
Lyons, town of Arcadia

tremendous source of global warming gases.

3. Evaporation ponds. These are to allow the volatile, organic chemicals (benzene, Toluene, etc.) to evaporate into the atmosphere? This "soup" of compounds would be permitted to be released to the air? The residual "brine" containing salt, heavy metals (barium, lead, radon, possibly radium) is now being given to municipalities to spread on roads in the winter.

One has to ask the cumulative effect on the land and groundwater of such disposal.

4. Truck traffic. What would the volume of traffic increase be, on average, per platform? Traffic on the wine trails would be seriously impacted.

5. Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It is clear that there are exemptions for the gas companies. The question is why? And why can't these rules be imposed where they do operate?

Agreed, these would be costly, but then the harm done to the environment and to the citizenry will be much more costly. The population, yet again, serves as guinea pigs for industry.

So, I conclude, as have you, we cannot have fracking *and* tourism. It will be either one or the other. The conspicuous noise and traffic would bring the most immediate impact.

Can you imagine having an outdoor lunch at a winery with a well platform within two miles? How unsavory! This then, would be followed by the long-term environmental and health consequences.

J. PETER GREGOIRE, M.D.
Romulus

Too many long-term consequences with fracking

To the Editor:
Spencer Tulis' excellent article ("Fracking Country," *Times*, Feb. 17) was balanced and concluded with an informed opinion.

I too have visited Bradford County, Pa., and attended a public meeting on fracking in Interlaken Jan. 17, where Carolyn Knapp and Carol French spoke. They are both from Bradford County, Pa.

Still unanswered in my mind are the following issues:

1. Noise. How many weeks or months does the average well platform have machinery that emits such loud and persistent (24/7) noise? Your article says the life of a well could be 15 years. But Bob Conrad is quoted as saying "... should only last about a week."

What decibel level is this noise? Don't compressors that move gas from the wells to distribution points have continuous compressor noise for the duration of the production of a well? This, a different source of constant noise than a well, would have a very long tenure.

2. Flaring of gas. I believe that this process is illegal in most other states that have gas/oil wells. Why is it permitted in Pennsylvania?

This is, and would continue to be, a

Thanks to businesses, bowling tourney a success

To the Editor:
Seneca Meadows and other area businesses made the sixth annual Alan White/Richard Christensen Memorial Bowling Tournament a success.

I wanted to thank Seneca Meadows and the community that came out and supported the tournament. We raised \$200 to donate to the Ontario County Special Olympics program.

I would like to thank the following businesses for donations: Amazing Grace; Golden Orb; Mark's Pizzeria Geneva; Mike Barnard Chevrolet; Kost Tire and Auto Care; Joe's Hots; Water Street Cafe; Melissa's Barber Shop; Eddie DeSio; QB Tax Prep and Accounting; Davis Lawn Care; Cam's; Murphy's Service Station; Sweeping Beauty Cleaning; the YMCA; Mardia's; Blown Away; Pedulla's; Sweet Escape; Smoke Shop; Deluxe; Geneva Coach; Geneva Martial Arts; Closet To Closet; Waterloo Easy Lube; Karen's Studio One; Torrey Park.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's tournament possible.

MICHELLE WHITE-SHOOTS,
SCOTT SHOOTS,
DAMIAN DAVIS,
and **ALAN WHITE Jr.**



'Cruzin' for a good cause

The Geneva community gets to show the size of its collective heart again Saturday when a benefit will be held at Dana's Time Out for Kelvin Cruz, a Geneva High and Hobart grad who played football for both schools and now is battling blood cancer. Organizers hope for a large, generous crowd for "Cruzin for Kelvin's Cure."



Not us, for a change

Mother Nature has been pounding the Great Plains and the Midwest with a winter storm that has even brought snow to Arizona. For once, we are not affected ... unless, of course, you have flights into or out of the Midwest.

Economics say wait on fracking

Forget all the arguments against hydrofracking for natural gas: the likelihood of water and air pollution, the truck traffic, the industrialization of the Finger Lakes.

Let them go and consider just this: The best argument against hydrofracking for natural gas right now is economic.

Economic?
Yes.

While Pennsylvania, Ohio and about 30 other states are destroying their environments in the process of drilling for natural gas, other nations are licking their chops at the opportunity to get that gas shipped to them.

Today, it's expected that the prime minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, will ask President Barack Obama to allow shale gas to be exported to his nation. Current export regulations prohibit it, partly out of fear of raising domestic gas prices in the United States.

But Japan, like many other countries, is starving for energy and will pay a lot for U.S. natural gas. Japan, in particular, is hurting because of the Fukushima nuclear power plants disaster that forced the country to shut down almost all of its nuclear power sources.

So then, why not starting hydrofracking New York immediately? Why not get in this overseas natural gas/gold rush that is just beginning?

The answer is the question: Because it's just beginning.

Natural gas supplies — despite the hyperbole from many people who should know better, including President Obama — are finite. As it is, natural gas wells are already, pardon the pun, running out of gas as the drillers rush madly from location to location to drill more and more gas wells.

If the economic rubric of the law of supply and demand comes to mind, it should. Right now natural gas in the U.S. is selling at record low prices. Overseas markets are buying it at several times the domestic price. And ports are under construction so that more U.S.-produced natural gas can be shipped to foreign ports, most of them in Asia.

That's just today's natural gas market.

But think what the huge reservoir of natural gas that New York sits atop might be worth in 10 years as those gas supplies in Ohio, Pennsylvania — even California — start running out even faster than they are now. The natural gas has been trapped in the shale for millions of years. It's not going anywhere.

MICHAEL J. FITZGERALD



Write On

Add to that two twists.

If New York holds back on hydrofracking, the state's water supplies are likely to remain clean and safe for both human consumption and as a key part of the tourism boom the state is experiencing. Hydrofracking uses tremendous volumes of water. A natural gas well in Michigan needed 21 million gallons last month. And the 10 to 15 million of gallons of water that came back up? It's toxic wastewater now.

In 10 years, our Finger Lakes fresh water might be more valuable than any gas that sits beneath our feet.

The second twist is about the technology of hydrofracking itself.

All those complaints I asked you to hold back on at the beginning of this column — the pollution, toxic chemicals used in the process, the likely industrialization — might be solvable given time, effort and creative thinking by both natural gas exploration companies and hydrofracking opponents.

What has made the situation so hard in the last half-dozen years is that natural gas companies absolutely refuse to take any responsibility for problems they clearly cause.

And opponents sometimes act as if natural gas is the enemy, not the current dirty technology that has sparked so much furor.

If New York is smart, it will hold back, save its natural gas and keep its water clean for another day.

*Fitzgerald worked for six newspapers as a writer and editor as well as a correspondent for several news services, including Reuters. He lives in Valois and Watkins Glen with his wife. They are owner/operators of a video and publishing enterprise called *subject2change Media. His "Write On" appears each Friday. He can be contacted at Michael. Fitzgerald@ftcolumnist@gmail.com.*



What's on your mind?

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President

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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
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Fax: (202) 456-2461
Website: www.whitehouse.gov/contact

U.S. Senate

Charles E. Schumer

Democrat
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Kirsten Gillibrand

Democrat
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100 State St., Room 4195
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Governor

Andrew Cuomo

Democrat
State Capitol
Albany NY 12224
Phone: (518) 474-8390
Website: www.state.ny.us/governor

House of Representatives

Tom Reed

23rd Congressional District
Republican
Office contact information will be updated in mid-January
Includes Yates County, Seneca County, eastern Ontario County (including Geneva) and much of the Southern Tier.

Dan Maffei

24th Congressional District
Democrat
Office contact information will be updated in mid-January
Includes all of Wayne County and the Syracuse area.

State Senate

Tom O'Mara

58th State Senate District
Republican
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Website: www.nyssenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
Includes Yates, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties, plus part of Tompkins County.

Michael F. Nozzolio

54th State Senate District
Republican
119 Fall St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Phone: (888) 568-9816
Fax: 568-2090
Website: www.senatornozzolio.com
Includes all of Seneca and Wayne counties, part of Ontario County (including Geneva and Canandaigua) and part of Cayuga County.

State Assembly

Robert C. Oaks

130th Assembly District
Republican
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Lyons, NY 14489
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Includes all of Wayne County and part of Cayuga County.

Philip Palmesano

132nd Assembly District
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