

## Clay mine gets town approval

Despite protestations, outbursts and walkouts, the Waterloo Town Board approved a Seneca Meadows permit to mine 122 acres adjacent to its landfill across Burgess Road from North and Powderly Roads. The vote was 3-2, with Supervisor Gary Westfall casting the tie-breaking vote.

Westfall and Herb Meyer had run in opposition to the mine when seeking election in 2011, but both voted in favor of the permit along with the resolution sponsor, Jamie King. Lisa Hochadel and Bob Rodger voted nay.

Although the application was approved, the Meadow View Mine project still must go through the planning board for a special use permit.

Seneca Meadows initially filed its application in 2009 and has won state Department of Environmental Conservation approval.

Westfall issued a written statement stating, "In summary, and contrary to what a vocal few may want you to believe, our vote was the result of over three years of extensive research, legal analysis and many hours of meeting with all sides of the issues, information

and misinformation and personal attacks. It eventually became clear, despite the rhetoric, that our duty was to separate the emotionally charged issues that were constantly brought to the table about Seneca Meadows Landfill in Seneca Falls and focus on the actual application before us and the applicable law."

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## Landfill gas to natural gas facility opens

EIF Renewable Energy Hold-

ings (EIFREH) and Seneca Meadows announced the opening of Seneca Energy II, a landfill gas-to-renewable natural gas facility located at the Seneca Meadows Landfill, Seneca Falls. The companies celebrated the opening of the facility at a ribbon cutting ceremony July 22.

EIF Renewable Energy Holdings, through its subsidiary Innovative Energy Systems, built Seneca Energy II adjacent to the existing landfill gas-to-electric power generation facility, which has been operational since 1996. Seneca Energy now consists of the existing 17.6 MW landfill gas-to-electric power generation facility and the recently commissioned and operational renewable natural gas facility, which will produce the equivalent of 25,000 gallons of vehicle fuel per day. The new renewable natural gas facility treats and refines landfill gas from the Seneca Meadows Landfill and converts it to pipeline quality renewable natural gas (RNG). The RNG is then moved through the existing natural gas pipeline system to either make electricity with renewable natural gas in an existing natural gas power plant or converted into compressed natural gas for use in vehicles.

"The opening of this innovative RNG facility is another positive step for the use of domestic renewable energy to drive cost-effective and cleaner energy production by enabling the conversion of landfill gas from waste into power generation and transportation fuel," said Richard DiGia, president & CEO of EIF Renewable Energy Holdings. "Our portfolio of landfill gas projects is playing a critical role in displacing the use of fossil fuels and reducing imports of foreign oil, while producing a significantly cleaner fuel than gasoline or diesel."

"Seneca Meadows is proud to partner with EIF Renewable Energy Holdings for the development of another eco-friendly business in Seneca County," said Don Gentilcore, area manager for Seneca Meadows. "Businesses like Seneca Energy and

Seneca Energy II benefit all of us. They keep our energy and fuel production here in the U.S., provide good paying jobs, and reduce our nation's reliance on foreign oil. They also help preserve our natural resources. Partnering with environmentally responsible businesses that stimulate our local economy is just one more way that Seneca Meadows is working to be a valued partner and trusted neighbor to our community."

## NYCC leads the pack

If a happy college is a healthy college, let it be said New York Chiropractic College (NYCC) is "clearly in the pink," and naturally no less! For the sixth straight year New York Chiropractic College not only earned a position on the Chronicle of Higher Education's "Great Colleges to Work For" list and, made its coveted "Honor Roll" (for the fifth consecutive time), but also earned top rankings in a very respectable 10 out of 12 categories: collaborative governance; compensation and benefits; confidence in leadership, facilities, workspace, and security; job satisfaction; professional/career-development programs; respect and appreciation; supervisor or department chair relationship; teaching environment; and work/life balance.

NYCC President Dr. Frank Nichi, delighted to have once again earned the publication's distinguished honor said, "At New York Chiropractic College we empower our people to achieve exceptional results and trust they will summon their very best in achieving them. As a result, I firmly believe that they enjoy their work, feel great pride in their accomplishments, and care deeply about the college's success."

This year, of the nation's 92 colleges distinguishing themselves based on surveys completed by administrators, faculty members, and professional support staff members, only three exceeded NYCC's laudable 10-category recognition.

To learn more about NYCC, visit [www.nycc.edu](http://www.nycc.edu).



## Helping out

Chad McQuon and Brian Ike pack totes for Trevor's Gift. The men are volunteers from Seneca Meadows who come monthly to put the food in totes to be delivered to schools. Trevor's Gift completed its fourth year of providing food in the backpacks of hungry children in Waterloo during the school year. Chair Doris Wolf said the program has distributed more than 22,000 food packets so far. This summer, a donation from the Waterloo Youth Bureau is providing funds to feed 200 more children. Families may sign up to receive Trevor's Gift at the Skoi Yase School summer reading program, the Waterloo Community Center or the Waterloo Library. Food will be available at each site on Thursdays. "We thank Director Mike Whirtley of the Seneca County Youth Bureau for making it possible to expand our program to include children in the Skoi Yase summer reading program," said Trevor's Gift co-chair Kaaren Gerlach. "It is extremely important to make Trevor's Gift available to children in the summer when they don't have access to the breakfast and lunch programs at school." Wolf said the program was blessed to receive help from some other special sources this year. For example, friends and family of Ann Kaminski donated funds in honor of her retirement. When committee member Walter Wolf's sister, Linda Strassberg, passed away in June, her children requested memorial contributions be sent to Trevor's Gift. Extreme couponer Tammy Brockway set a goal of collecting enough full-size boxes of cereal so that every student in pre-kindergarten and Skoi Yase school could receive one at the end of school. She not only met that goal, she exceeded it, providing cereal for LaFayette students as well. Finger Lakes Young Professionals held a gourmet dinner at Knapps Winery to benefit Trevor's Gift. Wadhams Trucking and John Butlak of Rite Aid provided snack bars and other treats for the kids regularly and Marty Grela and the American Legion Riders collected food that was distributed to the school nurses to have on hand for hungry children. And the kids who attend the Waterloo Rec Center donated the proceeds from their penny carnival to Trevor's Gift to help their fellow students.

## Romulus sets tax rates for 2014-15

Tax rates were established last week by the Romulus Board of Education for the towns of Fayette, Romulus based on a levy of \$5,555,332. The Fayette tax rate per \$1,000 assessed property for 2014-15 is \$22.07, Romulus and Varick were set at \$20.13.

In other business, the board unanimously approved a combined girl's lacrosse program with Seneca Falls. Last month a similar agreement was passed for boys' soccer and football with South Seneca; approval was given for the superintendent to attend the fall NYSCOSS conference; and for the district to continue participation in the Finger Lakes Area School Health Plan to provide health insurance benefits to employees and retirees.

In reports to the board, Social Studies Teacher Bernie Wegman presented a new textbook for global studies. The new text incorporates Common Core Learning Standards skills along with a more appropriate reading level for high school students. Additionally, new texts and ratio-

nale were submitted by Social Studies Teacher Melissa Lilyea for seventh/eighth grade social studies and 12th grade participation in government.

Board members were pleased with the quality of the texts and the diligence of the teachers looking to update courses with texts supported by on line resources and designed to challenge students to develop 21st century skills. Samples were reviewed by the board and designated as the new texts for these courses. Board members are eager to review additional texts for other courses and expressed their support for purchasing updated materials to give students more access to technology.

Superintendent Marty Rotz reported on an updated format for the district's strategic plan. The academic performance goals will be updated to reflect changes in performance levels designated by the state. Additions to the plan include community relations and strategies for continuous improvement. The plan will be presented

in September. Rotz also reported the district has met the requirements for the Property Tax Freeze Credit from the state by maintaining a budget below the cap.

Samples of a pamphlet promoting the strengths of the district were given to board members along with artwork proofs for the high school gymnasium currently undergoing refinishing. A replacement plaque honoring Romulus valedictorians was presented and the board agreed to contact past valedictorians for interest in their portions of the former plaque.

Under personnel matters, School Nurse Babette Bennett was appointed impact concussion coordinator for 2014-15. Bennett administers concussion testing to students to ensure safe return to physical education and athletics. Music Teacher Hilary Chaya and Elementary Teacher Michelle George-Mason were appointed Arts in Education coordinators. Chaya and George-Mason provides student in all grades access to performing artists supporting the New York State Learning

Standards for the Arts.

## Waterloo seeks board member

The Waterloo Board of Education is seeking interested candidates for a seat on its board due to the resignation of Lee Earp, who has moved outside the district. The appointment would be effective immediately and continue until the next

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election in May.

Interested district residents should contact Sharon Cudlin at (315) 539-1501 for an application. The application and a letter of interest should be submitted to Superintendent Terry MacNabb, 109 Washington Street, Waterloo, NY 13165 by Aug. 8.

Questions can be directed to the Superintendent's Officer at (315) 539-1501.