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Says NYS DEC cannot be solely relied upon to protect towns

The recent Tribune-Sentinel article on a proposed asphalt plant in the Town of Niagara quoted the applicant as saying, "the DEC doesn't just hand out air permits." But too often that's like saying, the state doesn't just hand out fishing licenses.

Recently I asked the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation permit and air staff, "when was the last time our DEC region denied an air permit?" Answer: they did not recall denying any air permits in their combined 25-year experience. None.

NYS DEC's mission is to "control" (not prevent) pollution "in order to enhance the health, safety

and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being." However, in innumerable conversations with DEC over 20 years, I've not found DEC staff to have experts in health or economic development.

DEC is sometimes the outlier. Take the CWM Chemical Services application to build a new national PCB and toxic waste dump in Lewiston and Porter the state says it doesn't need. The NYS State Health Department, the EPA, the Corps of Engineers and a major federal research lab disagree with DEC staff on air, soil and water conditions at this site. And as a retired business banker, it struck

me that roughly 90% of purported economic benefits were fabricated, before even considering the costs to taxpayers. (CWM's application is still pending with the state.)

To the credit of the Town of Niagara Board, they responded promptly to requests for information on the asphalt plant application, once it was widely publicized. The Town of Lewiston was the first to recognize Niagara's error in notices for the application. Niagara University statements on the proposal show legitimate concern for its adjacent property. And to their immense credit, Niagara Falls residents and stakeholders quickly organized for an impend-

ing torrent of protest.

A town relying solely on DEC to assure the safety of residents for a new heavy industrial activity or to disturb a contaminated burial might be either impoverished or has a conflict of interest lurking somewhere. In this case, it seems the Town of Niagara misconstrued application materials while erring on certain notices, with perhaps undue reliance on DEC to protect public health and economic interests.

*Amy Witryol
Lewiston*

St. Patrick's dinner fundraiser a success

Nearly 160 takeout traditional St. Patrick's Day dinners were recently sold by the First Presbyterian Church during their inaugural fundraising event. The successful effort was due in large part to the community residents who purchased dinners and the generosity of local businesses including DiMino's Lewiston Tops,

Sam's Club and Russell's Farms, who contributed products and gift cards to the sold-out event. We are most grateful for their support.

Proceeds from the dinner will go toward preservation of the Old Stone Church, Lewiston's oldest and most historic church. The first church built in Lewiston opened in 1817 and played a key role in many

village milestones. During the Civil War, it aided in the transport of slaves seeking freedom on the Underground Railroad. Church members would light the steeple providing a signal to peacekeepers in Queenston, Ontario, letting them know that it was safe for the escaping slaves to cross the Niagara River to freedom.

Our sincere thanks go out to those who participated in the dinner and we look forward to seeing you next year.

*St. Patrick's Dinner Committee
First Presbyterian
Church of Lewiston*

Youngstown Lions thank all for support

The Youngstown Lions Club wish to thank the local communities for their support of this year's St. Patrick's Cash Bash.

It is because of your generosity Youngstown Lions Park, the Youngstown Lions Club Scholar-

ship Fund in Honor of Neil Rioridan and local charities will benefit.

In addition, the four families from the fire at 310 Main St., in March, were assisted.

A special thank you to: The Youngstown Village Diner, Stone

Jug, Victoria's Hair Salon, Coppins in Lewiston, the Porter Town Hall, the Youngstown Barber Shop, Anchor Spirits and Wines and the Little Bakery in Niagara Falls, who sold Cash Bash tickets.

We Lions hope that, in 2022, we

are able to hold this fundraiser along with entertainment, food and refreshments.

*Ernie Lavigueur
Youngstown Lions Club*

OBITUARIES

Arthur H. Aronson



Arthur H. Aronson, age 85, of Renfrew, Pennsylvania, passed away Tuesday, March 30, 2021, after a brief illness.

Arthur was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Alice Aronson (nee Ades); his mother, Pauline Aronson (nee Lasdon) and father, George Aronson. He is survived by his partner, Lois Porter; a sister, Rosalee White; children: Teresa Marini, Steven Aronson, Kristina Schultz and Betsy Kantowitz; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Arthur was born in Troy, New York, on July 9, 1935. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1958 with a Bach-

elor of Science in metallurgy. He then served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Arthur later received his masters and Ph.D. from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In 1986, he was elected into the American Society for Metals as a fellow in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the field of metals and materials. Art worked as executive vice president of Allegheny Ludlum from 1988 until his retirement in 2000.

Arthur was well known for his

philanthropy. He diligently served as an emeritus life trustee at Carnegie Mellon University; was a member of the Butler County Community College Education Foundation and a board member at Cooper Tire among many other organizations. He was a generous donor to his alma maters, the United Way, and other worthy causes. He was also a proud member of the Butler Country Club, The Duquesne Club, and the Youngstown Yacht Club.

Arthur was a man of many talents and interests. His love of sailing led him to seas around the world. He was an amateur radio enthusiast, an avid golfer and longtime member of the Butler Country Club. Art

was a tremendous bridge player, voracious reader, world traveler and history buff who adored being around his family and friends.

Arthur will be missed by all who knew him. A Celebration of Life will be held from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at the Butler Country Club. All friends and family are welcome to attend.

Arrangements are being taken care of by Thompson-Miller Funeral Home Inc., 124 East North St., Butler, PA 16001.

Online condolences can be given at www.thompson-miller.com.

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