

THE TOWN COURIER

VOL. 5, No. 9

WWW.TOWNCOURIER.COM

OCTOBER 2009



**Hawks
Are
Ready**
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PATH Derailed for Now

By CARRIE DIETZ

The Maryland Public Service Commission voted 3-1 September 10 to deny the Potomac Edison Company the right to submit an application in Maryland to build the Potomac-Apalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) on behalf of the PATH Allegheny Transmission Company. The move derailed, at least temporarily, the Maryland portion of the 300-mile project.

Commissioner Chairman Douglas Nazarian and Commissioners Harold Williams and Susanne Brogan voted against the application, noting the requirement of the applicant to be the electric company as defined by Maryland state law.

Commissioner Lawrence Brenner was the dissenting vote and said he believed the PSC had the authority to approve the application with the PATH Allegheny name.

Allegheny Power spokesperson Todd Meyers said the day after the ruling that it's "just too soon

■ **PATH**
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Photo | Carrie Dietz

Tribute to a Soldier

Revolutionary War soldier John Montgomery receives a three-gun salute at the grave marking and dedication ceremony in his honor September 19 at the Zion Church Cemetery in Urbana.

Family Honors Revolutionary War Soldier

By CARRIE DIETZ

It was one woman's journey through her family's past that connected her with a relative's rich history and ended with a heartfelt grave

marking and dedication for a Revolutionary War soldier laid to rest in Urbana's Zion Church cemetery September 19.

More than 50 people attended the ceremony for John Montgomery, who served in the

fight for our country for seven years beginning at the age of 16. Among the crowd was the soldier's fourth great-granddaugh-

■ **REVOLUTIONARY**
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Exploring Alternatives to Costly WTE

By PATSY BECKMAN

Reuse, recycle and start composting.

That is the call being heard from two members of WasteNot! Frederick who are pushing for current and future Frederick County Commissioners to further examine their vote either for or against the construction of a Waste to Energy (WTE) facility in the county.

Although city leaders, residents and members of area environmental organizations may never agree on the same solution for Frederick's trash woes, one con-



Photo | Submitted

■ **RECYCLE WTE**
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Urged on by Frederick County residents, Caroline Eader and Sally Sorbello come up with creative alternatives so citizens can recycle trash on city streets.

Schools, Parents on Flu Watch

By KRISTA BRICK

Three Frederick County schools including Urbana Elementary School have notified parents that students there have complained of flu-like symptoms, this as county health department officials tell residents a vaccine to help prevent the H1N1 or swine flu is expected by early October.

Rock Creek School, Woodsboro Elementary School and Urbana Elementary School all sent letters home with parents this year telling them that students within those schools have experienced flu-like symptoms and urged parents to go over preventative health measures with their children, according to Frederick County Public Schools Health Specialist Christa Williams.

The Frederick County Health Department in conjunction with the Frederick County Public Schools held a press conference September 11 to inform the public about the availability of the vaccine to help prevent the HINI influenza due out in October and to go over schools' plans to handle an outbreak of the virus.

Exact numbers of students who have come down with the H1N1 virus are unknown since testing for the strain is limited and symptoms of the H1N1 mimic those of the seasonal flu and even that of a cold. The Centers for Disease Control recommends testing patients who are hospitalized and those who die from the virus. The CDC surveillance system is indicating that 98 percent of the influenza virus circulating at this time is H1N1 virus, according to Williams.

Urbana Elementary School PTA President Nicole Robertson knows what it is like to have H1N1 in the house. Her

■ **FLU WATCH**
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■ RECYCLE WTE

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sensus is this will not be an easy fix.

WasteNot! Frederick member Caroline Eader, born and raised in Frederick County and now living in the city, is against the county joining with Carroll County to build a regional trash incinerator, which could cost more than \$500 million by the time it is constructed.

Along with its price tag, Eader believes all trash coming into the WTE won't be screened for materials that could ultimately be recycled and reused because more tons of trash burned means more money to be made.

She is concerned that vital resources — oils from plastics, for example — needed five to 10 years down the road will be foolishly burned, so that 1,500 tons of trash can be burned every day.

"Recycling or burning resources," Eader said. "We are enticed to burn resources instead of recycling them."

As she sees it, the WTE will accrue \$60 million a year in costs and garner \$28 million in revenue from electricity.

Money from other counties will go to the construction of the WTE, but not towards its operating costs. Critics say property owners will have to help foot the bill, and there will be repair costs and maintenance fees as well. The desire to produce more energy could also lead to overconsumption, say critics.

"It is not financially sound. It is not environmentally sound. I see laziness as a public option," Eader said.

In June, Frederick County Commissioners voted 3-2 in favor of the incinerator project. Over the next two years, city leaders will work to obtain permits for the WTE. Carroll County will help pay for the plant's construction and will use it to eliminate its trash.

Eader says so much more can be done in residents' kitchens by composting; in addition, businesses, including local restaurants, must step up their recycling efforts such as removing plastic condiment packaging from their businesses. "We need to think, 'what else can we do before burning,'" Eader commented.

Her studies show that much more can be done locally if residents were to become educated about composting.

"We have the will," Eader said, who raised her children to recycle and respect the environment in which they lived. "But there is a lot of talk and no action."

Eader works with Frederick resident Sally Sorbello, and are both members of WasteNot! Frederick, a community organization with a mission to educate citizens about area waste and the most environmentally sound and economically responsible alternatives for dealing with it.

Both women enjoy talking with and educating civic groups, residents and city leaders about sustainability — an end to overconsumption and overproducing. They are busy mothers and have their own careers; however, they feel that the city they love can do more to sustain a healthy environment.

Thirteen Frederick County Public

Schools (FCPS), according to the board of education, lie in a 3-mile radius of the proposed WTE at the McKinney Industrial site near Buckeystown Pike. Sorbello cites other states like Delaware which prohibit incinerators within a 3-mile radius of schools, homes and hospitals.

The county's population of 225,721 also has her questioning why such a large facility has been chosen over other alternatives.

"Our population doesn't support a regional facility," said Sorbello, whose greatest concern lies with the health of her neighbors because of the association she cites of WTE facilities and respiratory ailments, even cancer.

Sorbello worries that of approximately 200 of the emissions from the WTE, only about a dozen will be tested.

"I've always thought Frederick could recycle more," said Sorbello, who has invited experts to the city to educate its leaders and residents. "I learn as well."

Eader and Sorbello are happy with the progress that has been made by local churches and with political candidates; however, they want to see other alternatives explored for handling Frederick County's waste disposal.

"[The WTE] is more expensive. Recycling and composting are less expensive. It just doesn't make sense," Sorbello said.

Eader and Sorbello joined together with WasteNot! Frederick during this past summer's Frederick Festival of the Arts, lining the Festival with bins and creative ways for attendees to keep reusable products out of trash cans. Both women are discouraged that the city doesn't provide bins at these events nor in the city's parks. "We need leaders," Eader said.

October is a time of year when WasteNot! Frederick members field calls from concerned citizens about recycling efforts and the lack of bins at local street and craft festivals. Residents want to know what recycling plans are in effect.

The activists say they will come prepared for the music and food festival, In The Street, in downtown Frederick on October 3.

With careers and families to juggle, Eader and Sorbello are putting in some 50 hours a week to see that recycling can be increased on city streets. "We want better for this community," Eader said. "We are a little group of volunteers — engineers and every day people — who think Frederick deserves better than a regional trash incinerator," she said.

In the meantime, nearly 2,000 blue bins have been placed throughout FCPS. In coordination with Frederick County government, the school system is expanding mixed-paper recycling to include bottles, cans and plastics with no sorting required.

"I really want the best for Frederick," Eader concluded.

For more information about keeping recyclables out of trash bags this busy October season, visit: www.wastenotfrederick.org/ or call 301.834.5389.

WasteNot! Frederick will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at Urbana Library.