

Meeting Seeks to 'Tighten Up Caroline'

By Patricia Brhel

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 6-9 p.m. Energy Independent Caroline and Residents Opposed to Unsafe Shale Gas Extraction (ROUSE) will present Tighten Up Caroline, a meeting designed to help people save energy and money by improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

The meeting will begin with a dish-to-pass dinner at the Brooktondale Community Center, 526 Valley Road in Brooktondale, with the presentation beginning at 7 p.m.

A number of local citizens will talk about how energy-saving changes to their homes and businesses saved them money and made their building more comfortable for work and their families. Personalized guidance will be available for anyone wishing to apply for their own low or no-cost home energy assessment from accredited professionals.

There will also be a demonstration of infrared camera and blower door energy efficiency diagnostic tools, information from Cornell Cooperative Extension on saving energy and information on "Get

Your Green Back," the new county-wide campaign for energy efficiency, local food, reuse and transportation.

Those who choose to fill out the one-page application that evening should bring their utility account numbers and a copy of 12 months of their energy usage history, which can be obtained from electric and fuel companies. Please also have the home's square footage, the part that is heated, noted.

If every home in Caroline was upgraded for energy efficiency we'd help create 20 jobs, provide \$9.4 million dollars of clean energy development and keep up to a \$1 million a year in the pockets of Caroline residents, according to Energy Independent Caroline. Upgrading a building's energy efficiency leads to a more comfortable, safe and affordable dwelling.

Caroline Town Supervisor Don Barber says, "I got into the energy-saving field in the 1980s when we had a previous energy crisis. I started my construction business in part as a response to that, and one of my first projects was my own home.

"The previous owner had used 2,000 gallons of fuel oil each winter to heat the home," he adds. "The house was also drafty and somewhat uncomfortable. After I added insulation, caulk and other changes I lowered my fuel oil consumption to 400 gallons per winter, a savings today of about \$6,000 each year. Energy related improvements pay off not only in comfort to your family but by lessening the drain on your wallet. Energy improvements are also good for the environment."

Energy Independent Caroline urges local homeowners to learn how to reduce their energy use and how to build Caroline's energy autonomy. Apply for a low cost/no cost energy assessment. Get information and tips from Cornell Cooperative Extension on how to choose an approved energy contractor. Learn how to apply for a low or no cost energy audit worth up to \$500 from local approved contractors. Learn how contractors have made improvements that have allowed homeowners to reduce their bills enough for them to switch to renewable clean energy, and learn how to take advan-

tage of new funding sources for energy improvements.

"We're hoping that the event will result in this regions largest number of people ever to concurrently apply for home energy assessments. This event is open to anyone who's interested in saving money and making their life more comfortable," Caroline town board member and member of Energy Independent Caroline Dominic Frongillo says.

Energy Independent Caroline expects to partner with the Caroline Town Board to administer some low interest or no interest loans for low income Caroline residents who would like to increase the energy efficiency of their homes.

The town has some money that's been returned to the town from a Community Development Block Grant that they administered a few years ago. That grant resulted in a number of repairs to low income residents homes. The excess money comes from those who sold their homes before living in them long enough for the full amount of the loan to be forgiven.

Public Hearing to Focus on Proposed Gas Storage Facility in Watkins Glen

A public hearing on a proposed LPG (liquid petroleum gas) underground storage facility near Watkins Glen in Schuyler County will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Watkins Glen High School auditorium at 301 12th Street in Watkins Glen.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is seeking oral and written

comments from the public on the \$40 million project. Finger Lakes LPG Storage, a subsidiary of Inergy Midstream of Kansas City, is the applicant and company representatives will answer questions prior to the hearing.

In August the DEC issued a Combined Notice of Complete Application, Notice of Acceptance of a Draft Supplemental Environ-

mental Impact Statement (DSEIS) and a Notice of Public Hearing for the project in the Town of Reading. Mined salt caverns will be used to store liquefied gasses under brine. A new rail and truck terminal will make this site two miles north of the village of Watkins Glen near Seneca Lake "the gas storage and transportation hub of the Northeast," according to Gas Free

Seneca.

Written comments on the LPG storage proposal and the environmental impact statement will be accepted by the DEC until Monday, Oct. 10. Send comments to David L. Bimber, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator, NYSDEC, 6274 East Avon-Lima Road, Avon, NY 14414-9516. Email: dbimber@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

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