

The **latest** news about **eco-friendly** policy and politics.

Political Report Card

In November, voters will choose the third ever Onondaga County Executive. The first two executives elected were Republican shoo-ins, but the party's enrollment has dropped, and Democrats may gain the seat. The Onondaga County Republican Party designated Dale

Sweetland as its candidate, and the Onondaga County Democratic Committee designated Bill Magnarelli. Republican Joanie Mahoney and Democrat Edward Ryan will challenge the designated candidates in the September primaries. « JESSICA NEWFELL »

CANDIDATE	DALE SWEETLAND	BILL MAGNARELLI	JOANIE MAHONEY	ED RYAN
EXPERIENCE	County Legislature Chairman Independent crop insurance consultant	State Assemblyman, 120th District Attorney with Scolaro, Shulman, Cohen, Lawler, and Burstein, P.C.	Syracuse Councilor-at-Large (2000-2004) and mayoral candidate (2005) Former Onondaga County District Attorney	County Legislature Democratic Floor Leader Director of the Edward J. Ryan and Son Funeral Home
RECYCLING	Sweetland voted to disband the Waste-to-Energy Facility Citizens Advisory Committee. He believed the community lost interest in recycling and alternative trash uses.	Magnarelli supported the Bigger Better Bottle Bill with his vote in the Assembly in 2006, even though it was not passed in the Senate.	Mahoney feels that the city of Syracuse should do a better job organizing waste pick-up, and residents should keep their neighborhoods clean.	Ryan voted to keep the Waste-to-Energy Facility Citizens Advisory Committee, which tracks recycling habits and informs decision-makers.
LAND	He owned and operated Sweetland Farms, a dairy farm, for 25 years, learning the logistics and business of farming.	He believes local industries should reuse vacant city land to avoid sprawling into the "green land" of the suburbs.	She believes residents and city departments need to work together to make local parks enticing, clean spaces.	He opposes a landfill and incinerator in Clay. He says that trash should be reduced in a way that creates the least amount of pollution.
ENERGY	Sweetland supports creating an alternative energy facility to lower energy costs in Syracuse and Onondaga County.	Magnarelli supports lowering energy costs for businesses to keep them in New York and finding a way to fix the "current energy crisis."	Mahoney supported a city- owned municipal electric utility during her 2005 mayoral campaign.	Ryan says the local windmills are "a great way" to create new energy but says it is important to continue to find new sources of energy.
WATER	He proposed a task force in 2006 to examine water delivery in local counties. He supports creating three sewage treatment plants along Onondaga Creek.	He sponsored a bill in the Assembly to create an Oswego River Basin Water Level Management Commission to control river and lake flooding.	She vowed to upgrade the Syracuse water supply to city homes and to upgrade the local reservoirs to create clean, safe drinking water.	He supports cleaning Onondaga Lake. The county has been spending money to ensure that sewage overflows do not affect the lake.
PLATFORM	Sweetland's top priorities are economic development and job creation.	Magnarelli's top three concerns are jobs, education, and health care.	Mahoney promotes economic development and safety in city neighborhoods.	Ryan plans to cut taxes on businesses to promote local job creation.



FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF DALE SWEETLAND, BILL MAGNARELLI, JOANIE MAHONEY, AND ED RYAN



Ingenious shade protection

Keep the sun off your back with the new Basecamp Carport Deluxe by Kelty: a highly durable, extremely portable, element-deflecting shield that easily and readily attaches to the side or rear of any sedan, station wagon, SUV, or mini-van (yes, even a mini-van). The Carport Deluxe is just one of many ingeniously clever products in the Kelty Basecamp line. See them all at www.keltybasecamp.com.



Bottle Bill Battle

Despite growing legislator support, a bill that would have amended the state's 25-year-old recycling laws failed to pass in the state Senate for the sixth year in a row.

The "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" would have expanded New York's existing 5-cent deposit program to include all beverage containers except those from milk and non-malt liquors. Supporters of the bill say it would have promoted recycling.

"The 5-cent deposit is a very powerful incentive to recycle that container. We know that most of the carbonated beverage containers that currently are part of the deposit system will end up getting returned and recycled," says Andrew Radin, Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency director of recycling. "That's why we want to see it expanded."

According to an estimate from the New York Public Interest Research Group, expanding the deposit program could keep an additional 2 billion bottles and cans per year out of the state's landfills.

But James Rogers, president and CEO of Food Industry Alliance of New York State, says an expanded bill is "very much of a tax on consumers." In addition to the 5-cent deposit added to each can or bottle, manufacturers would need to raise the price per item by an additional 10 to 15 cents to cover their own costs, he says.

« COURTNEY POTTS »

Redial, Reuse, Recycle

Recycling used to be easy: Separate the plastic, metal, and glass. But consumer electronics, in which materials are hopelessly mixed together, have made things more complicated.

Local and state governments around the country are trying to help sort it out. Since January, cell phone providers statewide have been required to accept used phones for recycling. In Westchester County, it's illegal to improperly dispose of a cell phone. Offenders can face fines up to \$250.

Another option is to donate old phones to charity. AT&T stores will soon be collecting phones for "Cell Phones For Soldiers," a program that recycles phones in order to buy calling cards for troops overseas. Verizon Wireless started a program called HopeLine, which provides phones to victims of domestic abuse. Since its inception, Verizon's program has collected 3.5 million used phones.

« COURTNEY POTTS »



Suburban Smokeout

It may be summer, but it's never too early to think about winter heating alternatives that won't scorch your wallet. One device gaining popularity — and notoriety — is the outdoor wood boiler.

"They are sweet because, as long as you've got wood, they totally eliminate your fuel bill," says Gary Van De Water, owner of Outdoor Accents in Penfield. Outdoor wood boilers heat water that is then pumped into the house and rigged to its pre-existing heating system.

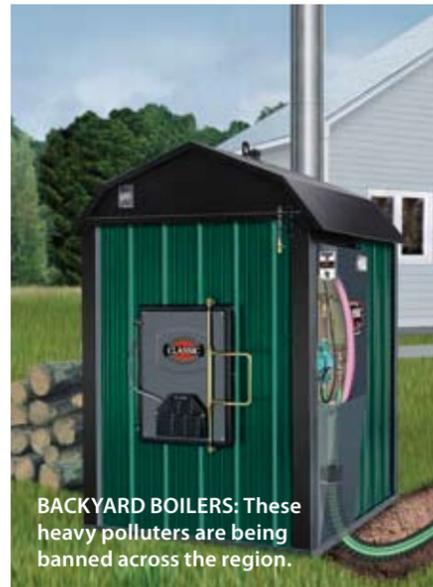
But outdoor wood boilers aren't the holy grail of heating. Neighbors complain that thick smoke from the boilers seeps into closed windows. The emissions are worse when people burn fresh-cut wood, non-hardwoods, or trash.

In 2002, Charlie Dennis, owner of Dennis Coal and Stoves Co. in Fabius, stopped selling outdoor wood boilers. "Do you want to put an outdoor wood furnace in your yard and lose your neighbors?" he asks.

Local municipalities have also turned against outdoor wood boilers. They are banned in many villages, including Marcellus, Camden, and Barneveld.

In January, the Environmental Protection Agency began a voluntary program for manufacturers to reduce boiler emissions. Right now, there is only one model — the Central Boiler E-Classic 1200 — that has the orange tag of approval.

« STEPHEN SHOEMAKER »



BACKYARD BOILERS: These heavy polluters are being banned across the region.

LEFT: ISTOCKPHOTO (2); COURTESY OF GARY VAN DE WATER



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