

# State, county to share details of tests Aug. 23

By **MARGARET COSTELLO**  
Star-Gazette  
[mcostello@stargazette.com](mailto:mcostello@stargazette.com)

## CONCERN on the SOUTHSIDE

The state Department of Health will hold a public meeting Aug. 23 to present its findings regarding an investigation of cancer cases and possible environmental contamination at Southside High School.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. that day in the Southside High School auditorium, 777 S. Main St., Elmira.

Officials from the state and county health departments and the state Department of Environmental Conservation will report the results of testing

done on the soil, water and air on the school property. A statement also will be issued regarding the number of cancer cases among current and former students since the school opened in the fall of 1979.

"We're sticking to our promise of having a public meeting before school starts," said Thomas Kump, who is both director of environmental health for Chemung County and president of the Elmira City School Board.

In April, a group of parents and Elmira City Council members sent a letter to the school district demanding to know whether contaminated land has contributed to a seemingly high cancer rate among students.

Southside High School was built in 1977-78 on 36 acres that had housed factories, including Remington Rand and American LaFrance, since 1887. A 47-acre site adjacent to the school was also home to manufacturing facilities.

At least 40 current and former students have developed cancer since the school opened in 1979.

See TESTS/10A

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Sun, Apr 14, 2019