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**Inside**  
**Local**

# Love Canal lawyer joins probe

■ Environmental law heavyweight chosen by city to study Southside cancer concerns.

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Catherine Abernathy,

Southside High School. On Thursday, Craig A. Slater, a partner at the Harter, Secrest & Emery law firm in Buffalo, told Mayor Stephen Hughes, City Manager Samuel Iraci Jr., two councilmen and two sets of parents whose children have cancer that he noticed a number of red flags indicating potential environmental risks at the school. Slater told the group that there was reason for concern, and that based on contaminants found on the former American LaFrance site, which is next to the school on South Main Street, similar contaminants would likely be found on the school property, which was built on a former industrial site. Environmental investigations of the LaFrance site showed high levels of almost every kind of pollutant except radioactive substances, Slater said. The LaFrance site was recently cleaned up after the owner, Scott Technologies Inc. of Mayfield, Ohio, discovered hazardous waste on the property. Southside High School was built in 1977-78 on 36 acres that had housed factories, including Remington Rand and American LaFrance, since 1887. Hughes said the city decided to recruit Slater in mid-May as a way to bolster the investigation of the school property being conducted by the state Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Conservation. A state health department investigation of at least two dozen cancer cases among former students began in April. The conservation department has been conducting soil and air tests on school property and also pumped oxygen into the soil to absorb a large plume

**CONCERN on the SOUTHSIDE**

See CANCER/6A

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