

The city spun from the SPCA soil - eral keys to their success. good homes, she said. sidewalk repairs.

Meeting: To explain soil test methods for Southside

Continued from Page 1C

The district has hired Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, an environmental engineering firm headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario. The firm is studying past uses of McNaught Field, the football team's practice area near Miller Pond, to determine whether there is any risk of contamination there, said the district's environmental attorney, Rick Kennedy of Buffalo.

Since May, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has collected hundreds of soil samples at Southside High School, which indicate the soil has been contaminated by more than 100 years of heavy industrial activity. However, the state Department of Health said during an Aug. 23 public meeting that the level of contamination at the school doesn't pose a health risk to students or staff. The department also said that cancer rates among students, except for testicular cancer, were normal or lower than normal.

DEC engineers collected more samples after the Aug. 23 meeting to gather additional information at the request of residents and Craig Slater, an environmental attorney hired by the city.

But perhaps more important than getting the most recent test results, the committee will learn on Monday how the DEC conducts its tests, how engineers reach their conclusions and what steps, if any, the DEC would like to take next, said Thomas Kump, a committee member and the director of environmental health in Chemung County.

"It's tough to get all that information presented in a public forum," Kump said. "I think it will be very beneficial for the (state) representatives to talk to a smaller group that will be more one-on-one with the committee members."


Some school board members will attend the meeting to observe the process, Badeau said.

"I think it's important that the board gets as much firsthand information as possible," Badeau said. "We are concerned."

Understanding the technical information and scientific processes can be "overwhelming" and "mind-boggling" for someone who only sits in on one meeting, Badeau said.

Community residents are invited to observe the meeting; however, only committee members will be allowed to ask questions of the DEC representatives.

Residents who have questions can channel them through a committee member before the meeting, Kump said.



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