

# Enviro-News

**November, 2009**

**Sponsored by Daemen College Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement and the Natural Sciences Department**

## **Rain Barrels Available for Public Sites**

Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER is able to give away, thanks to a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 161 rain barrels to high-visibility sites in the Buffalo and Niagara regions. These sites include, but are not limited to, community gardens, low income residential communities, public buildings, government offices and schools. Once a rain barrel donation request form is submitted (they can be found on our website, [www.bnriverkeeper.org/programs/rain-barrels/](http://www.bnriverkeeper.org/programs/rain-barrels/)) and reviewed for eligibility, the barrels are available for immediate delivery to the site with instructions about installation, maintenance, and frequently-asked questions.

Local municipal combined sewer systems are overwhelmed during storm events and the overflow dumps raw sewage into our sources of drinking water--the Niagara River and all its tributaries and Lake Erie--four billion gallons a year from Buffalo alone! Using a rain barrel is one way that individuals can help to clean up area waterways.

## **DEC Releases Revised Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Plan**

The New York State Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) have been revised and are now available for public review. A second round of hearings is scheduled and public comments are due by **Dec. 14, 2009**. Both documents are available on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/9054.html>. Regional hearings are scheduled for November 18 at 6pm at Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main St., Niagara Falls and November 19 at 6pm at Lewiston-Porter High School, 4061 Creek Rd., Youngstown.

The Siting Plan is intended to help guide state agencies, authorities and other entities in making decisions regarding the siting of facilities for management and disposal of hazardous waste generated in New York. A draft siting plan and GEIS were released last year and hearings were held across the state. The revised drafts released today provide a second and final opportunity for public comment before finalization. The draft plan now includes updated data on in-state and out-of-state hazardous waste generation and management, including in-state treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. In the draft plan, DEC also acknowledges that there is not currently a need (based on available capacity) for any new hazardous waste management facilities. Written comments will be accepted until the close of business on Dec. 14, 2009. Comments can be sent to John Iannotti, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7250. They can also be faxed to (518) 402-9024 or e-mailed to [HWSiting@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:HWSiting@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

## **Water Bottle Deposits to Begin**

November 1 marks the start of deposit collection on bottled water drinks and the NY State government will be able to collect millions from the unclaimed deposits. The law was supposed to go into effect in June, but some bottlers had argued that they needed more time to properly label the bottles with a special UPC. Deposits will not be required on water that has sugar added, or on containers of 1 gallon or more. Distributors will have to give NY State 80% of unclaimed deposits.

## **Volunteers Needed to Help Paint Houses**

Learn a trade and help your neighborhood! Lead Safe Erie County needs volunteers to help paint houses and prevent lead poisoning. For those who are interested, there is also free training for Lead Safe Work Practices Certification. Service learning students, block clubs and others are welcome. Call Mary at 716-833-2929, ext. 117.

**HOME, Inc.** (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) seeks volunteers to work on various committees to further fair housing. If you would like to get involved with the work of HOME consider sitting on any one of the following committees: Development, Finance, Membership, Nominating, Program Operations & Planning, Annual Meeting or the JoAnne Champion Granger Scholarship committee. For information/application, email [muj265@homeny.org](mailto:muj265@homeny.org) or visit their website at [www.homeny.org](http://www.homeny.org).