

# RE-CAP

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## *Year-End Review of the Middleport Community Advisory Panel*

In addition to the regular plant business, environmental, health and safety updates, the Royalton-Hartland school yard remediation project provided the substance for a busy, busy year!

Marshall Wilson, Kevin McDonald, Sharon Smith and Darrell Gilbert were welcomed as new members. Mike Hinton, an NYSDEC representative, and Patt Fagan, representing FMC, also began attending meetings regularly.

Having become well informed about onsite issues in 1998 through presentations by Dr. Roz Schoof, Bob Forbes, and Marjo Carpenter, the CAP determined the need to educate the community through a quarterly newsletter.

Working together, CAP members decided to name the newsletter *Viewpoints* then chose its design, color, layout and contents. Keeping with the goal of serving as a liaison between the plant and the community, four issues of *Viewpoints* were written, edited and mailed! That required a lot of time from CAP members and FMC staff who provided support for that effort.

The conceptual drawings of the school yard restoration made their debut at the April meeting. That led to discussion regarding keeping the neighbors informed about what would be happening in the community. The next thing you know.....

The rainy weather didn't stop hundreds of neighbors from attending the CAP's Community Information Fair held May 26! In this crowning achievement, the CAP was able to bring together elected officials, school representatives, state environmental and health agencies, FMC employees and concerned parents for a fun, entertaining evening. Don't be mistaken, though. The event was about the serious business of the school remediation project. With hands-on computer demonstrations, "science is fun!" activities, balloons, and displays, the CAP managed to get information to a tremendous number of people in a constructive way.

Monthly meetings were kept lively with regular plant updates from Stu Throop, Bob Wojcik, Patt Fagan, and FMC's Project Manager, Amar Lathi. These updates were of importance because they served as the springboard for further actions and activities of the CAP.

The group heard a presentation regarding the plant siren and offered suggestions and advice for its use and testing.

It wasn't all work, though! In July, we held a picnic at the home of John and Mary Grabowski. Sharon Smith and her family hosted family-oriented activities and a hay ride through the fields. What a delight to spend such a wonderful evening playing with our children, enjoying each other's company, and just savoring the delicious fare.

With most of the remediation project completed, the group has now turned its focus outward to the larger community. The Grassroots Middleport effort to restore the downtown area will serve as an outreach assistance project in the coming months.