

Bosworth Calls On EPA To Ban 'Penta'

BY MANHASSET PRESS STAFF

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Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth is calling on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to halt the use of Pentachlorophenol, or Penta, a chemical used by public utilities to preserve electrical and telephone poles.

The move comes as the town is being sued by PSEG LI over the town's requiring the utility to place warning signs on Penta-treated poles.

The EPA has already deemed Penta a "probable" human carcinogen, but the agency still allows its use. Bosworth said she has been given indications from the EPA that it is reviewing her letter and it had already been re-evaluating Pentachlorophenol.

"I and many of the town's residents are extremely concerned by the continued use of Penta as a treatment for utility poles," Bosworth said in her letter. "The continued use of Penta on utility poles has the potential to affect the groundwater quality of millions of Long Island residents...Given that the majority of other uses of the product have been prohibited since 1984, I request that you take the final step to eliminate this threat to our communities and our environment and immediately move to ban the chemical, as other national governments have done."

Penta's commercial uses include utility poles, fences, shingles, walkways, building components, piers, docks and porches, and flooring and laminated beams.

In September, 2014, the town

board unanimously passed a resolution requiring PSEG LI to install signs on all utility poles put in after Jan. 31, 2015, that reads: "Notice: This pole contains Pentachlorophenol. Avoid prolonged contact with this pole. Wash hands or affected areas thoroughly if contact is made."

PSEG had installed hundreds of utility poles treated with Penta in a project spanning from Port Washington to Great Neck. The 80- to 85-foot poles replaced 40-foot poles and their size caused a rift, with the town and residents on one side and PSEG LI on the other.

Failure to comply with the town law results in a \$500 fine for the first offense, and a \$1,000 fine for continued offenses. Each pole counts as a violation for each day the pole isn't given the proper signage. PSEG followed up by suing the town last month, saying the governmental body was acting beyond its scope. The town has responded to the suit and said it was within its rights.

In her letter, Bosworth notes that Long Island resides on top of a sole source aquifer system, which provides all of the Town of North Hempstead's drinking and utility water. Penta may leach into the aquifer system, leading to increased costs for residents along with health risks associated with Penta, she said. Further, Penta damages aquatic ecosystems and can be ingested by marine life, which may later be subject to human consumption, Bosworth wrote.

In the letter, Bosworth states, "Pentachlorophenol has long been recognized as a public health threat. Given that, the majority of other uses



Utility poles treated with Penta run from Port Washington to Great Neck throughout Manhasset.

of the product have been prohibited since 1984, I request that you [the EPA] take the final step to eliminate this threat to our communities and our environment, and immediately move to ban the chemical as other national governments have done. Our utilities should be encouraged to use the safest material for their distribution systems."

Residents for a More Beautiful Port Washington (Residents) joined with Bosworth in calling to a ban of Pentachlorophenol.

"We are extremely concerned with the degree our citizenry is exposed to this toxic chemical, which the EPA has declared extremely toxic to humans from acute ingestion and inhalation

exposure," said Curt Trinko, chairman of Residents. "Utility poles that line streets where we live, learn and work are treated with Penta. As advocates for a walkable and vibrant downtown, these toxic poles abutting sidewalks, schools, parks, shops and restaurants run contrary to our vision."

"The question isn't should we ban it, the question is why would we allow this toxin to continue to be used," said Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "What's more important, preserving wood or preventing cancer? Safer alternatives should be found. We need our utility companies to be partners in protecting our waters, not polluters of our waters."

Power Of Parenting Series With Dr. Stephen Dewey

BY MANHASSET PRESS STAFF

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Join Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse's (CASA) Power of Parenting Series Kick-off with The Fragile T(w)een Brain on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Manhasset Public Library at 30 Onderdonk Ave. The parent presentation for grades 7 through

12 features Stephen Dewey, PhD, an investigator at the Center for Behavioral and Molecular Imaging at The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research.

Dr. Dewey doesn't preach. He simply shows parents what he sees every day through his research. He speaks candidly about the effects alcohol, marijuana and drugs have on the teen brain.

Dr. Dewey has been on *20/20*, *Dateline*, and *Good Morning America* and is also a Professor of Molecular Medicine at Hofstra University's North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine.

The special program is the first of Manhasset CASA's Power of Parenting Series. This program was extremely well-received and was requested by the community to be run again. With the generous funding

obtained by Senator Jack M. Martins and the Manhasset Public Library, the Manhasset community will have this rare opportunity to learn from an industry specialist about the impact these products have on our youth and their development.

Registration is required at www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4ea8a923a64-2015, or go to Manhasset CASA's website at www.manhassetcasa.org.

Artists Wanted

The *Manhasset Press* wants to publish the artwork of community residents of all ages—young, not so young and in between. Whether you work in oil on canvas or finger-paints on construction paper, we want to see your work.

Take a photo of your creation (with a camera, not a cell phone), and email it to Editor Elizabeth Johnson at ejohnson@antonmediagroup.com.

