

GAGES LAKE: 100 tow trucks in procession for Wally Herman. PAGE 10



GURNEE: Little Julia sells snacks for cancer research. PAGE 5



LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN



WEEKEND, APRIL 28-29, 2007 • NEWSUNONLINE.COM

SUNNY, WINDY SUNDAY

**HIGH 77°
LOW 48°**

Today's forecast drawing is by **Samuel Gudeman**, from Woodland Intermediate School.



STATE PARK SHAME



ASBESTOS
Cancer and Lung Disease Hazard
Authorized Personnel Only
Respirators and Protective Clothing
Are Required In This Area

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ANOTHER ASBESTOS DUMP SITE FOUND. FRANK ABDERHOLDEN REPORTS ON PAGE 4

NEWPORT SCHOOL: Kids out, mom billed in residency flap. PAGE 9



'Enough is enough'

New asbestos dump found in state park

By Frank Abderholden
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It has become a rite of spring in an area of Illinois Beach State Park near Zion where pale-colored material pushes forth from the soil and blooms in the sunlight.

Only "it" is not one of the rare flowering plants that dot the swales and swells of the dunes topography. It's asbestos-containing material (ACM), and it's just off a well-worn pathway used by hikers, bikers and dog walkers.

Asbestos is a well-known cancer-causing mineral. It was used in homes and in the manufacturing of a number of products throughout the 20th century.

Now the president of the Dunesland Preservation Society has seen enough. On Thursday, Paul Kakuris and the society's asbestos consultant, Jeffrey Camplin, taped off an area around a couple piles of suspected ACM. Some of the material had been piled by someone, and some material was pushed through the soil by the freeze-and-thaw cycle.

The affected park land is in the north end of the park known as the

Camp Logan area and is just east of the popular fishing spot, Sand Lake — about 150 yards from Lake Michigan.

This asbestos dump is not to be confused with the ACM (usually cement Transite pipe) that washes up on the beaches and is collected on a regular basis. That ACM was first discovered by an employee of the Environmental Protection Agency during a break at a conference in 1990.

This new area of the park with ACM was found by Dunesland after a prairie burn removed the brush, uncovering the material.

"There was some that was left from last time (the Illinois Department of Natural Resources had a company sweep that area) and some of it has heaved up from the ground," said Kakuris. Camplin said that while he was placing the tape around the suspected piles, "I watched kids ride bikes through here and there is a lot of dog walkers, too," he said.

"There were thousands of pieces picked up last year after they cleaned it twice and we can still find some," said Camplin. "They are walking right by it and it's not



Jeff Camplin, a health and safety engineer, holds some asbestos-containing material discovered at Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park North Unit.

that hard to find. It's not like you need a microscope," he said.

"It's like a big garbage dump. They just dug trenches and pushed the debris in," chimed in Kakuris, referring to the homes of an old subdivision that was on the land before the state purchased it for the park. Some of the pieces of ACM are old wallboard and siding, and some, Camplin claims, are friable, which means the material can be crumbled with your hand.

That is important legally, because asbestos is dangerous when it floats into the air and can be inhaled and lodged in lung tissue. Besides ACM, there is a lot of rusting metal, a big old rusty tank lying on its side, old shoes, wood, bottles and broken cement blocks that were revealed by the recent prairie burn.

The two said they decided to place warning tape in the area. "We said enough is enough. This is how you are supposed to set up an area with regulated waste," said Camplin, a health and safety engineer who teaches classes to people on how to work with asbestos.

He said the park policy of letting the public find it report it to park personnel "was ridiculous," he said.



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Paul Kakuris, president of the Illinois Dunesland Society (left), and Jeff Camplin, a health and safety engineer, point out some asbestos-containing debris at Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park.

ASBESTOS AND CANCER

Asbestos is the name given to a group of minerals that occur naturally in the environment as bundles of fibers. Exposure to asbestos may increase the risk of asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma, other cancers, and other nonmalignant lung and pleural disorders. Smokers who are also exposed to asbestos have a greatly increased risk of lung cancer. Individuals who have been exposed (or suspect they have been exposed) to asbestos fibers on the job, through the environment, or at home via a family contact should inform their physician of their exposure history and any symptoms.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates the general public's exposure to asbestos in buildings, drinking water, and the environment. The EPA Web site includes a list of EPA regional and state asbestos contacts at <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/regioncontact.html>.

SOURCE: NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE



CHRISTOPHER D. FOSTER • STAFF DESIGNER

(from online version) explaining the park has signs in certain areas warning people not to touch the material and to notify park employees. Dunesland has also been involved in a first amendment suit with the IDNR because they produced flyer to place at the park and IDNR refused to let them distribute it.

"When I see stuff like this I can't look the other way," said Camplin. He said they should either systematically dig up the material or place a fence around the area and then cap it like the Johns Manville Superfund site. "People really shouldn't be in here," he said.

But he also sees the lure for people. "I like to come out here. It's a beautiful area," he said.

The IDNR did not have an immediate comment on Friday.

Additional Information Not in the *News Sun*

Dunesland's Photographer Shows Close-up of RACM (Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material) at Camp Logan Site:

This weathered and fractured demolition debris was illegally burned by IDNR Region II burnmasters who were fully aware of the asbestos before the burn. The IDNR burnmasters apparently implemented the ecological burn without the proper IEPA burn permit, in violation of the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations and statutes. They were attempting to cover up the contamination and evidence that IDNR had created. Unfortunately, in their haste they did not notify volunteers, workers, and fire department personnel that they were being unwittingly exposed to friable asbestos as it burned in their presence. Note the fibers on the edges of these friable pieces, ready to be released into the air when touched or burned, or just by air currents.

