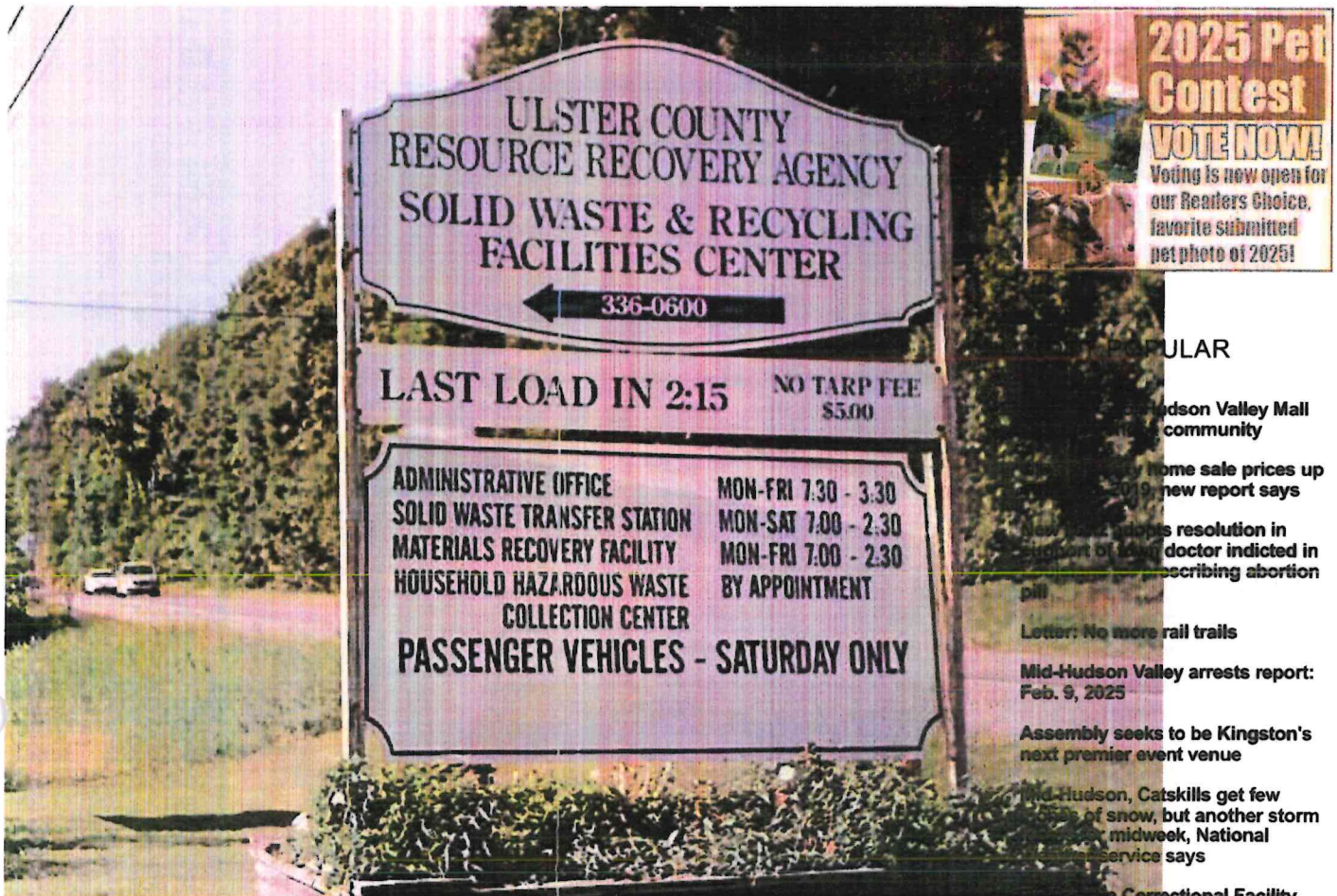


Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency seeks more solid waste disposal options



The entrance to the Ulster County Resource Recover Agency, Route 32, town of Ulster.

By **WILLIAM J KEMBLE**

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TOWN OF ULSTER, N.Y. — A new round of solid waste disposal options is being sought by the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency after officials were disappointed by receiving only one for a landfill study of two controversial sites in Wawarsing.

Agency Executive Director Marc Rider said on Monday, Feb. 10, that proposals will initially be sought for alternatives to a landfill except for projects that involve incineration.

"We're talking a month to two-month pause on the landfill study," he said. "(First) I want to see what's out there. ... Then we will know if we want to partner with one of

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these companies that do an alternative process and what we need to take care of in a landfill versus what we can take care of in the alternative processing."

Among the goals is to dispose of solid waste using the least amount of landfill space with the lowest amount of harmful environmental effects and without making it too costly for county residents.

"One company that I talked to has a process called hydrolysis that ... uses steam

and compresses and shrinks the organics so they can separate them out through a conveyor belt," Rider said. "Then those can be used for biogas and anaerobic digestion. Then, it also shrinks and compresses the inert inorganic materials like minerals, metals, and plastics, and those can get separated out."

Rider declined to release the proposal from Cornerstone because it would compromise the firm's ability to remain competitive.

"I contacted all 30 document holders to find out why only one ... submitted a proposal," he said. "Some people said they didn't have time. Some said they didn't have the requisite requirements ... (which was) somebody to have worked on a project like this in the last five years.

"In hindsight, there hasn't been a landfill site in New York in the last ... 10 years. So, anybody who's not a multi-state, very large firm would have ... difficulty meeting that requirement."

The modification in landfill plans comes as objections have increased over a proposal to study two Wawarsing sites, one on the Sullivan County line and another near the line. A Thursday, Jan. 23, agency meeting drew more than a dozen people who live near the proposed locations. The scene was similar to protests about two years ago when two Plattekill sites were under consideration.

Rider said all four proposed sites as well as the former Hercules property in the town of Esopus will be considered in the next round of reviews for a landfill.

"Whoever is awarded the landfill engineering studies ... will be confirming that and a sixth could possibly pop up," he said. "I'm not taking that possibility away."

Pressure to come up with a disposal plan comes as officials are uncertain whether the Seneca Meadows Landfill in Seneca Falls in Seneca Falls will remain open past 2025.

"New York state is in the midst of a solid waste crisis," Rider said. "Recent decisions have decreased the long-term capacity of landfills in the state and there is no landfill currently being considered that will make that situation better."

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