

# District looks at proposals for Guy Park Ave. building

By JESSICA MAHER  
Recorder News Staff

The Greater Amsterdam Board of Education has begun to hear realtor proposals for its 300 Guy Park Ave. property, which will be vacant after the Walter Elwood Museum moves to Guy Park Manor in the summer.

Mike Sampone of the Pyramid Brokerage Company presented the board with his proposal for the property at Wednesday's Board of Education meeting.

Marketing for 300 Guy Park Ave. under the Pyramid Brokerage Co. would include placing the property on a Web site accessible to every commercial broker in the capital district as well as the state. Sampone would additionally create a flier with information about the property.

The company would also identify potential buyers.

"This is a unique type of a building in that it's in a residential area," said Sampone.

Because of the building's location, zoning could become an issue. It would have to be investi-

gated with the city as far as what would be allowed and possible zoning changes. Sampone said he's been through the process of going to the zoning board as a representative of GASD as broker for the Bacon school.

Though Sampone does not have personal experience with selling state historic buildings such as 300 Guy Park Ave., he said his colleagues do.

WEM has signed a contract with Guy Park Manor and will move the offices and over 20,000 items in the upcoming months.

According to Executive Director Ann Peconie, the hope is for the offices to be moved by May and further relocation will occur in bits and pieces with volunteers and paid movers.

Due to the quantity and time constraints on moving, Peconie said she hopes the school district will afford some courtesy with remaining items after the lease ends.

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Photo submitted

Amelia Barkevich is shown with a dog at the Montgomery County SPCA.

## Presents for Pooches

### Girl to donate to SPCA in lieu of birthday gifts

By JESSICA MAHER  
Recorder News Staff

What Amelia Barkevich really wants for her 8th birthday is cat food, chew toys and maybe some of those delectable rawhide snacks.

Her friends were surprised and their parents even more surprised when they learned that in lieu of play sets, Barbie dolls or clothes, Amelia wanted donations to the Montgomery County SPCA for her April 10 birthday.

"It's important to give the animals more toys to play with so [the MCSPCA] don't have to buy them," said Amelia.

Amelia's favorite shows are on Animal Planet, and one of her

favorite things to do is play with Sasha, the family's rescued cat. When she grows up, Amelia said she wants to be a veterinarian and have an animal shelter of her own. When her father, Keith, made the suggestion to ask for MCSPCA donations at her birthday party, Amelia's reaction was an instant yes. Even after her parents gave her a couple days to think it over, Amelia was sure.

"Our kids aren't spoiled but they're not hurting for stuff," said Keith Barkevich. "We're very proud of her."

A second grade student at William H. Barkley MicroSociety, Amelia has caught some of the charitable

bug from the MicroSociety values of working as a community, said her mother Sandra Barkevich. Around Christmas, Amelia asked for all of her old clothes to be donated to charity.

The charitable bug is a contagious one, with Amelia's friends and her younger brother, Jonas, expressing interest in sacrificing their birthday gifts in a similar way.

She'll still get some presents from her parents and grandparents, but is eager to see animal products from friends and neighbors.

"I might donate some different stuff for my next birthday," said Amelia.

## Supervisors discuss EMS board representation

By BILL SHEEHAN  
Recorder News Staff

FONDA — Nominations to fill vacancies on the Montgomery County EMS Advisory Board led to a discussion on the matter of representation to the board this week.

As the resolution, a leftover from February, was raised from the table, a motion to amend the measure allowing the sheriff to name a designee to attend meetings and vote if he cannot.

County attorney Douglas Landon said that the board makes up the membership and could tailor the sheriff's seat as it pleased.

When board Chairman John Thomas suggested that such a

designee should be up to date on EMS affairs, Root Supervisor John Thayer said he understood that the Sheriff's Office was already prepared.

"According to [Undersheriff] Jeff Smith, they have two people that are suitable to serve as designated representatives," said Thayer.

After agreeing that only the Sheriff's Office would be allowed the flexibility, the measure passed in a unanimous vote of the board.

In other business, board members passed a series of measures awarding contracts and authorizing funding for various infrastructure improvement projects.

Contracts were awarded for the construction of three bridges in the upcounty towns of Minden and St. Johnsville.

Tioga Construction of Herkimer was the low bidder for the Pickle Hill Road and Spring Street projects at \$915,391 and \$1,018,035, respectively, while Stephen Miller Construction, of Mayfield, submitted the low bid for the Lasselville Road bridge reconstruction at \$361,998.

The board voted to finalize borrowing to cover what the state isn't for the cost of resurfacing 18 roads in the towns of Root, Charleston and Glen — a job which comes in at a total cost of \$3.65 million.



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## Hospital gets grant to attract doctors

By JESSICA MAHER  
Recorder News Staff

In effort to draw physicians to underserved parts of the state, St. Mary's Hospital has been awarded \$200,000 over two years for New York State's new Doctors Across New York program, Gov. David Paterson announced this week.

"All New Yorkers deserve access to high-quality health care, and Doctors Across New York will target the areas of the state with the biggest shortages of doctors, providing residents in those communities with greater access to health care," said Paterson.

SMH will receive a two-year total of \$100,000 in the specialty of general surgery and \$100,000 in obstetrics.

SMH Vice President for Medical Affairs Dr. Timothy Shoen submitted an application for the program in November 2008, applying for services that would cross both counties, providing for the main campus in Amsterdam as well as clinics in Fulton County.

According to Jerri Cortese, director of community rela-

tions for SMH, the Department of Education identified the type of physician in greatest need at each hospital. SMH must now research if they meet the criteria for physicians in each specialty. At the time of application, for example, the hospital had only one general surgeon whereas now there are two on staff.

"We want to look at that in terms of is there still an identified need in those areas," said Cortese.

Doctors Across New York was approved as part of the 2008-09 state budget and provides \$11.1 million over two years to physicians in expanding or establishing medical practices or health care facilities to recruit new physicians to practice in an underserved area.

Applications were reviewed based on the community's population needs and circumstances, such as the length of time the position has been vacant, long waiting times for appointments or high use of emergency rooms for routine care.

"It's not easy to attract doctors to upstate New York," said Cortese. "The salaries they're used to getting is something our community is not usually able to provide."

The funding, which is the first such grant request for meeting physician shortages in the state, will provide monetary incentives for doctors to come to SMH.

Over 100 facilities across the state were granted the award. SMH received the maximum award of \$100,000 for each specialty.

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