

# THE JOURNAL-PRESS

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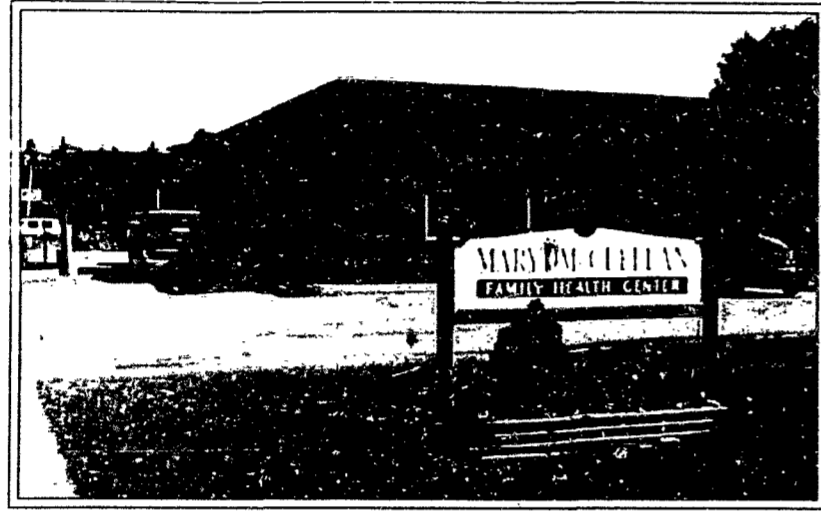
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## McClellan Health System plans to restructure



The Greenwich Mary McCrellan Family Health Center is undergoing some renovation work and is receiving some new landscaping.

After two years of study and planning, McClellan Health System has announced plans for a major restructuring of its services.

Measures are to include reduction in the number of hospital beds to obtain Critical Access Hospital Designation, expansion of the Cambridge Family Health Center, privatization of the Hoosick Falls Family Health Center, and transfer of the Washington County Hospice program to a new operator.

These changes will entail redesign and upgrade of McClellan's main campus in Cambridge including the possible relocation of the skilled nursing home within the facility.

Mary McClellan Hospital has been operating since 1919. In the 1970's, a skilled nursing home was added to the complex. During the last decade, McClellan developed four family health centers located in Cambridge, Greenwich, Salem and Hoosick Falls.

Due to changing patterns of health care delivery and continuing deficits, McClellan undertook a corporate affiliation with Hudson Headwaters Health Network last August. With its new management team, the board has been engaged in strategic planning on an intense basis.

Arthur E. Center, Jr., Chair of the McClellan Board of Directors, said, "The first priority of the board has been to protect and assure the continuation of those health services which are important to our communities. The second priority has been to identify a service package that will assure viability for McClellan itself."

Mr. Center went on to say that a formal needs assessment commissioned by the board has confirmed the board's impressions of community priorities. "Our consultants," said Mr. Center, "have reported that maintaining the Emergency Department, expanding our Family Health Centers in Washington County, securing the future of the nursing home, and growing our specialty and ancillary services should be our focus."

Dr. John Rugge, McClellan's CEO, stated that McClellan's plans have been carefully reviewed with the state Health Department and with the offices of

Senator Ronald B. Stafford and Senator Joseph L. Bruno.

"Our state officials," said Dr. Rugge, "have provided invaluable guidance and have been encouraging in helping us to identify transition financing to reshape McClellan for the future."

Implementation of the new plan is to begin immediately.

Douglas Cushing, McClellan's Chief Operating Officer, indicated that physical relocation of the acute care hospital service took place on Friday, July 21.

Mr. Cushing stated that the need for remodeling will entail a temporary shrinkage of the hospital service to just one bed. "Keeping one hospital bed in service during our construction phase," he said, "will allow the hospital to keep its license and re-expand by January to six acute beds contiguous to the hospital's emergency department."

By September, the Family Health Center will be relocated upstairs in the hospital facility.

According to Mr. Cushing there will be no interruption in service at either the Emergency Department or at the Family Health Center.

Dr. Rugge indicated that discussions with several parties are now underway for transfer of the Hoosick Falls Family Health Center and McClellan's Hospice to other entities. "We have good reason to believe that there will be a smooth and successful transition of these services to organizations better positioned to operate these programs than McClellan at this time."

During the next year, McClellan expects to reduce its work force by approximately 100 positions but, according to Mr. Cushing, many of these jobs will not be lost but instead will be transferred to other organizations.

Mr. Center indicated that, "The planning process has been careful and intense and, I must say, in some respects, painful. In the same breath, I would add that the board is unanimous in supporting the new plan. More than that, we are energized by this opportunity to put our most essential services on sound footing and begin to develop new programs especially in the ambulatory arena."

## Fatal accident in Hebron

A motor vehicle accident in the town of Hebron resulted in the death of Lawrence R. Norton, Jr., 34, of Salem, on Sunday afternoon, July 23, about 4:16 in the afternoon.

According to the Washington County Sheriff's department deputies who investigated the accident, it is thought that Norton, who was northbound on Route 30, lost control of his vehicle, veered into the southbound lane. He was struck in the driver's side by a car in the southbound lane driven by Thomas A. McLaren, 57, of Salem.

McLaren and his wife, Theresa, were transported to the Glens Falls Hospital by the Salem and Granville Rescue Squads for treatment of their injuries. They were released later from the hospital.

Norton was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick of Granville.

Responding to the scene of the accident were Sgt. Frank Diamond, Inv. David Pollock and Deputies Daryl Williams and Todd Lemery. As of Monday, the accident was still under investigation.

In addition to the two rescue squads, the Hebron Fire Department was at the scene.

## Eligibility exams for county jobs

The Washington County Department of Personnel will hold two exams on October 14 to establish eligibility lists for positions which may occur during the lifetime of the list.

One exam is for a community service worker. There are no vacancies in the Department of Social Services at the present time.

The other exam is for Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. There is one vacancy in the Whitehall Central School at present. The eligible list will be used to fill any future vacancies in any of the school districts in the county.

Information and applications are available at the County Department of Personnel in Fort Edward. Applications must be filed by September 6 for each exam.

## Exams to be given for eligible lists

Two exams will be given on October 14 by the Washington County Department of Personnel. Applications for each exam will be accepted up to September 22.

The results of the eligible lists thus established will be used to fill vacancies as they occur in all agencies under the jurisdiction of the department including school districts, BOCES, towns, villages and county.

One exam is for custodian and the other is for account clerk or account clerk/typist. The latter exam may be considered for trainee appointments to positions as Motor Vehicle License Clerk, Index Clerk and Recruiting Clerk.

The exams will be held at 8:30 a.m. at a location to be announced.

For information and to obtain an application contact the Department of Personnel at the County Municipal Building in Fort Edward.

## Washington County Fair

Plans for the opening of the Washington County Fair 2000, August 21-27, are well underway. There will be over 170 commercial exhibits along with the livestock displays and farm machinery exhibits. Also, plenty of family entertainment in the tent, the farm museum, antique tractors, the FFA petting zoo, the tractor pulls, cattle and horse shows and many other contests, judging and much more.

This year will see a new carnival on the midway. Amusements of America is the new carnival company who will

## A fine day for cows



In this area, Tuesday was warm, pleasant, and delightful. These next to Center Falls Road in Easton probably agreed.

## Literacy Volunteers plan fundraiser

Literacy Volunteers of America - Washington County is holding its first "LVA Presents An Evening With Authors and Artists" at 7:30 p.m. in Hubbard Hall, Cambridge.

The planning committee has been meeting and working hard to plan an enjoyable evening program. Among the participants will be Jon Katz and Jeanne Winston Adler. Katz is the author of *Running to the Mountain*, a novel with a local setting. Adler is the author of *Early Days in the Adirondacks*, *The Photographs of Seneca Ray Stoddard*.

Committee members come from various parts of Washington County - Granville, Greenwich, Salem, and Shugart.

This fundraiser will help LVA-WC provide help for adults desiring to improve their reading and language skills. Tickets will be available soon.

Further information about LVA-WC is available from the offices located in the Cambridge Public Library and Whitehall Free Library. Leave a message on the answering machines if no one is available.

## Annual picnic at Lauderdale

The Washington County Board of Supervisors held their annual picnic at the county park at Lake Lauderdale on Wednesday, July 19.

The Cambridge Fire Department catered the meal.

There was a good turnout of supervisors, their families, town officials and other guests.

Bobby D'Andrea also attended.

## Scout volunteers were honored

Several people were honored at the volunteer recognition luncheon held in April by the Adirondack Council of the Girl Scouts.

Awards were made to the following volunteers in our area: Rulyn Graves of Greenwich received an appreciation pin and Beth Levine of Schuylerville was presented an honor pin.

## Pro-dredging view presented Supervisors remain unconvinced

By Tony Basile

While members of the Washington County Board of Supervisors, Friday, listened intently to a fifteen minute presentation on the advantages of dredging for PCB removal, the almost hour long barrage of questions that followed indicated that the supervisors remained unconvinced that the dredging of the north Hudson was a viable solution to the problem.

Although narrated by a consultant who is a Jackson resident with a Schuylerville office address, each of the many multi-colored handouts that accompanied the oral presentation was emblazoned with the logo of Scenic Hudson, Inc., a Poughkeepsie based environmental activist organization.

The considerable discussion of new shore-to-shore dredging techniques that do not stir up the sediment, did not answer the single most important question as to where the contaminated soil will be dumped. The nearest contaminated materials landfill is located in Buffalo, and it is obvious that neither the state nor federal government intends to bear the expense of shipping tons of river bottom that great distance.

Several supervisors stated that dredging is not the real issue. Most do not care if the river is dredged clean, just so long as the contaminated material removed from the river is not dumped in Washington County.

Much of the printed material presented contained a lot of scientific jargon that, when read carefully, indicates that the government's standards for safe levels of PCBs in fish are a lot higher than Scenic Hudson, Inc. would like them to be. This is because, according to Scenic Hudson, Inc., people are eating the fish that New York State law prohibits them from taking out of the north Hudson. The claim is that many fishermen are not aware of the prohibition, in spite of the fact that the New York State fishing guide clearly points out the dangers of eating fish from the river, and dozens of other bodies of water in the state, and that the removal of fish from the Hudson between the Troy dam and Fort Edward will result in a fine and loss of license.

The supervisors and their constituents remain highly concerned about the potential detrimental effects on both the sale of the county's agricultural products and the building of the county's

tourism industry should PCB dumps be located here, as well as the possible loss of General Electric as a major employer, should the environmentalists have their way. This was emphasized in a brief presentation later on during the supervisors' Privilege of the Floor segment of the meeting.

Jail sites still under consideration

In addition to the Rexleigh road site in Salem, a site on Dix Avenue, the Valmet property adjoining the municipal complex and a site on Windy Hill road in Easton are still under consideration by the jail committee.

Environmental impact studies will be done on all sites before the selection process is completed.

The Valmet site, due to its small size, will require a multi-story building, expected to cost more to both build and staff than single story designs. It seems to be the least likely choice at present. However, it was suggested that the administrative section of the jail, which is a sizable portion of the total design, be built on multi-levels, with the actual cells remaining on the ground floor. This should solve the problem of increased staffing.

In the meantime, the Sheriff's Department was authorized to purchase a 15-passenger transportation van to move inmates who are boarded out. The van will be purchased on state contract for \$20,995.50.

A resolution was also approved awarding the bid for modular housing at the present Salem site to Downing Corporation, and the board approved the addition of six correction officers positions within the Sheriff's Department to help man these modular units. It is hoped that these housing units will be up and operating by mid-November.

Greenwich Fire Department commended

The Greenwich Fire Department recently won the New York State Association of Fire Chief's Public Education Award. The board commended the department for this achievement. Their 1999 "Get Out Alive" program, which is an all-volunteer presentation made at all schools in the area, at absolutely no cost to the taxpayers, won the department that honor. A copy of the resolution was presented to Greenwich Fire Chief Kevin Shepherd by Supervisor Don Wilbur.

## Peace lanterns to be set afloat at county park

Washington County Park at Lake Lauderdale will again be the site for "Lanterns of Remembrance - Lanterns of Hope," on Thursday, August 3. This event, first organized by the Battenkill Peacemakers in 1987 and open to the public, is a time of reflection on the consequences of war and commitment to ways of working for peace. Participants remember victims of war by the floating of lighted candle lanterns - an ancient Japanese custom honoring the dead.

The evening begins at 6 p.m. in the picnic shelter, where materials will be supplied for make-your-own lanterns. A potluck supper will be shared. Diners are asked to bring their own place settings.

The program will include group singing and readings by various members of local communities. At dusk the Metawee Players and flutist Bliss McIn-

tosh will lead the processional to the lake for the launching of the lanterns. In case of rain, an observance will be held in the picnic shelter.

The park grounds are closed to entry after 8 p.m.

## WEATHER

Mostly pleasant all week, with sunshine, light fluffy clouds and one day of showers. Temperatures are cooler than normal for the time of year. To date not much humidity. Rain total .5 of an inch. Temperatures and conditions for the past week follow:

Date	Conditions	High	Low
19	Overcast	78	66
20	Cool and sunny	73	55
21	.4" rain showers	72	52
22	1.1" rain, sunny	75	58
23	Sunny	75	55
24	Sunny, cldy p.m.	78	57
25	Sunny	82	60

## Two testify on preserving small railroad companies

Two witnesses, Ron Crow, president of Battenkill Railroad Company and Malcolm Sanders, a trustee of Northern Rail, testified at a hearing of the U.S. House Ground Transportation Subcommittee on Tuesday, July 25.

These two were to testify that the preservation of small railroads is essential to regional economic health. Small railroads help secure lower prices for rail transportation of commercial goods and agricultural products.

The Emergency Small Railroad Preservation Act provides funding to upgrade rail infrastructure, keeping small railroads viable.

Crow and Sanders were selected from representatives of more than 500 shortline and regional railroad companies to testify regarding the act. Congressman John E. Sweeney serves on the Transportation and Infrastruc-

ture, Small Business and Banking Committees, and is Vice Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. He welcomed the men at the hearing.

## Office worker exam

An exam will be given on November 18, for clerk, typist, medical typist, stenographer or data entry machine operator by the Washington County Department of Personnel, to establish an eligibility list.

The results of this list will be used to fill vacancies as they occur in all agencies under the jurisdiction of the department, including school districts, BOCES, towns, villages and county departments.

For details and/or an application, contact the Department of Personnel at the Municipal Building in Fort Edward.

Applications will be accepted up to October 27. The exam will be at 8:30 a.m. at a place to be announced.

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