

Faith-Based Counseling Heals Mind And Spirit

By Melanie Lekocevic

COXSACKIE – Looking for help but don't know where to turn? A faith-based resource is available that could offer the answers you are looking for.

Samaritan Counseling Center of the Capital Region opened its newest location this month at Second Reformed Church in Coxsackie, making its therapeutic services available to people of all faiths in Greene County, or no faith at all.

"We are opening a satellite office at the church," said Patty Gillen, a psychotherapist and licensed social worker with Samaritan Counseling Center. "We are scheduled to be there once a week, offering family, individual and couples therapy. You don't have to be a member of the church or be of any faith to utilize our services.

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Patty Gillen from Samaritan Counseling Center was at the Riverside Park celebration of the Second Reformed Church to tell people about the counseling services that their new Coxsackie satellite office will offer.

Down On The July 1

NEW BALTIMORE - Once upon a time the farm was home to most Americans. Now it's mainly the preserve of large corporate growers and feed companies. Not so in New Baltimore where a number of family farms soldier on.

The New Baltimore Conservancy provides a look at farm life on July 13 from 3 to 7 p.m. when it inaugurates its local farm tour. Visitors and their children can visit the last dairy farm in the town run by the Van Slykes whose ancestors were among the first people to settle in New Baltimore very early in the 1700s.

The tour includes three other farms. The Flegel Farm has been transformed over the years from a fruit farm to its present operation raising a small number of "belted" beef cattle. The Flegel fields produce hay and grain for the cattle and local sale and the farm's antique gardens offer a bounty of flowers set among the old

Pros And Cons Of New

Coxsack Rotar

Mind & Spirit

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Samaritan Counseling Center was established in 1985, and is a private not-for-profit agency with sites throughout the Capital Region. The Center's approach to healing is holistic, and deals with issues of the body, mind and spirit.

"We recently brought Samaritan Counseling Center into our church to make their services available to everyone in Greene County," said Pastor Carolyn Lewis of Second Reformed Church. The move comes during this, the 175th anniversary of the church, which has a long history of helping anyone and everyone in Coxsackie.

Individual counseling is offered to deal with issues related to depression, anxiety, life changes, self-esteem, trauma, stress management and sexual abuse. Licensed therapists also offer couples and family counseling, career assessment, educational programs, play therapy for children and specialized therapy groups.

"People come to us for a range of reasons - because they have marital issues, behavioral issues with their children, or for dysfunctional family dynamics. We also have individuals come here for trauma, sexual or physical abuse, or for post-traumatic stress disorder if they are just returning from the war. We treat a full range of conditions," Ms. Gillen said.

While the Samaritan Counseling Center has had offices in other locations for decades, this is their first time venturing into Greene County.

"Hopefully, we will grow," Ms. Gillen added. "Samaritan

Counseling Center is faith-based, but you don't have to be of a particular faith, or any faith at all. We will bring faith into the therapy, if that is what the client wants to do."

All staff members are certified and licensed professionals. Samaritan accepts most major insurance plans, and is a provider for local HMOs. For those without insurance coverage, payment can be made on a sliding scale basis. Anyone wishing to make an appointment can call (518) 374-3514.

On The Farm

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right up the hill a mile or more.

Tickets go on sale at 2 p.m. and can be purchased for \$5 per person or \$10 per family. For further information please contact Susan O'Rorke (518-756-6022).

Lock Horns

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before the lease with a private property owner was signed.

But the village's former attorney said environmental study was not needed because the lot had been used as a parking lot in the past, so there is no change in its use. The village's current attorney, Tal Rappleyea, agreed.

"In my opinion, the action of the board to lease an existing lot does not require an environmental review," Mr. Rappleyea told Ms. Hodges during the meeting. "Reasonable people can disagree with this position, but just because you come back to the board over and over again, doesn't mean the board members have to change their minds."

As for the fence, because the lot is owned by a private property owner, he has final say

over what kind of fence should be installed, and the board is still trying to work out the details with him.

"We have already approved resolution to install a fence, but this is private property and we have to take the proper owner's opinions into consideration," said Mayor Andrew Smallwood. "We have done our part, and we are trying to work with him to come to a resolution. It is just taking longer than we thought it would."

Ms. Hodges contends that there was not enough research or preparation done before the village leased the lot. And she says that after a year of demanding the fence, she is being treated by the board as a nuisance.

"I feel like I am being stonewalled and strung along. This village is on the verge of a comprehensive plan which suggests major development in the future," Ms. Hodges said. "I can't help but feel that a village government on the verge of instituting major development ought to have a policy of protecting the public from developers before the development goes into effect. I find the board's attitude very troubling."

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