

SYSO seeks donations for defibrillators

Goal is to double the number of do-it-yourself heart attack aids

BY TOM BARTLEY
FOR THE SOMERS RECORD

Somers' volunteer youth sports program is looking to double the number of heart defibrillators available to help stricken athletes, their coaches, spectators and others.

The Somers Youth Sports Organization (SYSO) now has 10 automated external defibrillators to safeguard some 1,400 youngsters. But SYSO President Nicholas M. Ward-Willis said the program has launched a drive to raise at least \$25,000, enough to buy another 10 of the potentially life-saving devices.

Looking to enlist Town officials in the effort, Ward-Willis addressed the Town Board last week at its work session. Supervisor Rick Morrissey told him that although the Town cannot directly ask residents to donate, it will refer residents to the SYSO website, somerssports.org.

During the brief work session, the board discussed a handful of issues in advance of tonight's regular Town Board meeting. They also set July 9 for a public hearing on the Hidden Meadows housing proposal.

'Perhaps you, or a group of your friends or family or colleagues would like to purchase an AED in honor of a loved one. We would be thrilled to accept such a donation and affix a plaque to the AED in their honor.'

—Nick Ward-Willis

President, Somers Youth Sports Organization

In that project, developer Ken Kearney is looking to build 45 townhomes off Route 6. His configuration would provide 53 housing units: 37 townhomes selling at the going market price and another eight at affordable rates, with each affordable unit also including an affordable one-bedroom rental apartment.

Kearney discussed progress last week with the Town Board. Before the developer began his presentation, Councilman Tom Garrity said Kearney had donated two automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, to SYSO. But Kearney denied that he was the true donor, saying, "I have no money; my wife has the money."

The AEDs cost \$2,500 each, but Ward-Willis focused on the payoff

they provide.

"What a difference they make," he told the board. "I'm not a health expert by any stretch of the imagination but when there's a sudden cardiac arrest, I'm told, every minute delay [in receiving treatment] decreases the chances of survival by 10 percent."

Cardiac arrest—caused by heart attack, heart disease, accident or other—takes the lives of a quarter-million Americans annually. Five years ago in Somers, a 6-year-old Primrose Elementary School student died after nearly drowning and going into cardiac arrest. Timely use of an AED, authorities later concluded, could have saved Gianna Marie Balog's life.

Two years ago, her parents, John and Kim Balog, donated an AED

Donations can be sent by check to SYSO at 108 Village Square, #302, Somers, NY 10589, or made online at sysodonations.sportssignup.com.

to Primrose in their daughter's memory.

In a letter to SYSO members, Ward-Willis encouraged similar generosity.

"Perhaps you, or a group of your friends or family or colleagues would like to purchase an AED in honor of a loved one," he wrote. "We would be thrilled to accept such a donation and affix a plaque to the AED in their honor."

An AED is about the size of a laptop computer and automatically diagnoses a cardiac arrhythmia and treats it with electrical therapy. Such defibrillation is meant to stop

the arrhythmia and allow the heart to regain effective rhythm.

While the electronic devices are designed to be easy-to-use, Ward-Willis noted, they require training. So far, SYSO has trained 250 coaches, at \$55 a head, and each must be re-certified every two years. Annual monitoring and maintenance, he said, runs another \$900.

"Please help us help our community," Ward-Willis wrote.

Donations can be sent by check to SYSO at 108 Village Square, #302, Somers, NY 10589, or made online at sysodonations.sportssignup.com.

Editorial Submissions

Press releases and photos should be submitted to The Somers Record by the Thursday before the next publication date. Submissions can be emailed to somersrecord@halstonmedia.com or mail it to The Somers Record, 572 Route 6, Mahopac, NY 10541. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope if you'd like your photo returned.

Travelers Rest

Route 100, Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-7744 • TheTravelersRest.com

Serving Your Dining & Banquet Needs For Over 55 Years In Westchester
Weddings • Corporate Events • Private Parties

Big News!

Introducing Our New Tap Room on the Terrace
Specialty Tap & Premium Beers • Pub Fare Menu
Outdoor Dining • Happy Hour Daily - 5-7PM
Live Entertainment • Large Screen TVs

Friday, June 12th at 8PM - Dance Party
Featuring DJ Steve Raguso & DJ Paulie Mixing Classics & Today's Hits!

Saturday, June 13th - Music by Lou Ubriaco

Unlimited Prime Rib Fridays!
Three Course Unlimited Angus Rib Dinner \$29.95
(Reservations Required)

PUTNAM COUNTY'S BEST VALUED
55+ COMMUNITY

**OUR LAST PHASE.
YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY.**

OVER 75% SOLD

IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY HOMES AVAILABLE

2 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths, FROM \$289,900 With Low Taxes & Low Maintenance

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING A MOVE, NOW IS THE TIME TO SEE STONELEIGH WOODS.

Only 2 ground floor condominiums remain. So visit our furnished models and clubhouse soon because when these are gone there will be no more.

800-473-9105
Sales Office: 10am-4pm Thurs-Mon
www.StoneleighWoods.com

Stoneleigh Woods AT CARMEL

I-684N to I-84W or I-84E to EXIT 19- toward CARMEL.
Turn RIGHT onto NY-312. Go approx. 1.2 miles.
Turn RIGHT onto US-6. Go approx 1.4 miles.
Turn LEFT onto CR-35/Stoneleigh Ave, continue for a 1/4 of a mile.
Turn Right at Stoneleigh Woods.
GPS - 1000 Stoneleigh Avenue, Carmel NY 10512

The complete offering terms are in an offering plan available from the Sponsor.