

encouraging them to support this cause, which I call Kyle's Law. If enough people show interest and support, I am sure that they will listen and work towards the passage of these measures, which hurt no one and help many, which require no funding, and place no hardship or inconvenience upon motorists. It is simply a law that would protect those whose job it is to assist others who are in need of help.

The addresses are as follows:

➤ Assemblyman Kevin A. Cahill, Governor Clinton Building Suite G4, 1 Albany Ave, Kingston NY 12401.

cahillk@assembly.state.ny.us

➤ Senator John Bonacic, 815 Legislative Office Building, Albany NY 11563. bonacic@senate.state.ny.us

Again, thank you for your support in this matter.

*Matthew J. Parker
Ellenville*

To the Editor:

Regarding the **Napanoch Mall** story in your January issue – great news! For what it's worth, I would like to add my "2-3 cents" to discussions on this development.

First of all, in my humble opinion, what we desperately need here is a general department store, not another food store. The problem of where to buy socks, underwear, sneakers – the real basics – continues to plague this area. Also, as the developers move forward with their plans, we as a community should encourage them to consider such issues as comfortable and pleasant pedestrian accessibility to the site (Napanoch residents are certainly within easy walking distance to the Mall). Also, a "new look that is attractive and modern" is fine, but how about a look that fits into its surroundings? There are recent examples of architecture that fits, locally, in Stone Ridge and New Paltz: brand new Ulster Savings Bank buildings that look like they belong! Is there a way to solicit local businesses/restaurants/ startups to fill the space, rather than just chain establishments? Let's invite the developers to really make this a community project, rather than just another mall like the rest.

Our area has a unique character that could be lost if **Rte. 209** becomes just another strip mall corridor. Can we entice regional shoppers with something different from Middletown or Rte.9W in Kingston? If there is really the potential for two of America's largest homebuilders to site developments in this area, let's plan how these would fit as a part of our community, rather than simply near it. If development occurs on the outskirts of our "downtowns," perhaps it could be designed in such a way as to encourage the new residents to walk into Ellenville and Napanoch, rather than to drive to distant places.

The Ellenville/Wawarsing area still has a small-town feel to it; it has very clearly defined village centers; it has historic homes and neighborhoods; it's surrounded by natural beauty. These are all things that many other communities are trying to create, often from scratch! Let's capitalize on our assets by pro-actively incorporating them into any future developments and improvements.

*Nadia N.S. Maczaj
Rusty Plow Farms, Ellenville*

To the Editor:

The Town of Mamakating is considering a proposal from the Yukiguni Maitake Mushroom Corp. of America (YM) to build a facility for the production and processing of mushrooms. The proposed 850,000+ square foot, 4-story facility would be located just south of Kohl's on **Rte. 209**. A facility of this scale will completely disrupt the vista of our rural valley.

The project will also negatively impact the fragile **Basha Kill** watershed, the unique **Shawangunk Ridge**, and development of the **D & H Canal Linear Park**—which are all important recreational resources promoted by the entire tri-county area.

Very serious water issues are also involved. YM proposes to pull 621,000 gallons of groundwater daily for its

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operation. The company says only 50,000 gallons per day of wastewater would be returned to on-site infiltration basins. How will this impact local needs?

There are other potential problems. YM anticipates that its facility will produce 3.3 tons of solid waste per day, as well as 67 tons of sawdust and waste mushrooms per day. How will this enormous amount of waste material be disposed of, and how will our landfills be affected? Will production odors and noise be a disturbance, and, how will added trucking impact an already busy **Rte. 209**?

Local citizens and groups in and around Mamakating are working to stop a premature approval of this project. We are urging both the Mamakating Planning and Zoning boards to carefully weigh the economic advantages the enterprise may create against the negative impacts this major industrial proposal will have on the environment and ambiance of our area.

We ask all concerned people to join us as stewards of our valley. Once paved over, there really is no going back. Let's make our voices heard now before it's too late.

*Andy & Eileen Weil
Summitville, NY*

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