

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Several weeks ago, while working on my pool, I was stung by a wasp. I have been stung before and did not think much of it. Twenty minutes later my face was rather swollen and I was developing hives on my chest and neck. I decided to go to the *Ellenville Hospital*, a five-minute drive from my house.

I did not know that my life was in jeopardy. I simply went to the hospital to get the itching to stop. I walked into the emergency room feeling fine except for the swelling and itching. Without wasting any time the people at the *Hospital*, led by Nurse Cathy Smith, put me in a bed, hooked me up to an IV and started administering intravenously saline and benadryl.

At this time I don't believe anyone knew I was in serious trouble. Although I know Cathy and the staff were watching for any problems. I was joking with the staff when I felt a little short of breath. I mentioned it to nurse Smith, and within three seconds my life was in great danger.

I was in great pain and only heard one person's voice throughout the entire incident, Nurse Smith's. She cleared the room, called for help and as things turned worse she called "code red," knowing how close I was to dying.

I was immediately administered epinephrin (adrenaline). I felt I was going to die and was told later by Nurse Smith, my physician, and my allergist, that I indeed was near death. The medicine, Nurse Smith, and the ER staff's quick actions saved my life.

Although this has been a very important incident to take place in my life, and I will never forget what the quick actions of the *Ellenville Emergency Room* did for me, I feel it is important to write this to say how important *Ellenville Regional Hospital* is to our community.

At different times in my ten years living in Ellenville, there have been attacks on the hospital and threats to close it. My family has always supported the hospital, but now I feel a debt to not ever let our little town lose such a valuable resource.

How many other lives have been saved, or stabilized so they could be moved to a hospital that could more specifically treat their sickness? My family doctor and my allergist assured me that, had I gone into anaphylactic shock at home or on my way to the hospital, I would have died. The fact that the hospital is so close, and is staffed with such competent people saved my life.

My family, including three-year old-son and eight-year-old daughter, thanks you. We will never underestimate the importance of the *Ellenville Hospital*, nor will we stand by idly if *Ellenville Hospital* needs our help.

James Pidel  
Ellenville

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## Safety First

### Display Your House Number

In an emergency, seconds count. Precious time can be wasted trying to locate an unmarked house. Help your local emergency service providers by displaying your house number.

👉 House numbers should be displayed on the building, or in front of it, in a prominent and conspicuous place and in such manner as to be legible from the street.

👉 All numbers should be at least 3-inches in height, and be located approximately 4-feet above the ground.

👉 The colors of said numbers should be in sharp contrast to the color of their background.

👉 When practical, the numbers should be placed near a light so that they may be readily seen at night. If the numbers are not illuminated, they should be reflective.

👉 The street number must be visible from both directions.

👉 If the house is more than 75-feet from the roadway, the number should be displayed on a post or mailbox, no farther than 25-feet from the edge of the street, and on the same side of the street as the house.

👉 In the event that more than one house has access from a single driveway, the number of the house must be displayed at each location at which the driveway access diverges, in addition to being displayed on the house.

In addition to displaying your house number, it is important to remember that your telephone service address and billing address may not be the same. Even though your phone bill is getting to your correct mailing address, it is vital that you update your service address with your local telephone company.

Take the time now to ensure that your correct information is on file with your local phone company, and that your address is clearly displayed on your home. This will reduce the amount of time it takes for help to arrive at the time of an emergency. 🌟

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