

## **GOLDEN HILL HEALTH CARE CENTER: A LWVMHR STUDY**

### **What is the Golden Hill Health Care Center (GHHCC)?**

Golden Hill Health Care Center (GHHCC) is a 280 bed nursing home (RHCF) that is owned, operated and staffed by Ulster County. It has a very fine reputation for serving its residents well. GHHCC is open to everyone in need of nursing home care, whose care needs can be met by the facility.

### **What problems make the future of Golden Hill Health Care Center an issue?**

GHHCC has three major issues, i.e. high operating costs and capital problems and a facility configuration that does not meet current needs. These problems threaten its viability. The County subsidy for operating costs varies from year to year, but estimates from \$2 to \$8 Million a year in the near future are not unrealistic. Since every \$750,000 of tax subsidy results in a county tax increase of 1%:

A \$2 Million subsidy will raise taxes by 2.7%.

A \$4 Million subsidy will raise taxes by 5.3%.

A \$8 Million subsidy will raise taxes by 10.7%.

On top of the need for operating subsidies, Golden Hill also has major capital deficiencies. According to engineering reports, the water pipes, sewer pipes, ventilation system, elevators and nurse call systems are all in poor condition. It is not energy efficient. The costs for fixing these systems ranges from about \$10 Million for a sewer pipe project to about \$80 Million for a total rehabilitation of the building. It may be less expensive to build a new building than to totally rehabilitate the existing one. Breakdowns will limit the GHHCC resident capacity and reduce revenue, creating disruption and unplanned expense.

### **The LWVMHR is preparing to help our members reach consensus about what the county should do about Golden Hill so that we can speak out publicly on this issue.**

The League has formed a new Study group to reopen and continue the Golden Hill Study begun two years ago. We are developing a list of consensus questions to put before the membership to address the pros and cons of both programmatic and fiscal, i.e. cost and revenue issues. The effects on the current residents and employees will also be part of the consideration.

We have tentatively scheduled a **consensus meeting for Sept. 28**, at the Unitarian Congregation on Sawkill Road in Kingston, Sept. 28 at 7:00 PM. **Posted resource content will be regularly updated!**

*Margaret Sellers, LWVMHR GHHCC Study Group II Chair*

### **GHHCC Study Resources**

SEE at [http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action\\_Study.html](http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html)