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Millwood-Based Food Bank Will Move to Elmsford

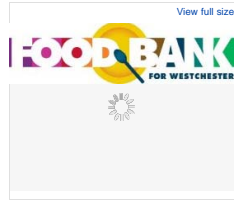
Citing need for more space, Food Bank For Westchester plans move for late fall.

By Tom Auchterlonia Email the author July 20, 2011 Print

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The Food Bank For Westchester one of Millwood's most prominent organizations, will depart later this year for a new headquarters in Elmsford, in an effort to keep up with growing demand.

The new space, located at 200 Clearbrook Rd., is 37,000 square feet, including 5,000 square feet of office space, according to Jeanne Wilcox, the group's communications manager. Currently, the Millwood building, located at 358 Saw Mill River Rd., has 15,000 square feet, including 3,000 for office space. This will triple the Food Bank's space, according to Wilcox.

The size of the Millwood facility is no longer adequate for the food bank's needs, officials have said recently. With increasing demand - Wilcox said there was a 30-percent rise for food last year - the group has had several challenges in storage, even having to put good outside and turn away some food.

The rise in demand has coincided with the bad economy.

"Not everyone can make ends meet," Wilcox said, noting that the high cost of living in Westchester County results in people who do not make much money needing food assistance, in addition to the unemployed. Children and seniors are among the most vulnerable, she explained.

The Food Bank has been looking for a new Westchester location for years, according to Wilcox. With a long-term lease for the Elmsford facility, the Food Bank anticipates moving to its new headquarters around either late October or November, according to Wilcox. In the mean time, work will be done on the new location to ensure that it is ready, including setting up a new refrigeration, freezer and rackings. The lease for the Millwood space expires in September, Wilcox said, and the Food Bank will operate on a month-to-month agreement until the move.

The Food Bank, which is 23 years old, has been located at its Millwood building for at least 10 years, according to Wilcox.

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