

Director of Public Works

To: Mr. Bill Henningson
Picotte Companies
20 Corporate Woods Blvd.
Albany, New York, 12211
465-4747

From: Don Reeb, president, McKownville Improvement Association
5 Norwood Street
Albany, New York 12203
dreeb@albany.edu, 489-3909

Subject: Use of the Picotte Parking lot at 1450 Western Avenue
Date: March 24, 2006

In 2005 and in response to neighborhood requests for a farm market to be located in McKownville the Improvement Association enlisted the help of Ken Runion, our Town Supervisor, and together we recruited Jim Barber whose family operates a very successful farm and farm stand near Middleburgh, New York. The farm stand was a great success.

The farm stand was located in Stuyvesant Plaza near the liquor store. Janet Kaplan, Stuyvesant Plaza Vice President, Real Estate, was most supportive. More recently Stuyvesant Plaza recruited a new store, EATS, and it sells fresh fruit and vegetables (along with prepared foods and grocery items). Since Jim Barber's farm stand did not pay rent for the site, the Plaza informed Jim that it could no longer provide it space for his farm stand.

As we discussed on Thursday, March 23, 2006, this is a request for Jim Barber's farm stand to use a small section----about four or five parking spaces---of the front row of your parking lot at 1450 Western Avenue for his farm stand during the summer. The front row of your 1450 Western Avenue parking lot is used hardly at all by your tenants and their clients. Bordering Western Avenue, as it does, the front row would be a great site for the farm stand and its customers.

Contact information for Jim Barber is as follows.

Barber's Farm
James and Cynthia Barber
3722 State Route 30
Middleburgh, New York 12122
518-827-5454
cjbarber@midtel.net

I will ask Jim to call you, but generally the farm stand uses but one truck, about 16 feet long, to haul the produce each day from the farm and two or three fold-up tables to display the produce. He sells only what he produces or what a few friends of his on neighboring farms produce. His policy is if he does not know the producer, he does not sell the produce. The farm stand operates from about 10am to 5:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, and July 4 to October 28, approximately. Nothing is left overnight and all waste is removed at the end of each day.

The Association is more than supportive of Jim and his farm stand. But of course the details (insurance, display of signs, days of operation, hours of operation, specific area that is to be used and so forth) about use of the parking lot you will want to arrange directly with Jim. The Association will be glad to stay involved as long as I am useful.

And while Ken Runion concurred that it would be useful to contact you about use of the 1450 parking lot—his phone number is 356-1980—ext 2—I will be sending him a copy of this message also so that any questions you might have about the Town's support can be answered directly by Ken.

I believe there is some benefit to Picotte Companies from having the farm stand. The employees and clients of your tenants will enjoy having access to a very high quality fresh vegetable and fruit stand for the summer months and the weekly newspapers for the area can probably be convinced to carry stories about the farm stand and its location.

Having the Barber farm stand for a second year in McKownville will, of course, mean a great deal to the neighborhood. McKownville is a very pleasant neighborhood and Jim Barber's farm stand just makes it better. But then your building has been here for nearly four decades so you know it is a great place.

Thank you for your taking the time to consider this.

cc: Ken Runion, Jim Barber