

GO-TV starts fund-raiser

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A second nonprofit organization, Hudson Arts Foundation, has donated \$500 to GO-TV, the town's and village's struggling public access station.

GO-TV recently kicked off efforts to raise the \$7,000 it needs to stay in operation. So far, three organizations, including the nonprofit Habitat for Humanity and Skyway Travel, have donated \$1,500. The fledgling Hudson Arts Foundation, a Pleasantville-based group dedicated to funding arts initiatives, contributed \$500 during the weekend, Chairwoman Mary Prenon said.

For several months, the station has been lobbying for some or all of the \$260,000 the town and village receive annually from the cable company's franchise fees. Local officials said last week they are not planning to share those revenues with the station.

"We feel strongly as to GO-TV's position and function in the community," said Peter Stolatis, a board member of the Hudson Arts Foundation. "They need the support. If the community at large is not going to help them, we will."

Last year, the Hudson Arts Foundation had proposed to the village board an \$8 million plan to build a four-story performing arts facility with three theaters, a restaurant, art galleries and retail stores at the "We Can Do It Wall," site. The proposal would have included studio space for GO-TV, said Stolatis. But the group is not pursuing the project after discovering that the mayor is in negotiations with another developer, Stolatis said.

Mayor John Perillo confirmed that the village is in contractual negotiations with a developer to construct a \$7 million four-story building that will include a mix of retail, professional and residential space. Perillo would not identify the developer.

Perillo said the Hudson Arts Foundation had a unique concept. But the board was hesitant to move forward because the group had not secured the project's \$8 million financing, he said.

Village officials have been trying to find suitable occupants for the downtown location since 1995, when a massive fire destroyed four, 130-year-old commercial and residential buildings on Main Street. It has been temporarily converted into a 40-space parking lot.

On Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., Prenon said that GO-TV will air "We Mean Business," a program about their fund-raising efforts. The show will also feature a tour of their studio space at Ossining High School.

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