Peckham seeks OK to grow medical marijuana in Chester

By Gordon Woodworth

A subsidiary of construction company Peckham Industries wants to grow medical marijuana at Peckham's 17-acre industrial park on Route 9 in Chestertown.

Hillary Peckham, a 23-year-old Hamilton College graduate and the daughter of company CEO John Peckham, and her mother Amy and sister Keeley are the applicants, through a Peckham Industries subsidiary, Etain, LLC.

They are among dozens of companies vying for five state licenses to grow, manufacture, distribute and dispense medical marijuana for patients being treated for cancer, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease and HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases.

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In March of 1977, when I was 14, I was diagnosed with acute granulocytic leukemia. Back then, a diagnosis like that was pretty much a death sentence. The survival rate was 5% — five kids out of 100 made it.

I was in Albany Medical Center for six weeks. They bomed me with two types of chemotherapy, adriamycin and cytoxan. It was a nasty poison cocktail. I got an infection in my hip from a poorly executed bone marrow test, and the infection almost killed me. I ran a fever of 105 degrees for a week, sleeping on a mattress that had ice water pumped through it.

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