



**YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.** Peekskill's Common Council and Mayor. A diverse group serving a diverse city. From left to right: Cathy Pisani, William Schmidt, Drew Claxton, John Testa, Melvin Bolden, Alonzo Undly, Milagros Martinez.

## Welcome to Peekskill News



Mayor  
John Testa

*By Mayor John Testa*

Welcome to Peekskill News. We've created this newsletter as a way to help our city's citizens learn more about their city and their government.

Peekskill is your city and this newsletter is about your government. In it, we are going to give you an inside look at some of the organizations that help you out or keep you safe. We have columns by Police Chief Eugene S. Tumolo and Fire Chief Jim Seymour that will give you fascinating details and useful hints about our police and fire departments.

We're also going to take a look at crucial programs that are underway such as our enhanced code enforcement effort, our waterfront development projects, and

our new web site, which is virtually a users manual for the city.

So much is going on in Peekskill that we've put two calendars in this newsletter. One will list important city deadlines and services. The other will focus on community events such as performances at the Paramount Theater.

One thing you'll also see in the newsletter is that there's a lot to be excited about in our city. Important projects are pouring tens of millions of dollars into Peekskill that will give us everything from a revitalized Beach Shopping Center to several dynamic new museums.

In addition, we've put a complete list of key departments along with contact phone numbers to make it easier for you to deal with us. Please, let us know what you think of this newsletter.

## Peekskill Fire Department: Protecting Peekskill For More than 150 Years



Jim Seymour

*By James Seymour,  
Fire Chief*

The Peekskill Fire Department has a long and proud history of professionals and volunteers serving our city. We've been putting out fires and saving lives since the early 19th century.

Though we no longer have hand-pumped engines, our traditions hold strong. One of the most important aspects of the fire department is the fact that we don't just work for the community—we are part of it.

We have 180 volunteers and 24 full time career firefighters, and we answer 800-1,000 calls a year, which is a substantial number for a city of our size. Volunteers must take an intensive 6-week course before they become firefighters; our career firefighters usually have many years and levels of experience.

Time is of the essence when you're fighting fires. That's one of the reasons why Peekskill has six fire companies: Columbian Engine Co. #1, Cortlandt Hook & Ladder Co. #1, Washington Engine Co. #2, Columbian Hose

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# Turning History Into Prosperity

Peekskill is lucky to possess one of the most beautiful, intact and complete collections of historic architecture in the New York region.

Keeping that invaluable resource intact and helping people utilize it is one of the most important tasks our city faces. It's also a job where the city can get a lot of help, since many different grants are available, and residents are ready and eager to assist.

Indeed, citizen involvement is an essential component of successful development and preservation. That's why in early 2002 the City Council re-established two bodies that can help play an important role in both guiding our development efforts and getting the word out about the tremendous resources Peekskill has: the Historic Preservation Advisory Board and the Conservation and Parks Advisory Commission.

Members of both boards are working hard to bring both beauty and resources to the city—as is the Landmarks Advisory Board and the Department of Planning. Under the direction of the Mayor and City Council, staff at the Planning Department has had some significant accomplishments in the last year or so.

In a major step forward for those interested in turning the past into a tool for progress, the Planning Department secured a \$10,000 grant from Westchester County to directly honor the historic heritage of our city. One of the most important ways to preserve the past is to pay tribute to those who are working to make our historic buildings whole.

As you drive through Peekskill, you'll see a number of buildings bearing small plaques. These plaques are part of a program to honor our city's special structures and



**HONORING GOOD WORK.** The lovely brochure honoring winners of the Peekskill Historic Preservation Awards is also a guidebook to some of the city's most graceful and important buildings.

those who have invested in them. After a seven year lapse, the Peekskill Historic Preservation Awards program was re-established and 18 building owners were recognized for the time, money, effort, creativity and excellence they'd put into preserving their buildings.

At the same time, the Planning Department created a stunning brochure that lists the buildings that have been honored and can help people take an historic tour of our city. The Department then went a step further, and created another brochure that gives full details on our historic preservation planning program.

This brochure won a Westchester Municipal Planning Department Award. Copies of the brochure are available at City Hall or the Field Library. Since the brochure contains descriptions of houses and a map, it can be the basis of a wonderful walking, biking or driving tour. Historic districts present great opportunities for cities. They can give communities guidelines for taking care of their buildings, keep valuable structures from being mutilated or destroyed, and help spur tourism and other business.

One sign of the opportunities historic districts can create is the \$100,000 we obtained to establish a facade matching grant program. This will extend the facade matching grant program up beyond the current historic district boundaries to the Civil War Monument on North Division Street. Thus we will be improving the appearance of one of the most important gateways to our city.

When it was first written, the ordinance covering our Downtown Historic District was considered such a good document it was used as a model for the state. Last year we removed some unnecessary alterations that had occurred and returned the law to its original state.

Efforts are also underway to obtain historic district status for some of our residential neighborhoods. This will give homeowners opportunities for tax breaks and potential grants.

Preservation is for everyone and it will play a significant role in the city's progress for the future. It's a tool to help secure our city renewed status as "The Gem of the Hudson River"—the nickname by which it was once known, and will be known again.

## CALENDAR

- April 26** Peekskill Hall of Fame Dinner, Crystal Bay Restaurant, 6:00 p.m., 739-1253
- April 26** Mark Twain Tonight, starring Hal Holbrook, Paramount Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m., 739-2333
- May 2** Bach and the Italians, Rebel, Paramount Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m., 739-2333
- May 3** Beaux Arts Ball, Crystal Bay Restaurant, 7:00 p.m.
- May 7** Never Saw Another Butterfly, Paramount Center for the Arts, 7:00 p.m. 739-2333
- May 14** Peekskill High School Spring Concert, Paramount Center for the Arts, 7:30, free. 739-2333
- May 17** Dee Dee Bridgewater, presented by Jazz

- Forum Arts,**  
Paramount Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m. 739-2333
- May 20** Annual School Budget Vote and Election
- May 22** Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce SuperBowl, J.V. Lanes, 6:00 p.m., 737-3600.
- June 13** Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Dinner Dance, Colonial Terrace, 7:00 p.m., 737-3600
- June 14** Farmers Market, Bank Street, 8:00 a.m.
- June 21** Farmers Market, Bank Street, 8:00 a.m.
- June 21** Comedian Rob Bartlett, Paramount Center for the Arts, 8:00 p.m. 739-2333
- June 28** Farmers Market, Bank Street, 8:00 a.m.

## Peekskill Fire Department Continued from page 1

Co.#1, Centennial Hose Co.#4, and the Peekskill Fire Patrol.

Each of these companies is located in a different part of the city, so we can get to fires as quickly as possible. We also have two paramedic "fly cars," a Fire/Police rescue boat, and special FAST teams.

Last year was a big one for us. Our old ladder truck sustained serious structural damage, so the city purchased a brand new Tower Ladder truck that is one of the best of its kind in the county. The new apparatus provides us with a whole new level of fire safety and quickly proved its worth at several major fires.

We also got a grant of more than \$250,000 from the federal government that allowed us to buy state-of-the-art protective gear for our firefighters.

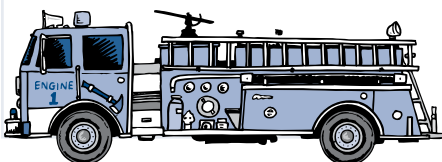
Finally, we staged what we feel was our biggest and best July 4 parade ever in honor of our brethren who were lost on Sept. 11, 2001 and particularly in honor of Peekskill firefighter Sammy Oitice.

Fire departments and dignitaries from all over the region attended our parade and participated in a memorial service at the Riverfront Green. It was a moment that fully honored our more than 175 years of tradition.

I'd like to offer some words of advice if you ever do need to call the fire department. If you have a fire, you should dial 911 immediately, state what the emergency is, give a detailed address or location, and stay as calm as possible.

Do not under any circumstance go back in to your house. Our average response time is two or three minutes. It is our job to rescue people and possessions. If you go in, chances are we'll be rescuing you.

I'd like to close with some words of thanks. In its volunteers, willingness to buy new equipment and community spirit, Peekskill stands by its fire department 1,000 percent. We really appreciate that, and we want to let you know it.



## Building Codes: Saving Lives and Preserving Our Neighborhoods

Protecting the safety and security of our citizens while preserving the integrity of our historic neighborhoods is one of the top priorities of the City government. In the last year a number of fires have demonstrated how great the potential for tragedy is and how important it is we take steps to preserve lives and property in our city.

That's one of the reasons why code enforcement is one of the most important things any city does. By enforcing codes rigorously and effectively, well managed building departments save lives, protect property, preserve neighborhoods and ensure property values stay strong.

Code enforcement is especially important in Peekskill, which is New York State's fastest growing city. Peekskill also has a long and marvelous architectural heritage. That means the city's building department must manage one of the most diverse collections of architecture in the region, and deal with a tremendous amount of both remodeling and new construction.

Adding to the challenge is the large amount of rental property in our city and the fact that we have significant numbers of subsidized housing units. Some of these landlords give in to the temptation to squeeze too many people into too little space, putting residents and neighborhoods at risk.

Residents themselves can play an important role in keeping our city safe. Last year the mayor created a code enforcement hot line at 914-862-2065. More than 300 calls have come in it. Some have helped us find and fix significant problems.

In 2002, the building department did 4,879 inspections, 2,377 of which were housing maintenance/code enforcement inspection and 112 of which were illegal occupancy inspections. These resulted in 1,127 violation notices and the identification of 70 illegal apartments.

Building codes exist for a reason. They set standards for construction so that the City's neighborhoods are preserved and its homes are safe. The building department has a number of different employees. These include one full-time and two part-time code inspectors. There is also a part-time plumbing inspector. All of the city's electrical inspections are performed by a private not-for-profit organization called the New York Board of Fire Underwriters.

Building permits aren't needed for every job that's done on a home. Things that trigger building permits include taking out significant amounts of plaster or sheet rock, relocating sinks, stoves or gas lines, installing a deck, building an addition, and most bathroom and kitchen remodels.

Permit fees are based on the estimated cost of the project and the square footage it will take up, with a minimum cost of \$25. Some people try and go ahead and do projects without permits. This can be a big, big mistake. When it comes time to sell a house, if work has been done without permits, it may not be possible to get a certificate of occupancy and thus the sale may not go through.

It is possible to get permits after the fact. But the cost is triple the usual fee, and in addition, work may have to be ripped out and redone to meet the city's requirements. Following the law is the way to go. It will make your life easier and your house safer. Call the building department. Its staffers are waiting to work with you.





# Peekskill Gathers Momentum: New Projects Underway

Peekskill has seen a renaissance over the last year as major companies have moved to invest tens of millions of dollars in our community, moving forward on everything from shopping centers to music halls.

Teamwork and planning are two of the primary reasons that the campaign to energize Peekskill's downtown has gathered so much momentum. Government officials, members of the business community and residents are working together to help galvanize Peekskill in groups such as the mayor's Downtown Revitalization Committee.

Though downtown gets a great deal of attention, the commitment to promote business development in Peekskill extends to all areas of the City. That's why we've had more than a dozen new businesses that have opened downtown and on Washington Street, with more scheduled to start operations this spring.

**Some of the most exciting developments include:**

## **Beach Shopping Center 1521 Main Street**

The redevelopment of the Beach Shopping Center is the largest private commercial project in Peekskill in recent years. The shopping center was acquired by DLC Management and upon completion will have a total of 216,000 square feet. DLC Management is in the process of constructing a free-standing 12,000 square foot facility for CVS Pharmacy at which residents can utilize the convenience of drive through customer service.

When construction of the new freestanding CVS building is complete, DLC Management will demolish the former Grand Union and old CVS site to build approximately 65,000

square feet store for Stop & Shop Supermarket. In addition to attracting new tenants to the Beach Shopping Center, DLC Management is retaining current tenants by relocating those businesses which are adjacent to the site of future demolition to other parts of the shopping center.

It's estimated that this \$17 million project will create as many as 350 permanent jobs and 400 temporary ones. By some projections,

building will be redeveloped to include a piano showroom, recital and gallery spaces. Renovations are underway and the project is expected to be complete within one year from the date of closing. By finally putting this property into private hands after many years of failed attempts, the City has not only broadened the tax base but has added another important structure to be restored and contribute to the revitalization efforts.



**SOON TO BE A MUSEUM.** This dilapidated structure will soon become a museum honoring Peekskill's contribution to the Civil War and the legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

the new CVS will open in summer, and the magnificent Stop & Shop will open during the December holiday season.

## **Hermox Building 15-27 South Division Street**

The Peekskill Industrial Development Agency (Peekskill IDA) entered into a contract for sale of the building with Ford Piano, Inc. in September 2002. John Ford, the president of Ford Piano Inc. has extensive plans for the property. Mr. Ford, who specializes in restoring pianos, is the third generation practitioner of a trade that began with his grandfather who relocated this timeless art from Hungary. It is his dream to convert the project site into a premiere music hall that will showcase the talent of up and coming musicians in and around the Peekskill community.

This project includes the restoration of the facade of the building as well as the reinstallation of the glass doors on the first floor of the building. In addition to the external renovations, the interior of the

## **Lincoln Train Station 10 Water Street**

This red clad building is situated on the site where President Abraham Lincoln stopped in Peekskill on his inaugural journey to Washington DC in 1861. The City is in the process of purchasing the property from the current owner. Closing documents have been prepared and the City is waiting for a closing date from the seller's attorney.

A grant of \$750,000 will be used to restore the facility, which will serve as a museum to showcase a variety of items relating to the Civil War, President Lincoln and his impact on the Peekskill community. The oldest continually active Lincoln Society was founded in Peekskill in 1904 and celebrates the life of Abraham Lincoln through a series of activities in the month of February.

## **Paramount East 1008 Brown Street**

The City of Peekskill sold the former Masonic Lodge, which is also known as the Paramount East, to David Furfaro of FCI Development in the Fall of 2002. The building was severely



**MUSIC HALL COMING.** The scaffolding is due to come down from this important South Division Street building, and it will become a showroom, recital hall and gallery space.

damaged in a fire that destroyed the interior of the building as well as the roof. FCI Development has received approval from the City of Peekskill to begin renovation on the building. This will produce two commercial spaces suitable for professional offices on the ground floor and four art lofts spaces on the second floor. The renovated building will then go on the City's tax rolls and will contribute significantly to the Downtown Revitalization initiative.

### Paramount Theatre 1012 Brown Street

A significant landmark in the City of Peekskill, the Paramount Theatre recently upgraded its heating and ventilation system to ensure proper regulation of the temperature inside the building. Displayed in front of the building and cemented for prosperity are the names of the patrons and sponsors who assisted the Paramount Center for the Arts Board in its unique fundraising efforts. Plans are underway to improve the facade of the building. This will increase the visibility of the Theatre and its role as catalyst for economic activity within downtown Peekskill.



**PARAMOUNT EAST REBORN.** Fourmen Construction has created this model of the Paramount East building to show what the structure will look like when it is rebuilt.

Department of Environmental Conservation to address the site environmental issues and will develop a remediation plan to mitigate these concerns in the near future. The City has also started the environmental review process, which will enable an industrial facility of 100,000 square feet to be constructed therein.

In our next issue, we'll take a close look at some of the exciting residential projects that are underway in our city.



**COLLEGE GROWS.** Westchester Community College's Peekskill extension has proven so successful that it has had to expand to another full floor at 27 North Division Street.

### Corporate Drive 9-11 Corporate Drive

The City of Peekskill is in the process of redeveloping 11 acres of city-owned property for a prospective long-term occupant. The City is working with NYS

allowed for the creation of new digital labs and enabled the Extension to dramatically improve the scope and variety of its offerings. The first of WCC's satellite units, the Extension is also proving one of the most successful.

### Westchester Community College Peekskill Extension 27 North Division

One of Peekskill's most important new resources, the Peekskill branch of Westchester Community College is providing jobs for our residents, an education for those who seek to improve their skills, and acting as a magnet drawing myriad new people to our downtown. Breaking through two years of stalemate, the City worked with WCC on a successful expansion plan that has

## CITY OF PEEKSKILL Key Government Meetings

### APRIL

7	Committee of the Whole
8	Planning Commission Work Session
9	Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
10	Zoning Board of Appeals
14	Common Council
14	Committee of the Whole
21	Committee of the Whole
22	Planning Commission Meeting
24	Historic & Landmarks Preservation Board
28	Common Council
28	Committee of the Whole

### MAY

5	Committee of the Whole
12	Common Council
12	Committee of the Whole
13	Planning Commission Work Session
14	Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
15	Zoning Board of Appeals
19	Committee of the Whole
22	Historic & Landmarks Preservation Board
27	Common Council
27	Committee of the Whole
27	Planning Commission Meeting

### JUNE

2	Committee of the Whole
9	Common Council
9	Committee of the Whole
10	Planning Commission Work Session
11	Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
16	Committee of the Whole
19	Zoning Board of Appeals
23	Common Council
23	Committee of the Whole
24	Planning Commission Meeting
26	Historic & Landmarks Preservation Board

Visit us on the web: [www.cityofpeekskill.com](http://www.cityofpeekskill.com)

## A Treasured Asset: Peekskill's Waterfront



**CONCRETE STRENGTH.** This section of tough concrete pipe will make Central Avenue solid and secure for the foreseeable future.

*Peekskill's waterfront is one of its most precious possessions—and now we're about to put it to use more effectively than ever before.*

First and foremost among our many efforts is the Central Avenue repair project. Previous repair efforts on Central Avenue came undone because they were incomplete. They left a 19th century brick tunnel in place that simply couldn't hold back the water in cases where overwhelming rain occurred. It was our bad luck to have two such rains in a few years—with the result that Central Avenue was blown out twice.

That won't happen again. Instead of simply patching up the damaged area, we are totally rebuilding Central Avenue to the point where it reaches Water Street. Unfortunately, right about at that point we discovered an unmapped County sewer line.

Negotiations with the County have delayed construction and the winter's hard freeze didn't help either. We have been working with the county engineers and now that spring is here, the project should be completed soon—with our deepest apologies to the businesses that have been inconvenienced by the delays.

Another important project that's moving forward is the preservation of the Lent House, which is believed to be Peekskill's oldest structure. Working with Peekskill citizens, the city has already obtained \$25,000 in grants towards the building's preservation. We're hoping to make the Lent House part of the Peekskill Landing project.

The eight-acre Peekskill Landing project will help turn the neglected section just north of the present Riverfront Green into an attractive resource. After nearly losing \$450,000 in grants due to lack of activity, we've hired an engineer, begun securing permits, and plan to move forward rapidly.

Those of you who like to fish should be happy to know that our fishing pier project is getting underway this summer. We're also focusing on the northern side of our waterfront, and building the Annsville Creek Waterfront Trail so you'll get a chance to experience one of Peekskill's loveliest, least-visited areas.

Our newly appointed Waterfront Coordinator will make the task all the easier, as we make the waterfront a better and more attractive resource for you and your family.

## Working Together to Solve Our Community's Problems



*By Eugene Tumolo,  
Chief of Police*

Chief of Police  
Eugene Tumolo

People think a police officer's job is to arrest people.

At the Peekskill Police Department, we don't believe that. We feel a police officer's job is to find solutions—and that's just what we train our people to do. We've trained our officers to focus on dealing with resolving problems rather than with just arresting lawbreakers.

That doesn't mean we don't arrest people. In fact, we're posting some of the best statistics in our history. It does mean that we're developing a closer, more supportive relationship with the citizens of our city than we've ever had before.

This newsletter is part of that effort. In my first column I'm going to introduce you to the Peekskill Police Department. I'll give you some basic facts about the police officers and detectives who work for you, so you can better understand the way your Police Department does its job.

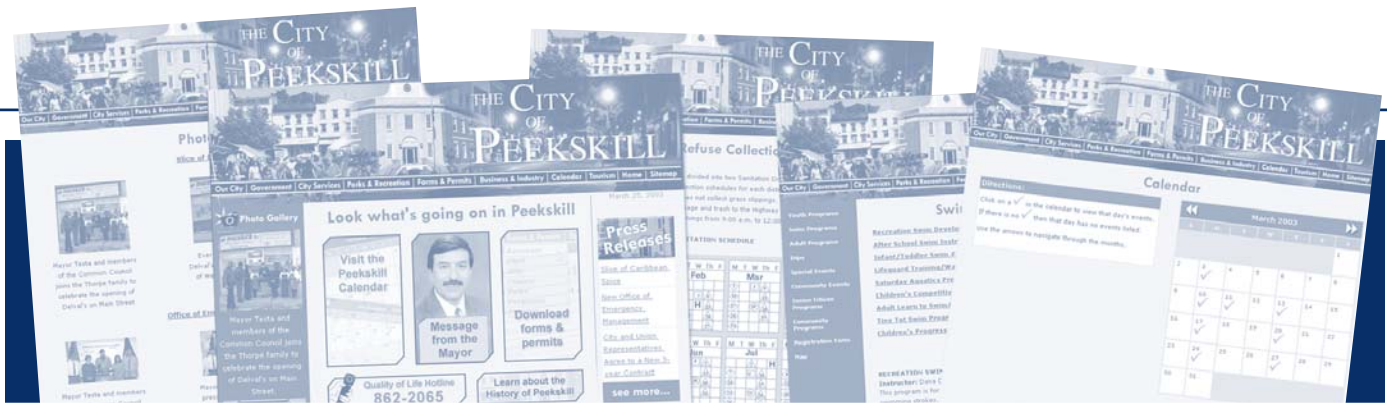
I say "you" and "your" for a reason. The Peekskill Police Department isn't some outside force that's imposing control on the city. It's part of the government of a city that you pay for with your taxes and which you elect with your votes. We in the Police Department work for you and with you—and if you feel that isn't happening, you should let us know as promptly as possible.

Let me paint a portrait of your police department for you. We have 61 sworn officers. Of these, seven are detectives; three officers and a supervisor are assigned to a community policing unit and one is a city marshal.

We also have a number of civilian employees. Two of these are park rangers, four are community service officers, there are three clerical personnel, one part time meter repairman, two custodians and four dispatchers and one animal control officer. We also have Rev. Mervyn David, who works as a community outreach officer. In the last decade, our staff has grown by about 10 people.

*Continued on page 8*





## New Web Site is Tool for City Residents

Peekskill residents have a users manual for their city—an information-packed web site that gives them access to everything from service and program offerings for underprivileged children to the time and dates of City Council meetings to many of the rules and regulations that govern the city itself.

At once simple and easy to understand and sophisticated in its information content, the web site is designed to be usable and understandable even by those who aren't comfortable with technology.

Web sites are powerful tools for conveying up-to-date information, giving people access to important documents, and letting the world know about what's happening. Peekskill's web site does all of this.

A home page is probably the most important part of a web site. When you open up [www.cityofpeekskill.com](http://www.cityofpeekskill.com), you'll find a welcoming environment that will allow you to navigate quickly and easily, accomplishing many different tasks.

Here are some of the things you can do at [cityofpeekskill.com](http://cityofpeekskill.com):

■ **Find the forms you need to do business with the city.** Paperwork is an inevitable part of modern life. But the forms you fill out have a real purpose. They allow the city to manage what takes place between its borders and they help ensure you get things done in the right way.

Visiting [cityofpeekskill.com](http://cityofpeekskill.com) is like getting a key to municipal archives. You can find almost anything there—from getting the papers for your STAR tax exemption to applying for a building permit—it's all there. All you have to do is download and print out. Our forms and permits section is organized by department. But since

you may not know which department handles the documents you need, all the selections are fully visible all at once.

■ **Find out what's happening and where.** For a small city, Peekskill has a lot going on. But finding out the many activities your government offers can be a challenging task. That's now changed. Any number of places in [cityofpeekskill.com](http://cityofpeekskill.com) offer opportunities to find out about everything from Planning Board and City Council meetings to youth activities.

*"For a small city, Peekskill has a lot going on."*

Check out our calendar and you'll get a chance to take part in democracy in action. The calendar shows when, where and at what time the Common Council and the different boards that help run the city meet.

Where [cityofpeekskill.com](http://cityofpeekskill.com) gets truly exciting is when it comes to topics such as youth activities and special events. Go to the Parks & Recreation menu and click on Special Events, and you'll find out about such exciting happenings as our annual Fishing Derby, Easter egg hunts and even a horseshoe tournament.

■ **Get details on educational and sports programs.** Want to learn Tai-Chi or Yoga? Find out about Lapolla Little League? Place your child in summer camp? Information about all these activities and far, far more is available on [cityofpeekskill.com](http://cityofpeekskill.com). Under Parks & Recreation you'll find interesting activities for youths, teens, seniors and people of

all types and ages. Explore and enjoy.

■ **Introduce yourself, friends and family to our history.** Peekskill has a fascinating, complex history—and the present is pretty exciting, too. Click on the History link on the home page or go to the Home menu and select Peekskill History, and you'll be able to learn about our city's compelling past.

Go to the menu on the left and click on Press Releases, and you'll be able to keep track of the many new initiatives and accomplishments the administration has worked hard to bring to Peekskill. The Photo Gallery provides visual examples of the City's progress.

■ **Secure details about everything from leaf removal to street sweeping.** A visit to the City Services menu will help you discover important dates and regulations relating to topics including snow removal, leave pickup, trash removal and recycling.

In addition, you'll get a chance to help keep Peekskill clean and beautiful. As of Jan. 1, 2003, the City began an aggressive street-sweeping program. A visit to the "Sweeping" section of our menu will give you a chance to learn the day of the week that your roads get cleaned, so you can remove any large debris and make sure your car isn't in the way.

[www.cityofpeekskill.com](http://www.cityofpeekskill.com) is not only important for our residents but it is an important economic development tool for our city. We have received many inquiries and compliments about Peekskill from people and companies who have explored our web site and it has sparked important interest about Peekskill from outside our borders. Good luck and good surfing!

# Welcome to the City of Peekskill



## NEW YORK STATE'S FASTEST GROWING CITY

For a small city, Peekskill has a lot going on. In each issue of the newsletter we're going to use this section to provide you with some fascinating statistics about our intriguing City. Peekskill is positioned 41.28 degrees north of the equator and 73.92 degrees west of the prime meridian. As of the year 2000 Census, Peekskill had about 22,000 residents living in 4.5 square miles of territory. Here are some things the Census has to say about Peekskill:

### Demographics:

**Total Residents:** 22,441

### Race:

	Number	%
White	12,809	57%
Black	5,972	27%
American Indian	28	0%
Asian	285	1%
Other	2,276	10%
Two or more races	1,071	5%
Hispanic (all races)	4,859	22%

### Age:

0-17	5,051	25%
18-34	5,608	25%
35-64	8,747	39%
65+	2,585	12%

### Household income, 1999:

Per capita	\$22,289
Median Household	\$47,177
Median Family	\$52,645

Source: United States Census

### Place of birth and citizenship:

Native	17,926	80%
Born in NY State	14,883	66%
Born in Different State	2,586	12%
U.S. citizen not born in U.S.	457	2%
Foreign Born:	4,515	20%
Naturalized Citizen	1,274	6%
Not a Citizen	3,241	14%

### Year of entry for foreign born:

1990s	2,516	56%
1980s	1,056	23%
1970s	1,056	23%
Before 1970	511	11%

### Marital status: (Total population 15 years and older, 17,570)

Never married	5,519	31%
Married w/spouse	7,035	40%
Married not living w/spouse	1,707	10%
Divorced	2,008	11%
Widowed	1,301	7%

### Peekskill Fire Department

Continued from page 6

All of our officers receive intensive training. In fact, our Emergency Services Unit, which is basically a SWAT team, is regarded as one of the best of its kind in the county. We intensively train in other areas as well.

All of our officers are educated in what is known as "Problem Oriented Policing." Our goal is to make every one of Peekskill's police officers a problem solver. We want our officers to be analytical in their approach—to get a sense of what a problem is and determine how they can solve that problem.

Good policing doesn't just capture criminals—it prevents crime. Despite increased enforcement efforts, our overall crime statistics dropped by 20% in 2002; serious crimes declined by 30%.

If you ever need to call us, you should know that your name and address come up on a screen in front of an officer as soon as the call comes in.

Even if you're dealing with an emergency, try and speak slowly and carefully. Give as detailed a description of your situation as you can. That means specific addresses or intersections, car model, makes and license numbers, and whatever personal details you can provide.

In future articles, I'll talk about our new communications systems and the work that's being done on the Police Station. Thank you for reading this. We really appreciate your support.

Peekskill City Hall  
840 Main Street  
Peekskill, NY 10566

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Number 618  
Peekskill, NY 10566

To Postal Patron