

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES \$1.2 MILLION IN MAIN STREET AWARDS FOR LOWER HUDSON VALLEY DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

City of Peekskill Set to Receive \$200,000 to Spruce Up Downtown

Governor George E. Pataki was joined today by State and local officials in the City of Peekskill to announce \$1.2 million in awards to Orange, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester Counties through the State's Main Street Program, which is designed to stimulate downtown revitalization in communities by providing funding for building renovations, streetscape enhancements and downtown business or cultural anchors.



One of the awards announced today includes a \$200,000 grant to the Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID) Downtown Improvement Program, which is designed to assist building owners in creating new live/work lofts and commercial space in formerly vacant or underutilized areas, improve the facades of historic mercantile buildings and make the streetscape more inviting in the town center.

“New York’s downtown business districts are the lifeblood of its cities, towns and villages,” Governor Pataki said. “Here in the City of Peekskill there are a number of opportunities to help improve the downtown area. Whether it’s restoring a façade, or rehabilitating apartments above a storefront, these funds will provide much needed additional resources to reinvigorate the local business community. I commend Mayor Testa and the business community for their vision and ongoing commitment in this important effort.”

Senator Vincent Leibell said, “As the only city in my district, Peekskill has very distinct and unique needs. This funding will be integral in the revitalization that has already begun and will further the beautification of this special spot in the Hudson Valley. I commend Governor Pataki for understanding the vision that local leaders have for Peekskill and for committing himself to the process through this vital funding.”

Senator Nick Spano said, “As the City of Yonkers continues the revitalization and renaissance of its Downtown and Waterfront areas, the \$200,000 grant being awarded to the Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront BID will aid in the positive work that the BID is doing in these important

anchor areas of the City. I want to thank Governor Pataki and The New York Main Street Program for selecting the Yonkers Downtown / Waterfront BID as a recipient of this.”

Senator Bill Larkin said, “I am very pleased by this announcement from Governor Pataki. The ‘Main Street’ program directly assists our long-term goals of strengthening community resources and encouraging job growth in the Hudson Valley. These grants are vital investments in our efforts to create thriving downtowns. They represent the spirit of the relationship between development and overall quality of life.”

Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Housing, Construction, and Community Development, said, "I have long been a proponent of the State's Main Street Program. The awarding of these grants is good news for the people of our region. The State's investment in revitalizing more downtown areas will bring economic vitality and improve the quality of life for our residents."

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef said, "I strongly supported the Main Street Program in the state budget, and I am pleased that Peekskill is a recipient of this important grant. Focusing on our Main Streets is key to revitalizing our cities. Sending state dollars to the city of Peekskill to help improve their downtown is a real boost to all residents."

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther said, “The small-town charm found in many of our region’s towns and villages not only makes our community a wonderful place to live, it also provides a foundation for revitalizing our economy. By helping us preserve and improve the unique character of these towns and villages, the Main Street Program grants will foster economic activity, spark tourism and boost the quality of life for our families.”

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said, “Today is an historic day – a day filled with promise for better days. I am so proud to help deliver this \$200,000 investment to Pelham Picture House Preservation Inc. that demonstrates our commitment to intelligent economic development and job creation along New York’s Main Streets. We need to do everything we can to revitalize our downtown business districts and I will continue to fight for community revitalization throughout Westchester County.”

Peekskill Mayor John Testa said, “This grant will go a long way in advancing our downtown revitalization efforts. We will be able to expand the work already underway to include more properties and have an even greater impact in the downtown.”

State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) Commissioner Judith A. Calogero said, “There is a new energy on our Main Streets that is real and palpable and is being fostered by local business and civic organizations around the state. The awards announced today are an effort to catalyze that energy and use it to propel communities forward. The unprecedented partnership between DHCR and our sister agencies has helped us fashion a program that will have a positive impact on the future of our downtowns.”

The other awards announced today include:

- Orange County --Highland Falls LDC \$200,00

- Main Street resources will assist the Village of Highland Falls to administer a program that will implement specific building and facade renovations as well as streetscape enhancements to capitalize Main Street's full potential.
- Sullivan County -- Bethel LDC \$200,000
- Main Street funding will assist the Town of Bethel, through revitalization efforts, to reduce the existing commercial and residential vacancy rates by providing \$175,000 for interior building renovations and \$25,000 for streetscape improvements.
- Ulster County -- Rural Ulster Preservation Company, Inc. \$200,000
- Main Street resources will provide \$110,000 for facade renovations, \$80,000 for interior building renovations and \$10,000 for streetscape improvements in the commercial core of the village Ellenville in order to increase economic viability, create business opportunities that will foster job creation and increase available residential units.
- Westchester County -- Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront Bid \$200,000
- Main Street funding will assist the Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront BID to administer a program that will turn the Warburton Avenue Corridor in the Downtown Waterfront District into a pedestrian friendly, livable commercial center by providing \$50,000 for facade renovations, \$125,000 for interior building renovations and \$25,000 for streetscape improvements.
- Westchester County Pelham Picture House Preservation, Inc. \$200,000
- Main Street Funding will assist the Pelham Picture House Preservation program establish the Historic Picture House and make historically sensitive facade and streetscape improvements.

The New York Main Street Program, which is being administered by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the Housing Trust Fund Corporation, was launched by the Governor last year. The program provides matching grants for facade and interior building renovations, streetscape enhancements, landscaping and signage and to install street furniture, and for communities to establish a business or cultural anchor in their downtown.

For more information about the New York Main Street program, please contact the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal at 518-474-9553 or visit the Main Street website at www.nymainstreet.org. ###