



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

JOHN G. TESTA, *Mayor*

MAYOR ANNOUNCES DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

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Mayor John Testa announced the appointment of a Blue Ribbon Downtown Revitalization Committee to focus attention on the City's downtown issues and a development plan for the City's central business district.

"Peekskill needs a viable downtown and well thought out revitalization initiatives are high priority," the Mayor said. "Each of these people brings the experience and interest needed to provide real guidance to the Council in creation and implementation of a plan that will include job creation projects, especially those involving digital media firms, tourism and cultural opportunities, unique retail shops, restaurants and more. Maintenance of an attractive and lively downtown requires public commitment that attracts private investment."

Members appointed to the new Downtown Committee are John Weeks of Arthur Weeks & Son Jewelers, John Tartaglione of Tartaglione Consultants, Barney Molloy of the Chamber of Commerce, Suzanne Macci of Vintage Hudson Realty, Larry Lipschitz of Kathleen's Tea Room, Jamie Leon of Leon Express Services, Mark Cavanna of the Business Improvement District, Richard Jordan of Urbane Designs, Fran Gibbs of the Paramount Center, Wendie Garber of the Flat Iron Gallery, Sue DiGregorie of Retrovato Consignments and Jean Friedman of the City's Planning Department.

"This Blue Ribbon Downtown Committee will not perform the functions of the Business Improvement District or the Chamber of Commerce but will guide the City's development of outreach initiatives and appearance standards," Testa continued. "Achieving positive and well defined objectives is the overall goal."

"We are already moving to complete two major downtown projects -- Art-Tech Lofts should have its first tenants this spring, bringing new people and businesses to the downtown; Westchester Community College is expanding its programs and will utilize the second story of its Division Street building, bringing even more pedestrians downtown."

"This new Committee, with its wealth of business and development background, will move us further along in renovation and reuse of our older buildings and construction of appropriate new spaces in our downtown," Mayor Testa concluded.