



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A GRAND SLAM FOR PEEKSKILL

(Peekskill, New York)... Mayor John G. Testa and members of the Common Council are pleased to announce that the construction plans for the Louisa Street Ballfield are underway. County Executive Andrew Spano and County Legislator George Oros will be on hand to join Mayor Testa, the Common Council and community members in celebrating this milestone at a ceremonial ground breaking on Thursday, May 15, 2003 at 4:00 pm at the proposed site on Louisa Street.

Baseball has always been a favorite pastime of the City of Peekskill. Many Peekskill residents and former residents remember with fondness the summers of yesteryear when as children they put on the uniforms that embodies the neighborhood teams and heard the roar of the umpire uttering those two magical words "Play Ball". It is this rich facet of life in Peekskill that Mayor Testa and the Common Council wish to preserve and honor with the construction of a multiuse regulation size ballfield. Discussions were held for many years between the City of Peekskill and community groups seeking to build a facility that would allow games to be played at a ballfield that could host evening and night games.

Under the leadership of Mayor Testa and the Common Council, this dream is about to become reality. The necessary predevelopment work, approvals and development of construction plans have all been completed. Bids were issued and contractors have been selected to undertake the construction of the Louisa Street multiuse regulation size ballfield facility.

The City of Peekskill has worked with the County of Westchester to secure the necessary funds to undertake this endeavor. The County of Westchester has committed \$850,000 from its Legacy Program to facilitate the City's efforts in getting the construction underway. The Westchester County Department of Parks and Recreations was instrumental in assisting the City of Peekskill in getting the approvals needed for the construction to begin in the month of May. On February 24, 2003 contracts were awarded to Bradhurst Site Construction for approximately \$1.2 million, Fourmen Construction for \$664,000; Naber Electric Corp. for \$478,000 and to Frank & Lindy Plumbing for \$61,9000.

County Executive Andrew Spano launched a five year initiative which will provide approximately 10 million each year, for the acquisition of open space and sensitive environmental areas and the development of recreational facilities. Under the Legacy Program funding is available to rehabilitate existing ballfields and create new ballfields in county parks. The Program also provides funding to be used in partnership with local municipalities in creating recreational opportunities.

Said Spano, "The need for additional ballfields in this county is well-established. This is a great example of how the county can team up with a local government - in this case Peekskill - to fill an important recreational need."

"This is yet another outstanding example of the Mayor and Council's leadership and ability to partner with the County to improve our Peekskill Community," said George Oros, County Legislator for Peekskill, who has been instrumental in securing these and other county funds for city programs.

"My colleagues on the Common Council and I are pleased to finally make this long awaited dream of our community a reality. As our community grows, so too must our recreational opportunities. This facility will fill a huge void that has been felt in Peekskill for a long time. It will add programs for youngsters graduating from Little League Baseball, for high school players and adults alike. It will also be a facility that can be utilized for various other community events and activities. We thank the County of Westchester for assisting in this project and helping make it happen. Special thanks to Don Foster and his Committee for a Regulation Size Baseball Field for keeping the dream alive and in the minds of the community. The Common Council and I are also pleased that two of the four contractors who will be working on this project are from Peekskill. We look to support our local business to help keep the City's economic engine turning. Many individuals have worked hard to make this project a reality and we are looking forward to the first pitch in the coming months," remarked Mayor John G. Testa.

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