



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa  
Mayor

## **“Peekskill Stadium” Hits A Home Run.**

*Stunning, State-of-the-Art Ballpark Sets Opening Ceremony For  
Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.*

City and Citizens of Peekskill, Westchester County, New York State, All Teamed  
Up To Create Beautiful New Baseball Field.

### ***For Immediate Release***

**Friday, July 16, 2004**

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PEEKSKILL, NY—Westchester’s real field of dreams will have its opening day  
on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. with the dedication of the Peekskill Stadium.

Designed by one of the nation’s leading sports architecture firms and situated at a  
stunning site on the shores of the Hudson River, Peekskill Stadium is the fruit of years of  
community effort and significant support from the City of Peekskill, Westchester County  
and New York State.

Officials expected to attend the event include Westchester County Executive  
Andy Spano and many others. “Peekskill Stadium is a triumph for our city, county and  
state,” says Mayor John Testa. “I’m truly grateful for the generosity of Westchester  
County and New York State, both of whom played a vital role in helping us build this  
facility,” he says.

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Recreational facilities are an essential resource for any community, and, when it comes to baseball, Peekskill now has one of the best, Testa says. “County Executive Spano’s Legacy program has certainly created a great legacy for our city.”

“Citizens, city employees, county officials and officeholders alike, we can all be proud of what we’ve created here,” Testa says. “Peekskill Stadium is a crucial part of our city’s revitalization program. It will provide wonderful recreational opportunities for youth and adults alike, show the world what a great place Peekskill is to live and play.”

County Legislator George Oros played an important role in bringing the project to fruition, says Mayor Testa. Oros, who represents Cortlandt, Peekskill and Yorktown on the Westchester County Board of Legislators, is pleased with what the City and County have managed to accomplish together. “I’m happy to have played a small part in bringing this about,” he says. “It’s wonderful the way Peekskill, the County Parks Department, the County Executive’s Office, and the Board worked together to make this happen.”

County Executive Andy Spano said that the ballpark was part of his Legacy program in which the county pledged to set aside funds to help local communities create more recreational areas for residents. In December 2003, the county approved spending \$850,000 on the Louisa Street ball field.

“This is truly a field of dreams,” said Spano. “Back in 2002 when I first announced the Legacy program, this is just what I envisioned: a place where people young and old could play ball, relax and enjoy themselves. The fact that it is right on the Hudson River only makes it a more attractive asset to Peekskill and to Westchester County.”

Community activists who called for the Stadium's creation are thrilled to see their dreams come true. "I always said there would be a field, and now there is, on one of the prettiest spots along the Hudson River," says Don Foster, one of the leading supporters of the Stadium concept. Peekskill and Westchester County's citizens should be proud of themselves, Foster says.

"This is a tribute to the taxpayers of Westchester County and the City of Peekskill," present and former government officials along with the volunteers who supported the project also get his vote of appreciation.

"I want to give my special thanks to former Councilman Al Undly and then Councilman, now Mayor John Testa, who picked up the ball and completed the trip home. Not to be excluded are the people who collected signatures for the petitions, and most of all, God speed to the people who worked so hard for the Commission for a Regulation Size Baseball Field," Foster says.

Baseball has been a part of Peekskill's history virtually since the game was invented. The city's Little League facility is one of the busiest of its kind in the country. But until now, Peekskill has lacked facility large enough to meet the needs of high school and adult players. Peekskill Stadium rectifies that situation.

With 310 feet of room on its foul lines and a 329-foot deep center field, Peekskill Stadium is as large as many major league ball fields. Its equipment is professional grade as well.

"We have computerized field lights, a synchronized sprinkler system and computerized outdoor lighting," says Peekskill director of community services Fran

Brunelle. “We also have a modern press box, an electronic scoreboard, and a fully-equipped concession stand as well.”

A total of \$2.6 million went into building the Peekskill Stadium multi-use facility. Of that money, \$850,000 came from a Westchester County Legacy Grant and \$750,000 came from a New York State grant. But the most spectacular thing about Peekskill Stadium is something money couldn’t buy—an awesome site on the shores of the Hudson River. Some of America’s most beautiful scenery is visible from the stadium’s bleachers.

Designed by noted sports architectural firm Ward Associates, P.C., Peekskill Stadium is only a few hundred yards straight off of Route 9’s Louisa Street exit.

The fact that it the facility will be both convenient and easily accessible will be crucial given how busy it is expected to be. Suitable for age 13 and up, Peekskill Stadium is already drawing attention from a number of local and regional baseball leagues, Brunelle says.

At least four leagues are currently planning to use the facility. Any league that wants to utilize Peekskill Stadium can do so, but Peekskill resident teams will get first choice. A fee of anywhere from \$75 to \$125 will be charged for each game, depending on whether the facility’s night lights are used or not. Because the field has no neighbors, games will be able to go well into the evening without provoking complaints, Brunelle says.

Although its natural grass fields, comfortable bleachers and magnificent location present a beautiful picture, the most important element of Peekskill Stadium is invisible, Testa says—the community passion and commitment that went into building it.

“Although construction of this field took just two years, people have worked towards this event for a long, long time,” Testa says. “We need this ballpark,” he says.

“Baseball was a vital part of my childhood growing up in Peekskill, and coaching has been enormously rewarding for me as an adult. But, although we have a wonderful Little League field, we didn’t have a regulation adult faculty. Now we do, and I know it’s going to see a great deal of use,” he says. “Now, play ball!”

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**Directions to Peekskill Stadium:**

**From the North:** Take Route Nine South. Get off at Louisa Street exit. Make a right onto Louisa Street. Go two blocks. Stadium will be on right hand side immediately before bridge.

**From the South:** Take Route 9A North to Route Nine. Get off at Louisa Street exit. Make a left onto Louisa Street. Go two blocks. Stadium will be on right hand side immediately before bridge.