



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Peekskill Designated “Preserve America” Community Status By White House.

*City Joins Elite Collection of 300 Communities Honored For Historic
Heritage, Preservation Efforts.*

“Preserve America” Status Conveys Many Benefits To Community, Including Publicity, Access To Grant
Funds and Federal Resources.

For Immediate Release

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**Contact: Mayor John Testa
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PEEKSKILL, NY—This city’s history is proving an invaluable resource once again, with the White House designating Peekskill a “Preserve America” community.

Established in 2003, the Preserve America program is dedicated to assisting communities in celebrating their heritage, using their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encouraging people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

A total of \$5 million in grant funds are available from the Preserve America program this year, and Peekskill has already submitted applications.

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Preserve America grants can be used to support a variety of activities related to heritage tourism and innovative approaches to the use of historic properties as educational and economic assets, according to the Preserve America web site.

Other benefits of the Preserve America program include:

- White House recognition.
- A certificate of recognition.
- A *Preserve America* Community road sign.
- Authorization to use the *Preserve America* logo on signs, flags, banners, and promotional materials.
- Listing in a Web-based *Preserve America* Community directory.
- Inclusion in national and regional press releases.
- Official notification of designation to State tourism offices and visitor bureaus.
- Enhanced community visibility and pride.

Plans are underway to put the Preserve America logo on the Peekskill City web site and to use it on official correspondence as well.



City Planner Jean Friedman was the driving force behind securing the Preserve America designation. The application required providing extensive documentation of the

City's preservation and heritage tourism efforts. Friedman worked intensively with local groups such as Historic Peekskill Inc. to ensure the application was successful.

“We should be proud not just of our City for its marvelous history and the efforts we've put into preserving it, but of our City staffers as well. This Preserve America designation will significantly increase Peekskill's status as an historic community, and will probably also wind up securing resources we can use to promote the City as well,” says Mayor John Testa.

Preserve America grants must be matched 50/50 with money from other sources. Individual grants range from \$20,000 to \$150,000. The funds can be used to bolster local heritage preservation efforts, support better integration of heritage preservation and economic development, and foster and enhance intergovernmental and public-private partnerships to accomplish these goals.

Peekskill has applied for a grant to preserve and improve Fort Hill Park. “This is just a first step in utilizing Preserve America status to improve our City,” Mayor Testa says.

For more information, contact Mayor John Testa at 914-734-4105.

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