



CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

Peekskill Parks and Recreation Volunteers Receive Prestigious Award For Community Service.

*Roger Hamilton, owner of Brush Graphics, and Windell Smythe
Honored By Westchester Recreation And Parks Society.*

Tribute Paid for Years of Unstinting Dedication To City's Youths and Their Progress.

For Immediate Release

Thursday, July 7, 2005

**Contact: Mayor John Testa
914-737-4105
Francis X. Brunelle
914-734-4221**

PEEKSKILL, NY—As the summer season moves towards its peak, two of this City's most respected volunteers have been honored by the Westchester Recreation and Parks Society.

Roger Hamilton, owner of Brush Graphics & Consultants, received the highly respected Austin Welch Public Interpretation Excellence and Recognition for Recreation and Parks Effort (PIERRE) award, which has previously gone to such notables and organizations as Lawrence E. Rockefeller, Roone Arlidge, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, and The New York Times. Windell Smythe received the Youth Coach Sports Award for his work with numerous different teams.

840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 (914) 734-4105

For a city of its size, Peekskill offers a broad and deep menu of recreational opportunities. Citizens can do everything from get swimming lessons to learn about Aikido, all for highly reasonable fees.

Although the summer recreation season has been underway for some time, residents still have the chance to register for such activities as Peekskill Recreation Day Camp, Peekskill Teen Travel Camp, a Creative Arts Camp, and 5-Tool Baseball Camp. The Fall recreation schedule is also packed. Users can register for Peekskill Recreation Flag Football, Creative Preschool, Youth Soccer, the Fall Baseball League and many other activities, all in September.

“Without volunteers like Roger and Windell, there is no way we could offer such a complete and wonderful schedule of sports activities,” says Francis X. Brunelle, director of community services, Bureau of Parks and Recreation. “Their contributions help create a better present and future for Peekskill and its children.”

A much-beloved and admired community leader, Hamilton volunteers hundreds of hours every year on community projects. His goal is to recreate the joy Harlem’s community programs provided for him as a child. His multitudinous activities include organizing the Old-Timer’s Stickball Game fundraiser. He is the force behind Peekskill’s annual gala Christmas show, which features free toys, entertainment by local bands, and a visit from Kris Kringle—all while maintaining a sophisticated and respected graphics consulting business.

Windell Smythe has contributed vast amounts of his scarce time as a volunteer coach and official for the City of Peekskill Parks and Recreation Department.

Over the last decade, his abilities have stretched across multiple sports. He coaches both basketball and little league and also acts as an umpire. He also coaches the 14 and under travel baseball team.

“People are what make a community a great place to live, and seeing people like Roger Hamilton and Windell Smythe tells me what a special place Peekskill really is,” says Mayor John Testa. “I’m proud to be a public servant in the community where they live and give so much—and I’m pleased that the Parks and Recreation Department has given them such great opportunities to help our city,” he says.

“I’ve known both of these men for many years and have worked closely with them on various projects for the community. It’s a pleasure to see them honored in this way,” Testa says.

For more information, contact Francis Brunelle at 914-734-4221.

-END-