



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A SIGNATURE TOUCH: WCC EXPANSION IN PEEKSKILL IS COMPLETE

(Peekskill, New York)... Mayor John G. Testa and members of the Common Council will join County Executive Andy Spano, Dr. Joseph Hankin and Timothy S. Carey, Chairman of WCC Board of Trustees to unveil the expansion of the Peekskill Campus of Westchester Community College on Friday, June 20, 2003 at 10:00 am at 27 North Division Street.

On March 6, 2002, Mayor John G Testa joined County Executive Andy Spano, County Legislator George Oros and Dr. Joseph Hankin to unveil the plans to renovate and expand the number of classrooms offered and create a formal lecture hall and arts studio at the Peekskill Campus of Westchester Community College. Westchester Community College (WCC) occupied at that time, approximately 10,000 square feet of the building located at 27 North Division Street. After months of discussion, an agreement was reached with the landlord Alfred Weissman for the WCC to expand its operations to utilize the entire building of 20,000 square feet. The renovations of the facility including redesigning the layout of the second floor were recently completed for approximately \$1 million.

The announcement and the subsequent expansion of WCC in downtown Peekskill has led to other property owners making improvements to their facilities. It has also sparked the recent flurry of coffee establishments that aim to provide services to the students and faculty of the Peekskill Campus.

“The site is one of the county’s unique educational treasures, yet its ability to offer programs has always been limited due to a lack of space, says Westchester County Executive Andy Spano. “It’s wonderful to be part of a plan to expand those offerings and attract more students in the northern part of the County. We need this type of facility in Westchester- where students can use technology to create art and build marketable career skills.”

“We’re pleased to be able to announce this further commitment to Peekskill”, says Dr. Joseph N. Hankin, president of Westchester Community College.

County Legislator George Oros remarked “It’s a continuation of the revitalization of downtown Peekskill. The expansion of the Peekskill Campus is good for the City and Westchester Community College.”

“My colleagues on the Peekskill Common Council and I are very pleased that Westchester Community College has chosen to expand the range of classes and services offered at the Peekskill Campus. The WCC expansion is one of the Downtown Revitalization Initiatives which began last year. To have this major project completed in the downtown is a tremendous boost to the business community as well to Peekskill. With WCC expanding the courses offered in Peekskill, it will provide residents a greater opportunity for learning while bringing more activity into the downtown. This expansion in downtown Peekskill reaffirm that Peekskill is the place to be; to conduct business, develop career skills and live,” noted Mayor John G. Testa.

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