



CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

New Van Will Help Put Peekskill Children On Road to Success.

Peekskill Youth Bureau Will Use Vehicle to Increase Variety, Depth of Educational, Cultural Experiences.

Vehicle, Purchased With Assistance of Westchester County, Will be Christened in Ceremony on Monday, Sept. 29 at 3:30 p.m. in Front of City Hall.

For Immediate Release

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**Contact: Valerie Swan
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PEEKSKILL, NY— This City's children are about to have exciting new opportunities to expand their horizons and explore their surrounding communities with the Peekskill Youth Bureau's purchase of its first van.

Peekskill purchased the \$50,500 van with the assistance of Community Development Block Grant funding from Westchester County. "We've teamed up with the City of Peekskill through our Community Development Block Grant program to help our youth gain full access to the tremendous and wonderful opportunities Westchester offers," says County Executive Andy Spano.

With its air conditioning, 15-passenger capacity and wheelchair accessibility, the new van will dramatically increase the Youth Bureau's ability to transport the many children taking part in the many of different programs the City offers every year, says Valerie Swan, the Youth Bureau's Executive Director.

“This van will prove a vital resource in assisting our children in doing everything from gaining new cultural experiences, to going on job interviews, to participating in special educational programs,” Swan says.

“I like to think that the miles to be logged on this van will actually be bringing the City’s youth closer to full, successful lives,” Spano says. The County paid for most of the GMC Midbuss’ \$50,500 cost.

In the past, the Youth Bureau had to rent a van to take participating children to events outside of the City. Mayor John Testa and Bob Spencer, head of the Peekskill Area Chapter of the NAACP, came up with the idea for the van together, Testa says. “We both felt that our kids from Peekskill needed a vehicle with a Peekskill identity to help instill a feeling of pride about being from Peekskill as they travel to events both in and out of the City,” he says.

Besides boosting morale, the new van will both reduce costs and increase the Youth Bureau’s ability to help its charges, Swan says. “During the summer we rented vans almost every other week. Other times of the year we rented them once a month,” Swan says. Plans are to put the van to a multitude of uses, Swan says. “We’ll take kids on college tours, employment interviews, to GED and other tests, cultural events, art events and other activities,” she says.

Peekskill’s Youth Bureau is an invaluable resource for the City’s children, Spano says. “We’re proud of the City and its Youth Bureau on their many programs and creative efforts to bring out the best in their young men and women,” he says.

In a special ceremony, the van will be launched on its voyage of educational adventure by Norma Drummond, Assistant Commissioner of the Westchester County Planning Department and some of the children of the City of Peekskill on Monday, Sept. 29 at 3:30 p.m. in front of Peekskill City Hall at 840 Main Street.

For more information, contact Valerie Swan at (914) 734-8419, e-mail vswan@cityofpeekskill.com.

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