



**CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**



John G. Testa
Mayor

Environment Takes Priority As Peekskill Chooses Green Tree for Holiday Decoration.

*SMALLER THAN ITS PREDECESSORS, TREE IS LIVE INSTEAD OF CUT,
WILL WIND UP PLANTED INSTEAD OF AS MULCH.*

Smaller, Growing Tree is Part of Peekskill's Effort to Reduce Carbon Footprint, Beautify Parks.

1. For Immediate Release

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PEEKSKILL, NY Whether it snows or not, this Northern Westchester city is going to have a green Christmas this year.

That's because, for the first time, the tree that is the centerpiece of its downtown decorations is a live one that will be planted in the spring rather than a cut one which would eventually become mulch.

Already conscious of the environment, Peekskill has taken such actions as using electric vehicles for some activities and beefing up its recycling efforts. The green holiday tree is the latest step in a series of efforts, says Mayor John Testa.

Local governments need to take a leadership role in taking care of the environment. Even actions that are relatively symbolic, like choosing a live Christmas Tree, can set an example others can be inspired to follow, Testa says.

There were other factors besides the environment behind the decision. In recent years, Peekskill's Christmas trees have been donated by local residents. No one stepped

forward this year. That's when the city decided to go in a green direction.

Although the tree is smaller than what is usually used the choice of tree was both economically and environmentally appropriate, Mayor Testa says. This tree will continue living and growing and making a positive contribution to the environment long after the holiday season is over, he says. Also, Peekskill is a city with many parks, and we need new trees on an ongoing basis. This tree will thus be doing double duty, serving both for the holidays and for the foreseeable future.

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

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