



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa
Mayor

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FORD MAKES A MUSICAL INVESTMENT IN PEEKSKILL

(Peekskill, New York)... Mayor John G. Testa and members of the Common Council will join John Ford, president of Ford Piano to celebrate the purchase and redevelopment of the building formerly known as the Hermax Building on Saturday, November 9, 2002 at 9:30 am at 15-27 South Division Street.

John Ford, who began negotiating in the winter of 2001 with the Peekskill Industrial Development Agency (Peekskill IDA) to purchase and redevelop the Hermax Building, executed a contract for sale in September 2002. Mr. Ford whose piano refurbishing business is located next door to the building being purchased is anxious to begin making the necessary repairs to turn the building into a music hall, where recitals, concerts and dances can be held for the benefit of residents within Peekskill and the surrounding communities.

The redevelopment of Hermax Building has been one of the goals set by the Common Council who've worked in connect with the Peekskill IDA to achieve this long awaited resolution to one of the most important properties in Downtown Peekskill. The sale and subsequent redevelopment will draw additional visitors to the downtown and serve as an economic anchor to the various commercial activities happening in the business community.

"This project is a dream come true for me. I've wanted to create a music hall, where people can go within their communities and listen to various types of music. With the purchase of the Hermax Building, I can also develop an outlet for budding musicians within Peekskill and the surrounding community to showcase their talents and encourage young people in Peekskill to use music as an alternative to drugs and violence," stated John Ford.

"I was a member of the Peekskill IDA when this project was first discussed and I am happy to see it come to a positive solution for the City of Peekskill, the downtown business community and Mr. Ford. My colleagues on the Common Council and I congratulate John Ford on the purchase of Hermax Building. We wish him much success in this endeavor," remarked Mayor John G. Testa.

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