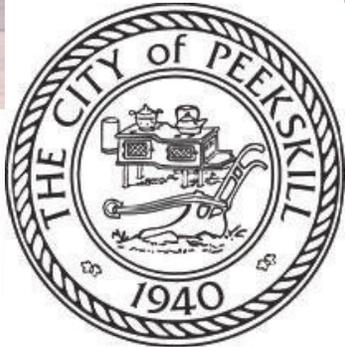


CITY OF PEEKSKILL NEW YORK

Special Edition
June 2010



Celebrating Our
70th Anniversary



1940-2010

**CENTENNIAL
HOSE CO. No 4**

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Description of New Central Station | 2 |
| Fire Department Statistics | 3 |
| Summary of Renovation Analysis | 3 |
| Meeting Dates, Times | 4 |
| Appeal for Volunteers | 4 |

Fire Department Special Issue

Public Meetings on Fire House Proposals

The City of Peekskill is served by a corps of dedicated volunteer firefighters as well as twenty-five full time firefighters who reside in the 5 respective fire houses. Unfortunately, the buildings that have served our volunteers and full time firefighters for so many years are out of date and do not meet State and Federal codes, or fire industry standards. Additionally, they are deteriorated and in serious need of major renovation/rebuilding. It has long been a goal of the Fire Department in correcting this situation.

Studies have been undertaken to assess whether to renovate the existing fire-houses or to build an entirely new Central Fire Station. Both of these options have significant operational and financial implications.

The purpose of this Special Edition of the City Newsletter is to explain each option and why the City is committed to correcting the problem. The second page discusses the details of building a new Central Fire Station. The third page discusses the details of renovating the existing fire-houses.

The Common Council and the Fire Department is committed to keeping our residents informed about this critical project and invites you to attend one of 5 meetings scheduled for June to review and discuss the existing conditions of the fire houses and to examine the available

solutions. The Common Council and the Fire Department wants you to learn more about our fire operations, to hear your questions and concerns about building or renovating our fire houses, and to have your questions answered. The dates and times of these meetings are as follows:

June 9, 2010 – 7:00pm
Centennial Hose Co 4
701 Washington Street

June 16, 2010 – 7:00pm
Peekskill Fire Patrol
425 Highland Avenue*

June 23, 2010 – 7:00pm
Centennial Hose Co 4
701 Washington Street

June 29, 2010, 7:00pm
Nutrition Room,
Neighborhood Center

June 30, 2010 – 7:00pm
Peekskill Fire Patrol
425 Highland Avenue

***Parking at the Peekskill Fire Patrol is limited and is on-street parking only.**

For more information on the options and to review the reports prepared by the City's Consultant, Mitchell Associates, Inc. please visit the City's web site www.cityofpeekskill.com/fire.



City of Peekskill, N.Y.
Fire Department

Saving Lives, Protecting Property Since 1826

DIAL 911

FIRE

DIAL 911

*Did you know that
Columbian Engine was first
established back in June of 1826?
That's 184 years ago!*

New Central Fire Station Description

Several years ago the City began reviewing the concerns related to the conditions and locations of the existing five fire houses. A study was conducted by an architect who specializes in the design of fire stations and an expert in fire department operations and station location. The study determined that the best solution was to build a new Central Fire Station that would replace four of the existing fire houses.

The proposed new Central Fire Station will be 36,583 square feet in size and is estimated to cost \$15,685,024, which includes \$2,750,000 in land acquisition costs. The existing fire stations on Highland Avenue, Broad Street and Main Street will either be sold or used for another municipal purpose and the City will cease renting space in the privately owned firehouse on Dayton Lane. The fire house on Washington Street would remain as a substation in the Southern part of the City.

The proposed Central Fire Station offers the following benefits: improved coordination and execu-

tion of departmental operations including fire inspections, training, fire hydrant testing; up to date facility with the ability to be retrofitted for future changes in State and Federal Codes; reduced maintenance and operating costs (two buildings rather than four buildings), a central training facility; a central meeting space for all fire companies resulting in improved communication and coordination of organizational policies and procedures; sanitary and modern sleeping and eating accommodations for career staff; modern meeting and recruiting rooms for volunteers; the elimination of daily fire truck movements around to different fire houses to facilitate training and staff coverage; and the elimination of the existing hazards and violations in the current buildings.

The proposed Central Fire Station would also include public amenities such as a meeting room for the public, a fire department museum, and catering facilities. A new municipal building with public amenities will help to revitalize a key entryway into downtown Peekskill, providing a handsome gateway to the City for people coming from the East.

Rendering by:

MA Mitchell
Associates
Architects



Summary of Renovation Analysis

The City also analyzed the cost to renovate the existing fire stations and bring them up to current Federal, State and industry codes and standards. The City currently owns four fire houses and rents space in a privately owned fifth fire house - on Dayton Lane. Two of the existing fire houses will be impossible to bring up to State and Federal codes and will need to be retired. The remaining three houses can be expanded and renovated to accommodate all 6 fire companies based on *current* codes and standards. There is no excess room to add on to these three houses or to do future code required renovations. The cost to bring the fire houses up to all relevant standards and codes will be \$14,326,182.

While the "renovation" option is \$1.3 million less to build, it will result in approximately \$65,000 higher annual operating costs than one new, green fire house and substation discussed on the opposite page. Furthermore, the renovation option does not provide for improved communication, coordination, training and operational efficiencies in our Fire Department. There will still be daily truck movements and houses taken off-line during the day or evening. The Fire Department currently lacks a common meeting and training space, and the efficiency and effectiveness of operations suffer from having the trucks and personnel located at different houses. The physical problems with the existing fire stations are significant and the solutions cannot be put off.

The Common Council has reviewed all of this information and they have directed City staff to reach out to the residents and business community to get gather public input. Your participation in this process is extremely important. Please review the dates and times and attend one of the scheduled public meetings to learn more about these two alternatives and to share your thought and suggestions.



Our Current Fire Houses



Fire Department Statistics

The City of Peekskill Fire Department is composed of 6 volunteer fire companies: Columbian Engine Co. #1, Cortlandt Hook & Ladder Co. #1, Washington Engine Co. #2, Columbian Hose Co. #1, Centennial Hose Co. #4, and the Peekskill Fire Patrol. There are approximately 107 volunteers and 25 career firefighters. The Department has one aerial or "hook and ladder" truck stationed on Main Street, one rescue truck stationed on Highland Avenue, four pumpers stationed on Washington Street, Dayton Lane, and Broad Street, and two paramedic fly cars stationed on Washington Street and Broad Street. The Department responded to 750 calls last year, with an average response time of 3 minutes and 22 seconds. The Department Chief is Lenny Varella, the First Assistant Chief is Robert Fiorio, and Second Assistant Chief is Vinny Malaspina.



City of Peekskill
840 Main Street
Peekskill, NY 10566



The Honorable Mary F. Foster
Deputy Mayor Donald Bennett, Jr.
Councilwoman Drew Claxton
Councilwoman Marybeth McGowan
Councilwoman Patricia Riley
Councilman Joseph Schuder
Councilman Andrew Torres

Richard M. Finn, City Manager

Brian Havranek, Assistant City Manager

Pamela Beach, City Clerk

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 6618
WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK 10610

POSTAL PATRON

United States
Census
2010

**Share and Recycle
Your Newsletter**



Newsletter Editor: Leah Quinn
Graphic Design & Photography:
Leah Quinn, DesignsAnything.com



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Appeal for Volunteers

Do you want to help your neighbors? Learn valuable skills? Then join the Peekskill Fire Department! Volunteer firefighters are local heroes who help their neighbors, save lives and earn respect every time they work.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please call 914.737.2760.

Become a Hero Today!



Public Meeting Schedule

The City intends to host a number of public meetings about the firehouses over the coming months. The dates and times of these meetings are as follows:

June 9, 2010 – 7:00pm
Centennial Hose Co 4, 701 Washington St.

June 16, 2010 – 7:00pm
Peekskill Fire Patrol, 425 Highland Ave.*

June 23, 2010 – 7:00pm
Centennial Hose Co 4, 701 Washington St.

June 29, 2010, 7:00pm
Nutrition Room, Neighborhood Center

June 30, 2010 – 7:00pm
Peekskill Fire Patrol, 425 Highland Ave.

*Parking at the Peekskill Fire Patrol is limited and is on-street parking only.