

Ginsburg Development Companies

News

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**GDC DONATES STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
TO LINCOLN DEPOT MUSEUM IN PEEKSKILL**

Statue depicts former president giving 1861 speech in Peekskill;

Former Governor Pataki, Peekskill Mayor Testa among speakers at celebration

VALHALLA, N.Y. (Oct 27) – On Saturday, October 27, Martin Ginsburg fulfilled a promise to the citizens of Peekskill and donated a life-sized statue of Abraham Lincoln to the Lincoln Depot Museum during a dedication ceremony. Speakers at the event included George Pataki, who was Peekskill’s mayor before serving three terms as New York’s governor, the current mayor, John Testa, and Ginsburg.

The statue depicts Lincoln as he appeared on the afternoon of Feb. 19, 1861, during a speech he gave in Peekskill as part of his whistle-stop train tour to Washington D.C. for his inauguration as President. The statue is the new focal point of a redecorated plaza outside the museum located at 41 South Water Street.

During the dedication ceremony, 3-foot-tall versions of the statue were given to Pataki and Ginsburg who donated \$108,000 to commission the statue. Both men have been instrumental in supporting the Lincoln Depot Museum and fostering Peekskill’s remarkable economic renaissance over the past decade, and the prototype statues recognize their contributions to the museum and city.

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“The Lincoln Depot Museum is dedicated to preserving the historic site where Abraham Lincoln spoke nearly 150 years ago. This historic site is intended to educate people about Lincoln’s visit and Peekskill’s proud history as a home for abolitionists,” said Ginsburg. GDC has developed 395 units in Peekskill with its Riverbend and Chapel Hill projects. In addition, GDC is poised to commence construction on a third project next spring: The Abbey, at the old St. Mary’s Convent. Plans for The Abbey call for 124 townhouses and 12 condos.

“We’re pleased to donate this beautiful statue, which will help create a grand new entry to the museum and assist people in the rediscovery of the City of Peekskill,” said Ginsburg.

Ginsburg and Governor Pataki addressed the gathering along with Peekskill Mayor Testa, county Legislator George Oros and historian Harold Holzer, one of the nation’s leading Lincoln scholars. Uniformed Civil War re-enactors fired muskets to salute the unveiling of the statue.

GDC’s \$108,000 donation to pay for the Lincoln statue is the latest in a series of charitable donations the company has made to the City of Peekskill and its community organizations. The company’s largest donation came during September, when GDC donated 40 acres of land worth \$4 million that became part of Fort Hill Park, the site of a key Revolutionary War garrison and battle. These recent donations join more than \$170,000 in grants GDC previously pledged to the City of Peekskill and various community organizations since 2004.

“We’ve been very active in Peekskill during the past five years and believe it is important to always give back to the communities we’re a part of,” said Ginsburg. “It enriches the communities and shows our appreciation, and makes them better places to live in for our customers.”

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The bronze sculpture by artist Richard Masloski depicts a bearded Lincoln in a top hat and coat holding the handles of a baggage cart he stood on while addressing a crowd of 1,500 people – quite a gathering considering Peekskill only had 3,560 residents at the time. It is based upon eyewitness accounts of Lincoln’s Peekskill appearance. William Nelson, an attorney from Peekskill and a former congressman, also addressed the audience.

Lincoln stopped in Peekskill partly because of the city’s strong ties to the abolitionist movement. The city was a stop on the Underground Railroad for runaway slaves and famed abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher purchased a summer house in Peekskill in 1857 before moving there full-time in 1861. (Beecher’s mansion, which still exists, has a hidden tunnel believed to have been used to shelter runaway slaves.)

The Lincoln Depot Museum is located a short distance from Peekskill’s existing Metro-North station. It is sponsored by the Lincoln Society of Peekskill, which is dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the former president. The group, founded in 1903, sponsors an annual parade during February marking Lincoln’s birthday that attracts local groups and Civil War re-enactors.

The statue was cast at the Polich Tallix foundry in Rock Tavern, N.Y., one of the nation’s premier sculpture foundries. Polich Tallix is a descendant of the Tallix Foundry, which was based on Peekskill’s waterfront for decades until it relocated during the 1990s. The four-acre site of Tallix’s former foundry is slated for restoration as parkland and wildlife habitats as part of Peekskill’s waterfront redevelopment program, being planned in conjunction with GDC as the lead developer.

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Ginsburg Development Companies (GDC), established in 1964 and based in Valhalla, N.Y., is one of the nation's premier full-service real estate design, development and management companies. Martin Ginsburg is the president and chief executive officer. GDC has developed more than 10,000 residential units during its 40-plus year corporate history. GDC's residential sales Web sites are www.gdc-homes.com and www.gdcmetro.com. Information about GDC's commercial ventures, corporate activities and charitable foundation is available at www.gdcllc.com.