

Pataki visits Beacon



Lori O'Toole/For the Poughkeepsie Journal

Governor George Pataki meets with attendees at the opening of the Rivers and Estuaries Center in Beacon Saturday. Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould is standing center.

Rivers center office inaugurated

Governor announces \$300,000 grant

By **Gabriel J. Wasserman**
Poughkeepsie Journal

BEACON — Gov. George Pataki swept into Beacon Saturday, announcing a new wave of waterfront revitalization grants — including \$300,000 to accommodate the city's future Rivers and Estuaries Center.

"It's not about the next election," he told a crowd of more than 100 people. "It's about the next generation."

One of the first to greet Pataki was 10-year-old Vincent Grella, a cub reporter for South Avenue Elementary School in Beacon. He wanted to know why the state chose Beacon as the home of the \$30 million center.

Location key

There were many factors, Pataki said, including proximity to mass transit, Stewart Airport and the Hudson River. Beacon's waterfront

On the Web

- The Rivers and Estuaries Center on the Hudson: www.hudsonsite.com
- Poughkeepsie Journal coverage: www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/projects/institute

was selected last year.

"It's no longer a dream," the governor said.

The crowd crammed into 199 Main St., the new

temporary headquarters for the Rivers and Estuaries Center.

The small downtown space is also a gallery for Hudson River photographer Joseph Squillante. His black-and-white work is to remain on the brick walls for about three months.

The permanent center is expected to open in 2006, offering resources for education and ecology to parallel the famous Woods

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Lori O'Toole/For the Poughkeepsie Journal

Dorothy Findlay, of Millbrook, looks at photographs by Joseph Squillante at the opening of the offices of the Rivers and Estuaries Center in Beacon Saturday.

River: State grants to promote waterfront revitalization plans

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Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. Construction "begins this spring down on Denning's Point," said John Cronin, the center's managing director.

The new aid to Beacon is for a harbor management plan and a study of docking designs for the center.

It's part of a \$1.45 million environmental-protection package that Pataki said will reclaim waterfronts around the state.

"We're just so pleased to be part of it all," said Beacon Mayor Clara Lou Gould, thanking Pataki for helping to spur economic development. "This is a wonderful regional thing."

Tight security

Pataki arrived on Main Street at 1:15 p.m. A waitress served small, square egg-salad sandwiches on white bread as local leaders shook hands with the governor, who was accompanied by several security guards.

Offie Wortham, treasurer of the Beacon Sloop Club, took the opportunity to tape an interview with Pataki about basketball

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star Elton Brand. All three lived in Peekskill, and Wortham is writing a book about the NBA player.

"I think it's very exciting that we're going to have something here that's unique," Wortham said of the center.

Pataki later strolled down Main Street.

"This is a wonderful community with many great things happening," said Cronin, praising Pataki's commitment to the state's environment.

The grant package also includes \$100,000 for a Hudson River pier in the Town of Poughkeepsie, \$300,000 for improvements to East Strand waterfront area in Kingston and \$3,000 for the Town of Rhinebeck to complete its waterfront revitalization plan.