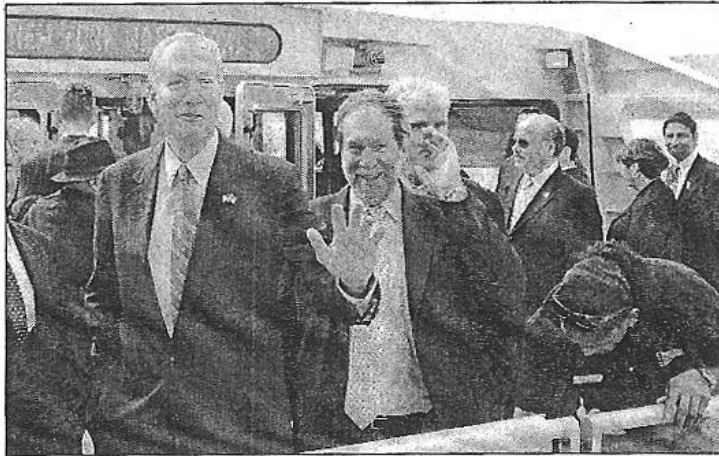


New York Gov. George Pataki and Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone wave yesterday as the New York Water Taxi pulls away from Yonkers City Pier for a cruise to lower Manhattan.



Frank Becerra Jr.
The Journal News

More cash flows to open Saw Mill

Pataki gives Yonkers \$10M to unearth parts of long-buried river

Michael Gannon
The Journal News

YONKERS — Gov. George Pataki visited the city pier yesterday to pledge an additional \$10 million in state funding to unbury parts of the Saw Mill River from under a century's worth of concrete, as part of a \$3.1 billion downtown redevelopment plan.

The money comes on top of \$24 million in capital funding for the project in the state budget, which was approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor earlier this year.

Pataki and the environmental group Scenic Hudson have been longtime advocates of the "daylighting" plan. Pataki thought enough of it to mention it in his 2005 State of the State address. The idea gained momentum and financial backing as developers Louis Cappelli, Bill Struever and Marc Berson worked up a master plan for downtown and the waterfront.

"I won't be the governor but, in a few years, I look forward to sitting down at one of those cafes and maybe having a hamburger and a Diet Coke."

Gov. George Pataki

"I won't be the governor but, in a few years, I look forward to sitting down at one of those cafes and maybe having a hamburger and a Diet Coke, as the Saw Mill River flows by for the first time in over 100 years," Pataki said at a news conference, flanked by officials, including Mayor Phil Amicone; state Sen. Nicholas Spano, R-Yonkers; Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan; and Cappelli.

After announcing the funding, Pataki and other officials boarded a New York Water Taxi ferry and rode to lower Manhattan. The company is expected to begin ferry service from Yonkers to Battery Park City and Wall Street in the spring.

The company, which was awarded a \$4.2 million contract earlier this year by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to operate the ferry, also is expected to add service from Haverstraw at some point.

Struever Fidelco Cappelli LLC, the development partnership in Yonkers, are expected by November to unveil a master plan for new housing, retail and offices, as well as a minor league ballpark over 450 acres spanning from Nepperhan Valley through downtown and the waterfront.

The Saw Mill River runs underground just east of City Hall, in a city-owned parking lot known as Chicken Island, spilling out into the Hudson River near the Yonkers train station.

The plan is expected to uncover the river at Chicken Island and again in Larkin Plaza, tying together the areas through the river.

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