In conjunction with County Executive Andy Spano's State of the County address on April 15, county GIS staff launched its inaugural Web site providing basic GIS mapping capabilities to Internet users around the world. In an effort to reach as many Internet users as possible, the site has been developed in both English and Spanish. It is one of the first sites in the United States which provides basic Internet mapping functions in Spanish with ArcView.

The GIS home page is at http://giswww.co.westchester.ny.us and can be also accessed via the county's main home page at http://www.co.westchester.ny.us. Some of the major areas of the site include:

**Interactive Maps:** The county is using ESRI's ArcView Internet Map Server (AVIMS) and their Java applet called MapCafe to serve interactive maps on the Web. Currently, the site includes an environmental features map and a community facilities map. These maps allow Internet users to add and remove layers, to pan and zoom around the map, and to identify features all from a normal browser window. Users can also print maps with preformatted templates. Additional mapping applications will be added soon.

**Data:** For some time, people have been able to download county GIS data export files from the county's FTP site. Now these export files are organized and linked to their corresponding metadata records at the New York State GIS Clearinghouse in the site's data area.

**Local Government:** One of the most important functions of county's GIS project is to provide support, services and coordination to local governments in the county. The Web should prove quite useful in this effort. Currently, this section includes a menu of the services WCGIS can provide and a table listing contact people and summarizing the status of GIS in many municipal governments throughout the county. It is anticipated this section will grow a great deal as the Web site develops.

**Newsletter:** Yes, back issues of Westchester County GIS Newsletters! What could be better?

**Training:** This space will be used to keep the user community informed of GIS training courses, workshops, and other GIS educational opportunities being offered throughout the county.

Users are encouraged to use the site, query the data, make maps and contact GIS staff via e-mail with comments and suggestions.
In February of '98, the City of New Rochelle began GIS development for municipal functions and services. The first step in the process was to install ArcView software in the Department of Development and Public Works and to automate hardcopy tax maps. Other GIS development activities included acquiring aerial photography to support a 1" = 200' planimetric base map and installing several GIS data layers.

In February of '99, the city obtained ARC/INFO software to manage the seamless tax parcel coverage. This data layer will contain the geometry of each parcel within 5' accuracy and reflect the attribution of the lot dimensions. Additionally, the tax parcel layer will be the backbone of Govern Software, a parcel centric land management system which includes a Building Permit/Code Enforcement module for the Bureau of Buildings and a Mass Appraisal module for the Tax Assessor. All information tagged to a parcel will be stored on a relational database on a central server and will be used in conjunction with ArcView. Eventually, all of the city's spatial data will be housed in the database to allow for multi-user access and efficient retrieval through the use of client/server technology such as ESRI's SDE and Map Objects.

Most recently, the City has awarded a contract to acquire rectified aerial photography for the entire city. This data layer will conform to their 1" = 200' base map. It is anticipated that the imagery will be useful to almost every department in the city in one form or another. Currently, the city continues to create new data layers and improve its map composition environment as a means to better planning and decision making. In the near future, The city plans to award a tree and infrastructure inventory project using GPS technology.
Westchester County GIS is introducing an innovative product known as "Municipality in-a-Box" which is intended to provide quick and easy access to GIS data for any municipality in the county. Designed for the GIS "novice", the program creates three separate projects (environmental, land use and zoning, and cultural features) which can be viewed, queried, and even mapped with ArcView GIS software. All three of the projects contain basemap features such as roads (and road names) and hydrologic features. The three initial projects include:

The Environmental Data project provides users with a range of environmental data such as wetlands, generalized floodplains, steep slopes, underground storage tanks, streams and lakes, and hazardous waste sites to name a few.

The Land Use and Zoning project permits includes data on generalized land use and zoning classifications throughout the county. Data is based on a compilation of local data sources including zoning maps, master and comprehensive plans, and review of aerial photography.

The Cultural Features project shows locations of such features as police and fire stations, libraries, municipal halls, public schools, major employers, and movie theaters. Users can also view school district boundaries, zip code boundaries, and fire and police district boundaries.

"Municipality in-a-Box" projects are available for municipalities in Westchester County upon request by contacting Josephine Amato at 285-3012 or email at jja9@exchange.co.westchester.ny.us. Files can be sent electronically or on floppy diskette. Currently there is no cost for the ArcView project data, but there is a $50/hour charge for staff time in data assemblage. Diskettes are one dollar each.

On February 19th, the Westchester GIS Task Force met to discuss and review the status of the proposed countywide base mapping project. The focus of the meeting was a presentation by Plangraphics, Inc. which will be meeting with county, local government, and utility representatives over the next several months as part of developing RFP technical specifications. Other meeting agenda items included discussion on the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) affect on GIS datasets and local government GIS activity. For more information, contact Sam Wear at (914) 285-3047 or email at stw1@exchange.co.westchester.ny.us

The GPS Committee, which is comprised of representatives from nine county departments and agencies, has developed an extensive list of potential GPS data collection applications. The county issued a Request for Information (RFI) the week of April 26th, requesting information on the establishment of a countywide GPS network, and is moving forward in purchasing GPS hardware which is anticipated to be used in initial data collection efforts this year. The RFI is posted at the County’s Web site at http://www.co.westchester.ny.us/rfp/GISRFI.htm. For more information, contact Laura McGinty at (914) 285-3888 or email at lam7@exchange.co.westchester.ny.us

The 2nd meeting of the Westchester GIS User Group met on March 23rd at Pace University in downtown White Plains. Skip Heise of ESRI-Boston made a presentation of current ESRI software products focusing on ARC/INFO Release 8.0 and the on-going evolution of ArcView products which are being used for Web-based GIS applications. The user group is an independent forum for GIS users (including CAD) throughout the Westchester County intended to bring together the many different users (assessment, public works, utilities, business, planning, public safety, etc.) of geospatial data. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22st, 1:00-3:00PM, at Pace University. Additional meetings are scheduled for September 9th and December 14th. For more information or to have your organization put on the mailing list, contact Ana Hiraldo at (414) 285-4416 or email at aeh2@exchange.co.westchester.ny.us.
The GIS division of the Planning Department has produced a new map enti-
tled "School Districts and Educational Facilities". This three color printed map
was digitally prepared and is a major update to the former "School Districts"
map prepared in 1991. In addition to showing school district boundaries and
public schools, the map has been expanded to include all private schools, colleges and
universities in the county. New GIS cover-
ages are also available of the these educa-
tional facilities and district boundaries.
The map illustrates the complexity of
school district geography in Westchester in
which school district boundaries are sel-
dom coterminous with municipal bound-
aries. Of the 41 school districts in the coun-
ty, only seven districts boundaries com-
pletely follow the municipal boundaries
they are within. The Bedford Central
School District spans a broad area in the
northern part of the county, incorporating
sections of four towns and the entire
Village of Mount Kisco.

Preparation of the map involved an exten-
sive research effort that involved providing
each school district with a proof copy of the
map for verification, and the review of
source data provided by the New York State
Dept. of Education, NYS Office of Real
Property Services, and the Westchester-
Putnam School Board Association. A sta-
tistical companion report is being devel-
oped which will provide educational data
on school districts and facilities.
The map was digitally produced by the
departments' GIS staff using ARC/INFO,
and offset printed by Higham Press of
Pleasantville. Prints of the map, which
measures 30 x 40”, can be obtained for
$5.00 plus postage by calling (914) 285-
4400. To obtain the GIS coverages, contact
Laura McGinty (914) 285-3888.