

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Jersey City: Growing Together *A Community Event Kicking Off the Adopt-A-Lot Gardening* *Program and Fourth Street Arts Festival*

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the Municipal Council, and the Office of City Planning, in conjunction with several community organizations are hosting “Growing Together: Adopt-A-Lot - Community Gardening Program Kick-Off” at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2011, City Hall, 280 Grove Street.

The event will feature a series of instructional workshops about the City’s Adopt-A-Lot: Community Gardening Program and the “How To” for starting a garden. There will also be a number of demonstration tables for composting, Environmental Clubs, and existing Community Gardens, as well as a raffle for rain barrels.

The workshop schedule is as followed:

- Introduction of “*Growing Together*” *Adopt-A-Lot*: Community Gardening Program by Tanya Marione-Stanton, Jersey City Planning - 11:00 am, 1:15 pm, and 2:45 pm
- *How to Start a Community Garden* by Jennifer Papa, City Green - 11:15am, 1:30 pm, and 3:00pm
- *Backyard Composting!* by Virginia Lamb - 11:45 pm
- *Composting for Community Gardens* by Robert Meyer - 2:00 pm
- *Composting Workshop: Using the Bokashi Method* by Elizabeth Onorato, Bokashi - 3:30 pm

The children’s garden will be set up on the front lawn of City Hall and planting will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. All children are welcome to come and plant a flower in the Jersey City Children’s Garden.

Rutgers Water Resource Program, which runs workshops that teach individuals how to take an active role in recycling rainwater by installing a rain barrel at their house, have **donated two rain barrels which will be raffled off**. Harvesting rain water has many benefits including saving water, saving money on your bill, and preventing basement flooding.

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Participating community organizations with tables are: **Green Map, Brunswick Community Garden, Riverview Community Garden, Jersey City Food Co-Op, New Jersey City University, Hudson County Community College, Washington Park Association Education Alliance, Bokashi Composting, Jersey City Parks Coalition and City Green/City Planning.**

As part of the event, **4th Street Arts** will be hosting *The Jersey City Festival* from **12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** The festival will feature musical performances by **WJ & the Sweet Sacrifice, Black Water,** and **Thomas Francis Takes His Chances;** a theatrical production by **Art House Productions;** a children's concert by **Pre School of Rock;** a BMX bicycle expedition by **Grove Street Bicycles;** bicycle tune-ups by **Bike JC and Easy Riders;** **Creative Grove** will set up a children's tent with several activities, photos, artwork, info and demonstrations, such as a craft demonstration for the making of PLARN (Plastic Yarn made from old plastic bags) and how to crochet funky stylish items for everyday use as well as other craft activities for all ages; face painting, tattoos, balloons, art activities and a magic show by **Umpa Lumpa;** a photo booth by **Parlay Films and Pro Arts;** a "Neighborhood Guessing Game," by **Uptown Crew;** an art installation and information center by **Rock Soup Studios;** an information booth about cat adoption by **Companion Animal Trust;** a meet and greet with **Pop-UP Art,** artwork by various artists, and more!

Food and drink vendors will include Lucinda Crêperie, Rue Viet, Madame Claude Café, and New Jersey Beer Co. There will also be information booths such as: Distillery Gallery, _gaia, Grass Roots, Cuda Culture, Pro Arts, Rock It Docket, Rock Soup, and 4th Street Arts.

For more information, please call 224-444-9615. **The event is free and open to the public.**

About Adopt-A-Lot Program

The City of Jersey City has a Green Task Force that is developing a number of green programs to enhance sustainability in the city. Many of these green initiatives will assist the city in its application for Sustainable Jersey designation this year. The Sustainable Jersey program helps municipalities improve efficiency, cut waste and stimulate their local economies. Registered municipalities get special priority access and notification of incentives and grants, and are eligible for the Sustainable Jersey Small Grant Program which funds \$220,000 worth of sustainable projects annually across New Jersey. The **Adopt-A-Lot Program** is just one of these projects.

The City has amended its Adopt-A-Lot program to encourage the creation of community gardens in once blighted vacant lots and in underused park lands. The City has also expanded the lease terms from one to two years, and through a partnership with City Green, will be offering an educational component. We are now working on a list of city-owned sites that will be suitable for gardening (this includes vacant and park land). We will be working with our local Universities and using Green Map to also help finish this list.

About 4th Street Arts

4th Street Arts is a collection of artists from the Jersey City area, committed to contributing to the local arts community. In addition to supporting events throughout the year, 4th Street Arts is dedicated to the annual 4th Street Arts and Music Festival - a free community event founded in 2004, held in conjunction with the Jersey City Artists Studio Tour. This not-for-profit group has devoted itself to the growth of our artist community, and in doing such, will make an annual donation to local youth, for the purposes of art and music. Above all, 4th Street Arts stands for three main components - art, music, and community.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///