

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

Winners of Jersey City's First Annual Amateur Garden Competition and Community Garden will be Awarded at the Adopt-A-Lot's 2011 Closing Rally!!!

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and the Jersey City Division of Planning in conjunction with the *Jersey City Independent* will present awards for the ***First Annual Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition and Community Garden Tour*** at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 23, 2011** at **Riverview-Fisk Park** located on Palisade Avenue between Bowers and Griffith streets.

“We are pleased to partner with the *Jersey City Independent* to acknowledge the work of our local gardeners who are making their neighborhoods greener and more attractive,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Community gardens and urban agriculture are both growing interests in Jersey City and we in City government want the public to know that we support their efforts in these areas.”

2011 Community Garden Winners Are:

Public School #5 for **Best School Garden 2011**; Storms Avenue Community Garden for **Best Start-Up Garden 2011**; and Van Vorst Park for **Largest Community Garden 2011**.

Jersey City revised its **Adopt-A-Lot Program** earlier this year making it easier for residents and organizations to start community gardens on vacant land. The program is part of Mayor Healy's green agenda to bring more urban agriculture to Jersey City. To learn more about the Adopt-A-Lot Program, please visit the City's website at www.jerseycitynj.gov.

Amateur Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition Winners:

John Mucha of Trenton Street started with coffee cups from inside his house. A few months later he moved outside and created a 13'7" long by 7'4" wide garden that contained 40 tomato plants, 15 rows of corn, four white peach trees, one pear tree, two small apricot trees, and two eggplants.

Craig Hayes and Timothy Larimer of Coles Street for their innovative use of space and design “Bus Stop Garden.”

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Winners of the **Amateur Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition** will receive a \$100 gift card donated by the 14th Street Garden Center and prizes donated by Hudson Farmers and 440 Farms and Terracycle.

Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition Rules and Prizes

Residents were encouraged to enter the *Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition* by nominating their own or a neighbor's garden, window box, front/back/side yard, or a roof-top garden, which was judged by both the Division of Planning and the Jersey City Independent.

Only gardens planted by amateur gardeners were eligible — no professionally contracted work was allowed.

Prior to the award ceremony, at **11:00 a.m. - 2:00p.m.**, the *Adopt-A-Lot's 2011 Community Garden Tour*, hosted by **Riverview Farmers' Market**, which will commence at Riverview Community Garden, located between Palisade Avenue and Griffith Street in the Jersey City Heights.

The *Adopt-A-Lot's 2011 Community Garden Tour* will include 20 minute visits to:

- Riverview Community Garden
- Sgt. Anthony Community Garden
- John DeSalvo Playground & Community Garden (Enos Jones Park)
- 4th Street Garden
- Brunswick Community Garden
- City Hall Children's Garden
- Storms Avenue Community Garden

The bus tour is FREE and open to the public. Seats are limited and registration for the bus tour is required. BikeJC will also be riding along the tour route via bicycles. The buses are provided by the Jersey City Recreation Department.

To sign up for the bus or bike tour, please register by calling (201) 855-9762 or by e-mailing freirei@jcnj.org.

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