



SEASONS

The Hudson County Improvement Authority Newsletter

Families and
KIDS
looking for a
FREE
day of great
FUN
should not miss
this Saturday's
Earth Day Fair
in Liberty

The Hudson County Improvement Authority invites you to Celebrate Spring at the Earth Day 2003 Fair at beautiful Liberty State Park this Saturday, May 3.

The day long event kicks off with our Annual Earth Day 5K Run and Fitness Walk at 10am, followed by a Kids Fun Run and a grand Earth Day Celebration of music, dancing, food and family oriented activities highlighted by our new "Kids Kingdom" area.

"The HCIA will utilize our Earth Day celebration to educate, inspire and rekindle Hudson County's commitment to environmental protection," said Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise. "In keeping with this year's theme of Together Makes The Difference, we encourage residents, citizen groups, representatives of local government, businesses, block associations, schools, universities, and faith-based groups to come out and learn how we can all play a stronger role in building a clean, healthy world for generations to come".

Join us for a great time and learn about recycling, conserving energy and other tips to make everyday Earth Day. Directly after the 5K Run/Walk for adults and the Kids Fun Run, everyone is welcome to enjoy the magnificent New York City skyline back drop while dance troops, singers, magicians and story tellers dazzle and amaze with superb stage shows being held throughout the day.

Enjoy snacks while strolling court jesters, jugglers, magicians, stilt walkers and other entertainers mix and mingle with the crowds. Children's inflatable rides such as the moon walk, ball bounce and slide as well as carnival games will also be complimentary to Earth Day celebrants.

Everyone is invited to visit our Arts and Crafts Tent, where both adults and children will be able to learn more about the environment as Artists teach participants to make a variety of earth related crafts.

Adults will be able to register for the Race/Walk on Saturday from 8:30 am to 9:45 am. Race registrants will receive tee-shirts and a chance to win top trophies and medals, dinner for two at some of Hudson County's best restaurants, gift certificates, and more. The Fun Run takes place directly after the adult race and is open to children of all ages. All participants will receive free prizes and there will be age appropriate winner categories.

"Join us for our Annual Earth Day Celebration this Saturday," adds HCIA Chairman John Shinnick. "It's a great opportunity to bring people together for the common good of working for a cleaner, greener Hudson County, and, it's a great day of fun for the whole family."

DeGISE
cheers
crayon kids!



(see page 3 for the whole story)



Chairman's Message:

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HUDSON TAXPAYERS

By John L. Shinnick
HCIA Board Chairman

The Hudson County Improvement Authority is an independent agency with enormous responsibilities that impact every county resident. That's why it's important to have a good working relationship with our new county administration.

Everyone at the HCIA is very proud of the agency's record of managing environmental and solid waste issues efficiently, stimulating the construction of thousands of units of affordable housing, and providing key financing that makes new agencies like the North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue possible.

From his first day in office last year, County Executive Tom DeGise has provided the leadership necessary to make the HCIA even more vital to the future of Hudson County.

Today the HCIA is evolving. We're working to meet the demands of a struggling economy by focusing on economic development efforts that will stimulate new jobs and new tax rates. Our agency is working on two exciting opportunities in West Hudson — the development of the Harrison riverfront and the redevelopment of the Koppers Koke site in Kearny.

I know I speak for every HCIA Commissioner when I say that we are very pleased to be working closely with County Executive DeGise and his administration. I'm sure that we'll continue to build on this trust and cooperation to the benefit of every Hudson County municipality.



Norman Guerra (seated) and Bill Netchert

HCIA Board Appoints New Management Team

There's a new management team at the HCIA helm this year and the emphasis is on reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

The HCIA Board of Commissioners appointed Norman M. Guerra Executive Director and William Netchert as the agency's Chief Counsel, succeeding Tom Calvanico and Robert Barry who both left to pursue new opportunities.

"Norman Guerra and Bill Netchert bring a wealth of management, environmental, legal and governmental expertise and our Board is very pleased with their leadership," says HCIA Chairman John Shinnick. "The Board also appreciates the contributions that Tom and Bob made."

Widely regarded as one of New Jersey's top managers of environmental agencies, Norman Guerra served as Executive Director of the Jersey City Incinerator Authority from 1985 through 2002. Guerra directed a staff of 140 employees and managed a \$27 million budget and was credited for starting an innovative program that helped disabled people gain jobs. He navigated the JCIA through a series of mayoral administrations, operating the agency with the highest professional and ethical standards at all times.

Few attorneys can match Bill Netchert's extensive record of public service. The lifelong Jersey City resident served as an Assistant County Counsel for 25 years and the Jersey City Planning Board Attorney for 13 years. He is a former Board of Education Member and former Director of the Hudson County chapter of the American Red Cross. A graduate of Fordham Law School, Saint Peter's College and Prep, Netchert is the President-elect of the Hudson County Bar Association and a partner in Netchert, Dineen and Hillmann, a law firm with offices in Hudson and Bergen counties.

Guerra and Netchert are leading the HCIA through a number of cost reduction measures. Working with the Board of Commissioners, they have reduced outside consulting costs by \$600,000 and introduced a new level of enforcement at solid waste transfer stations to ensure that garbage haulers report tonnage properly. The new system could save taxpayers millions of dollars.

Old Cell Phones Become New Lifeline

The Hudson County Improvement Authority has adopted an innovative Cell Phone Collection Program which has the potential to be a lifesaving tool for battered women facing emergency situations.

The HCIA urges residents to donate working cell phones to the program. These old phones will be made operable for 911 calls through a partnership with other county agencies and the Motorola Corporation. To donate or learn more, please call the HCIA at 201-795-4555 or visit www.hcia.org.



Call us at 201.795.4555 or visit us at: www.hcia.org

574 Summit Avenue, 5th Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306

Household Hazardous Waste Collection is BIG Success!

Residents were provided a free, safe and easy way to rid their homes of potentially dangerous substances and materials which are not only capable of causing serious bodily harm, but also pose a threat to our environment during The HCIA sponsored Semi-Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

On April 5 and April 13, 2003, Hudson County residents utilized four convenient drop-off locations throughout the county to dispose of hazardous materials from their homes, basements, garages and work places. Municipalities also participated in the program.

HCIA Executive Director Norman Guerra said that over 61,000 pounds of hazardous materials were collected this year and more than three million pounds had been collected since the program started.

Residents who did not participate in the event will have a second opportunity in the Fall. The HCIA will sponsor Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days again on Saturday, October 11, 2003 in Jersey City and Kearny. The program will take place in Bayonne and Union City on Sunday, October 19, 2003. Please visit the HCIA web site at www.hcia.org or call our environmental hot line at 1(800) 540-0987 for additional information.



HCIA Contractor handles paint containers dropped off by residents.

RECYCLED PAINT FOR NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS & CHURCHES

Buckets of old latex paint collected during the Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days are reprocessed and provided free of charge to many Hudson County schools, churches and non-profit organizations. The recycled paint is available in beige and three shades of gray. For more information, call the HCIA at (201)795-4555.

Students Recycle Thousands of Crayons!

Students throughout Hudson County recently got involved in an HCIA community outreach program to celebrate America Recycles Day.

A little known fact is that crayons are a petroleum product and take years to biodegrade. Students did their part to make the earth more environmentally safe by participating in the HCIA sponsored Crayon Recycling Program. County wide, there were over 1,500 pounds of old, broken crayons donated during the community service event.

Student efforts did not go unrewarded. The old crayons were recycled into brand new multicolored crazy crayons and distributed back to all participants. And one lucky group of West New York fourth and fifth graders were treated to a pizza party by HCIA staff and County Executive Tom DeGise on April 4. The kids had some fun with the County Exec and the crayons (see photo on page 1) and later posed for this terrific "class picture."



Participating Schools

Bayonne

Midtown
Mount Carmel
PS#14
Robinson
St. Andrew's
St. Vincent's
Star of the Sea
Washington
Woodrow Wilson

Secaucus

Huber Street

Jersey City

PS# 17
PS# 28
PS# 42
It Takes A Village
St. Aedan's
St. Aloysius
Saints John and Ann
St. Nicholas
St. Paul of The Cross

North Bergen

St. John Nepomucene

Union City

Edison
Jefferson
Robert Walters
St. Augustine's
Wilson

Weehawken

Roosevelt
Wilson

West New York

Our Lady of Libera
PS# 3



CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT COSTS

A Message From Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise

When I took office as Hudson County Executive last November, I made it very clear that two of my highest priorities would be reducing the cost of government and protecting our local environment and remaining open space.

I'm very glad to see the Hudson County Improvement Authority working cooperatively with our new administration to meet those objectives.

In January, the HCIA Board of Commissioners voted to reduce costs associated with outside consultants to the agency by at least \$600,000 for 2003.

Contracts authorizing legal, engineering, accounting and other professional services awarded by the HCIA Board totaled \$1.4 million – about 30% less than the \$2 million budgeted by the agency last year.

I'm also very pleased with the new internal cost control system implemented by the HCIA Board, Executive Director Norman Guerra and Chief Counsel William Netchert. The system adds a new level of budget oversight by creating "caps" for each task or project authorized by the agency, rather than simply giving each firm an annual budget to spend.

As I write this column in early April, thousands of brave young American men and women are laying their lives on the line in Iraq. They're fighting for freedom and they deserve the full support of very American. I know that I speak for our entire Hudson County family when I say that we are all hoping and praying that they return home soon and safe.

May God Bless America and all of our troops.



The Hudson Transportation Management Association (TMA) is here to assist in a more comfortable commute!

The Hudson Transportation Management Association (TMA) is a division of the Hudson County Improvement Authority created to plan and implement innovative programs to meet the County's transportation needs. The TMA provides a variety of transportation related services to not only area businesses, but also the general public.

The association specializes in assisting companies set-up transportation programs and telecommuting programs to aid their employees with commuting needs.

For more information on the following as well as many other helpful programs the TMA offers, please visit www.hudsontma.org or call the TMA at 201-339-0078.

E-Mail Traffic Alerts & Fax Networking

The very informative service provides residents and business entities with up to date traffic condition information. All accidents, road closures and road construction are continuously updated and reported.

Guest Speakers

TMA staff members are available to speak with companies, community groups and non-profit agencies to discuss transportation issues. Traffic safety programs are provided for students.

Hudson Ride Pro

This free service matches potential rideshare partners which helps protect the environment and saves on transportation costs. Call 201-432-2200 to register to participate in this program.

Information Resource Centers

Transportation Information centers, which serve as an great way pick-up schedules and other transportation related information, are conveniently positioned throughout the County.

Ozone Alert

Current ozone conditions are faxed to local businesses on a daily basis.



Thomas DeGise, County Executive
Norman M. Guerra, Executive Director
William Netchert, Chief Counsel

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DON'T MISS THE EARTH DAY FAIR THIS SATURDAY!



A Great Day of Free Family Fun for Hudson County Residents at Liberty State Park, this Saturday, May 3rd!

5k Race and Fitness Walk Starts at 10:00 AM Kids Fun Run Follows -- Lots of Prizes! Plenty of Free Family Fun and Activities including the fabulous "Kids Kingdom!" Dancers! Magicians! Musicians! Storytellers! Jesters! Jugglers! FREE RIDES FOR ALL KIDS Carnival Games! Food!

TOGETHER MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

Sponsored by the Hudson County Improvement Authority