

HackensackChronicle

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024 | NORTHJERSEY.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Bronze-Level Sustainable Jersey certification for Hackensack

Special to NorthJersey.com

The City of Hackensack announces it has met the rigorous requirements to achieve bronze-level certification from Sustainable Jersey, a testament to the city's ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. This accomplishment, recognized at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon this past Nov. 19 during the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, underscores Hackensack's dedication to creating a healthier, more sustainable community through innovative environmental initiatives. Hackensack's Green Team, established just two years ago, played a vital role in earning the certification.

"The Mayor and Council deeply appreciate the leadership of the Green Team and the Hackensack Environmental Commission to ensure we all

See ENVIRONMENT, Page 4



Hackensack earns Sustainable Jersey Certification. Representatives pictured, from left to right, are Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey; Janet Wicks, Chairperson of the Hackensack Green Team; and Gary Sondermeyer, Chairperson, Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CITY OF HACKENSACK

Grammy-nominated singer among PAC the House performers

Meghan Burrows
NorthJersey.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

A Latin Grammy-nominated singer and producer, a soulful singer and a group that blends genres including hip-hop and funk are among the performers announced for next year's PAC the House program at the Hackensack Performing Arts Center.

The series offers fans the chance to see renowned performers at an affordable price, said John Peters, the executive director of the Hackensack Performing Arts Center, or HaOPAC.

"PAC the House is a special series that is much more international and diversified in nature. It features more recognizable names, that have more of a following," he said. "Because of donations, we are able to offer these at a much more affordable rate for the community. It's incredible for the community to be able to experience these perfor-

See PAC, Page 2

life," said Hackensack Deputy Mayor Kathy Canestino. "I'm also extremely proud that we were able to achieve this while minimizing cost to local taxpayers by lever-

aging grant opportunities, such as the ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant and the TD Bank/Arbor Day Grant, we will continue to expand green infrastructure, improve

public spaces, and address climate challenges throughout our city!"

Hackensack's Green Team, established just two years ago, played a vital role in earning the certification. The team completed a diverse range of sustainability action items, from advancing energy efficiency to promoting environmental education, securing Hackensack's place among the 208 municipalities statewide recognized at the bronze level.

Janet Wicks, Chairperson of the Hackensack Green Team, proudly accepted the Bronze Certification plaque on behalf of the city. "This

achievement highlights the power of collaboration and community-driven initiatives," said Wicks. "It is the direct result of the dedicated efforts of the Green Team, Shade Tree Advisory Committee, city employees, and the non-profit Garden Club of Hackensack. The Green Team is honored to contribute to creating a healthier, more sustainable Hackensack."

Beyond certification, Hackensack continues to lead in sustainability efforts. The Hackensack Environmental Commission (HEC), reorganized in 2018, spearheads projects such as the Johnson

Park Community Garden, which has grown from its inception to win awards for its innovative design and contributions to food security. Produce from the garden is donated to the Community Food Bank, while Scouts and volunteers work to make the space accessible and pollinator-friendly.

Hackensack has also begun tracking energy usage in municipal buildings through the Environmental Protection Agency's Portfolio Manager tool to help reduce energy consumption and costs over time, and encourages residents to adopt environmentally friendly practices such as the "Grass - Cut it and Leave it" initiative, which promotes natural lawn care techniques. Educational flyers, featuring QR codes linking to resources, have been distributed online, at community meetings, and throughout city facilities.

For more information about Hackensack's sustainability initiatives visit hackensack.org, or learn more about Sustainable Jersey at SustainableJersey.com.