



Mahwah MATTERS

Fall 2012 Newsletter

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THE MAHWAH ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZATION, INC.

The Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc. (MEVO) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Northern New Jersey that works to promote sustainability and the welfare of our natural environment by providing service to nature. It is a grassroots and youth-led environmental organization consisting of passionate volunteers from both high school and college who all work to create a

100 of these to schools and business to create a more effective and efficient collection of recycling, distributed over 2,610 energy efficient CFL light bulbs, and have collected countless bags of trash, recycling and scrap metal. All of MEVO's events in which this impressive work was done have been and will continue to be planned by youth, led by youth, managed by youth and carried out by youth as an example of our generation's passion for change.



Darlington School House

cleaner and happier Earth. MEVO was founded in 2008 by Eric J. Fuchs-Stengal, a Mahwah High School student, at that time, and now the current Executive Director of the organization, with the goals of Service, Sustainability, and Environment. Since then, MEVO has organized over 60 volunteer events ranging from trash clean-ups and tree plantings to hiking trail construction and recycling bin distribution. The organization, whose volunteer events, programs, and work is managed by unpaid high school students and a few college staff, has logged over 3000 service hours and has engaged 235 students in volunteer work since its inception. In just the past three years, MEVO volunteers have planted well over 200 trees, rehabilitated 9 miles of badly eroded hiking trails, helped build 6 miles of long-term low-impact hiking trails, designed 196 recycling bins and distributed



Cleanup



MEVO

The Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization, Inc. consists of two primary programs: "Earth Crew" and "Farm to Live." Throughout MEVO's history, "Earth Crew" has acted as the organization's primary volunteer outlet and has acted as the centerpiece for all of MEVO's environmental work over the years. Earth Crew kicked-off MEVO as an organization with its first event in the summer of 2008, a trash cleanup at Winter's Park. With the help of a continuously expanding and tremendously dedicated corps

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MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE

Election News - Upcoming Elections

General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Primary Election Tuesday, June 4, 2013

General Election Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Note: School Election has been moved to November 6, 2012 and November 5, 2013.

Polls are open from 6:00AM to 8:00PM.

Deadline to Register to Vote:

Voter Registration Dates and Last Day for New Voters to Register to Vote in Upcoming Elections

General Election Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Primary Election Tuesday, May 14, 2013

General Election Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Note: The Municipal Clerk's Office will be opened from 8:00AM to 9:00PM for Voter Registration on the above dates. Deadline for new Voters to register to vote in an upcoming Election is on the above Voter Registration Dates by 9:00PM.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballot Request Forms are available in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Deadline Requests must be received by the Bergen County Clerk's Office in Hackensack seven days before the Election for which you are requesting the Absentee Ballot. Or you may apply in person to the Bergen County Clerk, 1 Bergen County Plaza – Room 130 in Hackensack up until 3:00PM the day before the Election.



FALL 2012 SUSTAIN ECO SURVEY

On March 27, 2012 the Township of Mahwah received approval from the New Jersey Highlands Council to proceed forward with a \$20,000 grant to complete a Sustainable Economic Development Plan. An Economic Development Plan is one of the optional elements within a Master Plan, which can be broadly described as a plan with efforts and activities aimed at increasing the local tax base, providing new employment opportunities and improving the overall economic and social sustainability of a community.

Sustainable economic development is described by the New Jersey Highlands Council as maintaining and expanding the existing job and economic base by promoting appropriate, sustainable and environmentally compatible economic development. According to the Highlands Council's Regional Master Plan, the objective of a Sustainable Economic Development Plan is to ensure long-term, sustainable economic viability, not short-term economic activity. Thus economic growth should be accommodated in a manner that takes careful advantage of the unique and valuable built and natural resources of the Township. This is an important concept in a municipality with more than 7,600 acres of County and State parkland, 20 historical homes and structures, three archeological/prehistoric sites and two historic districts. The challenge is finding the balance between capitalizing upon and protecting these community assets.

The project will consist of four phases. The first phase is primarily background research on existing economic conditions within Mahwah. The second phase involves public outreach. Maser Consulting has crafted two surveys, a business owner and customer survey, to gather valuable information from the public. The information obtained through the surveys will be used in formulating the final document. Both surveys are presently posted on the Township's website. The third phase will be a public workshop, which will be held this fall. The last phase will be the creation of a draft Sustainable Economic Development Plan.

MEVO Continued from page 1



MEVO Recycling Bins

of volunteers, the MEVO Earth Crew has carried out dozens of equally beneficial environmental service events. Activities have ranged from simple clean-up projects and trail rehabilitation to recycling bin distribution and educational presentations. MEVO's Earth Crew has worked to provide any service that it



Ramapo Reservation Trail Work

feels is necessary in order to promote sustainability in our communities and protect the overall welfare of the natural environment. Today, Earth Crew operates throughout northern New Jersey and upstate New York, carrying out environmental service events three or four times per month during the spring, summer and fall seasons, working to preserve the delicate ecological balance that colors our world each and every day for future generations.

MEVO's newest program, "Farm to Live," is an organic farming project led by NYU students whose mission is to create organic, sustainable farms and empower people through ethical agriculture. A percentage of the food produced will be

given to local, low-income residents free of charge to encourage conscious eating and nutritional awareness. By offering healthy, alternative food and through education and engagement, the program promotes environmental literacy as well as reflects a positive community partnership between NYC and the local residents. "Farm to Live" aims to build social consciousness and grow a sustainable, healthy food system and seeks to educate and inspire, planting a farming community that lives generously with people and the Earth.

To find out more, visit MEVO's website at www.mevoearth.org. ■