

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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## *Calling ALL Green Thumbs!!!!* **Jersey City to Host First Annual Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition As Part of 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* announce the *First Annual Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition*.

Residents are 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 will be judged by both the Division of Planning and the Jersey City Independent.

Only gardens planted by amateur gardeners are eligible — no professionally contracted work is allowed.

Co-sponsored with the *Jersey City Independent*, the judges, including *Jersey City Independent's* Seedling blogger Emily Helck, will use photos and short essays written by gardeners, as well as site visits, to determine the winners in a number of categories.

To enter, submit at least three photographs of the garden, along with a brief description and explanation as to why it is the best garden, to [tanyam@jcnj.org](mailto:tanyam@jcnj.org) and [emilyhelck@gmail.com](mailto:emilyhelck@gmail.com). You can also enter via <http://on.fb.me/jcgardencontest>

**Entries are due by 10/21/2011 at 5p.m.**

Top prize winner will receive a \$100 gift card donated by *14th Street Garden Center* and prizes donated by **Hudson Farmers** and **440 Farms** will be awarded to the winners in the other categories.

Contest Rules: the garden may be the front, back, side yard or even a roof top garden. The garden may be in pots or in the ground, and may be edible or non-edible. The garden must be already in place. Future garden plans will not be considered for contest submission, but once complete, are encouraged to enter in next year's contest.

Winners of the *Backyard/Front Yard Garden Competition* will be announced at an **Award Ceremony** taking place at **2:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, October 23, 2011**, after the *Adopt-A-Lot's 2011 Community Garden Tour*, hosted by Riverview Farmers' Market, which will commence at the Riverview Community Garden, located between Palisade Avenue and Griffith Street in the Jersey City Heights.

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Commencing from the Riverview Community Garden at 11:00a.m., 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 201-547-4513 or e-mail [freirei@jcnj.org](mailto:freirei@jcnj.org)

### **About the Jersey City Adopt-A-Lot program**

Jersey City revised its Adopt-A-Lot program making it easier for residents and organizations to start community gardens on vacant land. The program is part of Mayor Healy's green initiative to bring more urban agriculture to Jersey City. To learn more about the Adopt-A-Lot Program, please visit [www.jerseycitynj.gov](http://www.jerseycitynj.gov)

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