he HCIA, the County of Hudson and local municipalities are working closely to make major capital improvements around Hudson County. Under the leadership of County Executive Thomas A. DeGise, the HCIA continues to improve services, revitalize neighborhoods and provide the necessary funding for improvements across the county.

A “vision” for the future of the former Koppers’ Seaboard Facility (Kopper’s Koke) in Kearny, purchased by the HCIA in 1986, is beginning to take shape. The Kopper’s Koke Visioning Work Group has begun the process of defining the full potential of the site. “Visioning” is an open sharing of information and ideas that brings together participants with specific knowledge from various levels of government, academia, business and environmental organizations, to brainstorm and expedite responsible redevelopment. Residents will be invited to participate in various public information sessions, so that their comments are part of the process of converting this defunct property into a viable economic resource for Hudson County.

The HCIA has also played a major role in a restoration effort that will serve as the cornerstone in the redevelopment efforts relating to the Jersey City Medical Center project. The Authority has designated a developer who will restore three former HCIA-owned properties on the site; Murdoch Hall, Pollak Hospital and the Margaret Hague Building will be re-born as a multi-use property consisting of residential housing, and retail and entertainment venues in accordance with the Jersey City Redevelopment Plan.

In addition, the HCIA has entered into an agreement on behalf of Hudson County for the acquisition and redevelopment of the Block Drug Building in Jersey City. The proposed new facility will house a number of county departments, such as the County Register, the Board of Elections, the Department of Family Services, the Health Clinic, the Sheriff’s 9-1-1 Communication Center and Patrol Division, and other social services agencies. The anticipated new building will streamline operations and save taxpayer dollars by consolidating county services under one roof.

Other notable projects that the HCIA has financed in recent years include improvements to Bayonne’s DPW Garage, the Weehawken Water Tower, the formation of the North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue, Waterfront Walkway segments in Weehawken and West New York, as well as the acquisition of the Pershing Road Bridge to ensure public access to the beautifully revitalized waterfront area.

“Capital” Cooperation for Hudson County

HHW Household Hazardous Waste Days May 7th and 15th:
Warmer weather is approaching and Hudson County residents are looking to begin spring clean-ups. Cleaning out garages, basements, sheds and attics can uncover potentially hazardous materials. Household hazardous waste poses a serious threat to the environment and the population’s health, when not disposed of properly. To avoid this, dispose of household hazardous waste at the HCIA’s Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Days on May 7th in Jersey City and Kearny, and on May 15th in Bayonne and North Bergen.

“Hudson County residents made last year’s hazardous waste collection drive a great success, another sign of their growing awareness that all of us can contribute in the fight to protect our environment,” said HCIA Chairman John L. Shinnick. “Come out again this year and show your support for a cleaner, greener Hudson County.”

See back page for 2005 Spring and Fall HHW dates and locations.
"Capital Improvement Projects"

“The County of Hudson and the HCIA work together to provide the communities that we serve with more than just programs and initiatives that promote safe and healthy environments. We also strive to provide Hudson County municipalities with the financial resources necessary to realize capital projects that foster a better quality of life.”

"People who illegally dump solid waste cost you, your municipality and Hudson County a lot of money. The HCIA works everyday to enforce the laws meant to protect Hudson County residents. Remember to do your part as well. If you are renovating your home or apartment, obtain the services of a certified waste disposal company that is approved by the NJDEP. That way you can ensure your waste is disposed of properly.”

"The City of Hoboken needed to replace its aging fleet of police cars. The HCIA was able to purchase 16 new black & white cruisers and one new black car, and then lease the vehicles back to the city at a substantial savings for all,” said HCIA Executive Director Norman Guerra.

"On behalf of myself and my fellow commissioners, I would like to invite you to join us for a great time in our new location in the North Field at Liberty State Park on April 16th. It’s a wonderful opportunity to bring residents together to learn about the environment and spend time with their community. It’s a great day of free fun for the whole family.”

"The HCIA Board would like to welcome our new commissioner Stephen J. Gallo. As Executive Director of the Bayonne Municipal Utilities Authority, Mr. Gallo knows how critical well-managed environmental services are to local residents. Mr. Gallo will certainly be a great asset to the board and to the residents of Hudson County.

A fond farewell to Nicholas Chiaravalloti, who resigned on February 7th after serving four years on the board, including three terms as HCIA Secretary. In his letter to Norman Guerra, HCIA Executive Director, Mr. Chiaravalloti expressed his admiration for the HCIA staff, “I commend you and your staff for your dedication and hard work. I will miss working with you and my fellow commissioners.” The HCIA extends Mr. Chiaravalloti its best wishes for continued success in the future.

Students throughout Hudson County will help the HCIA announce its Annual Earth Day Celebration by designing posters that promote recycling and encourage environmental stewardship. Awards for the most creative designs will be handed out at the April 16th Earth Day Celebration in Liberty State Park.

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HCIA Board News

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The Hudson County Improvement Authority’s (HCIA) Annual Earth Day celebration will kick off at 10 a.m., at its new location in the North Field at Liberty State Park on Saturday, April 16, 2005, with a 5K Run/Walk and Kid’s Fun Run. Set against the stunning backdrop of the New York City skyline, this daylong event provides an excellent opportunity for families and individuals to learn more about the environment.

“Education, Conservation, Celebration! This year’s theme for Earth Day is meant to educate, inspire and rekindle Hudson County’s commitment to environmental protection,” said Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise. “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 cleaner, healthier world for generations to come.”

Family-friendly activities will include free health screenings, Identi-Kid packages for parents, bicycle safety information, a craft tent, entertaining stage shows and plenty of giveaways for children and adults. From 12 - 4 p.m., “Kids Kingdom” will feature inflatable rides, as well as face-painting and contests. Strolling court jesters, jugglers, stilt walkers and other entertainers will mix and mingle with the crowds.

Earth-Friendly Educational Initiatives

By offering environmental education programs at schools throughout Hudson County and hosting events in our various municipalities, the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) staff continually provides community outreach to students and educators. We strive to be an important resource for schools and teachers. The HCIA provides programs and tools that educators can utilize to construct a balanced, comprehensive and child-friendly approach to environmental lesson plans.

Through educational outreach initiatives, students get a chance to learn about conservation by “Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.” HCIA environmental programs include the distribution of earth-friendly, reusable lunch kits; composting demonstrations with Wiggle E. Worm; Where Does Our Garbage Go?, a presentation about proper recycling; our Environmental Shopping program; the Recycling Works hands-on mobile exhibit and the HCIA’s Environmental Resource Center lending library.

Seasons For Kids is also an exciting educational tool which encourages a deeper understanding of environmental issues. The primary goal of this bi-annual newsletter is to inform and involve the children of Hudson County in the practice of effective environmental stewardship.

Educators can visit www.hcia.org to access information about the various environmental programs and publications available, and students can click on fun and informative links, while discovering our Annual Earth Day Celebration and other child-friendly HCIA events.
Stormwater ALERT

Stormwater runoff is the most common way that pollution reaches local rivers, creeks and lakes. Rainwater can carry chemicals, sediments and other forms of pollution into local streams if the water is not absorbed by soil and vegetation. Reducing the amount of pollutants being carried off into storm sewers and streams keeps our waterways clean and prevents flooding. Increasing stormwater absorption into the soil also has the added benefit of helping to maintain ground water supplies, which are seriously depleted in many areas.

You Can Make a Difference in Your Own Backyard

Managing stormwater in your own backyard makes a difference. Here are some examples of what you can do at home:

- Reduce solid surfaces by using pavers or bricks rather than concrete for a driveway or sidewalk.
- Divert rain from paved surfaces onto grass to permit gradual infiltration.
- Landscape with the environment in mind. Choose the appropriate plants, shrubs and trees for the soil in your yard; don’t select plants that need lots of watering (which increases surface runoff), fertilizers or pesticides.
- Maintain your car properly so that motor oil, brake linings, exhaust and other fluids don’t contribute to water pollution.
- Keep stormwater clean. Never dump litter, motor oil, animal waste, or leaves into storm drains or catch basins.

Now that Spring has sprung, many organizations and institutions will be looking for ways to improve their facilities and spruce up their work environment. Unfortunately, budgetary constraints can keep many non-profit organizations from affording even basic upkeep. The Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA) is helping to make those improvements possible by offering non-profit organizations in Hudson County recycled and reprocessed paint to use free of charge.

The HCIA will provide free latex paint to schools, government offices, religious institutions, day-care centers and any other non-profit organization throughout Hudson County. Recycled latex paint is available to these organizations in several shades of beige or gray. For more information on how to receive recycled paint for your organization, please call the HCIA’s Environmental Hotline at 1-800-540-0987.

How You Can Help

Donate your old or leftover paint during the HCIA’s Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Days. Spring 2005 HHW Days will take place on May 7th in Jersey City and Kearny, and May 15th in Bayonne and North Bergen. Please call the HCIA Environmental Hotline at 800-540-0987 or visit www.hcia.org for locations and hours of operation.

The results are in! The Hudson County Improvement Authority’s (HCIA) 3rd Annual Crayon Recycling Contest was a huge success, with Hudson County students becoming nationwide champions after donating more crayons than any other county in the country – approximately 2,295 pounds of crayons! This year marked the first time that every municipality in Hudson County participated in this worthwhile recycling contest.

Hudson County Students

First Place – Holy Cross School in Harrison
Second Place – Clarendon School in Secaucus
Third Place – Huber Street School in Secaucus
Fourth Place – PS #5 in West New York
Fifth Place – Holy Rosary Academy in Union City
The HCIA, along with state and local officials, has formed a coalition to investigate four sites along rail lines owned and operated by the New York Susquehanna and Western Railway in the Township of North Bergen. Currently, construction and demolition materials are being brought in and stored in open-air trash piles with little or no inspection. This practice could result in the contamination of storm water, toxic dust and fumes and potential fire hazards.

Some of the massive piles of waste that have accumulated are over 50 feet high and may pose great health risks to both the surrounding community and the Meadowlands. Using a loophole in federal charters that exempt railroads from many state regulations, these operations move waste from trucks to open rail cars for transport elsewhere with virtually no inspections or controls over the incoming waste.

The coalition is coordinated by Mayor Nick Sacco and the Township of North Bergen, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, the Hudson County Improvement Authority, the Hudson Regional Health Commission, the Hackensack Riverkeeper, North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue and the North Bergen Health Department. At the state level, the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection and the Attorney General’s Office have also committed to the effort. In addition, members of the New Jersey federal delegation have begun coordinating with the alliance.

“The health and security of our residents must come first. The more support we gather, the easier it will be to implement the state’s environmental regulations,” said North Bergen Mayor Nick Sacco. “We will work alongside the HCIA and other state and local agencies to enforce solid waste disposal guidelines, to protect our residents and the vitality of the Meadowlands.

You can help by reporting any illegal dumping to Michael A. Holloway, Director of Solid Waste Enforcement at 201-795-4555 x 211.

Coalition Formed to Enforce Solid Waste Regulations

Refrigerator...it’s the Law!

Recycling is the Law.

Recycling saves energy.
Making products from recycled materials uses less energy and makes us less dependent on foreign oil.

Recycling reduces garbage.
Recycling decreases the amount of garbage dumped into diminishing landfills, burned in incinerators or shipped out of state.

Recycling conserves natural resources.
For example, recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees.

Recycling saves money.
Taxpayers save money on disposal costs that continue to rise.

Why Recycle?

Who MUST Recycle

Residents — All homeowners and tenants, including occupants of multi-family housing units.

Landlords — All owners of multi-family units.

Businesses — All owners, lessees or occupants of any public and private business, commercial and/or industrial establishments. This includes, but is not limited to, manufacturing, retailing and/or service, food and professional establishments, and/or non-profit or for-profit corporate entities.

Institutions — All owners, lessees and occupants of any municipal and state government facilities, all religious, educational and healthcare facilities, and all public and/or private civic organizations.

What to Recycle

For information on what you are required to recycle and how to do so, please call the HCIA Environmental Hotline at 1-800-540-0987 or visit www.hcia.org.
Spring 2005
Household Hazardous Waste Days

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Jersey City: JCIA, 501 Route 440
Kearny: DPW, 357 Bergen Avenue

Sunday May 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bayonne: Norton Paints, 148 East 5th Street
North Bergen: MUA 6116 Tonnelle Avenue

Fall 2005
Household Hazardous Waste Days

Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Jersey City: JCIA, 501 Route 440
Kearny: DPW, 357 Bergen Avenue

Sunday October 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Bayonne: Norton Paints, 148 East 5th Street
Union City: DPW, 2700 New York Avenue

What to bring:
- Cleaners
- Corrosives
- Pool and photographic chemicals
- Oil-based chemicals
- Oil-based varnishes
- Household and car batteries
- Propane Tanks (from barbecue grills only)
- Solvents
- Thinners
- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Latex paint
- Formaldehyde
- Used motor oil
- Old gasoline
- Fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Antifreeze
- Computers
- Printers
- Monitors
- Fax machines
- Stereo equipment
- Consumer Electronics
- Cell Phones

Empty aerosol and dry latex paint cans can be thrown out with your regular trash. Please do not bring helium, freon or oxygen tanks to HHW locations, only propane barbecue (20#) tanks will be accepted. Consumer electronic equipment will also be accepted as part of HHW Days.

Remember to bring your old cell phones and accessories, palm pilots, PDAs and other hand held devices for donation to the Motorola Call to Protect program.

Mercury thermometers will also be collected as part of this event. These devices will be replaced with new digital thermometers for residents free of charge.

Don’t forget to bring your old athletic shoes, except those containing metal (i.e. eyelets or cleats). They will be “ground up” and used to make new surfaces for use on soccer fields, basketball courts, running tracks and playgrounds as part of HCIA’s Sneaker Recycling Program.

For more information, call our Environmental Hotline: 1-800-540-0987