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CITY OF JERSEY CITY

NEW JERSEY

Official Newsletter

Jerramiah T. Healy, Mayor

City Hall
 280 Grove Street
 Jersey City, NJ 07302
 (201) 547-5000



MAYOR HEALY STANDS STRONG FOR JERSEY CITY



Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy attends a press conference with Newark Mayor Cory Booker in the State House in Trenton to raise his concern about a school funding formula. Mayor Healy said his concern is that the state is not giving Jersey City, and other Abbott Districts, its fair share of aid for education.

It is my job as Mayor of Jersey City to make sure you, the residents, get a fair share of our state's resources and services.

Lately, that has meant taking important issues that affect our residents to the floor of the State Assembly or Senate, making sure our voice is heard.

One such issue has been the new school funding formula which narrowly passed our State legislature. From the outset, I raised concern about this legislation, fearing it will turn back the clock on the important New Jersey Supreme Court decision that created Abbott districts, of which Jersey City is one.

"Jersey City deserves its fair share on school funding resources," Mayor Healy said. "That's why I will continue to stand strong for the people of Jersey City."

The state's highest court ruled children in urban school districts, such as Jersey City, require additional resources to provide them with the educational opportunities afforded by their suburban counterparts. Now, funding is set to be pulled from the Abbott Districts, the constitutionality of which I will challenge.

This is taking from the poor to give to the poor. It just does not make sense.



Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy sits with a group of Jersey City school children on the steps of City Hall during a program to honor ESL (English as a Second Language) Month in Jersey City last spring.



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VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 WINTER 2008



Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy speaks during a press conference last month in City Hall Council Chambers to announce the city's award of \$15 million from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Brownfield Reuse for the investigation and clean-up of the Grand Jersey Redevelopment Area.

Jersey City Redevelopment Agency Receives DEP Grant for Brownfield Development Area Designation

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and other city and state officials announced last month that the city through the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency has been awarded a grant from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Brownfield Reuse.

The grant makes the Grand Jersey Redevelopment Area eligible for the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund and awards the city up to \$5 million per year for the environmental investigation and clean-up of the 20 acre site bounded by Grand Street, the New Jersey Turnpike and Jersey Avenue. The DEP total award could approach \$15 million over the 3-year period the Agency projects the clean up to take.

"The DEP has made an excellent selection by investing in Jersey City, which for the past two decades has been undergoing a renaissance that has made it the economic engine of the state," said Mayor Healy. "The remediation of the Grand Jersey Redevelopment Area, which is located near Liberty State Park, is pivotal to the success of the entire area."

The State, by designating the area a Brownfield Development Area, elevates the site to a high priority status and assigns the City a single case manager to oversee the entire area's clean up. Ultimately, the property will be redeveloped into open space, residential, retail and commercial space, serving as a gateway to Liberty State Park and returning ratables to the City.

"The grant award is highly competitive" said Robert Antonicello, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency. "It is extremely gratifying that the Agency has been rewarded for the enormous time and effort it has put into the project. The City stands to gain a tremendous land asset which has been dormant for years."

The DEP award comes on the heels of the nearly \$1 million removal action conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency to remove hundreds of buried and abandoned drums from the site.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- RECREATION CALENDER
- BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS
- UEZ PROGRAM INFO



CITY EVENTS

February is Black History Month
 Come celebrate Black History Month in Jersey City

- Feb. 4-29:** **Rotunda Gallery Exhibit, Black History Month Group Show**, City Hall, 280 Grove St. 8 am – 8 pm – weekdays 11:00 am – 4:00 pm – Sat. & Sun.
- Feb. 7:** **Rotunda Reception, Black History Month Group Show**, City Hall, 280 Grove St. (2nd & 3rd floor) 6 pm - 8 pm
- Feb. 27:** **Dominican Flag Raising - TBD**
- Feb. 27:** **Black History Month Program, Drum Talk**, Landmark Loew's Theatre, 6:30-9pm

March is Women's History Month
 Come celebrate Women's History Month in Jersey City

- Mar. 4-31:** **Rotunda Gallery Exhibit, Women's History Month Group Show**, City Hall, 280 Grove St. 8 am – 8 pm – weekdays 11:00 am – 4:00 pm – Sat. & Sun.
- Mar. 6:** **Irish Flag Raising**, City Hall, 280 Grove St. at 2 pm
- Mar. 9:** **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, Lincoln Park to Journal Square (along Kennedy Blvd). 12 pm
- Mar. 11:** **Rotunda Reception, Women's History Month Group Show**, City Hall, 280 Grove St. (2nd & 3rd floor) 6 pm - 8 pm
- Mar. 15:** **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**, Pershing Field (corner of Summit & Manhattan Ave.), 1 pm – 4 pm
- Mar. 25:** **Women of Action Awards**, Location and time TBD
- Mar. 25:** **Greek Flag Raising**, Time - TBD, City Hall – 280 Grove St.

- April**
- Apr. 4-30:** **Rotunda Gallery Exhibit, Karina & Maria Rubio-solo exhibitions – Commercial Arts Technology Program Student Exhibition**, City Hall, 280 Grove St.
 - TBD:** **Week of The Child Parade**, (Schools: PS# 5, PS#9, Little Sparrow, St. Bridget's, Montgomery Head Start) March along Montgomery St. to City Hall 9 am – 11 am
 - Apr. 8:** **Rotunda Reception**, City Hall, 280 Grove St. (2nd & 3rd floor) 6 pm - 8 pm
 - Apr. 27:** **Martin Luther King Jr. Parade**, Martin King Dr. & McAdoo Ave. to Arlington Park 2 pm

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION ORATORY CONTEST

LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER, 222 JERSEY CITY BLVD. - JERSEY CITY, NJ
3:00 - 6:00PM

FEBRUARY 13TH	ROUND 1:	GRADES 3 - 5
FEBRUARY 15TH	ROUND 2:	GRADES 6 - 8
FEBRUARY 21ST	FINALS:	GRADES 3 - 8

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL DIVISION OF CULTURAL AFFIARS (201) 547-6921



FEBRUARY 1ST - 29TH
BLACK HISTORY MONTH GROUP SHOW
OPENING RECEPTION: FEBRUARY 7TH, 6 - 8PM
CITY HALL , 280 GROVE ST., JERSEY CITY, NJ

FEBRUARY 27TH
BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM
JERSEY CITY'S LANDMARK LOEW'S THEATRE
6:30 - 9:00PM

JC FRIDAYS

Mayor Healy Honors Art House Productions & Announces the Expansion of JC Fridays

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy along with several city agencies honored Art House Productions for their innovative JC Fridays program which links arts and business and announced its expansion last month.

JC Fridays, a seasonal program that brings free art events to restaurants, cafes, and other local establishments throughout Jersey City, was founded by Art House Productions and Christine Goodman in the spring of 2005 to promote Jersey City's thriving arts community and vibrant business community.

Through funding from the Division of Cultural Affairs, the Division of Economic Development and the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, JC Fridays – already a thriving arts program in Downtown Jersey City – will expand to other corners of the city. Its new partnership with the City has enabled JC Fridays to flourish and grow outside the confines of downtown.

"Art House Productions is an exemplary arts organization that has managed to creatively link Jersey City artists and Jersey City businesses," said Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy. "We are very proud to honor Christine Goodman for her innovative JC Fridays program which makes art accessible to all, identifies art venues, promotes business retention and Urban Enterprise Zone establishments."

The "Meet Your Neighbor Series" will bring art to new locations, promote UEZ member businesses and provide an atmosphere for Jersey City residents to enjoy an evening of music or art in their community. The December event of JC Fridays included three new locations: The Lincoln Inn & Renato's in the Heights, and The Point in Jersey City's southern end.

"Art House Productions is dedicated to creating opportunities for artists through an exciting range of theater, music, film/video, performance and poetry programs," said Director Christine Goodman. "JC Fridays is a wonderful project for our organization to lead, as it bridges a vast array of artists and arts groups with both local business and the community at large."

Ms. Goodman also noted the support of her Board of Directors at Art House Productions, Exeter Property Company and the JC Friday's major sponsors, who have contributed greatly to JC Fridays: Historic Downtown SID; The Jersey City Magazine; The Jersey City Reporter; Jersey City Museum, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development, and by the County of Hudson, Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive, and the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"It is wonderful to see that our new sponsors share these goals, and I look forward to a long partnership as we continue to cultivate new audiences for the arts in Jersey City," Goodman added.



Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy poses with Christine Goodman of Art House productions, Ward A Councilman Michael Sottolano, Council President Mariano Vega, Jr. and Deputy Mayor Leona Beldini during a press conference to announce the expansion of JC Fridays and collaboration with city agencies.

JERSEY CITY DIRECTORY



MAYOR JERRAMIAH T. HEALY (201) 547-5200

Council President, Mariano Vega, Jr. (201) 547-5268
Councilwoman-at-Large Willie Flood (201) 547-5134
Councilman-at-Large Peter Brennan (201) 547-5319

Ward A Councilman, Michael Sottolano (201) 547-5098
Ward B Councilwoman, Mary Spinello (201) 547-5092
Ward C Councilman, Steve Lipski (201) 547-5159
Ward D Councilman, William Gaughan (201) 547-5204
Ward E Councilman, Steve Fulop (201) 547-5315
Ward F Councilwoman, Viola Richardson (201) 547-5338

Mayor's Action Bureau (201) 547-4900

CITY HALL MAIN NUMBER (201) 547-5000

Department of Recreation (201) 547-5003
Department of Health & Human Services (201) 547-6800
Division of Cultural Affairs (201) 547-6921
Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) (201) 547-5683
Public Works (201) 547-4402
Jersey City Public Library (201) 547-4500
Pershing Field Main Number (201) 547-6886
Bergenview Community Center (YMCA) (201) 547-4316
UEZ (201) 333-7797
MUA (201) 432-4645
United Water (201) 239-1108
County Parks (201) 459-2139
Liberty State Park (201) 915-3400
Boys & Girls Club (201) 333-4100
Camp Liberty Office (201) 432-1912
CYO (201) 998-0602
Safe Haven Program (201) 536-0411
Police Athletic League (201) 434-3366



City Hall - 280 Grove Street Jersey City, NJ 07302

THE HOLIDAYS IN JERSEY CITY

From Left to Right (clockwise): City Hall's Christmas Tree Lighting, Lighting of the Menorah at City Hall, Presentation of Goodwill Baskets to Jersey City WIC Families, Mayor Healy's Annual Toy Drive, Kwanzaa Celebration at City Hall, Mayor Healy presents Goodwill Baskets, Mayor Healy & Santa bring toys & Christmas cheer to Christ Hospital.



VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEBSITE WWW.JERSEYCITYNJ.GOV

OCEAN POINTE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS

Mayor Healy & City Officials Break Ground on Affordable Housing for Jersey City Senior Citizens

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and members of the Jersey City Municipal Council, the Jersey City Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) broke ground on Ocean Pointe East & West, two affordable housing developments for senior citizens in the city's Lafayette neighborhood in October.

The project, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009, will offer 58 units of low-income housing for seniors in two separate apartment buildings, secured parking and assisted-living services.

"We are glad to see this important project being built for the seniors of this community," Mayor Healy said. "I am confident that Ocean Pointe will also be the source of hundreds of construction jobs for Jersey City residents."

Funded by a HOPE VI grant, as well as other public housing funds, the \$15 million development will generate significant local employment opportunities, as Housing Authority projects have in the past.

Ocean Pointe East & West is the fifth phase and second senior development of the Jersey City Housing Authority's successful \$178 million Lafayette Gardens HOPE VI Revitalization Program.



Mayor Healy breaks ground with Councilman Michael Sottolano and Councilwoman Viola Richardson, as well as other city, state and federal officials during a ground breaking at Ocean Pointe, an affordable housing development for senior citizens on Ocean Avenue and Dwight Street.

UEZ BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

UEZ Launches \$500K Gateway Beautification Program

The Jersey City Economic Development Corporation through the Urban Enterprise Zone program and in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce is launching a massive beautification program for the city's gateways.

"Jersey City is the premier city in the state and it is only fitting that the entrances to our city be just as spectacular," Mayor Healy said. "Because these gateways are not in the center of the city, they have been overlooked for years. This is the most extensive beautification program in our city's history."

In total, the city will beautify 16 gateways, by adding Belgian blocks, planting flowers and shrubs, and installing flags and new lighting.

About one-third of Jersey City's neighborhoods—nearly all of the commercial areas—have been designated as part of the UEZ. Funds from the sales-tax collection in these areas are reinvested in Jersey City business development programs, and used for capital investment and municipal services. The city expects the work to be completed by early summer. The gateways included in the beautification plan are the following:

Route 440 & Communipaw Avenue
Broadway & Monument Traffic Island
Summit Avenue & Hague Street
Morris Pesin Drive
Garfield Avenue at Bayonne Border
Danforth Avenue & Route 440
Route 440 northbound at City Line
Marin Boulevard north of 18th Street

Center Street & Christopher Columbus Drive
Newark Avenue at Monmouth & Second Street
Secaucus Avenue east of Tonnelle Avenue
Kennedy Boulevard at City Line
Kennedy Boulevard south of Secaucus Avenue
Route 7 at 1&9 Truck Route
Paterson Plank Road at Central Avenue
Paterson Plank Road south of 14th Street Viaduct

STATE APPROVES UEZ EXTENSION FOR JERSEY CITY

UEZ Program Slated To Continue For 15 More Years

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy recently announced that the State of New Jersey Commerce Commission has approved the extension of Jersey City's Urban Enterprise Zone program for another fifteen years.

"We appreciate the vote of confidence we received from the New Jersey Commerce Commission with this renewal, and look forward to continuing our partnership with them in making Jersey City New Jersey's premier city," Mayor Healy said.

Mayor Healy explained that the extension of the UEZ program, administered by the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, will enable Jersey City to continue collecting the 3.5% sales tax in the UEZ-designated areas, and will be able to do bigger and better improvement projects within those areas.

The New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone program was created in 1983 to foster an economic climate that revitalizes communities and stimulates their growth by encouraging businesses to develop private-sector jobs through public and private investment. Qualified businesses in the UEZ are eligible for tax incentives, reduced unemployment insurance, business counseling and marketing support. Certified UEZ retailers collect just 3.5% sales tax—half the normal sales tax—an attractive incentive that they may display in their establishments and incorporate in their advertising.

About one-third of Jersey City's neighborhoods—nearly all of the commercial areas—have been designated as part of the UEZ. Funds from the sales-tax collection in these areas are reinvested in Jersey City business development programs,

and used for capital investment and municipal services. Since the beginning of the UEZ in Jersey City, more than \$81 million has been reinvested in 107 UEZ projects, generating more than \$10.5 billion in capital investments. The projects include the establishment of the Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) in the Central Avenue, Historic Downtown, McGinley Square and Journal Square areas, as well as the \$7.5 million Journal Square streetscape, the citywide block restoration, and the restoration of the Landmark Loew's Theatre.

In addition, UEZ funding has been used for the initiation and development of the CCTV Program for street safety, the commercial façade improvement program and has aided in purchasing new police vehicles, funding "clean and green" programs (including sanitation services and planters), and co-sponsoring community events. These revitalizing efforts have helped encourage new business investments, attracted shoppers to retail areas, and brought services and added security to adjoining residential areas.

Eugene Nelson, Chief Executive Officer of the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, explained that Jersey City's UEZ program is one of the largest and most productive in New Jersey. In all, there are approximately 2,500 businesses within the present Jersey City Urban Enterprise Zone boundaries and about 700 of those are certified UEZ businesses. The UEZ affords member businesses the opportunity to purchase certain goods and services free of sales tax, and to take advantage of employee tax credits, reduced unemployment insurance tax and a variety of grants. Since the inception of the UEZs in Jersey City, UEZ business enrollments have accounted for the creation of more than 17,500 full-time jobs. For more information, please call (201) 333-7797

SHOP LIVE DINE VISIT

3.5%
sales tax
*at participating locations

**CENTRAL AVENUE
FIVE CORNERS
MONTICELLO AVENUE
WEST SIDE AVENUE
MLK DRIVE
HUDSON MALL
ROUTE 440
NEWPORT CENTRE MALL
NEWARK AVENUE
MCGINLEY SQUARE
JOURNAL SQUARE
HUDSON WATERFRONT**

JCED *creating new opportunities*
JERSEY CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Paid for in part by the state of New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone program.

WINTER/SPRING RECREATION SCHEDULE

AFTER SCHOOL RECREATION

A free program that runs after the school day has ended and provides educational and recreational activities for children.

Site: Various Public Schools, Community Centers, YMCA and Armory
Age: Boys & Girls - Ages 8 - 13
Begins: Mid-October. For more information, call (201) 547-5003.

ICE SKATING

Public skating rink-fee is required. Skate rental and sharpening.
Site: Pershing Field Skating Rink. Open to all ages
When: November through March
For more information, call (201) 547-6886.

SKI PROGRAM

Site: Mountain Creek in Vernon, New Jersey
Fee is required for bus ride, lift ticket and lesson. Open for all ages
Date: A date to be named during the month of January.
Call (201) 547-5003 for more information.

BOXING

Site: Jimmy Dupree's Gym - 293 Martin Luther King Drive
When: Monday - Friday - 2:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Register at site. Call (201) 547-5003 for more information.

OPEN GYM

Boys and Girls, ages 7 - 16
Time: 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Sites: to be announced.
Call (201) 547-5003 for more information.

BOWLING

Site: Hudson Lanes
Age: Boys and Girls, ages 7-15
Begins: October, Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

TRACK

Site: Lincoln Park and Jersey City Armory
(depending upon season)
Age: Boys and Girls, ages 7-14. Call: (201) 547-5870

SWIMMING

Pershing Field Pool - Open Year-Round - Fee required.
Call (201) 547-6886, for more information.
School locations to be announced

SOCCER

Various city-wide leagues for all ages. Call (201) 547-5003
Jersey City Soccer Association - Ed Hazlett
(201) 653-4550
Hanz Soliz Soccer School - Luis Martinez - (201) 868-5314

SENIOR & ADULT YOGA CLASSES

Adults
Where: P.S. # 16 (96 Sussex Street)
When: Mondays - 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM

SENIOR & ADULT WEIGHT CLASS & CONDITIONING

Adults
Where: Pershing Field Community Center
201 Central Avenue
When: Thursdays - 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Seniors
Where: Curries Woods Housing Complex
Tuesdays: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CHEERLEADING

Site: Jersey City Armory
Ages: Grades 2 - 7 - Football Cheerleaders
Grades 5 - 11 - Competition Cheerleaders
Coach: Krissy Zadroga
Call (201) 547-5352 for more information.

STATE OF THE ART OEM CENTER OPENS

Mayor Healy Cuts Ribbon on New \$1.5 Million OEM Operations Center



Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy cuts the ribbon on the city's new state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center during a press conference and ribbon-cutting ceremony this fall. The center was funded through a \$1.5 million federal homeland security grant.

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council, and state and county officials presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the city's new, state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center.

The high-tech facility, which was funded through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant program, is the first of its kind for any municipality in the State of New Jersey.

"Due to our location, the size of our City, and our critical infrastructure, having a state-of-the-art OEM facility is something we have been in great need of," Mayor Healy said. "We now have the technology that will allow us to keep our citizens safe, which has always been my highest priority."

The Emergency Operations Center will have a direct video link to the city's Closed Circuit TV system (CCTV) and will support direct operational links with the mobile command and communication posts, such as the Fire Department water vessel.

In addition to city officials, representatives from the New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey attended the launch of the city's new EOC.

The new center will be the focal point for multi-agency coordination for incident management, as well as response or recovery operations. The EOC is equipped with ten audio-visual video cubes which provide the visualization of the crisis or incident at hand.

A key feature of the new facility will be the ability for emergency personnel to have access to critical information as soon as it becomes available.

"Providing real time information to key decision makers and emergency personnel is critical in determining the city's response to a major event," said Sgt. Greg Kierce, OEM Coordinator. "Now we have that capability here in Jersey City to respond to all types of emergencies on a local or regional basis in a timely fashion."

Mayor Healy noted that the new facility was paid for entirely through federal grants that are aimed at improving our nation's Homeland Security capabilities.

"I am pleased that Jersey City is on the receiving end of federal aid intended to secure our residents in the post-911 world that we live in," Mayor Healy said. "In Jersey City, we have the best police and fire department in the State and we have made it our priority to provide them with the tools they need to keep our citizens safe."



Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy proudly announced that the Jersey City Recreation Department was the recipient of 200 basketballs that were distributed to various recreation sites where after school programs and activities are conducted. The basketballs were donated by LeBron James of the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers through Nike's "Let Me Play" Foundation.

Jersey City Recreation Department Receives 200 Basketballs from LeBron James, NBA Cleveland Cavaliers and Nike "Let Me Play" Foundation Basketballs Distributed to Recreation Sites Throughout City

Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and the Municipal Council are proud to announce that the Jersey City Recreation Department was selected by the New Jersey Parks/Recreation Association to be the recipient of 200 basketballs donated by LeBron James of the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers and through Nike's "Let Me Play" program.

On Friday, December 14th and Monday, December 17, 2007 the basketballs were distributed to various recreation sites where after school programs and activities are conducted.

"I would like to thank LeBron James and the Nike 'Let Me Play' Foundation for their generosity to the children of Jersey City," said Mayor Healy. "Jersey City has a rich tradition of excelling in the sport of basketball, and this donation will further provide the opportunity for our youth to partake in an activity that promotes hard work and camaraderie."

LeBron James is a three-time NBA All-Star who plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers. Since basketball plays an important role in his life, LeBron James partnered with Nike in an effort to promote a positive environment where children of urban cities can build self-esteem and good sportsmanship.

"Let Me Play" is Nike's signature community effort and is part of their long-term commitment that gives access to the benefits of sport to all young people. Nike believes that sport is a catalyst for positive change in young people and the communities in which they live. Through innovative programs and partnerships, Nike strives to give a voice to young people through sport.



ANNUAL
**EASTER EGG
HUNT & EGGSTRAVAGANZA**
For more information, call 201-547-6921.

Saturday, March 15, 2008 • Pershing Field, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Mayor's Office, the Municipal Council, and the Dept. of Health & Human Services/Div. of Cultural Affairs