

Town Marks "Fix a Leak Week" March 16-20

As part of participating in the Water Conservation Pilot Project for New Jersey, the Township of Livingston will be celebrating "Fix a Leak Week" March 16 through 20, and residents have been encouraged to participate.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense program, this week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your homes by checking for and fixing leaks, which waste an average of 11,000 gallons of water per home each year. Noted Renee Resky of the township clerk's office, "That's more than enough water to fill up a backyard swimming pool. Fixing leaks not only saves water, but money too."

She added, "Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from

U.S. homes each year. That's why the Township is promoting Fix a Leak Week to remind residents to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks." Free leak detection kits, as well as an informational brochure on water conservation, will be available in the upper lobby of the Hillside Avenue community center and the Livingston Public Library for the first 250 families to take advantage of the offer. Each family who fills out a conservation survey is eligible to receive a Water Saving Kit when the drawing is held on March 23.

For more information, visit the township website or call Renee Resky at 973-992-5000, extension 503, or send her an e-mail at resky@livingstonnj.org.

The Township of Livingston is one
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"Fix a Leak Week"

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of five towns statewide participating in New Jersey's Water Conservation Pilot Program, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and Rutgers University. The program's goal, Resky said, is to reduce potable water usage by 10% over three years by providing tools to residents and schools to conserve water.



TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES "FIX A LEAK WEEK" MARCH 16-20



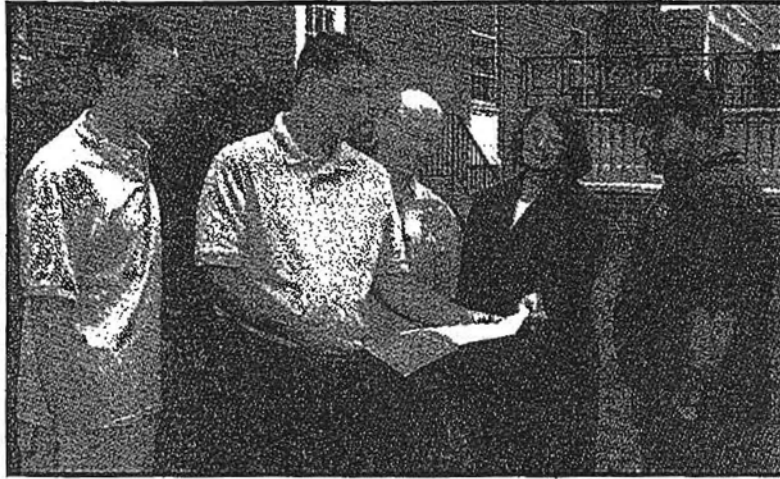
As part of the Water Conservation Pilot Project for New Jersey, the Township of Livingston celebrated "Fix a Leak Week" March 16-20.

Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program, this week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your homes by checking for and fixing leaks, which waste an average of 11,000 gallons of water per home each year. That's more than enough water to fill up a backyard swimming pool! Fixing leaks not only saves water but money too.

Nationwide, more than one trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes each year. That's why the Township is promoting "Fix a Leak Week" from March 16 to 20, 2009, to remind residents to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. Free leak detection kits and brochures on water conservation were available.

For more information contact Renee Resky at (973) 992-5000 ext 503 or rresky@livingstonnj.org or Elaine Rossi-Griffin at (732) 932-9800 ext 6129 or visit the US EPA's waterSense website.

The Township of Livingston is one of five towns statewide participating in New Jersey's Water Conservation Pilot Program, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The program's goal is to reduce potable water usage by 10% over three years by providing tools to residents and schools to conserve water.



Greg Rusciano, Essex County environmental and resource management agent; Mike Anello, superintendent of the Livingston Department of Public Works; Keith Johnson of the Livingston Environmental Commission; Judith E. Kron, library director; and Dennis Britt, foreman of the Livingston Department of Public Works, plan for the first municipal Demonstration Rain Garden at the Livingston Public Library. A workshop will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, at the library and installation and demonstration of the garden will be held at the Eco Fair on October 4.

Livingston Public Library to Have Municipal Demonstration Rain Garden

Livingston residents can learn how to build a rain garden in their own yards at a workshop to be held at the Livingston Public Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22. Greg Rusciano, Essex County environmental and resource agent with Rutgers Cooper-

ative Extension of Essex County, will give a presentation inside the Library at 7 p.m., following a tour of the Rain Garden at 6:30 p.m.

A rain garden is a shallow landscaped depression that uses native plants to the region, which require little or no watering. This helps to save the area's precious water.

Anyone interested in helping with the installation of Livingston's first municipal demonstration rain garden during that day and at the Livingston Eco-Fair on October 4 should call

Renee Resky at 973-535-7940 or send her an e-mail at rresky@livingstonnj.org.

"It is our hope that once you learn about the benefits and beauty of a rain garden you will consider installing one where you live or work," Resky said.

"And despite the wet weather we've had this year, being good stewards of our water is still important! In addition to the water savings achieved, a rain garden is designed to capture and treat stormwater, preventing pollution from entering our local streams," she concluded.



Al Werner and Joe Detore of the Livingston Public Works Department and Greg Rusciano of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension are shown pacing out the location for the rain garden that will be installed just west of the library, near the children's patio. Residents are invited to participate in the installation on September 22, and a workshop in the library at 7 p.m.

Rain Garden Workshop on September 22

Livingston residents can learn how to build a rain garden in their own yards at a workshop to be held inside the Livingston Public Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22. The program will be presented by Greg Rusciano, Essex County environmental agent. The public will be able to tour a new rain garden outside the library at 6:30 p.m. before the workshop.

Anyone interested in helping with the installation of Livingston's first municipal demonstration rain garden during that day and at the Livingston Eco-Fair on October 4 should call Renee Resky at 973-535-7940 or send an

e-mail to rresky@livingstonnj.org.

A rain garden is a shallow landscaped depression that uses native plants, which require little or no watering thus helping to save resources. In addition to the water savings achieved, a rain garden is designed to capture and treat stormwater, preventing pollution from entering local streams.

The Livingston Public Library demonstration rain garden will be used as a tool for educating home owners, landscapers, developers, and decision makers on taking responsibility for water resources.

The construction of the garden is an opportunity to provide "hands-on" training for the community. Once the garden is constructed, it will provide other educational opportunities such as guided and self-guided tours.

This demonstration project is funded by the Water Conservation Pilot Program for New Jersey, a major endeavor coordinated by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and funded by grants from the NJDEP and the US EPA. The Livingston Public Library demonstration garden is being designed by Greg Rusciano and Al Werner, Livingston Township's arborist, and is being installed with the help of Livingston's Department of Public Works.

Livingston Meets Requirements For Sustainable Jersey Certification

- Posted by [The West Essex Tribune](#) on November 18, 2009 at 12:50pm
- [View The West Essex Tribune's highlights](#)

Sustainable Jersey representatives have announced that the Township of Livingston has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification. Livingston is one of 28 towns out of the 240 registered municipalities that have attained certification in the first year of the program. Livingston was honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 17, at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City. Deputy mayor Arlene Johnson and township manager Michele Meade accepted the award.

"We have achieved a great deal to earn this certification but this acceptance is really due to the efforts over the years of the Livingston Environmental Commission, Planning Board, Open Space Trust Committee, Township Council, township administration and many interested citizens, so we were standing on the shoulders of a lot of great work already in place," said deputy mayor Johnson.

To become Sustainable Jersey certified, Livingston submitted documentation to show it had completed a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 100 "action points." In addition to reaching 100 points, sustainable communities had to create a Green Team and select at least two out of four priority action options. Livingston performed three of the four priority actions by completing Energy Audits for Municipal Facilities, establishing a Green Team, enacting a Sustainable Land Use Pledge and a Water Conservation Ordinance.

"The 2009 certified towns are the Sustainable Jersey pioneers that can forever boast that they were the first, having achieved certification in the year one of the program," said Fred Profeta, Maplewood's deputy mayor for the Environment and chairman of the New Jersey League of Municipalities' Mayors Committee for a Green Future. "We have more than 250 people attending the awards luncheon to salute the first-rate municipalities that have led the way in developing sustainability initiatives in New Jersey."

Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, smart land use and transportation, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity. "These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs that set an example for all of us because they have taken the responsibility to cultivate a better environment," said Randall Solomon, Sustainable Jersey program partner and executive director of the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University.

In addition to the award presentations at the luncheon, key note speakers will include project partners former Livingston mayor Joseph Fiordaliso, commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and John Watson, deputy commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as well as David Grant, president and CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation that underwrites the program.

New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training. The award-winning towns were recognized at the inaugural Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 17, at the New Jersey League of Municipalities conference.

Council Acts to Increase Shrewsbury Speed Limit:

Approve Hikes in Water and Sewer Fees; Annual Surcharge Will Be Eliminated

The Township Council on Monday evening approved two ordinances which would raise fees for water and sewer usage as well as an ordinance to raise the cost of fire permits.

Included in the proposed sewer increase, which is the first since the Sewer Utility was established in 2007, is the elimination of the annual surcharge, which had been imposed 20 years ago to pay for upgrades to the Water Pollution Control Facility.

A fourth ordinance was introduced on Monday evening to raise the speed limit on Shrewsbury Drive and Laurel Avenue from 25 miles per hour to 35. This was a renewal of an ordinance passed by the Township Council in 2007 and relayed to Essex County for action because the streets are county roadways.

No action has been taken in two years and Essex County, along with the state Department of Transportation, have recently requested that the ordinance be "refreshed" so that the speed limit may be officially increased.

Deputy mayor Arlene Johnson previously told the Council that the new speed limit signs have been ordered and should be posted shortly.

Several residents questioned whether the increased speed limit would encourage motorists to drive even faster on their street. Diane Ruiz of 29 Laurel Avenue was told that the existing 25 mile per hour speed limit on the section of Laurel Avenue between East McClellan Avenue and Shrewsbury Drive would remain the same. The increase will only affect the stretch of roadway between East Mt. Pleasant Avenue and the Roseland border.

Township manager Michele Meade indicated that police would strictly enforce the new speed limit but that the officers could not be stationed permanently on the site. She also noted that the police had conducted an analysis of the area and determined that the 35 mile per hour speed limit is appropriate for the area. Most county roads, she added, already have a 35

mile per hour speed limit.

Before the ordinance was unanimously adopted, Johnson asked the residents to keep the Council informed and if the increased limit presents problems, it can be looked at again.

Water Rates to Rise

The new ordinance for water use will raise the minimum charge for water usage from \$2.23 to \$2.74 per 100 cubic feet of water used for the first 500 cubic feet of water used. In excess of 500 cubic feet, the fee will rise from the current cost of \$2.63 to \$3.23 per 100 cubic feet. The cost for lawn irrigation systems, which previously cost \$3.34 per 100 cubic feet, will rise to \$4.11 per 100 cubic feet.

Township manager Michele Meade

had previously explained to the Council that the water utility, which must be self-sustaining, will have a revenue shortfall of \$325,000 in 2009 due to lower water consumption. That shortfall will be covered by the surplus in the utility; however, as a result of the shortfall, the surplus available in 2010 will be \$370,000 less. Allowing for \$65,000 in miscellaneous revenues, the utility will experience a net decrease of \$630,000, or 13.5% to support 2010 operations.

In response to the lower revenues, appropriations for the utility will be reduced in 2010 by 18.8%, or \$467,000, excluding the cost of purchasing water from New Jersey American Water.

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Water and Sewer Rates

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Company. The outside purveyor of water has informed the township that there will be a 25% increase in water rates, necessitating an additional \$721,000, or 18.6%, for the utility.

"The combined effect of all factors," the manager explained, "is a rate increase of 22.8%. This represents an annual increase of approximately \$70.58 to the average residential user, or \$17.64 per quarter. Of the total average annual increase, approximately \$58 can be attributed to the purchase of water and the remaining \$13 to other factors, primarily the loss of revenue due to lower water consumption."

The ordinance was unanimously adopted.

Sewer Surcharge Eliminated

Another ordinance will increase the cost of sewer usage while also eliminating the 20 year old sewer surcharge of \$94 per year. This is the first rate increase since the Sewer Utility was established in 2007.

The elimination of the surcharge will reduce the sewer utility's revenues by \$908,000. In addition, a shortfall in sewer revenues of \$185,000, or 5.2%, is anticipated. The total appropriations in 2010 will be reduced by \$674,000, or 18.9%, the manager explained. The net impact of all revenue losses and appropriation cuts will be a budget gap of \$420,000, or 17.1%.

In order to close the gap, an annual increase of \$40.54 would be incurred by the average user, Meade continued. However, the reduction of the \$94 surcharge would result in a net decrease of \$53.46 per year for the average residential user.

The minimum sewer rental for a residential dwelling will rise from \$14 to \$16.40 per year. If the resident does not qualify for quarterly billing, the daily rate will rise from 15 cents a day to 18 cents but not to exceed \$15.80, an increase from the former \$13.50, for the portion of the quarter.

Structures other than residences will have to pay a minimum sewer rental of \$26 per year, an increase from the previous \$22. Partial quarters will be billed at 26 cents a day, not to exceed \$24.95 for the portion of the quarter. This is an increase from 22 cents daily not to exceed \$21.30.

In addition to the minimum sewer fees, the owner of every structure connected with the sanitary sewers must pay an additional rental based on the amount of water used. Previously, that fee had been \$6.75 per 100 cubic feet used up to 500 cubic feet. That fee will rise to \$7.90. Over 500 cubic feet, the fee will rise from \$1.69 to \$1.98 per 100 cubic feet of water used by residences. All other users will pay \$3.13 per 100 cubic feet over the first 500. This is an increase from \$2.67.

There was no public comment and the ordinance was unanimously adopted.

Community Calendar

Thursday, December 24

AA - Fed. Ch. Mem. Hall - 8:15 p.m.
Old Guard - Discussion Group - Hillside Ave. Community Center - 9:30 a.m.
BPOE 1855 mtg. - Elks Lodge - 8 p.m.
Depression & Anxiety Support Group - 200 South Orange Ave. - 7:30 p.m.
The New Beginning non-sectarian divorce support group - St. Raphael's - 6-8pm
Library open - 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, December 26

Library open - 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, December 27

AA - St. Barnabas, Room C - 7:30 p.m.
Food Addicts Anonymous - St. Peter's Ch., 94 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave. - 8 p.m.
Library open - 1-5 p.m.

Monday, December 28

Overeaters Anonymous - Trinity Cov. Church 343 East Cedar St. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 29

Parents' Self-Help "Toughlove" group - Senior/Community Center - 7:30 p.m.
Old Guard - Hillside Ave. Center - 10 a.m.
Livingston Sunrise Rotary - Cedar Hill Country Club, Walnut Street - 7:45 a.m.
Livingston Rotary - Il Vicolo Restaurant, 113 South Livingston Ave. - 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 30

Old Guard - Cards - Senior/Community Center - 9 a.m.-noon
Oak Leaf Club - Senior/Community Center - 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Business Network Int'l (BNI) mtg. - Eppes Essen, 105 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave. - 7 a.m.

Thursday, December 31

AA - Fed. Ch. Mem. Hall - 8:15 p.m.
Old Guard - Discussion Group - Hillside Ave. Community Center - 9:30 a.m.
Women's Overeaters Anonymous - Trin. Cov., 343 E. Cedar St. - 7:30 p.m.
New Beginnings non-sectarian divorce support group - St. Raphael's - 6-8pm
VFW Post New Year's Eve party - 95 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 1

Township Council Re-organization Meeting - Hillside Ave. Community Ctr. - noon

Sunday, January 3

AA - St. Barnabas, Room C - 7:30 p.m.
Food Addicts Anonymous - St. Peter's Ch., 94 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave. - 8 p.m.

Monday, January 4

Overeaters Anonymous - Trinity Cov. Church, 343 East Cedar St. - 8 p.m.
Twp. Council - Hillside Ave. Center - 8 pm

To the Editor: W&T 12/31/09

Spend, Spend, Spend

To the Editors,

The town council's recent approval of a hike in our water rate ("Approve Hikes in Water and Sewer Fees", Tribune, December 24, 2009) is a great example of everything that's wrong with Livingston's elected officials.

For several years they've been harping us about a water shortage and telling us to conserve. They've instituted odd-even watering restrictions. They've ticketed residents for violations. They've raised rates on lawn watering to discourage excessive water use.

And we've responded. We've conserved. We've conserved so well that the water utilities' revenues are dropping in kind.

Oops! No one anticipated that! We certainly can't lay anyone off or cut costs, so we'll have to raise rates by nearly 23%. Business down? No problem! Raise prices to compensate! Customers (that's us) have no choice but to use government monopoly services and pay for them.

In the private sector – where I, and I assume, the majority of Livingston residents work – when revenue drops, we cut costs. That's why there's a 10% unemployment rate – it's an economic slowdown. During such times, what does government do in Livingston? Raise water rates! Raise taxes! Spend spend spend!

I hope that the rest of the residents of Livingston join me in voting these oblivious dolts out of office.

David Bendory

12 Tremont Terrace

Tribune West Essex

LIVINGSTON, NEW JERSEY, JANUARY 7, 2010

Mayor Initiates New Policy For Public Portions of Meetings

In an effort to reduce the lengthy and sometimes acrimonious discussions between the Council members and members of the public at Township Council meetings, newly elected mayor Arlene Johnson imposed a change of format, beginning at Monday evening's meeting.

During the portion of the meeting reserved for "public statements," residents may make statements to the Council. Under the new format, residents may ask questions but not engage in a dialogue with the Council members. Each resident will be allocated the same six minutes for his or her statement as was previously permitted.

The resident will be asked to sit down after making the statement and asking questions. If the Council members wish to answer the questions at that time, they may do so. Otherwise,

the questions will be answered at a later date. Discussions between the members of the public and the Council will be discouraged.

Members of the public attending Monday evening's meeting were unhappy with the new format and made their dissatisfaction known to the mayor and Council.

Question Water Rates

Several of Monday evening's speakers, including Bob Hunter of 89 Elmwood Drive, Larry Kohn of 16 Tarlton Drive, and Nick Pulitano of 59 Billingsley Drive, asked about the increase in water rates. Hunter noted that despite its name, NJ American Water Company is not owned by an American corporation. He also praised Livingston resident Joe Fiordaliso, who is a member of the Board of Public Utilities, for allowing a 25%

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Mayor's New Policy

(Continued from Page A-1)

rate increase from NJ American to the township.

Township manager Michele Meade told the residents, "Conservation had nothing to do with the [rise in] rates ... Our own wells are not sufficient to meet the needs of the community." She noted that there is no simple answer for the percentage of water needed to be purchased from an outside source. "There's no secret here," she said, "water purchase is a calculation based on where the water is needed and where it's available." She explained that interconnections are not good within the township and sometimes water has to be purchased because a well in an area cannot keep up with the demand and water cannot be pumped from another area.

Meade pointed out that last year the township installed a booster at the Mine Hill well to allow more flexibility.

Kohn asked if the water contract has been legally reviewed to see if there is an escape clause due to the excessive rate or the change in ownership. Councilman Steve Santola replied that it was a "great idea," but that he believed it had been done. "We would still have to fill the need for water," he added.

Walter LeVine of 345 Walnut Street criticized the Township Council for failing to be "definitive" about the topics being discussed in closed session. "Litigation and personnel is not enough of an explanation," LeVine said. Mayor Johnson agreed that the agendas should be more specific and apologized, "In this case, items came up at the last minute and could not be included in the agenda." She added that one of the topics was personnel and that she could not be more specific than that. The other item discussed "behind closed doors" was related to litigation with the Council on Affordable Housing, the mayor said.



Livingston to Be One of Seven Towns in N.J. To Display Co-Op Program's Painted Barrels

- Posted by The West Essex Tribune on March 31, 2010 at 2:25pm
- [View The West Essex Tribune's highlights](#)

Decoratively painted rain barrels are being displayed in Livingston through the "One Barrel at a Time Co-Op Program," in which artists beautify rain barrels to be auctioned to the public. The rain barrels are on display at the ACL Gallery located at 1170 Town Center Way; Burnet Hill Elementary School; the Internet Café at the Livingston Public Library; and the upper and lower entrances of the Community/ Senior Center on Hillside Avenue. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, and Lucid Graphics are coordinating the program, which is part of the Water Conservation Pilot Program that Livingston has been participating in since 2009.

May 31, 2010

Township of Livingston Website. <http://www.livingstonnj.org/lawnquestions5-31-10.html>



**"Turf Management for a Healthier Lawn Homeowner
Questionnaire" Now Available Online
until May 31, 2010**

Click here to fill it out

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program is pleased to announce the launch of an online questionnaire that will document homeowners' knowledge of healthy lawn care practices, gather opinions about reducing reliance on pesticides for lawn care, and share opinions on lawn care practices.

Residents over the age of 18 that live in Belmar Borough, East Greenwich Township, Egg Harbor Township, Livingston Township, and the City of Rahway are encouraged to take the questionnaire at <http://saalem.rutgers.edu/nre-surveys/lawn-care-survey.html>. The time required to complete this questionnaire will vary but typically it is not greater than thirty minutes.

The questionnaire will be available through May 31, 2010. At the completion of this study, a drawing will be done in each of the five participating communities. One winner in each town will be selected to receive a \$50 Visa card.

The Water Resources Program is one of many specialty programs under Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The goal of the Water Resources Program is to provide solutions for many of the water quality and quantity issues facing New Jersey. This is accomplished through research, project development, assessment and extension. In addition to preparing and distributing Fact Sheets, we provide educational programming in the form of lectures, seminars, and workshops as part of our outreach to citizens. With New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station funding and other State and Federal sources, we conduct research that will ultimately be used by stakeholders to improve water resources in New Jersey.

For more information about the Turf Management for a Healthier Lawn Homeowner Questionnaire, please contact Salvatore Mangiafico at mangiafico@njaes.rutgers.edu.

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News & Information

Livingston Library Hosts "Build a Rain Barrel" Workshop

By Rachel Meisel

7/2/2010



LIVINGSTON, NJ - Approximately 35 people attended Tuesday night's rain barrel workshop at the Livingston Library. Developed by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, its aim is to provide lectures and hands-on training to homeowners and other groups on topics such as rain

barrels and rain gardens.

In attendance was Livingston Mayor Arlene Johnson who told The Alternative Press "Livingston is one of five towns in New Jersey cooperating with Rutgers University Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to help [Livingston] install rain gardens and retrofitting Monmouth Court with low-flow fixtures and faucets." She went on to say, "Our goal is to raise awareness with citizens for a ten percent townwide water reduction over the next three years."

Adam Osborn from Americorps lectured on the benefits of owning a rain barrel and how to assemble it. Besides saving homeowners money on watering their greenery, it can lessen basement flooding as well as prevent water runoff from polluting our local waterways. "The old way of thinking was to send rainwater away into a pipe and into a sewer. Now we want to harvest and capture water, helping to control water pollution from dirt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil and other pathogens."

The water can be used to water lawns and shrubbery even when there are water restrictions because it is not being taken from the town's water supply. Osborn cautioned against using the water to

drink or to irrigate fruits and vegetables because it may contain dust, pollen and animal droppings from the roof.

If you are thinking about obtaining a rain barrel here is what you need to know. Use the collected water within a week or two to discourage algae growth. When full, a 55-gallon rain barrel can weigh about 460 pounds. Therefore, it needs to be set on a strong platform made of either bricks, cinder blocks or pressure-treated wood. In the winter it needs to be drained and disconnected. The rain barrel can be stored inside or stored outdoors turned upside down.

Armed with newfound knowledge as well as goggles and drills, the group set about assembling their barrels outside on the library's terrace. Participant Ben Kim steadied the barrel while his wife Becky drilled the hole for the faucet. Said Becky, "This is for our new home in Montclair."

The barrels, made of food-grade plastic, so as not to leach barrel material into the water, can hold 55 gallons of rainfall. On average, a homeowner can save 1300 gallons of water a year. The 40 barrels distributed Tuesday night can collectively save 52,000 gallons a year.

Renee Resky, Livingston's Environmental Commissioner said, "It's a drop in the bucket, literally, but it adds up."

For more information on where and when workshops are being offered, go to www.water.rutgers.edu and click on Rain Barrels.

Photo above: *Adam Osborn from Americorps explaining the benefits of rain barrels and how to assemble them.*

Photo by Rachel Meisel



Montclair residents Becky and Ben Kim assembling their rain barrel for their new home.

Photo by Rachel Meisel



Natalynn Dunson-Harrison of Livingston concentrating on drilling a hole for her overflow hose

adapter.

Photo by Rachel Meisel



The rain garden outside the Livingston Library is a beautiful way to reuse water.

Photo by Rachel Meisel



Environmentally Friendly

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Daily hyperlocal online news, information, local sports, events, videos, business listings, estate listings, classifieds, and freecycling, for Berkeley Heights, Chatham Borough Township, Livingston, Madison, Millburn, New Providence, Short Hills, Summit and Essex, Morris and Union Counties, New Jersey.