

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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Newburgh Rising-21st Century Afterschool Program Students Take Lead in Celebrating Earth Day April 17 & 18 --The Green Generation--

Nearly 40 years after the very first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the move to protect our planet and raise environmental awareness is alive and well in the City of Newburgh. Earth Day 2009 will mark the beginning of the Green Generation Campaign. This two-year international initiative will culminate with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010. With negotiations for a new global climate agreement coming up in December, Earth Day 2009 must be a day of action and civic participation, to defend the Green Generation's core principles:

- A carbon-free future based on renewable energy that will end our common dependency on fossil fuels, including coal.
- An individual's commitment to responsible, sustainable consumption.
- Creation of a new green economy that lifts people out of poverty by creating millions of quality green jobs and transforms the global education system into a green one.

On Friday, April 17 the Strong Neighborhoods/Strong Families Initiative and Newburgh Rising, a 21st Century program, sponsored by the City of Newburgh Department of Human Services, will commemorate Earth Day from noon- 3 p.m. at Delano Hitch Recreation Center, 401 Washington Street, Newburgh, New York 12550.

The event will feature local Native American cultural activist, Cynthia Fountain, the Red Hawk Native American Dancers, Newburgh Rising's students groups, the Recycling Renegades, the African Dancers and Drummers, Cuttz' Hip Hop Theatre, Salsa, an overview on urban gardening by Chris Tripoli, Executive Director of the Downing Park Planning Committee and more. There is no charge for the celebration, which is open to the public and will include free food and giveaways.

Service projects before and after the celebration will also take place on Friday, April 17 from 9:30-11:30am. Young people from the Department of Human Services' 21st Century program and youth volunteers from the Trinity United Methodist Parish's Youth Mission Camp will plant a flower garden at Xavier Lunan Park on Courtney Street in the Heights. On Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Dubois/South Miller Street Neighborhood Association, will team up with the City's Shade Tree Commission and AmeriCorp VISTA Volunteers to plant trees and flowers on South Miller. The Department of Public Works is busy with the prep work for the projects.

“I am very excited that the youth have teamed up with community residents and volunteers to join the International Earth Day movement. I hope that everyone will find a way to be involved with taking better care of our planet,” states Yanyiah Pearson, Director of the Department of Human Services.

For more information, please contact Arlette Murrain at 845-565-1213 or amurrain@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov.