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City of Bayonne Honored with NJCCC's "Rise to the Challenge" Award

City Hosts "Stay at Home" Earth Day Cleanup

TRENTON – January XX, 2021 – There's nothing like a cleanup day to bring a community together.

The annual Earth Day celebration in Bayonne is usually one of the biggest citywide events of the year. In 2020, more than 800 volunteers came out to clean up the city's streets and partake in Earth Day celebrations.

Even without the usual celebrations, the city saw a record number of residents partake in the stay-at-home clean up in April.

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council (NJCCC) created an awards program to honor those entities, such as the City of Bayonne, which stepped up during the pandemic through its "Rise to the Challenge Awards."

"The NJCCC cannot express enough the importance of cleanups during the global health crisis. Life has certainly changed – but has not halted. Litter is still making it onto our streets and into our waterways," said NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber. "I applaud the City of Bayonne and its residents for going the extra mile this year."

More than 40 tons of litter and 10 tons of recycling were collected at the April 18 event, tasking residents with cleaning up in front of their homes or on their blocks.

"Moving forward with our Earth Day clean-up this year was important not only to the local clean communities council but to the city itself," said Amalilis (Dee Dee) Bottino, Clean Communities Coordinator. "Even if everyone just cleans up in front of their homes, we can help to keep Bayonne beautiful."

Bottino added that residents took the cleanup a step further by fixing up yards and planting small gardens. The entire day was a real morale booster, she added.

“Being home this year has given our residents the opportunity to see how good our city can look if we all pitch in,” Bottino said. “The cleanup was an educational opportunity to teach our youngest residents the importance of proper waste disposal.”

Along with the Earth Day event, the Bayonne Nature Club also conducted monthly cleanups.

“We will continue to find better ways to educate our residents by coordinating clean-ups with the schools and emphasizing the importance of keeping the community where you work, live and play clean,” Bottino said.

Learn more about the NJCCC at NJClean.org.

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