



## Support Clean Communities in 2016

There are many great ways you can support the NJ Clean Communities Council!

We are proud to announce new and exciting Sponsorship Opportunities for 2016 for you to support efforts for a litter-free New Jersey.

Annual sponsorship levels begin at \$5,000 and ascend to our top level – the \$25,000 Platinum Sponsor. Please give meaningfully to our organization, which has an incredible impact on thousands of students across the state, as well as volunteer groups and individuals who graciously volunteer throughout the year.



We are also on the look-out for Conference Sponsors, including exhibitors, advertisers in our program and table sponsors. This year, our spring conference will be held in May at the Tropicana in Atlantic City, where we will host more than 1,000 people. It is the ideal venue for you to show your support for Clean Communities!

We hope you will consider our cause and donate before the end of 2015. Your tax deductible contributions support the activities of the Clean Communities Council. Please make checks payable to the NJ Clean Communities Council, 222 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608.

Questions may be directed to the Clean Communities Council, [609-989-5900](tel:609-989-5900), [njccc@njclean.org](mailto:njccc@njclean.org). You can also visit [www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org) for more information.

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## **NJCCC Board Member Honored for Environmental Stewardship**

Congratulations to Judy Murphy, a member of the New Jersey Clean Communities Council Board of Trustees, for earning an Environmental Quality Award. Murphy received the award at the NJCCC holiday party on December 3. Pictured with Murphy, center, are NJCCC Executive Director Sandy Huber and NJCCC Board President Patrick L. Ryan, Esq., Chairman of Hopewell Valley Community Bank.



## **Clean Communities is Already Thinking About the Beach**



Sure, it is not exactly summer, but we are already dreaming about the gentle waves on the sand and awe-inspiring sunsets, as we stroll in our favorite flip-flops.

The next time we will be dipping our toes in the ocean will be May 25-27, 2016 for the annual Clean Communities Conference. Everything is already planned for what will be one of our best conferences!

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It all begins May 25 with the Kids-Teens Awards at the historic Boardwalk Hall, the Boardwalk and the beach. On May 26, our seminars are planned, followed up our reception and awards dinner. On May 27, we have our Breakfast of Champions at the Tropicana Casino and Resort.

Registration information and hotel accommodations will be posted at [NJClean.org](http://NJClean.org). You don't want to miss this!

### **Volunteer Spotlight: Elaine Mann of Colts Neck**

Elaine Mann is never one to shy away from how she feels her neighbors should treat the earth.



"I practice what I preach," said Mann, the Clean Communities coordinator for Colts Neck Township. "You have to have respect for your food, you have to have respect for the earth and the ocean and we need to do everything we can to get away from the disposable society," she said.

Fortunately, for a township of roughly 10,000 residents, getting that message to resonate with residents is an achievable goal.

"Everybody knows everybody in town, basically, but the key part of getting our Clean Communities message out is working with the local law enforcement, fire department, and school district," she said.

"We have a great working with relationship with these agencies, and I feel that they are always there for the community," she said. "If we need flagmen while the local Boy Scouts chapter is doing a cleanup, they're there for us, unfailingly."

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A driving community known for its vast, bucolic expanses and horse farms, Mann said the biggest little problem that plagues the Township is the litter that accumulates along the sides of the roadways.

"A lot of our issues are related to people driving through along Route 34 - people throwing out garbage out of cars and trucks," she said. "But now, working with our local volunteers and DPW, as well as ensuring that our litter laws are enforced, we're able to respond quickly when there's an issue," she said.

Developing a volunteer base is critical to establishing a Clean Communities culture, Mann said. "On a given year, we're have 40 groups of 30 or more volunteers - our residents get involve because they see the direct impact of their work," she said, adding: "When people see a clean roadway, they're more compelled to keep that roadway clean than if it's filled with litter. It's how our volunteers can show people that they really care about their town."

But the most rewarding element of her role as Clean Communities coordinator, Mann said, is seeing how the work impacts the life choices made by her student volunteers.

"Nothing gives me more joy than hearing about a former student who pursues environmental law, or any area where keeping the earth clean is central to the discipline," she said. "They will be the ones to maintain and carry forward this expression of the environment and appreciation of the world."

### **Get Ready for the 2016 Environmental Student Exchange**



The Clean Communities Council sets its sights on Millville for the annual Environmental Student Exchange, as hundreds of students will be at the Country Inn WheatonArts from March 31 to April 1.

This is the eighth-annual event, bringing students together from different regions of the state to a location in which they do not live and go to school to work together to solve environmental problems. Pictured, at right, is last year's student exchange at Waterloo Village.

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Students will spend the morning removing litter from the Maurice River and nature trails in Cumberland County. They will also have the opportunity to visit WheatonArts through interpretive tours and interactive activities.

WheatonArts, founded as Wheaton Village in 1968, is a nonprofit organization that engages artists and audiences in an evolving exploration of creativity. The Museum of American Glass is at the heart of the Center, housing the most comprehensive collection of glass produced in America. Located in Millville, center of the nation's first glass industry, the Museum is one of only eight museums in New Jersey to be accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

### **How Clean Communities Funding Can Help Strained Municipal Budgets**

Thanks to everyone who attended our November 17 panel, "How Clean Communities Funding Can Help Strained Municipal Budgets," at this year's NJ State League of Municipalities Conference! The packed room at the Atlantic City Convention Center showed what we already know: towns throughout New Jersey care about the environment and want to take action!



The panel examined ways that grant funding can be used to expand environmental education programs in the face of cutbacks, as well as to explore alternative sources of funding that can leverage Clean Communities funds.

The panel, moderated by former North Brunswick Mayor Paul Maticera, included Paterson Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres, Buena Vista Mayor Chuck Chiarello, Old Bridge Mayor Owen Henry, former Middlesex County Director of Solid Waste Rich Hills and former Atlantic City Director of Public Works Paul Jerkins.

### **Mark your Calendars for 2016**

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We are already making big plans for 2016, which promises to be the best year yet for NJCCC.

The Clean Communities Environmental Student Exchange will be held March 31-April 1, 2016 in Cumberland County. Students will clean the banks of the Maurice River, trek the trails of county parks, and tour Wheaton Village. As always, lunch will be provided, and a great time will surely be had by the hundreds of students who attend.

NJCCC is also excited to announce that the Clean Communities spring conference will take place May 25-27, 2016 at Boardwalk Hall and the Tropicana Casino & Resort in Atlantic City. Plan to join us. We will be Down Beach in Atlantic City, with an exciting agenda of events.

We will also offer certification training for Clean Communities coordinators in March of 2016, with dates and locations to be announced.

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