

## All Invited to Go Green at the Green Fair of The Chathams



**The Chathams:** The Chatham Township Environmental Commission, the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission, and the Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee are hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Green Fair of The Chathams** on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fair will be held, rain or shine, at Reasoner Park in the Borough (at the gazebo) and will feature vendors offering green, sustainable products and services, as well as entertainment and activities for children.

Members of the two municipalities and a variety of local businesses will be on hand to discuss their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices and how the community can live a greener, cleaner lifestyle. Information will be provided on transportation options, energy and water savings, healthy home and personal care products, rain barrels, composting, recycling, trash reduction, as well as solar and other alternative energy sources for your home.

Vendors such as **Madison Plumbing** and **Coviello Brothers Landscape and Irrigation** will show the latest Water Sense fixtures and irrigation equipment that conserve our water supplies. **Greenpath Landcare, Spring Street Dezigns, Green with Envy**, and **Secret Garden Soaps** will help you reduce toxic chemicals in your home and yard through, for example, organic lawn care, natural cleaning products, eco-friendly flooring and bedding, and custom made furniture finished with low VOC paints and no added formaldehyde plywood. Stanley Congregational Church will sell Fair Trade coffee and hand out free compact fluorescent bulbs.

Water and air filtration vendors will be on hand as well. **Pur2O** will offer free basic water quality testing. All are encouraged to bring a home water sample for testing.

**The Green Fair of The Chathams** is also the place to give new life to your used children's books and bicycles. Chatham Township Girl Scout Jillian Srygley will set up a donation box for children's books that will be sent to the Paterson Family Center or Community Charter School of Paterson. Boy Scout Troop 8 will be collecting used bicycles to be donated to the needy through Good Goes Round. Questions about these book and bike collections can be directed to [ctec@chathamtownship.org](mailto:ctec@chathamtownship.org)

This year the entertainment has been greatly expanded. The professional clowns of **The Grand Falloons** will act out creative, humorous environmental stories at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Also, children can see live reptiles up close during **Rizzo's Reptiles** 9:30 a.m. show and learn how recycling helps protect the animals' habitat. The Chatham Community Band will perform at 12:00 noon.

Children can also explore compost, seeds and herbs, and make crafts such as pinecone bird feeders at eco-art stations hosted by Girl Scout Troops 1240, 1187, and 511. The Chatham High School Environmental Club will host eco-play stations featuring games for children such as soda bottle bowling and guessing games.

As Chair of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission's Community Education & Outreach Committee, Pat Collington explained that Girl Scouts from Troop 1956 Lexi Evan, Ani Shannon, and Meg Peckham will be on hand to answer questions about rain barrels – with one lucky Green Fair attendee being able to **win a free rain barrel to take home that day**. "In addition, Girl Scouts from Troop 511 will be on hand to demonstrate a backyard composter and teach us the *dirt* on composting, and Girl Scouts from Troop 1204 will have a Chatham Township Recycling education station and provide free recycling stickers and other giveaways."

"The third annual 2010 **Green Fair of The Chathams** will be our Greenest Green Fair ever," said Cindy Steffens,

Chair of Chatham Borough's Green Initiatives Committee. "The Committee aims to make it a Zero Waste event." For example, our signs will be completely recyclable or re-useable. The fair will provide filtered water stations, and residents are encouraged to bring their reusable bottle and get *free refills* all day long. Children's crafts will use all organic materials and games will be made from recycled or natural items. In addition, the central location at the gazebo means residents can make one efficient trip downtown to attend the Green Fair, shop at the Farmer's Market or local businesses, and attend other activities such as soccer practice.

"The Chatham Township Environmental Commission, the Chatham Borough Environmental Commission, and the Chatham Borough Green Initiatives Committee have worked together to bring many more fun activities for kids this year and plenty of green vendors with eye-opening products and services." said Kathy Abbott, Vice Chair, Chatham Township Environmental Commission. "We hope the excitement of the Green Fair generates more volunteers and momentum to help bring Chatham Township to the next level of *Sustainable Jersey* certification." The Township achieved *Bronze Level Sustainable Jersey Certification* in 2009.

Lee Byrd, Chairman of Chatham Borough's Environmental Commission, said, "This is a great opportunity for local residents to see first hand what renewable energy is all about and learn ways to adopt a greener lifestyle." Councilman Len Resto added, "In 2009 Chatham Borough and Chatham Township shared a *Sustainable Jersey Collaboration Award*. In 2010 Chatham Borough hopes to be certified as a sustainable community by *Sustainable Jersey*."

Sponsors of the 2010 Green Fair of The Chathams are **Como Hotels and Resorts, Pinnacle Environmental, Coviello Brothers Landscape and Irrigation, GreenPath Landcare, Investors' Savings Bank, and The New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers.**

Vendors interested in participating in the Green Fair of The Chathams should email the Green Fair of The Chathams Committee at [environmental@chathamborough.org](mailto:environmental@chathamborough.org).

Info Flyer 8.15.10 for posting on the Chatham Township Website