

NORTH BERGEN BRIEFS

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Local residents participated in North Bergen's annual Summer Green and Health Fair earlier this month. See briefs for more information. Photo credit: Juan Escobar.

Annual Green Fair notches over 2,000 attendees

North Bergen officials have declared the fourth annual Summer Green and Health Fair an overwhelming success, with more than 2,700 residents and guests enjoying a day of outdoor entertainment and environmental education.

Nearly 50 vendors shared information on a wide variety of topics pertaining to environmental awareness and personal health at the event, which was organized by the North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority and Health Department and held on June 3. Key sponsors Suez Water and Hackensack Meridian Health were joined by numerous other local and regional companies and organizations to fully fund the event, so the entire day cost taxpayers nothing while providing vital

information to residents.

"Creating and managing events like the Green Fair takes an incredible amount of time and hard work, but it is worth it when you see thousands of residents coming out to enjoy a beautiful day like this one," said Mayor Nicholas Sacco.

"I would like to thank all of the residents who attended this successful event and especially recognize the organizers and sponsors who made it possible."

Kids had a field day at the event, enjoying a bouncy house, rock climbing, a dunk tank, a petting zoo, animal rides, face painting, and more.

Choruses from several area schools performed, along with a Sinatra tribute artist, local bands from the high school, and even The Referrals, a band of Lincoln School teachers featuring Principal Francis Pastore.

"The MUA is proud of the growth we have seen in this event since its inception, and of the fact that it is now becoming one of North Bergen's most popular," said MUA Executive Director Frank Pestana. "One of our missions

is to educate the public about sustainability and environmental initiatives and the Green Fair is always a great opportunity to get people together to learn about our planet."

The goal of the event was to provide education on healthy bodies and a healthy Earth. In addition to vendors like the Hudson County Improvement Authority and Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission offering information on environmental issues, local organizations like Meadowlands Hospital, the Act Now Foundation, and the Hudson Regional Health Commission provided a wide variety of screenings and information on keeping healthy.

The Green and Health Fair was started in 2014 to help the township meet requirements of the Sustainable Jersey initiative, a statewide program designed to encourage municipalities to engage in environmentally friendly practices.

MUA Recycling Program Coordinator Tom Stampe and North Bergen Health Director Janet Castro led the planning and organizing of the annual event.

“Seeing so many residents come out to learn how to be more healthy and active was inspiring and a testament to how engaged and interested this community is in these valuable programs,” said Castro. “The Green Fair allows us to showcase many fine organizations that are doing incredible work in the areas of health, wellness, and prevention and bring them directly to our residents to give them the tools and information they need to live a healthier life.”

The event came about due to the joint efforts of all the township’s departments, including Health, MUA, DPW, Parks and Recreation, Parking Authority, Public Safety, EMS, and Police, with support from the schools and library.