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Community news as it happens

White Plains hosts Earth Week

Monday will begin a plethora of events about the environment

By Ben Rubin
bfrubin@lohud.com

WHITE PLAINS — On Monday at the steps of City Hall, White Plains will usher in its first Earth Week with a dedication of three native tree species that will be planted along Main Street.

Dozens of events, from trail cleanups to art production with recycled materials to tips for budding locavores, will follow throughout the week across the city.

The events will culminate April 30 along Mamaroneck Avenue, with the "Sustain White Plains Celebration," which will include music, 45 green exhibits, new en-

vironmental awards and children's activities.

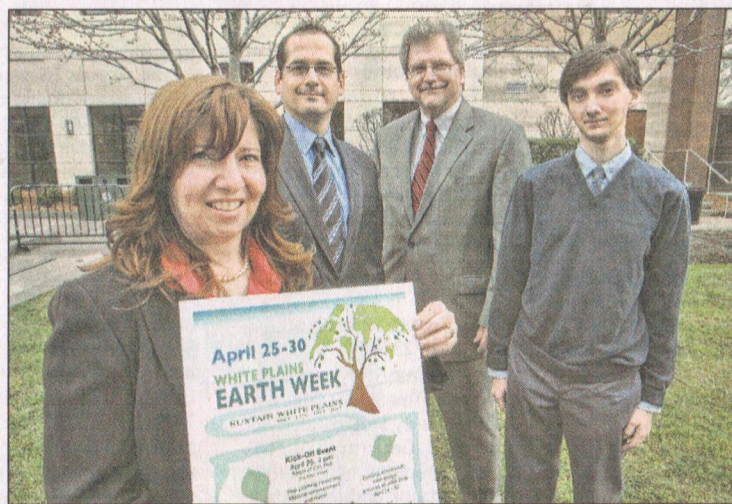
Widely expanding on past Earth Day celebrations, the city's year-old Sustainability and Environmental Enhancement Committee and the White Plains Business Improvement District partnered with local organizations, businesses and city departments to create the weeklong event.

"A day is a quick shot," said councilman Dennis Power, the SEEC chairman and a co-chairman of Earth Week.

He said much more can be highlighted over a week and he hopes the additional time and events will increase participation.

"We wanted to make sure it was accessible for everyone that wanted to come," said events co-chairwoman Bonnie Hagen,

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Bonnie Hagen stands with Rick Ammirato, executive director of White Plains BID, White Plains councilman Dennis Power and Jordan Grobe at Renaissance Plaza in White Plains on April 7. Grobe and Hagen, along with Michael Jattan, are co-chairing the upcoming Earth Week events in White Plains from April 25-30.

MATTHEW BROWN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

EARTH WEEK: Celebration set to kick off Monday

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another SEEC member.

April 30's events will start with a citywide cleanup at trails, parks, community gardens and public schools from 9 a.m. to noon.

Gloves and tools will be provided and free pizza and drinks will be given to volunteers afterward. To get involved, contact the Recreation and Parks Department at 914-422-1336 or fcrougna@whiteplainsny.gov.

From noon to 5 p.m., the "Sustain White Plains" event will be held on Mamaroneck Avenue, between Main Street and Martine Avenue. Musicians will include Solar Punch, which powers its equipment with solar energy; Bash the Trash, which uses recycled materials for its instruments; and White Plains High School senior Ivan Polanco, who will sing a new song he

SELECTED EVENTS

Kickoff: Monday, 4 p.m., City Hall steps, 255 Main St.

Eco-art with Michael Albert: Tuesday, City Hall Council Chambers, 4-6 p.m. with middle school students; 6:30-8:30 p.m. with high school students.

Bike rack unveiling: Wednesday 11 a.m., White Plains train station, 16 Ferris Ave.

Local food presentation: April 28, 7 p.m., Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road.

Sustain White Plains Celebration: April 30, noon-5 p.m., Mamaroneck Avenue between Main Street and Martine Avenue.

For a full events list, go to wpbid.com/events_WP_earth_week.htm.

wrote for the event. Kids activities will include seed planting and science experiments.

Other events through the week will include artist Michael Albert working with local students to create "ecomaps" from recyclables on Tuesday, the unveiling of additional bike racks at the TransCenter on Wednesday and a tree-planting at Church Street Elementary School by the White Plains

Beautification Foundation on Friday.

On Thursday night, five local synagogues and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church will host a presentation about local food cooperatives and eating locally.

"We're going to be educating the public, I think in a very creative way, in a multifaceted way," Power said. "This whole week is about action, about environmental work in action."