

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission

## NEWSLETTER

Issue #17

www.bcec.us

Spring 2008

### **BCEC Contact Information**



BCEC meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month and are open to the public.

Meetings are held at the **Carlake**

**Community Center,**  
209 Crosswicks Street,  
at 7:00pm.

**Mail may be sent to  
BCEC at:**

Bordentown City  
Environmental  
Commission,  
City Hall,  
324 Farnsworth Ave.,  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

**Email:**  
bcec@mail.com  
(Send an email to join  
the BCEC email list)

**Website:**  
www.bcec.us

Printed on recycled paper  
(100% post-consumer)

## GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY!

Your mom was right! Remember her call, "Go outside and play"? In the last decade, researchers have discovered how important it is for us all to have regular contact with nature throughout our lives. But children today are not getting that contact, and it's having profound impacts on them and on society as they become adults.

What can you do about this? **GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY!** Do simple stuff: ride a bike, build a fort, name the shapes in clouds, follow a trail, or a stream, watch birds, squirrels, and anything else that jumps, flies, or hops through the fields. Do it alone; do it with kids; teach them how to do it safely on their own, and then **let them!**

These kinds of "nature experiences" have many benefits:

- Improved attention span, focus, and creative problem-solving skills;
- Improved stamina to cope with life's stresses; and
- Improved, more optimistic outlook, that allows mind and body to heal.

It's an impressive list for something that's so easy. Need some more ideas?

- Try BCEC eco-events: explore nature, make new friends, and have fun.

*continued next page*

### **Upcoming Events & Meetings**

#### ***Arbor Day Tree Planting - Saturday, April 26, 9:00 a.m.***

Help plant trees in Bordentown City. Bring gloves and a shovel. Teams will be assigned trees across the City. *Meet at City Hall. Sponsored by the Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee.*

#### ***Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Ordinances - Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.***

Attend a public hearing for more information regarding proposed Zoning Ordinance (see BCEC homepage for draft of the document). *Carlake Community Center.*

#### ***Lime Kiln Alley Trail Building Day - Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m.***

Volunteers needed to help build a trail along Lime Kiln Alley/Blacks Creek Greenway. Bring a shovel and gloves. *Meet at corner of Willow & Walnut Streets. Sponsored by the Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

#### ***Bordentown Street Fair - May 19 & 20, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.***

Stop by the BCEC table for updates on local environmental issues, including Open Space acquisitions. Free drawings for compost bin and other eco-gifts. *Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown City.*

#### ***Burlington County Earth Fair - June 8, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.***

Exhibits, information, children's activities, outdoor activities, food and music. *Smithville Park, Smithville Road, Eastampton*

## LOCAL ECO-NEWS

continued from front page

· Explore some open space: the City parks, Crystal Lake county park, or the "hidden nature" in your backyard.

· Invite nature into your backyard with a birdfeeder, a birdbath, or some other ideas from [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

· Spend a night under the stars-right in your yard! See [www.nwf.org/gabc](http://www.nwf.org/gabc).

· Whenever you can, be outdoors: walk, bike, eat, visit, and relax.

Scientists say individual actions are crucial to healing people and the planet, **so get outside and play!**



Larry Kuser of Fernbrook Farms indicating extent of preserved farmland in Burlington County

### Local farmer discusses local "Farm to Fork" connections

Larry Kuser, owner of Fernbrook Farm in Chesterfield ([www.fernbrookfarmcsa.com](http://www.fernbrookfarmcsa.com)), spoke at the Earth Talk: "Connecting the Farm to the City" program on March 25. Larry gave an overview of farmland preservation efforts in NJ (18% of NJ land is preserved farms); provided statistics on NJ's crops compared to other states (#2 in blueberries, #3 in peaches, #4 in cranberries, #5 in peppers, #8 in corn, and #11 in tomatoes!), and emphasized the importance of agriculture to the state's economy (a \$920 million/year industry). Larry also talked about the growing trend of Community-Supported Agriculture farms, of which Fernbrook is one, whereby individuals buy a "share" of a farmer's output

before the growing season, and then receive a seasonal box of produce, which is often organic. Other topics that are happening locally include "Farm to Fork" programs that connect farms to local restaurants; the "Farm to School" program, an initiative to get fresh local food into schools; and the "Chef's Collaborative", which teaches school cafeteria staff to prepare "real" food instead of prepackaged meals. Finally, Larry concluded by warning about the consequences of cutting the Department of Agriculture, a measure that has been proposed by the Corzine administration.

### Recycling Update: Computer and Electronics Recycling

Burlington County offers Computer and Electronics Recycling on a permanent basis. Residents (bring I.D.) may bring computer hard drives (CPUs) and monitors (up to six), keyboards, modems, printers, fax machines, VCRs and DVD players to the Resource Recovery Complex on Rt. 543 in Mansfield. Drop-offs are accepted at the following days/times:

*Tuesday to Friday • 7am to 3pm*

*Saturday • 7am to 2pm*

Call (609) 499-5200 with any questions. This service is free to all Burlington County residents.

### New Storm Drain Inlets Installed on Rt. 206 and Rt. 130

New storm drain inlets are currently being installed along sections of Rt. 206 and Rt. 130 in the Bordentown area. These new inlets are designed to keep "floatables" such as cans, bottles and other trash for entering local waterways. This retrofit can be expected to have a positive impact on local streams, which often develop debris dams as a result of the high volume of trash entering the stormwater drains from roadways and then into the waterway.

## Environmental Calendar

**Saturday, April 26**

### *Arbor Day Tree Planting*

9:00a.m. Meet at City Hall. Sponsored by the Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee.

**Tuesday, May 6**

### *Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Ordinance*

Carslake Community Center, 7p.m.

**Wednesday, May 7**

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m. **CANCELLED.**

**Saturday, May 10**

### *Lime Kiln Alley Trailbuilding Day*

9:30 a.m. Bring a shovel and gloves. Meet at corner of Willow and Walnut Streets.

**Wednesday, May 14**

### *Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

**Sat., May 17 & Sun., May 18**

### *Bordentown Street Fair*

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Stop by the BCEC table. Free raffle.

**Wednesday, June 4**

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

**Sunday, June 8**

### *Burlington County Earth Fair*

Smithville Park, Smithville Road, Eastampton, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 11**

### *Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

**Wednesday, July 2**

*Bordentown City Planning Board*  
City Hall, 7p.m.

**Wednesday, July 9**

### *Bordentown City Environmental Commission*

Carslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.