



County of Rockland Department of Health NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Haverstraw Community Garden Harvest Day Event!

Pomona, NY - The [Rockland County Department of Health](#) and Rockland County [Plant a Row for the Hungry](#) is pleased to announce that in cooperation with Catholic Community Services, the North Rockland Garden Consortium, Village of Haverstraw/Haverstraw Center, and the Haverstraw Community Garden a Harvest Day Event for the entire North Rockland community will occur on Thursday, September 16th at 4:00pm in the Haverstraw Community Garden. The event will occur rain or shine.

Come celebrate the garden's first harvest! This event is free and open to the public. Attendees are asked to bring with them a food item to donate to a local food pantry. Activities include harvesting the Plant a Row plot, seed planting for kids, food demonstrations, healthier cooking, and nutrition information, recipes, scissor salsa making, arts and crafts, food drive, and more. Haverstraw's Union Restaurant chefs will conduct food demonstrations and provide samples using harvested produce.

Plant a Row is a national program started in 1995 by the Garden Writers Association that encourages gardeners to grow an extra row of produce for the needy. Rockland County Plant a Row was started by the Master Gardener Program at [Cornell Cooperative Extension](#) in 2009 and urges community members in Rockland to donate their extra produce to local food agencies and soup kitchens. "Plant a Row is a way for the backyard gardener to support their community. We invite local gardeners to join us in our efforts by bringing us their extra produce" states Anita Dreichler, Plant a Row Coordinator and Master Gardener.

At the Harvest Day Event the Plant a Row plot at the community garden will be picking and donating its harvest to local food pantries. "It is important that the community work together to help people in need access more fresh produce so that we can pass on good nutrition to our clients" says Paula Klein, Director of North Rockland Food Pantry. Local gardeners' have also been asked to donate some of their harvest to Plant a Row pantries as well. A list of pantries can be found on the Rockland Cornell Cooperative website: www.rocklandcce.org.

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The community is also encouraged to donate non-perishable, packaged food to the Harvest Day Event Food Drive occurring from September 1st to September 15th. Food items can be dropped off at participating sites around Haverstraw: Beckerle Lumber, Catholic Community Services, Haverstraw Center, Haverstraw Village Hall, Quisqueya Club, and Union Restaurant. In addition, donate perishable and non-perishable food items at the Haverstraw Farmers' Market on Sunday, September 12th.

The Haverstraw Community Garden is located between the Haverstraw Middle School and The Haverstraw Center at 50 West Broad Street and is made possible by a network of Community Partners including Cornell Cooperative Extension, North Rockland Central School District, North Rockland Garden Consortium, Rockland County Department of Health, and Village of Haverstraw/Haverstraw Center. The garden was funded by the Rockland County Department of Health through the Healthy Communities Capacity Building Initiative from the New York State Department of Health.

For more information on Plant a Row or any questions about the Harvest Day Event contact rocklandpar@yahoo.com

Photos available upon request.

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