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Maywood hopes community garden will add to greener town

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012
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STAFF WRITER
COMMUNITY NEWS (LODI EDITION)

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Maywood is looking to get greener.

At a Feb. 14 council work session, [Maywood](#) Mayor Greg Padovano talked about the possibility of a community garden. The community garden is a project under discussion by Maywood's Green Team and is one of several actions that might certify the borough under the Sustainable Jersey program.

The Sustainable Jersey program has two levels of certification with various requirements.

The bronze level of certification would require the establishment of a mandatory Green Team and the implementation of two out of seven priority actions listed plus a total of 150 points that can be earned through the program by taking certain actions. Actions must be completed in six of the 16 categories to be eligible for certification.

The silver level of certification requires the establishment of a mandatory Green Team, implementation of three out of seven priority actions and a total of 350 points. Actions must be completed in eight of the 16 categories to be eligible for certification.

Actions for points under the program include such "green" activities as recycling programs, using solar energy, tree planting programs, Safe Routes to School, active living initiatives through the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, the creation of a community garden and many other possibilities. The listed activities are all programs that [Maywood](#) has been involved in or has plans to start.

"Our Green Team met a couple of weeks ago and is looking forward to starting a community garden," said the mayor. "We are trying to look for a good location in the borough on borough property to start

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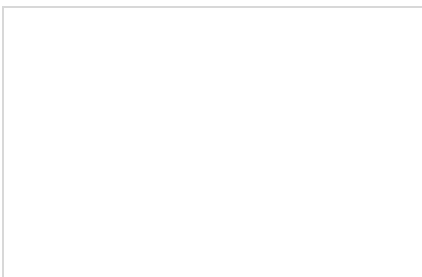
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the community garden."

Padovano said that there would be more to report at the next council meeting.

"Hopefully, we'll get closer to certification under the Sustainable Jersey program which will enable the borough to access various grants that are available through that program for some green programs in the town," said Padovano.

Councilman Adrian Febre inquired if the borough was not yet certified.

Padovano explained that the borough was registered but not certified.

"We are probably very close. I'm pretty confident that the community garden would probably push us over the edge (point wise) but we're pretty close. There is a lot of grant money available through that program, so we can hopefully do some good things with it in the future," said Padovano.

The Green Team met for further discussion on the community garden before [Maywood's](#) public meeting on Feb. 29. The Green Team looked at other towns' community gardens for inspiration. Arlene Formisano, a Green Team member, showed the team [Rutherford's](#) community garden featured on its web page.

Steve Mosca, another Green Team member, said, "[West Milford](#) does an herbal garden."

Mosca said, "Basically, the feeling is we definitely want to do a community garden. Our discussion is to do vegetables, to show that people can get food from their little plot of soil and show just what bounty you can get."

If a vegetable garden is created, it is not yet decided what would be done with the garden produce but different suggestions are under consideration.

"We can donate it to the soup kitchen or the homeless shelter or give to the students to take home," said Mosca.

The Green Team is still brainstorming as to where in [Maywood](#) to locate the community garden, but they would ideally like to locate it near a school.

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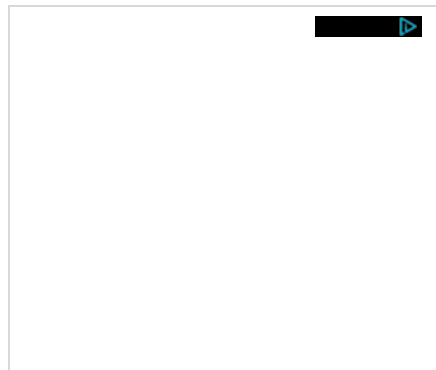
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