



## Staten Island Advance

### HELPING HANDS

**Sign up now to plan for future**

Thursday, November 06, 2008

#### Staten Island Advance

Do you ever think about what Staten Island would have been like with a little planning? As the fastest growing county in New York state, plenty of problems have resulted from the lack of it. What about the future?

One initiative, Vision for Staten Island, is seeking to involve the community -- citizens and public and private leaders -- in imagining the future and responding to their concerns, whatever they are -- health care, transportation, sports, the arts, parks.

The first step is to identify shared goals; the next is to plan specific steps to implement each goal. The process will involve hundreds of institutions and organizations throughout the Island, including business groups, environmental organizations, government, and civic groups.

At present, Vision for Staten Island, an independent not-for-profit organization, needs volunteers for that first step to serve as meeting facilitators. Facilitators will lead "idea gathering meetings" to collect ideas on how to improve the quality of life in the coming years. In essence, these facilitators will lead Staten Island's biggest brainstorming session ever.

If you are comfortable working in front of small groups of people, able to remain neutral during the meeting process, and available to attend a two-hour training session on Nov. 20 or 21, contact Vision for Staten Island at 718-568-561, or visit [www.sivision.org](http://www.sivision.org) for more information.

#### GET DOWN AND DIRTY

A reminder about all the tree planting going on this weekend as part of the MillionTrees NYC initiative.

If you work in Manhattan, play hooky for a few hours and plant trees on Randall's Island from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where 800 trees will be planted. For more information contact 212-829-0002 or e-mail [ss@sharpthink.com](mailto:ss@sharpthink.com).

On Saturday, you can join volunteers closer to home -- at Mount Loretto Unique Area, Pleasant Plains, or Father Macris Park, Graniteville. Call 212-360-1356 or visit [www.milliontreesnyc.org](http://www.milliontreesnyc.org) and click on "Get Involved" and then "Community Calendar."

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