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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Sneak a Peek at Hoboken's Best Backyards on Hoboken Historical Museum's 10th Annual Secret Garden Tour

Hoboken, NJ – April 2, 2007 –Tucked away behind Hoboken's 19th century brownstones and converted factory buildings are backyard spaces that are testaments to gardeners' creativity and determination to stay in touch with nature in an urban setting. On Sunday, June 3, eight homeowners will share their "secret gardens" and their secret gardening tips as part of the Tenth Annual Secret Garden Tour, presented by the Hoboken Historical Museum, with support from the Hoboken Garden Club.

This year's "Secret Garden" tour will include a wide range of garden designs by both dedicated amateur gardeners and professional designers, with clever solutions to challenging issues such as soil depth and shade. One garden features a patio with a checkerboard pattern of alternating tile and grass (actually, a low-maintenance alternative called SYNLaw); others feature koi ponds, raised flower beds and even vegetable gardens. One of the previous secret gardens was featured in *Better Homes & Garden* magazine. The Museum gratefully acknowledges Valerie Hufnagel Landscaping for its continued sponsorship of the Secret Garden Tour.

Gardening in Hoboken has a rich tradition, as Colonel John Stevens (1749 – 1838), who founded Hoboken, was a garden enthusiast, importing and cultivating new plants from all around the world. He's credited with introducing to America the Chrysanthemum and the Camellia. His gardens were highly regarded as some of the most elaborate and scientifically cultivated of the day. He exchanged lists of seeds, plants and books with horticultural pioneers, including John Bartram, America's first great botanist, and Bernard McMahon, who helped document the Lewis and Clark expedition.

TOUR TIMES & TICKET INFORMATION

- Date of Tour: Sunday, June 3 (rain date: June 10)
- Guided tours begin at 9 a.m., and take about two hours, departing every half hour from the Museum, 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, N.J.; the last tour departs at 4 p.m.
- Tickets are \$20 in advance (starting May 1) and for Museum and Hoboken Garden Club members; \$25 day of event. Advance purchase is recommended, as space is limited. For advance tickets by credit card, call 201-656-2240, ext. 6.
- Tickets are available at four locations: Hoboken Historical Museum, 1301 Hudson St.; Baskets of Distinction, 1102 Washington St.; Amanda's restaurant, 908 Washington St.; and Sparrow Wine & Liquor, 126 Washington St
- Visit the web site www.hobokensecretgardens.com for more information.
- Volunteers are also needed; call the Museum at 201-656-2240 for more information

Proceeds of this event help support the Hoboken Historical Museum.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum's mission is to educate the public about Hoboken's history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 9 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.

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Note to editors: Photos of select gardens are available; please call 201-656-2240.