

Tuesday, September 8th, 2009 Mostly Cloudy
Sign In | Register Now 7 day forecast



Photo by Spotted user: gillfoto. Submit yours!

Home News Sports Neighbors & Arts Opinion Obits Blogs Special Sections Archives Information Contact Us

SEARCH: go Juneauempire.com Web search powered by YAHOO! Search Real Estate • Jobs • Autos • Classifieds

FIRST BANK MEMBER FDIC

Increase the interest rate **once** during the term on your 24 or 36 Month Exchange Rate Time Deposit.

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL EDITION

JUNEAU EMPIRE

Home > Local > Glory Hole plans downtown garden

Monday, September 07, 2009
Story last updated at 9/7/2009 - 10:09 am

Glory Hole plans downtown garden

Project to provide shelter patrons with healthy activity, food

By Eric Morrison | JUNEAU EMPIRE

The Glory Hole is preparing for growth next spring - edible growth, that is.

The downtown homeless shelter and soup kitchen is planning to create a terraced community garden behind its building on South Franklin Street along with the first public rooftop garden in Juneau.

The project sprouted from the idea of providing patrons of the nonprofit with a healthy activity, Executive Director Mariya Lovishchuk said. It is also a sustainable way to produce some fresh food for the soup kitchen and a tool for the Glory Hole to connect with more people in the community and destigmatize the shelter, she said.

"We do serve a certain segment of the population, and anyone can be in the segment of the population, but I think it's important to reach out to other people too," Lovishchuk said. "I thought we could do that with this garden."

The idea is to reserve two-thirds of the garden for public use. Community members will be able to sign up for a plot for \$10 for the summer gardening season.

"I think if you have a meaningful project that people can work on kind of side by side regardless of their socioeconomic issues, it really is super helpful to everybody," Lovishchuk said. "It contributes to a better community."

There are a number of patrons of the Glory Hole that have mental health and depression issues that spend much of their day aimlessly milling about the homeless shelter, she said. The garden will provide the patrons with something to do, and also a responsibility. The plan is for gardening to be one of the required chores for people staying at the Glory Hole to help with, Lovishchuk said.

"I think it is really helpful to people when they can be responsible for something and create something," she said.

Darren Snyder, a University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension service agent that is involved with the project, said community gardens provide myriad benefits to the community. First and foremost is fresh and healthy food, he said, plus healthy activity and a good social environment.

"People are saying they want to be able to garden and some people don't have enough space," he said. "Some people want to garden with other folks and some people want grow their own food close to their homes."

There is limited space downtown so the terraced garden is an exciting and appropriate way to utilize the land, Snyder said.

"This is going to be kind of neat model for people to see how we're doing it there," he said. "There are so many hillsides around here that could be cultivated that are not, so it's a nice model for that."

And it will be exciting to have the first community rooftop garden in Juneau, if all goes as planned, Snyder said.

Christopher Mertl, a landscape architect for Jensen Yorba Lott Architects working on the project, said it is becoming more popular to restore urban areas into sustainable landscapes that are actually producing food.

"Green roofs are definitely becoming very popular throughout the United States, especially urban areas where you have limited open space," he said.

Mertl and other project planners are still working out the details of the roof gardening, which may or may not be ready next summer because of the permitting process and the scope of the project. The planners are restricted by the load capacity of



Brian Wallace / Juneau Empire

Glory Hole Executive Director Mariya Lovishchuk talks about the planned community garden, which will be planted on the hillside behind her as well as the rooftop of the Glory Hole building to her left. The garden will be planted by next spring.

Know & Go

What: Community garden planning meeting.
Where: The Glory Hole, 247 South Franklin Street.
When: 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

How to
Cut your heating costs
50 to 60%

RICKNELL INC.
QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

TOP ADS

TOP JOBS

- Make A Difference!**
Teaching Positions Please visit our website...
- GOT JOB? The**
Juneau Empire is seeking an Accounts Receivable...
- TELLER Someday, A**
company that I can grow with ☺ Do you enjoy...
- Safeway Is Hiring!**
Service Evaluators ☺ Make a difference! ☺...
- Job Opportunities Wildflower**
Court is looking for caring individuals...

[View All TopJobs](#)

TOP HOMES

TOP RENTALS

TOP BOATS

TOP AUTOS

the roof and are still investigating soil mixes that would work and protect the integrity of the roof membrane, Merti said.

"If we have flat roofs we might as well use them, and growing on top of them just makes sense so we're trying to get that going," Snyder said.

It's too early to know what the cost of the project will end up being, but there have already been donations through the Wal-Mart Foundation and the Juneau Community Foundation, Lovishchuk said.

The community garden planners will host a public meeting on the project at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Glory Hole.

"The community should come to the meeting and get informed with what we are doing," Lovishchuk said. "People's input is really welcome."

• Contact reporter Eric Morrison at 523-2269 or eric.morrison@juneauempire.com.

NEWSPAPER ads

RE/MAX OF JUNEAU
PUBLISHED ON 9/4/2009

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE OFFICE SYSTEMS, INC.
PUBLISHED ON 9/3/2009

GROSS-ALASKA THEATRES
PUBLISHED ON 9/3/2009

ASIANA GARDEN
PUBLISHED ON 9/3/2009

View More | Today's Ads | All Advertisers

Search Enter Ad Keywords go

Share this page:

Print Email Digg Twitter Yahoo! StumbleUpon Facebook del.icio.us Reddit

Popular Categories

[Click here to view comments on this article](#)

Ron and Susan's Condo In Hawaii
Oceanfront oceanview Hawaii condo. Oceanfront saltwater and freshwater pool. www.ronandsusans.com

Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance
\$90,000 Refinance \$499/mo. See Rates- No Credit Check Req. [SeeRefinanceRates](#)

2009 Lincoln-Mercury Clearance
Dealers Lowered Prices to Meet Quotas. Get the Best Price. Autos.OpenAuto.com

Ads by Yahoo!

SECTIONS:

Local News
State News
Regional News
Obituaries
Neighbors

Letters
Sports
Arts
Alaska AP
World AP

BLOGS:

Juneaublogger.com
Voxbox
Picks & pans
The Log Book
Juneau Preview

MARKETPLACE:

Classifieds
Newspaper Ads
Business Review
Employment

Personals
Transportation
Boats
Real Estate

SPECIAL SECTIONS:

AlaskaLegislature.com
[Alaska Statehood 50th](http://AlaskaStatehood50th.com)
Spring King
More...

CONTACT US:

Contact our Staff
Advertise with us
Submit a Story
Submit Editor Feedback