

Balcony water diverted for treatment

Ran Tao, Lu Qianhui and Tom Qian

JIADING District is to invest 15 million yuan (US\$2.4 million) in collecting water from balcony downpipes in 40 residential areas in an environmental protection drive.

The sewage water from balconies will be diverted from the rainwater pipe to a separate pipe in the wall which is connected to the water plant for further treatment.

The pipes in kitchens and bathrooms in buildings constructed in 1980s and 1990s are connected to sewage pipes while the pipes on balconies are connected to rainwater pipes.

However, a lot of residents have

washing machines on their balconies to save space, thus water rich in nitrogen and phosphorus is discharged into rivers, making them heavily polluted.

So far the project has been carried out in Zhenxin and Jiading Town subdistricts.

In Zhenxin, 63 neighborhoods are expected to join the project by the end of this year. In the first half of the year, the work has been done in 48 neighborhoods. The project in Jiading Town is expected to launch in October.

"We hope property management and real estate management companies will strengthen supervision so that the residents can benefit from the project

and the government investment can be effective," resident Liu Aidong said.

"Long-term management" is frequently mentioned by Jiading's authorities.

With the upcoming rainy season, much rainwater would be wasted. Industry insiders suggest treating the rainwater and using it in landscaping and industrial cooling to save water resources.

Including balcony water in the sewage system is the first step in water treatment.

"Our city should not be the consumer of water resources alone, it should also become a producer of water resources," said Lu Jianqing, director of Jiading District Housing Development Center.

Officials know their vegetables

Wang Anqi and Tom Qian

YOUNG officials from Jiading Agriculture Committee have been planting vegetables to gain an insight into the difficulties faced by local farmers.

They planted eggplants, peppers, cucumbers and other vegetables in a 20-square-meter test field next to the Jiading District Agricultural Technology Service Center.

"Compared to regular vegetables, I usually prefer unusual varieties," Shi Zixue said. He planted ghost pepper, one of the hottest peppers in the world.

Shi said he was cheated at least five times into buying defective seeds. "High-quality seeds are the lifeline of farmers," Shi said. "We must never be lenient toward the traders who sell fake seeds."

"Though hard, we take it as a rest after office work," Li Ling said.

A number of the officials have become skilled planters through working in the field.

"The planting in the test field enabled me to learn vegetable growing skills, and more importantly, I am closer to my colleagues because we share the same topics," said Jin Chenjie, who won top prize in a vegetable planting competition earlier this year.

11 awards for district's cultured amateurs

Wang Anqi and Tom Qian

AMATEUR Jiading artists won 11 awards at the annual Shanghai Spring contest in July.

Eight received Excellent New Work Awards while the other three received New Work Awards, covering dancing, music, drama and opera.

More than 90 percent of the artworks submitted received awards, making Jiading the contest's biggest winner citywide.

In recent years Jiading cultural authorities have paid special attention to cultivating local creative talents by continuously building a motivation mechanism and setting up platforms for them to create more new artworks.

On the one hand, Jiading invites experts and scholars to share their creative experiences, and on the other hand, creative talents are encouraged to broaden their horizon by observing real life.

In the award-winning works this year many amateur artists applied this realistic style to their works.

Juyuan New Area's "Happy Plaza," for instance, won a New Work Award. It tells the story of a group of square dancers and the conflict between them and people who object to the noise.

After talking to several square dancers, Kou Xiwen, creator of the revue sketch, found that they were an interesting group with many stories.

Kou discovered that many members of the group took up dancing to alleviate the feelings of loneliness after losing their loved ones.

"We call for understanding and tolerance toward the square dancers as aging is inevitable and all of us have parents as well," Kou said.



• Han group on stage for Qixi

A Han culture group in Juyuan New Area staged a play named "Finding Qixi" in Jiading on August 16. It was part of a special event held for qixi, the Chinese Valentine's Day, which fell on August 20 this year. More than 80 people enjoyed stage shows and took part in various Chinese traditional games to mark the special celebration for lovers.

Grapes and art on the menu

Guan Wenfei and Tom Qian

SHANGHAI Malu Grape Festival has "tasting grapes and enjoying art" as its theme this year as it features art studios in addition to the famed fruit.

During the festival which runs through October 7, all the studios at the Jiayuanhai Art Center in Malu are open to visitors.

Since 2013, a group of young artists have been working at the Jiayuanhai Art Center in Malu. Among them there are sculpture art researchers, painters, photographers and traditional Gu-style embroidery masters.

Since last year, visitors have been bringing their children to learn painting skills in

the grape villages. Many of them find their experience surprisingly satisfying. Thus this year the festival is introducing "art trips," allowing visitors to create paintings and go to the art village for free.

The art trips have been well received and many online travel websites have included Malu grape picking trips and art village visits into their packages.

Besides, the center invited some amateurs to put their creations on display.

"Although I can see they are not by professionals at first glance, their ideas are awesome with youthful energies," said Fu Yongkang, deputy director of the art center.

Local market supervisor maintains order

Tang Min and Shen Li

JIADING District Market Supervision Bureau has taken measures to improve order in the e-commerce industry.

Consumers who call the consumer rights protection hotline 12315 will be redirected to the residents' service hotline 12345 and their complaints will be handed over to the bureau. The bureau will take action to investigate the online shops.

The bureau has set up work stations with lawyers and representatives from e-commerce companies JD.com and Gome.com.cn as well as the consumer rights protection commission. With the help of such work stations, disputes will be solved in two to three days instead of seven to eight days in the past.

The bureau also set up a legal power delegation system to enable e-commerce giants to authorize a bureau investigation in just one phone conversation into shops on their platforms.