

THE SPIRIT OF

Essex

Winter 2023

Essex County Parks History Preserved

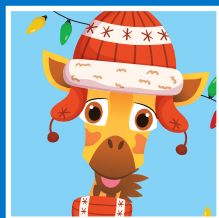


Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of
County Commissioners



Daniel K. Salvante
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Cultural Affairs

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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friend:

This winter season, we invite you to join us our Holiday Lights Spectacular at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo. This festive display lights up our zoo complex with over one million lights and 50 illuminated holiday and animal figures. Started in 2008, the Spectacular has become a family favorite and must-see holiday attraction. While you enjoy the festivities, remember those who are struggling. Join us in the spirit of giving by dropping off a non-perishable food, gently used winter coats and new toys to benefit the less fortunate.

New this year at the zoo are winter story times. Geared for families with children ages 8 and younger, the story times are a great way to get in the holiday spirit! Be ready for some very special guest readers!

Also returning in December is our Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour when historic homes and properties bring our past to life by getting decorated as the season would be celebrated in earlier time periods. It's a great way to explore different parts of Essex County learn about our local history in a festive way.

We never take a break from learning about nature and the importance of conservation. Check out the seasonal offerings at our Environmental Center and show off your artistic creativity in our Nature Homes and Habitats Contest.

Of course there are plenty of other activities hosted by our theaters, galleries, museums and community groups, so check out the listings in this edition of the Spirit of Essex!

Happy Holidays! Together we will continue *Putting Essex County First*.

Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of County Commissioners



Daniel K. Salvante
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



Indicates the facility is handicap accessible. Please contact the facility directly for specific accommodations.

New Archives Space at the Historic Parks

The traditional home for the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Archives is the historic Parks Administration Building located in Newark. This building, built in 1916, is currently undergoing an extensive restoration and update project. It has been projected that the renovations will take two years as the building is repaired and renewed to provide a more patron- and staff-friendly space.

As part of the upgrades, the Archives will experience quite a few changes to its previous spaces. The collections storage areas will be greatly expanded to provide more adequate space for the artifacts. Thanks to reconfiguring some offices, the storage area will now include approximately twice as much space as before. To make the collection more accessible to researchers, the Archives office will now include a reading room area with new tables and spaces that are in keeping with best practices in the Archives and Library field.

In addition to securing more space, some items from the collection are receiving special pampering. The Archives is



proud to contain several large-scale maps that were drawn by the Olmsted Brothers Firm as the parks were created in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the spring of 2023, Olmsted maps of South Mountain Reservation, Weequahic Park, Eagle Rock Reservation, and Branch Brook Park were brought to the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. The maps have been studied and recommendations have been made for their care so that they can be preserved for the future. All of the maps will be cleaned and will receive some minor repairs. They will also be photographed in high resolution so that the Archives will have digital

images of the maps to allow for greater access. Two of the maps will be rehoused (placed in new storage boxes that can best protect them). The other two maps will be framed in a way that both protects them and allows the Archives to display these treasures to the delight of park patrons.

During the Parks Administration Building restoration project, the Archives has moved to satellite offices in West Orange and is open for research by appointment only. For more information about the Parks' Archives or to make a reservation to research in the collection, please contact the archivist, Maressa McFarlane, at mmcfarlane@parks.essexcountynj.org or 973-735-6231. ■

ESSEX COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

Seasonal events sponsored by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

ESSEX COUNTY CODEY ARENA
560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.731.3828 ext. 0
www.essexcountynj.org/calendar

November 2023 to March 2024: Public Ice Skating
Ages: 3 to adult
Sessions offered on Friday afternoon from 4:45-6:15pm, Saturday and Sunday from 11:45am to 1:15pm & 2-3:30pm. Online registration suggested. **Adults \$10; children 15 & under \$8; seniors \$8. Skate rentals \$5.**

November 2023 to March 2024: Adult 35+ Skate Sessions
Sessions offered on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 10:45am to 12:15pm. Online registration suggested. **Adults \$17. Skate rentals \$5.**

November 3, 2023 to January 21, 2024: Learn to Skate Group Lessons
Ages: 3½ to adult
Classes offered on Friday at 4:15pm, Saturday or Sunday at 11:15am or 1:30pm. Snow plow (Ages 3½ to 6), Basic 1-6, Freestyle, and adult class instruction. **Online registration required. \$180-\$230.**

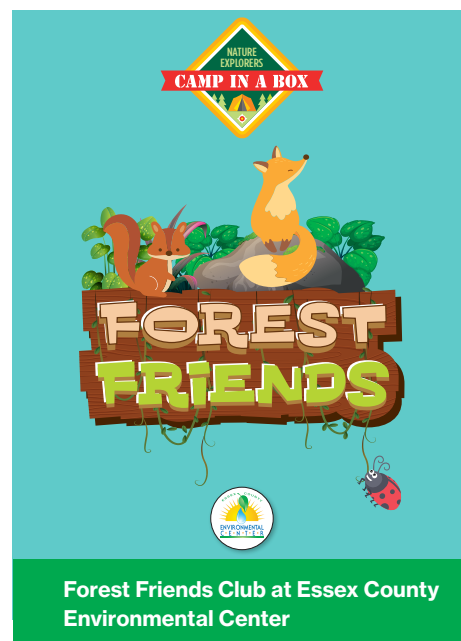
ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland
973-228-8776 / www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar 

SMALL GROUPS, PODS AND FAMILIES
All ages. Winter selections include Seasonal Nature Adventure, Lenape

Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Animal Tracking, Owls the Night Hunter, Swamp Tromp/Wetland Biodiversity, *Fire Making and Hot Chocolate, *Camping 101 and more! One group at a time with a limit of 6 people. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center at 973.228.8776. *Where noted, additional fees apply. **Fee: \$10 child, \$12 adult or \$30 per family (2 adults, 2 children).**

LITTLE EXPLORERS
Mondays, December 4, 18; January 8, 22; February 5, 26
For ages 2 and 3; 10-11am
For ages 2 to 5; 3-4pm
Join us for explorations of nature as we study plants and animals and observe the colors, shapes, textures, and sounds in the Environmental Center's forest habitat. Please come dressed for the weather; all classes include an outdoor adventure. All children must be walking and accompanied by an adult. Paths cannot accommodate strollers. Please be prepared for all weather conditions. Maximum of two children per adult. All sessions are limited to 10 children. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at. **Fee: \$15 per child per session**

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB
Thursdays, December 14, January 18, February 15, March 14; 4-5pm
For children ages 5 through 10.
We'll explore the forest using nets, binoculars, magnifiers, and microscopes



to investigate nature in our wooded wetland habitat. Together we hope to foster an ethic of stewardship and offer an opportunity to take part in hands-on conservation projects. Get ready to explore! Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**

HOLIDAY HERBAL SCRUB-MAKING
Saturday, December 2; 11am to 12:30pm
For families. Make and take a homemade herbal scrub. Visit our geodome to harvest lemon balm and lavender. Learn about the power of scent, care for your skin and how to use nature to promote self-care. We will select our favorite scents using herbs and essential oils and add them to either a sugar or salt scrub of our choice. Please come dressed for the weather; this class includes an outdoor component. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult.**

FOREST FRIENDS FEEDER CONTEST
Registration Deadline: Wednesday, December 13
Project Drop-off: Friday, December 15 by 5pm
For all ages. Create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder for our outdoor exhibit. The purpose of this contest is to provide participants with a fun and educational experience, engaging creativity to make natural edible treats for the center's backyard forest friends. Add to a winter's bounty by registering for this contest and submitting a forest feeder for our forest friends to enjoy! All contest entries will be displayed for one week (or for as long as the wildlife will allow) during the winter holiday and will be voted on by a panel of eco-experts! Grand prizes are awarded to entries that place first in all categories; second and third place entries will be recognized with a plaque, certificate, and a small gift from the Environmental Center. For contest rules and to register, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center or email mrobinson@parks.essexcountynj.org.

This is a free activity.



Holiday Lights

AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO
5pm TO 9pm

Friday to Sunday, November 17-19 2023
Friday to Sunday, November 24-26
Friday to Sunday, December 1-3;
Nightly Starting Friday, December 8-31
Closed December 24 & 25

Take a winter stroll through Essex County Turtle Back Zoo this holiday season under the sparkling lights of holiday-themed and animal characters. Celebrate the season of giving by bringing donations of non-perishable food items, new toys, and gently used coats. Different themed activities will be featured on select December weekends. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/attractions>.

FREE ADMISSION
turtlebackzoo.com

FOREST FRIENDS FEEDER WORKSHOP
Thursday, December 14; 4-6pm
For families. Join the Center staff to create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder to be on display in an outdoor exhibit on ECEC's forest trail. Some materials will be provided; participants are encouraged to bring their own items, most especially their creativity! All participants will have their project entered into our Forest Friends Feeder Contest. Prizes awarded. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult.**

WINTER CAMPFIRE & S'MORES
Saturday, December 16; 11am to 12:30pm
For families. Join us for a walk around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make s'mores. Dress warmly. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$30 per family (up**

to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult.

WINTER WILDLIFE EXPLORERS CAMP
Tuesday, Dec. 26; Wednesday, Dec. 27 & Thursday, Dec. 28; 9:30am to 3:30pm
For children ages 6-10. Campers enjoy stories, crafts, campfires, and forest adventures exploring our wooded wetland forests in wintertime. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$210 per child for all three days or \$85 per child per day.**

OUTDOOR SKILLS FAMILY DAY
Saturday, January 6, 2024; 10am to 1pm
For families. Come together and challenge yourselves in winter outdoor skills. We'll explore animal tracks, plants that make cordage, practice fire skills, make a winter campfire and enjoy our own campfire cooked treats! We'll also collect our perfect wood sticks and

char them into a tool of art magic! Be prepared to do some walking, smell like woodsmoke, make new friends, feel confident in your outdoor skills, and get back to nature. Please dress for the weather and pack a lunch! Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$25 per person.**

MLK DAY: FOREST ANIMALS WINTER SURVIVAL & STEWARDSHIP – ONE DAY CAMP
Monday, January 15, 2024; 9:30am to 3:30pm
For ages 6-10. Campers enjoy stories, crafts, campfires, and forest adventures exploring our wooded wetland forests in wintertime. They also will participate in stewardship activities on our outdoor campus like making wildflower seed balls for the pollinators, removing invasive vines to make winter wreaths, and caring for our bird feeders and bird houses. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$85 per child.**

OWL PELLET DISSECTION

Monday, January 22, 2024;

6-7:30pm

For ages 7-12. Learn about our beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating as we discuss predators and prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$10 per child.**

VALENTINES FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE

Tuesday, February 13, 2024;

6-7:30pm

All ages. Join an ECEC naturalist for a short walk on the trails to experience forest life at night, and make birch bark hearts and necklaces that double as fire-starters. We'll build a campfire and enjoy fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Dress for the weather. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult.**

BUILD-A-BIRD HOUSE

Saturday, February 17, 2024;

10:30am to 12pm

For families. Join us to build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out your bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden this spring. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. **Fee: \$20 per birdhouse (2 people max per birdhouse).**

WINTER CAMPFIRE & S'MORES

Monday, February 26, 2024;

5:30-7pm

For families. Join us for a walk around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make s'mores. Dress warmly. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult.

**ESSEX COUNTY
TURTLE BACK ZOO**

560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973-731-5800 / www.essexcountynj.org/turtlebackzoo

6 The Spirit of **Essex**

Opened in 2005, the Essex County Environmental Center has become the epicenter of environmental education

by providing school children and their families with a unique opportunity to learn about nature and gain an appreciation for conservation in an interactive atmosphere.

The building is handicap accessible via a ramp on the parking lot side of the building to the main entrance. Once inside, there is an information desk on the left. There are exhibits throughout the first floor along with classrooms, a library and gift shop. The main exhibit resembles a small house that offers interactive activities to teach visitors about electricity and energy conservation. There is a ramped doorway into the exhibit. Public restrooms have ADA accessible stalls and sinks. There is a small lip to enter the restrooms.

Behind the Environmental Center is a large deck with a ramp leading down into rustic hiking trails that enter the woods behind the building. The trails lead to the Passaic River and then turn west to loop back around to the other side of the facility where Garibaldi Hall and the boat launch are located. The trail surfaces have wood chips and can be difficult to move on, especially if the weather has been wet. There is also a paved sidewalk that leads from the end of the back deck ramp around the side of the Environmental Center building and takes you back to the parking lot and front of the building.

There are several gardens and another parking lot near Garibaldi Hall and the boat launch. This second parking lot also has an entrance to Eagle Rock Avenue. In addition to the trails that go between this area and the Environmental Center building, there is another Boardwalk Trail, which is made of wooden planks that meets up with Patriot's Path further out into the woods. There is a gravel path that extends from the paved parking area to the beginning of the bridge of the Boardwalk Trail. The section of Patriot's Path that joins Boardwalk Trail is not paved. There is adequate space to turn around at the end of the Boardwalk Trail. This is a sidewalk that stretches between the Environmental Center building and this additional area. However, please be aware that there are plants, shrubs, and trees that may encroach on the width of the sidewalk.

Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

973-731-5800 x236

<https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/>

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Hatchlings: December 10, January 14 & February 11 at 10am

Tots: December 10, January 14 & February 11 at 11:30am

Explorers: December 17, January 21 & February 18 at 10am

TBZ's Early Childhood programs encourage family learning and foster early environmental awareness. We invite young children to discover the natural world through gently structured play, art, stories, animal visits and more. **Age restrictions apply; pre-registration required; zoo admission not included. Hatchlings (12-24 months), Tots (ages 2-3) and**

Explorers (ages 4-5) are \$25-\$30 per participant.

For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/>.

WONDERS OF THE WILD

December 9, January 6 & 20, February 3 & 17; 1-3pm.

Turtle Back Zoo is an amazing classroom! Our Wonders of the Wild program is an opportunity to participate in supplementary science and nature-themed programs and projects that facilitate scientific literacy and life-long environmental stewardship. Each class has an unique theme. Available to students ages 6-12. The programs include a visit to Essex County South Mountain Reservation, the Reservoir or zoo as weather permits; does not include zoo admission for after the program.

\$30/participant. For more information,

COOKIES WITH SANTA

4H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Saturday, December 16; 1-3:30pm

Join the Rutgers 4H Youth Development Program as they welcome families and their pets for Cookies with Santa! Families and their pets will enjoy a sweet treat and refreshments with an opportunity to take a picture with Santa! Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Register at <https://go.rutgers.edu/x6h5b7zi>. Once registered, payments can be sent via Zelle to essex4hleader@gmail.com or checks can be made out to Essex 4-H Leaders Association and mailed to 621-A Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068.



Fee: \$20/per family in advance or \$25/per family at the door. Visits include a photograph, cookies, and hot cocoa.



visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/wonders-of-the-wild/>.

SOPHISTICATED SCIENCE SEMINARS

December 10, January 21 & February 4; 1-3pm

Sophisticated Science Seminars are conservation programs for audiences ages 13 to 103. Seminars run throughout the year and span topics such as animal anatomy, habitats & conservation, animal careers, and more. The programs are perfect for those interested in animals, science, conservation, and nature who want to learn something new in a

relaxed atmosphere. **\$30/participant; includes a visit to the zoo, but not zoo admission for after the program.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/sophisticated-science-seminars/>.

HOMESCHOOL DAYS

Monthly on Wednesdays: December 13, January 17 & February 14; 11am to 1pm

Welcome to the wildest classroom in New Jersey! Our homeschool classes offer students an opportunity to boost scientific literacy and knowledge of the natural world while learning the

The Spirit of Essex is pleased to announce a new feature that will make the digital version of the magazine more accessible to readers with visual impairments.

Beginning with this issue, the digital magazine will now feature Alternative or ALT text. ALT text is a written description of an image used in digital media. People without visual impairments will see ALT text appear if the image fails to load. This technology also helps people with visual impairments who use a reading software to access content written online. With the use of ALT text, when the reading software encounters an image, the software will be able to describe the image in words.

The use of ALT text was recommended by members of the Essex County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Accessibility Advisory Group.

importance of life-long environmental stewardship. Available to students ages 6-12, this drop-off program includes a visit to Essex County South Mountain Reservation, the reservoir or the zoo as weather permits. **\$30/participant per session; zoo admission not included.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/homeschool/>.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE GUARDIANS

Christmas Bird Count: Saturday, December 16 from 8-10am

Winter Birding: Sunday, February 11 from 1pm to 3pm

Nature Guardians is an FNC program focused on community engagement that connects families with local conservation actions and citizen science research, shaping our understanding of the natural world. This season's programs will focus on birds. Programs are rain or shine except when there is severe weather. **\$5-\$15/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club/>.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE ADVENTURERS – themed hikes for the winter season

Footprint Finders: Sunday, January 14 & Sunday, February 25 from 1-3pm

Snow School: Sunday, January 28 from 1-3pm

Nature play is playing WITH nature, not just IN nature and is a great way to interact with nature no matter your experience level or play style. Run, climb, build, dig, or even just sit and experience the sounds, smells, and sights of the outdoors during these themed winter hikes. Nature Adventurers visits different locations near Essex County Turtle Back Zoo; zoo admission is not included. **\$15/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/>.

UPCOMING MINI-CAMPS

Tuesday, December 27 to Thursday, December 29; 9am to 4pm

Monday, January 15; 9am to 4pm

Monday and Tuesday, February 19 & 20; 9am to 4pm

Join us at Turtle Back Zoo for some wild fun! To further our mission

The Spirit of **Essex 7**

of conservation, education, and stewardship, campers will be introduced to the extraordinary world of animals, nature, and science. Children will enjoy age-appropriate camp activities that include games, teacher-led lessons, behind-the-scenes tours, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science demos, and fun crafts. **\$90/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/>.

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, February 24; hour long informational sessions at 11am, 12pm and 1pm

It's never too early to think of summer! Join us for Essex County Turtle Back Zoo's Annual Summer Camp Open House to check out what's new and fun at camp for Summer 2024. On Saturday, February 24 from 11am to 2pm you can meet camp counselors, learn about our science-based curriculum, try a camp activity, and say hello to a few of our camp Animal Ambassadors. Free event; register in advance, day-of walk ups will be welcome. This is not a drop-off program for children; all attendees should register. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/events-calendar/>.

WINTER WORKSHOP
Sunday, December 3 from 11am to 2pm

Wear your favorite winter-inspired outfit and join us to make holiday-themed enrichment items for all our animals! This is a family-friendly event recommended



Behind the scenes at Turtle Back Zoo

for all ages. **Free with zoo admission;** stop by the Mount Building Classroom to participate. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com>.

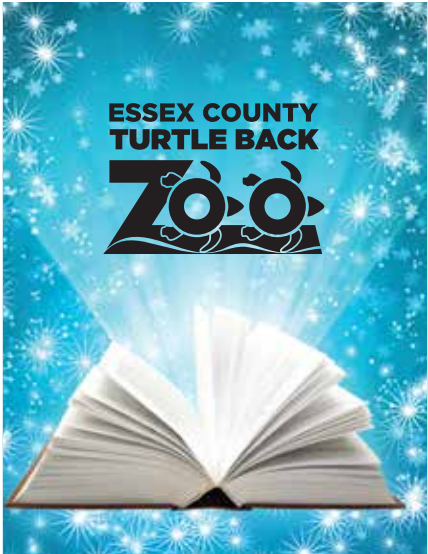
BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS & ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS
Behind the Scenes at Giraffes: Saturdays at 1pm in December through February
Sloth Socials: December 2, January 6 & February 10 at 9am

Join us for a deeper exploration into the care and conservation of our animals! For 6 years old and over only, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All members of the party must have a ticket. Group sizes are strictly limited. No photographs are permitted behind the scenes; all attendees will sign a photo waiver prior to the tour. Attendees may be asked to wear face coverings at some locations. Tour and program guests do not enter exhibits or touch animals. Animal Encounters include bagels and

coffee and an educational presentation. **\$50/participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/behind-the-scenes-tours/>.

OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU

In-person and Virtual Programs, Outreaches, and more
Dates and times scheduled at need
Join us for a dynamic and fun educational program that is focused on animals, conservation, and stewardship. We offer a variety of programs that satisfy many scientific benchmarks while also being engaging and informative. Programs can be adapted to age and ability; many can be adapted for outreaches to your school, senior center, etc. **Fees and restrictions vary per location.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/education-center-programs/>. ■



Storytime

At Turtle Back Zoo

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17; 2pm, 3pm, & 4pm
Thursday, December 21 & Friday, December 22; 6pm
Saturday, December 23; 2pm, 3pm, & 4pm

This is a family-friendly event for families with children ages 8 and younger.
\$10/participant; zoo admission not included.
Visit turtlebackzoo.com for more information.

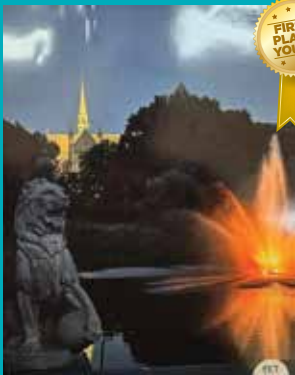
ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

The Essex County Environmental Center and the Essex County Parks Department would like to thank you for your participation in our annual Parks Photography Contest. All contest entries portrayed beautiful images highlighting the wide range of outdoor opportunities and natural splendor found throughout the Essex County Parks System. We received 161 total entries. As you could imagine, it was very challenging for the Essex Photography Club judges to select winners; however, the winners are:

1st Place -Adult
Jason McCormick



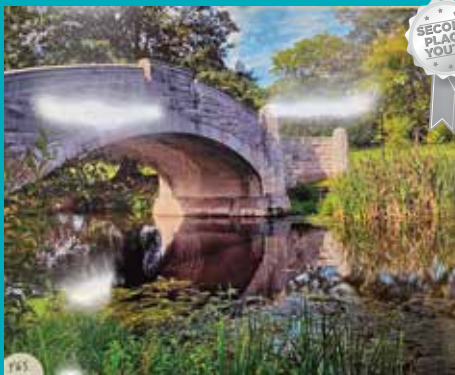
1st Place -Youth
Abdul Darby



2nd Place -Adult
Joan Tabor



2nd Place -Youth
Layla Zevallos



3rd Place -Adult
Neysa Camacho



3rd Place -Youth
Lavarra Hines Jr.



Honorable
Mention -Adult
Gary Wiener



Honorable
Mention -Youth
Dylan Varela



ESSEX COUNTY CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

HEIDI GALLERY at JSDD

310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston
973.272.7148 / HeidiGallery@JSDD.org
Call for ADA accommodations, etc.

The WAE

Open Through December 10

This annual juried exhibit at the Heidi Gallery features the work of artists from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Heidi Gallery is committed to bringing artists and the public together to experience art and art education in a fully inclusive community. The exhibit was juried by Jesse Firestone. Open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4:30pm.

The following events are offered for the public's enjoyment by Essex County-based arts and history organizations.

The Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs takes no responsibility for the content, accuracy, dates or times and whether or not non-County sponsored events listed in this magazine are held as scheduled.

Wonderful Chaos – Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion Exhibit (JDAIM) 2024 February 1-29, 2024

The notion of chaos as a random, disordered, and unpredictable force is directly connected with "discovery." WAE studio work is individual and represents each artists' process. In the void where chaos exists, anything is possible; going to that precipice of creative possibility is the place where one's voice can be found.

LISA PALOMBO STUDIOS

55 Mountain Avenue, Caldwell
973.364.0280 / lisapalombo.com

23rd Annual Holiday Open Studio. December 2 to 3

Essex County artist Lisa Palombo opens her working art studio and gallery to the public to showcase new original art consisting of impressionistic-style paintings and giftables. It is also a great opportunity to meet the artist and learn more about her inspirations, painting process and the joys of art. Children welcome. 11am to 5pm. **Free.** ■

**HOLIDAY
OPEN STUDIO**

LISA PALOMBO STUDIOS

Open Studio at Lisa Palombo Studios

Celebrate the Splendor of the Season!



Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour

Saturday, December 2 & Sunday, December 3, 2023

Times vary by location

Visit essexcountyparks.org for participating locations



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
and the Board of
County Commissioners



**COUNTY OF ESSEX DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
155 Prospect Avenue, Suite 100
West Orange, NJ 07052
973.268.3500 / www.essexcountynj.org
PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST

ESSEX COUNTY WINTER EVENTS

December 3 and 8: Rutgers-Newark Chorus Winter Concert: The Road Home.

The Rutgers University-Newark Chorus and conductor Dr. Brian Harlow present their annual Winter Concert on Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 520 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Newark, and Friday, December 8 at 7:30pm at Christ Church in Short Hills, 66 Highland Avenue, Short Hills. The concerts, titled The Road Home, will feature choral music from the Renaissance to the present day and feature songs from several continents celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the winter season. Free admission; donations accepted at the door. 973.353.5194.

December 10: Artist Talk and Closing Reception of The WAE Open – 2023.

Artists gather to discuss their work, their process and answer the questions of audience members. Heidi Gallery at JSDD, Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 2-4pm. Free and open to the public. HeidiGallery@JSDD.org

December 17: Handel's Messiah.

The New Jersey Symphony performs this great holiday tradition! Nicholas McGegan will conduct Handel's incomparable classic Messiah. Joining McGegan and the musicians will be the talented singers of Montclair State University, who will delight audiences as they sing the glorious "Hallelujah Chorus." Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 89 Ridge Street, Newark. 7-9pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>.

January 26-28 and February 2-4: The Strollers Present: "Around the World in 8 Tails." Join Jigsaw the Flying Guinea Pig as he presents a collection of animal fables from around the world! The Burgdorff Center for the Performing Arts, 10 Durand Road, Maplewood. January

26 and February 2 at 7pm; January 27, 28 and February 3 and 4 at 1pm and 3:30 pm. 973.761.8453. <http://www.thestrollers.org>.

January 14: Beethoven's Violin Concerto with Augustin Hadelich.

When Augustin Hadelich performs, time stands still. He makes a classic like Beethoven's serenely beautiful Violin Concerto sound as if it was written yesterday, just for him. DBR's provocative i am a white person who _____ Black people opens the concert with a blend of tender and edgy energy. And the NJ Symphony's bells and chimes peal in the final pages of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition to stamp the concert in joy. New Jersey Performing Arts Center. 1 Center Street, Newark. 3-5pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>.

January 18 and 20: The American Dream.

Our nation's music is a kaleidoscope that always turns to the new. Leonard Bernstein captured the energy and audacity of New York in his 1944 musical On the Town, and made waves with a racially diverse cast; and his West Side Story put the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet on Manhattan fire escapes and sidewalks. We Came to America is a musical journey of the immigrant experience, composed by Rob Kapilow from crowd-sourced stories into which he crafted melodies. Meanwhile, William Grant Still's Darker America focuses on people who came to America by force, not choice. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. January 18 at 1:30pm; January 20 at 8pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>.

February 1: Opening Reception for Wonderful Chaos-Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM) 2024.

The notion of chaos as a random, disordered, and unpredictable force is directly connected with "discovery." WAE studio work is individual and represents each artists' process. In the void where chaos exists, anything is possible... going to that precipice of creative possibility is the place where one's voice can be found. Heidi Gallery at JSDD, 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 6-8pm. Free and open to the public. HeidiGallery@JSDD.

February 3: 2024 Lunar New Year Celebration. Join us for this evening of community and cultural exchange that is wonderful for families and children as we celebrate the Year of the Dragon. New Jersey Symphony Music Director Xian Zhang ignited the first Lunar New Year Celebration six years ago, and this festive tradition continues with conductor Yue Bao and pianist Tony Siqi Yun. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>.

February 17: Respect: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin.

A tribute to the Queen of Soul, this program features New Jersey Symphony favorite Capathia Jenkins and three-time Grammy Award-nominee Ryan Shaw performing such iconic hits as "Respect," "Think," "A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools," "Amazing Grace" and many others. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 8pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>.

February 22 and 23: Vivaldi's The Four Seasons.

The spotlight shines on New Jersey Symphony musicians! Reena Esmail's wildly colorful overture RE|Member came to life during the pandemic and celebrates the regathering of musicians, and (spoiler!) has a fun bit of stage wizardry for oboe. The singing oboe of principal Robert Ingliss takes pride of place in Strauss' Oboe Concerto, written in the hopeful weeks after WWII. And Concertmaster Eric Wyrick will spark springtime hope in every heart from the first notes of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. February 22 at 1:30pm. February 23 at 8pm. Tickets start at \$25. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

February 25: Variety Show & Cafe, WAE Center at JSDD-JDAIM 2024.

In honor of Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month, facilitators and members have prepared a fun event to showcase the passions and talents of the performing artists of the WAE Center at JSDD, Heidi Gallery, 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 2pm to 4pm. Free and open to the public. HeidiGallery@JSDD. ■

ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

89 Ridge Street, Newark
973.484.2400
www.cathedralbasilica.org

Concert Series

December 7: Navidad Latina.

The Cathedral Spanish Choir, under the direction of Olfary Gutiérrez, joins forces with singers and instrumentalists from other Latin American communities of the Archdiocese of Newark. Program includes Villancicos Tradicionales of Latin America and Spain. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

December 13 and 14: The Fifty-second Candlelight Carol Sing.

A Christmas tradition for 50-plus years, the Carol Sing has become one of the most significant Christmas concerts in Northern New Jersey. The ambiance of candlelight and season décor, along with thousands of participants, combine to create an event that must be experienced featuring the Cathedral Choir, organ and Brass Ensemble. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

December 17: "Messiah" with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Montclair State University Singers.

7pm. Doors open at 6pm. For tickets, call 1.800.ALLEGRO.

Essex County Photo Club

Caldwell United Methodist Church
8 Academy Road, Caldwell

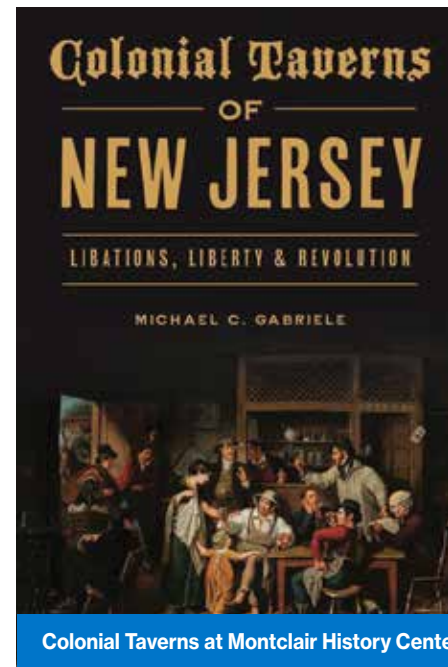
Programs-all at 7:30pm via Zoom

Monday, December 11: "Street Photography"

presented by Lynn Morton

Thursday, January 4: "Zoo Photography"

presented by John Scalera



Colonial Taverns at Montclair History Center

Thursday, February 1: "My Experience Working with Gregory Crewdson"

presented by Christian Badach

Monday, February 26: "Creating Personal Work"

presented by Chuck Kimmerle

Monday, March 25: "Lightroom Workshop"

presented by Joe Reardon

Club Competitions at 7:30pm

***Thursday, December 21: Club Competition of Light and Shadows Projected Images.**

Judged by EPC membership.



"Winter Wonderland" Open House at the Crane House & Historic YWCA

****Thursday, January 18: Club Competition.**

Judged by Arik Goban.

****Thursday, February 15: Club Competition.**

Judged by Richard Kent.

****Thursday March 21:**

Club Competition. Judged by Phil West.

*IN PERSON: Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell.

**ZOOM: Contact Catherine Kuzik-Fernandez at 862-485-7474 for zoom access.

MONTCLAIR HISTORY CENTER

108 Orange Road, Montclair
973.744.1796 / www.montclairhistory.org

Every Sunday: Self-Guided Tour

Sundays. The Crane House & Historic YWCA will be open for self-guided house tours. This is a great opportunity to learn about the women of this Historic YWCA and the Crane family at your own pace. Take some time to peruse the gardens and meadow on site and see what treasures can be found as you check in at the Nathaniel Crane House & Visitor Center. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12-3pm. Admission prices vary.

December 2 and 3: Essex County Holiday House Tours at Montclair History Center. Be among the first to



Guided House Tour – Eyewitness to Black History

see this year's decorations as one of the Essex County Holiday House Tour sites. See the beautiful period decorations by the Garden Club of Montclair. Self-guided tours let you explore this 226-year-old home at your leisure. Warm yourself in the hearth and learn about holiday food traditions. Stop in to the Nathaniel Crane House for unique holiday gifts! Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12-3pm. Donations welcome.

December 7: Candlelight Tour.

A fun evening that begins with period libations in the historic hearth kitchen and continues with a tour of the Crane House & Historic YWCA. See the period holiday decorations artfully designed by the Garden Club of Montclair as staff leads special candlelight tours that tell the history of our holidays from the 1700s to the 20th century. Recommended for visitors ages 10 and up due to Santa Spoilers! Maximum of 15 guests. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 6-7:30pm. Tour starts at 6:30pm. \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members.

December 10 and 17: "Winter Wonderland" Open House. Visit us today to see the beautiful period decorations by Garden Club of Montclair. Self-guided tours let you explore this 226-year-old home at your leisure. Warm yourself in the hearth and learn about holiday food traditions. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12-3pm. Donations welcome.

January 18: History at Home: Colonial Taverns of New Jersey. Author Michael C. Gabriele will discuss how taverns housed the daily experiences of people during the colonial era, and how these stories provide a window into the state's history from that period. A haven for Patriots and Loyalists alike, taverns were the "seedbeds" for the revolution, strongholds for political activities, beacons for travelers, and venues for entertainment, merriment, and libations. Virtual – Zoom. 7pm. Free.



Self-Guided Tour Sundays at The Crane House & Historic YWCA

February 1: History at Home: Friends of the Howe House. James Howe was the first African American in Montclair to own a home. Previously enslaved to the Crane family of Montclair in the early 1800s, Howe was manumitted and willed \$400 and 6 acres of land including the home that still stands at 369 Claremont Avenue. In the summer of 2022, Friends of the Howe House was formed to save and preserve this historic home. The historians of FOHH will share how we uncovered clues that helped us discover the history of the Howe family. Virtual – Zoom. 7pm.

February 18: Guided House Tour – Eyewitness to Black History. Explore 200 years of Black history in Montclair and New Jersey through rare first-hand accounts, primary and secondary source documents at the Crane House & Historic YWCA. Crane House & Historic YWCA, 110 Orange Road, Montclair. 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm. Admission prices vary.

Coming this February – Price of Liberty Film Series. The Price of Liberty film and discussion series will continue in 2024. Please see our website for more film descriptions and details to come. ■

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PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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more events!



Independent Voices SENATOR CLAIRE McCASKILL

Culture vs. Pocketbook:
What issues will drive the 2024 Election?

THU, DEC 7 AT 7:30PM

Sponsored by The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation



**CHRISTMAS
WITH THE
CELTS**
SUN, DEC 10
AT 7:30PM



**NEFESH
MOUNTAIN**
FRI, DEC 15
AT 8PM



**SO JEWISH
COMEDY NIGHT**
A Night with
Judy Gold & Liz Glazer
SAT, DEC 16
AT 8PM



**A HOLIDAY
GOSPEL
CONCERT**
Featuring Broadway
Inspirational Voices
THU, DEC 21
AT 8PM



**THE ROY
HARGROVE
BIG BAND**
THU, JAN 18
AT 7:30PM



**THE BRIT
PACK**
FRI, JAN 19
AT 8PM

Get Your Tickets Today! SOPACnow.org / (973) 313-2787



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Recreation & Cultural Affairs**
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Concerts at NJPAC in Newark

**Beethoven's
Violin Concerto**
Augustin Hadelich violin
Jan 14

**Vivaldi's
The Four Seasons**
Eric Wyrick violin
Feb 22-23

**The American
Dream**
Xian Zhang conductor
Jan 18 & 20

**Respect: A Tribute
to Aretha Franklin**
Capathia Jenkins &
Ryan Shaw vocals
Feb 17

**2024 Lunar
New Year
Celebration**
Tony Siqi Yun piano
Feb 3

**Xian Conducts
Carmina Burana**
Xian Zhang conductor
Mar 1 & 3

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) | njsymphony.org



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