



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



Daniel K. SalvanteDirector of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

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PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST



A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

In July, we were pleased to reopen Essex County Weequahic Golf Course in Newark after completing a major renovation. While we updated Hendricks Field and Francis Byrne in previous years, the facelift we gave Weequachic was more special. Weequahic has the distinction of being the first public golf course created in New Jersey and has a history of making the game of golf available to enthusiasts of all races, nationalities and skill levels. The improvements we made will enable us to continue this legacy and provide championship-caliber playing conditions for our golfers.

I also invite you to check out your local park and experience the fall-themed activities we have planned. Dress up the dog members of your family and participate in one of our Strut Your Mutt Parades and Costume Contests in Branch Brook, Brookdale or Grover Cleveland Parks, witness the carved jack-o-lanterns at Gardens Aglow in the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens or welcome the new season at our Fall Family Festival at the Environmental Center! The fall season is a fantastic time to discover all that our Parks System offers.

Together we will continue Putting Essex County First!

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. Essex County Executive





Daniel K. Salvante Director of Parks, Recreation and

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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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.

Cover photo credit: Zachary Ebel Interior Golf photos credit: Jeff Stiefbold



Essex County Weequahic Golf Course Reopens After Major Renovation

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. recently celebrated the reopening of the historic Essex County Weequahic Golf Course in Newark following a \$9.5 million renovation. The extensive project modernized the course while preserving its rich history, ensuring it remains a destination for golfers of all skill levels.

"Weequahic Golf Course has the distinction of being the first public course in New Jersey and has been providing access to the game for all golfers regardless of race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status. The improvements we made will help Weequahic continue to carry out its legacy and keep it as a vibrant recreation attraction for generations to come," DiVincenzo said.

Renovations included new drainage and irrigation systems, redesigned tees, greens, and bunkers, and an updated routing that enhances both safety and playability. The improvements eliminated blind spots, restored historic features, and created buffers to protect players from errant shots. Dead and decaying trees were removed, cart paths repaired, and course conditions upgraded to championship caliber.

Nestled in scenic Weequahic Park alongside a 200-acre lake, the par-70 course offers rolling terrain, elevation changes, and narrow fairways that challenge golfers to use every club in their bag. With views of One World Trade Center and the landmark Anheuser-Busch building, the course blends natural beauty with urban charm.

Originally designed in 1913 as a nine-hole course by George Lowe and opened in 1914, Weequahic is New Jersey's first public golf course. The back nine holes, which opened in 1969, were designed by distinguished golf course architect Hal Purdy, making Weequahic a charming and challenging par 70, 18-hole facility.

From beginners to seasoned players, Weequahic continues its legacy of accessibility and excellence, welcoming golfers to enjoy an enhanced experience for generations to come.

Similar improvement projects were undertaken at Essex County Hendricks Field Golf Course in Belleville in 2021 and Essex County Francis Byrne Golf Course in West Orange in 2023. ■







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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

www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

Saturday, September 13:

RWJBarnabas Health Cardiac & Concussion Screening at Codey Arena (Rear Lobby). Join RWJBarnabas Health and the Morahan Health Assessment Center for Athletes from 8am to 1pm for free cardiac screenings for ages 6 and up and free concussion screenings ages 5 and up.

Tuesday, September 30: Senior Wellness Day at Codey Arena, 10am to 2pm, Free Admission.



Environmental Center

Saturday, October 11 & Sunday; October 12; NJ Dare Devils Frankenfest Hockey Tournament, 8am to 5pm.

Saturday, November 15: Synchronized Skating Competition, 8am to 5pm.

Friday, November 14 to Sunday, **November 16:** New Jersev Youth Hockey League Championships

Learn to Skate Group Lessons -

Fall classes are from early September through the end of October

Ages: 31/2 to adult. Classes offered on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Snow Plow (Ages 3½ to 6)

Basic 1-6 Freestyle

Therapeutic Skating/Special Olympics

Public Skate Sessions Ages: 3½ to adult

Sessions start Friday, September 6 and are on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays Adults - \$10; children 16 & under -\$8; seniors - \$8; skate rentals - \$5

Adult / Senior Skate Sessions Ages: 35 and older

Sessions start Tuesday, September 3 and are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:45am to 12:15pm

Birthday Parties

Reserve a party room to celebrate your child's birthday on the ice

\$125 - 3-hour party room

Parties are held during public session skates or private ice sessions. Group admission discount rates for 15+ skaters.

Essex County Department of Parks and Recreation

& Rose Squared Art Shows Present

42 Annual Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Anderson Park

288 Bellevue Ave, UpperMontclair | Saturday, Sept. 20 & Sunday, Sept. 21







27 Annual Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Brookdale Park

473 Watchung Ave, Bloomfield/Montclair | Saturday, Oct. 18 & Sunday, Oct. 19

For info, directions, a gallery of participating artists and unique artisanal food visit rosesquared.com

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland 973-228-8776

www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

Pre-registration and payment are required either in person, by mail or online for all programs.

PLEASE NOTE: ECEC will be operating on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule and will be CLOSED MONDAYS from October 20, 2025, through March 9, 2026. A Monday through Friday schedule will resume on March 16, 2026.

ORGANIZED GROUP BOOKINGS (Institutions, Scouts, Municipal **Recreation Programs,** Homeschoolers, Etc.)

All ages. Maximum of 20 participants including group leaders/chaperones. Program length is 1.5 hours. Choose from a variety of topics offered by the Essex County Environmental Center, Inquire by calling the center. Minimum of 10 person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee applied). Fee: \$12 per participant (including leaders/ chaperones)

SMALL GROUPS/PODS & FAMILIES

All ages. Autumn topic selections include: Seasonal Nature Adventure. Lenape Village Tours, Backyard Birding, Wild Edibles, Frog Pond Science, Swamp Tromp/Wetland Biodiversity, *Fire Making and Hot Chocolate, *Camping 101. One group at a time with a limit of 10 people. Schedule your 45-minute time slot by calling the center. Fee: \$12 child, \$15 adult. *Where noted, additional fees apply.

LITTLE EXPLORERS Fridays—September 12, 19; **October 10, 24; November 7, 21;**

December 12, 19 For ages 2 to 5; 3pm to 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. This is not a drop-off class; adults must accompany children. This is an 8-class session series; must sign up for the entire series. Fee: \$150 per session series

GARDEN DISCOVERY CLUB Tuesday, September 9; 4-5pm

For ages 5 and up. Together we'll grow food in our garden plot and learn about everything from soil to seeds along the way. Participants will get hands-on experience with planting, harvesting and cooking. Session themes include soil and composting, seed planting and labeling, thinning, weeding and watering, selective harvest, garden pests, healthy eating and more! This is a drop-off and pick-up class (children only). Fee: \$15 per child per session

FROG POND CLUB Wednesdays, September 17, October 15. November 12: 4-5pm For children ages 5 through 9.

Uncover and discover ecosystem interactions at the frog pond. Explore with nets, magnifiers, and microscopes to investigate what lives at the pond and learn from a naturalist what can be done to protect and conserve the pond inhabitants. This is an 3-class session series; must sign up for the entire series.

Fee: \$45 per session series

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB Thursdays, September 18, October 16. November 13. December 18; 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. This is an 4-class session series; must sign up for the entire series. Fee: \$60 per session series

ESSEX COUNTY PARKS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 10

All ages. Grab a camera and visit an Essex County Park! Anyone with a camera is invited and encouraged to submit photos that capture a part of your visit to the County Parks System. For rules and regulations, please contact the Essex County Environmental Center.

EVENING CANOE PADDLE ON THE PASSAIC

Tuesday, September 16; 5:30-7:30pm

For adults and children ages **10 and older.** Take a leisurely paddle on the Passaic River! Paddlers will enjoy scenery and peacefulness as they paddle up the river and float downstream. Geared for beginners and children 10 and up accompanied by a parent or guardian. Meet in the Garibaldi Hall parking lot.

Fee: \$30 per person

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL **EVENT: SHRUB SALE, PRUNING WORKSHOP & NATURE WALK** Saturday, September 20; 10am to 1pm

For all ages. Sponsored by the Native Plant Society and the Essex County Environmental Commission. A variety of native shrubs will be on sale to attract birds and butterflies to your yard. Free pruning workshop at 10:30-11:30 and guided nature walk at noon. No registration necessary; walk-ins are welcome. Meet at Garibaldi Hall. Free event; plants will be for sale.

20th ANNUAL FALL **FAMILY FESTIVAL** Sunday, September 21; 11am to 3pm (Rain date Sept. 28)

For all ages. Come celebrate the Autumnal Equinox at the Environmental Center! There will be fun-filled activities for the entire family to enjoy, including handson nature games and crafts, naturalistled walks, live butterflies, live animals. canoeing, Native American life, a pumpkin patch, petting zoo, food, and more. FREE **EVENT**; some items may be for sale.

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY FAMILY FIELD TRIP Thursday, September 25; 4:45-6:45pm

For families with young children ages 4 and up. Meet at the end of Locust Avenue in Roseland and hike 1-mile total to explore this National Historic Landmark that is home to three-toed Grallator dinosaur tracks from the late

Triassic age. Using clay, we'll make and take an impression of an existing track and leave the site undisturbed for future paleontological study. Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www. essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

Fee: \$15 per person

FROG POND ADVENTURE **OUTDOOR CLASS**

Thursday, October 9; 5:30-7pm For families. This rrribbettting program will take an up-close look at our pond ecosystem. Search out and identify the life found in the pond through magnifying glasses, microscopes, and field guides.

BATS OF NEW JERSEY Thursday, October 14; 5:30-7pm For children in grades 1 through 5.

Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult

Ever wonder what kind of local bats are catching bugs in your backyard? Or where they sleep? Learn from a bat enthusiast about our upside-down friends, play the role of a bat biologist in a simulated study and take-home plans to build a bat house!

Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult

PUTTING YOUR GARDEN TO BED Saturday, October 18; 10:30am to 12pm

For adults. Join Claudia Urdanivia, Urban Agriculture Agent for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex and Hudson Counties. to learn about putting your garden to rest for the winter. We will review best practices and a calendar of activities to prepare for the next season. For beginner and all garden levels. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. Fee: \$15 per person

SMORES n' MORE NIGHT HIKE Friday, October 24; 5:30-7pm

For families. Come out to build a campfire and practice fundamental fire skills in a safe and controlled environment. Once we get our fire burning, we'll roast marshmallows and make S'mores. Fee: \$15 per person

FISHING 101 Saturday, October 25; 10-11:30am

For families. We'll begin with an introduction to freshwater fishing and learn to target specific fish species, fishing equipment, knots, bait selection and technique. Participants will make

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FOREST FRIENDS CAMP

Thursday, November 6 9:30am to 3:30pm For ages 6 to 10 years.

Learn about New Jersey's forest friends by way of exploration, games and craft activities with a naturalist educator as your guide. Come dressed for the weather

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online. Fee: \$110 per camper

their own "Altoids Tin Fishing Tackle Kit" to take home. Basic equipment will be provided but participants are welcome to bring their own. Meet at the waterfront area in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex, West Orange, near the Clipper Pavilion and boat rental. **Fee:** \$15 per person

LENAPE LIFE

Saturday, October 25; 10-11:30am For families. Visit our Lenape Learning Area to better understand how they hunted, fished, foraged, and farmed using sticks, stones and bones. Make a clay pot and explore topics such as fire-friction, plant identification, games, clothing, and

HEMLOCK FALLS HIKE Saturday, October 25; 2-4pm For families with young children

more. Fee: \$15 per person

ages 4 and up. Join an Environmental Center naturalist for a guided hike beginning at Tulip Springs in Essex County South Mountain Reservation. We'll decorate our own walking sticks before entering the Lenape Trail and walking through the great pine grove. Then we cross the bridge and continue through the forest discovering pigment and paint from stones and other natural wonders on the way to Hemlock Falls! Pack a snack and bring water. Meet Up Location to be confirmed upon registration. Fee: \$12 per child and \$15 per adult

TODDLER SEASONAL SENSORY HIKE

November 15 (Nature Wreaths) & November 22 (Wild Turkeys);

For children ages 1 to 5 with caregiver supervision. Bring your toddlers for a seasonal sensory exploration outside with an ECEC staff naturalist. Visit the forest trails, frog pond, Passaic River and more. Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult

BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER VOLUNTEER

Saturday, November 1; 3-4:30pm For ages 13 and older. Do you have an interest in the environment and/ or education and want to get more involved? Join center staff for an information and training session to find opportunities that fit your skills, interests and schedule. Needs include program support, gardening, outdoor stewardship projects and much more! **FREE**

MOBILE APPS FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE! Saturday, November 8; 10:30am to 12noon

For individuals and families. This program teaches participants how to use free smartphone applications such as Merlin. Seek and iNaturalist to submit data and contribute to worldwide citizen science projects. By recording and identifying what we've seen, we'll help biologists keep track of what's happening and better protect our local biodiversity. Becoming a citizen scientist can be as easy as using the phone in your hand!



"Our Strut Your Mutt Canine Halloween Costume Contests have become a popular event for dog owners to show off their creative talents, celebrate their pets and share a happy event with other dog owners. Whether or not you have a dog, come join us, or pick your favorites and enjoy the parade."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.,

Essex County Executive and the Board of County Commissioners





Free Entry! Prizes will be awarded!

Saturday, October 18 **Essex County Branch Brook Park**

West Drive near Heller Parkway Registration: 9:30am • Parade: 10am Rain Date: Sunday, October 19



Saturday, October 25 **Essex County Brookdale Dog Park**

Grove Street Entrance

Registration: 9am • Parade: 9:30am Rain Date: Sunday, October 26



Saturday, October 25 Essex County Grover Cleveland Park Near Pond House

Registration: 1pm • Parade: 1:30pm Rain Date: Sunday, October 26





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

Saturdays, November 1 (Bats), Fee: \$12 per child, \$15 per adult



JOSEPH N. DIVINCENZO, JR. ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE

AND THE

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

S VEW JERSEY

Invite You To Join Us For

ESSEX REMEMBERS

~ A Solemn Ceremony Commemorating the 24^{th} Anniversary of the 9/11 Tragedy ~



DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

TIME: 8 A.M.

PLACE: ESSEX COUNTY EAGLE ROCK RESERVATION

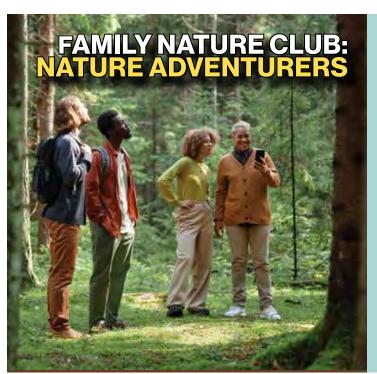
ESSEX COUNTY EAGLE ROCK 9/11 MEMORIAL

EAGLE ROCK AVENUE, WEST ORANGE, NJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 973-621-4400

THE CEREMONY WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON <u>WWW.ESSEXCOUNTYNJ.ORG</u> AND FACEBOOK @ ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOSEPH N. DIVINCENZO, JR.

Putting Essex County First



Nature Painting and Poetry: Sunday, September 7 from 9-11am. Meet outside the Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

Habitat Hike: Sunday, October 5 from 9-11am. Meet at the South Mountain Dog Park statue at Bear Lane, Milburn

Footprint Finders: Sunday, November 2 from 1-3pm. Meet outside the Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

National Take a Hike Day: Sunday, November 16 from 1-3pm. Meet outside the Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

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. Nature Adventurers visits different locations near Essex County Turtle Back Zoo; zoo admission not included. \$15/participant. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/

PROJECT WET – CLIMATE WATER AND RESILIENCE WORKSHOP Saturday, November 15; 3-5pm

For adults. Join Toni Heater from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for this workshop that helps educators teach middle and high school students about climate and climate change using interactive, objective, science-based activities that students will enjoy. Understanding climate, and specifically the way that climate is changing, is crucial to making informed decisions and building community and environmental resilience. Fee: \$15 per person

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING Saturday, November 15; 11am to 1pm

For ages 15 and older. Welcome your friends and family for the holidays with a beautiful holiday wreath! Together we'll use evergreen boughs and other materials to create a seasonal work of art! All materials including hot chocolate and tea are included for this hands-on workshop. Fee: \$30 per person

OUTDOOR SKILLS FAMILY DAY Saturday, November 22; 10am to 1pm

For families. Come together and challenge yourselves in outdoor skills. We'll explore animal tracks, plants that make cordage, practice fire skills, make a campfire and enjoy our own campfire cooked treats! 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! **Fee: \$25 per person**

ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange 973-731-5800 www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar

Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

973-731-5800 x236 https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS Hatchlings: September 7, October 5, November 16 at 10am Tots: September 7, October 5, November 16 at 11:30am Explorers: September 14, October 19, November 23 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. https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/

WONDERS OF THE WILD Aussie Animals: Saturday, September 13 from 1-3pm Amazing Asian Animals: Saturday, October 4 from 1-3pm African Animals: Saturday, November 15 from 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. Available to students ages 6-12. The programs include a visit to the South Mountain Reservation, Reservoir or Zoo as weather permits; does not include zoo admission for after the program. \$30/participant. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/wonders-of-the-wild/

SOPHISTICATED SCIENCE SEMINARS

Tipping the Scales on Scales (Snakes!):
Saturday, September 13 from 1-3pm
Biology, Evolution and Adaptions:
Sunday, September 28 from 1-3pm
Forest Forensics: Sunday, October 19
from 1-3pm

Zoo Conservation and Stewardship: Sunday, November 9 from 1-3pm Tipping the Scales on Scales (Snakes!): Saturday, November 8 from 1-3pm

Sophisticated Science Seminars are conservation programs for audiences ages

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13 to 103. Seminars run throughout the year and span topics such as animal anatomy, habitats and 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 into the zoo, but not zoo admission for after the program. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/ sophisticated-science-seminars/

HOMESCHOOL DAYS Life in the Air: Wednesday, September 17 from 11am to 1pm Under the Sea: Wednesday, October 22 from 11am to 1pm Crazy Camouflage: Wednesday, November 19 from 11am to 1pm

Welcome to the wildest classroom in NJ! Our homeschool classes offer students an opportunity to boost scientific literacy and knowledge of the natural world while learning the importance of life-long environmental stewardship. Available to students ages 6-12, this drop-off program includes a visit to South Mountain Reservation, reservoir or zoo as weather permits; be prepared to go outside. \$30/participant per session; zoo admission not included. Guardians will need a valid photo ID for pick-up. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/homeschool/

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE GUARDIANS Searching for Salamanders: Sunday, September 14 from 9-11am.

Meet at the Orange Reservoir entrance, across from the main entrance at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

World Migratory Bird Day: Sunday, October 12 from 9-11am. Meet outside the Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

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 building your birding skills and a brandnew salamander research project at Turtle Back Zoo. **\$5-\$15/participant**. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club/

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS FOR EDUCATORS Animal Habitats for grades 6-12 Teachers: Thursday, October 16 from 9am to 3pm Animal Habitats for grades K-5 Teachers: Thursday, October 23 from

Join experienced TBZ educators for NGSS aligned professional development programs leveraging the resources of Turtle Back Zoo. Each session will cover the relevant scientific background, provide advice and materials for classroom implementation, and include a special animal encounter and time in the zoo. **\$200/participant.** For more information, please email mhunt@parks.



Come trick-or-treating at the Zoo!

essexcountynj.org.

9am to 3pm

With candy stations throughout the grounds, everyone is sure to have a sweet time.

Friday, October 31 from 4pm to 8pm Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

\$3 admission for current Zoological Society Members; \$5 general admission.

All attendees must purchase a ticket; walk-up tickets will be available. This is a family-friendly event; bring your own reusable candy bag. Note: the zoo closes at 2pm on October 31 in preparation for the event. For tickets and more information, go to turtlebackzoo.com.



SPOOKY STORYTIME

ADD ON TO YOUR SAFE HOWL-O-WEEN EXPERIENCE

Friday, October 31: timed sessions at 4:15pm, 5:15pm, 6:15pm & 7:15pm

Wear your favorite Halloween costume, enjoy a spooky story read by a not-too-scary costumed character, play a game, and take home a creepy craft. This is a family-friendly event recommended for families with children ages 8 and younger; pre-register only.

\$8/participant; not included with Howl-O-Ween admission. Be sure to choose the "Safe Howl-O-Ween with Spooky Storytime" option when purchasing your tickets; limited quantities available. https://turtlebackzoo.com/





ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS & BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

Animal Encounters
Sloth Social: Saturdays, September
13 & November 15 from 10-11am
Prairie Dogs and Pastries: Sunday,
October 19 from 10-11am

Behind the Scenes Tours
Reptile House or Island Giants
(TBD on the day of) on Sundays in
September at 2:30pm
Australia Barn on Sundays in
October at 2:30pm
Animal Wellness Center on
Saturdays in November at 2pm

Join us for a deeper exploration into the care and conservation of our animals! For 6 year olds 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 or pastries, coffee and juice, and an educational presentation. \$50/participant. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/behind-the-scenes-tours/

WINTER WORKSHOP Sunday, November 30 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 for all ages. **Free with zoo admission.** Stop by the Mount Building Classroom to participate. https://turtlebackzoo.com

POP-UP EVENTS AT TBZ Saturday, September 6:

Vulture Awareness Day

Sunday, September 7:

Threatened Species Day

Saturday, September 20:

Red Panda Day

Saturday, October 11:

World Migratory Bird Day AND African Penguin Awareness Day

Saturday, October 18:

National Vet Tech Week and International Sloth Day (held at new Animal Wellness Center)

Sunday, October 26:

International Gibbon Day

Saturday, November 1:

Celebrating All Invertebrates in honor of Stick Insect Day

Sunday, November 16:

International Day of Zoo and Aquarium Educators

Join us at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo as we celebrate all things wild! Pop-ups are informal education stations in the zoo that focus on a particular animal, habitat, or conservation issue, and provide some take-away skills that you and your family can use to be better global stewards. **All events are free with zoo admission;** weather permitting. https://turtlebackzoo.com/

OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU In-person and virtual programs,

outreaches, and more
Dates and times are scheduled as
needed

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/



Essex County Riker Hill Art Park is a

former United States Army Nike Missile Base in Livingston. NJ that was transformed into an art park in 1974. Over thirty artists work in the park, their studios perched high atop the mountain, with breathtaking scenic views. Artists-in-residence work in various disciplines such as painting, fine metal jewelry, ceramics, pottery, glass-blowing, printmaking, photography, weaving, fiber arts, mixed media, and sculpture.

Essex County Riker Hill Art Park 284 Beaufort Avenue, Livingston New Jersey, 07039





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 CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

HEIDI GALLERY at JSDD

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

WAE to Evolve - Retrospective of 20 Years of Creative Exploration **August 17 to September 21**

This exhibit represents the work of WAE Studio artists throughout the past 20 years. The work represented includes acrylic, fiber arts, digital art, photography, mixed media in addition to more traditional materials. Evolution is inevitable and expansive and requires an open mind to methods, ideas and possibilities that we can't vet imagine. Picture Tapping Workshop, Sunday, September 14, 2pm to 4pm. RSVP Required. Closing Reception & Artist Walk & Talk, Sunday, September 28, 2pm to 4pm

The WAE Open - 2025 October 9 to December 7

Heidi Gallery at JSDD is proud to announce the annual juried exhibition, The WAE Open - 2025. The gallery is committed to showcasing the highest quality visual art created by established, emerging, and underrepresented artists. This years' exhibit features 46 pieces of work in a wide variety of mediums. Established in 2021 as a key component of the state-of-the-art facility of JSDD, Heidi Gallery is focused on bringing artists and the public together to experience art and arts education while fostering a fully inclusive community.

Synesthesia and Sound **Performance** Sunday October 26, 2-4pm

A neurological phenomenon where the stimulation of one sense triggers an involuntary experience in another sense. Musicians Porl Gordon and Jen Rondeau perform original and improvised soundscapes on keyboard and theremin while artist Helena Chywski paints in response. RSVP required.

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.



Heidi Gallery at JSDD

STUDIO MONTCLAIR LEACH **GALLERY**

641 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair 862.500.1447 https://www.studiomontclair.org

Things We Carry: A Contemporary **Asian Experience** September 19 to October 24

Stories of immigration often incorporate the idea of worn baggage, as in, what has been brought over and ingrained into one's sense of home. This exhibition seeks works from artists responding to the multitudes that Asians/Asian-Americans carry, represent and experience as a modern collective. Artists' works reflect on one's deep appreciation for tradition while also

affirming one's sense of belonging and place. Opening reception is Friday, September 19 from 6-8pm.

Not Just Set In Stone November 14 to December 12

For so many, the picture in one's mind when asked what a sculpture looks like is a monumental slab of carved stone - a figure, a geometric form, an object. But sculpture can be created from so many other materials and combinations of materials. "Not Just Set in Stone" explores the myriad materials beyond stone. Opening reception is Friday, November 14 from 6-8pm at SMI's Leach Gallery. Independent curator Mary Birmingham juried the exhibit.



'The County of Essex is proud to showcase the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens during the autumn season. Come out and see the beds of fall-blooming irises surrounded by artistically decorated jack-o-lanterns."



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

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

Invite You to

GARDENS AGLOW



Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens 474 Upper Mountain Ave., Montclair

Friday, October 17, 2025 6pm to 9pm

Rain Date: Saturday, October 18

The free event includes a display of carved botanic, floral, and Halloween-themed pumpkins created by local high school students throughout Essex County. The jack-o'-lanterns will be lit with candles and displayed near the flower beds. Seasonal refreshments, entertainment and activities will be available.



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 AUTUMN EVENTS

September 13: Second Saturday **Family Adventures: Bug Exploration.**

This family program will dive into the fascinating world of bugs and insects during our 'Bug Exploration' day and is perfect for families who love nature and are curious about the smaller creatures that share our world. Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 10:30am to 12pm. Free. Registration required; opens mid-August. Citybloom. org/events/

September 14: Picture Tapping Workshop. Learn how to effectively clear stress with drawing! Combining expressive drawing with Tapping, an emotional processing technique, clear vour excess stress, calm the nervous system, and come back into emotional balance. Our subconscious speaks to us in pictures, colors, and texture, so the Picture Tapping Technique bypasses our conscious mind, helping to create lasting inner transformation. Tapping has been proven effective for everything from PTSD to curbing

cravings in over 160 peer reviewed and published studies. Come experience it for yourself! No previous art or Tapping experience required. 2-4pm. RSVP Required. Heidi Gallery, JSDD at 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. 973.272.7148.

www.HeidiGalleryatJSDD.org



September 20: Family Fun in the **Kitchen.** Join Chef Afi to learn knife skills, cooking tips and tricks, and how to make recipes such as Portabella Mushroom Fajitas, Tofu Stir Fry, Sweet Potato Fritters, Mango Slaw and more! Chef Afi will walk your family through every step and, at the end, you get to enjoy the dish you made! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 11am to 12:30pm. \$5 per person. Registration required; opens mid-August. Citybloom.org/events

September 20 & 21: 42nd Annual Rose Squared Art Show in Essex County Anderson Park. Celebrate the season with a weekend of art, creativity and community at the 42nd Annual Rose Squared Art Show. Stroll through a curated selection of handmade work by artists from across the country, connect with the creators and find your next treasure in a scenic park setting. Essex County Anderson Park, 274 Bellevue Avenue, Upper Montclair. 10am to 5pm. Free to the public; items will be for sale. Rain or shine, www.rosesquared.com



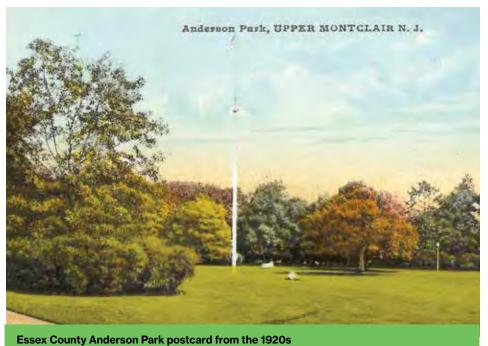
'Bug Exploration' day at the Greater **Newark Conservancy**

October 5: TwoSet Violin with the New Jersey Symphony. Worldfamous YouTube classical music comedy duo TwoSet Violin take the stage with the New Jersey Symphony for a wide-ranging night of musical fun! Violinists Eddy Chen and Brett Yang will take their unique brand of earnest and silly musical comedy to a new level in this performance, with the backing of a full symphony orchestra. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 2-4pm. \$66-\$196; VIP experience tickets are \$507. 800.255.3476. https://www.njsymphony.

October 10 & 12: Opening Weekend: **Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto**

No. 1. From Montgomery's Hymn for Everyone to Dvořák's autumnal Eighth, the New Jersey Symphony's seasonopening concert is full of musical warmth. Tchaikovsky's riveting First Piano Concerto heats it up further with blazing passages for the pianist. Come hear why BBC Music Magazine called Joyce Yang "astounding." New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. October 10 from 7:30-9:30pm and October 12 from 2-4pm. For ticket information. call 800.255.3476. https:// www.njsymphony.org/

October 11: Second Saturday Family Adventures: Geology Rocks. Join us on a fascinating journey into the world of rocks, minerals and fossils. We will explore and scavenge for rocks around



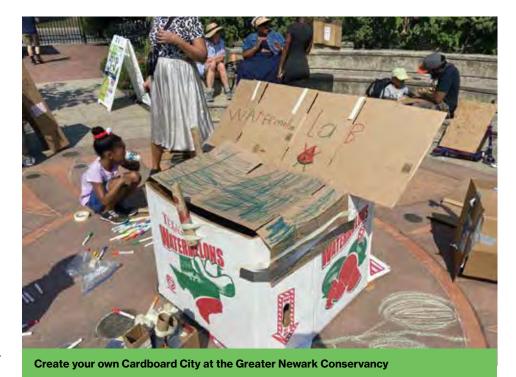
our site and do hands-on experiments as we explore what it is like to be a geologist. Whether you're a budding scientist or simply curious about the natural world, this event is perfect for all ages. Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 10:30am to 12pm. Free. Registration required; opens mid-September. Citybloom.org/events

October 18: Family Fun in the Kitchen. Join Chef Afi to learn knife skills, cooking tips and tricks, and how to make recipes such as Portabella Mushroom Fajitas, Tofu Stir Fry, Sweet Potato Fritters, Mango Slaw and more! Chef Afi will walk your family through every step and at the end, you get to enjoy the dish you made! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street. Newark. 11am to 12:30pm. \$5 per person. Registration required; opens mid-September. Citybloom.org/events

October 18 & 19: 27th Annual Rose Squared Art Show in Essex County Brookdale Park. Spend a beautiful fall weekend immersed in art and creativity at the Rose Squared Art Show. Enjoy a handpicked collection of unique, artisan made pieces crafted by accomplished creators nationwide. Meet the talented artists behind the work, discover original pieces and enjoy a relaxing day in a stunning natural setting. Essex County Brookdale Park, 473 Watchung Avenue, Bloomfield. 10am to 5pm. Free to the public; items will be for sale. Rain or shine. www.rosesquared.com

October 24: Beethoven X Beyoncé.

GIRLS. They run the world... they turn up the night... and if you liked it, then you should have put a ring on it! The newest fusion production by Steve Hackman celebrates and elevates all things woman by combining pop's Queen with classical music's King: Beyoncé and Beethoven. Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, the symphonic repertoire's most joyful and exuberant celebration of dance, is the canvas onto which 15 of Beyoncé's most popular songs are interwoven. including "Girls," "Crazy in Love," "Sorry," "Cuff It," "Single Ladies" and, of course, "Texas Hold 'Em." The production's emotional peak is when two of the most recognizable melodies from each composer are intertwined: "Halo" and the



hauntingly beautiful second movement of Beethoven. Three powerhouse female soloists, as well as a guest drummer, guitarist/keyboardist and bassist, join the New Jersey Symphony for a night of musical magic. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30-9:30pm. 800.255.3476. https://www.njsymphony.org/

October 25: Olmsted Historic Walking Tour of Essex County Anderson Park in Montclair.

Before Anderson Park existed, three houses and a fire station sat on the park property. Find out where they went and other surprising stories about how this Olmsted-designed Essex County park came to be created over a century ago, how it shaped Upper Montclair and how it led to the formation of other Montclair parks. Also hear about efforts to rejuvenate the landscape of this park, on the National Register of Historic Places. Handicapped accessible. Essex County Anderson Park. 274 Bellevue Avenue. Upper Montclair. Meet at the boulder at the park's northeast entrance, 10-11:30am. Free. Call or check the Friends of Anderson Park's Facebook page for weather updates. Rain date: October 26. Sponsored by Friends of Anderson Park. 973.477.7207. FriendsOfAndersonPark.

October 26: Witness a connection between Sound and Art.

Synesthesia is the neurological phenomenon where the stimulation of one sense triggers an involuntary experience in another sense. Musicians Porl Gordon and Jen Rondeau perform original and improvised soundscapes on keyboard and theremin while artist Helena Chywski paints in response. Chywski, who experiences sound as color, creates original work in the moment. 2 to 4pm. Synesthesia and Sound Performance, RSVP required. Exhibition dates: October 9 to December 7. Heidi Gallery, JSDD at 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. . 973.272.7148. www.HeidiGalleryatJSDD.org

November 1 & 2: Studio Tour SOMA.

South Orange and Maplewood are home to a vibrant community of artists. Studio Tour SOMA was initiated in 2003 to celebrate local artists and to help make local art available to all. More than 100 artists will open their doors to share their own special brand of creativity and art during this beloved community event. Talk to artists in their own studios, start or add to your collection, view beautiful works of art, and gain a unique and personal view of the life of an artist. Free. 11am to 5pm. 973.978.3594/studiotoursoma.com/meet-the-artists/

November 6 & 8: Rhapsody in Blue:

This all-American program by New Jersey Symphony is as vibrant and varied as our country itself. Gershwin set classical music on fire with his jazzy Rhapsody. Likewise, his contemporary, Florence Price, blended orchestral richness with a foot-stomping good time. Pianist Michelle Cann has made these meteoric pieces her own. With Carlos Simon's Zodiac, we'll swing you into the heavens and Copland's Billy the Kid takes you to the wide-open west. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. November 6 from 1:30-3:30pm and November 8 from 7:30-9:30pm. 800.255.3476. https://www.njsymphony.

November 8: Discover Rhapsody

in Blue. Discover what makes a live performance by New Jersey Symphony so special. We'll take a deep dive into one of the greatest American piano concertos, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, followed by Copland's lively Suite from Billy the Kid. Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting

young audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert will feature inside tips, listening cues and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing! New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 2-3pm. Children's tickets are \$10; adult's tickets are \$20. 800.255.3476. https://www.njsymphonyorg/

November 8: Second Saturday Family Adventures: Cardboard City.

Join us as we put our creativity and enthusiasm to the test as we construct our very own cardboard city! This is a fantastic way to engage with your family in an educational and playful environment. We will be supplying a bunch of cardboard, but feel free to bring anything of your own to add to your creation! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 11am to 12:30pm. Free. Registration required; opens mid-October. Citybloom.org/events

Reading. Back by popular demand!
Local poets read poems they have written based on the dynamic work/s of art they have chosen from The WAE Open, an Annual Juried Exhibit. This art form is exciting and unexpected. Hosted by Marcia LeBeau, founding director of The Write Space in Orange. 2-4pm. RSVP required. Heidi Gallery at JSDD at 310 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston. Open to the Public. HeidiGallery@JSDD. org | 973.272.7148 www.Jsdd.org

November 15: Family Fun in the

Kitchen. Join Chef Afi to learn knife skills, cooking tips and tricks, and how to make recipes such as Portabella Mushroom Fajitas, Tofu Stir Fry, Sweet Potato Fritters, Mango Slaw and more! Chef Afi will walk your family through every step and at the end, you get to enjoy the dish you made! Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, Newark. 11am to 12:30pm. \$5 per person. Registration required; opens mid-October. Citybloom. org/events ■

Natalie Farrell presents

STUDIO TOUR SOMA

South Orange & Maplewood

Saturday & Sunday, November 1 & 2, 11am-5pm



See where the magic happens as more than 100 artists in two historic

New Jersey towns welcome visitors into their studios









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ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

BRANCH BROOK PARK ALLIANCE

973.969.1189

www.branchbrookpark.org/calendar info@branchbrookpark.org Please call for ADA accessibility details

September 1 to October 11: **Discovering Wellness in Essex** County Branch Brook Park. Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance in the park for a series of free wellness events including Yoga, Zumba, Soul Line Dancing and more. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove, Newark. Days and times vary. Free. Advanced registration is required. For more information, email or call.

September 1 to October 31: **Volunteer Stewardship in Essex** County Branch Brook Park. Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance team in ongoing stewardship efforts. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove, Newark. 9am to 1pm. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free. Advanced registration is required.

September 1 to October 31: **Children's Story Time with the** Branch Brook Park Alliance. Gather

For more information, email or call

'round in the enchanting embrace of the Children's Garden with the Branch Brook Park Alliance for a story hour that sparks imagination and cultivates a love for nature. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Children's Garden and Playground at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center. Days and times vary. Free. Advanced registration is required. For more information, email or call.

September 1 to October 31: History & Horticulture Tours. Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance team for a 45-minute walking tour and learn more about the historical significance of Essex County Branch Brook Park and the formal gardens. Essex County Branch



Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove. Flexible dates. Days and times vary. \$15 per person. Advanced registration is required. For more information, email or call.

October 11: Branch Brook Park Fest.

Celebrate the spirit of community! Enjoy live performances from talented artists across diverse genres, savor flavors from local food vendors, and dive into a vibrant lineup of family-friendly fun. From interactive art projects to wellness experiences, there's something to inspire and delight everyone. Branch Brook Park Alliance, Essex County Branch Brook Park. Prudential Concert Grove. Newark.

10am to 5pm. Free. Advanced registration is required. For more information, email or call.

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA **OF THE SACRED HEART**

89 Ridge Street, Newark 973.484.2400 www.cathedralbasilica.org

Wednesdays at Noon. A 30-minute recital followed by a brief tour of the cathedral. Free will offering.

October 8: Organ recital with Daniel Sáñez.

October 15: Music for viola and organ with Brett Deubner and John J. Miller.



October 22: A harpsichord recital with Sándor Szabó in the Cathedral Crypt. October 29: Music for Flute Quartet with John Romeri II, Reva Youngstein, Keith Bonner and Natalie Spitzer.

Concert Series September 21: Misa en Tango (A Tango Mass). 3pm. October 19: Organ Recital with Ezequiel Menéndez. 3pm. November 2: 'Requiem' by Michael John Trotta. The Cathedral Choir, soloists and orchestra, conducted by John J. Miller. Anita Foley will offer a short pre-concert lecture to the bereaved at 2:20pm in the Lady Chapel. 3pm.

December 11: Navidad Latina 2025.

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.

December 17 and 18: The 54th **Candlelight Carol Sing**. A Christmas tradition for more than a half century, 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. December 21: 'Messiah' with the New Jersey Symphony and Montclair State University Singers with Anthony Parnther as the conductor. 7pm. Doors open at

6pm. For tickets, call 1.800. ALLEGRO.

LIVINGSTON CAMERA CLUB

Livingston Community/Senior Center 204 Hillside Avenue, Livingston https://lcc-nj.org/

The Livingston Camera Club promotes photography as an enjoyable amateur recreational endeavor. Members learn to improve their photography through educational programs and competitions. Meetings are in-person and virtual from 7-9pm. Seasonal dues are \$45 for individuals, \$55 for a family and \$20 for students. The full schedule is available at https://lcc-nj.org/calendar.

September 9: Livingston Camera Club's "Back to Club" Night. The club launches its 2025-2026 season with its Back to Club Night. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, the Livingston Camera Club offers a welcoming space to grow your photography skills all year long. September 29: Open Competition #1.



Join us in person as a guest judge critiques member-submitted photos. It's a great chance to learn how images are evaluated and pick up tips to improve your own photography.

October 13: "Photographing People" with Arik Gorban (Zoom).

Photographer Arik Groban leads a virtual discussion on techniques and tips for capturing compelling portraits and candid shots. Open to all skill levels. This will be on Zoom. There's no cost to attend the October 13 Zoom session, but please contact us via the website for access.



Branch Brook Park Alliance Gardeners.



Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

155 Prospect Avenue, Suite 100 West Orange, NJ 07052

www.essexcountynj.org

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THE SPIRIT OF ESSEX

For additional copies of this magazine, to join our mailing list, or to submit events for publication, please contact Terri P. Guess, Marketing Coordinator, at 201.341.5786 or e-mail

essexarts@parks.essexcountynj.org

The Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs

PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST

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UPCOMING CONCERTS IN NEWARK

TwoSet Violin with New Jersey Symphony Oct 5 | NJPAC at 2 pm

Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 Oct 10 & 12 | NJPAC at 7:30 pm & 2 pm

Beethoven X Beyoncé Oct 24 | NJPAC at 7:30 pm

Rhapsody in Blue
Nov 6 & 8 | NJPAC at 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm

FAMILY: Discover Rhapsody in Blue

Nov 8 | NJPAC at 2 pm

Elf in Concert

Dec 6 | NJPAC at 2 pm

Handel's Messiah

Dec 21 | Cathedral Basilica
of the Sacred Heart at 7 pm

GET TICKETS!

1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) | njsymphony.org



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



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