

THE SPIRIT OF

# Essex

Winter 2021

## *The Highlawn, an Essex County Eagle Rock Reservation Monument*



Highlawn Postcard - 1945



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



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

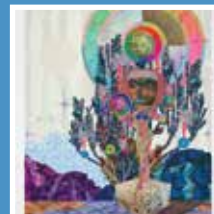
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PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST





## A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friend,

After a year's hiatus caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, we are pleased to be able to bring back several of our favorite winter holiday activities that have become traditions for many of us. Once again, Essex County Turtle Back Zoo will be illuminated with over one million bulbs and adorned with over 50 animal and winter themed characters. While strolling through the New Jersey's #1 zoo, marvel at an ice sculptor busy at work or join in a carol sing! Of course, there also will be some special visitors, including Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus!

Get close to nature with our 2nd Annual Forest Friends Feeder Contest at the Essex County Environmental Center and experience a re-creation of holidays past at the return of our Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour, where historic homes throughout Essex County throw open their doors to the public and share how the holidays were celebrated in bygone times.

And while you are out or are looking for the perfect gift for that someone special, remember to support our arts community. Concerts, movies, art galleries, theater productions are all making a comeback. With our support, we can ensure that the Arts community in Essex continues to thrive.

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

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.  
Essex County Executive

**Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated.**  
**For vaccination information, visit [EssexCOVID.org](https://www.essexCOVID.org)**  
**or call 973-877-8456.**



**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.**  
*Essex County Executive*



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

### 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.

Front cover photo credit: The Highlawn/Rob Peterpaul



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



## An Essex County Gem Offers Panoramic Views

The top of Essex County Eagle Rock Reservation provides an unparalleled view of the New York and Newark skylines. For centuries, people have traveled there to see the world around them. However, while the vista is amazing, being at the mercy of weather often made visits short.

To address this issue, Essex County commissioned a "casino" to be built. Not used for gambling, this building is more like the original Italian meaning of the word: a small country villa. Opened to the public in 1912, it offered park patrons covered lookout areas on two levels, allowing them an excellent view from multiple angles. A vendor sold light refreshments, hoping to encourage people to linger. The structure allowed very little to impede the view, however, that very design permitted wind

and rain to enter the viewing area and at times prevented visitors from really enjoying the experience.

Plans were drawn up to correct the problem and the Essex County Parks Department, then known as the Parks Commission, sought a permanent use for the building, considering options such as a tea house, milk bar, or environmental center. Without the presence of an on-going operation in the space, the building was prone to vandalism and fell into disrepair, further discouraging visitors.

Then in the 1980s, Essex County partnered with an established restaurateur who restored the building and opened a celebration venue. This partnership finally allowed the building, and location, to

achieve its true purpose. With the opening of the restaurant, park patrons could relax in a sheltered place that still provided them with remarkable views of the surrounding cities and nature. ■



**Located in Essex County Eagle Rock Reservation in West Orange, NJ, The Highlawn is known throughout the region for fine dining and its dedication to making each celebration memorable and unique. It has been the trusted venue of many private groups, Fortune 500 companies, non-profit organizations, local community associations, and many more, and is a recipient of OpenTable's Diners' Choice Awards for the Top 100 Scenic View Restaurants.**

**Visit <https://www.highlawn.com> for reservations.**




## 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](http://www.essexcountyparks.org) 

- **Synchronized Skating Competition**  
–Saturday, November 13 - 8am to 5pm
- **Essex County Codey Arena Holiday Hockey Tournament**  
–Wednesday, December 22; Thursday, December 23; Sunday, December 26 and Monday December 27
- **Essex County High School Wrestling Tournament**  
–Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14, 2022
- **NJIIHL High School Hockey Cup Finals**  
–Wednesday, February 16 and Thursday February 17, 2022 at 5 and 7:30pm
- **NJSIAA State High School Hockey Semifinals**  
–Wednesday, March 2 and Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 4:30 and 7:15pm

### PROGRAMS

#### Learn to Skate Group Lessons – 5/6 weeks

Fridays – November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17 (\*no class on November 26)  
Saturdays – November 6, 20, December 4, 11, 18 (\*no class on November 13 and 27)  
Sundays – November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 12, 19 (\*no class on November 28)

#### Ages: 3½ to Adult

Classes offered on Fridays at 4:15pm,  
Saturdays or Sundays at 11:15am or 1:30pm

- Snow Plow (Ages 3½ to 6)
- Basic 1-6
- Freestyle
- Adult (15 & up)

#### Public Session Skating

##### Ages: 2½ to Adult

##### Sessions:

- Fridays – 4:45 to 6:15pm
- Saturdays – 11:45am to 1:15pm & 2 to 3:30pm
- Sundays – 11:45am to 1:15pm & 2 to 3:30pm

**Adults - \$9 / Children 16 & under - \$7  
/ Seniors - \$7 / Skate Rentals - \$5**


#### Senior Skating Sessions (45 & up)

##### Sessions:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays – 10:45am to 12:15pm

### ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland  
973.228.8776

[www.essexcountyparks.org](http://www.essexcountyparks.org) 

#### FOREST FRIENDS FEEDER CONTEST

**For all ages.** Create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder for an outdoor exhibit. The purpose of this contest is to provide participants with a fun and educational experience, engaging creativity to make natural



Owl Pellet at Environmental Center

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 them to enjoy! All contest entries will be displayed for one week (or as long as wildlife will allow) during the winter holiday and will be voted on by a panel of eco-experts. For contest rules and to register, contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776.

**Registration Deadline:  
Friday, December 10  
Project Drop-Off: Friday,  
December 17 by 5pm  
FREE (prizes will be awarded)**

#### HOT CHOCOLATE HIKE

**Saturdays, December 4 and January 8; 11am to 12:30pm**

**For families.** Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make s'mores. Dress warmly. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

#### HOLIDAY PAPERMAKING & GREEN GIFT TAG CREATION

**Saturday, December 11; 11am to 1pm**

**All ages.** Visit before the holidays to make recycled paper and gift tags from colored construction paper scraps, scented herbs and old holiday cards.

The whole family can join in on making these colorful additions for holiday gifts. Also, make a gift from nature of your choice—beeswax candle, multi-purpose body scrub, herb sachet, picture frame or recycled bird feeder. Participants may make more than one "green gift;" additional fee(s) apply. By reducing waste and recycling materials, the value of resources is extended and environmental stewardship is promoted. For more information, call 973.228.8776. Pre-registration and minimum number of participants are required. **Fee: \$15 per adult; \$12 per child (\$4 per additional gift)**

#### FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE

**Tuesday, December 14; 6 to 7:30pm**

**All ages.** Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life in wintertime. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information,

call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

#### OWL PELLET DISSECTION

**Tuesday, December 21 and Monday, January 24; 6 to 7:30pm**

**For children ages 7-12.** Learn about these beautiful and mysterious silent hunters of the night. Discover what they're eating while discussing predators, prey and food chain dynamics. Carefully reconstruct the bones found inside owl pellets! Minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$10 per child**

#### WINTER WILDLIFE EXPLORERS CAMP

**Monday, December 27; Tuesday, December 28; Thursday, December 29; 9:30am to 3:30pm**

**For children in kindergarten to 3rd grade.** Campers enjoy stories, crafts, campfires and forest adventures exploring the wooded wetland forests in winter-time. For more information, call 973.228.8776. Pre-registration, payment

and minimum number of participants are required. **Fee: \$180 per child for all three days OR \$70 per child per day**

#### FOREST FRIENDS CLUB


**January 13, February 10, March 10; 4 to 5pm**

**For children ages 5-10 years.** Each month, participants will explore the forest using nets, binoculars, magnifiers, and microscopes to investigate nature in the nearby wooded wetland habitat. Together we hope to foster an ethic of stewardship and offer an opportunity to take part in hands-on conservation projects. Come ready to explore! Advance registration, payment and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child per session**

#### THE ECO-FRIENDLY HOME

**Saturday, January 15, 11am to 12:30pm**

**For families.** Make and take a



# HOLIDAY LIGHTS

## Spectacular

### At Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

#### 5pm to 9pm

#### Weekends

**November 19-21, November 26-28,  
December 3-5**

**Every Night December 10  
through 31**

**Closed: December 24 & 25**

Donations of non-perishable food; new, unwrapped toys; and new or gently-used winter coats for the needy are appreciated.

**[essexcountyparks.org](http://essexcountyparks.org)**



hand-made food storage wrap with eco-friendly materials. Learn how to customize your own stationary and recycle paper at the same time. Let's talk about how to reduce waste at home, be kind to our environment and make special customized usable and fun crafts. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

**MLK DAY: FOREST ANIMALS WINTER SURVIVAL – ONE DAY CAMP**

**Monday, January 17; 9:30am to 3:30pm**

**For children ages 5-10.** Look at winter habitats and how New Jersey nature survives the cold season. Children will explore the winter wetlands and do indoor activities that are both fun and educational. Children should wear good footwear and outer wear so they can fully enjoy the seasonal discoveries. **Fee: \$75 per child**

**WINTER JOURNALING**

**Saturday, February 5, 11am to 12:30pm**

**All ages** (children under 5 require caregiver supervision). Discover the joy



Build a Bird House at Essex County Environmental Center

of phenology, the cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life. Participants will find a special place to write down and draw their winter discoveries and appreciate the cold and brisk change of the season. Maybe partake in some winter birding! Participants also will hike the grounds to note seasonal changes and beautiful discoveries. Journals will be made on site. Dress warmly. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call

973.228.8776. **Fee: \$30 per family (up to two adults and two children) or \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**

**FAMILY WALK & CAMPFIRE**

**Tuesday, February 15; 6 to 7:30pm**

**All ages.** Join a naturalist for a short walk on the trails and experience forest life at night. After the walk, enjoy a campfire with organic fire-popped popcorn and mint tea. Advance registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child, \$12 per adult**



**ESSEX COUNTY**

# Historic Holiday House Tour

**Saturday, December 4 & Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**Participating Houses**

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID safety measures, the Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour will return in December. Historic homes throughout Essex will open their doors in unison for one spectacular weekend, Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5. Each home will be dressed for the holiday season while offering entertainment, refreshments, or educational information. Fees and times vary.

- \* Ballantine House at Newark Museum
- \* Canfield-Morgan House & Museum
- \* Crane Homestead
- \* Crane House & Historic YWCA

- \* Essex County Kip's Castle Park
- \* Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
- \* Grover Cleveland Birthplace
- \* Kingsland Manor
- \* Van Tassel Funeral Home

**ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS**

The Essex County Environmental Center and the Essex County Parks Department sponsored its annual Parks Photography Contest in the fall. All contest entries portrayed beautiful images highlighting the wide range of opportunity and natural splendor found throughout the Essex County Parks System. We received 37 adult entries and 23 youth entries. All contest entries were displayed on the Environmental Center Facebook page. The winners are:

1st Place -Adult  
*Gary Wiener*

1st Place -Youth  
*Giancarlo Morano*

2nd Place -Adult  
*Michelle Palmer*

2nd Place -Youth  
*Maya Strand*

3rd Place -Adult  
*John Shiever*

3rd Place -Youth  
*Hanna Blanca*

Honorable  
Mention -Adult  
*Joshua Goodman*

Honorable  
Mention -Youth  
*Elise Linn*

6 The Spirit of Essex




**BUILD A BIRD HOUSE**  
**Saturday, February 19; 11am to 12:30pm**  
**For adults and children ages 8 and older who are accompanied by an adult.** Build a home that encourages breeding birds and other wildlife to take residence. Putting out a bird house now creates a good chance of having a nesting pair of songbirds in your garden by spring. Advanced registration an minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973.228.8776. **Fee: \$10 per child; \$12 per adult**

**WINTER CAMPFIRE AND CHARCOAL ART**  
**Wednesday, February 23; 5:30-7pm**  
**All ages (children under 5 require caregiver supervision).** Join us for a winter campfire and make your own charcoal art stick. We can collect our perfect charcoal pencil and watch it turn into a tool of art magic! Charcoal art paper will be provided and expect to get your hands dirty with this fun project! Dress warmly. Advanced registration an minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973.228.8776. **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  
<https://turtlebackzoo.com> 

**Berson Education Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo**  
 973-731-5800 ext.103

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS Select weekends throughout the Winter 10 and 11am

TBZ's Early Childhood programs encourage family learning and foster early environmental awareness. Young children are invited to discover the natural world through gently structured play, art, stories, animal visits, and more. Age restrictions apply; pre-registration is required. Zoo admission is not included with registration. Hatchlings (6 to 24 months), Tots (ages 2 & 3), and Explorers (ages 4 & 5) are in-person programs. **\$25-\$30 per participant.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com>.

[com/discover/early-childhood-programs/](https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/).

### WONDERS OF THE WILD Most Saturdays throughout the Winter 1pm

Turtle Back Zoo is an amazing classroom! The 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. **\$30/student.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/wonders-of-the-wild/>.

### SOPHISTICATED SCIENCE SEMINARS Select days throughout the Winter Times vary

Sophisticated Science Seminars are conservation programs geared towards more adult audiences (ages 13+). Seminars run throughout the year and span topics such as animal anatomy,



## Essex County Department of Parks and Rose Squared Art Shows



*Thank you for coming this past fall. Join us in 2022  
 for our long-standing, co-sponsored Fine Art and Fine Crafts events*



**Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Verona Park**  
 542 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona  
 Saturday, May 21 & Sunday, May 22, 2022



**Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Brookdale Park**  
 473 Watchung Avenue, Bloomfield; Grove Avenue, Montclair  
 Saturday, June 18 & Sunday, June 19, 2022

**Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Anderson Park**  
 274 Bellevue Avenue, Upper Montclair  
 Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18, 2022

**Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Brookdale Park**  
 473 Watchung Avenue, Bloomfield; Grove Avenue, Montclair  
 Saturday, October 15 & Sunday, October 16, 2022

habitats & conservation, animal careers, and more. These programs are perfect for those interested in animals, science, conservation, and nature who want to learn something new in a relaxed atmosphere. **\$30/person.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/sophisticated-science-seminars/>.

### FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE ADVENTURERS Select Sundays throughout the Winter

Times vary depending on the date 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 with registration. \$10/person. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/>.

**WINTER MINI-CAMPS**  
**December 28-30; January 17; February 21**  
**9am to 4pm**  
 Join us at Turtle Back Zoo for some wild

fun! To further our mission 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 visits, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science projects, and fun crafts. **\$90 per day.** For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/>.

### CONSERVATION BREAKFAST PROGRAMS Select Weekends this Winter 8:30 to 10am

Turtle Back Zoo's Conservation Breakfasts are morning programs that feature one of our animals as the educational focus, highlighting the conservation challenges facing that species while providing tools and actions you can do at home to positively affect its wild relatives. This program includes zoo admission (for non-members) and breakfast. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/>.

**OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU**  
**In-person and Virtual Programs, Outreaches, and More Dates and**

### Times 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. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/education-center-programs/>.

### TBZ ZOOVENTURE BOX Seasonally Themed Zoo Activity Bundles Pre-Order for Pick-up at the TBZ Education Center

Zooventure boxes are seasonally themed animal, conservation, and science activity bundles that promote exploration through hands-on science experiments, personalized virtual content, arts and crafts, and other educational materials. Virtual content (zoo tours, live story times) will be available on a private Google classroom; access codes are included in the box. Zooventure Boxes are designed for ages 5-8. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/>.







## Enjoy All of the Activities at the Essex County South Mountain Reservation Complex!!

- CHILDREN'S REGATTA PLAYGROUND
- PADDLE BOATS • WALKING PATH
- CLIPPER PAVILION PICNIC AREA




Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs  
[www.essexcountynj.org](http://www.essexcountynj.org)





## ESSEX COUNTY CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS


### ARTS COUNCIL OF LIVINGSTON

ACL Gallery 2115, Town Center Way,  
Livingston  
973-650-6374  
www.aclgallery.weebly.com 

### Fall of Art Through January 3, 2022

"Fall of Art" showcases both 2-D and 3-D work by more than 40 artists using a wide range of mediums. Additionally included are wearable art, jewelry and a new "Petite Galerie," featuring smaller gift items under \$100.

### MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

3 South Mountain Avenue, Montclair  
973.746.5555  
www.montclairartmuseum.org 

### Color Riot! How Color Changed Navajo Textiles Through January 2, 2022

Change has always been a hallmark of Navajo (Diné) textile design, with weavers' individualism a running thread. With Diné perspectives and the technical mastery of weavers at the heart of Color Riot!, this exhibition, featuring 70 bold artworks from 1860-1930 and the present, celebrates the courage and vision to experiment.

### By Our Own Hand: Frontline Arts in collaboration with Donna Bassin Through August 14, 2022

MAM presents a year-long, site-specific installation in the Laurie Art Stairway, in collaboration with Frontline Arts and Donna Bassin. On view are approximately 800 sheets of handmade paper created from veterans' uniforms and provided by Frontline Paper, an initiative of Frontline Arts. Inspired by the ancient practice of Tibetan prayer flags hung to mark an important and challenging occasion, BOOH refers to the toll of veteran deaths by their own hand as well as to the resiliency and creativity from transforming military uniforms into handmade paper.


**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.*

### Transformed: Objects Reimagined by American Artists Through January 8, 2023

Inspired by the note Jasper Johns wrote to himself in his sketchbook in 1964, this exhibition features more than 60 artworks from 1829 to the present in which artists take objects as their points of departure, transforming them to reflect their varied cultural backgrounds and viewpoints. This exhibition is organized thematically, as indicated on each object label, to represent these diverse perspectives.

### THE NEWARK MUSEUM OF ART

49 Washington Street, Newark  
973.596.6550  
www.newarkmuseum.org 

### Saya Woolfalk: Field Notes from the Empathic Universe Through December 31, 2022

Saya Woolfalk: Field Notes from the Empathic Universe invites visitors to enter the kaleidoscopic and culturally hybrid worlds created by the artist. The exhibition features an immersive video installation exploring portraiture and a series of new mixed media collages, all accessed through the North Wing elevator, which will be transformed by Woolfalk's digitally-collaged murals.



Saya Woolfalk: Field Notes from  
the Empathic Universe

### Endangered! Through to April 24, 2022

This immersive exhibition will explore the stories behind some extinct, threatened and lower risk species, as well as how human behaviors affects animals. Visitors will be invited to make a pledge to help save various animals worldwide. Great for families with children of any age. ■



Still from Endangered! Take Action Video

**SOPAC**  
SOUTH ORANGE  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

REDEFINING A GREAT  
*Arts* EXPERIENCE



# GANGSTAGRASS

## SAT, FEB 5 AT 8PM



**NEFESH MOUNTAIN**  
PRESENTED BY SOPAC AT  
TEMPLE SHAREY TEFILO-ISRAEL  
THU, DEC 2 AT 7:30PM

**A NIGHT WITH E.R.I.C.**  
(EXTRA RICH IN CLASS)  
SAT, DEC 11 AT 8PM

**MIKE GRIOT**  
CELEBRATES THE SOUTH ORANGE  
INTERNATIONAL BLUES FESTIVAL  
SAT, DEC 18 AT 8PM

**AN EVENING OF LOVE SONGS WITH  
MS. LISA FISCHER**  
THU, FEB 10 AT 7:30PM

**LUCY KAPLANSKY /  
LARRY CAMPBELL &  
TERESA WILLIAMS**  
FRI, FEB 11 AT 8PM

**COLIN QUINN**  
FRI, FEB 25 AT 8PM

**Get Your Tickets Today!**

[SOPACnow.org](https://sopacnow.org) / (973) 313-2787

Visit [SOPACnow.org/Covid-19](https://sopacnow.org/covid-19)  
for all Covid-19 Precautions & Policies



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





## ESSEX COUNTY WINTER EVENTS

**December 2: Virtual Holiday Tour, The Ballantine House.** How do you celebrate the holidays? How did they celebrate back in 1891? Enjoy this 30-minute virtual look inside The Newark Museum of Art's Ballantine House, an urban mansion in downtown Newark. Discover how the Ballantine family's home might have come to life during the winter months. #NMOAatHOME. 7-8pm. Free. Advance registration required only for Zoom, live on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Twitch. 973.596.6550. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-holiday-tour-ballantine-house-registration-178900284567>

**December 4: Creative Play, Mini Zoo Edition.** This is a program specifically designed for children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers. Join us for a fun time with our friends from Turtle Back Zoo! We will have story time and a presentation of live animals! We will

showcase different animals every week. Limited capacity. The Newark Museum of Art, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 10:15 to 11am. Free. Advance registration required. 973.596.6550. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creative-play-mini-zoo-edition-tickets-173793881177>

**December 4: West Orange Holiday Open House & Christmas Tree Lighting.** A fun filled day to kick off the Christmas Holiday Season at the downtown Holiday Open House. Breakfast & Pictures with Santa at the Washington School Cafeteria from 9am to 12pm. Holiday Arts & Craft Show from 10am to 4pm. Historic Trolley Ride leaves every 30 minutes from 10am to 4pm; last ride is at 3:30pm. Two tours will be offered this year, the Historic downtown & Eagle Rock Reservation tour. Holiday Open House, 289 Main Street, West Orange. Free. 973.325.4109. [www.downtownWO.com](http://www.downtownWO.com)

**December 9: Jane Lynch: A Swingin' Little Christmas Live in Concert.** Emmy and Golden Globe Award winning actress Jane Lynch will be joined by her friends Kate Flannery and Tim Davis and The Tony Guerrero Quintet in this festive concert that includes fresh takes

on classic Christmas carols and new nostalgia-inspired tunes. The bandleader, Tony Guerrero, fuses clever jazz arrangements with tight vocal harmonies performed by the group. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30pm. \$69. 1.888.696.5722. [njpac.org](http://njpac.org)

**December 10: Community Night, Cocktails & Candy Canes (21-plus).** Your first drink is on us! Get ready for laughs, prizes, and cocktails in our decked-out Winter Garden. DJ Poison Ivy brings the beats, Harmonica Sunbeam hosts four outrageous rounds of bingo, and stand-up comedian Mike Burton will bring down the house with his latest routine. A variety of local vendors will be on-site to satisfy all your holiday shopping needs! The Newark Museum of Art, Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 5 to 9pm. Free. 973.596.6550. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-night-cocktails-candy-canes-21-tickets-168304923557>

**December 11: Community Day, Winter Wonderland.** Step inside our Winter Wonderland for food, art, and festive fun! Our transformed Museum Garden presents Hip -Hop performances, music, and dance that

celebrates holidays around the world. Pick up gifts from local vendors, create some art, and go ice skating, all in one place! Grab food from Hot Dog Lady and Tonnie's Minis, and the first 300 people will receive a free treat from Tonnie's Minis. The Newark Museum of Art, Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 10am to 5pm. Free. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-day-winter-wonderland-tickets-168305015833>

**December 11: The Nutcracker: State Ballet Theater of Ukraine.** Set to Tchaikovsky's classic score and featuring brand new choreography and productions by Andrey Litvi November, the State Ballet Theater of Ukraine premiered this revised version of "The Nutcracker" to a full house in Dnipro, Ukraine, in 2020. The company is recognized as one of the most prestigious institutions of classical ballet in Ukraine. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 3pm. \$29 and up. 1.888.696.5722. [njpac.org](http://njpac.org)

**December 14: Artist Insights, Bisa Butler.** Artist Bisa Butler invites you into the world of her recent piece, "The Warmth of Other Sons," now in The Newark Museum of Art's collection. Butler's vibrant work depicts the African American life experience through stunning life-sized quilts. #NMOAatHOME. 7-8pm. Free. Advance registration required only for Zoom, live on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Twitch. 973.596.6550. <https://www.newarkmuseumart.org/nmoaathome>

**December 18: The Hip Hop Nutcracker.** The Hip Hop Nutcracker returns to the stage for its seventh season on tour. Directed and choreographed by Jennifer Weber, this contemporary dance spectacle is a re-mixed and re-imagined version of the classic, smashing hip hop dance and Tchaikovsky's timeless music together into a heart-stirring and inspirational holiday event of souls. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 2 and 8pm. \$29 and up. 1.888.696.5722. [njpac.org](http://njpac.org)



The James Hunter Six at SOPAC

**December 18: Creative Play, Mini Zoo Edition.** This is a program specifically designed for children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers. Join us for a fun time with our friends from Turtle Back Zoo! We will have story time and a presentation of live animals! We will showcase different animals every week. Limited capacity. The Newark Museum of Art, Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 10:15 to 11am. Free. Advance registration required. 973.596.6550. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creative-play-mini-zoo-edition-tickets-173796819967>

**January 16: New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.** Picture a silver waterfall plunging from a towering mountain into a fjord below—and you have the opening of Grieg's Piano Concerto. An exquisite painter at the piano, Vladimir Feltsman brings the concerto's hold-your-breath moments to vivid life. Andrey Boreyko's NJSO debut also features a pathbreaking ballet by his countryman Igor Stravinsky and a new work by living legend Thomas Adès. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 1.888.696.5722. [njpac.org](http://njpac.org)



Lisa Fischer at SOPAC

### Family Skating at Essex County Codey Arena at South Mountain

Get moving and have fun at the same time. Codey Arena offers public sessions and group skating lessons. Skate rentals and lockers are available. Enjoy snacks from our food concession and have your next birthday party in one of our party rooms.

Call for public session times  
973.731.3828  
[www.essexcountynj.org](http://www.essexcountynj.org)


Essex County Codey Arena  
560 Northfield Ave.  
West Orange, NJ 07052


South Mountain Recreation Complex....  
New Jersey's Recreation Destination



**January 28, 29, 30 & February 4, 5, 6: The Maplewood Strollers Presents: The Phantom Tollbooth.**

Join Milo on his zany adventures through The Land of Wisdom and learn to see things in a whole new way in this children's classic adapted for the stage. The Burgdorff Center for the Performing Arts, 10 Durand Road, Maplewood. 7pm; Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 3:30pm. \$10. 973.761.8453. [www.TheStrollers.org](http://www.TheStrollers.org). The Burgdorff Center is ADA accessible with a ramp from the sidewalk to the side entrance, an ADA bathroom in the lobby, and wheelchairs can be wheeled into the theater. It is best to call ahead so additional preparations can be made. 

**February 5: Gangstagrass.** These Emmy Award-nominated musical pioneers have created a spirited, foot-tapping fusion of Bluegrass and Hip-Hop. You may recognize their unique urban twang from "Long Hard Times to Come," the theme song to the hit FX drama, "Justified." South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. \$25 to \$35. 973.313.2787. 


**February 10: Be My Valentine: An Evening of Love Songs with Ms. Lisa Fischer.** Lisa Fischer, known for her long-term touring association with the Rolling Stones, Luther Vandross and Tina Turner, is a powerhouse Gospel and Soul vocalist who evokes infinite emotion. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 7:30pm. \$32 to \$42. 973.313.2787. 


**February 12: The Heart & Soul of Magic: No Smoke, No Mirrors Tour featuring Ran'D Shine and Jamahl Keyes.** Breathtaking, mind-blowing and astonishing are just a few words that describe The Heart & Soul of Magic. This show features two world class magicians, Ran'D Shine and Jamahl Keyes, in a unique production that weaves a tapestry of psychological illusions, comedy and music to create an immersive amazing experience that will keep you at the edge of your seat. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 1pm. \$18 to \$25. 973.313.2787. 

**February 12: Ryan Hamilton.** The wholesome, rural Idaho-bred comic's




The BritPack at SOPAC



Netflix special, "Happy Face," was called "the special you can't watch enough times." Ryan Hamilton was named one of Rolling Stone's Five Comics to Watch and can be seen in numerous television appearances. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. \$28 to \$35. 973.313.2787. 

**February 18: The James Hunter Six.** British soulman James Hunter and his gritty, longstanding backing band will bring a sublime evening of no-nonsense Blues. Given their virtuosity, they have shared the stage with acts as diverse as Allen Toussaint, Sharon Jones and Van Morrison. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. \$36 to \$56. 973.313.2787. 




Ran'D Shine and Jamahl at SOPAC

**February 25: Colin Quinn: The Last Best Hope Tour.** Comedian, actor and author Colin Quinn has become one of the most beloved voices in comedy. He often focuses on the roller coaster ride that American politics and culture has historically been. On the heels of his HBO Max special and new book, Quinn cracks up audiences on his latest tour. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. \$33 to \$48. 973.313.2787. 

**February 26: The Brit Pack.** Embark on a musical tour of British Invasion bands as The Brit Pack authentically replicates the sounds of The Beatles, Oasis, Duran Duran and more. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. \$25 to \$35. 973.313.2787.  

**ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS**

**THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART**

89 Ridge Street, Newark  
973.484.2400  
[www.cathedralbasilica.org](http://www.cathedralbasilica.org) 

**December 10: 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 15 and 16: The Fiftieth Candlelight Carol Sing – Two Performances.** 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.

**ESSEX PHOTO CLUB**

All meetings are free and open to the public via Zoom and start at 7:30pm. Contact Chris Mauro at 973.986.4002 for Zoom access.

**Programs:**

**December 2:** Nature Photography in NJ: Fun, Art, Ecology by Claus Holzapffer

**January 6:** Topic TBA by Peter Gordon

**February 3:** NJFCC Winter Pictorial Competition with Claire Gentile, Susan Candelario and Chris Mauro

**Competitions:**

**December 16:** Club Competition of Assigned Subject with club members as judges



The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark

**January 20:** Club Competition with Phil Echo as judge  
**February 17:** Club Competition with Phil Witt as judge

**LIVINGSTON CAMERA CLUB**

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

Currently, due to COVID, meetings are held virtually at 7:30pm on two Mondays a month. Members will be informed of the details.

Founded in 1971, the Livingston Camera Club promotes photography

as an enjoyable amateur recreational endeavor. Members learn to improve their photography through educational programs and competitions. We typically have two meetings each month. One meeting is when we have an award-winning photographer educate us on a unique topic. The second meeting is a competition in which a judge, usually a top photographer in the area, critiques our photos. New members of all levels are welcome to join. Annual dues are \$20 for students, \$55 for individuals and \$65 for families.

The full schedule is available at <https://lcc-nj.org/calendar>. ■



Photo and Camera Club Opportunities!





**Department of Parks,  
Recreation & Cultural Affairs**

115 Clifton Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07104

[www.essexcountynj.org](http://www.essexcountynj.org)

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Marketing Coordinator, at 201.341.5786  
or e-mail

[essexarts@parks.essexcountynj.org](mailto:essexarts@parks.essexcountynj.org)

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Cultural and Historic Affairs

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