

THE SPIRIT OF

Essex

Autumn 2026



**Essex County Branch Brook Park
Roller Skating Rink recognized
through the State Historical
Marker Program**



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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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

Our Essex County Branch Brook Park has a prestigious history that includes being the first county park created in the United States, being envisioned as a public open space by renown landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and boasts historic features such as the Octagon Shelter near Clifton Avenue, the Ballantine entrance gates on Lake Street and picturesque bridges along Bloomfield Avenue and Park Avenue.

The park earned another historic designation when our roller-skating rink was declared as the birthplace of Jersey Club music movement. We are proud that Branch Brook continues to play an important role in the lives of our residents and is the place where families and children choose to spend their time, make memories and take a chance on new and different things.

The fall season is quickly approaching, and our Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared an exciting line up of activities! One of the most popular events is always the Strut Your Mutt Canine Costume Parades and Contests. Pet enthusiasts come out with the most creative and imaginative costumes for their canines. The parades, held at the Brookdale Dog Park, Branch Brook Dog Park and Grover Cleveland Park, are lots of fun and we encourage you to participate or just come cheer them on, even if you don't own a pet. There is also the display of artistically designed jack-o-lanterns at Gardens Aglow at Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and our celebration of autumn at our Environmental Center Octoberfest. Children and families are encouraged to dress in the costumes and go trick or treating at Turtle Back Zoo on October 31st.

Essex County is one of the most diverse areas and is well known for our thriving arts communities. As you peruse this magazine, you'll read about the exciting happenings at the many museums, historic sites, art galleries, libraries and theaters. We also encourage you to walk the trails or visit one of the parks in our historic Parks System and witness the leaves change colors. Weekends are the perfect time to spend quality time with friends and family and you can do so right here in Essex County!

Together we will continue Putting Essex County First.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

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Essex County Executive



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Essex County Executive
and the Board of County Commissioners



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

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

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



Essex County Branch Brook Park Roller Skating Rink recognized through the State Historical Marker Program

A historical marker recognizing the Essex County Branch Brook Park Roller Skating Rink's place at the "birthplace of the Jersey Club Movement" has been installed in Essex County Branch Brook Park in Newark. The marker was created through the NJ Historical Commission's State Historical Marker Program, which has been renewed during the 250th anniversary of America's founding.

"Essex County's history is unique and diverse, and continues to have a lasting impact our culture and community today. Our Branch Brook Park Roller Rink opened in 1995 and quickly became a safe place where emerging musical styles were accepted and gained popularity. The historical marker will cement the rink's place in history and remind visitors of its significance," Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, said.

The Branch Brook Park marker, unveiled in 2025, recognizes the rink as the Birthplace of the Jersey Club Movement.



According to the nominating organization, Jersey Club Music is "a high-energy, 135 BPM dance-centered genre and movement forged in Newark's Black youth culture." The wording on the marker states: "Skating rinks play a significant role in Black liberation, civil rights, and culture. Leisure spaces like the Essex County Branch Brook Park Skating Rink celebrate and nurture community building, 'style skating,' and various Black music genres. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, this rink became a cultural incubator where Newark's Black youth shaped what would become Jersey Club music; DJs, dancers, and skaters turned it into a creative engine. Now spanning

generations, Jersey Club is a globally recognized uptempo dance and sound found across generations, influencing music, fashion, dance, and pop culture."

The marker is included as part of the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, which highlights locations that reflect the state's African American history and cultural contributions. This ongoing program currently includes four other sites in Essex County, including East Orange Freedom Schools in East Orange and the Montclair YWCA, James Howe House and St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Montclair.

To learn more about the New Jersey State Historical Marker Program, view eligibility requirements, or nominate a site, visit the New Jersey Historical Commission's Historical Markers webpage at nj.gov/state/historical/historical-markers.shtml. Readers interested in the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail can also explore approved sites and submit nominations through the Commission's Black Heritage Trail portal. ■

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

September 12: RWJBarnabas Health Cardiac and Concussion Screening in the rear of the lobby. Join RWJBarnabas Health and the Morahan Health Assessment Center for Athletes for free cardiac screenings for ages 6 and up and free concussion screenings for ages 5 and up.

September 22: Senior Wellness Day, 10am to 2pm. **Free admission.**

October 10 & 11: NJ DareDevils Frankenfest Hockey Tournament, 8am to 5pm

November 14: Synchronized Skating Competition, 8am to 5pm

Learn to Skate Group Lessons – 7 weeks.

Fall classes start in early September and continue through the end of October. Ages: 3½ to adult.

Classes offered on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays.

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 11 and will be held on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays

Adults, \$14; children 16 & under, \$10; seniors, \$10; Skate rentals, \$5

Adult / Senior Skate Sessions

Ages: 35 and older. Sessions start Tuesday, September 8 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 for a 3-hour party room.** Parties are held during public session skates or private ice sessions. Group admission discount rates for 15+ skaters.

ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

621-B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland
973.228.8776
www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar 

PLEASE NOTE: ECEC will be operating on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule and will be CLOSED MONDAYS beginning on Saturday, October 17, 2026, through Monday, March 8, 2027. A Monday through Friday schedule will resume on March 15, 2027.

Pre-registration and payment required either in person, by mail or online at www.essexcountyparks.org/calendar.

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. Minimum of 10 person booking requirement (if less booked, minimum booking fee applied). **Fee: \$15 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. Programs are 45 minutes in length. **Fee: \$15 per participant (including leaders/chaperones).** *Where noted, additional fees apply.

LITTLE EXPLORERS

Fridays—September 11, 25; October 9, 23; November 13, 20; December 11, 18; 3pm to 4pm

For ages 2 to 5. 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: \$160 per session series**

HIVE EXPLORERS:

HONEYBEE CLUB

Monthly on Tuesdays—

September to August 4pm to 5pm
2026: September 29; October 13; November 10; December 8 and
2027: January 12; February 9; March 9; April 13; May 11; June 8; July 13; August 10

For children ages 10-18. Learn about the importance of bees and how to be a beekeeper! Club sessions cover honeybee biology, equipment, getting started, pests and diseases, harvesting honey, and more! Led by Essex County 4-H volunteers and hosted at the

Essex County Environmental Center at Garibaldi Hall. This is a 10-month drop-off and pick-up class (youth only). If the bee colony thrives, members will get a share of the honey harvest.

This club is project-based. Fee: \$180 for the 12-month full club session or \$120 per 6-month session series.

FROG POND CLUB

Wednesdays—September 16, October 14, November 18; 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 a drop-off and pick-up class (children only). **This is a 3-class series; must sign up for the entire series. Fee: \$45 per series**

FOREST FRIENDS CLUB

Thursdays—September 17, October 15, November 12, December 17; 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 a drop-off and pick-up class (children only). **This is a 4-class series; must sign up for the entire series. Fee: \$60 per series**

NEW JERSEY WOODTURNERS

Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday; 7-9pm

For all ages. Learn to turn with the NJ Woodturners. Discover the wonders of creating art from found pieces of wood. Topics vary by month. For details, please email Bob Amarant at bobamarant@gmail.com and, to learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.njwoodturners.com>. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Free**

ESSEX COUNTY BEEKEEPERS' SOCIETY

Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday; 7-9pm

For adults and children ages 12 and up. The Essex County Beekeepers

Society (ECBS), a chapter of the NJ Beekeepers Association, is dedicated to teaching new beekeepers how to manage their bees and helping experienced beekeepers to do it better. If you think you might be interested in keeping honeybees and would like to explore what's involved, you're welcome to join. ECBS meets in Garibaldi Hall. For more details on monthly programs, visit www.njbeekeepers.org or www.ecbs.squarespace.com. **Free for ECBS and NJBA members**

GREAT SWAMP BONSAI SOCIETY Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday; 6-9pm

For adults and children ages 12 and up. Attendees bring trees, pots and tools for display, discussion and problem-solving. Each meeting features a different area of focus, including a particular species, designs and horticultural issues. Meet in the main Center classroom. For more information, email great.swampbonsai@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page at [greatswampbonsaisociety](https://www.facebook.com/greatswampbonsaisociety). **Free and open to the public**

RUTGERS MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY

Do you have garden-related questions? Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County and a Master Gardener will gladly assist you with their FREE helpline service. Helpline hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. Call 973.228.2210 or e-mail mastergardenerec@gmail.com.

HORTICULTURE FOR SENIORS Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday

For senior citizens. Join the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County for this once-a-month horticulture class especially designed for senior citizens. Monthly topics vary. Limited capacity - advance registration is required early in the month of the program. Contact the Master Gardener Helpline at 973.228.221 or mastergardenerec@gmail.com. **Free**

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the youth development component of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, connecting youth and our community to Rutgers University (4-H Connects Kids with Rutgers). The 4-H



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. 19 & Sunday, Sept. 20**



27 Annual Rose Squared Art Show

at Essex County Brookdale Park

473 Watchung Ave, Bloomfield/Montclair | **Saturday, Oct. 17 & Sunday, Oct. 18**

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

Youth Development Program uses a learn-by-doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to become competent, caring and contributing citizens of the world. This is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of caring adults. To learn more about 4-H programs hosted throughout Essex County, visit <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>.

**4-H VOLUNTEER
LEADER TRAINING**

For adults 21 and up. Seeking adult volunteers to lead 4-H clubs at the Essex County Environmental Center! Do you have a passion or a hobby you want to share with kids? Well, we are looking for 4-H volunteers to lead clubs! Essex County 4-H will provide training and support through Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Department of 4-H Youth Development. Contact us at essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu to get started! **FREE**

4-H CLOVER CLUB

Monthly on the 2nd Tuesdays—October to June 4pm to 5pm
For K-12th grade youth. This club gives youth a platform to explore diverse interests while offering a fun mix of arts and crafts, science, food, volunteering activities, and more! 4-H is empowering youth of all ages to work together and become confident leaders through hands-on community service, public speaking, and project participation at 4-H fairs. Opportunities for county, state, and national events and trips too! Meets at the Essex County Environmental Center inside Garibaldi Hall. Led by Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County, 4-H Youth Development Staff. **FREE**, sign up here: <https://go.rutgers.edu/iicdm6aj>

**4-H ALL PAWS ON DECK DOG CLUB
Meets monthly September-June**

For K-13th graders. This club for youth that have an interest in dogs and veterinary science. Club members will focus on different topics around dogs such as grooming, showmanship, obedience, and more. Dog ownership is not required! Meets at the Essex County Environmental Center inside Garibaldi Hall. Led by Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County, 4-H Youth Development Staff. **FREE**, contact Passaic 4-H to register passaic4h@njaes.rutgers.edu



ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

20TH ANNUAL Fall Family Festival

**Sunday, September 20, 2026
11am to 3pm**

Rain Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026

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 hands-on nature games and crafts, naturalist-led 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.**

**2026 ESSEX COUNTY PARKS
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

Submissions are due by Wednesday, September 9, so grab a camera and visit any 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 15; 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: \$40 per person**

**4-H CRAZY CRITTERS WORKSHOP
Friday, September 18; 5-6pm**

For families. Is it a snake or a carrot?! Take fruit and veggies and turn them into ferocious or fuzzy creatures! This is a fun, family-friendly workshop that is open to all ages, with supplies provided! All Crazy Critters will be eligible to be submitted to the 4-H Gardeners Contest to win prizes, or just taken home to enjoy! Sign up at <https://go.rutgers.edu/crazycritters26>. **Free**

**4-H FALL FAIR & GARDENERS
CONTEST**

**Project Drop Off: Friday,
September 18; 3-6pm and
Saturday, September 19; 2-5pm**
**Project Public Showcase:
Sunday, September 20th;
11am to 3pm**

For all ages. All residents, including youth and adults, are invited to participate in the 4-H Fall Fair & Gardeners Contest! The fair is held in partnership with the Fall Family Festival at the Essex County Environmental Center. All projects will be showcased and awarded based on the Danish judging system. Each submission will receive a ribbon and judge notes, with Best in Class and Best in Division receiving cash prizes! Projects can be submitted in any of the fall divisions: Fruits, Vegetables & Herbs, Outdoor Gardening, Food & Nutrition, and Arts & Crafts. For more information, visit: <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/youth/fairs/>.

**20th ANNUAL FALL
FAMILY FESTIVAL
Sunday, September 20
(Rain date: Sunday, September 27);
11am to 3pm**

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 hands-on nature games and crafts,

naturalist-led 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 24;
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. **Fee: \$15 per person**

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL
EVENT: SHRUB SALE, PRUNING
WORKSHOP & NATURE WALK**

**Saturday, September 26;
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. A free pruning workshop is from 10:30-11:30am and guided nature walk is at 12 noon. No registration necessary; walk-ins are welcome. Meets at Garibaldi Hall. **Free event; plants will be for sale.**

**LENS: A Creative Nature
Photography Adventure**

**Saturday, October 3;
10:30am to 12pm**

For families. Discover the wonder of the natural world through photography, mindfulness, and playful exploration! We'll begin with a short, interactive slideshow to spark inspiration and practice a few simple smartphone photography tips. Then we'll head out on the trails for our family-friendly nature photo scavenger hunt, capturing the light, colors, textures, patterns, and the wonders around us. We'll wrap up by sharing a favorite photo (optional) and reflecting on our experience. Led by Carey Kirkella, creator of The LENS method. **Fee: \$15 per person**



ESSEX REMEMBERS

**Join us for a
Solemn Ceremony
Commemorating the
25th Anniversary of
the 9/11 Tragedy**

**Thursday,
September 11, 2026
8am**

Essex County
Eagle Rock Reservation
Essex County Eagle Rock
9/11 Memorial
Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange
973.621.4400

**FROG POND ADVENTURE
OUTDOOR CLASS**

Thursday, October 8; 5:30-7pm

For families. This rribbetting 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. **Fee: \$15 per person**

**ART IN NATURE: Ferns & Fabrics:
DIY Fern T-Shirts!**

**Saturday, October 10;
10:30am to 12pm**

For all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Looking for a fun activity that blends science, nature, and creativity? We'll hike the woods to select prehistoric wild ferns, decode their ancient anatomy, and then use professional printmaking rollers and permanent fabric ink to design our own custom clothing in our nature-printing workshop! Bring your own item from home to design! Led by Rutgers

Cooperative Extension of Essex County, 4-H Youth Development staff. **Fee: \$20 per person**

PUT YOUR GARDEN TO BED

**Saturday, October 17;
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 beginners and all garden levels. Meet in Garibaldi Hall. **Fee: \$15 per person**

**S'MORES n' MORE NIGHT HIKE
Friday, October 23; 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. All ages are welcome. **Fee: \$20 per person**

FISHING 101

Saturday, October 24; 2-3:30pm

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 their own "Altoids Tin Fishing Tackle Kit" to use on site and then take home. Basic equipment is provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Meet at the waterfront area in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex, West Orange, near the Clipper Pavilion and boat rental. **Fee: \$20 per person**

**HARVEST TO HOME: APPLE SAUCE
AND FRITTER MAKING**

Saturday, October 31; 11am to 1pm

For all ages. Together we'll set up our campfire kitchen and transform crisp, local apples into warm, delicious apple sauce and fritters! We'll explore different apple varieties, practice safe kitchen skills, and learn the "secret ingredients" that make homemade special. Led in partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County, 4-H Youth Development staff. **Fee: \$20 per person**

FOREST FRIENDS ONE-DAY CAMP
Thursday, November 5;
9:30am to 3:30pm
For students ages 6 to 10 years.
Learn about New Jersey's forest friends by way of exploration, games, crafts and campfire cooking activities with a naturalist educator as your guide. Come dressed for the weather. **Fee: \$120 per camper**

TODDLER SEASONAL SENSORY HIKES
Saturdays, November 7 (Life Under a Log);
November 14 (Nature Wreaths) & November 21 (Wild Turkeys);
10am to 11am
For children ages 1 to 5 with caregiver supervision. Bring your toddlers for a sensory exploration outside with an ECEC naturalist. Visit the forest trails, frog pond, Passaic River and more. Held rain or shine. **Fee: \$15 per person**

BECOME A CERTIFIED COMPOST CHAMPION
Saturday, November 14;
9:30am to 1:30pm
For ages 14-18. At this half-day workshop, you will master basic skills in composting, learning from experts in environmental science and sustainability. Engage with different compost systems by adding ingredients, feeding worms, and understanding the benefits of compost for our nature and our community. Take home a mini compost-in-a-bottle and tips on sustainable, eco-friendly actions to make at home. You will earn 5 community service hours and become a certified compost champion in your community! Lunch is provided. Led by Essex County Environmental Center and Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Essex County. **FREE, registration is required through ECEC.**

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING
Saturday, November 14; 2-4pm
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 21;
10:30am to 1:30pm
For families. Come together and challenge yourselves in winter outdoor skills. We'll explore animal tracks, plants that make cordage, practice fire skills, make a winter campfire and enjoy our own campfire cooked treats! 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**

BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER VOLUNTEER
Saturday, November 21; 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. Opportunities include program support, gardening, outdoor stewardship projects and much more! **FREE**

FOREST FRIENDS FEEDER CONTEST
Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, December 9
Project Drop-off:
Friday, December 18 by 5pm
For all ages. Create an edible, festive and unique wetland wildlife feeder for our outdoor exhibit. Projects will be on display on our forested trail for as long as the forest critters allow! **For contest rules and to register, please contact 973.228.8776.**

WINTER WILDLIFE EXPLORERS 3-DAYCAMP
Tuesday December 29, Wednesday December 30 & Friday, December 31; 9:30am to 3:30pm
For children ages 6-10. Campers enjoy stories, crafts, campfires and forest adventures exploring our wooded wetland forests in wintertime. For more information, call 973.228.8776. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants required. **Fee: \$120 per child per day**

ESSEX COUNTY PARKS GALLERY
Essex County Parks
Administration Building
115 Clifton Avenue, Newark

Cherry Blossom Festival Exhibit at Essex County Branch Brook Park
November to February 2027
Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, this exhibit looks back at the reasons for the foundation of the Cherry Blossom Festival in 1976, and its impact on the community in the past five decades.

Visits to the gallery are by appointment. For information, to schedule an appointment, registration instructions, sponsors, ADA accommodations, etc., contact mmcfarlane@parks.essexcountynj.org or call 973.735.6231.

ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO
560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973-731-5800 ~ <https://turtlebackzoo.com/>

Berson Family Center at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo
973-731-5800 x236
<https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/>

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
Hatchlings: September 6, October 11, November 8 at 10am
Tots: September 6, October 11, November 8 at 11:30am
Explorers: September 13, October 18, November 22 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.
Admission for Hatchlings (12-24 months), Tots (ages 2&3) and Explorers (ages 4&5) are \$30-\$40 per participant; no refunds.
For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/early-childhood/>.



"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 16, 2026
6pm to 9pm

Rain Date: Saturday, October 17

The free event includes a display of carved botanic, floral, and Halloween-themed pumpkins created by local high school students from 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
115 Clifton Avenue,
Newark, NJ 07104
973.268.3500 / www.essexcountynj.org

PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST

STROLLER SAFARI

Primates: Wednesday, September 9 from 10am to 11am
Nature's Costumes: Wednesday, October 7 from 10-11am
Ungulates: Wednesday, November 11 from 10-11am

Turtle Back Zoo offers a monthly stroller safari for children ages 1-4 and a caregiver. Each month features a unique topic while exploring an area of the zoo. This 30-45 minute guided tour, led by a TBZ educator, focuses on the wonders of the natural world through the eyes of children. **\$15 for one child & one adult; \$5 for additional children over age 2; \$10 for additional adult. No refunds; zoo admission not included.** For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/stroller-safari/>.

WONDERS OF THE WILD

Animal Training: Saturday, September 12 from 1-3pm
Weird, Creepy, and Unique: Saturday, October 10 from 1-3pm (you may wear costumes)
Ungulates: Saturday, November 14 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 Essex County South Mountain Reservation, Reservoir, or Zoo as weather permits. No refunds; drop-off program only. **\$40/participant; zoo admission not included.** For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/wow/>.

HOMESCHOOL DAYS

Planet of the Primates - From Bushbabies to Humans: September 16 from 11am to 1pm
Life in the Dark: October 21 from 11am to 1pm
Radical Rodents: November 18 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 Essex County South Mountain Reservation, Reservoir, or Zoo as weather permits. No refunds; drop-off program only. **\$40/participant per session; zoo admission not included.** For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/homeschool/>.

LIFELONG LEARNERS

Reptiles and Amphibians of NJ: Sunday, September 13 from 1-3pm
Forest Forensics: Sunday, October 4 from 1-3pm
Geology of Essex County: Sunday, November 8 from 1-3pm
Lifelong Learners are conservation programs for audiences ages 13 to 103. Programs run throughout the year and span topics such as animal anatomy, habitats & conservation, animal careers, and more. The programs are perfect for those interested in animals, science, conservation, and nature who want to learn something new in a relaxed atmosphere. **\$40/participant; no refunds. Includes a visit to the zoo, but zoo admission is not included.**

For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/lifelong-learners/>.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB:

NATURE GUARDIANS Birding 101: Sunday, September 13 from 9-11am

World Migratory Bird Day: Sunday, October 11 from 9-11am
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 brand-new salamander research project at Turtle Back Zoo. **\$5-\$15/participant; no refunds; zoo admission not included.** For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/fnc/>.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB:

NATURE ADVENTURERS Woodland Wanderers: Sunday, September 6 from 9-11am
Autumn Artists: Sunday, October 25 from 9-11am

National Take a Hike Day: Sunday, November 15 from 1-3pm
Preparing for Winter: Sunday, November 29 from 1-3pm

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

UPCOMING MINI-CAMPS

Monday, September 21 from 9am to 4pm
Monday, October 12 from 9am to 4pm
Tuesday, Nov. 3; Thursday, Nov. 5 & Friday, Nov. 6 from 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

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Spectacular

AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

5pm to 9pm Nightly

Friday to Sunday, November 20 – 22
Friday to Sunday, November 27 – 29
Daily Friday, December 4 – Friday, December 31
(CLOSED December 24, December 25)
Thursday, November 19 :
Zoo Members Only Holiday Lights

Take a winter stroll through Essex County Turtle Back Zoo this holiday season under the sparkling lights of holiday-themed and animal characters. Celebrate the season of giving by bringing donations of non-perishable food items, new toys, and gently used coats.
For more information, visit [turtlebackzoo.com/attractions](https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/attractions)

Sponsored by



to the extraordinary world of animals, nature, and science. Children will enjoy age-appropriate camp activities that include games, teacher-led lessons, behind-the-scenes tours, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science demos, and fun crafts. Each session is a unique curriculum. **\$100/participant per session.** Tickets for fall sessions will go on sale in August. For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/zoo-camps/>.

FAMILY CAMP – NEW!

Saturday, October 3 from 10am to 3pm
Have a blast at zoo camp with your entire family and a full day of games, crafts, and animal encounters! Our multigenerational camp will focus on our animal families at the zoo and how your whole family can participate in conservation at home and save the world together. **\$55/participant.** All families are welcome. Appropriate for ages 5 to 105. For more information, email thueston@parks.essexcountynj.org.

ZOO CAMP FOR ADULTS – RETURNING FOR 2026!

Saturday, October 10 from 10am to 3pm
Curious about the dating habits of some of the wilder residents of Turtle Back Zoo? Join us for a fun and frank discussion of the birds and the bees at TBZ! This event is informative, yet tongue-in-cheek fun and highlights the role of Species Survival Plans (SSPs) in the broader context of conservation at TBZ and beyond. **\$55/participant.** Ages 21 and over only. For more information, email mhunt@parks.essexcountynj.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS FOR EDUCATORS

Animal Habitats and Adaptations for grades 1-8 Teachers: Thursday, October 8 from 9am to 3pm
Animal Habitats and Adaptations for grades 6-12 Teachers: Wednesday, October 14 from 9am to 3pm



Come trick-or-treating at the Zoo!

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

Saturday, 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 31st to prepare for the event. For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/>.

Spooky STORYTIME

ADD ON TO YOUR SAFE HOWL-O-WEEN EXPERIENCE

Saturday, October 31: timed sessions at 4:30pm, 5:30pm & 6:30pm

Add on to your Safe Halloween experience! 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. For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/>.

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, email mhunt@parks.essexcountynj.org or visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/professional-development/>.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS & BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

Animal Encounters

Sloth Social: Saturday, November 7; Sunday, November 15 at 10am

Behind the Scenes Tours

Lions: Saturdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26 at 9am
Capybaras: Sundays, October 4, 11, 18, 25 at 2pm
Giraffes: Saturdays/Sundays, November 1, 7, 15, 21, 28 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 liability and 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 a light snack and an educational presentation. **\$65-\$100/participant for Behind the Scenes or Animal Encounters; does not include zoo admission.**

No refunds. For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/animal-encounters/>.

SPOOKY NIGHT MOVES

October 15 & 23: evenings

Get a unique look at the zoo and its nocturnal animal collection! Night Moves gives you a guided evening tour of zoo exhibits where you will learn about different animal senses and adaptations. Guided tours are one hour. **All ages.**

\$10/participant; no fee for under 2 years old. No refunds; zoo admission not included. More info: <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/>

WINTER WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 6 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. For more information, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com>.

OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU

In-person and Virtual Programs, Outreaches, and more

Dates and Times Scheduled at Need

Join us for a dynamic and fun educational program 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 apply. For more information, visit <https://www.turtlebackzoo.com/learn/outreach-virtual/>. ■



Help make our Park Spaces More Accessible

The Essex County Parks Department is looking to expand its Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group and is seeking members of the public who would like to volunteer or share their experiences to make our open spaces more accessible to everyone.

Volunteers can be residents who have direct experience with accessibility issues, either personally having accessibility issues themselves or being a caregiver, medical practitioner or professional in the accessibility field. The group would discuss and make recommendations about enhancing access for people of all abilities to park facilities, improving parking, improving access to parks' online information and outreach and other topics as they arise.

The volunteer group would meet on a quarterly basis via Zoom. For information or to submit your resume or letter of interest, please email mmcfarlane@parks.essexcountynj.org.



“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

Invite You to



**STRUT
YOUR
MUTT**
Pet Costume Parade

Free Entry!
Prizes will be awarded!

Saturday, October 17
Essex County Branch Brook Park
West Drive near Heller Parkway
Registration: 9:30am • Parade: 10am
Rain Date: Sunday, October 18

Saturday, October 24
Essex County Brookdale Dog Park
Grove Street Entrance
Registration: 9am • Parade: 9:30am
Rain Date: Sunday, October 25

Saturday, October 24
Essex County Grover Cleveland Park
Near Pond House
Registration: 1pm • Parade: 1:30pm
Rain Date: Sunday, October 25



COUNTY OF ESSEX DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
115 Clifton Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104
973.268.3500 / www.essexcountynj.org

PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST

ESSEX COUNTY
CULTURAL
EXHIBITIONS

JCC OF GREATER METROWEST

Cooperman JCC
760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.530.3412 / www.jccmetrowest.org


Gaelen Gallery
September 17 to October 25

Beautiful watercolor still lifes and forest scenes by master watercolorist David Barba will be exhibited. Opening reception is Thursday, September 17 from 4-6pm. Free. Open to the public. No registration required.

LISA PALOMBO STUDIOS

55 Mountain Avenue, Caldwell
973.979.1060
www.lisapalombo.com

November 21 & 22
Annual Holiday Open Studio

11am to 5pm
Award-winning American Impressionist Lisa Palombo opens her art studio to the public to showcase new, original paintings and giftable art consisting of florals and animalia art which all truly highlight her signature palette and expressive brushstrokes.

STUDIO MONTCLAIR
LEACH GALLERY

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

We the People
September 18 to October 23

"We the People" are the opening words of the U. S. Constitution's preamble, which outlines the Constitution's goals and justification. Artists' works depict the goals of the Constitution.

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.



David Barba at Gaelen Gallery

Roadblocks
November 12 to December 11

Roadblocks delves into the concept of barriers, both tangible and abstract, that shape our societies and individual lives.

These barriers often hinder connection, understanding, and progress. Artists' work examine and express how these roadblocks are constructed, perceived, and sometimes dismantled. ■

Essex County
Riker Hill Art Park
OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, November 7
& Sunday, November 8
11am to 5pm

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



Art by Francesca Pelaggi



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



COUNTY OF ESSEX DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
115 Clifton Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104
973.268.3500 / www.essexcountynj.org
PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST

ESSEX COUNTY AUTUMN EVENTS

Fall 2026: Glassblowing Classes for All Ages! Glassmaking classes return in September in Glassroots' new, state-of-the-art space in Downtown Newark. Bring a friend or the family and make something beautiful with the magic of fire and glass! GlassRoots, 23 William Street, Newark. 10-11am. Schedule and cost varies. glassroots.org

September 19 (rain date September 26): The Newark PorchFest in Forest Hill. The beautiful porches and yards of the historic Forest Hill neighborhood of Newark host an extraordinary range of performing artists and visual artists. Food trucks will be available. Ballantine Gates, Lake Street and Ballantine Parkway, Newark. KidsFest is from 11am to 12

noon; PorchFest is from 12 noon to 6pm. www.newarkporchfest.com; Facebook: Newark Porchfest; Instagram: @newarkporchfest

September 19 to 20: 42nd Annual Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Anderson Park. Welcome the arrival of fall at the 42nd Annual Rose Squared Art Show in the picturesque setting of Essex County Anderson Park. Spend the weekend exploring an exceptional collection of fine art and fine craft, thoughtfully curated and presented by artists from across the country. Meet the makers, hear the stories behind their work, and discover one-of-a-kind pieces that will bring lasting beauty to your home. Essex County Anderson Park, 274 Bellevue Avenue, Montclair. Saturday from 10am to 5pm, Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Free to the public. Rain or shine. www.rosesquared.com

October 1 to November 13: South Mountain Fall Foliage Bus Tour Guides. Enjoy the beautiful colors and rich history of Essex County South Mountain Reservation with a guided group bus tour. Our guides will join your

group to give you detailed information and fun facts about the park and its history! Tours are approximately 1 hour, and you must provide the bus. Essex County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex, 560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange. By appointment, available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Tours start at \$150. For information on scheduling and pricing, contact mmcfarlane@parks.essexcountynj.org or 973.735.6231.

October 10: 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. Handicap accessible. Essex County Anderson Park, 274 Bellevue



THE NEWARK PORCHFEST
IN FOREST HILL

KIDS FEST 11-12PM

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 12-6
RAINDATE: SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

A FREE NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL FOR ALL
LIVE MUSIC
ARTS & CRAFTS
FOOD TRUCKS

FH CA WWW.NEWARKPORCHFEST.COM NEWARKPORCHFEST@GMAIL.COM
@NEWARKPORCHFEST @NEWARKPORCHFEST
A FOREST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENT

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 Facebook page for weather updates. No rain date. Sponsored by Friends of Anderson Park. 973.477.7207. FriendsOfAndersonPark.com

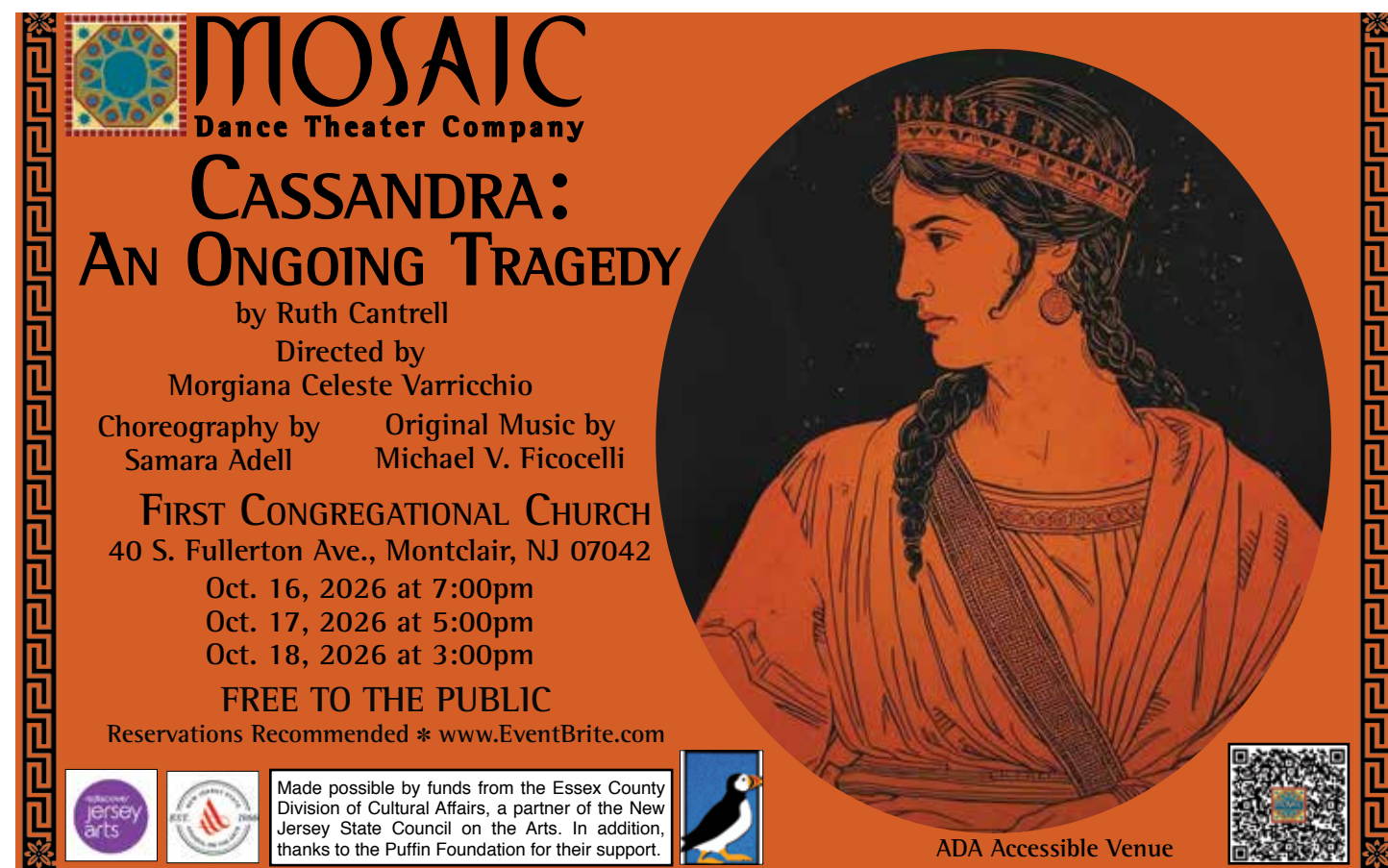
October 11: Hollywood Hits: From West Side Story to Spirited Away. Lights, camera, action! Rising-star conductor Keitaro Harada from the New Jersey Symphony leads a program of thrilling orchestral music from classic movies. Movie-musicals West Side Story and An American in Paris, with their timeless tunes, are heard alongside Joe Hisaishi's score to the Studio Ghibli masterpiece Spirited Away. Don't miss this festive performance with music that dazzles and delights—the perfect way to celebrate the start of the season. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 2-4pm. \$33-\$128. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

October 17 to 18: 27th Annual Rose Squared Art Show at Essex County Brookdale Park. Experience one of New Jersey's favorite autumn traditions at the 27th Annual Rose Squared Art Show in beautiful Brookdale Park. Wander through a carefully curated outdoor gallery featuring outstanding fine art and fine craft created by talented artists from around the nation. Whether you are adding to a collection, searching for a meaningful gift, or simply enjoying a day surrounded by creativity, this fall celebration offers something inspiring around every corner. Essex County Brookdale Park, 473 Watchung Avenue, Bloomfield. 10am to 5pm. Free to the public. Rain or shine. www.rosesquared.com

October 24: Opening Weekend: Beethoven's "Emperor" & Schubert's "Great." A new season begins with two of Classical music's most epic works. Music Director Xian Zhang from the New Jersey Symphony introduced George Li to New Jersey audiences 10 years ago and he's since become a true local favorite, returning now for Beethoven's heroic "Emperor"

Piano Concerto. Schubert's final symphony, also known as "The Great," was lost in a drawer and never performed during his lifetime – its songful grandeur is one of the wonders of the Romantic era. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30-9:30pm. \$33-\$128. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/>

November 19 & 22: Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances. Jazz and classical meet in this genre-defying program full of color, rhythm, and fun. Montclair's own jazz legend and nine-time Grammy Award-winner, Christian McBride, debuts with the New Jersey Symphony in a concerto tailor-made for him. Eric Jacobsen, hailed by The New York Times as "an interpretive dynamo," returns with the perfumed hues of Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun and Rachmaninoff's final orchestral work, written in New York City and full of longing for his Russian home. New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30-9:30pm. \$33-\$128. 800.255.3476. <https://www.njsymphony.org/> ■



MOSAIC
Dance Theater Company

CASSANDRA:
AN ONGOING TRAGEDY
by Ruth Cantrell
Directed by Morgiana Celeste Varricchio
Choreography by Samara Adell Original Music by Michael V. Ficocelli

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
40 S. Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
Oct. 16, 2026 at 7:00pm
Oct. 17, 2026 at 5:00pm
Oct. 18, 2026 at 3:00pm
FREE TO THE PUBLIC
Reservations Recommended * www.EventBrite.com

Made possible by funds from the Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. In addition, thanks to the Puffin Foundation for their support.

ADA Accessible Venue

ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

BRANCH BROOK PARK ALLIANCE

973.969.1189 ~ info@branchbrookpark.org
www.branchbrookpark.org/calendar
Please call for ADA accessibility details

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. Essex County Branch Brook Park, Prudential Concert Grove, Newark. 10am to 5pm. **FREE**. Advanced registration, please visit www.branchbrookpark.org.

September 1 to October 10: Discovering Wellness with the Branch Brook Park Alliance.

Join the Branch Brook Park Alliance 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 at www.branchbrookpark.org.

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 at www.branchbrookpark.org.

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, Newark. Flexible dates. Days and times vary. **Fee:**



Branch Brook Park Fest Community Art Project

\$15 per person. Advanced registration is required at www.branchbrookpark.org.

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

89 Ridge Street, Newark
973.484.2400

www.cathedralbasilica.org

Concert Series

September 20: Organ Recital with Caroline Robinson. 3pm.

Free-will offering.

October 18: Organ Recital with John J. Miller – Music of César Franck. 3pm.

Free-will offering.

November 1: 'Requiem' by Maurice Duruflé.

The Cathedral Choir, soloists, organ and orchestra will perform and be 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. Free-will offering.

Wednesdays at Noon. A 30-minute recital. A brief tour of the cathedral will immediately follow the recital. Free-will offering.

October 7: Flute Recital with Chideha Osondu.

A 30-minute flute recital will be followed by a brief tour of the Cathedral. 12 noon. Free-will offering.

October 14: Organ Recital with Evalyn Cogswell.

A 30-minute organ recital will be followed by a brief tour of the Cathedral. 12pm. Free-will offering.

October 28: A Choral Concert with The New Jersey Philharmonic Choir.

A 30-minute choral recital will be conducted by Gwen Moten and followed by a brief tour of the Cathedral. 12pm. Free-will offering.

ESSEX PHOTO CLUB Caldwell United Methodist Church 8 Academy Road, Caldwell

(no religious affiliation)
For more information, see the club's Facebook page or essexphotoclub.org.

September 3: Summer Show and Tell Photo Session (In-Person)

September 17: Workshop/Speaker (In-Person)

October 8: EPC Member Photo Review and Feedback Session (In-Person)

October 22: Judged Photo Competition (In-Person)

October 29: EPC Hosts The NJFCC Fall Competition (Zoom)

November 5: Workshop/Speaker (In-Person)

November 19: Judged Photo Competition (Zoom)

Livingston Camera Club

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

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 15: Livingston Camera Club's "Back to Club" Night. The club launches its 2026/2027 season with hands-on workshops, competitions, and seminars. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, the Livingston Camera Club offers a welcoming space to grow your photography skills all year long. There's no cost to join us on September 15.

September 28: 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. There's no cost to listen to this meeting.

October 12 "A Different Point of View" with Betsy Wilson (Zoom).

Contact the club if you plan to attend so we can send you the link. Join us as presenter Betsy Wilson shows us some new twists to spark ideas to make your photos look different than the ordinary. Open to all skill levels. There's no cost to attend the October 12 Zoom session, but please contact us via the website for access. ■



Branch Brook Park Alliance Park Tour



Branch Brook Park Alliance Soul Line Dancing Participants



Branch Brook Park Alliance Volunteer Park Stewards



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

115 Clifton Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104

www.essexcountynj.org

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Essex County Arts



@essexarts

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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**NEW
JERSEY
SYMPHONY**
XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

**26|27
SEASON**

extraordinary
MUSIC
... and you!

UPCOMING CONCERTS IN NEWARK



Hollywood Hits: From *West Side Story* to *Spirited Away*

Oct 11 | NJPAC at 2 pm



George Li
piano

**Beethoven's "Emperor" &
Schubert's "Great"**

Oct 24 | NJPAC at 7:30 pm



Christian
McBride
double bass

**Rachmaninoff's
Symphonic Dances**

Nov 19 & 22
NJPAC at 1:30 pm & 2 pm



Tony Siqi Yun
piano

**Rhapsody on a Theme
of Paganini**

Jan 22 & 23
NJPAC at 7:30 pm

The November 19 & 22 performances are part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival and are presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

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.



James
Moody
Jazz Festival