

THE SPIRIT OF

Essex

WINTER 2020

**Supporting the Arts
and Educational
Programs During
the COVID Pandemic**

**Virtual Educational
Programs**

**Virtual Tours and
Concerts**

**Timed and Small
Group, Socially
Distanced Activities**



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



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

PAGE 15



PAGE 17



PAGE 18

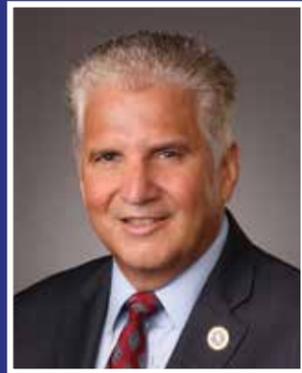


PAGE 20



PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Dear Friend,

The winter months are fast approaching, and we all wish the Essex County calendar was filled with tons of family-friendly activities for everyone to enjoy this holiday season, as it has been in years past. But this year is different. Covid-19 has changed our world and health and safety is now our number one priority.

Although we can't gather in large groups and partake in our traditional holiday and seasonal activities, it is important that we still embrace the joyous times and think positive thoughts as best we can. While we must remain apart from each other physically, let us continue to find creative ways to connect and celebrate the spirit of the holidays. Whether it's a walk in an Essex County park to enjoy the foliage and fresh air or a cup of tea or hot chocolate on a virtual platform with friends and family, there are many ways we can connect and center our minds on positivity.

We encourage you all to safely create memories with those closest to you. It may look different this year, but the connection with our friends and family is needed even more during these times.

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

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



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

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Cover photo credit: Essex County Park Archives

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.



Supporting the Arts and Educational Programs During the COVID Pandemic

As the state works at fully reopening, Essex County and its partners in Cultural Affairs are working to bring the Arts back to the community in unique and exciting ways. The venues have temporarily closed but their interest in providing premiere entertainment has not waned.

The Arts are more important during these unpredictable times serving as a form of local entertainment for residents who remain confined to their homes with limited places to go or things to do. Arts organizations and entertainment venues are reinventing themselves working to provide supporters with the same level of programming and enjoyment. Some facilities that closed during the height of the pandemic are opening with modified hours and reduced capacity. The Montclair Museum of Art is one such place. There is detailed information on its website for accessible galleries and entrance requirements. The museum also implemented safety measures in accordance with state and local medical officials.

Video conferencing and virtual performances are taking center stage at theaters as the industry evolves. Peak Performances at Montclair State University is offering an alternative to theater visits by partnering with WNET's ALL ARTS to launch PEAK HD. The broadcast and digital platform gives worldwide reach to the Montclair State University-based commissioner and producer of new works by major international experimental artists in dance, theater, performance art, music, and more. The Paper Mill Playhouse is streaming productions from the stage as it winds down the year.

The county is leading the charge, doing its part in motivating the community as we continue to offer engaging and unique programs while following safety protocols. The Essex County Environmental Center, in an effort to keep nature enthusiasts motivated and students environmentally conscious, is offering virtual field trips on a variety of topics. There are a number of science- and nature-themed programs



throughout the fall and early winter seasons for all ages. Turtle Back Zoo is busy staying current as well by offering programs with in-person and virtual options, incorporating interacting with the animals when possible.

As the Essex County Parks Department Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs evolves to maintain a sense of normalcy during the COVID pandemic, we will continue to partner with the local arts community. We encourage your support in promoting The Spirit of Essex. ■

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.essexcountynj.org/codeyarena

Winter Learn to Skate Lessons – Classes begin in December
Call the Main Office at (973) 731-3828 ext. 0 or check online at Essexcountyparks.org (Codey Arena)

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

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS
\$50 per program, 30 minutes

Choose from the Following Virtual Field Trip Topics

- Seasonal Discovery Nature Tour
- Frog Pond Science
- Backyard Birding
- Lenape Learning Area Tour & Lenape Skills
- Camping 101
- Fish & Fishing 101
- Passaic River Studies
- Mighty Migrations Butterflies
- Wild about Wildlife Recycling (grant funded/free for Essex County institutions while funds last)
- Green Building Tour
- Honey Bees & Native Pollinators...and more!

How to book a Virtual Trip with the Environmental Center

- Call the Center to schedule and confirm a virtual time to meet and send a log-in link for an ECEC educator to enter your virtual classroom;

- An ECEC educator will meet the host facilitator (teacher, scout, group leader, etc.) in the virtual classroom 10 minutes prior to the start of class for a check-in to test the technology;
- The host facilitator is responsible for admitting participants into the virtual classroom, answering any technological questions, calling on participants and reading any typed questions to the ECEC educator.

ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange; 973.731.5800
www.essexcountynj.org/turtlebackzoo

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo is proud

to offer a variety of science- and nature-themed programs throughout the fall and early winter seasons for all ages. There are both in-person and virtual options, with more programs in development. In-person programs are held outdoors and follow all current health and safety protocols; as conditions improve these classes may move indoors. Virtual programs will be ongoing. With school holiday Mini-Camps and Wonders of the Wild supplementary science classes, to Early Childhood Education and Family Nature Club, there's a program for you and your family to enjoy. To learn more about what the Zoo has to offer and register for programs, visit <https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/>.



WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN VISITING ESSEX COUNTY PARKS AND VENUES

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 53 adult entries and 23 youth entries. All contest entries were displayed on the Environmental Center Facebook page. The winners are:

FIRST PLACE ADULT
1st Place -Adult
Joshua Goodman



FIRST PLACE YOUTH
1st Place -Youth
Giancarlo Morano



SECOND PLACE ADULT
2nd Place -Adult
John Shiever



SECOND PLACE YOUTH
2nd Place -Youth
Chelsea Shey



THIRD PLACE ADULT
3rd Place -Adult
Lynda Zarillo



THIRD PLACE YOUTH
3rd Place -Youth
Elise Linn



HONORABLE MENTION ADULT
Honorable Mention -Adult
Jerry Golub



HONORABLE MENTION YOUTH
Honorable Mention -Youth
Alex Salazar



2020 ESSEX COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN ART SHOW WINNERS



1st Place: Winifred Boss
Enchanted Forest



1st Place: Maya Bloom
French Textile and Lavendar



1st Place: Maria Lupo
Prophets Dream



1st Place: Mary Franklin
Hope



1st Place: Sharron Allen
Wall Hanging Bowl



1st Place: Claudia Arici
Heaven on Earth

PROFESSIONAL

ACRYLIC

1st Place – Winifred Boss – ENCHANTED FOREST
2nd Place – Lynne Palmer – PEONY POWER

CRAFT

1st Place – French Textile and Lavendar – Maya Bloom

MIXED MEDIA

1st Place – Maria Lupo – PROPHETS DREAM
2nd Place – Carol Jenkins – CHATOTIC CALM

OIL

1st Place – Christine Elvin – ROAD LAST TAKEN
2nd Place – Gail Gardella – THE FLOWER STATION

PASTEL

1st Place – Chas Palminteri – DAVID
2nd Place – Richard Digiovanna – LIVINGSTON MARSH

PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place – Robert Szpila – PRESBY

DIGITAL

1st Place – Annette Kushen – UNTITLED

SCULPTURE

1st Place – Nikki Pusin – Quurtle
2nd Place – Lester James Johnson – BALLS IN A CAGE

WATER COLOR

1st Place – Jill Vondervor – ATLANTIC CITY
2nd Place – Jane Ballinger – THE FALLS

HONORABLE MENTION

Marian Jones – VERONA PADDLE BOATS

NON-PROFESSIONAL

ACRYLIC

1st Place – Mary Franklin – HOPE
2nd Place – Peter Astor – UNDERTOW

CRAFT

1st Place – Sharron Allen – WALL HANGING BOWL

DRAWING

1st Place – Marie Matarazzo – MOTHER WITH BABY
2nd Place – Rich Hanifan – SPRING HOUSE

MIXED MEDIA

1st Place – Claudia Arici – HEAVEN ON EARTH
2nd Place – Arlene Silva – THE WEDDING

OIL

1st Place – Joan Speare – ORCHIDS IN THE WILD
2nd Place – Angela Wang – SNORKELING IN GALAPAGOS

PASTEL

1st Place – Steve Wien – STILL LIFE WITH AVOCADOS
2nd Place – Sue Siblemer – SPRINGTIME IN VERONA

PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place – Miriam Sampson – ABSTRACTION
2nd Place – Noah Chivian – COPENHAGEN

SCULPTURE

1st Place – B. Oswald – WATCHER OF THE WOODS

WATER COLOR

1st Place – Irma Perez – SUNFLOWERS
2nd Place – Rosenn Martin – BY THE SEA

HONORABLE MENTION

Eleanor Halpern – UNTITLED



THE ESSEX COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM: *Celebrating 125 Years of Green Spaces, Recreation and Preservation*

The Essex County Park System: Celebrating 125 Years of Green Spaces, Recreation and Preservation

Continuation of a series on the Essex County Park System in celebration of 125 Years

Beginning in 1895, when only 25 acres of parkland existed in the county, the Essex County Park System grew. Seven parks were created in the first five years, mostly in Newark, but included two mountain reservations. In the early years, citizen made suggestions as to where new parks would be established. Recommendations were recurring and numerous, leading the Park Commission to joke that the entire county was deemed “parkable” by its constituents. No wonder; property values increased significantly near the new parkland. The initial parks were followed by Watsessing Park, Anderson Park, Irvington Park, and Riverbank Park.

In the 1910s, the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm designed Glenfield, Yanticaw, Grover Cleveland, Belleville, and Vailsburg Parks. Those were followed in the 1920s by Hendricks Field Golf Course, Verona, Ivy Hill, and Brookdale Parks where construction carried on well into the 1930s. In the meantime, existing parks were expanded. By the park system’s 50th anniversary in 1945, over 4,200 acres had been designated as open space.

Changes in society necessitated changes in the parks, such as accommodations for vehicular traffic. To accommodate the automobile, an entire system of roadways needed to be paved and made less curving in places. The green parkways connecting the parks were needed for commercial traffic and even superhighways. Procurement of the Oraton Parkway by the state funded Turtle Back Zoo and allowed for the acquisition of West Essex Park. Other mid-20th century additions to the park

system included Mills Reservation, Becker Park, Riker Hill Art Park, and Francis A. Byrne Golf Course. The West Essex Trail, a former railroad right-of-way, was acquired in 1985.

The Essex County Parks System may be 125 years old, but it has not stopped growing and improving! Since 2000, six new parks or reservations have been added to the system: Hilltop Reservation, Kip’s Castle Park, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Veterans Memorial Park, Riverfront Park, and Cedar Grove Park. Each of these properties brings its interesting story to enrich the history of the entire park system. Today, the Essex County Park System includes over 6,000 acres.

Interested in seeing historic images of the Essex County Parks? An exhibition on the nation’s first county-wide park system is on display at Newark Public Library’s Main Branch. For more information, please see the Cultural Exhibits section of this issue. ■



ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM
125th ANNIVERSARY
1895-2020

125 Years of Aspiring, Innovating, Growing

1895



On April 20, 1895, the Essex County Park Commission met for the first time. The Commission, enabled by legislation and endorsed through a referendum, established the nation's first countywide park network. The Essex County Parks System would be composed of three types of parks. The first are large city parks, such as Branch Brook Park, whose Southern Division was the first parcel of land acquired by the Commission. The second are neighborhood parks in densely populated areas, including the first county park to be opened to the public, Independence Park in Newark's Ironbound District. The final component of the park system were the reservations: land in less populated areas of the county held in reserve for recreational use.

1898

In 1898, the Olmsted Brothers firm, run by sons of the renowned Frederick Law Olmsted, took on the task of crafting the landscapes of the Essex County Parks. From then until the 1950s, the firm advised the board and generated design plans for all of the acquired parkland.

The County Parks were planned as a network of green spaces connected by parkways. In the days of horse and buggy, the parkways would allow for leisurely carriage rides from one open space to another. Early manifestations of this ideal were Park Avenue west from Branch Brook and the East Orange Parkway, renamed Oraton Parkway as it was extended.



1900



Seven parks were created within the Parks System's first five years: Branch Brook Park, Independence Park, South Mountain Reservation, Eagle Rock Reservation, West Side Park, Weequahic Park and Orange Park.

Property values increased significantly near new parkland, and recommendations from citizen groups for new park locations were numerous. Anderson, Watsessing, Irvington and Riverbank Parks were added.

1910s

In the 1910s, the Olmsted firm designed Glenfield, Yanticaw, Grover Cleveland, Belleville and Vailsburg Parks.

1920-1930s

Those were followed in the 1920s by Hendricks Field Golf Course, as well as Verona, Ivy Hill and Brookdale Parks where construction carried on through the 1930s. In the meantime, land was being added to existing parks.



1945

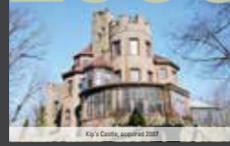
By the system's 50th anniversary in 1945, over 4,200 acres had been designated as parkland.



From the beginning, societal trends led to changes in the parks. Facilities had been added to accommodate the growing popularity of sports such as golf. With the automobile had come the need to pave an entire system of roadways. Then, one by one the connecting parkways were ceded to commercial traffic and even superhighways. In 1954, the sale of Oraton Parkway provided funds for the acquisition of West Essex Park. Other additions in the 1950s through 1970s were Mills Reservation, Becker Park, Riker Hill Art Park and Francis A. Byrne Golf Course.

1950-1970s

2000-2020



Since 2000, Hilltop Reservation, Kip's Castle Park, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, Veterans Memorial, Riverfront and Cedar Grove Parks have been added. Each new addition contributes its unique story to the rich history of the Parks System.

Today, the Essex County Parks System includes over 6,000 acres in 29 parks and reservations. Newly refurbished playgrounds, synthetic turf playing fields, new and renovated community centers, three golf courses, five dog parks, new exhibits at the accredited Turtle Back Zoo, and hundreds of miles of paths and trails system-wide offer a myriad of recreational opportunities.

ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM
125th ANNIVERSARY
1895-2020

Recreational Facilities: Fields for Dreams



Just as playgrounds were incorporated into most Essex County Parks,

so too were open fields intended for ball games.

The fields accommodated common pastimes like baseball, softball, football, and soccer, for pick-up games and league play. Less commonly, cricket was played in Branch Brook and Glenfield Parks and hurling in Branch Brook's Northern Division. However, in the early years, competitions were not allowed on Sundays. Soon, grass tennis courts were laid out at Weequahic and Branch Brook Parks.



The park designers understood there was a need for additional, specialized recreational facilities. In 1914, a portion of Weequahic Park was transformed into a 9-hole golf course, New Jersey's first public course. Two years later, the oval at Weequahic was upgraded to allow track and field competitions. Watsessing Park was equipped with a lawn bowling green in 1924. Clay tennis courts were constructed in West Side and Branch Brook Parks in 1927 and bocce courts were installed to meet the interests of communities throughout the county. Provisions were made for shuffleboard, horseshoes and handball. Bridle trails were laid out for horseback riding and there was even a temporary velodrome built for bicycling. Grandstands for spectators were built at Weequahic, Riverbank and Brookdale Parks.



Over the decades, fields have been maintained and upgraded to meet modern expectations. The additions included scoreboards, backstops and peripheral fencing. To allow athletes to play after dark, the Park Commission experimented in 1929 with lighted tennis courts in West Side Park and in the 1960s with lighted basketball courts at Yanticaw and Belleville Parks. To provide more days of skating in the winter than could be assured on frozen ponds, an outdoor ice skating rink was constructed at Branch Brook. Later, to offer year-round skating, the rink was enclosed, and in 1958 South Mountain Arena was added. More recently, the Branch Brook facility was rebuilt for roller skating.



Improvement of the recreational facilities in the parks continues today with rubberized jogging trails and fitness circuits. For ball diamonds and rectangular fields, current public demand warrants synthetic turf surfaces to more efficiently absorb wear and tear.



ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM **125th ANNIVERSARY** 1895-2020 **Playgrounds: Making Fun Accessible**

The early **Olmsted Brothers** design for the Southern Division of Branch Brook Park incorporated a "Young Folks Lawn" to serve the needs of a densely populated neighborhood. A sand court — a large, awning-covered sandbox beside a shelter for mothers to sit — was in use by the spring of 1899. The following year, a play instructor was hired, paid for by the Newark Ladies' Educational Society. The playground area included swings, seesaws and scups (double swings for small children). Quickly, the playgrounds of the growing Essex County Parks System became busy and well attended attractions. In 1905, the attendance at the sand court and "little folk's lawn" averaged 1,061 daily with 75,000 for the season.



By 1910, attendance increased even further, to a daily average of 2,879 children in the playgrounds of Branch Brook Park. Play during this time was supervised, with matrons hired to oversee facilities and instructors directing activities.



If the play structures in the older photos seem almost industrial, it is because they were. The Narragansett Machine Company, founded to manufacture lathes and other machines, moved into the new playground equipment industry. Among other things, they made outdoor gymnasiums for boys like the ones installed in Independence and West Side Parks and the Sussex Avenue playground of Branch Brook Park.



As the decades progressed, wooden slides and see-saws, then tall metal slides, high swings, merry-go-rounds and jungle gyms

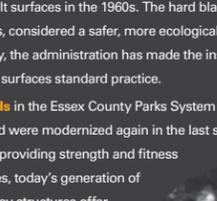


appeared in the playgrounds. In the 1950s, wooden corrals appealed to the first generation of television-watching children, allowing them to pretend to be Daniel Boone. Then a new generation of play equipment arrived with bright colors and concrete animals to climb upon. Hard plastics became industry standard and the equipment evolved back to include large structures integrating several activities.

Where the heavy use of seesaws and swings had worn muddy hollows, it was deemed an upgrade to apply asphalt surfaces in the 1960s. The hard blacktop was later replaced with natural woodchips, considered a safer, more ecological alternative. More recently, to enhance safety, the administration has made the installation of rubberized surfaces standard practice.

Nearly all of the playgrounds in the Essex County Parks System underwent renovations in the early 2000s and were modernized again in the last several years.

In addition to providing strength and fitness activities, today's generation of play structures offer opportunities to make music and enrich the imagination.



ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM **125th ANNIVERSARY** 1895-2020 **Water: Delighting the Senses**



Water, still and flowing, is often a vital element in the parks of the Essex County Parks System. In some cases, parkland was chosen for its location alongside a stream or around a lake. In others, an element of water was added by the Olmsted Brothers firm to enhance the refreshing, restorative power of nature. In the park named for it, the Branch Brook transforms from a necklace of pools in the Northern Division, to wind around islands, and then broaden into an extensive lake in the Southern Division, while the once powerful Second River flows through the ravine in the Extension. Although Branch Brook Park has it all, most of the Olmsted-designed parks included at least one water element, even if it was just a man-made wading pool. The ponds and lakes have offered many recreational opportunities from

wading, swimming, and fishing, to ice skating in winter. The waters have hosted boating of all sorts: model yacht racing, canoeing, paddle and row boating, and even water-skiing competitions at Weequahic Lake in the 1960s. In the intervening decades, the ponds at West Side and Brookdale Parks, as well as a portion of the lake in the Middle Division of Branch Brook, have disappeared for various reasons. A changing neighborhood demographic may have found more value in a ball field, or the clay liner of a man-made pond failed and was too costly to repair. Other bodies of water, such as Verona Lake, have had to be dredged. Throughout the county, parkland was acquired for a dozen parks and reservations along the Passaic River, Second River, Third

River, Toney's Brook, Peckman River, Pine Brook Creek and the West Branch of the Rahway. In the mid-20th century, many of these were channelized with revetment walls and Belgian block paving. This made the shorelines less accessible for wildlife, but successfully reduced the damaging effects of flooding. **Water elements continue** to play an important role in the Essex County Parks System. Playground splash zones are today's equivalent of the early wading pools. Fishing remains popular, with Fishing Derbies held for young anglers in several parks. Recently, an agreement with the City of Orange has resulted in the full inclusion of the Reservoir at the South Mountain Recreation Complex where many enjoy fishing from the shore and paddle boating.



ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM **125th ANNIVERSARY** 1895-2020 **Structures: Putting Beauty in Functionality**



Structures such as bridges, walls and steps help visitors navigate the designed landscape and water elements of our parks. Entranceways such as the Ballantine Gateway, designed by the Beaux-Arts architecture firm Carrère and Hastings, entice patrons to enter the parks while delineating their borders. Bridges allow seamless crossing where otherwise there would be abrupt intersections or barriers. Trail steps unobtrusively allow hikers to scale slopes with less difficulty than before. Open shelters and band stands also serve functional purposes.

Structures within the Essex County Parks were designed to meet the requirements of beauty and functionality. As Frederick Olmsted Sr. once said, "So long as considerations of utility are neglected or overridden by considerations of ornament, there will be no true art." The Park Avenue Bridge, for instance, was engineered to be a lovely focal feature over Branch Brook Lake, but it also allows pedestrians and drivers to move freely through the length of the park.

The Olmsted firm's design principles required that structures merge seamlessly with their surroundings. Labeled "subordination", this means the structures must be subordinate to the overall landscape design. Thus, overwrought decorative treatment was avoided. The Olmsted landscape architects were able to subordinate some structures into the surrounding landscape by using local stone. Examples of this are the eight rustic bridges crisscrossing the Branch Brook in the Northern Division.



The principle of blending the functional into the splendid natural landscapes was even more pertinent within the less-developed reservations. Rustic footbridges made from local wood were common in South Mountain Reservation until they were replaced with reinforced concrete sometime in mid-century. Trail steps, fire pits and picnic tables there and

at Eagle Rock were built with local stone. In the early 1960s, Tjark Reis created a whimsical environment for children at Turtle Back Zoo. Inspired by nursery rhymes, the sculpture-like structures were designed to create their own beautiful and functional landscape.

Public demand sometimes called for more classical elements, such as sculpture, in the parks. There are a few examples incorporated into Olmsted design plans, but most of the sculptures, such as those at Riker Hill Art Park, the South Mountain Wildflower Sculpture Garden, and the September 11 Memorial at Eagle Rock, were added in more recent decades.



ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM **125th ANNIVERSARY** 1895-2020 **Landscapes: Designed to Make Memories**

At first glance, parks may seem to be undeveloped, natural landscapes, yet they are very much designed and engineered spaces crafted by landscape architects. Once the land was acquired, any existing buildings were removed, topography graded, lake shorelines sculpted, and carefully-selected trees and shrubs planted. By design, the naturalistic settings conceal the work that was put into them.

The Olmsted firm, which produced plans for all of the Essex County Parks into the mid-20th century, utilized aesthetic values influenced by pictorial arts, such as picturesque and pastoral styles. Structures were designed and

edged with plantings to complement their natural surroundings, and compositions of open meadows with scattered trees and small bodies of water offered refreshingly expansive views. The Olmsteds believed in the curative psychological effect of such scenery upon the mind and purposely designed spaces for persons of any economic or social status.



In Newark and other more heavily populated areas, the only land left for a park by the 1890s was swampy or otherwise problematic. With architectural, horticultural and



stylistic elements, the Olmsted firm was able to transform property that held little commercial value for construction into a place of respite from busy urban life. To keep out the sights and sounds of the city, they massed plantings and extended mounds on the periphery.

Making the most of the available space, they separated areas by purpose, designing parks to accommodate contemplation and playgrounds, active sports as well as a quiet stroll. The Olmsted Brothers firm, cognizant of the population's practical needs, provided plantings, lawns, recreation facilities and other necessary user amenities to create park landscapes in

Essex County that are beautiful, yet functional and clearly able to stand the test of time.

Even for the larger reservations in less-developed parts of the county, the Olmsteds' responsiveness to the natural character of a site allowed them to envision its transformation from neglected lot, abandoned quarry or uniform woodlot. Application of their ideals of aesthetic forestry meant woods were thinned of certain species to allow others to flourish and some areas were cleared of taller vegetation to reveal expansive views.



Throughout the 125-year history of the Parks System, additional parks have been added. Each one has contributed a different landscape, whether it be a green oasis replacing derelict structures; rocky slopes and lookouts; riverside views and level recreation fields; or a rainbow of iris flowers.

**HIGHLIGHTING
ESSEX COUNTY
VENUES AND
FACILITIES**

**ESSEX COUNTY
GOLF**

The Department of Parks has long been at the forefront of efforts to provide exposure to and broaden the understanding and enjoyment of the sport of golf. We provide unique opportunities for both male and female golfers of all ages and abilities. Our mission is to make golf an affordable and accessible sport to anyone who wishes to play.

General Golf Information

The County of Essex requires each golfer to enroll with the County prior to using the automated tee time system. You may enroll in person at all three golf courses Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm and on Saturday from 8:30am to 12:00pm.

New registrations

The County will accept only a valid New Jersey Driver's License with current address and one current utility bill (Telephone, PSE&G or Cable only) with the applicant's name on it. If bills are in a spouse's name, the applicant must show a copy of a marriage certificate. We will also accept Passports with an Essex County address.

Renewals

Golfers must provide proof of residency annually when renewing their Golf ID card. Proof of residency is a valid New Jersey Driver's License and a current utility bill (Telephone, PSE&G or Cable only) with the applicant's name on

it. If bills are in a spouse's name, the applicant must show a copy of a marriage certificate.

Group Golf

The Group Golf program is for all groups interested in an 18-hole event with 20 golfers or more. Open to all organizations. Limited dates, courses and times available. Please call the Director of Golf Operations to schedule your event.

Junior Golf

The Essex County Parks Department believes it is important to grow the game of golf and there is no better place to start than with the Junior Golfers. We have special Junior golf rates and have developed a relationship with The First Tee program promoting leadership initiatives and positive life skills in our community's youth. Children between 11 years of age and 16 years of age who play on our courses are required to have a parent or guardian supervisor over the age of 18 years.

USGA Handicap System

The Department of Parks, in cooperation with the NJSGA, offers the USGA GHIN handicap program. Computers are available at all three golf courses. We encourage interested individuals to subscribe to the service for a nominal fee and receive handicap updates every two weeks.

Francis Byrne Golf Course

**Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ
973.736.2306**

www.golfessexcountynj.com

Essex County Francis Byrne Golf Course dates back to 1926 when it was designed as a private country club course by noted golf architect Charles Banks. Through our renovation project, many of the course features have been restored to their classic roots, making Byrne one of the premiere public golf destinations in the state. A number of holes are based on famous courses from Scotland, including the par five 1st hole that is modeled after the Road Hole at St. Andrews.

Hendricks Field Golf Course

**220 Franklin Avenue
Belleville, NJ
973.751.0178
www.golfessexcountynj.com**

Designed by architect Charles Banks, Essex County Hendricks Field features well-contoured putting surfaces and many interesting holes. Opened in 1929, renovations at Hendricks have included the reconstruction of tees and bunkers, as well as extensive upgrades in drainage that have significantly improved playing conditions.

Weequahic Park Golf Course

**Elizabeth and Grumman Avenues
Newark, NJ
973.926.2520
www.golfessexcountynj.com**

Essex County Weequahic Park Golf Course is set on a beautifully rolling property. New bunkers have been added to the course through our renovation process that has greatly enhanced its strategic and visual appeal. Tucked in the corner of historic Essex County Weequahic Park, this is the first public course in New Jersey, having been designed by Baltusrol Golf Club professional George Low in 1913. ■



**ESSEX COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL
CENTER**

**621-B Eagle Rock Avenue
Roseland, NJ
973.228.8776**

The Essex County Environmental Center at Essex County West Essex Park is situated in a wooded wetland habitat with access to the Passaic River. This interesting and affordable education center offers naturalist-led field trips for school groups, scouts and community groups, as well as birthday parties for children. The state-of-the-art facility also is available for booking community/family events and corporate business outings.

The Center's environmental educational programs are carefully designed, with either a structured or unstructured format, to create opportunities for families to get outside and into the parks while having fun and learning in multiple subject areas. All Center programs encourage participants to think about environmental stewardship and natural habitats and, with this in mind, foster an appreciation for the natural world – parks, outdoor recreation, and ecological conservation. The Center offers nature- and science-based programming for toddlers through senior citizens, school groups, scout organizations, and the general public.

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm;
Saturdays, 10am-2pm
Closed on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Day and New Year's Day

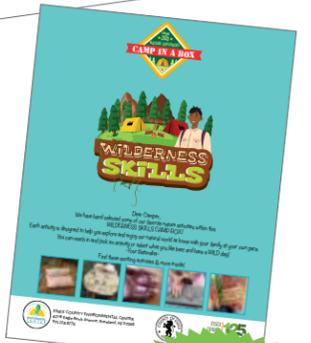
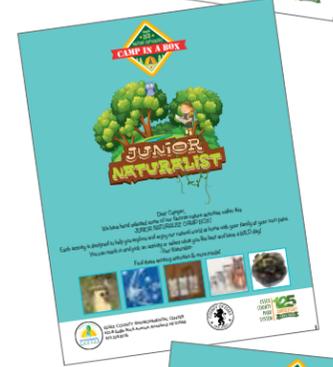
Fees vary by program



**VIRTUAL
BIRD FEEDER
CONTEST**



**VIRTUAL
FIELD TRIPS**



**ECO ACTIVITY
BOXES**



ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ
973.731.5800
[www.essexcountynj.org/
TurtleBackZoo](http://www.essexcountynj.org/TurtleBackZoo)

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo is committed to providing an enriching recreational experience that fosters excellence in wildlife education and wildlife conservation, so that present and future generations are inspired to understand, appreciate and protect the fragile interdependence of all living things.

Features include: Endangered Species Carousel, Pony Rides, Petting Farm, Train, Aviary, Touch Tank, Butterfly Tent, and Playground. ■



Open Daily
10am - 4pm
Timed Tickets



Ride the train at the Turtle Back Zoo



Visit the Flamingo Exhibit



Amazing Asia



Visit Sea Lion Sound



ESSEX COUNTY CODEY ARENA

560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ
[www.essexcountyparks.org/south-mountain/
codey-arena](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/south-mountain/codey-arena)
Phone: 973.731.3828
Fax: 973.731.5614

The arena is open to the public for ice skating, Learn to Skate group lessons, Learn to Speedskate lessons, private skating parties, and figure skating and ice hockey camps. The New Jersey State High School hockey state games, the Essex County Winter Holiday Hockey Tournament and many non-ice events also are hosted at the arena. Some non-ice events the arena has hosted include the Essex County High School Wrestling Tournament, ESPN Friday Night Fights, the ATU National Taekwondo Championship, high school graduations and special corporate events.

Hours of Operation

Open Daily
Call 973.731.3828 or check the daily ice skating schedule on the website ([www.essexcountyparks.org/south-mountain/
codey-arena](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/south-mountain/codey-arena)) for public skating and freestyle skating times. ■



Private Skating Lesson at Codey Arena



HOCKEY
PROGRAMS

Ice Hockey at Codey Arena



Codey Arena



LEARN TO
SKATE
PROGRAMS

ESSEX COUNTY CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

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.

LISA PALOMBO STUDIOS

55 Mountain Avenue, Caldwell
973.364.0280 / www.lisapalombo.com

Lisa Palombo Studios is open by appointment for holiday gift giving needs. Contact the studio to schedule a COVID-friendly visit or shop on-line at www.lisapalombo.com and pick up your purchase at the studio.

MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

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

Fragile Freedoms: Maggie Meiners Revisits Rockwell

February 6 to June 13, 2021

"Fragile Freedoms" examines, recreates and reinterprets Norman Rockwell's iconic images of mid-century America. With stunningly vivid detail, Meiners's carefully constructed photographs turn nostalgia on its head and rework Rockwell's familiar imagery to address contemporary issues including racism, sexuality, gender roles and the impact of technology. Meiners's clever, engaging work exposes the nature of society with

an unflinching eye, and encourages viewers to see their world, both past and present, in a new light.

The exhibition will feature 18 photographs by Meiners, which will be displayed side by side with three paintings and 18 tear sheets from the Saturday Evening Post by Norman Rockwell. The juxtaposition of these two bodies of work will reveal that while people's desires and fears often stay the same, the social climate of our country has changed dramatically in the 60 years between Meiners and Rockwell.



Lisa Palombo Studios

Federico Uribe: Animalia Through January 3, 2021

With more than 60 pieces on exhibition, "Animalia" showcases the breadth and depth of Uribe's animal-themed work. By layering commonplace objects, found plastic waste and recycled bullet shells, the artist creates vibrant and expressive animals and landscapes that reflect a much deeper meaning.

Virgil Ortiz: Odyssey of the Venutian Soldiers

Through March 28, 2021

Inspired by the 1680 Pueblo Revolt around Santa Fe, New Mexico, renowned artist Virgil Ortiz creates artwork that makes past and future come alive. Combining his life-long passion for science fiction with work that still honors the Pueblo people's traditional artform methods, Ortiz's pottery figurines become integral players in his futuristic stories.

Uncaged: Animals in the Collection Through August 8, 2021

Drawing from Montclair Art Museum's extensive American and Native American collections, this exhibition unleashes a cache of animal-themed works spanning generations of artists and explores the variety of ways artists engage with animal imagery in their work.

WEST ORANGE ARTS CENTER

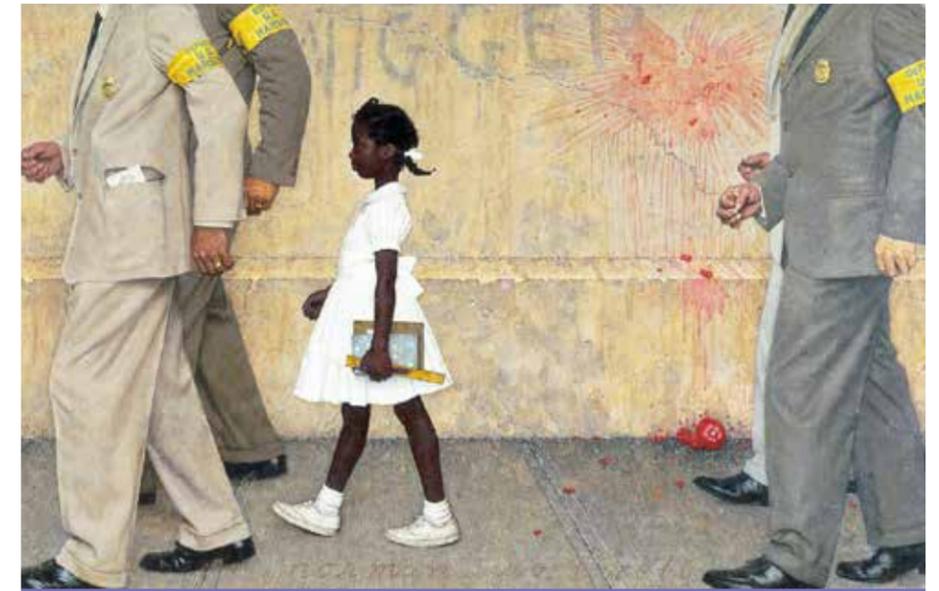
551 Valley Road, West Orange
973.325.0151 / woarts.org

Visiones de Identidad (Visions of Identity), A Latinx Perspective

The artists participating in this virtual exhibit include Rey Arvelo, Josephine Barreiro, Alberto Bossa, Diana Candelejo, Maria Luis Estrela, Renzo Florez, Stanley Gavidia, Joanna Lopez, Carlos Mateu, Qaasim Munoz, Sylvia Padilla and Fausto Sevilla.

An Exhibition of Found Objects January 15 to March 5, 2021

The artists in this hybrid virtual and in-person exhibition bring new life to unexpected found objects. ■



"Fragile Freedoms" *The Problem We All Live With* at Montclair Museum of Art



"Fragile Freedoms" *Dream Act* at Montclair Museum of Art



ESSEX COUNTY
TURTLE BACK



turtlebackzoo.com
560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052
973.731.5800

**Open Daily
10am - 4pm
Timed Tickets**

ESSEX COUNTY WINTER EVENTS

December 2020: Montclair History Center.

Keeping in mind the safety of the public and staff members while watching how state regulations change, the Montclair History Center will be adding fun, Interactive and holiday-themed programming in December. Guests should visit MHC's website and sign up to receive email newsletters to get notified when new events are added. www.montclairhistory.org.

December 1, 2, & 3: JOEY TRAVOLTA ReelAbilities NJ Virtual Film Festival. CAROL OF THE BELLS -Holiday Film.

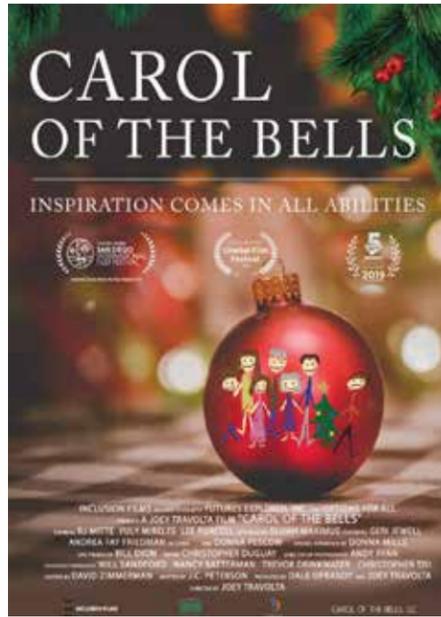
A young man with a troubled past seeks out his biological mother. His world is turned upside down upon discovering that his mother is developmentally disabled. ReelAbilities NJ is proud to screen "Carol of the Bells" and host a pre-recorded conversation between Joey Travolta and Elaine Katz, Senior Vice President at Kessler Foundation. Montclair State University, College of the Arts, Montclair. Free. Registration required. 973.655.7095 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carol-of-the-bells-conversations-with-director-joey-travolta-tickets-126865005647?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>.

December 3: A Virtual Performance Series.

Blues People is a "neo-Blues" band featuring Kelton Cooper (vocals/guitar), Victor Burks (keys/vocals), Mike Griot (bass) and Gene Lake (drums). Early comparisons to the Meters and Luther Allison are starting to roll in – and the band graciously gives a humble nod to those legendary artists. Tickets are \$10, and free to SOPAC members. 7:30pm. <https://www.sopacnow.org/events/blues-people-2020/>

December 5: Virtual Creative Play.

Explore the Newark Museum of Art's art and science collections through storytelling, song, playful activities and an art-making project. For children



ages 3 to 5 years and their caregivers. #NMOAatHOME, Zoom. 10am. Free. 973.596.6550. newarkmuseumart.org/family-programs/creative-play

December 19: Virtual Creative Play. Shapes, circles, squares and triangles, oh my! Have fun connecting simple shapes to great works of art. From the Seeing America Galleries to the simple and complex shapes in the Asian Galleries. #NMOAatHOME, Zoom. 10am. Free. 973.596.6550. newarkmuseumart.org/family-programs/creative-play

December 19 to January 2021: Paper Mill Playhouse will stream performances of "Sing in a New Year!" Paper Mill Playhouse's popular summertime outdoor Brookside Cabaret comes inside and onto the Paper



Stream "Sing in the New Year!" with the Paper Mill Playhouse

Mill stage for a very special concert presentation. More than a dozen popular Paper Mill performers, directed by Producing Artistic Director Mark S. Hoebee, will sing a unique selection of seasonal favorites just in time to ring in the new year. Streaming delivered virtually from the Paper Mill Stage. Paper Mill's 2020-2021 season will be an exclusive subscriber season and all seven events are available now for \$275 per person. www.PaperMill.org

December 31: New Year's Eve Virtual Trivia Night. Hosted by Gamemaster Alicia. Get ready & get set to test your knowledge in all things performing arts, New Year's Eve and more! Virtual Trivia Night with SOPAC will be an informal, fun competition to see who has the greatest knowledge of trivia. And, for the winners, there will be prizes! 7:30pm. Free. <https://www.sopacnow.org/events/virtual-trivia-night-dec-31/>

February 13 to 26, 2021: Paper Mill Playhouse will stream performances of "Some Enchanted Evening: The Songs of Rodgers & Hammerstein."

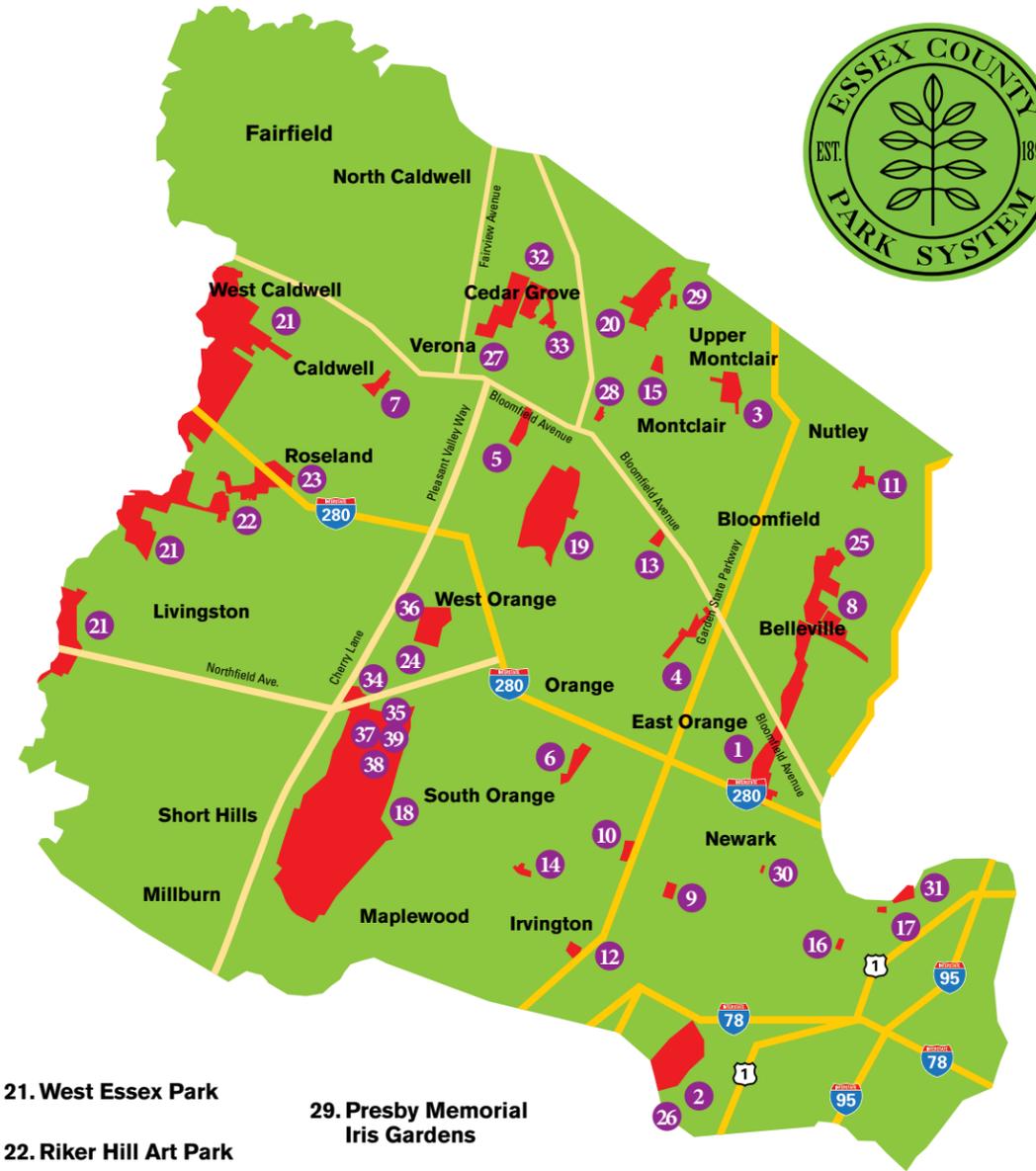
This stunning collection of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most beloved compositions will shine the spotlight on five magnificent Paper Mill singers in a glorious parade of hits from Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, Oklahoma!, The Sound of Music, and more. Producing Artistic Director Mark S. Hoebee directs. Streaming delivered virtually from the Paper Mill Stage. Paper Mill's 2020-2021 season will be an exclusive subscriber season and all seven events are available now for \$275 per person. www.PaperMill.org.

ESSEX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Office
115 Clifton Avenue
Newark
Phone: (973) 268-3500

1. Branch Brook Park
2. Weequahic Park
3. Brookdale Park
4. Watsessing Park
5. Verona Park
6. Monte Irvin Orange Park
7. Grover Cleveland Park
8. Belleville Park
9. West Side Park
10. Vailsburg Park
11. Yanticaw Park
12. Irvington Park
13. Glenfield Park
14. Ivy Hill Park
15. Anderson Park
16. Independence Park
17. Riverbank Park
18. South Mountain Reservation
19. Eagle Rock Reservation
20. Mills Reservation
21. West Essex Park
22. Riker Hill Art Park
23. Becker Park
24. Francis Byrne Golf Course
25. Hendricks Field Golf Course
26. Weequahic Park Golf Course
27. Hilltop Reservation
28. Kip's Castle Park
29. Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
30. Veterans Memorial Park
31. Riverfront Park
32. Cedar Grove Park
33. West Essex Trail
34. Codey Arena
35. miniGOLF Safari
36. Environmental Center
37. The Waterfront -Paddle Boating
38. Treetop Adventure Course
39. Turtle Back Zoo



ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

89 Ridge Street, Newark
973.484.2400
www.cathedralbasilica.org

Carol Sing Event: December

Visit the cathedral's YouTube channel beginning December 10th to watch "The Illumination of the Carol Sing: Radiant Beams from Heaven Afar." This video traces the ongoing life of the cathedral's Carol Sing. Enjoy footage, photographs, music and stories of one of the cathedral's strongest traditions. Because of current Covid-19 restrictions, the 50th Carol Sing will be suspended until December 2021.

ESSEX PHOTO CLUB

Programs via Zoom

Thursday, December 3 - "Dream, Believe, Create" presented by John Barclay

Thursday, January 7, 2021 - To Be Determined

Thursday, February 4, 2021 - NJFCC Winter Pictorial Competition judged by Claire Gentile, Susan Candelario and Nick Palmieri

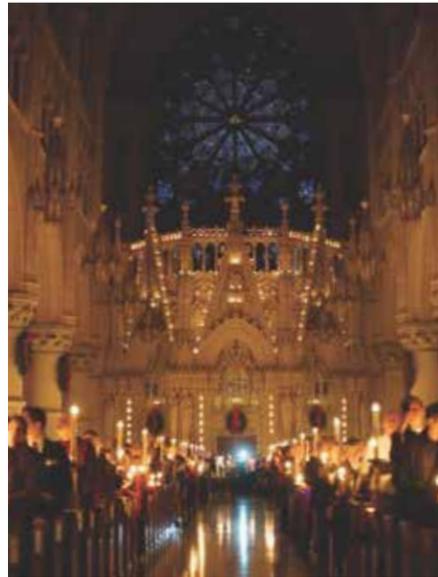
Competitions via Zoom

Thursday, December 17 - Assigned topic: "Something Broken" with club members judging

Thursday, January 21, 2021 - Nature and Pictorial project images with David DesRochers judging

Thursday, February 18, 2021 - Nature and Pictorial project images with Vinnie Kempf judging

For guest entrance to Zoom meetings, call Chris at 973.986.4002.



The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM

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

Member Mornings

Members are invited to an exclusive visit to the museum from 10am-1pm on the first Saturday of the month. Tickets are available online and must be reserved before the visit.

Virtual Events

Sunday Studio December 20, January 17, February 21

Sundays, 1-2pm. Connect with friends and family near and far in the MAM virtual studio space and enjoy learning about art and being creative together online the third Sunday of every month. Participants will receive a close up look at select artworks from the exhibitions and a guided art-making activity with an MAM art educator live over the Zoom platform.

Homeschool Day December 17, January 21, February 18.

Thursdays, 1-2:30pm. Participants will be given a virtual tour of the Montclair Art Museum followed by an art-making studio workshop led by the talented teaching artists over the Zoom platform. These participatory tours encourage interaction, as students are guided to make observations while looking closely at artwork on view in current exhibitions using 3D imagery of museum galleries.

Learning Pod Programs

Fridays by appointment

Virtual Tours for Schools, and Youth and Adult Community Organizations. Available by appointment

KASSER THEATER

1 Normal Avenue, Montclair
973.655.5112 / www.peakperfs.org

PEAK PERFORMANCES & PEAK HD

Montclair State University, Alexander Peak Performances and WNET'S All Arts PEAK HD broadcasts, featuring performances by some of the world's most groundbreaking artists, are filmed at the technically optimized Alexander Kasser Theatre at Montclair State University. Broadcasts of These previously-filmed performances began this fall and new works will be staged at The Kasser, capturing them for broadcast and, when safe, phasing in in-person audiences.

Gandini Juggling and Alexander Whitley December 13 at 8pm

The seismic juggling virtuoso Sean Gandini collaborates with visionary choreographer Alexander Whitley to create Spring. This production mixes mind-bending juggling and dance into a kaleidoscopic dreamscape propelled by an immersive score by Gabriel Prokofiev. This performance is a refreshing and entertaining production at the vanguard of contemporary circus. The U.S. Premiere performances took place and were recorded at The Alexander Kasser Theater December 12-15, 2019.

Grand Band January 10 at 8pm

This performance engulfs the audience in the sonic intensity of four landmark contemporary works: the iconic and massive Gay Guerilla by cult underground figure Julius Eastman; the pulsating Sensitive Spot by Australian sound artist Kate Moore; and my lips from speaking, a riff on Aretha Franklin's Think by Pulitzer-winning composer Julia Wolfe. In a thrilling combination of sight and sound, Missy Mazzoli's Three Fragile Systems is enhanced by the debut of an animated film by Joshua Frankel. In this film, commissioned by PEAK Performances, Frankel builds a world of

geometry, color and looping patterns of human bodies created collaboratively with choreographer Faye Driscoll, heightening the experience of the music. Grand Band's PEAK debut took place and was recorded at The Alexander Kasser Theater on February 14 & 15, 2020.

Richard Alston Dance Company February 14 at 8pm

The Richard Alston Dance Company returned to PEAK Performances in early 2020 for its final American engagement before the company closed its doors after a quarter of a century. A selection of recent works highlights the unflinching invention of this beloved group, led by Richard Alston, one of the world's finest choreographers currently celebrating his 50th year of making dances. Performed to live music, Alston's witty Brahms Hungarian is presented alongside Shine On, the last piece the choreographer will create for the company. The fast-paced Detour, created by associate choreographer Martin Lawrance, rounds out a thrilling program including three U.S. premieres and celebrating a troupe still in top form, even as the curtain closes. This was performed and recorded on February 20-24, 2020, at The Alexander Kasser Theater.

WEST ORANGE ARTS CENTER

551 Valley Road, West Orange
973.325.0151 / woarts.org

Creative Connection Third Wednesday of each month via Zoom from 7-9pm

This artist discussion and critique group is open to creative thinkers and artists of all genres. This allows artists to talk about their creative process and the things that affect creativity. Free for WOAC members; \$10 for non-members.

Booey Toons Most Saturdays via Zoom from 10am-1pm

This is a weekly virtual cartoon drawing session. Participants should bring their own pen or marker with paper, empty pizza box, or Grampa's old coffee mug to make cartoons. To RSVP, send a private message @Booey McBooerson on Facebook. ■

Visit the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex for fun and adventure!



TREETOP ADVENTURE COURSE

CODEY ARENA

TURTLE BACK ZOO

ESSEX COUNTY
TURTLE BACK
ZOO

MINIGOLF SAFARI

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



**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 973.433.7469
or e-mail

essexarts@parks.essexcountynj.org

The Essex County Division of
Cultural and Historic Affairs

PUTTING **ESSEX COUNTY** FIRST

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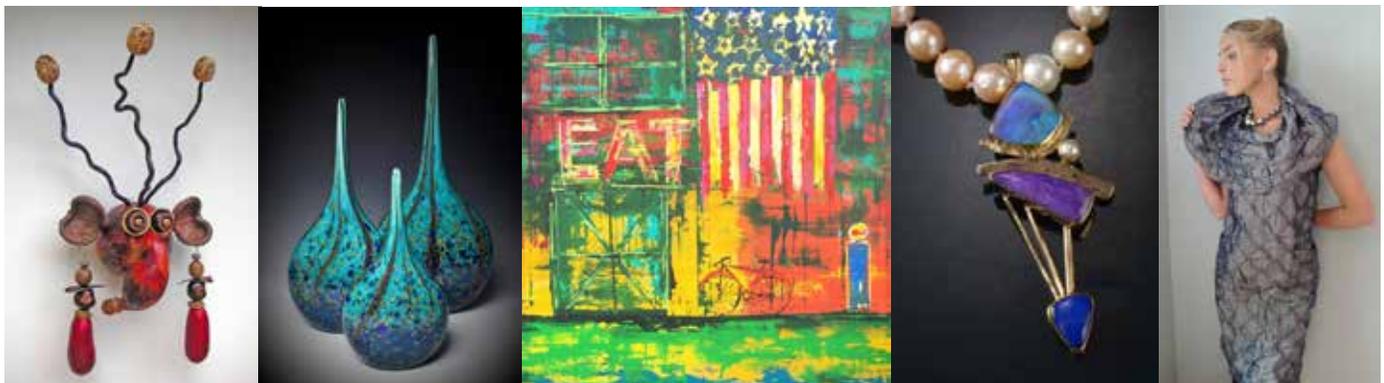
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Essex County Dept. of Parks & Rose Squared Productions, Inc. present



FINE ART AND CRAFTS VIRTUALLY



While you have missed seeing Rose Squared exhibitors in person this year, you can check out their websites to support the arts during these challenging times. Many have sales or specials to encourage you to buy. Go to RoseSquared.com and click on the [purple link](#) to our "Planned Exhibitors 2019 and 2020" to get to their websites.