A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Friend,

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

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

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

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

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated.
For vaccination information, visit EssexCOVID.org or call 973-877-8456.

Marygrove at the Highlawn

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

Visit https://www.highlawn.com for reservations.

The Spirit of Essex
**ESSEX COUNTY CODY ARENA**
560 Northfield Avenue, West Orange
973.731.3828
www.essexcountyparks.org

- **Synchronized Skating Competition**
  - Saturday, November 13 - 8am to 9pm
- **Essex County Codey Arena Holiday Hockey Tournament**
  - Wednesday, December 22; Thursday, December 23; Sunday, December 26; and Monday, December 27
- **Essex County High School Wrestling Tournament**
  - Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14, 2022
- **NJJHHL High School Hockey Cup Finals**
  - Wednesday, February 16 and Thursday February 17, 2022 at 5 and 7:30pm
- **NSJIAA State High School Hockey Semifinals**
  - Wednesday, March 2 and Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 4:30 and 7:15 pm

**PROGRAMS**
Learn to Skate Group Lessons – 5/6 weeks
- Fridays – November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, 17 (*no class on November 26)
  - Saturdays – November 6, 20, December 4, 11, 18 (*no class on November 13 and 27)
- Sundays – November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 12, 19 (*no class on November 28)

**FOREST FRIENDS**
- **FOOD CONTEST**
  - For all ages
  - Create an edible, festive and unique woodland wildlife feeder for an outdoor exhibit. The purpose of this contest is to provide participants with a fun and educational experience, engaging creativity to make natural edible treats for the Center’s backyard forest friends. Add to a winter’s bounty by registering for this contest and submitting a forest feeder for them to enjoy! All contest entries will be displayed for one week (or as long as wildlife will allow) during the winter holiday and will be voted on by a panel of eco-experts. For contest rules and to register, contact the Essex County Environmental Center at 973.228.8776.

**HOT CHOCOLATE HIKE**
Saturdays, December 4 and January 8; 11am to 12:30pm
For families. Join us for a hike around the Environmental Center forest, build a winter campfire, sip hot cocoa and make s’mores. Dress warmly. Advanced registration and minimum number of participants are required. For information, call 973.228.8776. Fee: $10 per family (up to two adults and two children) or $10 per child, $12 per adult

**HOLIDAY PAPERMAKING & GREEN GIFT TAG CREATION**
Saturday, December 11; 11am to 1pm
All ages. Visit before the holidays to make recycled paper and gift tags from colored construction paper scraps, scented herbs and old holiday cards.

**THE ECO-FRIENDLY HOME**
Saturday, January 15, 11am to 12:30pm
For families. Make and take a...
The Essex County Environmental Center and the Essex County Parks Department sponsored its annual Parks Photography Contest in the fall. All contest entries portrayed beautiful images highlighting the wide range of opportunity and natural splendor found throughout the Essex County Parks System. We received 37 adult entries and 23 youth entries. All contest entries were displayed on the Environmental Center Facebook page. The winners are:

**FIRST PLACE**
- **Adult**: Gary Wiener
- **Youth**: Giancarlo Morano

**SECOND PLACE**
- **Adult**: Michelle Palmer
- **Youth**: Maya Strand

**THIRD PLACE**
- **Adult**: John Shiever
- **Youth**: Hanna Blancia

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- **Adult**: Joshua Goodman
- **Youth**: Elise Linn

**ESSEX COUNTY HISTORIC HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR**

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

**Participating Houses**

- Ballantine House at Newark Museum
- Canfield-Morgan House & Museum
- Crane Homestead
- Crane House & Historic YWCA
- Essex County Kip’s Castle Park
- Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens
- Grover Cleveland Birthplace
- Kingsland Manor
- Van Tassel Funeral Home

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

**ESSEX COUNTY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS**

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

**1ST PLACE**
- **Adult**: Gary Wiener
- **Youth**: Giancarlo Morano

**2ND PLACE**
- **Adult**: Michelle Palmer
- **Youth**: Maya Strand

**3RD PLACE**
- **Adult**: John Shiever
- **Youth**: Hanna Blancia

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- **Adult**: Joshua Goodman
- **Youth**: Elise Linn

**ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS**

**1ST PLACE**
- **Adult**: Gary Wiener
- **Youth**: Giancarlo Morano

**2ND PLACE**
- **Adult**: Michelle Palmer
- **Youth**: Maya Strand

**3RD PLACE**
- **Adult**: John Shiever
- **Youth**: Hanna Blancia

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

WINTER CAMPFIRE AND CHARCOAL ART
Wednesday, February 23; 5:30-7pm
Dress warmly. Advanced registration is required. For information, call 973.731-5800 ext.103

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
Select weekends throughout the Winter
10 and 11am
TBZ’s Early Childhood programs encourage family learning and foster early environmental awareness. Young children are invited to discover the natural world through gently structured play, art, stories, animal visits, and more. Age restrictions apply; pre-registration is required. Zoo admission is not included with registration. Hatchlings (ages 2 to 4 months), Tots (ages 2 & 3), and Explorers (ages 4 & 5) are in-person programs. $25-$30 per participant. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/early-childhood-programs/.

WONDERS OF THE WILD
Most Saturdays throughout the Winter
1pm
Turtle Back Zoo is an amazing classroom! The Wonders of the Wild program is an opportunity to participate in supplementary science and nature-themed programs and projects that facilitate scientific literacy and life-long environmental stewardship. Available to students ages 6-12. The programs include a visit to the South Mountain Reservation, Reservoir, or Zoo as weather permits. $30/student. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover-wonders-of-the-wild/.

SOPHISTICATED SCIENCE SEMINARS
Select days throughout the Winter
T ime var ies
Sophisticated Science Seminars are conservation programs geared towards more adult audiences (ages 13+). Seminars run throughout the year and span topics such as animal anatomy, habitats & conservation, animal careers, and more. These programs are perfect for those interested in animals, science, conservation, and nature who want to learn something new in a relaxed atmosphere. $30/person. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/sophisticated-science-seminars/.

FAMILY NATURE CLUB: NATURE ADVENTURERS
Select Sundays throughout the Winter
Times vary depending on the date
Nature play is playing WITH nature not just IN nature and is a great way to interact with nature no matter your experience level or play style. Run, climb, build, dig, or even just sit and experience the sounds, smells, and sights of the outdoors. Nature Adventurers visits different locations near Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, zoo admission not included with registration. $10/person. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club-nature-adventurers/.

WINTER MINI-CAMPS
December 28-30; January 17; February 11
9am to 4pm
Join us at Turtle Back Zoo for some wild fun! To further our mission of conservation, education, and stewardship, campers will be introduced to the extraordinary world of animals, nature, and science. Children will enjoy age-appropriate camp activities that include games, teacher-led lessons, behind-the-scenes visits, up-close animal encounters, hands-on science projects, and fun crafts. $90 per day. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/winter-camps/.

CONSERVATION BREAKFAST PROGRAMS
Select Weekends this Winter
8:30 to 10am
Turtle Back Zoo’s Conservation Breakfasts are morning programs that feature one of our animals as the educational focus, highlighting the conservation challenges facing that species while providing tools and actions you can do at home to positively affect its wild relatives. This program includes zoo admission (for non-members) and breakfast. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/zoo-camps/.

OTHER PROGRAMS AT THE ZOO OR CLOSER TO YOU
In-person and Virtual Programs, Outreaches, and More Dates and Times Scheduled as Needed
Join us for a dynamic and fun educational program that is focused on animals, conservation, and stewardship. We offer a variety of programs that satisfy many scientific benchmarks while also being engaging and informative. Programs can be adapted to age and ability many can be adapted for outreaches to your school, senior center, etc. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/education-center-programs/.

TBZ ZOOVENTURE BOX
Seasonally Themed Zoo Activity Bundles
Pre-Order for Pick-up at the TBZ Education Center
Zooventure boxes are seasonally themed animal, conservation, and science activity bundles that promote exploration through hands-on science experiments, personalized virtual content, arts and crafts, and other educational materials. Virtual content (zoo tours, live story times) will be available on a private Google classroom; access codes are included in the box. Zooventure Boxes are designed for ages 5-8. For more information, visit https://turtlebackzoo.com/education/.

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

ARTS COUNCIL OF LIVINGSTON
ACL Gallery 2115, Town Center Way, Livingston
973-650-6374
www.acgallery.weebly.com

Fall of Art
Through January 3, 2022
"Fall of Art" showcases both 2-D and 3-D work by more than 40 artists using a wide range of mediums. Additionally included are wearable art, jewelry and a new “Petite Galerie,” featuring smaller gift items under $100.

MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM
3 South Mountain Avenue, Montclair
973.746.5555
www.montclairartmuseum.org

Color Riot! How Color Changed Navajo Textiles
Through January 2, 2022
Change has always been a hallmark of Navajo (Diné) textile design, with weavers’ individualism a running thread. With Diné perspectives and the technical mastery of weavers at the heart of Color Riot!, this exhibition, featuring 70 bold artworks from 1860-1930 and the present, celebrates the courage and vision to experiment.

By Our Own Hand: Frontline Arts in collaboration with Donna Bassin
Through August 14, 2022
MAM presents a year-long, site-specific installation in the Laurie Art Stairway, in collaboration with Frontline Arts and Donna Bassin. On view are approximately 800 sheets of handmade paper created from veterans’ uniforms and provided by Frontline Paper, an initiative of Frontline Arts. Inspired by the ancient practice of Tibetan prayer flags hung to mark an important and challenging occasion, BOOH refers to the toll of veteran deaths by their own hand as well as to the resiliency and creativity from transforming military uniforms into handmade paper.

THE NEWARK MUSEUM OF ART
49 Washington Street, Newark
973.596.6550
www.newarkmuseum.org

Saya Woolfalk: Field Notes from the Empathic Universe
Through December 31, 2022
Saya Woolfalk: Field Notes from the Empathic Universe invites visitors to enter the kaleidoscopic and culturally hybrid worlds created by the artist. The exhibition features an immersive video installation exploring portraiture and a series of new mixed media collages, all accessed through the North Wing elevator, which will be transformed by Woolfalk’s digitally-collaged murals.

Endangered!
Through to April 24, 2022
This immersive exhibition will explore the stories behind some extinct, threatened and lower risk species, as well as how human behaviors affects animals. Visitors will be invited to make a pledge to help save various animals worldwide. Great for families with children of any age.

SWF from Endangered! Take Action Video

Transformed: Objects Reimagined by American Artists
Through January 8, 2023
Inspired by the note Jasper Johns wrote to himself in his sketchbook in 1964, this exhibition features more than 60 artworks from 1829 to the present in which artists take objects as their points of departure, transforming them to reflect their varied cultural backgrounds and viewpoints. This exhibition is organized thematically, as indicated on each object label, to represent these diverse perspectives.

Visit SOPACnow.org/Covid-19 for all Covid-19 Precautions & Policies

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

December 6: Jane Lynch: A Swingin’ Little Christmas Live in Concert. Emmy and Golden Globe Award winning actress Jane Lynch will be joined by her friends Kate Flannery and Tim Davis and The Tony Guerrero Quintet in this festive concert that includes fresh takes on classic Christmas carols and new nostalgia-inspired tunes. The bandleader, Tony Guerrero, fuses clever jazz arrangements with tight vocal harmonies performed by the group. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 7:30pm. $69. 1.888.696.5722. njpac.org.

December 10: Community Night, Cocktails & Candy Canes (21+). Your first drink is on us! Get ready for laughs, prizes, and cocktails in our decked-out Winter Garden. DJ Poison Ivy brings the beats, Harmonica Sunbeam hosts four outrageous rounds of bingo and stand-up comedian Mike Burton will bring down the house with his latest routine. A variety of local vendors will be on-site to satisfy all your holiday shopping needs! The Newark Museum of Art, Alice Ransorn Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, 49 Washington Street, Newark. 5 to 9pm. Free. 973.596.6550. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-night-winter-wonderland-registration-16830516833

December 11: The Nutcracker: State Ballet Theater of Ukraine. Set to Tchaikovsky’s classic score and featuring brand new choreography and productions by Andrey Liti November, the State Ballet Theater of Ukraine premiered this revised version of “The Nutcracker” to a full house in Dnipr, Ukraine, in 2020. The company is recognized as one of the most prestigious institutions of classical ballet in Ukraine. NJPAC, 1 Center Street, Newark. 2pm. $29 and up. 1.888.696.5722. njpac.org.


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

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

Family Skating at Essex County C odey Arena at South Mountain

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

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

Call for public sessions 973.731.3828
www.essexcountyny.org

The James Hunter Six at SOPAC

Lisa Fischer at SOPAC
February 12: Ryan Hamilton. The wholesome, rural Idaho-bred comic’s Netflix special, “Happy Face,” was called “the special you can’t watch enough times.” Ryan Hamilton was named one of Rolling Stone’s Five Comics to Watch and can be seen in numerous television appearances; South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. $25 to $35. 973.313.2787.

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

February 25: Colin Quinn: The Last Best Hope Tour. Comedian, actor and author Colin Quinn has become one of the most beloved voices in comedy. He often focuses on the roller coaster ride that American politics and culture has historically been. On the heels of his HBO Max special and new book, Quinn cracks up audiences on his latest tour. South Orange Performing Arts Center, One SOPAC Way, South Orange. 8pm. $33 to $46. 973.313.2787.

February 10: Be My Valentine: An Evening of Love Songs with Ms. Lisa Turner. Tina Turner, is a powerhouse Gospel and Soul vocalist who evokes infinite emotion. This performance includes Villancicos Tradicionales of Latin America and Spain. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

December 10: Navidad Latina. The Cathedral Spanish Choir under the direction of Olafy Gutierrez joins forces with singers and instrumentalists from other Latin American communities of the Archdiocese of Newark. Program includes Villancicos Tradicionales of Latin America and Spain. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

ESSEX COUNTY ONGOING PROGRAMS

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART
89 Ridge Street, Newark
973.484.2400
www.cathedralbasilica.org

December 10: Navidad Latina. The Cathedral Spanish Choir under the direction of Olafy Gutierrez joins forces with singers and instrumentalists from other Latin American communities of the Archdiocese of Newark. Program includes Villancicos Tradicionales of Latin America and Spain. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

December 15 and 16: The Fiftieth Candlelight Carol Sing—Two Performances. A Christmas tradition for 50-plus years, the Carol Sing has become one of the most significant Christmas concerts in Northern New Jersey. The ambiance of candlelight and season décor, along with thousands of participants, combine to create an event that must be experienced featuring The Cathedral Choir, organ and Brass Ensemble. 8pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free-will offering.

ESSEMPHOTO CLUB
Livingston Community Senior Center 204 Hillside Avenue, Livingston https://lcc-nj.org
Currently, due to COVID, meetings are held virtually at 7:30pm on two Mondays a month. Members will be informed of the details.

Founded in 1971, the Livingston Camera Club promotes photography as an enjoyable amateur recreational endeavor. Members learn to improve their photography through educational programs and competitions. We typically have two meetings each month. One meeting is when we have an award-winning photographer educate us on a unique topic. The second meeting is a competition in which a judge, usually a top photographer in the area, critiques our photos. New members of all levels are welcome to join. Annual dues are $20 for students, $55 for individuals and $65 for families. The full schedule is available at https://lcc-nj.org/calendar.
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

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY INKS.

Holiday Open House & Tree Lighting
Santa Claus is Coming to Town on December 4th

DowntownWO.com