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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, August 20, 2025**

### **ENJOY SEPTEMBER IN THE PARKS!**



MIDDLETOWN – From boat tours to an old-fashioned harvest celebration, September is filled with family-friendly activities thanks to the Monmouth County Park System. Here’s what is planned:

#### **Boat Tours of the Manasquan Reservoir**

**Monday, September 1 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.**

#### **Manasquan Reservoir, Howell**

These 45-minute tours are narrated by Park System Naturalists and include opportunities to view local wildlife. The cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 per child, age 12 and under. Children must be 1-year or older to attend and able to sit independently during the duration of the tour. Please call to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent. All tours leave from the Visitor Center. Life-jackets required. Tickets can be purchased on day of tour only.

### **Piano Ballads from the Turn-of-the-Century**

**Saturday, September 6 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Head to the farmhouse to hear popular turn-of-the-19th-century ballads. **FREE!**

### **Potato Harvest**

**Saturday & Sunday, September 6 & 7 from 12-2 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Learn how potatoes were grown and harvested at the end of the 19th century. Help the Longstreet Farm staff bring in the crop and dig some potatoes for your own family. Weather and field conditions permitting. **FREE!**

### **Milling Demonstrations**

**Saturdays & Sundays, September 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 & 21, and 27 & 28 at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

See the 19th century gristmill grind corn into meal. Each demonstration lasts approximately 15 minutes. **FREE!**

### **Bonsai Day**

**Sunday, September 7 from 12-4 p.m.**

**Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown**

The Monmouth County Park System and the Deep Cut Bonsai Society present Bonsai Day.

Experience this intricate and ancient art through demonstrations and displays, with experts on hand to answer your questions. Admission and parking are free.

### **Open Shoot Archery**

**Saturday, September 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft**

All equipment is provided for this open shoot. No outside equipment permitted. This is not an instructional clinic and NOT designed for beginners. If you are new to archery, register for one of our instructional classes prior to attending. Open to ages 10 and up; under 18 with adult. The cost is \$10 per person; cash or check only.

### **Accordion Melodies of the 1890s**

**Saturday, September 13 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Hear melodies of the 1890s played on the accordion during your visit. **FREE!**

### **A Tribute to All Things Broadway**

**Saturday, September 13 from 2-3:45 p.m. & 7-8:45 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Theater Barn, Lincroft**

See local talent perform Broadway songs through the decades during this musical showcase presented by the Monmouth County Park System along with Sway Productions. Light refreshments will be served during intermission. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for children ages 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased in advance at [www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com) and will also be available at the door while availability lasts.

### **Cookstove Demonstrations**

**Saturdays, September 13 & 27 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

See what's cooking on the woodstove and discover how recipes, cooking techniques and kitchens have changed since the 1890s. **FREE!**

### **Casual Birder**

**Tuesday, September 16 at 9 a.m.**

**Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold - Meet in the Shelter Building parking lot.**

Join a Park System Naturalist for this laid-back morning bird walk and meander through the park for about an hour and a half to see what birds we can find. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow if needed. **FREE!**

### **Climb Time**

**Friday, September 19 from 3-6 p.m.**

**Freneau Woods Park, Aberdeen**

Try the Park System's 25' portable climbing wall. You must be 42" or taller to climb. Open to ages 8 and up; under 18 with adult. **FREE!**

### **Concert in the Park: A Night of Jazz and Blues**

**Friday, September 19 from 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Theater Barn, Lincroft**

Listen to some of the talents from our own backyard during this blues and jazz concert. Performers include Bethany Taylor, Junior Mack and James Dalton of AP & Me Productions. **FREE!**

### **Fall Native Plant Exchange**

**Saturday, September 20 - Plant drop-off is 8:30-10 a.m.; Swap begins at 10 a.m.**

**Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown**

Bring established native plants in four-inch, one-quart, one-gallon or two-gallon containers to exchange with like sizes. Label all plants. Only plants native to the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States will be accepted. **FREE!**

### **Wind & Sea Festival**

**Saturday, September 20 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth**

Celebrate all things water-related such as kayaking, fishing, kite flying, sandcastle building, and more during this family-friendly festival. Admission and parking are free. Some activities may have a fee. Parking at the Belford Ferry Terminal.

### **Preserving the Harvest**

**Sunday, September 21 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

See 19th century techniques for food preservation such as salting, pickling, drying and jelling during this demonstration. **FREE!**

### **Lecture Series: The Lenape People of Monmouth County**

**Wednesday, September 24 from 7-8 p.m.**

**Freneau Woods Park Visitor Center, Aberdeen**

Learn about the original inhabitants of what is now Monmouth County during this talk by a Park System Naturalist. They were a native group who lived on the land, hunting, fishing, and farming. Find out more about these amazing people and how they lived right before Henry Hudson encountered them in 1609. **FREE!**

### **Open House Square Dance**

**Friday, September 26 from 7-9 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Activity Barn, Lincroft**

Give square dancing a try during this fun, family-friendly evening with the Middletown Ramblers!

Ages 14 and up are welcome; under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **FREE!**

### **Jigsaw Puzzle Swap**

**Saturday, September 27 from 10-11:30 a.m.**

**Thompson Park Theater Barn, Lincroft**

Bring used puzzles and swap them for "new to you" ones. For every puzzle you bring, you will get one token to take a "new" puzzle home. Complete puzzles in good condition, please. All categories welcome. **FREE!**

### **Everyone Has a Story**

**Saturday, September 27 from 6-8 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Theater Barn, Lincroft**

Gather for a night of storytelling through life experiences. James Dalton, creator of AP & Me Productions, invites a cast of different characters from the region, all with unique voices and perspectives, all sharing their stories through a variety of topical prompts. Audience members will be encouraged to share their stories that relate to the given prompts as time allows. Light refreshments will be served. **FREE!**

### **Harvest Home Festival**

**Sunday, September 28 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

This old-fashioned fair is reminiscent of the 1890s. Visitors can enjoy games and live entertainment. Admission and parking are free.

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit [www.MonmouthCountyParks.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyParks.com) or call the Park System at 732-842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the Park System TTY/TDD number is 711. The Monmouth County Park System, created in 1960 by the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks and Recreation agency.