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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM FILLS DECEMBER
WITH FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES**



See original artwork such as this piece by instructor Jane Lux during the Creative Arts Center Student/Instructor Show & Sale.

TINTON FALLS – ‘Tis the season to be merry! The Monmouth County Park System is making that easier than ever this December by offering fun, family-friendly, drop-in programs including *Open Ceramics*, *Stockings Hung with Care*, and *Visit with Santa*. Here is what is planned:

Teen Open Gym Basketball

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Teens age 13-18 are invited to shoot some hoops on a full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person, per session. Cash or check only.

Teen Open Gym Fitness

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Try this informal fitness circuit that includes stability balls, hand weights, resistance bands and more during these teen-only sessions. The cost is \$5 per person, per session. Cash or check only.

Family Gym Time

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Enjoy tunnels, gym mats, trampolines, scooters and other play equipment. No instruction provided. Parent supervision is required. The cost is \$10 per family, per session. Cash or check only.

Roving Park System Naturalist

Thursday, December 18 at 10 a.m.

Crosswicks Creek Park - Meet in the Province Line Road parking lot in Allentown.

Join our Roving Park System Naturalist for a walk and learn about seasonal points of interest. FREE!

Women's Open Gym - Fitness

Saturdays, December 6, 13 & 20 from 7:30-9 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Work out on this self-guided, self-paced fitness circuit which includes stability balls, hand weights, resistance bands, and more. The cost is \$5 per person, per session. Cash or check only.

Parent/Child Morning Chores at Longstreet Farm

Saturday, December 6 at 8 a.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Come help the staff with morning chores. You and your child (age 4 & up) can milk a cow, collect eggs and feed the animals. The cost is \$15 per pair; \$5 per additional person. Cash or check only.

Creative Arts Center Student/Instructor Show & Sale

Saturday, December 6 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, December 7 from 12-4 p.m.

Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft

This show and sale features the original artwork of our students and instructors. Cash or check only please.

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, December 6 from 11-11:45 a.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Join us for a reading from a nature- or garden-related book. If the weather is nice, look for the clue at our entrance that leads to the secret spot in the gardens. If it's rainy or cold, we'll be inside the Horticultural Center. FREE!

Weird Prehistoric Life of New Jersey

Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7 at 1 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Learn about the strange animals that lived in the state. FREE!

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, December 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 9-11 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shoot some hoops on our full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person, per session. Cash or check only.

Open Ceramics

Sunday, December 7 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft

Choose from a large selection of bisque fired pottery pieces to glaze and make your own. The cost is \$6 per hour plus price of bisque ware; cash or check only. Pieces will be fired in about a week.

Stockings Hung with Care

Sunday, December 7 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Learn a bit about Christmas traditions of long ago while decorating a paper stocking to hold some old-fashioned holiday treats. FREE!

Christmas Sing Along

Saturday, December 13 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy an old-fashioned sing along. FREE!

Book Swap

Sunday, December 14 from 1-3 p.m.

Thursday, December 18 from 6-8 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Bring an unwanted book(s) and swap it for something new. Accepted books are adult fiction, young adult fiction, and children's books. Don't have a book to swap? We have extras. FREE!

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, December 14 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Come see what the Blacksmith is making in his workshop. FREE!

The Sounds of Christmas

Sunday, December 14 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy tranquil music as Larry Moser and Mary Nagen play Christmas carols. FREE!

Visit with Santa

Saturday & Sunday, December 20 & 21 from 12-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Visit with Santa and see how the Victorians celebrated the holiday. FREE!

Gingerbread

Saturday & Sunday, December 20 & 21 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

From colonial hearths to decorated houses, discover the rich history of this traditional winter food. FREE!

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit

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 Chosen Freeholders, is Monmouth County's Open Space, Parks, and Recreation agency.

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