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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 14, 2016

**THE MONMOUTH COUNTY PARK SYSTEM
FILLS FEBRUARY WITH FUN**



Teen Open Gym Basketball

LINCROFT – It may be the dead of winter, but the Monmouth County Park System is heating things up with fun this February. So come with a friend or ready to make one and enjoy the following:

Coffee Club Mahjong

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shuffle your tiles and build your walls as you play this ancient, fast-paced Asian

game. Both American and Chinese rules will be followed. All levels welcome. The cost is \$4 per person per day; cash or check only.

Teen Open Gym Basketball

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Teens age 13-18 are invited to play or practice on the Rec Center's courts. Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only. Under 17 with parent present.

The Casual Birder

Thursday, February 4 at 9 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park - Meet in the Claypit Creek parking lot in Locust.

Thursday, February 18 at 9 a.m.

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch - Meet at the Activity Center.

Join a Park System Naturalist for this laid-back morning bird walk. We'll meander for about an hour and see what birds we can find. No need to be an expert at identifying birds to enjoy this walk. A limited number of binoculars will be available to borrow. Open to ages 8 and up. **FREE!**

Family Gym Time

Fridays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 9:30-11 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Enjoy tunnels, gym mats, scooters and more during this open play session. No instruction provided; parent supervision is required. Rec Center staff will be on hand to answer questions or provide assistance. Open to ages 1-4 with adult. The cost is \$10 per pair per day; cash or check only.

Roving Park System Naturalist

Friday, February 5 at 10 a.m.

Hartshorne Woods Park - Meet in the Rocky Point entrance parking lot, Highlands.

Sunday, February 21 at 10 a.m.

Shark River Park, Wall - Meet in the Schoolhouse Road parking lot.

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

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

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

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Join us for story time! If the weather is nice, look for the clue at the Horticultural Center's entrance that leads to the secret spot. If it's rainy or cold, we'll be inside.

Recommended for ages 3-7. **FREE!**

Vernal Wetlands

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

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Learn about these wetlands and why they are important. **FREE!**

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 8-10 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Shoot some hoops in the Rec Center's full court gym. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Open Ceramics

Sunday, February 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. Children ages 12 and under are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 per hour plus price of bisque ware; cash or check only. Pieces will be fired in about a week.

Pine Cone Bird Feeders

Saturday, February 13 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 14 at 11 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Make a pine cone bird feeder to bring home. **FREE!**

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue - Valentines at Walnford

Saturday & Sunday, February 13 & 14 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Create your own valentine using elegant 19th century ones as inspiration. **FREE!**

Blacksmith Demonstration

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

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Seashore Scientist Drop-In Series: The Hardest Endure

Thursday, February 18 from 6-7 p.m.

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch

Learn about hardy sea creatures that survive the cold winters of the Jersey Shore during this interactive discussion. **FREE!**

Eagles at the Reservoir

Saturday & Sunday, February 20 & 21 at 11 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Discover amazing facts about these magnificent birds. Hear an update on the nesting status of our resident pair. **FREE!**

Nature Lecture Series: Whaling and Whales along the Jersey Shore

Thursday, February 25 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Discover the hidden history of whaling at the Jersey Shore during this talk led by a Park System Naturalist. Learn about the latest research on whales and the rise of laws protecting them from commercial hunting. **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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