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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 16, 2015

WELCOME MAY IN A COUNTY PARK



Ready to canoe on Marlu Lake in Thompson Park, Lincroft.

LINCROFT — Spring is in bloom! There's no better place to enjoy it than in a county park. During May, the Monmouth County Park System offers fun, family-friendly activities for residents to enjoy. Here's what is planned:

Lunch Break Basketball

Fridays, May 1-29 from 12-1:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Spend your lunch break playing full court pick-up games in our climate controlled gym. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Boat Tours at the Manasquan Reservoir

Friday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays, May 2-31 at 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Monday, May 25 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, 12 and under. Please call to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent. All tours leave from the Visitor Center.

Climb Time

Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck

Friday, May 29 from 4-8 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

Try the Park System's 25' portable climbing wall. This is a great opportunity to experience the sport of rock climbing. Climbers must be 42" or taller and age 8 or older (under 18 with adult). FREE!

Women's Open Gym Fitness

Saturdays, May 2-30 from 7:30-9 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Challenge yourself 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. Release form must be signed upon payment.

Surprise Story Time

Saturday, May 2 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. FREE!

Spring Arts Festival

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

The Park System is hosting its first juried arts festival. See the works of fine artists from all mediums including pottery, jewelry, photography and painting. Admission and parking are free.

Mill Demonstration

Saturdays & Sundays, May 2-31 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

See the 19th century mill in action. FREE!

You Can Make a Basket

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Stop in this weekend and be inspired by the baskets on exhibit. See how to make a small basket using paper strips and natural materials. FREE!

Bird Watching Basics

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3 at 2 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Discover the basics of bird watching as we observe the birds around our feeders. FREE!

Men's Open Gym Basketball

Sundays, May 3-31 from 8-10 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, May 3 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.

Open House of the Historic Seabrook-Wilson House

Sundays, May 3-31 from 1-4 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

Visit this house, which dates back to the early 1700s, and see displays on the ecology of the bay and local history. FREE!

Music Man Rich Marzec

Sunday, May 3 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy piano music from the 1890s. FREE!

Hooping for Beginners

Mondays, May 4-18 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Twirl and dance your way into toning muscles, improving balance and flexibility, and strengthening your core during this workout. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Crunch @ Lunch

Tuesdays & Thursdays, May 5-28 from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

This 30-minute, twice weekly moderate to high impact class combines strength, cardio, stability and endurance. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Teen Open Gym Basketball

Wednesdays, May 6-27 from 3-4:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Teens age 13-18 are invited to play or practice on our courts. Cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

Nature Lecture Series: Horseshoe Crabs

Thursday, May 7 from 7-8 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park Activity Center, Port Monmouth

Learn about this little-appreciated organism and its importance to the environment and how you can make a difference in ongoing conservation efforts. FREE!

National Public Gardens Day at Deep Cut Gardens

Friday, May 8 from 2-8 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Enjoy free activities for all ages as part of a nationwide celebration of the role of botanical gardens and arboreta in promoting environmental stewardship, conservation, green spaces, and education. FREE!

Roving Park System Naturalist

Friday, May 8 at 3 p.m.

Weltz Park, Oakhurst – Meet in main parking lot.

Monday, May 18 at 4 p.m.

Stone Bridge Trail (adjacent to Charleston Springs Golf Course, Millstone) - Meet in the Stagecoach Road parking lot.

Sunday, May 31 at 3 p.m.

Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck – Meet in the soccer fields' parking lot.

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

Thompson Park Weekend Canoe Rentals

Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

Canoes will be available for rent on Marlu Lake. All equipment provided; limited number of canoes available. Open to ages 3 and up, under 18 with adult. Fee is \$15 per boat for 1-3 people for two hours. Cash or check only.

Embroidery Demonstration

Saturday, May 9 from 1-3 p.m

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

See this delicate craft in action. FREE!

Who Lives Here? Nature Program

Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10 at 2 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Discover who lives at the reservoir during a short nature walk with a Park System Naturalist. FREE!

Blacksmith Demonstration

Sunday, May 10 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

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

Quilt Block Display

Sunday, May 10 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

The results of our Quilt Block Challenge will be revealed this afternoon when we unveil what promises to be an amazing display of creative design and needlework. FREE!

Book Swap Drop In

Thursday, May 14 from 6-8 p.m.

Sunday, May 31 from 1-3 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!

Rebecca Reel's Quilt Show

Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Rebecca Reel's quilters from Middletown will be visiting, demonstrating and exhibiting some of their quilts. FREE!

Snake and Turtle Nature Walk

Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17 at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Join a Park System Naturalist on a 1-mile nature walk to our best snake and turtle spots. FREE!

Eco-Kayak Drop-In Tour at the Manasquan Reservoir

Saturday, May 16 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Open to ages 14 and up, under 18 with adult. Novice paddlers welcome. Single and tandem kayaks are available on a first come basis. Program is limited to 12 participants. Wear clothing that can get wet. Weight limits for kayaks are 250 lbs. for single and 400 lbs. for a double. Inclement weather will cancel the tour. The cost is \$20 per person, cash or check only.

Bayshore Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 16 from 4-7 p.m.

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth

Head over to this annual saltwater fishing derby. Staff will be on hand to demonstrate how to cast and rig a pole. Cost is \$8 per person; \$4 per each additional family member. Cash or check only.

Bike Maintenance Drop In

Sunday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Visitor Center, Howell

Stop by the Bike Maintenance Tent for an informative demonstration and advice on how to ride safely and comfortably in our parks. FREE!

Walnford Day

Sunday, May 17 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Tour the house from cellar to attic, listen to harpsichord and recorder duets in the front parlor and step outside for spinning and weaving, woodworking, blacksmithing, and milling demonstrations, and hands-on activities, games, exhibits, and displays. FREE!

Dragons of the Sky Nature Program

Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24 at 1 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Peak into the world of the dragonfly during this nature program. FREE!

Be a Field Biologist

Saturday & Sunday, May 30 & 31 at 10:30 a.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Create a recycled journal and fill it with observations during a short nature walk. FREE!

Butter and Eggs

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Sunday, May 31 from 1-4 p.m.

Sample some chores from the past. See how to make butter at home and pick up some DIY tips for backyard poultry. 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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