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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harvest Home Festival at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

MIDDLETOWN - From lending a helping hand with the farm chores to observing the ancient art of Bonsai, the Park System offers something for everyone this September. Ready for autumn? The Park System's fall issue of the Program Directory, offering over 500 programs and activities in September, October and November, is currently available online and in most County parks.

Here's some of what the Park System has available for you and your family this

September:

Boat Tours of the Manasquan Reservoir

Weekends & holidays at 2, 3, 4 & 5 p.m. (now through October 13)

Friday, September 5 at 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell

These 45-minute tours are narrated by Park System Naturalists and include opportunities to view local wildlife. Plan to arrive at the Visitor Center 10 minutes early. The cost is adults: \$6; children 12 & under: \$3.75 (tax included). Please call to confirm schedule as tours are both weather and water level dependent.

Roving Naturalist

Tuesday, September 2 at 3 p.m.

Tatum Park, Middletown (meet in Holland Road parking lot)

Monday, September 15 at 3 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft (meet at Marlu Lake parking lot)

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

Natural Horsemanship Demonstration

Fridays, September 5 & 19 from 3-4 p.m.

Sunnyside Recreation Area, Middletown

Learn what Natural Horsemanship is all about as you watch our staff play with the therapy horses on the ground and in the saddle. Question and answer time will be provided. Free!

Parent/Child Morning Chores

Saturday, September 6 at 8 a.m.

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Rise and shine! You and your child (age 4 & up) can help us with our morning farm chores as we milk a cow, collect eggs and feed the animals. Cost is \$15 per parent/child pair, \$5 each additional person; cash or check only please.

Drop-In Surprise Story Time

Saturday, September 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 will lead you to our secret spot in the gardens. If it's rainy, we'll meet in the Horticultural Center. Free!

Reservoir Resident

Saturday & Sunday, September 6 & 7 at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Join a Park System Naturalist as you meet one of our resident live animals. Free!

Games Galore!

Saturday & Sunday, September 6 & 7 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Enjoy an afternoon of historic pastimes with brain teasers and lawn games. Free!

Mill Demonstration

Saturdays & Sundays, September 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 from 1-4 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Experience the 19th century gristmill in action. Free!

Eco-Kayak Drop-In Tour

Saturday, September 6 from 2-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 21 from 2-2:30 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir, Howell

Enjoy a quiet paddle on the Manasquan Reservoir. Novice paddlers are welcome.

All equipment is provided; single and tandem kayaks are available on a first come, first serve basis. Program is limited to 12 participants. Cost is \$20 per person; cash or check only please.

Men's Open Gym Basketball

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

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Drop by and shoot some hoops our full court indoor gymnasium. Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only please.

Open Ceramics

Sunday, September 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. Cost is \$6 per hour plus price of bisque ware; cash or check only please. Pieces will be fired in approximately one week.

Historic Seabrook-Wilson House Open for Tours

Sundays, September 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 1-4pm

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!

9/11 Memorial Ceremony

Thursday, September 11 at 8 a.m.

Mount Mitchill Scenic Overlook, Atlantic Highlands

Join us as we remember those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

Women's Open Gym - Fitness

Saturdays, September 13, 20 & 27 from 7:30-9 a.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Enjoy our self-guided, self-paced fitness circuit. We'll have stability balls, hand weights, resistance bands and more. Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only please.

Thompson Park Weekend Canoe Rentals

Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

Take a relaxing paddle on beautiful Marlu Lake. All equipment is provided; a limited number of canoes are available. Cost is \$15 per boat for 1-3 people for 2 hours; cash or check only please.

Late Summer Wildflower Walk

Saturday & Sunday, September 13 & 14 at 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Take a short nature walk with a Park System Naturalist as we identify the blooming flowers and ripe berries of late summer and early fall. Free!

Jersey Shore Rose Society Rose Show

Saturday, September 13 from 12-4 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

See and learn about our national flower and its culture. Entries submitted for judging will remain on exhibit for our visitors from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Free garden tours will be offered and consulting rosarians will be available to answer your questions. Free!

Bonsai Day

Sunday, September 14 from 12-4 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

Experience this intricate and ancient art through demonstrations and displays. Free!

Blacksmith Demonstration

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

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Stop by and see what the Blacksmith is making in his workshop. Free!

Music Man Rich Marzec

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

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Enjoy piano tunes from the 1890s. Free!

Teen Open Gym Basketball

Tuesdays, September 16, 23 & 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Ages 13-18 are invited to drop by and shoot some hoops in our full court gym.

Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only please.

Teen Open Gym Fitness

Tuesdays, September 16, 23 & 30 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Ages 13-18 are invited to drop by and try our informal fitness circuit. We'll have stability balls, hand weights, resistance bands and more. Cost is \$5 per person per day; cash or check only please.

Open Shoot Archery

Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

Ages 8 and up (under 18 with adult) are welcome to join us in the Activity Barn to try your hand at archery. All equipment is provided; no outside equipment is permitted. Limited instruction is available. Cost is \$8 per person; cash or check only please.

Cornbread Contest

Sunday, September 21 from 1-3 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Do you make amazing cornbread? Step up to the challenge and enter it in our 5th annual Cornbread Contest! Entries must be in a 9" x 13" pan and include a printed recipe. Prizes are rewarded at 3 p.m. Each entry receives a Walnford Cornbread Cookbook. Free!

Book Swap

Sunday, September 21 from 1-3 p.m.

Thursday, September 25 from 6-8 p.m.

Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls

Bring your unwanted books and swap them for a new and exciting adventure.

Accepted books are adult fiction, young adult fiction and children's books. Free!

Corny Joke Contest

Sunday, September 21 from 2-3 p.m.

Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold

Give us your best corny joke! We'll read these family-friendly jokes aloud and judge the winner by laughter! Free!

Barn Dance

Friday, September 26 from 7-9:30 p.m.

Thompson Park, Lincroft

Beginner and experienced square dancers (age 12 and up, under 18 with adult) are invited to enjoy an evening of music and fun. Refreshments included. Free!

Great Fall Perennial Plant Swap

Saturday, September 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown

It's fun, free and easy! Bring perennials in one-quart, one-gallon or two-gallon containers and take home the same size and number of plants. Please label all plants. Houseplants may also be exchanged, but no annuals please. Invasive plants are not accepted. Free!

Fish Prints

Saturday & Sunday, September 27 & 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, Howell

Children will enjoy creating these beautiful prints. Free!

Harvest Home Festival

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

Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel

Step back in time with old-fashioned fun during this country fair reminiscent of the 1890s. Families will enjoy wagon rides, games, live entertainment, demonstrations and so much more. Free!

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call the Park System at 732-842-4000, ext. 4312. 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.