



CONTACT: Karen Livingstone or
Communications
(732) 842-4000 ext. 4256
klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com

Andrew Spears
Visitor Services
(732) 842-4000 ext. 4247
aspears@monmouthcountyparks.com

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FREEHOLD – Do you think you bake the best cookies, grow the biggest and juiciest tomatoes, or make the most creative crafts in your neighborhood? You may have what it takes to earn a blue ribbon in the 2012 Monmouth County Fair Home & Garden Competition. So gather up your best needlepoint, knitting, and craft creations and get ready to enter them in this year’s competition. Keep that blue ribbon in mind as you pick eggplant, peppers, and herbs. Ceramics, dolls, or creations in wood could demonstrate just how versatile you or your neighbors are. And, your painting, drawing, or photograph could be the fine arts highlight of this year’s Monmouth County Fair.

The Monmouth County Park System will be accepting entries of art, photos, crafts, honey, needlework and canned goods on Sunday, July 22 from 10am to 3pm and on Monday, July 23 from 9am to 12noon. Entries from Senior Centers will be accepted on Monday, July 23 and on Tuesday, July 24 from 9am-12noon. Flower, plant, and vegetable entries should be delivered to the Fairgrounds on Friday, July 27 from 8am to 11am. Baked goods should be delivered to the Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 28 from 8am to 11am.

After judging, the winning entries in the 2012 Home & Garden Competition can be seen at the 38th Annual Monmouth County Fair. For information about how to enter the Home & Garden Competition or to request a brochure, visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call (732) 842-4000. For persons with hearing impairment, the TTY/TDD number is 711.

The Fair runs Wednesday-Sunday, July 25-29. The Fair gate is open 5 to 11pm on Wednesday, July 25, Thursday, July 26, and Friday, July 27; 11am to 11pm on Saturday, July 28; and 11am to 6pm on Sunday, July 29 at East Freehold Showgrounds, Kozloski Road, Freehold Township. Admission is \$7.00 per person. Children 12 and under are free.

The Monmouth County Fair is organized and presented by the Monmouth County Park System in cooperation with the Monmouth County 4-H Association. 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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