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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, November 14, 2016**

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



*Thompson Park Creative Arts Center Student/Instructor Sale*

LINCROFT– 'Tis the season to be jolly! The Monmouth County Park System is making that easy this December by offering fun, family-friendly, drop-in programs including *The Casual Birder*, *Visit with Santa*, and *Beach Craft Surprise*. The schedule is as follows:

**The Casual Birder**

**Thursday, December 1 at 9 a.m.**

**Manasquan Reservoir, Howell – Meet at the Environmental Center.**

**Thursday, December 15 at 9 a.m.**

**Dorbrook Recreation Area, Colts Neck**

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 if needed. Open to ages 8 and up. **FREE!**

### **Co-Ed Open Basketball - 20 & Up**

**Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15 & 22 from 8-10 p.m.**

**Fort Monmouth Recreation Center, Tinton Falls**

This basketball program is open to men and women age 20 and over. Emphasis of this program is exercise and fun. The cost is \$5 per person per session; cash or check only.

### **Roving Naturalist**

**Saturday, December 3 at 9 a.m.**

**Crosswicks Creek Park, Upper Freehold. Meet in the Providence Line Road parking lot.**

Join our Roving Park System Naturalist for a walk and discuss seasonal points of interest, search for signs of wildlife, and identify a bird or two. This is a 1.5-2 hour program but feel free to join in or drop out at any point. Dress for the weather as light rain and snow are not deterrents. **FREE!**

### **Surprise Story Time**

**Saturday, December 3 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 the Horticultural Center's entrance that leads to the secret spot. If it's rainy or cold, we'll be inside. Recommended for ages 4-7. **FREE!**

### **Creative Arts Center Student/Instructor Show & Sale**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Thompson Park Creative Arts Center, Lincroft**

Join us for this event featuring original artwork of our students and instructors. Kick

off your holiday shopping or find that perfect accent piece for your home made by local artists! Cash or check only please. Admission and parking are free.

### **Ribbons & Canes, Historical Holiday Candy & Craft**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4 from 1-4 p.m.**

**Historic Walnford, Upper Freehold**

Explore the origins of some of our holiday traditions. We'll share information about the sweet treats associated with Christmas while you make a simple paper stocking to hold your candy. *Free!*

### **Open Ceramics**

**Sunday, December 4 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 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.

### **The Sounds of Christmas**

**Sunday, December 4 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Enjoy wistful music as Larry Mosser and Mary Nagen play Christmas carols on the hammered dulcimer and fiddle. *FREE!*

### **Men's Open Gym Basketball**

**Sundays, December 4, 11 & 18 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.

### **Christmas Sing-Along**

**Saturday, December 10 from 1-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Visit with Rick Garland as he plays the piano in the Longstreet farmhouse for an old-fashioned sing-along. ***FREE!***

### **Seashore Scientist**

**Saturday, December 17 from 12-1 p.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch**

Explore different aspects of oceanography through interactive discussions and hands-on experiments. ***FREE!***

### **Visit with Santa**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 17 & 18 from 12-3 p.m.**

**Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel**

Enjoy an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas at the farm. Children can visit with Santa, then take a walk to the farmhouse and have a cup of cider. Be sure to bring your camera. ***FREE!***

### **Beach Craft Surprise**

**Sunday, December 18 from 1-2 p.m.**

**Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park Activity Center, Long Branch**

Make a beach-themed craft. While there, ask a Park System Naturalist your beach-y questions and watch as we feed our aquatic critters. The cost is \$5 per person; cash or check only.

To learn more about these Park System activities, please visit [www.monmouthcountyparks.com](http://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.