
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTS IN THE PARK RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

Free Festival Includes Big Name Bands, Wine Tasting and Activities for Kids

Arts in the Park, Burlington County's free annual festival celebrating music, theater, dance, fine art and crafts, returns to Historic Smithville Park Sunday, September 26th, bigger and better than ever with two popular bands, wine tasting and children's events.

Sponsored by the Freeholders, the festival will be held from 11 AM to 5 PM rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. A variety of live entertainment will be presented on four outdoor stages.

New this year will be an appearance by the Young Dubliners performing high-energy Celtic rock. Highly acclaimed, the band has released eight CDs and toured the United States and Europe.

Also scheduled is national recording act Grey Eye Glances, a group that began performing together in the early 1990s and has since produced eight CDs and developed a dedicated fan base.

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Other performers include The Slomski Brothers vaudeville-style comedy, Bob Grawi's Gravikord Duo/Ensemble, and singer/songwriters Dan Wythoff and Aaron Hehl. Russian music, dance and song ensemble Barynya, as well as other dancers, including tribal belly dancers, will also perform.

A variety of juried fine art and crafts will be for sale. Visitors also may explore the arts through interactive activities, including a "Chalk the Walk" project and a "Clothesline Art Workshop."

Children will enjoy the interactive Give and Take Jugglers, featuring an antique calliope, vaudeville traditions, circus arts, theater and live music. And the fun loving duo Ernie & Neal will deliver a dynamic performance of "music for the young mind."

Also planned is a performance of *Peter and the Wolf*, an adaption of the traditional Russian folktale set to music by the Pushcart Players, New Jersey's premier touring theatre for family audiences. Kids also will be able to participate in a puppet-making workshop and a puppet parade at 3 p.m.

Guests age 21 and older may sample wine from four South Jersey wineries in the Smithville Conservatory.

The 34th Annual Juried Art Exhibit will be on display in the Mansion Annex Art Gallery. Featuring "the best of the best" from the tri-state area, the exhibit features watercolors, oil paintings, acrylic paintings, mixed media, and sculpture. Outside, selections from the "Paint the Parks – Plein Air Competition," featuring landscape pieces painted before and during the event, will be on display.

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Smithville Park is located on Smithville Road in Eastampton, three-quarters of a mile off Route 38. Funding is provided in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant to the County Division of Cultural Affairs and Tourism. Persons in need of special accommodations are requested to give advance notification. For more information, call (609) 265-5858.

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