



# News

Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
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For Immediate Release

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## **FALL FLOAT RETURNS TO SMITHVILLE PARK ON SUNDAY, OCT. 28**

### **Paddle Canoes and Kayaks; Enjoy the Festivities, 9 am to 4 pm**

The Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites residents to enjoy the fall foliage while paddling along the Rancocas Creek during the annual Family Float Festival set for Sunday, October 28 from 9 am to 4 pm at Historic Smithville Park in Eastampton. Admission and parking are free.

“This is a great opportunity for families to spend some time on the Rancocas Creek or Smithville Lake enjoying the fall weather and changing colored leaves,” said Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio.

During the popular one-day event, visitors will enjoy free canoeing and kayaking along the scenic Rancocas Creek from Smithville to Iron Works Park in Mount Holly and view docks decorated in this year’s scarecrow theme. (Be sure to cast your vote for your favorite scarecrow.) The first boat will launch at 9 am and the last will launch at 2:30 pm

Throughout the day, enjoy plenty of fall fun at Smithville, including live entertainment by the Rice and Beans Jug Band, a magician and mime. The kids will enjoy face-painting, carnival-style games and pumpkin painting (for those 12 and under, while supplies last).

Also planned are hayrides to the “pumpkin patch” and, for a nominal fee, tours of the Historic Smithville Mansion. Listen in on séance and witness the fraudulent practices used by psychic mediums at the turn of the century.

Guests should take some time to stroll through the park to see the scarecrows attached to lampposts that were created by local organizations and businesses and vote for your favorite. The Smithville trails offer a chance to enjoy the fall foliage on foot, and there will be refreshments for sale for those who work up an appetite.

“There will be plenty of fall activities at Smithville Park for those folks who do not want to go out on the water,” Said Garganio. “It should be a fun day for everyone.”

**-more-**

## **PRESS RELEASE: Fall Float – 10/12/12– Add One**

Visitors are invited to tour the newly-restored 1865 Smithville Worker's House and Gallery to see more than 70 colorful hand-hooked rugs on display. Hosted by the Pinelands Rug Hookers, the exhibit showcases the work of many talented fiber artists from throughout the area and members of the organization will be demonstrating this unique traditional craft. In addition, the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Exhibit showcasing the work of artists from throughout the tri-state area will on display in the Smithville Mansions Annex Art Gallery.

Historic Smithville Park is located on Smithville Road in Eastampton, three-quarters of a mile off Route 38. Please note: there will be no charge for canoes and kayaks, but availability is limited and not guaranteed. Shuttle transportation back to Smithville will be provided, and canoeing around the vicinity of Smithville will also be available to visitors, including families with children under the age of 5 who cannot be shuttled due to child safety seat laws.

For safety reasons, all participants must wear personal flotation devices and at least one adult will be required to ride in each canoe, with a maximum of four riders per canoe. Every rider must sign a waiver and children under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign on their behalf.

For more information, or to print out and complete a waiver in advance, go to [www.co.burlington.nj.us/parks](http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/parks). Waivers are also available during office hours at the Division of Parks office at Smithville, (609) 265-5858.