

# Township of Manalapan **PARKS & RECREATION**

## **Newsletter**

VOLUME 5; DECEMBER 14TH

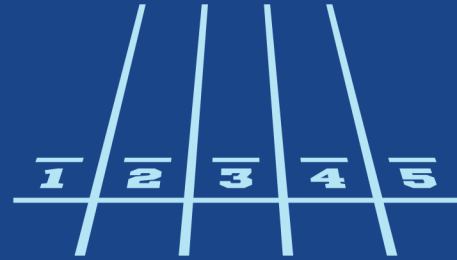


**Office Phone: (732) 446-8336 & (732) 446-8353**  
**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM**

# STAY ACTIVE THIS WINTER!



**Art in the Park - Adults**  
January 18th - February 8th  
6pm - 7pm

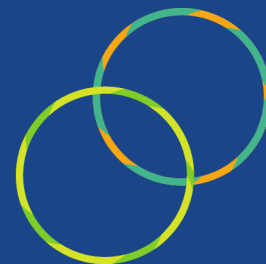


**S T A R T**

**Gone Running; Polar Bear Track**  
January 18th - March 16th



**Adult Yoga**  
January 11th - February 22nd  
7pm - 8pm



**Glitter Hoops**  
January 11th - February 21st  
7pm - 8pm



**Manalapan Regional Orchestra**  
January - May 2024  
6:30pm - 8pm



Scan for more information on our programs!



# AWAKENINGS THEATRE WORKSHOPPE

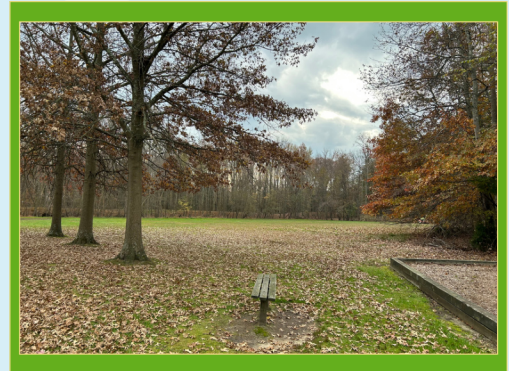
Our Awakenings Theatre Workshoppe held their final performance Friday, December 8 at Pine Brook School. We would like to extend a huge congratulations to our participants who worked so hard over the last 10 weeks to prepare for this night. The program not only prepares participants for their on-stage performances, but teaches improvisational skills, team building and confidence.



Our next session of Awakenings Theatre Workshoppe will begin in January and is open for registration through [Community Pass](#). DECEMBER '23

# PARK SPOTLIGHT

## BALMAR WOODS PARK



Balmar Woods Park is located on Apache Drive off of Pease Road and offers 6 and 1/2 acres of recreational space, tennis courts and a tot lot!

## PARK HOLIDAY HOURS



Sunday Christmas Eve 12/24 8:00 am - Dusk  
Monday Christmas 12/25 11:00 am - Dusk  
Sunday New Year's Eve 12/31 8:00 am - Dusk  
Monday New Year's Day 1/1 8:00 am - Dusk



Scan to learn more about our Parks & Recreation active park properties!

# AN AWARD WINNING YEAR!

The Manalapan Parks and Recreation Department attended the No Stigma Network Annual Meeting & Award Recognition and Holiday Celebration on Sunday, December 10. Superintendent Jeffrey Papcun and Supervisor Katie O'Brien accepted the Exceptional Community Service Awards on behalf of the department. The certificates are awarded in recognition of outstanding professional service, support and dedication to the members of the No Stigma Network.



No Stigma Network works with the Parks and Recreation Department to sponsor some of our Saturday Night Out Events for adults with special needs. These are essential community programs that offer those with disabilities opportunities to have fun and make new friends in a safe and welcoming environment.

Thank you so much to the No Stigma Network board members, volunteers and survivors. We are honored to accept these awards!



# WELCOME WINTER



## Happy Holly-Days!

As the weather gets colder and we approach the end of the year, leaves of deciduous trees fall and evergreen trees and shrubs retain their signature colors. Holly, with its pointed leaves and distinctive red berries, is an indicator of the winter season.

In a winter forest of greens and browns, holly stands out with its green pointed leaves and vibrant red berries. The picture to the right features American Holly and was taken at the Manalapan Recreation Center. Can you find this festive shrub?

Generally speaking, female holly trees and shrubs produce berries, while males do not. Holly berries are poisonous to people and pets. Like most plants, it's best to leave them be should you come across them in the woods and admire them with your eyes or a camera!

Holly plays an important part across many European folktales. More recently, it's made its way into popular culture with many Christmas and holiday songs mentioning the festive shrub. Have you heard these songs?

*The Holly And The Ivy  
Mistletoe and Holly  
Holly Jolly Christmas*



## WINTER SOLSTICE

DECEMBER 21ST 2023

10:27 PM EST



Winter will officially greet us on Thursday, December 21! The Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the darkest day of the calendar year. However, slowly but surely, the days will grow longer from December 21 until until the Summer Solstice in June. After the holiday season has dimmed, there are still brighter, sunnier days on the horizon!



## What a hoot!

**There are many owl species native to New Jersey.**

According to The Raptor Trust, there are 8 kinds of owls you can find in our state depending on the time of year. These include:

- Barn Owl*
- Barred Owl*
- Great Horned Owl*
- Long-Eared Owl*
- Saw-Whet Owl*
- Screech Owl*
- Short-Eared Owl*
- Snowy Owl*

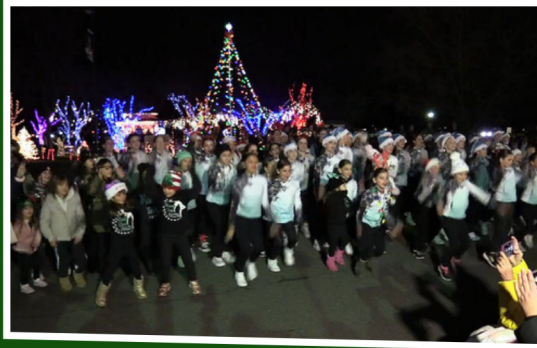
Owls are predators that eat mostly small mammals like mice. They hunt primarily at night and catch their prey with strong, sharp talons or claws. Depending on the size of their meal, the bird may break it apart with its sharp beak. After digested, pellets are formed and can be used to study the animal's diet and behaviors. Perhaps you dissected an owl pellet in biology class?

These beautiful birds have made their way into popular culture, and for good reason! Over the years, these birds have been associated with intelligence, wisdom and educational institutions. Do you recognize these famous winged friends?

*Hedwig from Harry Potter*  
*Mr. Owl from Tootsie Pop commercials*  
*Archimedes from The Sword and the Stone*

# CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Wednesday, December 6th



Manalapan Township kicked off the holiday season on Wednesday, December 6 with our community tree lighting.

The night began with a performance from Rising Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts dancing to hits like Marshmallow World and Run, Run Rudolph.

Santa arrived shortly after, the tree was lit and cookies and hot chocolate were served in the Arboretum.

The night concluded with a performance from the Manalapan Regional Orchestra in the courtroom.

Thank you to all who attended this festive community event!



Manalapan Township Parks & Recreation would like to thank Jack Fineran, Joe Martin, Fabio Domingues, and all the members of DPW for their dedication and hard work in putting together our Winter Wonderland lights in front of the Manalapan Municipal Building.

# MENORAH LIGHTING

Monday, December 11th



Thank you to all who attended this wonderful community event!

The Menorah Lighting was held at Town Hall with Rabbi Boruch Chazanow from Chabad of Western Monmouth on Monday, December 11th.

After the Menorah lighting, delicious latkes and jelly donuts were served inside of Town Hall.

Attendees then enjoyed a performance from Rising Stars School of Dance & Performing Arts in the courtroom.





# PAVILION RENTAL

Host your next event at one of our pavilions!



Reservation packet available at:

[mtnj.org](http://mtnj.org)



departments



parks & recreation

*Please call the Parks & Recreation office for more information.*

732.446.8336



@ManalapanRec



@Manalapan\_Parks\_and\_Recreation

Scan for more info!

