January 2015

Happy New Year! The Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission hopes you have a great year. We encourage you to make this a year of trying new events in the county and learning more about the people, art and history of the region. There is always something new to experience right in your neighborhood.

Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival

One of the premiere environmental events of the region is scheduled to take place this year on Saturday, February 7, 2015. The Cumberland County Winter Eagle Festival is in its 15th year of showcasing the rich population of eagle, hawks,
owls and other raptors which make Cumberland County their home.

The Festival is headquartered at the Mauricetown Firehall, 9544 Noble Street, in Mauricetown, but takes place all along the bayshore and Maurice River. The event includes five viewing sites along the shore where birding experts from Audubon and Cape May Bird Observatory help visitors spot birds both in the air and perched along the shore.

Attendees should start their day by registering at the firehall ($10.00 for adults and $5.00 for children 12 and under). Then it is simply a matter of figuring out how to split up your day. Presentations are scheduled at the firehall from some of the stars of the birdwatching world, and exhibitors and vendors, live raptors from Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, children's art activities, and local-fare refreshments and lunch all can be experienced at the firehall.

Besides the five viewing sites (you will receive a detailed map to the sites upon registration), there are guided trail walks scheduled all day, starting as early as 7 am for those early risers, all the way to 5 pm when the owl watch trail walk begins.

With more trail walks than any previous year, and new presentations and trail walks geared especially for children, this 15th Annual Eagle Festival will be one to remember. Quinn Whitesall of American Littoral Society will conduct a workshop for kids at noon on building and learning about the anatomy of wings and flight. Then, at 3 PM Quinn will lead a kids' trail walk where participants will be able to interact and learn about the habitat of eagles, owls and other raptors.

But this is not the only additions for this year's Eagle Festival. Participants 18 years and younger can try their hand at the "birding passport," by visiting all five of the staffed viewing sites along the bayshore and having their passports stamped at each site, then returning to the Festival headquarters at the Mauricetown Firehall to receive a special prize.

New this year to the festival is the use of a live Twitter feed to track sightings during the day's events. A screen in the firehall will project the latest reports and anyone can track what is being seen and where by checking #cceaglefest.

Organized by the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders and numerous environmental non-profit partners, simply decide which of the six presentations, eight guided trail walks and five staffed viewing sites along the bayshore you want to experience.

For more information, call Cumberland County at (856) 453-2175, or visit it's website at www.co.cumberland.nj.us.

Farmland
Screening Presented by Cumberland County Board of Agriculture

Culture and heritage in Cumberland County is not always just about special events and performances. Did you know that our rural geography and farming lifestyle are also critical components of our culture and heritage?

Farming is a way of life like no other and agriculture is one of the largest economic sectors in the county. The Cumberland County Board of Agriculture is showcasing this special way of life by screening the new documentary, Farmland, on Saturday, February 21st at the Frank Guaracini Jr. Fine and Performing Arts Center on the campus of Cumberland County College. It all starts with a special reception beginning at 6:30 PM in the Luciano Conference Center,
followed by the screening of the film at 7:30 PM in the PAC. Tickets to the reception are $15 and available by contacting the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture at (856) 451-2800 or any of its members. The reception will include hors d'oeuvres and beverages, highlighting Jersey Fresh wine and beer.

*Farmland* takes an intimate look at the lives of six young farmers and ranchers as they take responsibility for the operation of their businesses. The film, from award-winning director James Moll, steps inside the world of farming for a glimpse into the lives of young farmers and ranchers. For more information about the film, visit [www.farmlandfilm.com](http://www.farmlandfilm.com) or click on the poster image above.

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Commission Acquires Assistive Listening Devices

During an event held last year by a partner organization of the Commission, a request was made for assistive listening devices. This is basically a personal amplifier for those who have hearing issues. They can be very beneficial in large spaces and big crowds, where it can be often hard to hear the presenter for many of us. When a search was made in Cumberland County for these devices, none could be found. The organization had to borrow a set from the Atlantic County Library. Seeing this as a real deficiency in Cumberland County, the Cultural & Heritage Commission researched the devices and purchased a set of six for use in the county.

"The Commission is strongly dedicated to providing full accessibility to all of its funded programs for every member of the county," said Penny Watson, Chair of the Commission in 2015.

Non-profit organizations conducting programming in Cumberland County may borrow the equipment on a first come, first served basis by contacting Matt Pisarski at (856) 453-2175 or mattpi@co.cumberland.nj.us. Events utilizing the equipment are encouraged to advertise its availability by including the ADA logo in promotional materials.