

**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO INVITES PUBLIC TO FAMILY NIGHTS
AND ZOO-VIES AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO**
*Extended Zoo Hours on Wednesday and Thursday Nights in July and August
and Free Animal-Themed Movies Shown under the Stars*

West Orange, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites the public to enjoy summer evenings at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo. On Wednesdays and Thursdays during the months of July and August, Turtle Back will have **Family Nights** with extended evening hours to 8:30 p.m., with the last admission to the Zoo at 8 p.m. In addition, on Wednesday evenings during July and August, **Zoo-vies**, featuring animal-related movies, will be shown on the top floor of the Turtle Back Zoo Parking Deck.

“Join us for Family Night when the Zoo has extended hours until 8:30 p.m. Take advantage of the late hours when temperatures are cooler and the workday is over,” DiVincenzo said. “In addition, come out for a family-friendly evening under the stars watching great movies on the top deck of our Zoo parking garage. It’s a great way to spend a summer night and experience Turtle Back in a completely different way,” he added.

Family Nights will be held on Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19 and 26 and August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 and Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27 and August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. In addition, Thursdays in August are Pokémon GO Zoo Nights! Enjoy catching and battling unique creatures throughout the zoo with 17 PokeStops and 2 Gyms. Lures are released every half hour during the event. Paid admission is required to enter the zoo each evening. Learn more about playing Pokémon Go at the Zoo at <http://turtlebackzoo.com/play-pokemon-go/>.

Families coming to Zoo-vies should bring their own chair or blanket on which to sit. Films will begin at dusk. Admission to the movies is free, and movies will be cancelled in the event of rain. The schedule for Zoo-vies is as follows:

Wednesday, July 5 th	Disneynature African Cats
Wednesday, July 12 th	Tarzan
Wednesday, July 19 th	The Adventures of Milo and Otis
Wednesday, July 26 th	The Secret Life of Pets
Wednesday, August 2 nd	Ferngully: The Last Rain Forest
Wednesday, August 9 th	How to Train Your Dragon
Wednesday, August 16 th	Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom
Wednesday, August 23 rd	Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them
Wednesday, August 30 th	Moana

Turtle Back Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Regular admission is \$12 for children and senior citizens, \$15 for adults and free for children under 2 years. For additional information, please call 973-731-5800 or visit www.essexcountynj.org/turtlebackzoo.

Revitalizing Essex County Turtle Back Zoo

Since taking office in 2003, DiVincenzo has spearheaded over \$70 million in upgrades to Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, which have included developing the Carousel with 33 figures of endangered animals; building the African Adventure with giraffes, lions and hyenas; Sea Lion Sound Exhibit with sea lions, sharks and sting rays; the Big Cat Country Exhibit with Jaguars and Cougars; Tam-ring Gibbons Reserve with Gibbons apes, Reeves muntjac and white naped cranes; Australian Exhibit that features kangaroos, wallabies, emus and over 500 birds in the Aviary; Reptile and Education Center, open air dining pavilion and playground, Penguin Exhibit, Otter Exhibit, Wolf Exhibit, Alligator Exhibit, North American Animal Exhibit, Black Bear Exhibit, Animal Hospital, Essex Farm Petting Zoo and South American Animal Exhibit; renovating the Food Pavilion for year-round use and making upgrades to the entrance as well as fencing and infrastructure to meet AZA requirements. Funding has been provided through Green Acres grants, existing capital improvement bonds, or donations from the Zoological Society, Essex County Parks Foundation, corporations or private foundations. Corporations that have provided support include Investors Bank, Prudential Financial, Inc., Wells Fargo (Wachovia Bank), PNC Bank, PSE&G, Verizon, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Coca Cola, Capital One Bank, TD Bank, Aramark, Covanta Energy and OxyMagic carpet cleaning.