



"Our senior citizens have led interesting lives and I am always impressed by the stories that are submitted. Our Legacies Contest is an opportunity for our older residents to remember their past and share their experiences with family, friends and the younger generation. It's never too early to begin collecting your thoughts and writing your drafts. I encourage all our seniors to start working on their entries now."

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive
The Board of Chosen Commissioners
And the Essex County Division of Senior Services**

Invite Essex County Seniors to Participate in the

**2026 Essex County Division of Senior Services
LEGACIES Writing Contest**

*Give life to your memories, your half-forgotten stories...
Relive your past and share it with others....*



For Essex County Residents 60 Years of Age and Older

ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

SEE REVERSE SIDE for CONTEST RULES

**For Additional Information,
Call the Essex County Division of Senior Services
At (973) 395-8381**

Putting Essex County First

2026 ESSEX COUNTY LEGACIES WRITING CONTEST RULES

- ❖ Writers must be Essex County residents who are 60 years of age or older.
- ❖ Submit an *original* story focusing on a special person, a life altering experience or a significant period in your life.
 - *Bring to life for the reader the person or experience that deeply influenced your life – the visual images, other sensory memories, and the emotions and thoughts that make up your recollections.*
 - *Reflect on the times and the location of your story in the richness of your descriptions.*
 - *Give the reader a picture of your immediate environment with detail reflecting particular social, cultural, and interpersonal influences in your home, family, neighborhood or other immediate surroundings at the time of your story.*
 - *If appropriate to the story, reflect the influence of broader historical events and/or your connections with the younger or older generation.*
- ❖ Suggested maximum length: 1,500 words. Stories must be typed or legibly written on 8½-by-11-inch paper. Sending stories by e-mail reduces errors after retyping. (E-mail stories to dwertz@seniors.essexcountynj.org.)
- ❖ Entries must have a **cover page** with the story title and the following information: Author's name, date of birth, address and telephone number.
- ❖ A **heading with the story title only** (with no other identifying information) should appear on the first page of the story text. (Note: The cover page and all identifying information about the author is removed before the story is copied for the review committee.)
- ❖ *Authors may submit only one entry.*
- ❖ Authors should keep a copy of their entry. Stories are not returned. They are never used for any purpose without permission from the author.
- ❖ Previously published stories may not be submitted.
- ❖ The submission date for entries to the 2026 Essex County Legacies Contest is:

Monday, APRIL 20, 2026

**Send stories to:
Essex County Division of Senior Services
Attention: Doreatha Wertz
465 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, Suite 102 Newark, N.J. 07102
Or e-mail to dwertz@seniors.essexcountynj.org**

For additional information, call (973) 395-8381