

**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP  
WITH LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

*County Helping to Raise Awareness for the American Cancer Society,  
American Heart Association, the Arc of Essex County, The Valerie Fund,  
Arthritis Foundation, NJ Children's Alliance, Alzheimer's New Jersey,  
Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center's NICU, RWJBarnabas Health, Stop for Nikhil and the Cystic  
Fibrosis Foundation*

**Event Participants are Offered Reduced Admission to Essex County  
South Mountain Recreation Complex Attractions**

**Essex County, NJ** – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. announced on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> that Essex County was participating in 11 special partnerships to increase awareness about and help raise funds for the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, the Arc of Essex County, the New Jersey Children's Alliance, Stop for Nikhil, The Valerie Fund, the Arthritis Foundation, Alzheimer's New Jersey, the Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center's NICU, RWJBarnabas Health and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. DiVincenzo is inviting the public to come out and support the worthy causes of each organization. In addition, the Executive announced that participants from each event will receive reduced admission to attractions at the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex on the day of their respective fund-raising events.

“Each of these well-respected organizations does a great deal to make a positive difference in and improve the quality of life for our residents. I invite the public to run, walk or donate to help out these really great causes,” DiVincenzo said. “To say thank you to these organizations and the thousands of people who support them, we are offering reduced admission to Turtle Back Zoo, Codey Arena and the miniGOLF Safari for the people who participate in these events,” he added.

“We have the most meaningful partner in government who is Joe DiVincenzo. We both are in alignment with our public service efforts taking care of those in need,” RWJBarnabas Health President and CEO Mark Manigan said.

“The work you all do is so very important. Today is our opportunity to tell you that you are not in this alone,” Commissioner President Carlos Pomares said. “All of these organizations have such positive impacts on our communities,” Commissioner Len Luciano said.

“Today, we need collaborations with organizations like these to get things done. These groups are on the forefront of addressing the needs of our residents,” Prosecutor Ted Stephens said.

“Working with these organizations is a labor of love for us. It's a great way to support great causes and enjoy time in our beautiful parks,” Sheriff Armando Fontoura said.

“Our employees like engaging in activities like these. We like walking together as a team and show we care and are there to help others. Essex County is there for you,” Deputy Chief of Staff and Human Resources Director Jacqueline Jones said.

A description of the organizations and a schedule of their events are as follows:

**The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Arc of Essex County's Annual Building Tomorrows 5K Run, Family Walk and Fun Fest** is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Clipper Pavilion in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex. The Arc of Essex County provides supportive services for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities. For information and registration, visit [RunOrWalk.org](http://RunOrWalk.org). It will be held as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, April 27, 2024  
**Time:** 8 a.m. 5K Registration  
9 a.m. 5K Run  
10 a.m. to 12 noon Fun Fest  
**10:30 a.m. Family Walk**  
**Place:** Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex  
Clipper Pavilion  
Cherry Lane  
West Orange, NJ

The **Walk to Fight Alzheimer's** benefits **Alzheimer's New Jersey** and will be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Clipper Pavilion in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex. Proceeds from the event benefit Alzheimer's New Jersey's programs and services including a toll-free helpline, family support groups, community education programs, the Respite Care and Wellness Program, Clinical Trial Connections Program, and research to advance a cure. For more information, visit [www.alznj.org](http://www.alznj.org) or call 888-280-6055. It will be held as follows:

**Date:** Sunday, May 5, 2024  
**Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Place:** Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex  
Clipper Pavilion  
Cherry Lane  
West Orange, NJ

**Great Strides** is the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's** largest national fundraising event and will be held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Clipper Pavilion in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex. The mission of the foundation is to cure [cystic fibrosis](http://www.cysticfibrosis.org) and raise awareness about this rare, genetic, life-shortening disease that makes it difficult to breathe and shortens lives. Proceeds from the event help accelerate innovative research and drug development, as well as advance care and advocacy. Registration is free, but walkers are encouraged to raise funds. For more information, visit [www.fightcf.cff.org](http://www.fightcf.cff.org). It will be held as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2024  
**Time:** 8:45 a.m. Registration  
9:45 a.m. Walk  
**Place:** Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex  
Clipper Pavilion  
Cherry Lane  
West Orange, NJ

The **Valerie Fund Walk and JAG Physical Therapy 5K Run** is Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> in Essex County Verona Park. Proceeds will be used to support the comprehensive care of children with cancer and blood disorders. For more information on the Walk or 5K Run, visit [TheValerieFund.org/Walk2024/](http://TheValerieFund.org/Walk2024/). It will be held as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, June 8, 2024  
**Time:** 7 a.m. 5K Registration  
8:30 a.m. 5K Run  
8:30 a.m. Walk Registration

**9:30 am. Opening Ceremony**

**10 a.m. Walk**

**Place: Essex County Verona Park  
Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, NJ**

The **Arthritis Foundation's Walk to Cure Arthritis** is Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex. The Arthritis Foundation helps conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. For more information, visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org). It will be held as follows:

**Date: Sunday, June 2, 2024**  
**Time: 8 a.m.**  
**Place: Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex  
Cherry Lane  
West Orange, NJ**

The **Nikhil Badlani Foundation** will present the **Stop for Nikhil 5K Run/3K Walk/5K Bike Ride** on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at West Orange High School. The foundation is named for 11-year-old Nikhil Badlani, who was killed in a car crash in 2011 when the driver failed to stop at a stop sign. Its mission is to raise traffic safety awareness while enriching the lives of children through music lessons, and providing scholarships to graduating high school seniors. For more information, visit [www.nikhilbadlanifoundation.org](http://www.nikhilbadlanifoundation.org). It will be held as follows:

**Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024**  
**Time: 8 a.m.**  
**Place: West Orange High School  
51 Conforti Avenue  
West Orange, NJ**

The **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Miracle Walk** to benefit the **Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit** is Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> in Essex County Verona Park. The walk features family-friendly activities, refreshments and entertainment including a DJ, face painters, balloon artists, characters and more. Proceeds help the medical center purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the NICU, which provides specialized care for New Jersey's smallest and sickest babies. For more information, visit [miraclewalk.com](http://miraclewalk.com). It will be held as follows:

**Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024**  
**Time: 9 a.m.**  
**Place: Essex County Verona Park  
Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, NJ**

The **Annual Greater Northern NJ Heart Walk** is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the ADP campus in Roseland. This event attracts businesses and residents from Essex, Morris, Somerset, Union and Warren Counties. Proceeds will be used to raise awareness and support prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke. For more information, visit [www2.heart.org](http://www2.heart.org). It will be held as follows:

**Date: October 2024**  
**Time: 9 a.m.**

**Place: Roseland, NJ**

The **American Cancer Society** will present its **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> in Mulberry Commons Park in Newark. The walk helps raise awareness and funds to save lives from breast cancer. The event brings people together to make a difference for everyone who has been touched by breast cancer. The events raise money to fund innovative research, provide free information and support, and to help people reduce their breast cancer risk or find it early when it's most treatable. For information, visit [www.MakingStridesWalk.org/NewarkNJ](http://www.MakingStridesWalk.org/NewarkNJ). It will be held as follows:

**Date: Sunday, October 20, 2024**

**Time: Registration 8 a.m.  
Walk 10 a.m.**

**Place: Mulberry Commons Park  
Lafayette Street  
Newark, NJ**

The **New Jersey Children's Alliance** will present the **Heroes for Children 5K and Family Fun Run/Walk**. Race information is to be announced. The event will promote public awareness about child abuse issues and increase knowledge about the services of local Children's Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams and the difference these services make in a child's life. For more information, visit [www.njcainc.org](http://www.njcainc.org).

**RWJBarnabas Health and the New Jersey Devils** are teaming up to support the health of New Jersey's diverse population with the **Running with the Devils 5K Run and Family Fun Walk** on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex on Cherry Lane in West Orange. Proceeds from the event will benefit programs and services at RWJBarnabas Health's 12 hospital facilities as well as Behavioral Health and Children's Specialized Hospital. This event, featuring a 5K USATF certified race and a family fun walk, brings together participants from across the state and supports the collective commitment of RWJBarnabas Health and the New Jersey Devils to build stronger communities by promoting healthy, active lifestyles and world-class healthcare. The day will feature special appearances by the New Jersey Devils mascot and street team, medals for all race participants, awards and more. RWJBarnabas Health is the official healthcare provider of the New Jersey Devils. It will be held as follows:

**Date: Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**Time: 7 a.m. Registration  
9 a.m. Race and Walk**

**Place: Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex  
and Essex County Turtle Back Zoo  
560 Northfield Avenue  
West Orange, NJ**

Participants in these events can receive \$5 admission to Turtle Back Zoo, Codey Arena and the miniGOLF Safari in West Orange. The reduced admission is available on event days and participants must bring their race bib or proof of registration to receive the discount.

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