



PRESS RELEASE

News from Monmouth County's Open Space, Park and Recreation Agency

CONTACT: Susan Walsh, Public Information Officer
(732) 842-4000, ext. 4256
swalsh@monmouthcountyparks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THOMPSON PARK VISITOR CENTER GRAND RE-OPENING SET FOR JULY 12

LINCROFT— The Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners and Park System staff invite the public to attend a celebration to mark the grand re-opening of the Visitor Center with an “Open House” on Sunday, July 12, 2009 at Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road/Route 520, Lincroft. There will be a dedication ceremony at 1:30 and the building will be open to the public from 1-4pm.

Often referred to as the “crown jewel” of the Park System, this stately mansion was the former home of Geraldine Thompson, whose 215-acre land donation in 1968 helped establish Thompson Park. Originally built in the 1890s and renovated in the early 2000s, the mansion was completely destroyed by a fire in February 2006. Reconstructed with funds from an insurance settlement, the new Visitor Center was built on the building’s original footprint, and retains the same general appearance with its yellow and dark green color scheme and monumental Doric porch columns visible from the highway.

(MORE)

Many of the new exterior and interior details match the building's original and historic features and finishes. Visitors familiar with the building are encouraged to try to spot the differences as they tour the newly constructed space. Staff will be available to answer questions. The original grounds remain mostly intact as well, and visitors may enjoy exploring the beautiful collection of specimen trees and shrubs, some over 100 years old, on the front lawn and in the surrounding landscape.

Operating hours for the Visitor Center will be Monday – Friday 8am -4:30 pm and weekends 10am-4pm. For public convenience, the restroom area will remain open during normal park hours.

For more information, please visit the Park System online at www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call 732-842-4000, Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm. For people with hearing or speech impairment, the TDD/TTY number is 711.

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PHOTO: The public is invited to celebrate the grand re-opening of the reconstructed Visitor Center at Thompson Park with an “Open House” Sunday, July 12, 2009, Newman Springs Road/Route 520, Lincroft. There will be a dedication ceremony at 1:30; the building will be open to the public from 1-4pm.