

## **Hunterdon Parks and Recreation Division Now Offering Virtual Programs For Summer**

Educational and entertaining virtual parks and recreation programs for children will be offered by the Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Division, while summer camps are not presently available due to state COVID-19 restrictions, Freeholder John E. Lanza, reported at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Freeholder Meeting.

Freeholder Lanza, the Board's liaison for Parks, said, "I can report that the Parks Division staff has been most creative in developing imaginative programs that will be offered virtually throughout the summer. Given that the state's extensive health protection protocols have resulted in a suspension of summer camps, the Parks Division has recognized this is an issue for parents and has put forward opportunities via the internet.

Over the course of the next month children of varying ages can participate in the nature clubs and lectures on insects, mammals and even coexisting with coyotes, which is fairly important as coyotes are here in Hunterdon County. More information is available on the Parks and Recreation web page."

Lanza noted, "Since their re-opening on May 2nd, the county's parks and trails have experienced increased volume. Thus, maintenance has taken on a higher priority. To meet those needs, the Public Works Department has joined with the Parks Division in maintenance and improvement activities, allowing the public to enjoy the physical exercise and mental health benefits of the great outdoors."

"In addition to hiking and other outdoor activities the parks offer," Dan Bush, Parks and Recreation Division Head said, "The parks and trails in Hunterdon County have always been an important to the quality of life for residents. We are excited to offer summer activities and programs for children who have been quarantined and now, unable to attend camp, need opportunities to stay busy. We are grateful to the Freeholder Board for their support of these virtual programs and the Public Works Department for keeping our parks and trails safe."

For information, visit the Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation website [www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/parks.htm) or call 908-788-1158.