



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO ANNOUNCES PLANS  
FOR ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY HISTORIC HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR  
*13 Historic Homes, including Essex County Kip's Castle and Walther House  
at Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, will be Decorated  
for the Holidays and Open for the Public's Enjoyment***

**Essex County, NJ** – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites the public to celebrate the holiday season and participate in the ***Annual Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour***. This year's tour includes 13 Essex County historic sites, which will be decorated for the holidays and open to the public for a weekend tour. The tour includes Essex County Kip's Castle and the Walther House at the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. The

self-guided house tour will be held **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** at the following locations:

**Essex County Kip's Castle Park**

22 Crestmont Road, Verona

973-433-7469; [www.EssexCountyParks.org](http://www.EssexCountyParks.org)

Admission is free. Open Saturday and Sunday from 12-4 p.m.

**Walther House at the Essex County Presby Memorial Iris Gardens**

474 Upper Mountain Avenue, Upper Montclair

973-783-5974; [www.presbyirisgardens.org](http://www.presbyirisgardens.org)

Admission is free. Open Sunday from 12-3 p.m.

**The Ballantine House**

49 Washington Street, Newark

973-596-6648

Open Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursdays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the end of December.

**The Blanchard Estate**

100 Blanchard Road, South Orange

973-803-9330; [yvonne@patterson-foundation.org](mailto:yvonne@patterson-foundation.org)

Admission is \$20 per adult; free for children and students. Open Saturday from 1-5 p.m.

**Canfield-Morgan House and Museum**

903 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove

973-239-5414; [www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org)

Admission is free, donations are accepted. Open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

**Crane Homestead**

289 Westville Avenue, West Caldwell

973-226-8976

Admission is free; donations are accepted. Open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

**The Old Force Homestead (Livingston Historical Society)**

366 South Livingston Avenue, Livingston

908-347-2183 ; [livingstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:livingstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Open Saturday and Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

**Glenmont at Thomas Edison National Historic Park**

211 Main Street, West Orange

973-736-0550, ext. 11; [www.nps.gov/edis](http://www.nps.gov/edis)

Admission is \$15 per person and free for children under 16. Tickets must be purchased at the Laboratory Complex Visitor Center the day of the tour and includes access to the Laboratory Complex. Open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**The Grover House**

333 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell

Admission is free. Open Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

**Historic YWCA (Montclair Historical Society Property)**

110 Orange Road, Montclair

973-744-1796; [www.montclairhistorical.org](http://www.montclairhistorical.org)

Admission is free. Open Saturday and Sunday from 1-3 p.m.

**The Gypsy Farmhouse**

106 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove

973-239-9886; [www.gypsyfarmhouse.com](http://www.gypsyfarmhouse.com)

Admission is free. Open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

**Kingsland Manor**

3 Kingsland Street, Nutley

973-661-3410; [www.kingslandmanor.org](http://www.kingslandmanor.org)

Admission is free. Donations are gratefully appreciated. Open Saturday and Sunday from 1- 4 p.m.

**Van Tassel Funeral Home**

337 Belleville Avenue, Bloomfield

973-743-1234

Admission is free. Open Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

“The Holiday House Tour is a great example of organizations throughout the County pooling their resources to create a wonderful event for families to enjoy and to provide insight into how past holidays were celebrated,” DiVincenzo said. “Take a break from the hustle and bustle this December and visit local homes and landmarks that will have decked the halls in holiday extravagance for one spectacular weekend. Tour historic Essex County with your friends and delight in the spirit of the season,” DiVincenzo said.

The public can visit each site at their own pace. The houses will be exquisitely decorated for the holidays and be open for public viewing. Each site will offer something unique, including musical entertainment, refreshments or educational programs. There may be an admission fee at some locations. For more information, please call 973-268-3500 or visit [www.essexcountynj.org](http://www.essexcountynj.org).

The Essex County Park System was created in 1895 and is the first county park system established in the United States. The Park System consists of more than 6,000 acres and has 23 parks, five reservations, an environmental center, a zoo, Treetop Adventure Course, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, three public golf courses, golf driving range, two miniature golf courses, six off-leash dog facilities, a castle and the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.

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