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### The NJMC is proud to announce the Flyway Gallery Exhibit

This month the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission hosts the Art Association of Rutherford's 61st Annual Open Juried Art and Photography Exhibit at the Flyway Gallery in the Meadowlands Environment Center. The exhibit runs through Oct. 31. The show focuses on nature and the environment and features photos and sketches of birds, ducks, egrets, wildflowers and other natural scenes. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends.

## Greetings from Chairman Doria



Welcome to another information-packed edition of NJMC Today. The Commission has been quite busy through the end of the summer and the beginning of autumn as it continues to serve Meadowlands District residents. Thanks to the NJMC staff's creativity and commitment, we have good news to report on several efforts that benefit the public and the environment, without burdening taxpayers' pocketbooks.

you're a serious stargazer or a beginner, viewing the night sky through the telescope is equally awe-inspiring. The public viewing nights have proven to be a great family activity, so don't hesitate to bring the kids.

First, I'm proud to announce that the NJMC recently awarded \$1.7 million in grants to District municipalities. The funding can pay for projects like downtown revitalization, new police vehicles and fire equipment, sidewalk improvements, and park and community beautification. The Commission is always pleased to help District towns do more, at less cost to residents.

Speaking of the kids, students in Grades K-12 visit the NJMC throughout the week for a host of educational programs run by the Meadowlands Environment Center. The programs focus on several branches of environmental science. Students learn about wetlands, wildlife, renewable energy, astronomy and more. These programs help engender a love of science and sense of environmental responsibility at an early age, and they are a special source of pride for the NJMC.

In addition to grant funding, the NJMC uses its resources to help people save money and protect the environment in other ways. The "Meadowlands Challenge" is a great example. Through this educational competition created by NJMC staff, local businesses and communities will be encouraged to increase recycling and adopt energy-saving measures that both help the environment and reduce costs. The NJMC has led by green example, investing in solar power and sustainable design for our new education center and reducing costs for others who want to build green. Now, we are throwing down the green gauntlet to encourage others to get in the spirit.

There is also much to see - and photograph - in the Meadowlands, and we are looking for your best shots in the "Show Us Your Meadowlands" amateur photography contest. There are three categories: Meadowlands environment, community and economy. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three photos in each category, and the winners' works will be exhibited in the NJMC's Flyway Gallery in December. Photos must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3, so get your cameras out and start searching for that perfect photo now! (details below.)

The NJMC's William D. McDowell Observatory is open to the public, and we invite everyone to see the stars through the Commission's state-of-the-art reflecting telescope every Monday and Wednesday night. Whether

*Thank you.*  
**Joseph V. Doria, Jr.**  
*Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*

## NJMC Launches Photo Contest

Attention amateur shutterbugs: the NJMC is seeking your best shots of the Meadowlands. The Commission's "Show Us Your Meadowlands" amateur photography contest promotes the unique natural character of the Meadowlands community, environment and economy. The contest is open to residents of the Meadowlands District and there are prizes of up to \$200 for each of the three categories. Photos must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3, and winners will be announced at the NJMC's November meeting. The winning entries and other submissions will be on display at the NJMC's Flyway Gallery during December. For more information, rules and an entry form, visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov) or call 201-460-2003.



## NJMC Kicks Off Recycling Program

The Meadowlands Commission prides itself on its efforts to reduce waste and increase energy efficiency. Now the NJMC is stepping up its own game, and spreading the word about recycling and energy efficiency through the "Meadowlands Challenge." This fun and educational program seeks to encourage Meadowlands District businesses to recycle more, examine their carbon footprint, and find ways to save and reuse energy. The Commission also plans to bring lessons from the "Meadowlands Challenge" directly to District residents. The NJMC is leading by example in the area of energy efficiency, starting with its own energy audit. The NJMC is also in the process of retrofitting its administration building and the Meadowlands Environment Center to increase energy efficiency. Look for more information on the "Meadowlands Challenge" in the next edition of NJMC Today.

## NJMC Awards \$1.7M to Meadowlands District Municipalities

The Commission recently delivered great news to its 14 member towns, announcing \$1.7 million in grant funding for use toward a variety of projects including downtown revitalization, new police and fire equipment, and capital improvements. Each town was awarded \$100,000 through the Commission's Municipal Assistance Program (MAP), and the Commission split an additional \$310,000 among the 12 towns that applied for downtown revitalization grants. These grants are the latest effort in the Commission's ongoing commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the Meadowlands District.



## NJMC Launches Nature Blog



The Meadowlands Blog - NJMC's daily celebration of nature in the District's 14 municipalities - is now averaging more than 1,000 page views a week. Since its official launch in mid-July, Meadowblog.net has highlighted all sorts of natural wonders, from twilight at Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus to the return of the ruddy ducks at Mehrhof Pond in Little Ferry.

The family-oriented blog, updated daily Mondays through Fridays, blends wonderful color photography with timely bird sightings, butterfly reports and concise write-ups of the District's parks, marshes, meadows and other natural areas.

The Meadowlands Blog also keeps the public informed of all sorts of Meadowlands events - from bird festivals to pontoon boat tours to public viewing nights at the William D. McDowell Observatory. Meadowblog.net: Check it out!



## Harbor Herons Feeding In the Meadowlands

Preliminary results of a study conducted by New York City Audubon and the New Jersey Audubon Society with assistance from the NJMC and citizen volunteers found that the Meadowlands District is a crucial feeding ground for egrets - members of the heron family - that nest in colonies near New York City. Snowy egrets seem drawn to the Secaucus High School Marsh and Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus, while Great egrets favor the fresh-water and brackish marshes in Kearny. The findings reaffirm the importance of the Meadowlands as a feeding ground for birds and, by extension, the NJMC's environmental conservation and restoration work that have helped spur the ecosystem's recovery.

## Come See the Stars at the NJMC

The Commission's new William D. McDowell Observatory is open to the public every Monday and Wednesday night from 8 to 10 p.m. Visitors can view the stars and planets through the NJMC's state-of-the-art, reflecting telescope and learn about astronomy from Meadowlands Environment Center educators. The powerful, research-grade telescope has a 20-inch mirror and can view objects millions of light years away. Astronomy is a natural fit for the NJMC. Educational programs run by the Meadowlands Environment Center explore several aspects of science that are useful in astronomy, including biology, chemistry and physics. In addition to public viewing nights, astronomy classes are held on Tuesday nights. For more information, visit [www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov/ec) or call 201-460-8300.



## School In Session at the NJMC

Thousands of students from around North Jersey are participating in educational programming at the NJMC's new Center for Environmental and Scientific Education during the 2008-09 school year. The programs, which began in late September, enhance the students' educational experience through hands-on lessons in a variety of subjects that integrate ecology, chemistry, biology, physics, natural history and geology. There are 25 programs offered for Grades K-12, including 10 new programs that mainly focus on aspects of green living, renewable energy and astronomy. The NJMC's location in DeKorte Park allows for the educational experience to extend beyond the classroom's walls and into the Meadowlands' unique urban wetlands ecosystem, where students observe wildlife and vegetation, visit marshes, participate in bird surveys and gather water samples to test in the classroom. The programs, which are taught by Ramapo College educators and operated through the Meadowlands Environment Center, meet New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.



**Your Meadowlands**  
Airs weekly on the cable systems that service the Meadowlands District.

Throughout the year on upcoming shows, we'll feature specific Meadowlands municipalities and what the NJMC is doing to help improve your quality of life. So stay tuned and please join us as we bring "Your Meadowlands" to your television.

## NJMC Cable Broadcast Schedule

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission looks to make your Meadowlands Municipality a great place to live, work and play. You can learn more about the projects and programs offered by the NJMC by watching our cable broadcast "Your Meadowlands." This half-hour show airs every week on cable systems throughout the Meadowlands District.

"Your Meadowlands" also profiles the departments of the NJMC, highlighting the services provided to Meadowlands Municipalities. So sit back, turn up the volume and enjoy "Your Meadowlands."

<b>Time Warner</b>	Channel 10	Mondays	7:00 pm
<b>Comcast</b> Union Jersey City Meadowlands	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
	Channel 190	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.
<b>Cablevision</b> Oakland Bergen Hudson Bayonne	Channel 78	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
	Channel 118	Thursdays	7:30 p.m.
	Channel 18	Thursdays	8:00 p.m.

Now through October 31.

For more information, call (201) 460-8300 or log on to [www.njmeadowlands.gov](http://www.njmeadowlands.gov)