

**ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO INVITES CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
TO LEARN ABOUT THE FIRST TEE GOLF AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM AT ESSEX COUNTY WEEQUAHIC GOLF COURSE
*Public Event is Planned for Saturday, March 27th***

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and The First Tee of Essex County are inviting the public to attend an Open House to learn about The First Tee's innovative golf instruction and youth development program at Essex County Weequahic Golf Course. The free open house will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, March 27, 2010
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: Essex County Weequahic Golf Course
Elizabeth Avenue
Newark, NJ

It will be held RAIN or SHINE.

“The First Tee is a nationally recognized program that uses the game of golf to teach leadership and life skills to young men and women. Learning a challenging sport that they can play the rest of their lives encourages participants to become physically active. In addition, the discipline and responsibility that are part of learning the game provides a lesson in values that can be applied to their lives and help them prepare for the future,” DiVincenzo said. “I invite the public to come out and learn about this engaging program for our youth,” he added.

During the open house, youth will be able to receive free golf instructions and tips from professional golfers from the NJ PGA and obtain information about The First Tee's programs. In addition, visitors will be able to sign up for The First Tee's six-week spring program which begins April 10th and continues through June 26th. Registration is \$25 per student, although students are never turned about based on their ability to pay. Information also will be available about The First Tee's extensive summer programs.

“Honesty, integrity and judgment are three of the nine core values that students can develop by learning to play the game of golf. These attributes are needed on the golf course but can equally be helpful in preparing young lives for the future,” said Chaz Moses, Program Director of The First Tee of Essex County. Moses said students learn cooperation, teamwork, developmental skills and are exposed to a new sport that they may want to pursue in high school and college.

The First Tee program in Essex County is supported by the New Jersey section of the Professional Golf Association (NJPGA) and The First Tee of Metropolitan New York. For more information, please send inquires to essexinfo@thefirstteemetny.org.

Essex County partnered with The First Tee in 2006 to build a specially-designed three-hole golf facility for young people at Essex County Weequahic Park Golf Course in

Newark. Now entering its fourth full year, The First Tee offers individual classes on Saturdays and Sundays and school and group lessons after school during the week. Essex County provides free golf for The First Tee participants at off peak hours. Over 1,000 children participated in classes and clinics at the facility in 2009. In addition, The First Tee started a partnership with Newark Public School physical education teachers to present The First Tee's National Golf in Schools Program and implement its lessons in their school curriculums.

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