



# Out & About

New Jersey Hills Media Group

GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE





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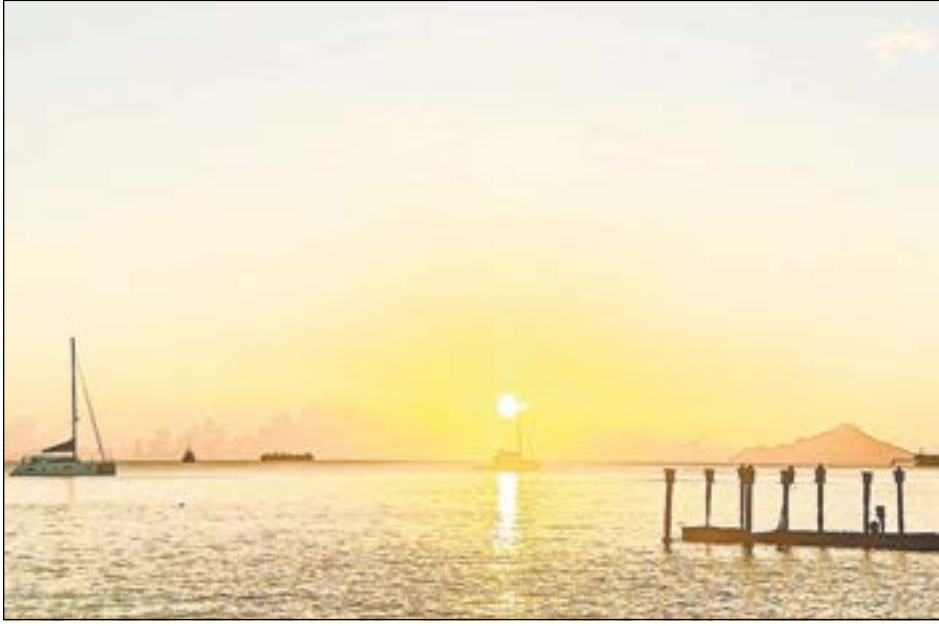
New Jersey Hills Media Group

## GUIDE TO THE ARTS AND LEISURE



SPECIAL SECTIONS

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Photos by Katherine Parker-Magyar

**Above left:** The sunset in Statia is unforgettable — the green flash across the horizon is a common occurrence here. **Above right:** There's no better place to while away the day than poolside at Golden Rock Resort, the island's first luxury outpost.

## Hidden Caribbean: Golden Days at Golden Rock

"This island is what St. Barth's was like in the 1960s," the boat captain told me as I was arriving in the port.

I'd just arrived in Sint Eustatius, on an island I'd never heard of before that very moment, when I first heard that comparison.

The fact that I'd been unaware of this Caribbean island, also known as Statia, was something of a shock for me.

As a travel writer, I specialize in this part of the world, and had visited more than 22 islands in the West Indies before setting foot on this paradise in the northeastern Caribbean Sea.

Statia is a remote, mountainous isle, consisting of eight-square miles and a population of merely 3,500.

The island is part of the Dutch West Indies, alongside nearby Saba and St. Barth's — and though the latter is merely 25 nautical miles away from Sint Eustatius, the comparison felt surreal.

While St. Barth's today is an internationally known tourist destination, famous for its hedonism and glamor; it was once a hidden gem for discerning travelers.

The luxury accommodations on the island existed alongside an overgrown tropical beauty, a combination I was soon to discover upon check-in at Golden Rock Dive and Nature Resort.

Though Statia may be as beautiful as the St. Barth's of yore, the idea that it would ever become as developed is unlikely, as locals and the island's tourism industry alike are determined to maintain the island's bucolic charm.

The lack of sunburnt crowds and cruise ship daytrippers, a phenomenon that dominates more populated regions in the Caribbean, is immediately noticeable.

It's easy to feel like you're home on the island, with its quaint downtown and familiar faces.



**Katherine Parker-Magyar**

TRAVELS WITH KATE

The writer is based in New York City. She has a master's degree from the New School and is originally from New Vernon. She can be reached at [Katherine.parkermagyar@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.parkermagyar@gmail.com).

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For more photos, please visit [NewJerseyHills.com](http://NewJerseyHills.com).

We made use of the on-site dining options, particularly enjoying the sushi at Bobbie's Beach Club, and also ventured into town for sunset dinner at Barrelhouse.

Sunset is something you'll want to prioritize while visiting Statia, as the island is famously a prime location for seeing the "green flash" — the rare optical phenomenon in which a green light shines across the horizon just after the sun sinks below the sea.

Though I highly recommend allocating a day to sunbathe and sip cocktails at the idyllic Hibiscus Pool, there is much more to explore on the island beyond the resort.

The fascinating local culture and history, as well as the ample opportunity for nature and outdoor activities, establishes Statia as far more than just a beach vacation.

This combination of relaxation and adventure was perfect for my mother, as well.

An avid traveler herself, I knew she'd get bored just sitting poolside — no matter how picture-perfect the surroundings.

### A Scuba Diving & Hiking Paradise

First by land, and then by sea: To truly explore Statia, you must hike to the top of a volcano in order to dive down to the surrounding watery depths.

I spent one early morning hiking up to the rim of the Quill, then descending down the side to the base of the volcano to explore the misty rainforest and ancient trees below.

The Quill is known as a spiritual vortex, and it was impossible not to feel the weight of history — the volcano first erupted in 400 AD — or be moved by the untouched beau-

ty of the surrounding nature.

Though I managed the hike without any accommodations, hikers may want to bring poles and gloves, as it does become quite steep.

Aside from hiking, the island is famously home to world-class scuba diving, as well.

I coordinated my dive with Golden Rock, visiting the on-site offices of Statia Divers and setting out to sea the next morning.

Though this was not my first experience diving, the resort does offer PADI courses for beginners through to experts, at their on-site lagoon — the largest, ocean-fed, cliff edge lagoon in the Caribbean, that boasts an American school bus at the bottom for divers to explore.

The sea surrounding Statia is a true underwater utopia, a protected marine reserve that extends for 17 miles around the coast.

On my morning with Statia Divers, I was thrilled to be heading out to STINAPA Reef and the Aquarium, two dive sites where I discovered an abundance of tropical fish and eels and stingrays, and a tremendously flourishing coral reef.

I swam with lobsters, crabs, and octopus, and was totally enraptured

by the colorful vibrancy of the marine environment.

I've dived all over the world, and Statia is undoubtedly one of the best places I've ever had the chance to aquatically explore.

### The Legend Of The Blue Beads

There's more to explore than just the great outdoors on this island, however, as there's also a rich and storied history and culture.

Through Golden Rock, I coordinated a walking tour with Misha Spanner, who effortlessly brought the history of the island to life.

"Statia offers so much history and it's always important to learn from the past," says Spanner. "I do it for my ancestors, for what they couldn't do or say."

We explored the streets and buildings of Oranjestad, the only city in Statia, and the smallest capital in the world. Spanner explained the local heritage of the island, including the development of the dialect, Statia English.

Though English and Dutch are the official languages of the island, English is the most widely spoken.

While exploring the island on the tour, I ran into people I'd met over

the past two days — already feeling somewhat like a local despite having only spent 48 hours on the island.

Apparently, this is quite common. "In Statia, we have our own charm," says Spanner.

"It's friendly, and it's quiet, and people are kind. In a single day, over a couple hours, you can make some lifelong friends."

Continuing on our tour, we walked past 18th century ruins and modern street art, always in search of the blue beads.

The blue beads were given to slaves by the Dutch as a form of currency in the 17th century.

Once slavery was abolished in 1863, the beads were tossed across the island, or into the sea.

Today, the blue beads are the only thing you can remove from the marine park.

And, legend has it, if you find a blue bead, you're destined to return to the island.

I may not have found one on my first visit, but that doesn't mean I'm not still eager to return — and hopefully soon. Statia may be under the radar now, but it's unlikely to remain such a well-kept secret for long.

So, book that flight now — a secret paradise awaits.



**Above:** The author dives into the turquoise sea. **Below left:** There is no better place to lounge than on your own private lanai. **Below right:** The multiple pools at Golden Rock offer stunning views of the island.





# Centenary Stage presents 'Soul Samurai' by Qui Nguyen

Centenary Stage Company's NEXTStage Repertory will return for the 2024-2025 season with a production of "Soul Samurai" by Qui Nguyen.

Performances will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 31; at 8 p.m. on Nov. 1; at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3, in the Kutz Theatre in the Lackland Performing Arts Center of the Centenary University campus at 715 Grand Ave. in Hackettstown.

After avenging the death of her lover, a young samurai girl named Dew-drop, along with her faithful sidekick Cert, must now battle through vampire-infested Brooklyn to make it back home. A classic Qui Nguyen play, "Soul Samurai" blends a spaghetti western with vampire-infested Brooklyn, adding in martial arts, puppetry, and comic book camp.

The cast of Soul Samurai includes Viviana Mendez, Danny Paternina, Erin Clark, Jacoby Stewart, Kai Vialva, Maximus Klevence, Evan Flick, Taylor Albrecht, and Nastasia Roman. All cast members are Centenary University students, with additional students also making

up a large portion of the creative and stage management team. These students make up the NEXTstage Repertory, CSC's all student performance division. In addition to being a part of the NEXTstage Repertory, these students also become a part of CSC's Professional Theatre Company.

Unlike many professional theatres located on college and university campuses, Centenary students play an active and vital role in all professional productions from cast to crew, participating in all facets of production. Students are thereby provided with networking opportunities with artists who come to work with CSC throughout the year. These opportunities allow them to make important personal connections with working professionals.

Directing the students in their production is Christopher Young with assistant Director Emily Young. Christopher Young also serves as the General Manager for Centenary Stage Company and as an adjunct faculty member for the theatre department teaching Stage Combat and Acting for the Camera. Em-



Photo by Trevor Callahan

Centenary Stage Company's NEXTStage Repertory will return for the 2024-2025 season with a production of "Soul Samurai" by Qui Nguyen. Shown is a rehearsal photo of Daniel Paternina, left, and Taylor Albrecht.

ily Young also adjuncts at Centenary teaching Acting II, both are actors and directors in their own right outside of CSC with many credits regionally and professionally.

Tickets are \$17.50 for all seats. For information, visit [centenarystageco.org](http://centenarystageco.org) or call the Centenary Stage

Company box office at (908) 979-0900. The box office is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and two hours prior to performances. The box office is located in the Lackland Performing Arts Center on the campus of Centenary University at 715 Grand Ave. Hackettstown.

# Broadway veteran Donnie Kehr sings Billy Joel on Friday, Nov. 1, in Morristown

Singer, instrumentalist, and actor Donnie Kehr will perform at The Folk Project's Troubadour Acoustic Concert Series at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Road, in Morristown.

The velvet-voiced "Vic, the Lounge Singer" will open.

Kehr is a singer-songwriter, pianist, Broadway regular, and Billboard Top 100 recording artist. Henie is featured on two Grammy Award winning albums: The Who's "Tommy," produced by Pete Townshend and Sir



DONNIE KEHR



JAY WILENSKY

George Martin, and "Jersey Boys," produced by Bob Gaudio. As an actor Kehr originated roles in Broadway's "Jersey Boys," "Billy Elliot," "The Who's "Tommy," "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," "The Human Comedy" and many others. He has

performed on the Tonight Show, Late Night with David Letterman, Good Morning America, and the Oscars.

His film credits include "Jersey Boys" directed by Clint Eastwood; Oliver Stone's "Wall Street;" "Chaplin" with Robert Downey Jr.

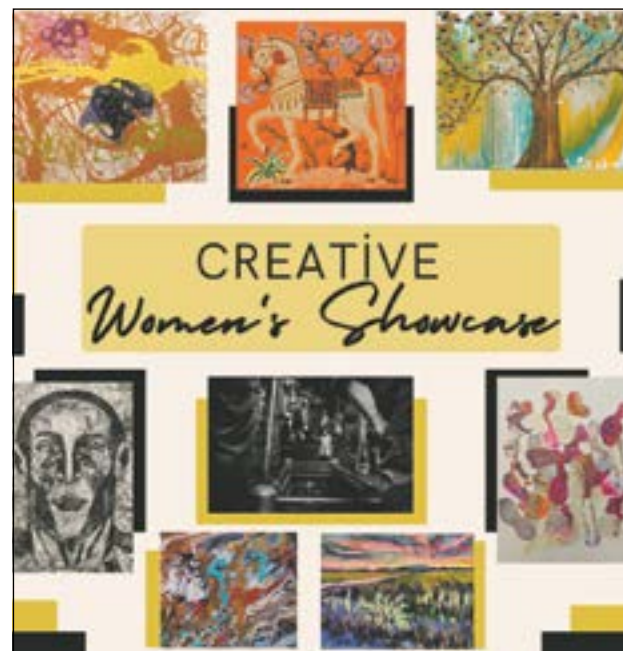
Kehr's first set will be the songs of Billy Joel. His second set will be an all-request set where the audience will name a popular tune and he will play it.

Opening will be "Vic the Lounge Singer," with his classic renditions of standards from the Great American Songbook. Vic

is played by The Folk Project's own Jay Wilensky, lead singer for the Reeds, Rhythm and All That Brass band and leader of The Folk Project's Monday Night online song circle, Songs that Sing to Me.

The event is part of The Troubadour Acoustic Concert Series, sponsored by The Folk Project each Friday evening at the Fellowship. Admission is \$20 per adult at the door, Folk Project members \$15. Children 12 and under are free.

For further information, call (973) 335-9489, or visit [www.folkproject.org](http://www.folkproject.org).



The Center for Contemporary Art will present the Creative Women's Showcase exhibition on view from Friday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster.

# Center for Contemporary Art hosts 'Creative Women's Showcase' from Friday, Nov. 1

The Center for Contemporary Art will present the Creative Women's Showcase exhibition on view from Friday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2020 Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster Township.

There will be a special opening reception, free and open to the public, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1,

with a celebration of women artists and business owners with an art exhibition, vendor sale, and meet and greet. Participants will include The Art of Ivey, Boardwalk Zeppoles, Carolina W. Rivera Photography, Catherine Monk Bookbinding, E Squared Boutique, Hans Clothier, Isabell Villacis, Jers Meatbawls, The Meraki, Meredith Rusu Children's Book Author, Rach Will, Seanna Noonan Art, Stampin' with Brenda, and WeArtShop.

Exhibiting artists, curated by Ilisa Zollenberg, include Serena Bocchino of Basking Ridge, Meeta Garg of Basking Ridge, Ivey Kampouris of Bridgewater, Grace Martoccia of Bask-

ing Ridge, Seanna Noonan of Basking Ridge, Carolina W. Rivera of Califon, Isabell Villacis of South Bound Brook, and Ilisa Zollenberg of Basking Ridge. These artists will showcase their work in mixed media, pastels, acrylic, photography, and more.

"Art is a powerful communicator," said curator Zollenberg. "It connects us to each other. It introduces us to strangers. It is a storyteller of the soul. It entices the audience to look further into a message that needs to be told. I am so grateful to live the life of an artist. Throughout my career as an artist, business owner and entrepreneur, I am inspired by the talented women I have met. It has always been a dream of mine to create a place where women can come together to recognize, support and empower each other's talents. Curating this show provided me a voice to do that."

For more information, visit <https://ccabedminster.org/event/creative-womens-showcase>.

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Friday Night At The Opera** presents Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1, at the Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge. There is a \$5 lecture fee at the door. Guests will enjoy clips of opera productions with commentary and background by composer, educator, writer and lecturer Robert W. Butts. Registration is not required. For more information, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031 ext. 6.

**Evening Book Discussion** of "Crossroads" by Jonathan Franzen will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge. Copies are available by the Adult Circulation desk, thanks to the Friends of BTL. New members always welcome. Registration is not required. For more information, please visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031 ext. 4.

**The North Jersey Revolution Round Table** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Museum at Washington's Headquarters, 30 Washington Place in Morristown. Zoom is also available. Tuesday, Nov. 14 is a Zoom only meeting. Email [arrt.nj@gmail.com](mailto:arrt.nj@gmail.com) for more details. The topic is Revolutionary War Sites in New Jersey. The group's goal is to promote interest and educate the public in the Revolutionary War through monthly meetings, seminars and trips to New Jersey Revolutionary War sites.

**Comedy & Juggling** of Ray Grins will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at Bernards Township Library, 32 S. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge. Families are invited to

this one-man show packed with jokes, juggling and circus skills. This event is sponsored by The Friends of BTL. No registration required. For more information, visit [BernardsLibrary.org](http://BernardsLibrary.org) or call (908) 204-3031 ext. 6.

**Friends of Great Swamp Owls of New Jersey** Second Sunday Program will take place from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10, in person at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, 32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township, and virtually on Zoom. Monica Juhasz, Somerset County Environmental Education Center Naturalist for 27 years, will share her knowledge and experiences with local owls. All are welcome to come explore the nocturnal world of these birds of prey. Whether with long or short ears, barred or great horned, these raptors are special. Registration is required for both and can be done online at [ttsu.me/njowls](http://ttsu.me/njowls). Information is available on the Friends website at [www.friendsofgreatswamp.org](http://www.friendsofgreatswamp.org), under Events. Zoom log-on information will be sent to everyone who registers at noon on Sunday, Nov. 10. Second Sunday programs are hosted by Friends of Great Swamp NWR and United States Fish & Wildlife Service with support from the Marta Heflin Foundation.

**Friends of Great Swamp Weekly Walks** change their times for the colder months. The popular Friday Weekly Walks with Friends will have a later start at 10 a.m. at the Great Swamp national Wildlife Refuge's Helen C Fenske Visitor Center, 32 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township. From November through March, starting on Friday, Nov. 1, all

are welcome to join Friends volunteers Paul Lauber, Murali Krishna, Robert Lin, and Walter Willwerth for a walk down Pleasant Plains Road. It's OK to bring dogs and friends for exercise, fresh air and good company. Participants will watch the changing landscape of the Great Swamp during the fall and winter seasons, learn about wildlife at the refuge and walk dogs on the road, but be sure to bring a leash and a doggie bag. Participants will walk at their own pace, as far as they want. The planned walk is 2-1/2 to 3 miles and lasts about 1-1/2 hours. Feel free to bring binoculars and friends. For weather cancellations, call (973) 425-9510. For more information visit [www.friendsofgreatswamp.org](http://www.friendsofgreatswamp.org).

**Raritan Headwaters Lantern Walk** will host its annual autumn tradition with the Lantern Walk from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10, at Fairview Farm, 2121 Larger Cross Road, Bedminster. The Lantern Walk is reminiscent of the historic European festival celebrating community and the darkening days of fall and winter. Festive music plays as participants carry their lanterns through the meadows of Fairview Farm Wildlife Preserve on a moonlit night. Guided walks will take place at 5 p.m. 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Registration is required. Admission and a lantern is \$25 per adult, and \$15 per child under the age of 12. To register, visit <https://www.raritanheadwaters.org/event/lanternwalk>.

**Classical Keys** celebrates its fifth season with two special solo recitals at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, at the First Baptist Church in Morristown, and at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, at Kla-

vierhaus in New York City and via livestream. Classical Keys' season finale concert will be in collaboration with the Morris Museum. Classical Keys will start this season with a solo piano recital featuring founder and Artistic Director Daniel Colalillo as he performs a program featuring works by Bach, Brahms, and Liszt, along with newer works by John Adams, John Corigliano, Joseph Schwanter, and a piano sonata by Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür. For more information, visit <https://www.danielcolalillo.com/classical-keys>.

**The Readington Seniors Club** meets every third Wednesday of each month at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, County Road 523 at Pulaski Road, in the Whitehouse Station section of the township. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 16, and so on. This organization promotes good fellowship, meaningful activities, helpful information and entertaining trips for the senior citizens of Readington Township. For information, contact Club President Diane Anthony at (908) 534-4724 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/3ba7r3zb>.

**The Bernardsville Farmers' Market** runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays at the train station parking lot on Rte. 202. The market offers a variety of fresh produce, baked goods, gourmet prepared foods, fresh flowers, and specialty items as well as live music and pop-up events. For more information, go to [www.bernardsvillefarmersmarket.com](http://www.bernardsvillefarmersmarket.com), Facebook and Instagram.

**The Chatham Borough Farmer's Market** takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Railroad Plaza South,

Chatham every Saturday through Nov. 16. Two special events have been scheduled so far for this year. On Saturday, Sept. 21, the market will run in conjunction with the borough's annual Sustainability Fair and electric vehicle expo, while on Saturday, Oct. 26, the market will host Chatham's Halloween celebration.

**Ethos Farm Market** runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Ethos Farm Market, 177 W. Mill Road, Long Valley. For more information, visit <https://www.ethosprimarycare.com/doctors-farm-market>.

**The Madison Farm & Artisan Market** takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 14 at the Prospect Street Parking Lot at the corner of Prospect Street and Kings Road. Anyone interested in participating as a vendor may send an email to [ddc@rosenet.org](mailto:ddc@rosenet.org).

**Morristown Farmer's Market** will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 24, the Morristown Parking Authority's Lot '10J,' behind the Morristown Post Office, near the corner of Spring and Morris streets. Featuring an average of 25 vendors, the market is sponsored by The Morristown Partnership.

**Stangl Factory Farmers Market** runs every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., year-round, at Main Street and Stangl Road, Flemington. The indoor Stangl Factory Farmers Market brings residents the freshest local, seasonal foods, organic produce, grass-fed meats, pastured eggs, handmade cheeses, freshly baked bread, prepared foods like soups and salads made with local, organic ingredients, and

much more. The market artisans and talented local crafters have unique offerings. Admission is free. For information, visit [www.stanglfactory.com/farmers-market-2](http://www.stanglfactory.com/farmers-market-2).

**The Bedminster Farmers Market** takes place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 7, River Road Park, at the corner of Routes 202/206 South and River Road. More than 40 weekly, bi-weekly and pop-up vendors offer a variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables, greens and herbs, mushrooms, French pastries, coal-fired brick oven breads, gluten-free baked goods, locally distilled spirits, beer and hard cider, jams and jellies, pastas, whole grains, eggs, flowers, honey, soups, oil and vinegars, coffee and tea, all-natural pasture-raised Angus beef, pork, chicken and dairy products, small batch New York-style deli pickles, pickled condiments, olives, relishes, tapenades, lobster rolls, guacamole and more. For more information, visit [www.bedminster.us](http://www.bedminster.us).

**Hunterdon Land Trust Farmers' Market** is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday through Nov. 19, at the Dvoor Farm, 111 Mine St, Flemington. For more information, visit [www.hunterdonlandtrust.org](http://www.hunterdonlandtrust.org).

**Alstede Farms** is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily at 1 Alstede Farms Lane in Chester.

**East Hanover Farmers' Market** runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays from June through November at Lurker Park, 631 Ridgedale Ave, East Hanover.

**Boonton Farmers' Market** is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June through November, in the Upper Plane Street Parking Lot, Boonton.