

## **Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., *Essex County Executive***

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., has changed the face of Essex County both fiscally and physically in the past 16 years.

Running Essex in the most efficient manner, he has turned the County into a model for good government. He raised the bond ratings from junk level to Aaa, eliminated unnecessary contracts, cut expenses, reduced the workforce size and increased revenue. The Hospital Center, Correctional Facility and Juvenile Detention Facility have been widely recognized, allowing us to create recurring revenue streams through shared services agreements with Federal, State and other county governments.

DiVincenzo developed the Essex County South Mountain Recreational Complex by building the Treetop Adventure Course, McLoone's Boathouse Restaurant, miniGOLF Safari, Park-N-Ride, Regatta Playground, Clipper Pavilion and paddle boats on the Reservoir, modernizing the Codey Ice Arena and vastly improving Turtle Back Zoo. It has become a premiere family destination, welcoming visitors from throughout the tri-state area.

DiVincenzo guided the restoration of the Historic Courthouse, and completely overhauled the Government Complex, including the creation of Veterans Memorial Park, the construction of a 1,000-car parking garage and the installation of landscaped plazas and statues of people important in Essex County history. Totally new jury quarters plus the LeRoy Smith Public Safety Building, converted from an old jail into a revenue-producing office building, complete the government complex. A Correctional Facility in Newark, a new psychiatric Hospital Center in Cedar Grove and a state-of-the-art Public Works Garage in Cedar Grove also have been completed.

The Essex County Parks System has been improved for the public's benefit. Rubberized playground surfaces, upgraded basketball and tennis courts, and synthetic grass surfaces and rubberized running tracks were installed. Six new parks were added to the historic Parks System, and more than 5,000 new cherry blossom trees were planted to replenish the glorious orchards in Essex County Branch Brook Park.

According to Joe D, (as everyone calls him) he and the 3,500 County employees are part of a team and working together they continue *Putting Essex County First*.