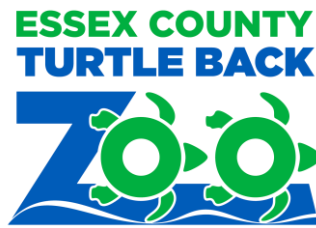




Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
County Executive



Daniel K. Salvante
Director

Groundhog Day 2021

Essex Ed Prognostication

Even I couldn't predict, what 2020 would bring
I mean, I just predict weather, secretly hoping for spring

At first quarantine was like hibernation, months at a time... all alone
Though when months turned to new seasons, I was way out of my zone!

So, I started new hobbies, tried out new cuisine,
Took online classes, learned yoga... I cleaned and I cleaned.

Now Groundhog Day is MY day, to be the center of the room.
But to stay socially distant, this year, I'm trying out zoom!

No shadow, no shadow, no sun in the sky
Winter is over, we bid you goodbye.

So, dust off your jeans, put those sweat pants away
Expect Spring to be early, and for it all to be okay.

Still mask, social distance, and wash your hands too
But I predict a year of great memories, for me and for you

There is still a football game to be played, so here's the prediction,
Florida will bring a lucky seven for Brady is my intuition.

Essex Ed has been predicting the mid-winter forecast since 1997 and the Zoo had various other Groundhogs predict before him. Essex Ed was mentored under the esteemed Punxsutawney Phil, but his predications are his own. NJ weather is not always in line with PA's after all, and Ed could easily see his shadow while Phil does not or vice versa. In the mid-2000's, Essex Ed started adding super bowl predictions to his prognostication. He's much better at prediction the weather than football, but in his defense, he hibernates through most of the sport's season.

Prognosticating hibernators like Essex Ed, Punxsutawney Phil, Staten Island Chuck, and many others are in touch with the Earth and there is something on which they all agree. Human animals, enjoying all the Earth's greatness, need to help take care of this wondrous planet.

Be kind, responsible and respectful. Protect all living things and the Earth's natural resources.