

# Summer Festivals come to LBI

If the beaches and restaurants weren't reason enough to spend some time on Long Beach Island this summer, surely one of the many great cultural events, fine art shows or assorted festivals will tickle the visitor's fancy.

**Splash into Summer**, presented by the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce, is Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Chamber invites you to "get your summer started where LBI begins" – at the 10th Street public boat ramp in Ship Bottom, the gateway to the Island. Enjoy a boat show, surfing contest and surf history exhibit from the Tuckerton Seaport, ReClam the Bay demonstrations, standup paddleboarding demonstrations, boating safety info, a mobile gaming unit for kids, classes by Alliance for a Living Ocean, music and live broadcast from WBNJ, with refreshments for sale to support the Ship Bottom Volunteer Fire Co. After the event, enjoy free mini golf at Hartland from 3 to 8 p.m. For more information call 609-494-7211 or visitlbiregion.com.

The annual **Viking Village Craft Shows**, Sunday, May 25 and Sunday, Aug. 31,



*Viking Village Craft Show*  
Photo Courtesy of Viking Village



fishing docks in Barnegat Light. Browse fine art, photography, ceramics, wood crafts, clothing, handmade jewelry and accessories. The shows run 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., rain or shine. Sorry, no dogs permitted. Learn more at [vikingvillageshows.com](http://vikingvillageshows.com).

**The Lighthouse International Film Festival**, scheduled for June 5 through 8 this year, is a four-day extravaganza filled with cutting edge film

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screenings of every genre, as well as special happenings with the filmmakers, directors and celebrities and a culminating awards ceremony. The festival makes use of various Island venues, including galleries, museums, churches and firehouses for screenings and restaurants for social events. This year's lineup of selections will be announced soon. For more information visit [lighthousefilm-fest.org](http://lighthousefilm-fest.org).

The following weekend, the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences hosts the **Black Maria Film and Video Festival** on Friday, June 13, at 7 p.m. Created in 1981, the festival exhibits and rewards uncommon, experimental and innovative work. Named for the first movie studio built by Thomas Edison, the festival brings 40 to 60 juried independent short works to 65 venues in 20 states each year. Black Maria "seeks creative, insightful, sensitive, free-spirited, expressive, poetic and experimental works in animation, narrative, documentary and hybrid forms." Learn more at [blackmariafilmfestival.org](http://blackmariafilmfestival.org).

The ninth annual **LBI Artist Open Studio Tour**, scheduled for June 28 and 29, gives the art-loving public a rare opportunity to meet, observe and get inspired with local artists in their own studio or gallery environments, thereby deepening the public's understanding of the creative process. All participating artists offer demonstrations and have works on display and for sale. The tour's mission is to strengthen the growing cultural movement on Long Beach Island, by promoting the artists who work and exhibit there and by celebrating art as a vital part of a culturally and economically thriving community. The self-guided tour is free, with maps and brochures available online or at the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences. For more info visit [lbiartists.com](http://lbiartists.com).

**LBI Freedom Fest**, July 4 and 5, will bring tens of thousands to the grounds in front of the Long Beach Township Municipal Complex and at Bayview Park in Brant Beach to celebrate the nation's independence with family fun, food, shopping, live entertainment by two national headlining acts (to be announced) and a Freedom Run 5K race. Friday's festivities begin with the 5K at 9:30 a.m. and go until 5 p.m.; Saturday's festivities start at 11 p.m. and wrap up by 9:30 or 10 p.m., after the fireworks display. Freedom Fest, hosted by the Long Beach Island Chamber of Commerce, replaces the "LBI Fest" or "Thank You Fest" previously held in mid-June. Additional details of the event, and a website, will become available in May.

Sunset Park in Harvey Cedars provides a picturesque backdrop for the 27th annual **Craft Day by the Bay** on Saturday, July 5. More than 80 vendors will fill the park with original, handcrafted treasures from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free to this longest-running craft show on the Island. For additional information contact the Borough of Harvey Cedars at 609-361-7990.

