Youth services offer young people opportunities for self-realisation and to meet friends and share their worries with an adult.
We are doing great

This is the second time we are distributing the annual report of Espoo to all homes together with Espoo magazine, which now has a new look and content.

It is a pleasure to talk about what is going on in Espoo. In the municipal services survey conducted at the end of the year, we received the best estimates ever from you, residents of Espoo. Resident satisfaction had increased most around the last metro station in the Matinkylä-Olari area, which is one example of the city’s big investments starting to pay off. Among the big cities, Espoo is the safest, and we also have the lowest number of traffic accidents.

The cultural services valued by Espoo residents have received international recognition, as Espoo City Library won the Library of the Year 2019 award in London, and the new Pentala Archipelago Museum was nominated for the European Museum of the Year.

The City of Espoo cooperates extensively with its residents, various partners and service providers. That is why it was wonderful that the Procurement Centre of Espoo was selected as the procurement organization of the year, in recognition of its long-term development efforts. The Finnish Association of Purchasing and Logistics LOGY sees Espoo as a forerunner in the development of procurement among both public and private organizations.

Jukka Mäkelä
Mayor
2 March–30 September
The application period for boat berths has begun. You can submit your application online or by post. The applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. The application period continues until the end of September.

10 March
The processing of applications for a place in early childhood education for autumn has been transferred to a new system. Those needing a place from August 2020 onwards should submit their application by 31 March.

11 March
The application period for growth companies to the “Fiksu arki assalle” programme ends. The programme aims to create sustainable everyday services, and enhance the attractiveness of the areas around railroad stations and rail transport in general. Growth companies will get a chance to develop their services in collaboration with partner companies and receive coaching and encouraging support from specialists.

28 March–4 April
Folk music festival JuuriJuhla.

31 March
The application period for the general grants for youth activities ends. Grants are awarded to youth associations operating in Espoo for carrying out their statutory and general activities in accordance with their operating plans.

22–26 April
April Jazz.

4–10 May
The Espoo Ciné film festival shows the most interesting new films from both established filmmakers and emerging new talents.

5 May
Clinic on cultural grants in Sello Library from 15:00 to 18:30. The clinic gives tips and advice on how to apply for cultural grants from the City of Espoo. The application period for annual grants for professional cultural actors and cultural associations ends on 15 May at 15:45. The application period for local history societies and professional artists will continue until 30 September 2020. The Cultural Council will make decisions on the grants for 2021 in December 2020.

Check the calendar for the main events and key dates of the spring.
Kalajärvi Service Centre began its operation

The Kalajärvi Service Centre officially started its operation in January. The service centre, also known as Ruskatalo, features various City of Espoo service units, such as the library, child health clinic, health centre, customer service point, dental clinic and social services.

In addition to the customer service and reception areas, the service centre premises feature 300–400 metres of facilities intended for shared use by Espoo residents: the work room Katiska and meeting room Apaja, teaching facility Ahti and Kalajärvi Hall suited as a venue for parties and lectures.

To celebrate the change, the premises have been given not only new names invented by the local residents but also new paint on the walls and new furniture.

The facilities are in use and available for booking from Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 20:00. You can ask about special bookings for weekends, for example, by sending email to: kalajarvi.palvelutori@espoo.fi.

Collection vehicles to begin their spring tour

The collection vehicle tour, organised every spring in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, will begin on Monday 30 March. In the areas of Espoo and Kauniainen, the vehicles will tour until 29 April. You can bring three kinds of waste to HSY’s collection vehicles free of charge: hazardous waste, scrap metal and electronics. Visit hsy.fi/keraysautot to see the exact schedules and stops of the collection vehicles, and more detailed operating instruction.

Espoo has the highest traffic safety level in Finland

The city of Espoo was granted the Traffic Act of the Year award as the city with the highest traffic safety level in Finland in the Car and Traffic Gala. In the long run, the traffic safety has improved significantly in Espoo. The number of those injured in traffic has reduced by more than 70 per cent from 1990 to 2017. At the same time, the number of residents and vehicles has grown substantially. Relative to population, Espoo has only about 40 traffic accidents, while the average for the whole country is 96.

More than 100,000 visitors in the Espoo City Museum

Last year, KAMU – Espoo City Museum reached its all-time visitor record over its more than 60-year history. The combined number of visitors in Espoo City Museum’s all museum locations was 102,931. Compared to the previous year, the number of visitors increased by 25 per cent.

“This amazing result shows that both our current customers and new groups have found all the five different museums of the Espoo City Museum, and the interesting exhibitions and diverse events they offer,” says Museum Director Maarit Henttonen.

The Pentala Archipelago Museum, added to the museum family in summer 2018, received major international recognition as it was nominated as a finalist for European Museum of the Year (EMYA) 2020 by The European Museum Forum (EMF).
Oittaa Recreation Area

The versatile Oittaa Recreation Area located by Lake Bodominjärvi offers visitors relaxing moments in the peace and quiet of nature and excellent opportunities for different outdoor activities all year round.

In summer, the Oittaa beach is one of the most popular beaches in Espoo, and, in winter, winter swimmers frequent it eagerly. The hole in the ice, with a safety fence around it, is kept open all winter by a submersible pump. However, on this unusually warm winter, the hole has sometimes been as large as the lake itself.

There is also a nature trail of about two kilometres beginning from the historic Oittaa Manor. For the most part, the trail travels through the landscapes of the nature conservation area of the Oittaa stream valley. Most of the trail is easy forest path with information points telling about the local nature. Oittaa is also a good starting point for longer hikes on the trails of Lake Bodom and Nuuksio.

Weather permitting, in the winter the area also offers great opportunities for tour skating or snowshoeing. In winter, there is a managed and lighted ski trail on the recreational area’s fitness track, and ski trails branch off from there in the directions of Pitkäjärvi and Pirttimäki.

The frisbee golf course around the fitness track will be renovated during spring and the renewed course will be reopened at the beginning of May.

Where is the Waterfront Walkway located, and is there some kind of a map of it?

The Waterfront Walkway extends all the way from Laajalahti to Kivenlahti. There are also several accessible passages along the walkway. You can get acquainted with the Waterfront Walkway on your mobile devices at m.citynomadi.com or on the City of Espoo’s website, or get a brochure from one of our Service Points.

The summer holidays are approaching; where can I find activities for children?

The sports and cultural services of Espoo offer versatile activities for children. We have gathered some of these activities on the City of Espoo website. As we are getting closer to the summer, schools and day care centres will also provide information about the activities on offer. Throughout the year, you can visit harrastushaku.fi to look for activities. The calendar on summer camps and courses offered by Espoo Youth Services will be updated in the service during March.

Where can I get a fishing permit and information about them?

Fishing permits for the sea areas of Espoo are sold in the Matinkylä Service Point and at the kalakortti.com online store. You can get more guidance and information about fishing permits at service points, the City of Espoo website and from Outdoor and Recreation Manager Tapani Kortelainen.

Changes at health centres

The City of Espoo is introducing service vouchers that also allow you to choose a private health clinic located in Espoon keskus as your health centre. The freedom of choice will become available to the customers of the health centre Oma Lääkärisi Espoontori in March-April and after the First of May to other Espoo residents as well.

Viherlaakso Health Centre will transfer into temporary facilities on Trillakatu, in the same building with Kilo Health Centre. We are currently studying whether some of the services could still be provided in the Viherlaakso area. A survey is also being made on how the traffic connections between Viherlaakso and Kilo could be improved. Long-term plans will be made separately, hearing the opinions of residents as well.

espoo.fi/healthcentres
Espoo residents happy with their home city

Residents’ satisfaction with the City of Espoo’s services has increased steadily. The reviews in last year’s survey were better than ever. The internal differences between the urban centres in Espoo are small.

General satisfaction with the home town is measured with a municipality of residence index, which takes into consideration 54 questions relating to housing, healthcare, education, opportunities for hobbies, infrastructure and transport. On a scale of 1 to 5, the index for Espoo was 3.82 in 2019, higher than ever before.

A total of 91 per cent were happy with their residential areas in Espoo. The share of satisfied residents has increased by one percentage point. Tapiola was rated the best district, but the residents’ opinion of Matinkylä–Olari has also improved. Satisfaction with the medical services in health centres has declined slightly, but more than half still considered the services well managed, which is clearly more than in the comparison cities.

Residents are exceptionally happy with hospital services in Espoo when compared to the comparison cities, although satisfaction has declined slightly from the previous year. Satisfaction with the comprehensive school and early childhood education has remained the same as in earlier years.

There was a clear increase in satisfaction with the management of public transport since 2018, but it is still below the long-term rating of previous years.

Public transport and road and street maintenance were highlighted the most as issues with room for improvement. Half the respondents believed in their possibility to influence decisions in the city. The proportion of satisfied residents has risen in the last few years.

A total of 650 Espoo residents took the survey carried out by FCG.

Since the 1980s, the city has regularly surveyed residents’ satisfaction with various municipal services. The feedback received helps to develop the city and to make residents’ everyday lives run even smoother. Compared to the other cities in the comparison data, Espoo residents are happier with the City’s services.

They praised Espoo for its safety, nature and hiking trails, cultural offering and opportunities for young people to engage in activities. Residents are generally also happy with Espoo’s community structure, as they find that the locations of dwellings, jobs and services are well balanced.
New Espoo residents feel at home here

A RECORD NUMBER of new residents moved to Espoo last year: more than 6,000 people. A postcard campaign was directed at them to find out their experiences of living in Espoo. The responses were in line with the replies to the broader survey on municipal services.

New residents value the city’s excellent services and their proximity and accessibility. They like the shopping centres, but would like there to be more corner shops and pharmacies.

The nature, sea and opportunities for outdoor recreation, running, walking and cycling are mentioned as the city’s strengths. Espoo is considered a peaceful and comfortable place to live.

Public transport received a great deal of positive feedback, but also many suggestions for improvements and changes, especially in northern Espoo.

The events people wish to see more of involve culture, music, food and markets. They also wish for more shared activities for smaller groups, opportunities to meet people and a better sense of community. They would like communications about events to be more visible and information to be offered on them also in English.

None of the new residents were unhappy with their new home town and more than half said they feel at home in Espoo.

More than half of the new residents said they feel at home in Espoo.
Young Espoo belongs to young people

Young people need friends around them, adult support and sensible activities – and if problems still occur, a place where they can get help.

On average, young people living in Espoo are doing well. According to a school health survey, 78.5 per cent of them are satisfied with their lives. But that leaves slightly over one fifth of youths who are not doing so well. And a small share of them are doing really badly. A total of 4.5 per cent of children living in Espoo are customers of child welfare services.

“The number of child welfare notifications has increased in recent years, and currently we receive about 500 notifications a year. Typical reasons include mental health and substance abuse problems that young people themselves or their parents have,” says Manager of Youth Services Merja Nordling.

Even though Espoo residents have a higher socio-economic status than Finns on average, poverty in families with children, loneliness and increasing drug abuse are problems recognised here as well.

“For example, according to studies, the level of education of the parents has an impact on the well-being of young people,” Nordling points out.

Espoo Youth Services focuses on providing services to young people aged 12–17.

“We get a lot of inquiries about services for children below that age, but we have a lot of leisure activities and other services available to them through other channels. The Ohjaamotalo One-Stop Guidance Centre, on the other hand, provides services to young people older than 16,” Nordling says.

You can find leisure activities you like through the harrastushaku.fi service or on the City of Espoo website.
“It’s easy to come here”

Mariam, 15, participates in the activities of the Girls only group on Wednesday afternoons. There the girls cook, do their nails, and sometimes listen to guest speakers. Sometimes, they also have confidential discussions with the youth workers.

Mariam, who also goes to girl scouts every week, does not feel that she needs any other hobbies.

“Sometimes I have gone to fitness classes for free trials. It’s good that you can try different things to see what they are about. There’s certainly something sensible to do for everyone.”

Mariam is in her final year at the Kirkkojärven koulu joint comprehensive school, and she has been visiting the Suvela youth centre since she was 12. She spends her evenings listening to music and hanging out with her friends. There are also youth workers present at the youth centre with whom people can talk if they want to.

Sometimes, the youth centres also offer some small tasks to the regular visitors. Mariam has also participated in, for example, arranging different events.

“It looks good on the CV, and you also get a pay for it.”

Mariam is also a new member of the Espoo Youth Council.

“A friend of mine has been involved in the Youth Council activities and likes it. People here at the youth centre encouraged me to run for the council, and when there were no other candidates in the area, and people know me, I was elected,” Mariam says happily.

Mariam, who aims to go to general upper secondary school, wants to improve the availability of special needs support at schools.

“Large class sizes make learning more difficult, and currently it’s difficult to apply for special needs support. The threshold of being granted support should be much lower.”
Something nice to do

The City of Espoo offers a lot of leisure activities and opportunities for spending time free of charge. For example, the city has been offering a lot of opportunities for leisure time activities particularly to secondary school pupils on Wednesdays, when school at all secondary schools in Espoo ends at 14:30 at the latest. In addition, the offering also includes activities for small groups, trips, events and camps.

Other service providers in addition to the city include different organisations and the church. According to the school health survey, almost all young people have some kind of a hobby.

Time with adults in everyday situations

Even though friends are important, and young people need their own space, they are still children who need adults to be there for them and to support them.

“When young people go to secondary school, there is a major drop in the number of adult contacts they have. They no longer have ‘their own teacher’ as they used to, and in puberty they easily quit their leisure time activities. We want to offer adult contacts to young people’s leisure time,” Nordling says.

To better reach young people, Espoo Youth Services has taken to the streets in the midst of young people.

“We go to the places where young people hang out, such as shopping centres. Mobile youth work brings services to areas without youth centres of their own,” Nordling says, giving an example.

Support in everyday problem situations

Naturally, not even all these measures can reach those who have remained outside all activities. Merja Nordling is deeply concerned about the school health survey result according to which only slightly over half (53%) of the respondents feel that they are part of the school community.

“The Ohjaamotalo One-Stop Guidance Centre is doing great work in supporting young people older than 16. Youths below that age are mainly reached through student welfare services.”

Another challenge is rapid access to services. Access to specialised health care and mental health services takes too long.

“Our outreach youth work carries young people until they can reach proper services. Our support is always available to young people until they get help,” Nordling promises.

Together with friends

Even if everything is all right at home and with the parents, sometimes it’s just not enough. Young people need a peer group of their own.

“It’s a catastrophe for young people if they don’t have any friends. It will lower the threshold of doing something stupid if that seems to be the only way of gaining acceptance in the peer group,” Nordling points out.

The City of Espoo also offers several premises where young people are welcome to spend time together. In addition to youth centres, such facilities can be found, for example, in libraries.

Inclusion of youths at the core of activities

Still, the most important thing of all is that the activities offered are something young people can find as their own. Next year, the City of Espoo will pilot a method of inclusive piloting, in which young people themselves plan activities for youth centres and apply funding for it.

“Everything will be planned and done together. Of course, if the frequent visitors to the youth centre have just changed, this cannot be implemented as such, but the starting point is that young people could produce their own activities themselves,” Nordling says.
“Good services, once you find them”

Karri Laitinen, 27, has been coming to the Ohjaamotalo One-Stop Guidance Centre for a few years. He is seeking his way back to working life with a personal counsellor, and different groups have given him good peer support and brought meaning to his days.

“I had never heard about Ohjaamotalo before one of the workers at Jorvi Hospital mentioned it to me. I thought that I have nothing to lose if I come here to see what it’s about. It has brought me a lot of good things.”

Laitinen has completed even a couple of degrees, but became too burdened in working life. He got a burn-out and finally became so depressed that he did not even leave his home.

“Over these past two years, I have become more independent, made a lot of new social contacts and found something meaningful to do,” says a grateful Laitinen.

One thing always leads to another.
“Tell me in a group for people suffering from social anxiety even on couple of occasions, in the KAMU group and now I’m in the ONNI joint developer group where we can influence how this place operates. That’s where I also heard about ValoEMY, a meeting place for people with mental health issues in Olari, where I sometimes go to hang out. It’s the kind of meeting place where you can, for example, play something with other people or just hang out.”

Laitinen has nothing but good things to say about Ohjaamotalo and its staff. The only thing he would hope for is a more active approach to advertising the activities.

“The idea to seek this kind of help on your own simply doesn’t pop into your head out of nowhere. Ohjaamotalo and other services could, for example, go to schools to talk about their activities,” he suggests.
At the end of 2019, there were 992 young people under the age of 25 without employment in Espoo. This was 4.4% less than a year earlier.

Preparatory education for immigrants and other foreign-language students gives students applying to general upper secondary school the linguistic skills and other preparedness required for general upper secondary studies. Preparatory education for general upper secondary takes one academic year and includes 25 courses. The students also have the opportunity to raise the grades of their basic education certificate and/or to complete general upper secondary courses.

You will always meet friends and youth workers at different events.

Tasks available to young people

Elena Dukov arrives at the Soukka youth centre after completing a day of on-the-job training. The 17-year-old from Espoo is studying for a double degree at Omnia and has been coming to the youth centre since she was in 5th grade.

“There was a club that I joined, and then the youth worker persuaded us to come here, and that is where it all began.”

A group from the youth centre also participated in the Uneton48 short film competition.

This sparked Elena’s interest in filming and editing, and she has even been asked to film at youth events since then. Videos made by Elena have also been published on the Nuori Espoo’s Youtube channel.

“I acted as a host at the School Action event and at an Ohjaamotalo event, and later created some social media content,” Elena Dukov says.

She has participated in the Uneton48 competition four times already with a team. The last time, Elena was responsible for the whole editing process.

Every now and then, some other small work gigs are also being offered to active youth centre visitors. At first, there was always a group of three girls carrying out the tasks together, but now Elena does not minding doing them on her own.

“You’ll always find other young people you know and youth workers in such events,” she says.

Filming and editing has become a favourite hobby for Elena. Elena, who is completing her general upper secondary and Business and Administration studies at the same time, does not need any other structured hobbies.

“It’s enough for me that I come here to the youth centre whenever I have time for it.”

19% of secondary school, general upper secondary school and vocational education institution students feel lonely.

20% of boys studying in secondary school and vocational education institutions have experienced violence.

Almost half of secondary-level students sleep less than eight hours per night.

Two thirds of secondary school pupils do not drink. The figure has increased by more than one fifth over the past 10 years.

The dialogue with parents has improved: almost half of the girls and more than half of the boys consider it good.

Bullying has reduced by half in secondary schools over the past 10 years.

Extracts from the school health survey.
Elena Dukov is an active YouTuber. However, she likes it better behind the camera than in front of it—and she especially likes working at the editing desk.
Promoting the interests of young people

Youth worker Kirsi Hartikainen works at the Ohjaamotalo One-Stop Guidance Centre’s Starttipiste in Iso Omena and helps young people in different life situations.

“People can also contact us by email or telephone, through WhatsApp, for example,” says Youth Worker Kirsi Hartikainen.

“I’ve been working as a youth worker since 2005. At the Ohjaamotalo One-Stop Guidance Centre I’ve been working for two years. Ohjaamotalo is a multi-professional network for all Espoo residents under the age of 30. It includes specialists from many different fields, from career counselling psychologists to housing counsellors, and cooperation partners, such as Vamos Espoo, Omnia Youth Workshops and Tyttöjen Talo of Espoo.

I provide guidance and counselling to young people at Starttipiste on any matters concerning young people, whether they are related to studies, spare time, health, housing or working life. I may, for example, help someone draft a CV or search for a job. Young people in need of more help than we can provide we refer to the services suited to their situation.

People can come to Starttipiste without an appointment, even anonymously. You never know who will come through the door and with what kind of a matter. When a young person comes to Starttipiste, we give priority to the matter at hand and examine the issue together. Everything is based on the voluntary participation of the youth.

The best part about my job is meeting young people. Today, young people clearly have a lower threshold to seek help than before. Often, they come to visit us afterwards and tell about how they are doing.”
Espoo organised its first ever Sports Gala on 13 February at Dipoli in Otaniemi. At the Gala, some magnificent Espoo-based athletes and sports actions were awarded, and the audience also enjoyed skilful performances, listened to inspiring speeches and experienced the power of the Espoo sports community.

Espoo-based Emil Soravuo, 22, a protégé of the gymnastics club Espoon Telinetaiturit, was elected the Espoo Athlete of the Year by public vote. “I was a little surprised to be elected, but I feel I deserve it. I’m flattered and truly appreciate it. The atmosphere at the Gala was great! The best thing was the community spirit and spending time with other athletes,” Soravuo says.

Soravuo, who started gymnastics at six years old, has his eyes on the future and intends to spend the spring training. He has the Tokyo Olympics in sight. “I’m focusing on future competitions. Right now I’m training for the Gymnastics World Cup in Baku and Doha. Over the spring, I will find out if I have been selected to compete in the Olympics.”

Last summer, the Athlete of the Year Emil Soravuo won gold in the men’s artistic gymnastics floor exercise competition at the European Games.

DCA employees and students. Alex Komulainen, a protégé, dancer and teacher at DCA, was elected Role Model of the Year by public vote.

Culture, sports and exercise from March to May.

The Espoo Sports Gala was presented by Minna Korkka. The Sports Gala awarded the 2019 Young Athlete, Coach, Sports Action and Sports Club, elected by the Sports and Exercise and Youth Committees. In addition, the Mayor and the Sports and Youth Director also awarded other high-flyers.
**The number of visits to Espoo’s six cultural centres and city events increased by 7.2 per cent from 2018.**

**Folk music in Espoo**
The JuuriJuha-RotFest folk music festival from 28 March to 4 April brings on stage both local talents and leading folk musicians from across in Finland. Expect to hear verbal acrobatics and musical fireworks from, for example, Paleface and Värttinä in Sellosali. This year, the theme of the JuuriJuha-RotFest festival is the Baltic Sea. The main festival venue is Sellosali, but folk music will also be heard in such places as old manors, churches and public halls of Espoo.>

**April Jazz is here again**
The 34th April Jazz festival will be held in Espoo on 22–26 April. The concert venues include the Espoo Cultural Centre and EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art in Tapiola, Haltia – The Finnish Nature Centre, April Jazz Club in Tapiola Garden and Sellosali in Leppävaara. The event is organised by Espoo Big Band.

**May Day Eve concert**
According to tradition, Tapiola Sinfonietta will declare the official May Day mead and ‘tippaleipiä’ season opened in its May Day Eve concert. This year, we will hear music from the icon of bebop-jazz, saxophonist and composer Charlie Parker. In setting the mood for jazz, Tapiola Sinfonietta will be joined by saxophonist Jukka Perko.

The ticket price includes a glass of sparkling wine.

Thu 30 April at 18:00–19:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Tapiolasali. Tickets: lippu.fi

**Chamber music in chapels**
The series of chamber music concerts by Tapiola Sinfonietta invites audiences to Espoo chapels in May. The most beautiful pieces of chamber music in skilful renditions by Tapiola Sinfonietta’s musicians can be heard on Saturday 9 May in Perkkaa chapel at 18:00, and on Sunday 10 May in Kaukahti chapel at 15:00 and in Olari chapel at 18:00.

Tickets: lippu.fi

**Modern-day Macbeth**
The co-operation of director Antti Mikkola, Tiiti Hynninen and Kermo Mende generated a version of William Shakespeare’s tragedy Macbeth brought to the modern day. The play takes place in an unnamed Nordic country and the events revolve around the voluntary sports association of winter swimmers.

Thu 5 March at 19:00, Fri 6 March at 19:00 and Sat 7 March at 14:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Louhisali.

Tickets: lippu.fi

**Oblivia 20 years**
The Finnish performance company of minimalistic aesthetics Oblivia, is celebrating its 20-year history with the performance Verdrängen Verdrängen Verdrängen. In its works, Oblivia combines elements from modern dance, modern theatre and performance art.

Thu 27 March at 19:00–20:00 and Fri 28 March at 15:00–16:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Louhisali.

Tickets: lippu.fi

**Remember at least these!**

1. **Mobile information point in Karatalo**
   A mobile information point gives guidance on the use of smartphones, tablets and computers and tips on how to use online services and social media on Tuesday 24 March and 28 April at 10:00–12:00.

2. **Story time at Villa Elfvik Nature House**
The guide reads fairy tales to children at Nature House Villa Elfvik in the Badger’s Forest on the first weekend of each month, in April-May on Sundays and in June on Saturdays at 11:00.

3. **The Espoo villa lifestyle**
The Villa Museum Villa Rulludd is open on the first Sunday of each month from 11:00–15:00. Villa Rulludd is located on a beautiful peninsula along the Espoo Waterfront Walkway.

4. **Afternoons for seniors at KAMU**
   The Historical Afternoons for Seniors at KAMU offer lectures related to history and museum work in the Museopeda room of KAMU on Wednesdays at 14:00. Coffee and a sweet roll before the lecture.

5. **Weaving Wednesdays at Glims**
   On Weaving Wednesdays held in the Glims Farmstead Museum living room, visitors can try weaving with a loom or using some other weaving technique assisted by a guide from 4 March to 29 April at 13:00–15:00.

6. **Pram meet-ups at KAMU**
   On the first Thursday of each month, on 5 March, 2 April and 7 May, KAMU – Espoo City Museum runs a meet-up for parents with babies at 12:00. The participants have an opportunity to learn about Espoo history with other parents.
In 2019, the events of the Espoo Cultural Centre, Exhibition Centre WeeGee, Children's Cultural Centre Aurora, Sellosali, Kannusali and Karatolo, and the city events open to the public were visited by 928,398 Espoo residents.

The various forms of love
The hit comedy by Peter Quilt-er's is performed around the world now adapted in Finnish for the first time. Kahden kauppa (Duets) is a hilarious study of the chaotic world of love, friendship and relationships. The star duo of the play is the real-life couple Kari-Pekka Toivonen and Merja Larivaara. > Sat 25 April at 19:00–21:15, Sellosali, Tickets: lippu.fi

Guided tours in Glims
During the guided tour 'Spring at a Farm' in Glims Farmstead Museum, we wonder what people did on a self-sufficient homestead at this time of the year and how different annual feasts and holidays offered natural breaks to the everyday chores on a farm. > Sun 15 March, 29 March and 19 April at 14:00–15:00.

Questions of time and eternity
The Nordic Noir exhibition is an encounter of six Finnish and Norwegian artists transcending the limits of time. Åksei Gallen-Kallela is visited by Sverre Malling, Louis Moe, Jarmo Mäkilä, Odd Nerdrum and Hugo Simberg. What the artists on display have in common are myths, dream-like visions and images emerging from the subconscious combined with great technical skills. > Guided tours on Sundays at 13:00. Exhibition open at Gallen-Kallela Museum until 26 April.

The Cosmos of Colours for Children
The Cosmos of Colours of Hupansaa ry is a jump into the great joy of art and play. Different art programme every day, plus a sensory room the Cosmos of Colours that remains open while the programme lasts. On Friday and Saturday 20–21 March at 10:00–12:00 in Karatolo, the yellow giggles, the green goes wild and the blue get mixed up. The art workshops are open free of charge for children of all ages together with an accompanying adult.

Espoo in Images
What do photographs tell about the changing city? The Bodom Ämmässuo – Espoo in Images exhibition, to open at Exhibition Centre WeeGee on 18 March, is based on a popular series of photos of Espoo's districts published on social media in 2017. The exhibition showcases the most beloved of the photos in the collection. > 18 March–13 September, Exhibition Centre WeeGee

Jazz for Kids
Jazz for Kids is a series of jazz concerts welcoming everyone, from babies to seniors. The musicians will play a full jazz concert with a repertoire consisting of the best pieces of every musician's own production with the volume kept at a child-friendly level. The series of concerts is arranged by Espoo Cultural Centre and the pop/jazz line of study Ebeli of Espoo Music Institute. > Sat 28 March and 18 April at 11:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Flyygeliaula

Questions of time
The Nordic Noir exhibition is an encounter of six Finnish and Norwegian artists transcending the limits of time. Åksei Gallen-Kallela is visited by Sverre Malling, Louis Moe, Jarmo Mäkilä, Odd Nerdrum and Hugo Simberg. What the artists on display have in common are myths, dream-like visions and images emerging from the subconscious combined with great technical skills. > Guided tours on Sundays at 13:00. Exhibition open at Gallen-Kallela Museum until 26 April.

Behind the Songs
The intimate and atmospheric behind the Songs club, arranged since the beginning of last year, will continue in Sellosali. The host Venla Kokkonen will interview Aki Tykkä, known as the foreman of the band Happoradio. The singer will tell about his career and maybe reveal some secrets behind his texts. He will have the other songwriter of the band, guitarist AH Haapasalo, and the keyboardist Klaus Suominen with him. After the interview, the musicians will play live as a trio in the intimate setting. > Fri 13 March at 19:00–21:00, Sellosali, Tickets: lippu.fi

Cultural tour in the Metro
The popular historical walks of KAMU – Espoo City Museum tell about the multi-layered past of Espoo out in the field. The cultural tour arranged on Thursday 14 May at 17:30 will tell about the works of art found on the stations of West Metro, and the architecture and history of the areas. There is room for the first 30 people to arrive. Departure is from the main entrance of WeeGee, and the tour ends at the Matinkylä metro station. You need an HSL ticked for the zone AB or BC.

928,398
Where to go

The exhibitions of the four museums and the Futuro house of WeeGee Exhibition Centre were visited by 404,901 people in 2019.

Jazz in Sellosali *

One of the world’s most significant innovators of guitar playing Frank Gambale will visit Finland for the first time with his solo band. The guitar virtuoso, one of the brightest stars of the world of jazz since the mid-80s, will bring his fusion quartet consisting of top musicians on the Sellosali stage. In addition to Gambale, the other members of the quartet are the keyboard wizard George Whitty, the bass virtuoso Hadrien Feraud and the powerful drummer Damien Schmitt.

Wed 1 April at 19:00–20:30, Sellosali, Tickets: lippu.fi

Dancing for babies X

BabyTango leads babies and toddlers with their companions into a tango mood. A dancer and an accordionist absorb them into a performance experience where communication takes place with movements, gestures, emotions, voices and sounds. The experience culminates with everyone dancing together.

Tue 28 April at 10:00–10:40, Espoo Cultural Centre, Flyggeli-aula

Direct sale of organic products ✦

The Villa Elfvik Nature House offers the possibility of purchasing delicious organic products directly from the farmer. Products on sale include root vegetables, dried nettle, rusk, bread and spelt products. You can also purchase high-quality, Finnish natural creams, soaps and shampoos in addition to resin, tar, beeswax and peat products. You can also enjoy an organic lunch at Café Elfvik.

Sun 15 March, 19 April and 10 May at 10:00–15:00.

Animal stories from Espoo =

A Thousand Stories about Espoo tells stories about people and animals of Espoo in different eras. See the exhibition and find all the animals! Can you find the Easter bunnies hiding in the exhibitions?

Sat 11 April and Sun 12 April at 11:00–17:00, WeeGee Exhibition Centre

Children’s museum festival X

The children’s museum festival is held at WeeGee Exhibition Centre on 21–22 March. This year’s theme Space Odyssey 2020 will transform WeeGee into a space station. The festival performers will arrive to WeeGee by the spaceship of Captain Futuro that has landed on the backyard of the museum. The programme will include Sisidisko’s performance Diskoraketti and the ventriloquist Sari Aalto’s Cosmic Show.

Fri 20 March at 19:00–21:00, Espoo Cultural Centre, Tapiolasali.

Safe everyday life =

The prevention of problems is the number one priority for a safe Espoo. Everyday safety primarily requires awareness of various phenomena around you and skills to take care of yourself and people close to you. Come to the free public event “You are the guarantee of your everyday safety”, where we discuss everyday safety, and how everyone can contribute to it.

Wed 29 April at 17:30–19:00, Kalajärvi Service Centre

Communal film club ✅

Open Cinema will continue its operation in the meeting room on the ground floor of Espoo Cultural Centre, welcoming everyone interested in films. The participants have a chance to influence the programme, which consists of documentaries, short films, feature films and some rarely seen film content. In the film club, people watch different films together and discuss the thoughts they evoke. There is no age limit, but the club is not intended for children. Open Cinema is a communal film club that requires nothing more than a suitable space, a projector/television and, first and foremost, people interested in films.

Fri 9 June at 17:30–19:00, Entresse Library

Crop Museum guests enjoy the various approaches to the past showcased in the exhibition A Thousand Stories about Espoo. Direct selling of organic products in Villa Elfvik on the third Sunday of each month, except in June-August or on public holidays.

During his long career that began in the mid-80s, Frank Gambale has published about 20 solo albums.
In the spring season, Espoo Sports Services arranges morning exercise classes for seniors free of charge. There is a different theme every week, and about half of the classes are held outdoors. This is the fourth year Espoo is organising morning exercise classes, and they are held in three different areas: Espoonlahit, Matinkylä and Tapiola. The duration of the class is 60–90 minutes, and they always begin at 9:30.

In Tapiola, the classes are run by physical-education instructor Antti Kropsu.

“The classes are intended for seniors, but we don’t ask you to show your pension decision. The weather affects how actively people participate, particularly if the plan is to exercise outdoors.”

There have been 10–20 participants per class. According to Kropsu, the most popular forms of exercise have been related to body care and mobility.

“When we have arranged classes according to people’s requests, the wishes have included dancelike exercise, Latin dance, Finnish pavilion dances or body care based on yoga.

In Tapiola, most of the participants are women, but in other areas also men have dared to come to the class.

The purpose of exercise groups for seniors is to support and develop the mobility and ability to function of people over pension age.

The age of the participants has varied from 60 to 80 years of age.
The Trapesa premises located in the Station bridge building at the Espoo train station are buzzing with action. The first event of the year, the Epiphany celebration in French style is about to begin. Many of the participants are clearly regular visitors, and they are welcomed with a hug. The small space is crowded, but everyone finds a seat.

During the introduction round, at least 15 different nationalities are mentioned. Small snacks have been set on the tables. Raisa Lindroos, secretary general of Trapesa tells about how Epiphany is celebrated in France. Galette des Rois cakes are brought to the tables. Each cake is adorned with a paper crown and hides a small toy. The person who finds the toy in his or her piece of cake chooses the king or queen of the day among the company present and goes and kisses him or her on the cheek and places the crown on his or her head.

Rossin Jean-Luc, the French guest of the day, met Raisa Lindroos in the Story Sharing Cafe event and heard about Trapesa’s activities. “That was last autumn. I came here to celebrate the Finnish Swedish Heritage Day and I have participated in these events ever since. Fatima Miftari, born in Kosovo, has been living in Finland for 28 years, and 27 of them in Espoo. She was persuaded to come in once when she was just passing by.

“I’ve been coming here for a few months, and sometimes I help with arranging the events,” she says.

Getting to know different cultures. The themed events and multicultural food celebrations are organised with the help of funding from the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations and grants from the City of Espoo.

“We celebrate the annual feasts and cultural holidays of Espoo residents coming from different cultural backgrounds in the same manner as we highlight the Finnish traditions and the commemorative days of our national minorities. Our guests participate in arranging the events and they have been assigned different tasks as teams,” Lindroos says.

In addition to events, Trapesa offers counselling services to immigrants with limited language, digital and civics skills.

“We supplement the services offered by the city,” Lindroos says.

Trapesa, Espoo train station, Station bridge, 2nd floor; open Mon-Thu at 10:00–16:30.
Espoo residents active users of cultural services

- 84% of Espoo residents attend at least one cultural event every year
- In Espoo, men aged 15–44 are more active users of cultural services than elsewhere in Finland
- 44% of Espoo residents have a hobby that requires working with their hands
- 3% of Espoo residents have never been to the cinema

Regional differences:
- People living in Tapiola and Matinkylä particularly frequent the cinema, concerts and museums
- The residents of Leppävaara are the most eager theatre-goers
- People living in the Kauklahti area are the most interested in dance and opera

This data can be found on Fact Sheet 3 of the EspooCult study.

Trapesa’s first event of the year brought together people representing more than a dozen nationalities. People from Espoo and the neighbouring areas gathered around the tables filled with delicacies.

Each cake hid a toy and the person who found it could crown the king or queen of the day from among the people present. The celebration was filled with warmth.
The city acts as an enabler

The City of Espoo awards cultural grants to almost 100 cultural and local history societies each year. In addition, different operators, including unregistered groups, have a possibility to apply for project grants for implementing different events or projects. Project grants can be applied for from February to the end of August, and decisions on them are made flexibly throughout the application period.

However, financial assistance is not the only way in which the city supports local operators.

“We aim to put public premises to good use. For example, people are welcome to arrange different events in libraries, and we are constantly making efforts to develop the practical use of school premises in the evenings and at weekends,” says Katja Koskelo from Espoo Cultural Services, trying to encourage operators.

The city also organises partner meetings and training sessions for the operators and brings different stakeholders together with an aim to deepen cooperation and active dialogue.

“We have given organisations training in such matters as more efficient use of social media and data protection. The needs have derived directly from the organisations.”

Anyone can enter their own event in the City of Espoo’s calendar of events. Events marked with the hashtag #kulttuuriespoo can also be highlighted in the social media channels of Espoo Cultural Services,” Koskelo points out.

Espoo aims to put public premises to good use.
Sampada Chakraborty from India meets the Service Coordinator Vilma Monto-Mattila from the City of Espoo Employment Services at the Employment Corner of Iso Omena. “I heard about the Employment Corner from a friend of mine. She told me that this is a place where you get any kind of help, information and guidance for job-seeking,” Chakraborty says.

Language skills limit chances of finding employment. Chakraborty has completed a degree in information technology that corresponds to a bachelor’s degree obtained from a Finnish university of applied sciences. In her home country, she worked in banking for about four years.

Now, Chakraborty has been living in Finland for a few years. She studies Finnish all the time and already speaks the language a little. Her traineeship at the marketing of Opus Capita ended in December.

Chakraborty is currently seeking a work trial place suited for her. “Both of us felt that a work trial might be a good option. Hopefully, it will lead to employment, at first maybe with a pay subsidy,” Monto-Mattila says.

It was easy to come to service guidance. According to Chakraborty, she was warmly welcomed at the Employment Corner.

There are three service coordinators and an expert from the Uusimaa TE Office working at the Employment Corner of Iso Omena. They are prepared to discuss any issues related to work and finding employment.

“You don’t need to make an appointment with us or register in advance. All you need to do is step in. We don’t gather names or people’s contact information,” Monto-Mattila says.

The Employment Corner of Iso Omena is open from Monday to Thursday from 10:00 to 15:00. More information at espoo.fi/employmentcorner
Making Espoo an inviting public space for everyone with the help of art. Art will be brought to people’s everyday lives along the routes they take all the time.
A tunnel of a thousand hearts

The work designed by the winner of the Leppävaara street art competition Akseli Leinonen Love, Love (Tunnel of Love) turned the grey underpass of Alberganportti into a space that evokes emotions. The work, completed in the summer of 2019, declares the message of love, human values and caring for others.

The work was made of painted sheets of steel through which shapes of thousands of hearts were cut. Behind each steel sheet, there is lighting that reflects and multiplies the heart shapes. Therefore, the space is particularly spectacular in the dark.

The about 18-meter-long underpass under Leppävaarankatu is part of the light traffic route of Alberganpromenadi.
The Swedish word Ladusved consists of the words meaning ‘barn’ and ‘burn-beaten area’, and the Finnish equivalent Latokaski is a direct translation of the word. In past centuries, the residents practiced the burn-beating method of cultivation, and this burn-beaten area was named after its barn or barns. According to ancient documents, the name of the area has been the same at least since the mid-18th century. Latokaski was confirmed as the name of the district on 1 March 1976. The residential housing area that had sprung up in the region was also referred to as Teerelä and Teerimäki (names stemming from ‘teeri’, black grouse), but in 1970 the Espoo naming committee decided that they could not be used because bird-related names belonged to Lintuvaara, Leppävaara and Karakallio. The name Latokaski and the burn-beating history of the area gave their own theme to the area, giving rise to other names related to the burn-beating method of cultivation (Huhtakoukku, Ohrakaski and Kulolaakso).
Latakaski society organises events for local residents.

The Meriliuoto family got a new member three months ago when the Havanese Piki moved into the house. He is the apple of the eye of every member of the Meriliuoto household.
The health care centres in Espoo offer services in Swedish, but it is not always possible to guarantee that customers will be received by a native Swedish-speaking healthcare professional.

Towards uniform services in Swedish
The City of Espoo’s obligations include offering residents social and healthcare services in Swedish. At the moment, however, the city cannot guarantee services in Swedish in all healthcare centres.

“Unfortunately, in practice, services are not always available in Swedish. It works well in some places but less well in others. The challenge is to match supply and demand,” says Kia Leidenius.

Leidenius has been working since August on a survey of the social and healthcare services provided in Swedish in Espoo. The two-part survey conducted during the winter was aimed at both staff and residents.

“It is gratifying that over 70% of the nearly 800 employees who responded want to develop their language skills. The attitude towards Swedish is positive, there is a genuine desire to improve services provided in Swedish,” Leidenius says.

A major challenge for Espoo is the lack of Swedish-speaking staff. This year, the City will invest in recruitment processes and cooperation with educational institutions.

“We need more staff who can provide services in Swedish, the system is too fragile as it is now. In addition to recruiting new Swedish-speaking staff, we need to improve the language skills of the existing staff,” Leidenius says.

The improvement effort aims to ensure the smooth functioning of services provided in Swedish. The City of Espoo wants to boost the cooperation with other municipalities, with or without a social and healthcare reform. Many concrete measures are already underway, such as language courses, workshops and facilities for staff.

What does all this mean for residents?

“Our actions will hopefully lead to noticeable results in the services from next autumn,” says Leidenius.

In spring, the City of Espoo will investigate whether the Swedish services should be reorganized. One possibility is to centralize the Swedish-speaking, either in whole or in part. The survey did not provide a clear answer as to what residents want.

“The answers were distributed very evenly between residents who prioritize the proximity to care, even if it is sometimes provided in Finnish, and residents who prioritize health care provided in Swedish. Among the staff, a small majority was in favour of centralizing the services,” Leidenius says.

Leidenius notes that it is the city’s job to offer the customer options. It should be possible to choose services provided in Swedish.

“Our goal is to be able to offer uniform services in Swedish. From the initial contact by phone or online, the customer should receive services in the language they choose. The objective is ambitious and it may not be possible to achieve it 100%, but it is what we must strive for.”

A survey of social and health care services in Swedish is underway in Espoo. The City wants the Swedish-language services to function better and more smoothly in the future.
The City of Espoo will pay EUR 300 to an employer who hires a young person living in Espoo to work for them under the Summer Job Voucher scheme between 1 May and 30 September.

The young person must work at least 10 days and at least 50 hours, either stretching over one continuous period or several.

A private household, family or private person cannot act as an employer.

The City of Espoo will give out a total of 1,300 Summer Job Vouchers. The number of vouchers remaining (10 February at noon): 797.

The largest summer job employers in the city are the Public Works Department, which provides jobs for about 80 summer workers in park and street maintenance, and...

... care homes for the elderly, which have vacancies for 30 summer workers as organisers of leisure activities for the care home residents.

This summer, the Summer Job Voucher is intended for all Espoo-based youths born between 2001 and 2005.

Test your Finnish with this crossword puzzle! Book prizes!

Mark the letters from the orange boxes (1–14) below and send the answer with your name and address by e-mail to: espoolehti@omnipress.fi by 8th May 2020.
Getting the voice of youth heard

In Espoo, young people are involved in all city decision-making processes of the city government. Joel Vanhanen has left his youth council days behind, but he still wants to influence matters.

Four years as a member of the Espoo Youth Council taught Joel Vanhanen a lot about how the municipal decision-making process works. When Vanhanen was heading the Youth Council, it succeeded in getting through many issues considered important by young people of Espoo.

“The absolutely most significant matter was the City of Espoo granting the youth council the right to be present and speak at the City Board meetings as well. This is one of the greatest achievements in the history of the Espoo Youth Council,” says Joel Vanhanen, who stepped down as chair of the council at the turn of the year.

The decision is important, because now the voice of youth is heard as from the early phases of the decision-making process.

Becoming familiar with decision-making, Vanhanen got a chance to be involved in the activities of the Espoo Youth Council for four years, the last two of them in the role of the council chair.

“The Youth Council is a great place to learn how the municipal decision-making system works in practice. I also learned to know key decision-makers and MPs,” Vanhanen says.

During his Youth Council years, Vanhanen became also familiar with the City Council. He feels that, in their meetings, the members of the City Council really listen to the Youth Council representative.

“One can do other things on their computers during the meetings. But when Youth Council members speak, they turn their attention to the rostrum. We got a lot of commenting time, received thanks for the comments we presented, and many board members came to discuss with us after the meetings.”

Interested in the future. At the moment, Vanhanen is in his final year of studies at the Etelä-Tapiolan lukio general upper secondary school. Even though he has left the work at the Youth Council behind him, Vanhanen is still interested in politics.

“I intend to run in the municipal elections of 2021,” he reveals.

In January, Lauri Hietanen was elected the new chair of the Espoo Youth Council.

Young people are smart and interested in influencing matters, their future and common issues.
Learn about your neighbourhood!

The magazine Kaavoituskatsaus 2020 presents topical themes and projects in urban planning. Read about the planning of the living future of Espoo. The magazine also shares information about nomenclature planning. While the city grows and changes, place names are a good reminder of its history.