Espoo offers citizens a DIVERSE range of CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, from concert halls to street art, museums to handicraft clubs.

INEXPENSIVE PARKING WITH A TRAVEL CARD

SEE OUR TIPS FOR EVENTS IN THE SPRING

THE WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
“I just found out that our concert at Sello Hall in March is sold out,” said Happoradio’s Aki Tykki in early January.

Tykki, who moved to Espoo 18 months ago, is looking forward to the concert.

“The last time we came here, just over a year ago, I’d only just moved to the city and I didn’t know the place. I was a bit nervous about how a concert hall gig like this would go. It was an unforgettable performance to a packed-out hall.”

Tykki has also visited Sello Hall to see Kasmir perform.

“It’s easy to get here, the acoustics are amazing and everything works well,” he says.

This spring will mark 18 years since Happoradio was formed. Following a winter tour, the band will play club gigs in the spring and festivals in the summer. They are also writing new music all the time.

“In this business, you can’t afford to rest on your laurels. Young artists are breaking through and they’d be happy to take our place,” Tykki laughs.

However, he hopes to be able to spend some time enjoying the culture on offer in his new home town now that he has his house in order.

“I like it here. For example, I think the healthcare services are excellent,” says Tykki, who has lived in the capital region for the past couple of decades.

Tiina Parijka
The aim is to provide park and ride facilities at every station along the West Metro extension.
Pioneering together

ESPOO, THE CITY OF PIONEERS in sustainable development, is built upon its inhabitants’ expertise and drive to make a difference. Every one of us in Espoo has an important role to play in reaching our sustainable development goals and adopting new solutions. These solutions may be big or they may be small: everyone is capable of doing something good for their local environment. Sustainable development is everyone’s business.

The City of Espoo and its partners are committed to working towards the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2025. We are playing a particularly pioneering role in advancements towards the education, innovation and climate goals. The Espoo Story and collaboration between the City of Espoo and Aalto University are good examples on an international scale.

Education in sustainable development, #Kekeka, is doing good work towards a sustainable Espoo in the city’s schools and day-care centres. When the Espoo Story was written, all of the city’s preschoolers were involved in preparing the strategy under the theme “Mayor for a day”. Quite a lot of the ideas were concerned with the purity of nature.

We will succeed by working together! For more information about the City of Espoo’s activities, take a look at the annual report, which is included in this magazine and delivered to everyone in Espoo.

JUKKA MÄKELÄ
Mayor
Espoo was selected as Finland’s tourism destination of 2018. The city registered 440,000 overnight stays from January to November 2018. Visitors to Espoo stayed in the city for an average of 2 nights, while foreign visitors stayed 2.9 nights. Accommodation sales were valued at EUR 26.3 million up to the end of November.

City bikes return in April

ESPPO’S SECOND full season of city bikes will begin on 1 April. In the 2018 season, more than 390,000 journeys were made on Espoo city bikes, and there were approximately 10,000 full-season bike users.

Like last year, the Espoo city bike network will encompass 105 bike stations and 1,050 bikes in the Matinkylä, Tapiola and Lepävaara areas. Later on in the spring, the network will expand in Helsinki, providing improved connections from Espoo, particularly to the Pitäjänmäki area.

The self-service library provides library services and a sense of community

SINCE 2016, nine self-service libraries have been opened in Espoo, the most recent of which opened in Saunalahti in autumn 2018. Residents can visit the libraries outside the opening hours using a library card and PIN code. If you have forgotten your plastic library card, it is sufficient to have the card details set up on the Taskukirjasto (Pocket Library) app.

All of the most common library matters can be handled at the self-service library, and it is also possible to take advantage of a variety of other activities during self-service hours. Popular events at Espoo’s self-service libraries have included pop up cafes arranged by the North Espoo branch of the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare and the library coffee events for local residents, held monthly at Kauklahti library.

The vision for the self-service library concept is to provide an easy-to-navigate library with a sense of community. This vision was advanced last year on the Haavi service design project, which resulted in the commissioning of simple signs and instructions for self-service libraries.

“The idea is that the appearance and signage is consistent, no matter which self-service library you visit in Espoo. This makes the library easy and hassle-free to use,” says Katariina Lauronen, Library Service Manager.

Refuse collection vehicles set out on spring tours in April

THE HELSINKI Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY) refuse collection vehicles will begin their spring tour in April. The vehicles will stop at more than 80 locations in Espoo and Kauniainen, allowing citizens to dispose of hazardous waste, scrap metal and electronics free of charge.

The collection vehicles are primarily intended to receive small amounts of waste from residents who do not have cars. People wishing to dispose of large amounts of waste are encouraged to take the waste to a Sortti station. Households can dispose of the same three types of waste at Sortti stations free of charge.

The HSY website has posters intended for housing company bin rooms or notice boards. The website also lists the exact times and locations of the vehicles.

Success does not lead to happiness – gratitude leads to happiness.

– ESPOO CITIZEN OF THE YEAR MIKA POUTALA, SPORTSMAN

The Homestreet portal is available at kotikatu.espoo.fi

When roadworks are done near your home, the information is now conveniently available on the Homestreet portal. The portal also shows when your street last received winter maintenance, and it includes information about local services.

The Homestreet portal, which was opened in December, consolidates information from various sources. Search by street name to find information such as the targets and durations of local development projects. The service is intended for residents and it allows them to give feedback to the City of Espoo on matters affecting their streets.
Tapiola is now easier to get around

GETTING AROUND Tapiola and using shops and services became easier at the beginning of November when the bus terminal for connecting routes was taken into use and the Merituulentie road through Tapiola was opened to traffic. The bus terminal and Merituulentie, which had been closed since spring 2013, will relieve a number of traffic bottlenecks and enable people to get around more easily.

The southern entrance to the metro station was also opened. There is a direct connection from the bus terminal to the metro station, as well as to the AINOA shopping centre and Läntisitiulenkuja in the centre of Tapiola. There is now an indoor passage above Merituulentie and access to the bus terminal’s waiting area from the south side of the road.

“This has made it easier for residents to get around and improved the accessibility of services, although the modernisation work around Merituulentie is not yet complete,” said Olli Isotalo, Head of Technical and Environment Services, City of Espoo.

THE TERMINAL IS SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS ON EITHER SIDE OF MERITUULENTIE.

ALL OF the buses serving Tapiola will pass through the new terminal, including line 550, which connects Itäkeskus with Westendin- asema, and line 551 from Tapiola to Herttoniemi via Meilahti. During rush hour, up to 80 buses an hour will depart from the terminal. Transfers between buses and onto the metro can be made indoors.

The terminal is split into two parts on either side of Merituulentie. The platforms on the north side serve the majority of the connecting routes for southern Espoo, while the south side serves local bus lines 116 and 119, as well as regional lines to eastern Helsinki and night buses to Kamppi.

The temporary bus terminal in Tapionaukio will be closed when the new terminal opens. The stops on Pohjantie will remain in use. The bus park on the eastern edge of central Tapiola will be landscaped and put to a new public use for citizens.

The extension of the AINOA shopping centre will open in October, doubling the number of shops and services in the centre. At the same time, two new routes to the metro station will open. In the autumn, cyclists will be able to use a new bike route to the bicycle parking station and there will be new pedestrian routes.

THE NEW entrance to the metro station and the related systems were tested at night time for three weeks to guarantee safety. The existing metro systems needed to work with the new ones, and it was not possible to perform testing during the day while the metro was operating.

The Länsi-Uusimaa Rescue Department inspected the entrance, paying close attention to factors such as egress safety, fire alarms and smoke extraction, as well as lighting. The rescue department used the same inspections as it used when the metro extension was commissioned, and fire inspections are conducted at every metro station during operation.

“During the tests, I was impressed by how safe our metro is. Every possible scenario has been taken into consideration,” says Perttu Tavia, Project Manager for the West Metro project.

The terminal is split into two parts on either side of Merituulentie.
Working for the common good of Espoo and Europe

There were young people from 18 countries at a conference held in Edinburgh in November; six of them from Finland. We got to take part in the official programme of events and make the voices of young people heard in debates on matters including how we could influence our local environments. For me, the best thing was reaching a consensus. It was not about who was right and who was wrong – it was about learning from everyone’s opinions.

When I was in upper secondary school, I was involved in the European Youth Parliament. I have noticed that it is often the same young people who are active. In my new role, I run projects to encourage young people to take an interest in things like the upcoming EU elections. My motto is that everyone can do something for the common good.

My parents moved to Finland from Hungary in 1995. They fell in love with Espoo and decided to stay. I feel the same about my home town. Although Finland is my home country, I am very much a European. Having friends from other countries has enriched my life. In the future, I hope to live in Espoo but do international work.”

HANNA OJANPÄÄ
A LARGE CITY NEEDS A WIDERRANGING, DIVERSE CULTURAL OFFERING.
Espoo is well known for its cultural offering, which is highly regarded internationally. However, culture should not be holed up in concert halls and museums – it should also be a part of everyone’s daily lives and a feature of the streetscape. And if there is something missing in Espoo, people are free to offer it themselves.

Culture is for everyone. The concept of a networked city with five centres is also visible in the city’s cultural offering. The City has striven to offer culture wherever people are in all five areas. And not just by have cultural spaces in all of the centres – culture should be a part of Espoo residents’ local environments and everyday lives.

“For example, murals painted on the walls of buildings in different districts or the EMMA statue at Tapiola metro station are visible to everyone in the areas,” says Susanna Tommila, the City of Espoo’s Cultural Director.

Culture has now been integrated into early childhood education and teaching. It manifests itself in various ways in the everyday work of day-care centres and schools.

The City of Espoo’s internationally acclaimed offering of professional art has also been put into the hands of citizens. For example, the city’s own orchestra, the Tapiola Sinfonietta, takes its concerts on tour for people who cannot make it to the large concert halls.

“In addition to hospital and day-care musicians, the members of the orchestra work in collaboration with other parties such as youth workers. The first concerts for pregnant women will be held this spring. We are hoping the concerts will reach out to moth-
ers who otherwise would not come to listen to classical music,” Tommila says.

**THREE FLAGSHIPS** are at the forefront of the city of culture. In addition to the Tapiola Sinfonietta, Espoo has a renowned exhibition centre, WeeGee – and particularly the EMMA museum of modern art – as well as a city theatre, which is visited by a respected and diverse range of theatrical artists.

“Our theatre does not have its own theatrical staff – the performers are all visitors. This enables a very diverse offering of theatrical arts,” Tommila says.

Diversity is one challenge facing Espoo’s cultural offering.

“Active culture enthusiasts are a fairly homogeneous group. It is our job to find ways of integrating culture into the daily lives of children and young people. On the other hand, Espoo is a multicultural city. People from different backgrounds seek different cultural offerings, and we need to be able to respond to this demand.

**THE CITY ACTS** as an enabler of events. It is not possible to organise every type of cultural event and, in some cases, the required expertise may be lacking. Alongside its role as a cultural producer, the city acts as an enabler for the activities of various volunteer groups.

“If someone contacts us to ask why a certain activity or event is not on offer in Espoo, we encourage the person to take the initiative and help. Such people often have information or contacts that we do not have,” Susanna Tommila says.

Anyone can also start up their own activities and arrange an event using the city’s facilities.

“If you want to hold a discussion about something that is on your mind, you could talk to the staff at a library and they will help you find a venue and gain visibility,” Tommila says.

She admits there is still room for improvement in terms of attitudes to encourage this.

“All too often, the things that are highlighted are the requirements and restrictions if, for example, someone wants to arrange a street event. However, we aim to support and encourage every active citizen. In the future, we will hopefully have a dedicated service point where people can get all of the help they need,” Tommila hopes.

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**THE CHILDREN’S ARTS CENTRE**

Aurora serves all Espoo citizens, from babies to seniors.

“We have also invited citizens to evening events at Aurora to tell us about their wishes and develop their own ideas,” says Cultural Producer Johanna Kallioaho.

In the spirit of the #MadeTogether concept, new events include the Tilda handicraft club, Men’s Evening discussion groups and Aurora Love, a jam event that was held at least once, including music and a singalong.

“I was inspired by my hobby – sewing. I was looking for a place where creative people could get together in the evening to freely realise their ideas, whether through sewing or crafts,” says Belia, the creator of the Tilda handicraft club.

Since autumn last year, the handicraft club has been held every Thursday evening. It has already reached out to 30 handicraft hobbyists.

“Some come regularly, others less so. There is no need to register or make a commitment. Anyone can come if they want,” Belia says.

Usually, every person brings their own handicrafts with them and works on their own projects. They can chat while they work and exchange ideas with others.

“Once, we also held a themed evening where we made soap.”

Aurora provided the club with premises and supplies, coordinated the activities and marketed the club in its own channels.

If you have any ideas, contact Aurora by email at aurora.yhdessa@espoo.fi.

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**YOUR IDEAS MAY BE A ONE-OFF EVENT OR AN ONGOING CLUB ACTIVITY. AURORA PROVIDES THE PREMISES, YOU BRING THE IDEA.**

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**#MadeTogether**
A city orchestra for all ages

FOR TWO YEARS, four string players from the Tapiola Sinfonietta have toured around, performing to children as young as one year old. The quartet performed at the Ajurinmäki day-care centre twice in February. They put on a longer, more interactive performance for children aged over three, and a shorter one for the younger children. Older children have a great ability to respond and react when the musicians present their instruments and interact in other ways. They played the same music to both groups of children. The first three pieces included in the winter-themed concerts give an indication of the scale of the performances: From the Snowman via Vivaldi’s Winter to Räitirallia.

“The most important thing is to experience the music, what it feels like to see and hear the musicians up close,” says Jukka Rantamäki, Tapiola Sinfonietta’s second concertmaster and first violinist. Live music is always an experience for children.

“Although we send a preview video to the day-care centres, the sound of the instruments always comes as a surprise to the children,” says Kati Rantamäki, first violinist. She remembered the children at Ajurinmäki for being so active the last time she visited.

Erika Sievänen, who works as an early childhood teacher, was happy.

“The concert went very well. The children did well throughout and most of them listened. The performance was very suitable for this age group,” says Sievänen, who watched the concert with the 3–5-year-olds. She would be happy to have the musicians back again.

The string quartet’s tour of day-care centres was part of the City of Espoo’s LAKU cultural education project.

TEEMU PALKKI

For more information about the LAKU project, visit espoo.fi/laku

Michael Jackson chose EMMA

MICHAEL JACKSON’S international portrait exhibition will conclude its tour at the EMMA museum of modern art next autumn. When negotiations on bringing the exhibition to Espoo began almost two years ago, representatives of the UK National Portrait Gallery, which curated the exhibition, said that EMMA was the first museum that they had offered this exhibition to.

“It is a great honour for our relatively young museum. We are well known in Europe along with our amazing team, so we have earned our place among the most respected museums,” says Pilvi Kalhama, the Executive Director.

EMMA was opened just 12 years ago. Its unique architecture also requires certain arrangements in terms of presenting exhibitions.

“The Michael Jackson exhibition will be shown in four cities in Europe. In addition to Espoo, it will naturally be shown in London, and it will also be on in Paris and Bonn. Each of these museums is a very different space. At EMMA, we want to make the most of the openness of our space, and also put our own stamp on the exhibition. It may be that we will have certain works on display that are not seen in the other exhibitions.”

The exhibition brings together 40 contemporary artists’ interpretations of Michael Jackson. The exhibition is arriving at EMMA at an ideal time in terms of tourism. Foreign summer visitors are still around at the end of August, and the exhibition will be open until the end of the year, so visitors arriving over the new year will be able to see it. Visitors are expected to attend throughout the autumn from Finland, as well as the other Nordic countries and the Baltic countries.

EMMA exhibitions in 2019

Jonathan Meese, Daniel Richter, Tal R: The Men Who Fell from Earth, 30 January – 7 July 2019

Intervoven 5 June – March 2020

Michael Jackson: On the Wall, 21 August 2019 – 26 January 2020

For more information about the LAKU project, visit espoo.fi/laku
WHAT’S ON IN MARCH-MAY

MARCH

THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF THE MIND
How is your mind doing right now? Mental skills play a decisive role in our quality of life. They help us build a good life and good relationships. Training your mental skills helps you feel better and discover how the most important ingredients for happiness are often found in ordinary everyday life. The series of public lectures on well-being is continuing, and the next speaker will be Maaret Kallio, a psychotherapist and non-fiction writer.

▷ The incredible power of the mind – lecture on Wednesday 13 March, from 5 pm to 7 pm at Tapiola Hall, Kulttuuriaukio 2. Free entry. #EspooDoingWell

JUST THE MEMORY REMAINS
Juha Vainio’s 80th jubilee concert, which sold out last spring, will be reprised under Ilkka Vainio’s lead. In addition to Ilkka, the concert will feature musicians Janus Hanski, Jani Jaikkanen, Luumu Kaikkonen and some mystery guests.

▷ Friday 22 March, 7 pm at Sello Hall, Saittoniekanaukio 1 A. Tickets: Lippu.fi.

APRIL

EASTER AT THE PUPPET THEATRE
Every spring, MIAU! puts on an exciting puppet theatre show about the folklore and beliefs associated with Easter. The performance features nursery rhymes, poems, songs, live music, a wide range of puppet theatre skills and humour for people of all ages.

▷ Sampo puppet theatre, Tuesday 2 April, 10.15 am to 11 am, Sello Hall, Saittoniekanaukio 1 A. Tickets: EUR 12. Supervised groups of children: EUR 9 per child. Supervisors: EUR 1. Reservations: toimisto@nukketatouerisampo.fi or tel. +358 20 735 2235.

DANCING TO THE STARS
The Professional: dancers from the popular TV show are hitting the stage with a joint show at Sello Hall. Ansku Bergström, Marko Keränen, Kia Lehmskoski, Jutta Helenius, Sami Helenius, Saana Akiola, Katri Mäkinen and others will be dancing together on the same stage for the first time. The show will also feature guests.

▷ Tussien tähtiin, Wednesday 3 April, 6 pm to 7 pm, Sello Hall, Saittoniekanaukio 1 A. Tickets: Lippu.fi.

HEELS UP!
The Finnish: telenovela, Korot kattoon, written and directed by Virpi Haatainen, is a comedy about trying very hard to negotiate the jungle of human relationships. The show promises humour, incredible twists and intense stares. Ten characters, two comedians. Starring Ria Kataja and Minna Kivelä.

▷ Performance in the foyer of Sello Hall on Saturday 6 April, 7 pm to 9 pm. Tickets: Lippu.fi.

ANIMAL-THEMED CONCERT
This year, the theme of the Espoo Brass Band’s traditional spring concert will be animals in films. The bandmaster is Simo Kanerva.

▷ Spring concert on Sunday 7 April, 5 pm to 7 pm, Tapiola Hall, Kulttuuriaukio 2. Tickets: EUR 20 / under 12s go free. Tickets are available from members of the orchestra or on the door one hour before the concert.

FOLK MUSIC IN ESPOO
The JuuriJuhla-RotFest on 5-13 April will include shows by Espoo-based performers and top folk musicians from elsewhere in Finland, many of them internationally acclaimed. The main venue for the festival is Sello Hall, but folk music will also be performed at a stunning and diverse range of old manor houses, churches and society meeting houses in Espoo. JuuriJuhla-RotFest is rooted in Espoo’s folk music tradition. Children’s folk music concerts have been an integral part of JuuriJuhla since the very beginning, and Finnish-Swedish folk music has always appeared on the festival programme.

▷ Further information: juurijuhla.fi

MAY DAY EVE OVERTURE
Spend the evening before May Day enjoying the intense atmosphere of the Argentinian tango. The Tapiola Sinfonietta will be joined on the stage by bandoneon player Henrik Sandås as well as Katja Koukkula and Jussi Väänänen, who have enjoyed a successful career as competitive dancers.

▷ Tuesday 30 April, 6 pm to 9 pm, Tapiola Hall, Kulttuuriaukio 2. Tickets: Lippu.fi.

DON’T WORRY, BE HAPPY
was the first hit from a capella singer Bobby McFerrin.

APRIL JAZZ - A SURE SIGN OF SPRING
The 33rd April Jazz festival will be held in Espoo from 24 to 28 April. The concert venues are the Espoo cultural centre in Tapiola, Sello Hall in Leppävaara, the Espoo Museum of Modern Art (EMMA) and Tapiola church. In addition, the traditional post-concert jam will be held at Tapiola Garden from Wednesday to Saturday.

The stage will welcome artists including 10-time Grammy award winner Bobby McFerrin, Marius Neset, who has been hailed as Norway’s best saxophonist, John Scofield, who is one of the most respected guitarists of his time, velvet-voiced singer Somi, and many other talented artists. April Jazz, which has been held annually since 1987, is Greater Helsinki’s largest international jazz festival, welcoming more than 10,000 listeners every year. The festivals feature top artists from Finland and abroad, as well as fresh new artists and rising stars. The festival is arranged by Espoo Big Band.

FESTIVAL TICKETS are on sale on the Lippupiste online store and at outlets throughout Finland. For more information and the complete programme, see apriljazz.fi.

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JuuriJuhla will feature artists including Kimmo Pohjonen.
MAY

TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL LIFE

HOW CAN people discover their intrinsic motivations? What are our basic psychological needs? Why are community, compassion and doing good such essential aspects of human well-being? What ultimately makes life meaningful? These questions will be considered by Frank Martela, a philosopher, non-fiction writer and postdoctoral researcher, at his public lecture called Voi hyvin (Be well).

› Voi hyvin public lecture, Thursday 2 May, 5 pm to 7 pm, Sello Hall, Soittoniekanaukio 1 A. Free entry. #EspooWellBeing

JUVENALIA USHERS IN THE SUMMER

THE JUVENALIA choir will kick off its jubilee year by performing its 30th spring concert and leading the audience towards a summer outpouring of emotion. The concert promises heavenly tunes led by Matti Järvinen.

› Spring concert by the Juvenalia choir, Sello Hall, 21 May, 7 pm. Tickets: EUR 15/10, advance reservations juvenalia@juvenalia.fi

SPRING

SENIORS ON THE MOVE

CULTURE WALKS for senior citizens will be arranged at the Exhibition Centre WeeGee every Tuesday throughout out spring. The joint walks are free of charge and suitable for all. They include aerobic exercises, balancing exercises, stretching and exploring the exhibitions shown at WeeGee.

› Tuesdays from 8 January to 28 May, 1 pm to 2 pm, Exhibition Centre WeeGee, Tapiola. Meet in the lobby. No registration. No guided walk on May Day Eve (30 April).

THE ESPOO VILLA LIFESTYLE

VILLA RULLUDD, a villa museum located along the coastal route, opens its doors on the first Sunday of each month, offering visitors the opportunity to learn about the Espoo villa lifestyle of days gone by. Villa Rulludd is an uncommonly well-preserved example of early villa architecture along the entire Uusimaa coast. The villa and its surroundings will take visitors more than 100 years back in time to experience the summers enjoyed by the Kihlman family and the rich and colourful villa lifestyle.

› Villa Rulludd, Rullaniementie 15. Open on the first Sunday of every month, 11 am to 3 pm. Free entry.

Meet enthusiasts

KAMU PROVIDES the opportunity to meet enthusiasts of various water sports on the last Saturday of every month. The theme of the first meeting in February was diving. The meetings were held in conjunction with an exhibition entitled “Look to the horizon”, and they will continue throughout the year.

30 March Ice Sailing: Children’s Music Festival - Traffic Jam! Mid-way through the festival’s traffic jam, a winter breeze arrives along with ice sailors. Come and find out about an exciting sport with Timoleon Caravitis, from the Finnish DN Ice Sailing association.

27 April Birdwatching: Espoo-based birdwatcher Hanna Hyvönen talks about the birdwatching opportunities in Espoo and many other aspects of birdwatching. Her visit to the Suomenoja birdwatching basin can also be viewed at the exhibition.

29 June Giant Kites: The shores of the Baltic Sea are superb places for flying giant kites. Find out about this unusual hobby with Maria Hjeltin, who has flown kites on coasts around the world.

27 July Drone Photography: Are you interested in photography by drone? Would you like to capture landscapes from the air? Hear about drone photography with Soukka resident Antti Mansikkamäki, whose maritime photographs of Kivenlahti have received exposure on social media and at the “Look to the horizon” exhibition.

31 August Metal Detectors on the Beach: Did you know that sandy beaches are a great place to seek treasure using a metal detector? It is also a good way to clear scrap metal off the beaches. On Espoo Day, KAMU has a large number of events with an archaeological theme, and the association of Finnish metal-detector hobbyists will be appearing at the “Look to the horizon” exhibition.

› Meet enthusiasts events will be held on the last Saturday of each month.
ESPOO’S AMBITIOUS target is to be Finland’s most active municipality. The city’s sports and fitness service unit has produced a book about the “Espoo on the move 2030” strategy, laying out the present state and the vision of the state of corresponding services in 12 years.

“We made a map that shows our strengths and the areas where we are weaker,” says Martti Merra, Sports and Youth Director.

The visions for the future were prepared from realistic starting points, with a sprinkling of additional expectation. IN MANY regards, the target has already been reached. The good areas are shown in green. They are the outdoor routes, the offering of local sports and exercise places and free opportunities for children, young people and seniors to engage in activities.

“In these services, we are among the best municipalities in Finland. However, in terms of indoor sports facilities, such as the amount of water area per resident, we are trailing Finland’s best municipalities,” Merra says.

The book was intended to act as a tool for sports services and municipal decision-makers and it was prepared in-house. The work was based on comprehensive surveys of various parties in the city.

“We are constantly receiving feedback from Espoo residents, and this has been taken into consideration in the plans. We also conducted a comprehensive survey of sports clubs.

IT WILL be possible to make a start on some of the development required this year. The list includes increasing the number of artificial ice rinks and working on the Puolamaari sports area. “Ensuring there is a balance between the five urban centres will support the goals of the Espoo Story. We are also trying to lower the barriers to sports activities and include different types of sport,” Merra promises.

Some of the projects require decision-makers’ support and financing decisions. Merra emphasises that the book is also a good tool in this respect.

“It serves to remind decision-makers what action is needed to meet the expectation of becoming Finland’s most active municipality.”

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“We made a map that shows our strengths and the areas where we are weaker,” says Martti Merra, Sports and Youth Director.

The visions for the future were prepared from realistic starting points, with a sprinkling of additional expectation. IN MANY regards, the target has already been reached. The good areas are shown in green. They are the outdoor routes, the offering of local sports and exercise places and free opportunities for children, young people and seniors to engage in activities.

“In these services, we are among the best municipalities in Finland. However, in terms of indoor sports facilities, such as the amount of water area per resident, we are trailing Finland’s best municipalities,” Merra says.

The book was intended to act as a tool for sports services and municipal decision-makers and it was prepared in-house. The work was based on comprehensive surveys of various parties in the city.

“We are constantly receiving feedback from Espoo residents, and this has been taken into consideration in the plans. We also conducted a comprehensive survey of sports clubs.

IT WILL be possible to make a start on some of the development required this year. The list includes increasing the number of artificial ice rinks and working on the Puolamaari sports area. “Ensuring there is a balance between the five urban centres will support the goals of the Espoo Story. We are also trying to lower the barriers to sports activities and include different types of sport,” Merra promises.

Some of the projects require decision-makers’ support and financing decisions. Merra emphasises that the book is also a good tool in this respect.

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Help is available

1. NESTORI – GUIDANCE AND SERVICE COUNSELLING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. Nestori provides information about services for the elderly, housing-related matters, mobility and using shops and services. You can always reach out to Nestori if your memory is causing you concern or if you are looking for a new friend or hobby. The services are intended for senior citizens in Espoo and their next of kin.

☎ +358 9 816 33 333 (weekdays, 9 am to 3 pm)
✉ nestori@espoo.fi, nestori@esbo.fi
🌐 espoo.fi/nestori, esbo.fi/nestori

2. EVERYDAY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES. Do you want to talk to someone about parenthood or family life? Do you need practical advice about the everyday challenges faced by children? Our family social workers will be happy to answer your questions. You can also come to see them at the open day-care centre, maternity and child health clinic (neuvola), library or family guidance group activities. The service is free of charge.

☎ +358 9 816 23600
Mon/Wed, 8 am to 1:30 pm, Tue/Thu/Fri, 8 am to 11 am
✉ espoo.fi/perhetyo, esbo.fi/familjearbete
🌐 espoo.fi/perhetyo, esbo.fi/familjearbete

3. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CLINIC. Open from morning to evening. You can visit the mental health and substance abuse clinic without an appointment. Come and visit us if you need help for yourself or support for a loved one.

Iso Omena Service Centre, floor 3 in the Iso Omena shopping centre, Suomenlahdentie 1.
Adults: Mon-Thu, 8 am to 6 pm, Fri, 8 am to 4 pm.
Young people: Mon-Thu, 4 pm to 5.30 pm.

🌐 espoo.fi/mielenterveys, esbo.fi/mentalarbeten

4. IS IT AN EMERGENCY? In the event of an emergency, you can make a same-day appointment at a health centre or dental care centre online at espoo.fi/e-healthcentre. You can visit health centres without an appointment.

Emergency service at health centres, Mon-Fri, 8 am to 4 pm
Dental care: +358 9 816 35900
Medical Helpline: 116117 (when the health centre is closed)

🌐 espoo.fi/pairoystys, esbo.fi/pjerer

“YOU CAN GET HELP THE SAME DAY.”
The season culminated in the Friends Skate event, which was held on Saturday 9 February this year.
GLIDING AROUND THE TAPIOLA ICE GARDEN WITH ATMOSPHERIC ILLUMINATIONS

IN THE WINTER, Espoo has 90 ice rinks and seven artificial skating rinks. The artificial skating area at the Tapiola Ice Garden is unusual in that it has a skating route 330 metres in length in addition to the open rink.

The setting is particularly beautiful thanks to the way the adjacent cultural centre is illuminated.

The ice skating rinks open as soon as the daytime temperature remains below zero. This winter, Tapiola Ice Garden was opened on 4 November. The ice rinks receive daily maintenance until mid-March, although they may still be in working condition after then, depending on the weather. Tapiola Ice Garden is open from 10 am to 9 pm.

It is not permitted to play sports involving sticks at Tapiola Ice Garden - the ice is reserved for freestyle skating.

The Hile café, a private company operating next to the ice rinks, is open on weekdays from 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm and on weekends from 10 am to 6:30 pm. The café also has a changing room and skate rental service.

WHERE?
The park and ride sites with travel card readers in Espoo are located in Matinkylä, Niittykumpu, Urheilupuisto and Tapiola metro stations, and at Leppävaara railway station.

PARK AND RIDE keeps travel card holders warm
Park and ride is good value in Espoo for holders of HSL travel cards. HSL is also aiming to incorporate mobile ticket recognition into payment machines this year.

TEXT Juha Peltonen PHOTOS Timo Porthan

The majority of the park and ride sites in the capital region are exposed to the elements. However, Espoo residents using the West Metro can park their cars in a heated indoor car park while they are at work. Only some of the old car parks intended for users of public transport are open fields.

And park and ride does not cost the earth. The car parks that are not free of charge cost between EUR 1 and EUR 4 per day in Espoo, while the car parks at West Metro stations cost EUR 2 per day.

“The intention is to reward drivers for parking close to home,” says Markku Antinoja, Espoo’s Transportation Manager.

According to him, more parking spaces will be built as additional rail investments are realised.

“The aim is to provide park and ride facilities at every station along the West Metro extension from Matinkylä to Kivenlahti.

THE PARKING SPACES are generally intended for everyone’s use. However, the park and ride price is only intended for users of public transport, and such users are identified by touching their HSL travel cards to the reader.

The payment machine in the car park includes the same type of travel card reader as on buses, in metro stations and on trains.

“When a travel card touches the reader, it tells the parking machine that the user is a park and ride customer,” says Heikki Palomäki, Public Transport Planner at HSL.

This form of identification requires the travel card to have a valid prepaid ticket or sufficient credit. The park and ride price can then be paid at the machine in cash or by card. At car parks with entry and exit barriers, the payment machine usually gives out a paper ticket that is used to get in and out of the car park.

The free park and ride sites in the capital region all use a system of time limits, which may be linked to certain times of day or a maximum parking duration of 12 hours.

As regards park and ride, HSL is only responsible for the travel card readers, while the car park operator is responsible for everything else.

“In terms of harmonising practices, it is challenging that there are so many organisations involved. The West Metro has substantially increased the use of park and ride facilities but, in some places, people have found the practical arrangements to be difficult,” Palomäki says.

HOWEVER, there have been challenges in practice. In relation to park and ride, the most common piece of feedback that HSL receives is that the card readers at park and ride sites do not recognise mobile tickets.

“These readers do not yet exist. The intention is for users of mobile tickets to be able to access park and ride facilities this year,” Palomäki says.

However, he says that it will still take years before the same HSL app can be used to buy a travel ticket and pay for parking.

“Payments for parking and public transport are rapidly going mobile. It would be sensible for everyone involved if they could be combined, providing that there are solutions for this.”
The process actually began as far back as 2012. Logen i Gröndal UF was facing the same problem many other youth associations had. The members were no longer young and the average age was approaching 60. A renewal of some kind was required, according to project manager Patrik Gustafsson.

"Kameleontti actually started out as a renewal project for Logen. Those of us who were active in the youth association thought about how we could offer activities for young people. We did not just want to be caretakers for the youth association’s old buildings," says Gustafsson.

Logen i Gröndal UF chose to invest in sport because of the major shortage of training spaces for children and young people, particularly during the first stage of the project, the focus is on sports such as athletics, ball sports and gymnastics.

If all goes to plan, children and young people in Espoo will be enjoying a brand-new sports hall in Leppävaara in 2021. The project, which has the working name Kameleontti, is being run by the Logen i Gröndal UF youth association.

"The project is definitely starting to take shape. It all hinges now on the city’s zoning plan," says project manager Patrik Gustafsson.
Echoes of imperial hunting horns at Lake Lippajärvi

IN THE summer, would you rather swim in Lake Kolkejärvi or Lake Lippajärvi? In the 1970s, Kolkejärvi was proposed as the Finnish name of the lake nowadays known as Lake Lippajärvi, but echoes of the Swedish name, Klappträsk, are only to be heard in a few places, such as Kolkemäki hill and Kolkekannas isthmus.

However, echoes of the past can be found in the naming of both Lake Lippajärvi and its neighbour, Järvenperä. The name of the Kvarnbyån river, which separates the urban districts, changes as it flows to the south-west, becoming Glimsinjoki river after the Glims estate, which operated as a farmstead for more than 400 years but has been a museum since 1958. However, a more significant source of nomenclature can be found in the history of the Träskända manor house.

For more than half of the 19th century, the manor house was owned by Aurora Karamzin, who was brought up in an upper-class family and set up institutions including the Deaconess Institution of Helsinki. A school and chapel in the area bear her first name, as well as a hill and a park. Her life in the Russian Imperial Court is also revealed in the names of two roads in Järvenperä: Hovitie (Court Road) and Salonkitie (Parlour Road). But why is Lippajärvi, to the south of the river, a hunting ground?

A roundabout provides a clue. A tree was planted in 2005 in the centre of the roundabout connecting Lippajärventie, Kolkekannaksentie and Träskändan puistotie. The tree was named the Alexander Oak to commemorate the visit of Russian Emperor Alexander II in 1863. Elsewhere on the grounds of Träskända manor house, an oak tree was planted to mark the location where Alexander killed a red deer that had been brought to Finland for him on his hunting trip.

Visitors to the grounds of Träskända manor house can enjoy stunning views of the historic park surroundings.

THE CITY’S MAIN ROLE IN THE PROJECT IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A SENSIBLE PLACE WHERE THE HALL CAN BE BUILT.

JENNI VON FRENCKELL
FROM THE ICE RINK TO THE SUPPORTING STANDS

Emma Terho, who came through the ranks at Espoo Blues, has made history in women’s ice hockey in many ways. Now, the former captain of the Finnish national team is sharing her experience as chair of the committee arranging the women’s ice hockey world championships, which will be held in Espoo. She has promised that the atmosphere at Metro Areena will be magnificent.

IN 1999, the promising young ice hockey player Emma Terho was 17 years old. Espoo Metro Areena was built in the same year, when it also hosted the women’s ice hockey world championships. Twenty years on, and the championships are being held in Espoo again, with Terho chairing the committee to arrange them. In the interim, Terho has won two Olympic bronze medals, five bronze medals at world championships and seven gold medals in national championships. She is also the first woman on the board of the Finnish Ice Hockey Association and, one year ago, she joined the International Olympic Committee as an athlete member.

“Espoo was confirmed as the championship host last spring, but the atmosphere is just beginning to intensify. It has not been long since the end of my playing career, so I am looking forward to seeing a lot of my friends from around the world,” says Terho, who hung up her skates after the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014.

TEN COUNTRIES will compete in the world championships. There will be a total of 230 players and a further 150 people in the supporting staff for the teams. Terho is quick to point out that the action on the ice is just the tip of the iceberg.

“The matches are the main event, but a lot of work naturally goes into the arrangements, such as accommodation, food, logistics and security. Operational responsibility lies with the Secretary-General and the expert team. Volunteers also play an important and valuable role.”

Almost 300 volunteers will be involved in the championships: stewards, drivers and first-aid staff.

COLLABORATION with the city and other parties has gone well.

“Espoo is experienced at hosting large events, and we have been grateful for all of the help the city can provide,” Terho says.

“Although the sport is front and centre, our aim is to create a family event with a good atmosphere. For example, schools have been offered a range of activities related to the championships. Hopefully, the championships will inspire people to take up sporting activities. Espoo offers amazing and diverse opportunities for this.”

AT THE END of the year, Terho was awarded the Espoo medal. She received the medal for her work to promote ice hockey in Espoo and Finland more widely in addition to her sporting achievements.

“Espoo has always been my home city in Finland. Now that I have small children, my appreciation for the opportunities that the city offers has only grown,” she says.

When the puck hits the ice for the first time at Metro Areena in April, Terho hopes that there will not be an empty seat in the arena. She promises that she will be there as well.

HANNA OJANPÄÄ
Emma Terho is at home on the ice. However, in April she will be watching the women’s world championships from the organiser’s perspective.

Women’s ice hockey world championships from 4 to 14 April 2019, Metro Areena

Finland’s group-stage matches:
4 April, 7:30 pm: Finland vs USA
6 April, 4 pm: Russia vs Finland
8 April, 4 pm: Finland vs Switzerland
9 April, 7:30 pm: Canada vs Finland

11 April Quarter-finals, placement match 9–10
13 April Semi-finals
14 April Third place playoff, final
Espoo is like Finland in miniature, and now it is also Finland’s Travel Region of the Year 2018. On the metro, you can go into the nearby forest, to a museum and to the sea, and city bikes and rowing boats will take you from one place to another.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW your home town?

SECRET TREASURES, BEST CULTURAL SITES AND EVENTS?

This year is a year of culture and top-class events in Espoo. Exhibition Centre WeeGee, Espoo Cultural Centre and Sellosali concert hall are presenting new cultural phenomena throughout the year. The ‘Michael Jackson: On the Wall’ exhibition which has been touring Europe is the main exhibition of the year at EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art.

The Archipelago Museum Pentala on the island of Pentala in Suvisaaristo will be one of the summer’s main attractions, so jump on a boat to the archipelago and enjoy maritime Espoo with all your senses. At the Eyes on the Horizon exhibition at Espoo City Museum, you can already dive into the maritime theme. A place worth visiting is also Gallen-Kallela Museum and the Kalevala exhibition near the enchanting Laajalahti bay.

From 4 to 14 April, the Women’s World Ice Hockey Championship will provide excitement at the Espoo Metro Areena, and the FIMBA World Maxi Basketball Championships will be held from 25 July to 4 August. The festival summer will open in April with April Jazz and will continue with Espoo Ciné in May. Summer evening concerts can be enjoyed at Espoo Cathedral in the Organ Night & Aria festival.

CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU ARE LIVING IN THE TRAVEL REGION OF THE YEAR!

Read more and check out all of Espoo’s events at visitespoo.fi.