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Gloucester County Board  
of Chosen Freeholders

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## County Cuts Salaries & Benefits Tax Rate Will Not Rise

When the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders introduce the county's 2009 budget later this month they will not ask taxpayers for an increase. Instead, the county tax rate will remain frozen and the size of government will shrink.

So far the county has eliminated 75 positions through attrition, and salaries and benefits have been reduced by \$3.8 million from the 2009 budget. The county plans on selling three of its buildings and a strip of property. The Freeholders said that they will look closely at filling any new vacancies that occur in the coming year. "Everyone understands that times are tough and we have to work with less," stated Freeholder Director Sweeney.

"This is not a year that we will bring on new projects, but the county will continue to move ahead on the projects we have planned, such as Route 322, the GCIT Academy expansion and the Port of Paulsboro," said Freeholder Deputy Director Damminger. *(continued on page 3)*

## 2009 Goal: Preserve 1,300 Acres of Land



Gloucester County Freeholder Director Sweeney, Freeholder Chila and Woolwich Committeeman Paul Lott joined three generations of the LaPalomente family at the announcement to preserve their land for a park.

Gloucester County Freeholders are targeting to preserve over 1,300 acres of farmland this year by acquiring 22 farms and seven parcels of open space. This past December Gloucester County bonded \$38 million to make funds readily available to acquire land so it is not lost to developers. The bond does not cost county taxpayers any additional dollars. Land purchased through the County's Farmland Preservation Program is partially paid back by the state, and remaining balances are paid through the county's dedicated Open Space tax.

"This is considered a soft real estate market, but Gloucester County is still a desirable location for developers. We do not want to lose any opportunities to preserve land so we are prepared to purchase farmland and open space and add it the 14,700 acres we have already preserved," said Freeholder Director Sweeney. *(continued on page 2)*

## "Vial of Life"

### It's free and it could save your life

The "Vial of Life" program consists of a vial labeled with a "Vial of Life" sticker. Inside each vial you place a completed medical form that includes the health status and current medications being taken by each individual in the home.

The vial is placed in the refrigerator, usually recommended to be on the top shelf of the door. Stickers are placed on the inside of the front door of the home and on the refrigerator

door so that Gloucester County EMS (GCEMS) crews will know to look for the vial.

This information inside a "Vial of Life" can be utilized by GCEMS personnel and hospital emergency personnel at a time when seconds count. The information provided inside the "Vial of Life" could save your life or the life of a loved one.

The "Vial of Life" program is provided free to Gloucester County residents. To receive your "Vial of Life" please call Gloucester County EMS at (856) 307-7120.



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## County Offers New Spring Break Fun Shows

Families looking for something fun to do over the Spring Break can take advantage of 5 free shows that will be sure to delight children of all ages. The shows are sponsored by the South Jersey Federal Credit Union.

All shows begin at 10:30 am and will be held at the Gloucester County Offices of Government Services, 1200 N. Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ. Show time is approximately one hour.

Monday, April 13                      The Magical Songwriter

Tuesday, April 14                      Philadelphia Zoo's  
Outrageous Reptiles

Wednesday, April 15                      Bubboons Tunes

Thursday, April 16                      Family Magic Show

Friday, April 17                      Cool Beans Band

For more information on this program call (856) 251-6710 or visit [www.gloucestercountynj.gov](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov) and click on the Countywide Interactive Calendar of Events.

## Enjoy these FREE programs at Scotland Run Park's Nature Center

### Bird Walk – Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 am

No experience is necessary, just bring a pair of binoculars and dress for the weather.

### Family Nature Adventure – Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

The entire family will enjoy exploring the park this time of year. Everyone will make a craft in the Nature Center and then go for a nature walk along the beautiful park trails.

### Nature Tots – Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

A program for preschoolers and their caregivers that explores nature through crafts and the outdoors, children must be with an adult. Be prepared to go outside. Kids can play on the playground after the program.

### Afternoon Nature Strolls – Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm

A guided walk on various trails, a fun program for caregivers of young children, home schooled children, and seniors. Enjoy the adventure rain, snow or shine!

Scotland Run Park Nature Center is located on Academy Street in Clayton. Please register for all programs in advance by calling 856-881-0845. There are no fees charged for any of the programs. Due to limited space registration is not accepted for large groups. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Go to [www.gloucestercountynj.gov](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov)  
and learn about more events and programs!

## You've got homework? We've got help!

Free online help from real tutors!



Available seven days a week from 2 - 10 pm  
Grade Levels K - 12, intro to college, and adult learner.

Subjects: Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Writing Center

Find it at [www.homeworkhelpnj.org](http://www.homeworkhelpnj.org) or on the GCLS webpage [www.gcls.org](http://www.gcls.org)

Homework Help is available to members of any library in the county. You must have a library card because the number is necessary to gain access to Homework Help. For questions call 856-223-6029.

## March is Tire Amnesty Month



The Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders has slated March as 'Tire Amnesty Month'. Residents can dispose of up to 25 passenger car and pickup truck tires at **no cost** during the entire month of March.

Tires are a primary breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can carry West Nile Virus. Removing old tires and other sources of standing water from ones property can greatly reduce the mosquito population.

Drop off tires at the Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex, 493 Monroeville Rd. (Route 694) in South Harrison Township. Tires will be accepted Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 3:00 pm, and on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon.

This program is for Gloucester County residents and farmers only. NO commercial businesses please. For more information call the GCIA/Office of Recycling at 478-6045 (ext. 14) or visit [www.gcianj.com](http://www.gcianj.com) and click on Recycling.

## County to Preserve 1,300 Acres of Land in '09 from page 1

Freeholder Deputy Director Damminger said that some of the projects the county will be settling on this year include 90 acres in Harrison for the 322 project, and 120 acres in Washington Township. Damminger said that the county and towns use the open space program to expand parks and to develop greenways. "This program is a big asset to our municipalities who otherwise wouldn't have the means to preserve land," Damminger said.

Gloucester County has already added 229 acres of Open Space to the county's list of permanently preserved properties this year, stopping the development of more than 75 new homes. The properties include 90 acres in Woolwich that will expand the Woolwich Park System; 91 acres to the County's Scotland Run Park in Clayton and Franklin Township; and 48 acres adjacent to Chestnut Branch Park in Mantua.

## Getting To Work The Pureland Shuttle

Gloucester County offers a free 'Pureland Shuttle' operated by the South Jersey Transportation Authority with service between Camden, Westville, Woodbury, Paulsboro, Greenwich, and the Pureland Industrial Park.

The shuttle connects with the following New Jersey Transit bus routes, PATCO, and the River Line:  
401: Philadelphia—Salem  
402: Pennsville—Philadelphia  
408: Millville—Philadelphia  
410: Bridgeton—Philadelphia  
412: Glassboro—Philadelphia  
455: Cherry Hill Mall—Woodbury —Paulsboro  
463: Woodbury—Avandale Park and Ride, All buses at Rand Transportation Center

The shuttle operates year round, Monday through Friday. Reservations must be made in advance by calling 856-614-1072. Schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions.

For more information on the Pureland Shuttle visit [www.gloucestercountynj.gov](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov) and click on County Services



Gloucester County One-Stop Career Center  
(856) 251-6800

Employment counseling; public access to One-Stop computers for posting resumes and searching for jobs; processing of Unemployment Insurance Claims; fax, phone and copiers available for active employment seekers; information regarding support services that are available and referral to appropriate agencies; and many more services.

For more information visit [www.gloucestercountynj.gov](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov) and click on Employment

Gloucester County One-Stop Career Center is located at 215 Crown Point Road in Thorofare

The County of Gloucester complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status or disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. In addition, Gloucester County encourages the participation of people with disabilities in its programs and activities and offers special services to all County residents 60 years of age and older. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the Office of Educational and Disability Services at 856-681-6128/New Jersey Relay Service 711 or the EEO office at 856-384-6903.

## Completed expansion adds 240 Seats to GCIT

The Phase-in adds 60 seats a year to each incoming freshman class



Freeholders DiMarco, Wallace, Brigandi, DuBois, Director Sweeney and Freeholder Chila cut the ribbon on the new wing of GCIT with Sr. Class President Ashley Taylor and student representatives

Gloucester County Freeholders, students and school officials celebrated an expansion and renovation project at Gloucester County Institute of Technology that will add 240 more seats to school. The seats will be phased in over a four year period, expanding the size of each incoming class by 60 students.

The GCIT programs are so successful that two applications are received for every one available seat. "The county is wisely investing in this school to make sure that there are seats available for each student who is appropriate for the programs," said Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney.

The expansion and renovations were completed on time and under budget. The expansion added 30,630 feet of new space for 10 classrooms, 4 science labs, 3 small group instruction areas, and a new auto technology instruction area. An 11,692 square foot renovation upgraded an existing cosmetology lab, added a new cosmetology lab, and relocated a marine technology lab for additional space.

Freeholder Joseph A. Brigandi Jr. said that GCIT is consistently one of the best in the state for the administrative costs spent per pupil. "The trades and skills that the students learn at GCIT are well respected within their industries," said Brigandi. "In today's economy the education the students receive here puts them at an advantage in the job market."

The Freeholders are planning a groundbreaking for a further expansion of the Technical School and Academy programs to meet the needs of the community and add programs. The next expansion will add an additional 240 seats to school to ultimately bring its population to just over 1,500 students.

## Tax Rate Will Not Rise in 2009

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Construction for the Port is slated for later this year and the county is already underway on the 322 project. Damminger said that the county is funding \$4.5 million for the widening and signalization improvements to Route 322 and that \$15 million already allocated for the 322 Bypass will get underway this year. In total the Freeholders plan on investing an additional \$12.6 million in county infrastructure projects for 2009 to improve roads, bridges and highways throughout the county.

## Gloucester County Library Adds New Branch East Greenwich becomes full service branch

The Gloucester County Library System (GCLS) recently welcomed East Greenwich Library as a full service branch.

There are now six full service branches of the GCLS including East Greenwich, Glassboro, Greenwich, Logan, Mullica Hill and Swedesboro. There are 14 member communities, in addition to the above mentioned towns, which are: Elk, Clayton, Mantua, National Park, South Harrison, Woodbury Heights, Woolwich, and Newfield\*.

“In this economy our libraries are seeing unprecedented use,” said Freeholder Joe Chila. “During the last quarter of 2008 total checkouts at the GCLS branches were up 10.9% over 2007, and total library visits were up 19.2%,” stated Chila. Chila serves as the Freeholder liaison to the Gloucester County Library System.

The Gloucester County Library System offers everything from free downloadable movies to a homework helpline. GCLS offers children’s programs, computer courses and even free concerts. The Friends of the Gloucester County Library’s Bookstore sells new books for 20% the purchase price and proceeds help support the Friends of the Library.

To learn more about what the Gloucester County Library System has to offer visit [www.gcls.org](http://www.gcls.org) or stop in your local branch today!



## Habitat for Humanity Wins Award Commitment to Community Service



*Freeholder Director Sweeney and Lisa Morina, County Economic Development Director, present Allan Connors, Executive Director of Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity with Community Service Award*

Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity, a non profit builder of affordable housing, received the 2008 Tri County Economic Development Award for its outstanding commitment to community service in Gloucester County.

Through its partnerships with communities, local business and county government, Habitat has worked to create a viable business environment by opening a retail store called ReStore and by producing a major subdivision of high quality affordable housing in Clayton.

Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity ReStore is located at 425 S. Broadway in Pitman. For more information visit [www.gcrestore.com](http://www.gcrestore.com) or call (856) 256-9400 to learn about Habitat for Humanity programs in Gloucester County.



[www.gloucestercountynj.gov](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov)

### Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders

<b>Stephen M. Sweeney, Director</b>	<b>853-3390</b>
<b>Robert M. Damminger, Deputy Director</b>	<b>853-3395</b>
<b>Freeholder Joseph A. Brigandi, Jr.</b>	<b>853-3386</b>
<b>Freeholder Giuseppe (Joe) Chila</b>	<b>853-3382</b>
<b>Freeholder Frank J. DiMarco</b>	<b>853-3384</b>
<b>Freeholder Jean DuBois</b>	<b>853-3383</b>
<b>Freeholder Warren S. Wallace</b>	<b>853-3380</b>

### Row Officers

<b>Clerk James N. Hogan</b>	<b>853-3237</b>
<b>Surrogate Helene M. Reed</b>	<b>853-3282</b>
<b>Sheriff Carmel M. Morina</b>	<b>384-4600</b>
<b>Prosecutor Sean Dalton</b>	<b>384-5500</b>