

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT FLAT BUDGET FOR 2023

Balanced Budget Keeps Spending Flat as Part of Three Year Commitment

At its March 15, 2023 meeting, the Gloucester County Board of County Commissioners approved the County government's budget for Fiscal Year 2023. This balanced budget, first introduced at the Board's meeting on February 11, maintains spending at levels identical to Fiscal Year 2022 with an anticipated county tax rate cut.

Commissioner Director Frank J. DiMarco noted, "As a Board, we

are proud to adopt this budget, which keeps spending flat. In August of last year, we tasked the County's Administration - by resolution - to keep spending flat for three years while maintaining the level of services provided to residents, and this budget meets that mandate, despite the inflationary times we are living through." DiMarco further added, "I am extremely pleased that this Board will cut the county tax rate for the third year in a row".

County Administrator Chad M.

Bruner, in presenting the budget recommendation to the Board, remarked that it was the result of five months of analysis and review from all County-related departments and constitutional officers. Bruner commented that keeping the budget flat "did have its challenges this year, as all New Jersey governmental agencies were hit with significant increased expenditures that were outside of our control."

Among the challenges, Bruner specifically noted the 15.68%

continued on Page 2

PLAY PICKLEBALL AT ATKINSON PARK!

Pickleball is fun, social, and friendly! It contains many elements of tennis, badminton, and pingpong, and can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels.

"Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country! The Parks and Recreation staff are kept busy by the sport's fanatics at our new courts at Atkinson Park.

There's always a match to watch and new faces to meet," said Commissioner Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Men's and women's doubles leagues are forming soon for the 2023 season. Registration will be open **April 12 to April 28.**



The cost for each league is \$20.00 per person and includes t-shirts and medals for first and second place winners in each division.

Intermediate and advanced league play will take place every Thursday evening from **May 4 to June 8**, with games taking place on the hour from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Senior league play will take place on Thursday afternoons

at 3:00pm. Participants must be available to play on June 8 for the championship (rain date is June 9). Participation is on a first come, first served basis.

There are 12 teams in each of the following divisions: Advanced Men, Advanced Women, Intermediate Men, Intermediate Women, Senior Men, and Senior Women.

At least one partner on each doubles team must live in Gloucester County. Each participant must register individually by scanning the QR code below or visiting <https://bit.ly/3l0SGHZ>.



GRAND OPENING OF THE VINTAGE MAGAZINE NOSTALGIA CENTER IN PAULSBORO

On March 25, Commissioner Denice DiCarlo, liaison to the Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs, Director Frank DiMarco, Commissioner Jim Jefferson, and Surrogate Joe Chila had the distinct honor of attending the grand opening of the Vintage Magazine Nostalgia Center (VMNC), located at 1460 Grandview Avenue in the Mid Atlantic Industrial Park in Paulsboro.

The Center has over 130,000 magazines dating back to 1900, all sorted by month, week, and year.

The Center's owner, Fran DiBacco, described the Center as a 10,000 square foot stroll down memory lane.



Nostalgia Center owner, Fran DiBacco receiving a certificate from the county.

KITTEN BABY SHOWER

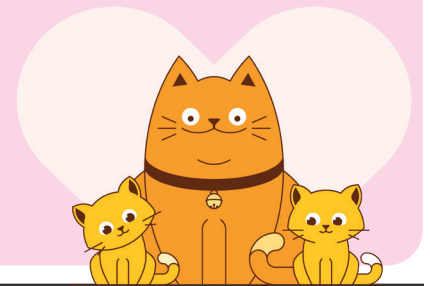
Help the Gloucester County Animal Shelter prepare for our upcoming kitten season! We will be caring for lots of orphaned kittens at different life stages. They require extra care and these items would benefit their growth and development.

Join us for our donation drive on **Saturday, April 29** from 12:00 pm to 2:00pm at the Gloucester County Animal Shelter, 1200 North Delsea Drive in Clayton. Donations of the following items are necessary, most of which can be purchased on Amazon and at retail pet stores.

Kitten Wish List

- Wet & Dry Kitten Food (Royal Canin Mother & Baby Cat brand) • Low rise bowls
- Fox Valley Kitten Formula Miracle nipples (mini) • Johnson's baby shampoo
- Bene-Bac Plus Pet Gel • Cat & kitten toys (wand toys & springs)
- Heating pads • Puppy pads • Cat nail clippers • Nutri-Cal
- Tomlyn L-Lysine Immune Support Powder

For more information, call (856) 881-2828 or online at <http://gloucestercountynj.gov>



Flat Budget (continued from Page 1)

increase for the State Health Benefits Plan, resulting in a cost increase for the County of \$3.6 million and a 15.21% increase in State Pension allocation, which translates to a cost increase of approximately \$2 million. Both of these increases were well above what was anticipated.

The budget presentation details the ways in which the Administration was able to hold spending flat despite these external challenges. These include reducing the size of government, a trend that the County has been

committed to since 2008 and has been able to achieve largely through attrition, implementing public-private partnerships to ensure effective and cost-efficient delivery of services, and utilizing contracted services and temporary employees to maximize flexibility.

Despite the flat budget, Director DiMarco emphasized that, "Administration and this Board will honor its commitment to not lay off employees and to maintain all collective bargaining agreements in their current form."

WIC OFFICE RELOCATES FROM PAULSBORO TO WEST DEPTFORD

The Gloucester County WIC division is excited to announce the opening of our new office location in West Deptford. The West Deptford location has replaced the services offered at the Paulsboro WIC office. The last day for client services in the Paulsboro location was Friday, March 31, and West Deptford opened for client services on Tuesday, April 4. Come visit us at: 115 Budd Boulevard, West Deptford, NJ 08086. The West Deptford office will continue to provide services Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 – 4:30. Call for more information or to schedule an appointment: (856) 423-7160.

Our Nursing division will continue to see participants

at this new location on the first and third Mondays of each month between the hours of 8:30AM-12:00PM. As a reminder, these services are for children without health insurance coverage. Immunizations and screenings for anemia and lead poisoning are provided to children aged 2 months to 6 years at no cost to the family. In addition, children in grades K through 12 can receive the immunizations required to attend school.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (856) 423-7160 or visit www.gloucestercountynj.com.

WALKING/YOGA CLASSES

Regular physical activity is one of the most important things you can do for your health. Being physically active can improve brain health, manage weight, reduce risk of disease, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve your ability to do everyday tasks.

Please join us for one of the following programs hosted by the Gloucester County Department of Health:

Step by Step Walking Program

Thompson Family Park 40 E. Wolfert Station Road Mickleton

11:00am-12:00pm April 25 | May 2 | May 9

Yoga In The Park

Atkinson Park 138 Bethel Mill Road, Sewell

10:00am-10:45am May 10 | May 17 | May 24 | May 31 | July 5 | July 12 | July 19 | July 26

Yoga on the River

Red Bank Battlefield 100 Hessian Avenue, National Park

10:00am-10:45am June 7 | June 14 | June 21 | June 28

For pre-registration please contact Carla Kephart at (856) 218-4106 or ckephart@co.gloucester.nj.us

Please bring your own yoga mat!

FREE RADON TEST KITS AVAILABLE

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. It is found throughout NJ and there is no way of telling how much is present in your home unless you test for radon.

Testing is easy and only takes a few minutes to perform. The Gloucester County of Health has free radon kits available. There is a limit of one per household, while supplies last.

If interested, please call: 856-218-4170.

All the news you need and more from Gloucester County |   GloucesterCountyNJ | www.GloucesterCountyNJ.gov

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 7th

9:00 AM- 11:30 AM: OPEN PLAY**11:30 AM- 12:30 PM: PICNIC LUNCH**
Bring Your Own Picnic**1:00 PM: MYSTERY MIXED DOUBLES**
TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS**1:30 PM: MYSTERY MIXED DOUBLES**
TOURNAMENT**REGISTER ONLINE**<https://bit.ly/PickleballGCNJ>James G. Atkinson Park
138 Bethel Mill Rd. Sewell, NJ
22 COURTS • GAMES • T-SHIRTS • MUSICGloucester County Board of Commissioners
Frank J. DiMarco, Director
Jim Jefferson, LiaisonGLOUCESTER COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/
ADA COMPLIANT GOVERNMENT AGENCYFor more information
gloucestercountynj.gov
(856) 251-6710

DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING

On **Tuesday, May 9**, from 9:30am to 12:00pm, the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services will hold a public hearing at the Deptford Senior Center, located at 1341 Tanyard Road in Sewell. This is a great opportunity for County residents aged 60 and above to hear directly about the programs and services that are available to them from the Division. Attendees will also be encouraged to provide feedback on current services and suggestions for future programming.

For more information, please call the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services at (856) 384-6900, email seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us, or visit our website at <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/303/Seniors>.

WOMEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT BREAKFAST

Recently, the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office hosted the Women in Law Enforcement Breakfast. Deputy Director Heather Simmons gave keynote remarks and spent the morning engaging with these talented and committed public servants. Director Frank DiMarco and Commissioner Jim Jefferson also attended the event. We appreciate and thank all law enforcement for their time and dedication in protecting the residents of Gloucester County.



GLOUCESTER COUNTY SUMMER SENIOR PICNIC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31ST - 11:00AM - 3:00PM

RAIN DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST

JAMES G. ATKINSON PARK

138 BETHEL MILL RD. SEWELL, NJ 08080

Tickets On Sale - \$2 each WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Get your tickets at Division of Senior Services

115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford, NJ 08096

Or any of the Senior Nutrition Sites

**Sponsored by
the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners**

Frank J. DiMarco - Director

Jim Jefferson - Liaison

Open to Gloucester County Residents 60 YEARS AND OLDER

Questions?

**Contact the Division of Senior Services
(856) 384-6900 or seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us**



GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. DiMarco, *Director*

Heather Simmons, *Deputy Director*

Lyman Barnes

Denice DiCarlo

Nicholas DeSilvio

Jim Jefferson

Christopher Konawel Jr.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

Commissioner Jim Jefferson advises you to stay on top of your health with free screenings offered by the County. "Getting recommended screenings is one of the most important things you can do for your health. They allow health professionals to check for conditions or diseases before a person may exhibit any signs or symptoms of a disease or health issue," noted Director DiMarco. The Public Health Nurses from the Gloucester County Department of Health will provide free blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings at the County Store in the Deptford Mall from 10:00am to 12:00pm on the following Fridays:

May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4,

Regular monitoring of blood pressure aids in the early detection of heart disease. Healthy individuals over 50 should be screened for diabetes and elevated cholesterol every one to two years depending on risk factors. Talk with your healthcare providers about what tests are best for you.

MOBILE HEALTH OUTREACH VANS

The Gloucester County Health Department is excited about bringing our services to our residents. Using two new mobile health outreach vans, we will deliver a variety of services such as health screenings, health education, harm reduction, and vaccinations. These mobile vans will improve access to our essential services in the community; as we strive for "Building a Healthier Gloucester County". Watch for us in the community!



♻️ Please recycle our newsletter after use- thank you for doing your part! ♻️

The County of Gloucester complies with all state and federal rules and regulations against discrimination in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, and activities. In addition, the County encourages participation of people with disabilities in its programs and activities and offers special services to all residents 60 years of age and older. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the County's ADA Coordinator at (856) 384-6842/ New Jersey Relay Service 711.

18TH ANNUAL "BIG" SHREDDING EVENT

On **Saturday, June 17**, from 8:00am to 11:00am, Gloucester County will hold its 18th annual "Big Shredding" event at the Gloucester County Complex, located at 1200 North Delsea Drive, Clayton. This event is open to Gloucester County residents only. Each resident is limited to a total of 75 pounds, spread over no more than (3) boxes or plastic tote containers, that will be immediately returned to the resident. No items will be accepted in plastic bags and no old newspapers, magazines, binder clips or three ring binders can be shredded.

For more information please contact Chelsea Lippincott at (856) 218-4101 or clippincott@co.gloucester.nj.us

SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY

On **Tuesday, May 16**, Gloucester County Board of Commissioners will host a free breakfast and health fair for seniors. The event will take place from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Auletto Caterers, located at 1849 Cooper Street, Deptford, NJ, 08096.

There will be two seatings for the breakfast, at 9:00am or 10:30am. After breakfast, guests can visit the health fair, which will include screenings for diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure, feet, bone density, eyes, stroke, and balance. Free tickets are available at the Senior Offices Center, located at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford, or at any of the six senior nutrition sites located throughout the County. You must be a resident of Gloucester County, aged 60+ to attend.

For more information, please contact the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services at (856) 384-6900, email seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us, or visit <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/303/seniors>.