

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT FLAT BUDGET FOR FY 2023

Board of Commissioners Keeps Commitment by Adopting Flat Budget

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 a 7.2 cent county tax rate cut.

The budget includes the following highlights:

- Keeps spending flat at 2022 levels
- Cuts the County Tax Rate by 7.2 cents, a third year in a row
- Eliminated 488 positions since 2008 for a savings of over \$39 million in salary and benefits
- Regionalized correctional services (males, females, and juveniles) over the past decade, which saved over \$35 million dollars a year from the annual budget and over \$245 million dollars since closing our jail facilities
- Maintained our strong infrastructure investment into maintaining our County road system – over \$23 million dollars supported through state aid and federal grants that we secured
- Continued our commitment to affordable education and infrastructure improvements at our County College, County Institute of Technology, and Special Services School District by opening two new academic buildings – (1) Advanced Manufacturing, and (2) Allied Health, which was supported through state and County funds



To view the Fiscal Year 2023 budget presentation, please visit gloucestercountynj.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_03152023-259 or scan the QR code.



SUMMER EVENTS IN FULL SWING

Commissioner Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Parks and Recreation, reminds residents that the County's summer event season is underway and there is still plenty for all residents to enjoy! "In addition to successful special events such as Waterfest, Family History Day/Navy Day, Butterfly Festival, Moth Night, and International Food & Beer Crafters Festival, our Movies in the Park, Summer Concerts, and Family Fun Shows have all been



Commissioner Jim Jefferson and Surrogate Joe Chila attended the County's annual Waterfest event at Scotland Run Park.

big hits," noted Commissioner Jefferson. "The great thing is that there are still plenty more events to enjoy this summer and they're all FREE to attend!"



OUTDOOR YOGA CONTINUES

The new "Yoga on the River" and "Yoga in the Park" classes presented by the Gloucester County Department of Health have proven to be very popular with residents, and there are plenty more chances to participate!

These free, beginner-level classes can help you relax and improve your well-being. Participants should bring their own mat.

"Yoga on the River" classes are held at Red Bank Battlefield, located at 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park, while "Yoga in the Park" takes place at Scotland Run Park, 980 East Academy Street in Clayton.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Gather the family, grab a blanket and catch a free movie!

- Friday, August 18
The Mitchells vs. The Machines
Franklin Township Sports Complex,
500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Franklinville
- Monday, August 21
Shrek
Scotland Run Park,
980 East Academy Street, Clayton
- Wednesday, August 23
The Bad Guys
National Park Ballfields,
700 St. Johns Walk, National Park
- Friday, August 25
Minions: The Rise of Gru
Sunset Auditorium, Laurel Avenue, Pitman
- Friday, September 1
Sing 2
Ella Harris Park, 155 Commissioners Road,
Mullica Hill

All shows begin at dusk (approximately 8:00-8:30pm). Unless otherwise noted, the rain date for each movie will be the next day. For rainout information, please call (856) 251-6738 after 6:00pm on the day of the show.

Yoga on the River: Red Bank Battlefield

- Tuesday, August 15
- Tuesday, August 22
- Tuesday, August 29
- Tuesday, September 5
- Tuesday, September 12
- Thursday, September 21
- Tuesday, September 26

Yoga in the Park: Scotland Run Park

- Wednesday, August 23
- Wednesday, September 6
- Wednesday, September 20

All classes are from 10:00am to 10:45am. Pre-registration is required. To register, please email ckephart@co.gloucester.nj.us or call (856) 218-4106.

SUMMER CONCERTS

With a broad variety of genres, the County's series of free concerts offers something for everyone!

- **Fabulous Silver Wings**
Saturday, August 12 - 7:00pm
(Rain Date: Sunday, August 13)
James G Atkinson Park, 138 Bethel Mill Road, Sewell
- **Kingston Brothers**
Saturday, August 19 - 7:00pm
(Rain Date: Sunday, August 20)
James G Atkinson Memorial Park, 138 Bethel Mill Road, Sewell
- **Exit 2**
Saturday, August 26 - 1:00pm
(Rain or shine)
Fasola Park, 12 Sycamore Lane, Deptford
- **Invasion 65**
Friday, September 1 - 6:00pm
(Rain or shine)
Rowan Boulevard, Glassboro

For additional information regarding the Summer Concerts, please visit <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/1083/Concerts-2023> or scan the QR code.

For rainout information, please call (856) 251-6738 after 4:00pm on the day of the show.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT SENIOR PICNIC



On Tuesday, September 19 (rain date Wednesday, September 20) from 11:00am to 3:00pm, the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners will sponsor its annual Senior Picnic at Red Bank Battlefield, located at 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park. The day will be filled with lunch, music, dance contests, entertainment, and more.

Tickets for the Senior Picnic are \$2 and will be on sale while supplies last beginning Wednesday, August 9 at the Division of Senior Services, located at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford, and at all of the County's senior nutrition sites. Attendees must be Gloucester County residents at least 60 years of age.

For more information about the Senior Picnic, please call (856) 384-6900 or email seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us.

FAMILY FUN SHOWS

Children and families are invited to sing-a-long, dance-a-long and have fun!

Each of these free shows begins at 10:30am and lasts approximately 45 minutes.

- **Kid's Fun Magician**
August 17
Fasola Park, 12 Sycamore Lane, Deptford
- **Yosi - Beach Party**
August 23
Dream Park, 400 US-130, Logan Township

FALL FAMILY FUN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Gloucester County's Family History Day and Fall Gardening Festival will take place on **Sunday, September 17** from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at Red Bank Battlefield, located at 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park.

This rain or shine event is free to attend and will feature gardening classes, a plant sale, colonial demonstrators, vendors, and crafts.

For more information, call (856) 853-5120.



FIRST PROJECT SEARCH CLASS GRADUATES

Commissioner Director Frank J. DiMarco, Deputy Director Heather Simmons, and Commissioner Jim Jefferson were on hand as students/interns Shaun Arline, Marcus Fennimore, Paris Miles, John (Luke) Onufer, and Connor Peterson became Gloucester County's first graduating Project SEARCH class.

Project SEARCH, which is organized through Gloucester County's Division of Human and Special Services, is a nine-month internship program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is targeted to individuals whose goal is competitive employment. The program takes place in a healthcare, government, or business setting where total immersion in the workplace facilitates the teaching and learning process as well as the acquisition of employability and marketable work skills.

Interns participate in three internships to explore a variety of career paths. The interns work with a team that includes their family, an instructor, and local and state agencies to create an employment goal. The program is excited to announce that there are seven incoming students/interns for the 2023/2024 school year.



To be eligible for the program, applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 21, have a documented disability (IEP), be eligible for DVRS services, complete all credit requirements for graduation, and be entering their last year of high school or high school eligibility.

For more information about Project SEARCH, including an informational video and program application, as well as other programs and services available through the Gloucester County Division of Human and Special Services, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/163/Human-Special-Services> or scan the QR code.



REENTRY JOB FAIR & WORKSHOPS

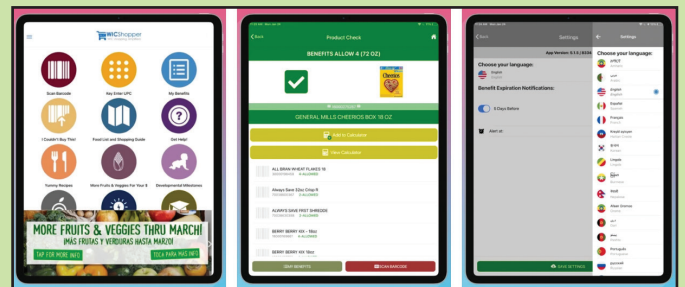
Deputy Director Heather Simmons, liaison to the Department of Economic Development, has announced that the Gloucester County Reentry Job and Resource Fair will take place on **Friday, September 15** from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) Gymnasium, located at 1400 Tanyard Road in Sewell.

Deputy Director Simmons noted, "The Reentry Job Fair gives employers and job seekers the opportunity to meet and to find out if they are a match. All job seekers are welcome to attend and should be prepared for the possibility of an immediate interview!"

Jobseekers are encouraged to prepare for the job fair by learning tips and tricks at a free workshop provided by RCSJ. These workshops will take place at RCSJ's Career and Technical Education Building, Room 801, located at 1492 Tanyard Road in Sewell on **Wednesday, September 6** from 1:00pm to 2:30pm and **Thursday, September 7** from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

Registration is required for the workshops. To register, or for more information, please call (856) 415-2216.

DOWNLOAD THE WIC SHOPPER APP



The WIC Office reminds clients to download the free WIC Shopper app to keep track of monthly benefits. Be sure to select New Jersey WIC when registering your eWIC card. Clients can view future benefits and keep WIC appointments so that they never experience a lapse in benefits and can also sign up for benefit expiration reminders in the app.

For more information and to download the WIC Shopper app, please visit www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/ewic/participant_ewic.shtml or scan the QR code.



VETERANS CEMETERY OFFERS HONOR AND DIGNITY

The Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located in Williamstown (Monroe Township) provides a final resting place for veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents. The cemetery serves as a place of healing and commemoration for veterans' families, friends, visitors, and service attendees.

Internment at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery is open to:

- All veterans from Gloucester County who have served Active Duty (except for training purposes) in the Armed Services of the United States during wartime or peacetime, and who were discharged under conditions other than Dishonorable, Undesirable, Other Than Honorable, Bad Conduct, or Uncharacterized
- Merchant Marine Veterans from Gloucester County who served during World War II
- Gloucester County veterans who have served in a National Guard or Reserve component of the Armed Services and who have earned full retirement benefits for years of service
- Members of the regular Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves who are Gloucester County residents and who are disabled or have died from wounds, accident, or illness incurred while performing their military duties



Once a veteran is approved for internment, their spouse is also eligible for burial in the Cemetery, as does any dependent child under the age of 21 or any child who becomes disabled before the age of 21.

Pre-registration for internment is required. To learn more about the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and how to pre-register for internment, please visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov/286/Veterans-Memorial-Cemetery or scan the QR code.

You can also call the Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs at (856) 401-7660, email vets@co.gloucester.nj.us, or stop by the Office, which is located at 211 County House Road in Sewell.



WIC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program is a benefit for eligible WIC clients that runs from June 1 through November 30. The program provides eligible WIC clients a one-time \$30 electronic cash benefit that can be used at participating local farms to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables.

The program has been updated this year to deliver electronic benefits via QR code, rather than checks. QR codes are issued at appointments from June through October. Clients seen for appointments in the office will receive a printed code and clients completing NJWICONLINE will be emailed a code.

All clients can log into the NJ WIC Participant Portal to retrieve their QR code.



For more information on the NJ WIC Farmers Market Program and for a list of participating farmers in Gloucester County, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/687/WIC-Resources> or scan the QR code.



GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. DiMarco, *Director*

Heather Simmons, *Deputy Director*

Lyman Barnes

Nicholas DeSilvio

Denice DiCarlo

Jim Jefferson

Christopher Konawel Jr.

WIC ONLINE PARTICIPANT PORTAL

Did you know New Jersey WIC has an online participant portal? The portal allows new clients to register and request an appointment. Existing clients can register for the portal and view health information, upcoming appointments, upload certification documents (identification, proof of address, proof of income, medical documentation forms, etc.), find a nearby WIC office, check benefit start and end dates, find WIC approved stores near you and retrieve a Farmers Market QR code.

Sign up today for the NJ WIC Participant Portal at <https://wic.nj.gov/participantportal> or scan the QR code.

For information about WIC or to schedule an appointment, please call (856) 218-4116, visit the participant portal, or email gcwic@co.gloucester.nj.us.



GLOUCESTER COUNTY SEEKS VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES



The Gloucester County Department of Economic Development invites all Veteran entrepreneurs to register their businesses for an exciting opportunity in the Wind Industry. The department is compiling a database of Veteran-owned businesses in the county due to recent interest from representatives of the Wind Industry who are looking to collaborate with Veteran-owned enterprises for subcontracting and bidding opportunities. The Wind Industry, recognizing the valuable contributions and experiences that Veterans bring to the table, is set to prioritize partnerships with these businesses for various services, trades, and general conditions.

If you are a Veteran business owner in Gloucester County simply contact the Gloucester County Department of Economic Development at 856-384-6930.

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To scan the QR Code: Open up the camera app on your smartphone and point to the QR Code. Click the notification on your screen to open the website on your phone.



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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.