

Summer Newsletter 2022

Senior Happenings



Gloucester County Division of Senior Services, 115 Budd Boulevard, West Deptford, NJ 08096



**Department of Health
and Human Services**

**Division of
Senior Services**

115 Budd Boulevard
West Deptford, NJ 08096

phone: (856) 384-6900

email: seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us

www.GloucesterCountyNJ.gov

**Gloucester County Board
of Commissioners**

Frank J. DiMarco, Director
Jim Jefferson, Liaison

New Jersey 2022 Farmers Market Program

The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners is offering vouchers to income eligible seniors to buy fresh produce at designated local farmers markets beginning in June.



The Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program provides coupons to income eligible seniors over the age of 60 to purchase locally grown fresh fruit, vegetables, and herbs from local farmers. Income guidelines are: a household of one monthly gross income of up to \$2,096, and a household of two monthly gross income of \$2,823. Proof of Gloucester County residency and income is required. Income limits took effect on July 1, 2022 and will last until June 30, 2023.

Supplies are limited. Contact the Division of Senior Services office at (856) 384-6900 for more information.

Dates to Remember

September 20th

Senior Picnic

(rain date Sept. 21st)

Tickets on Sale - August 17

**December 6th, December 7th,
December 13th, & December 14th**

Senior Holiday Parties

Staying Healthy

The Glassboro Senior Center offers physical activities and socialization made possible by funding through our Area Plan Grant and the Older Americans Act. Activities are available to seniors from any Gloucester County Municipality.

The center offers outdoor activities such as Zumba, Tai Chi, yoga, meditation, bingo, and "Let's Get Fit" chair exercises. Indoor activities include craft classes.

Please call (856) 881-8504, ext. 3 for more information or visit the center's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GlassboroSeniorCenter.

Keeping Cool

Prolonged heat and humidity can present a serious health hazard, especially for young children, the elderly, and persons taking certain medications. To avoid health complications from excessive heat, the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services recommends:

- **If you do not have air-conditioning, spend time in air-conditioned places such as libraries, movies, malls, or other public buildings during the hottest hours of the day.**
- **Make sure children and the elderly are drinking water, and ensure that persons with mobility problems have adequate fluids in easy reach.**
- **Talk to your health care provider about any medicine or drugs you are taking. Certain medications can increase the risk of heat-related illness.**
- **Don't leave children, elderly, a person with a disability, or pets in an enclosed car as temperatures can quickly climb to dangerous levels.**
- **Wear loose and light-colored clothing. Wear a hat when outdoors.**
- **Reduce physical activity or reschedule it for cooler times of the day.**
- **Drink plenty of water or other non-alcoholic beverages.**

Energy Assistance

Do you need help with your home energy bills? The State of New Jersey offers programs that can help. **Call (856) 384-6900 for more information.**

- Universal Service Fund (USF) is a program that helps low-income households pay for their electric and natural gas costs. To be eligible for USF, your household must: 1) Be income eligible and 2) spend more than three percent of household income on gas and/ or electricity; (or spend more than six percent of household income on electric heating). Applications are accepted any time of the year.
- The Lifeline Utility Assistance Program is for eligible low-income senior citizens and the disabled. Lifeline benefits help eligible homeowners and renters with electric and natural gas costs
- Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE) grants help gas and electric customers prevent disconnection of service or restore service.
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program that helps low-income households pay for heating costs (includes: electric, natural gas, oil, and other deliverable fuels). Even if your heat is included in your rent, you may qualify. LIHEAP grants are also available for medically necessary cooling costs. Applications are accepted from October 1 through June 30 each year.

Adopt at GCAS

Pets are great company for seniors! The Gloucester County Animal Shelter always has animals looking for their forever homes. Whether it's a dog, cat, bunny, guinea pig, or even a bird, GCAS makes adoption easy and affordable.

ADOPTION COSTS:

Cats & dogs, 5 years and younger: \$35

Cats & dogs, 6 years and older: FREE

ADOPTION HOURS:

Monday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

For more information, visit: www.gloucestercountynj.gov, call (856) 881-2828 or email gcas@co.gloucester.nj.us.



Pictured: Director DiMarco with Diesel from GCAS

Senior Citizen Picnic

The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners will sponsor their annual Senior Citizen Picnic on September 20th (rain date September 21st) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Redbank Battlefield in National Park.

Lunch, music, entertainment, and dance contests will be presented throughout the day.

Tickets are \$2 and will go on sale at the Division of Senior Services at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford on August 17th. Please note that in order to attend this event, you must be a Gloucester County resident and be at least 60 years of age. **Call (856) 384-6900 for more information.**



Commissioner Jim Jefferson at the 2021 Senior Picnic

Apply for the Gloucester County Military Service Medal

The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners commissioned the Gloucester County Service Medal in 2001 as a way to honor our veteran residents. Over 5,900 Military Service Medals have been presented since the medal was commissioned. The medal is available to Gloucester County Veterans who have served on active duty in the military and received an honorable discharge.

Apply today by filling out the form on our website at bit.ly/GCServiceMedal or by calling the Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs at (856) 401-7660.



Commissioner Denice DiCarlo, liaison to the Division of Senior Services, Director Frank J. DiMarco and Commissioner Jim Jefferson, liaison to Senior Services, at the 2022 Gloucester County Memorial Day Ceremony

Don't Be a Victim of Fraud - Know About Consumer Protection

Senior citizens are targeted more frequently by financial fraud and scams than any other age group. Today's seniors are prime targets of fraudsters for several reasons, starting with their financial assets. Members of this generation are most likely to have a substantial "nest egg," own their homes, or have excellent credit. Moreover, seniors are less likely to report a fraud, either because they don't know who to report it to, are too ashamed at having been scammed, or don't know they have been victimized. One of the biggest reasons seniors fall prey to fraudsters is that they are simply less likely to be aware of the latest scams making their way across the nation and around the state. **For more information, visit FightingFraud.NJ.gov or call the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-242-5846.**

Call for Volunteers

Would you like to give back to your community? Volunteer at Gloucester County Senior Services!

We are in need of volunteers for a variety of opportunities at the Division of Senior Services at 115 Budd Blvd. in West Deptford.

If interested, or if you would like more information about these volunteer opportunities, please call (856) 686-8330.



www.GloucesterCountyNJ.gov

Gloucester County Board of Commissioners

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Division of Senior Services

Eric M. Fisher, Executive Director

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seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us

The Division of Senior Services is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Services are available to all residents of Gloucester County who are 60 years of age and older, regardless of race, color, or national origin in compliance with Title III of the Older Americans Act.

Stuck at Home? Would You Like to Get a Call From a New Friend?

Gloucester County AmeriCorps Seniors Reassurance Caller Program provides a volunteer that will call you at least 2 times a week to provide support and company. There is no cost for this program!



Give us a call to sign up at (856) 468-1742.

Emergency Rental Assistance



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Gloucester County has received funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide rental relief to landlords and tenants through the Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program (ERAP). Gloucester County will provide rental households financial assistance for unpaid rent* and/or utility bills due to impact of COVID-19.

An eligible household may receive up to twelve (12) months of assistance (plus an additional three (3) months if necessary to ensure housing stability for the household, subject to the availability of funds, but not to exceed 18 months total assistance).

Visit website for details:
www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1224/Emergency-Rental-Assistance

*Fair Market Rents will be applied for certain eligible households.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Selected households must meet the following eligibility criteria to qualify for assistance:

- Qualify for unemployment or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due, **directly or indirectly**, to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Have a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income
- Have a lack of assets and savings to pay rent arrears or current and future rent
- Be a Gloucester County resident
- Obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO APPLY:



Residents that need assistance while applying can call our call center at 856-336-3700.

Gloucester County Board of Commissioners

Frank J. DiMarco, Director
Heather Simmons, Deputy Director



Gloucester County is an Equal Opportunity/ ADA Compliant Government Agency

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.