

Gloucester County Today

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

County Tax Rate Falls for Fourth Consecutive Year

Gloucester County Board of Commissioners Keeps Spending Flat Since 2022

Gloucester County Commissioner Director Frank J. DiMarco has announced that the County's portion of the 2024 tax bill has fallen for the fourth consecutive year, down to 46.98 cents from 2023's rate of 53.04 cents, for a total decrease of 6.06 cents. Since 2020, the tax rate has fallen 18.73 cents to the lowest tax rate for the County in over 30 years.

Residents are reminded that their tax bill has many components: School Tax, Municipal Tax, County Tax, and Open Space (Farmland Preservation Tax – County and/or Municipal), as well as a Fire District and/or Library Tax as applicable in your municipality. The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners only controls the County portion.

In addition to the four-year tax rate decrease, Gloucester County has kept its spending plan flat since 2022, reflecting a pledge made at that time by Director DiMarco. Much of the savings has been achieved through attrition. Since 2008, the County has eliminated 500 positions, for a total savings of over \$39 million.

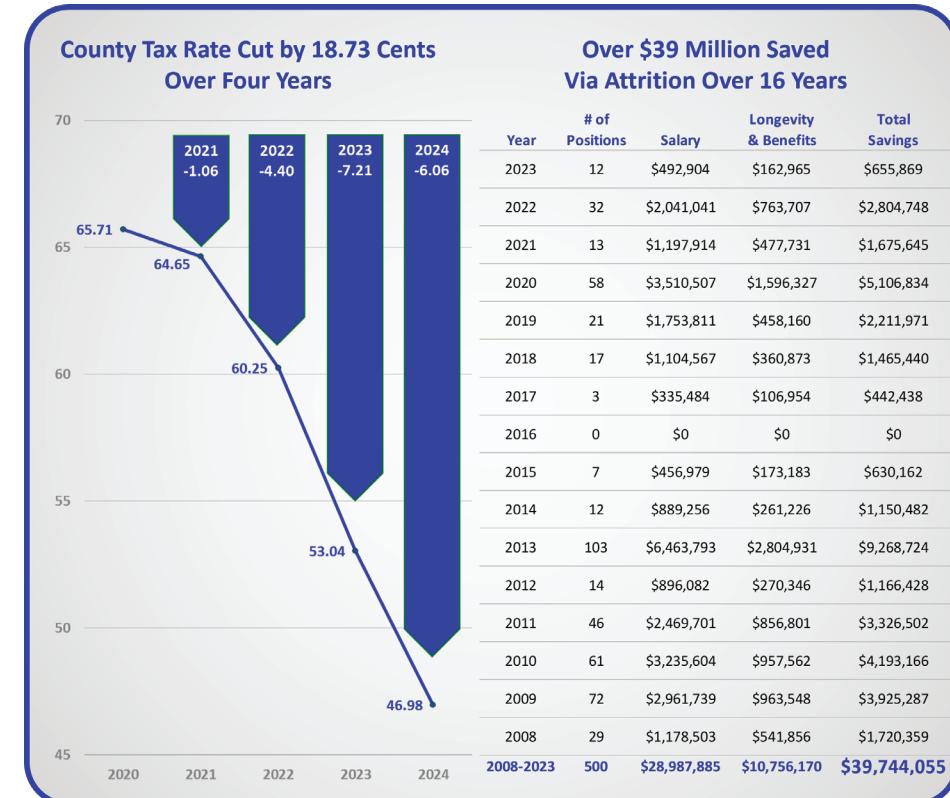
Deputy Director of the Board of Commissioners Jim Jefferson noted, "We have communicated to our Administrative Team the importance of delivering a tax reduction and flat spending without any cuts to the level of services our residents currently receive, including maintaining

services to emergency responders, seniors, veterans, and our special needs community."

In approving the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the Board noted that the County has continued to maintain a healthy financial position and operations. Reserves - which affect the County's bond rating - continue to grow, standing at \$92.3 million as of December 31, 2023. Liquidity is healthy and 2023 interest income of \$8.4 million exceeded projections. The County

continues to seek grant funding for capital projects in order to reduce long-term borrowing and is current on all pension obligations.

To view the Fiscal Year 2024 budget presentation, please visit https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_03202024-437 or scan the QR code.



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2024 FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM

Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Health, reminds residents that the County offers free flu vaccination clinics to help keep our families healthy during flu season. In announcing the 2024 program, Deputy Director Jefferson highlighted the convenience offered to residents in getting their flu shot:

- Drive-through clinics help those citizens who have difficulty walking or standing in lines get their shot as well as a measure to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses.
- Designated preschool/daycare/family clinics are scheduled for families with children 18 years and younger. All family members can get vaccinated at the same time.
- Clinics are scheduled on weekdays, weekends, and during evening hours.

Annual vaccination is the best way to protect yourself against the flu. Getting a flu vaccine this fall will be more important than ever, not only to reduce your risk from flu but also to help conserve healthcare resources.

Gloucester County follows The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation and provides influenza vaccine for all persons aged 6 months and over. Vaccine flu viruses are chosen to maximize the likelihood that the influenza vaccine will protect against the viruses most likely to spread and cause illness among people during the upcoming flu season. The trivalent seasonal flu vaccines being offered this year include:

- Egg-based vaccines (Afluria, Fluarix, FluLaval, FluZone, FluZone High Dose, Fluad, Flumist)
- Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines (Flucelvax & Flublok)

Please note that the County does not carry every type of flu vaccine formulation. If you need a specific formulation you can speak to your healthcare provider or a pharmacy to check availability. If a specific flu vaccine is not available in your area, don't delay! Vaccination with any available influenza vaccine is recommended and will still provide protection. For more information about this year's flu vaccine formulations, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

Some people should only receive their flu vaccine from their doctor. These include individuals who:

- Are allergic to eggs or any vaccine component
- Are on immunosuppressive therapy (cancer treatment or steroid therapy)
- Have multiple sclerosis, previous attacks of GBS, or other recurring or persistent neurological illness.

Please carefully review the details below, including information about flu shot registration, children and flu shots, and helpful tips when attending a flu shot clinic. To register or for more information regarding flu shots, please visit www.glocestercountynj.gov/334/Influenza, scan the QR code, or call (856) 218-4102.



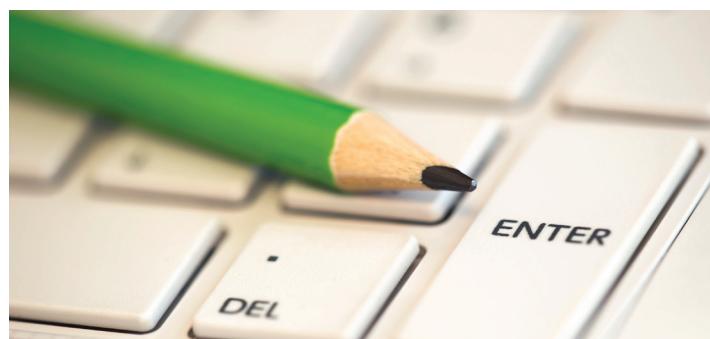
Registering for Your Flu Shot

Registration for this year's flu shot program is 100% electronic with no paper forms and pre-registration is strongly recommended. Please register and complete a flu consent form prior to coming to one of the flu clinics by visiting <https://gloucester.medicatconnect.com/carerrequest.aspx> or scanning the QR code.

- This is an official electronic medical record, so please use your official name not a nickname.
- When asked if you have ever been here before, it means have you ever received any services from the Gloucester County Health Department, whether onsite or at a community location. If you say yes and it returns you back to the question, it is because your information is not matching with a record in the system. If you are 100% sure you have been here before, please call (856) 218-4151 for assistance. This will be faster and will not create a duplicate record in the system. If you've never received any services from the Gloucester County

Health Department, please click no and complete the entire form (do not leave any blanks) and submit, then complete your consent form.

- No access to a computer? Not to worry. You can register when you arrive at the clinic, but the process will take a little longer.



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Flu Clinic Schedule

Thursday, October 3

4:00pm - 5:30pm
 Riverwinds Community Center
 1000 Riverwinds Drive
 West Deptford

Saturday, October 5

9:00am - 11:00am
Drive-through clinic
 Clayton County Complex
 1200 North Delsea Drive
 Clayton

Monday, October 7

11:00am - 12:00pm
 Gibbstown VFW
 743 West Broad Street
 Gibbstown

Monday, October 7

4:30pm - 6:30pm
Drive-through clinic
 Woolwich Fire Department
 Substation
 120 Woodstown Road
 Woolwich Township

Thursday, October 10

5:00pm - 6:30pm
Drive-through clinic
 Gloucester County Fleet
 Management
 (Public Works Bays)
 45 Lenape Avenue
 Mantua

Saturday, October 12

10:00am - 11:30am
 Pitman United Methodist
 Church
 758 North Broadway
 Pitman

Monday, October 14

12:00pm - 3:00pm
**Daycare/preschool/family
 clinic**
 Gloucester County Health
 Department
 204 East Holly Avenue
 Sewell

Monday, October 14

3:30pm - 5:00pm
**Daycare/preschool/family
 clinic**
 Second Baptist Church
 1540 Swedesboro Avenue
 Paulsboro

Thursday, October 17

5:00pm - 6:30pm
 Monroe Township Public
 Library
 713 Marsha Avenue
 Williamstown

Saturday, October 19

9:00am - 10:30am
 Gloucester County Library
 389 Wolfert Station Road
 Mullica Hill

Monday, October 21

4:30pm - 6:00pm
 Gloucester County Institute of
 Technology
 1360 Tanyard Road
 Sewell

Tuesday, October 22

4:00pm - 5:30pm
 Samuel Mickle School
 559 Kings Highway
 Mickleton

Wednesday, October 23

11:30am - 2:30pm
 Rowan University
 Esby Gymnasium
 300 North Campus Drive
 Glassboro

Thursday, October 24

5:00pm - 6:30pm
Drive-through clinic
 Clayton County Complex
 1200 North Delsea Drive
 Clayton

Monday, October 28

4:00pm - 5:30pm
 Woodbury High School
 25 North Broad Street
 Woodbury

Tuesday, October 29

5:00pm - 6:30pm
Drive-through clinic
 Woolwich Fire Department
 Substation
 120 Woodstown Road
 Woolwich Township

Helpful Tips

- Flu shots are available to Gloucester County residents only, proof of residency is required. Please have your ID (driver's license) ready upon entering a clinic.
- Register and complete a flu consent form prior to coming to the clinic.
- Wear clothes which will permit you to easily expose your dominant (shot) arm.
- If you need proof that you received the flu vaccine you will be able to obtain your record from the Docket app. We no longer provide paper receipts.
- Keep your belongings with you at all times.
- Clinics will begin and end as scheduled.
- For drive-through clinics, remember to place your car in park when you arrive at the nurse.
- Please do not bring your dog along to a drive-through clinic, for your protection and the safety of our staff.
- Covering coughs and sneezes coupled with frequent and thorough hand washing combats many diseases, especially during flu season.

Children and the Flu Vaccine

- Special scheduled preschool/daycare/family clinics to allow the entire family to be vaccinated at one time.
- For everyone's safety, it is not recommended to bring children to the drive-through clinics. If they cannot sit still for their shot we will not vaccinate them in the drive-through.
- Children under the age of nine years receiving flu immunization for the first time need two shots. The second shot should be given one month after the first shot.
- Preschool children attending a licensed day care facility must have received their flu immunization before December 31, 2024 to be eligible to attend daycare in 2025.
- Please do not send your child with a family member who is not their legal guardian. Children ages six months through 17 years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and the consent form must be signed by the parent or guardian.

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VETERANS JOB FAIR



Commissioner Denice DiCarlo, liaison to the Office of Veterans Affairs, invites all veterans to attend the 2024 Gloucester County Veterans Job Fair, which will take place on **Wednesday, October 2** from 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Gloucester County Library - Mullica Hill Branch, located at 389 Wolfert Station Road

in Mullica Hill. Whether you're actively seeking employment, considering a career change, or simply curious about available opportunities, this event is designed to meet your needs. Attend to take advantage of:

- Networking with veteran-friendly employers
- Resources tailored to veterans
- Advice on resumes and interview techniques

This event is open to all veterans and their families, so don't miss out on this great opportunity! Mark your calendars and spread the word!

For more information regarding the 2024 Gloucester County Veterans Job Fair, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/267/Veterans-Affairs>, scan the QR code, or call the Office of Veterans Affairs at (856) 401-7660.



POW/MIA CHAIR DEDICATION

On June 22, 2024, Commissioner Denice DiCarlo, Liaison to Gloucester County Veterans Affairs, alongside Director Frank J. DiMarco, Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, Commissioner Joann Gattinelli, Commissioner Matt Weng, and Bob Jonas, Director of the Gloucester County Veteran Office, participated in the Gloucester County POW/MIA Chair Dedication at the Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

The Board of County Commissioners extends a heartfelt thank you to IBEW Local 827 Southern Unit and Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 for gifting the POW/MIA Chair to the Gloucester County Veteran Information Center, and to Ed Crabtree, Vice President of Rolling Thunder Chapter 2, who dedicated the chair.

Director DiMarco remarked, "As we dedicate this POW/MIA Chair, it serves as a powerful symbol of remembrance and honor for our Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action — our courageous servicemen and women who have made unimaginable sacrifices for our nation. For the families of more than 80,000 service members still missing in action, today we come together to ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten. This empty chair stands as a constant reminder of their absence and a reflection on the courage, dedication, and selflessness of those who have served and those who are still missing. Let us also remember their families and the sacrifices they too have made. May this chair stand as a beacon of hope and a symbol of our unwavering commitment to never cease our efforts until all our service members are brought home."

In Commissioner DiCarlo's closing remarks, she emphasized the importance of remembering those who are missing. Each year, we can now gather as a community for National



Ed Crabtree, Vice President of Rolling Thunder Chapter 2, Commissioner Denice DiCarlo, Director Frank DiMarco, Commissioner Matt Weng, and Commissioner Joann Gattinelli pictured with the newly dedicated POW/MIA Chair.

POW/MIA Recognition Day to honor our prisoners of war and those missing in action. Observed on the third Friday of September each year (this year falling on **Friday, September 20**), this day honors American POWs and MIAs and recognizes the families of those who have suffered due to their loved ones' absence.

The POW/MIA Chair, inscribed with a dedication, can be visited at the Information Center located at Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 240 Tuckahoe Road in Williamstown. The cemetery is open from dawn to dusk.

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SENIOR HALLOWEEN PARTIES

Gloucester County seniors, get ready for some spooky fall fun! Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services, proudly announces the dates for the upcoming Senior Halloween Parties. This year's parties will take place at two different locations. The first party, on **Wednesday, October 23**, will take place at Scotland Run Country Club in Williamstown, and the second on **Thursday, October 24** at Scarpinato's Cucina & Catering in Washington Township. Both parties will take place from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Tickets are required and must be purchased in advance. A limited number of tickets will be available to Gloucester County residents aged 60+ for \$2.00 each beginning Monday, September 23. Tickets can be purchased at the Division of Senior Services office, located at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford, or at any of the Senior Nutrition Sites throughout the county during their hours of operation and while supplies last.



Party-goers strut their stuff at the 2023 Senior Halloween Party

For more information, please contact the Division of Senior Services at (856) 384-6900 or email seniors@co.goucester.nj.us.

MICROCHIP MANIA

Director Frank J. DiMarco, liaison to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS), has announced the next Microchip Mania event, which provides residents with a convenient opportunity to microchip and vaccinate their pets at a discounted price. "If your dog or cat is ever lost, having them microchipped is the best way to help ensure their swift, safe return," noted Director DiMarco.

Microchip Mania will be held at GCAS, located at 1200 North Delsea Drive in Clayton on **Saturday, September 21**, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Vaccinations for distemper and bordetella are also available, along with flea and tick preventative medication.

Fees for microchipping and vaccination are as follows:

- Microchip \$30
- Distemper (dog/cat) \$15
- Bordetella (dog) \$15
- Flea & Tick (dog/cat, one month) \$30

These fees can be paid with cash or with a debit or credit card. Checks are not accepted. GCAS respectfully asks that dogs not be on retractable leashes and strongly discourages body harnesses for this event.

Please note that appointments are not required. For more information about Microchip Mania, please contact the Gloucester County Animal Shelter by email at gcas@co.goucester.nj.us or by phone at (856) 881-2828.



Commissioner Joann Gattinelli recently visited the Gloucester County Animal Shelter to tour the facility and make a donation.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS ADDED

The Division of Senior Services has added an afternoon Caregiver Support Group meeting to their monthly schedule in order to better serve the needs of caregivers in Gloucester County. The group aims to provide a supportive environment for caregivers of older adults to share experiences, offer and receive emotional support, and access resources.

The next Caregiver Support Group meeting will take place on **Thursday, September 26**, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford. Additionally, there are other caregiver support groups available, including a morning session and a group in Clayton.

To learn more about the Caregiver Support Group meetings, please visit <https://www.goucestercountynj.gov/801/Caregiver-Support-Program> or scan the QR code. For additional inquiries or to RSVP, please call (856) 384-6900 or email seniors@co.goucester.nj.us.



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A BUSY SUMMER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Matthew Weng reminds residents that, in addition to ongoing maintenance of County-owned properties and roadways, the Gloucester County Department of Public Works undertakes special projects throughout the year to improve County facilities. Recent work completed by the hardworking men and women of the department is highlighted below.



Recent upgrades at the Fire Academy's new burn building include paving the surrounding area and the installation of a new storm pipe behind the building to assist with water runoff during training activities



Crews perform washout repair on Kings Highway east of Wolfert Station Road in East Greenwich. Approximately 10 loads of fill dirt were placed in this very large washout. The area was then covered in fabric to help control future erosion and, finally, four truckloads of riprap rock was installed to finish the repair.



Tree removal following utility work to clear tree from overhead wires on CR 581 Commissioner's Road in Elk



Tree trimming at the intersection of CR 557 Tuckahoe Road and Victoria Avenue in Franklin

Boom mowing on CR 662 High Hill Road in Logan

Bush and tree trimming on CR 624 Jefferson Road near CR 609 Barnsboro Road in Mantua

Inlet cleaning on CR 653 Paulsboro Swedesboro Road in Woolwich

Roadside mowing on CR 551 Kings Highway in East Greenwich

Boom mowing on Buck Road near the SR 55 overpass in Elk Township

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SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL BABY SAFETY MONTH

National Baby Safety Month aims to bring awareness to practices to keep babies safe from preventable injury, illness, and death. Here are a few tips from Deputy Director Jim Jefferson and Gloucester County WIC to help you keep your baby safe and healthy:

- **Prevent the risk of SIDS** – Always place your baby on his/her back to sleep. Keep your baby's sleep area free from pillows, blankets, bumpers, or toys.
- **Secondhand smoke is dangerous** – Infants exposed to secondhand smoke have a higher risk of SIDS and it increases your infant's risk of developing problems such as: asthma, ear infections, respiratory problems such as bronchitis and pneumonia, and coughs and colds. Free programs are available to help with smoking cessation. For more information, visit NJ Quitline at www.njquitline.org, or for families with children under 8 years old visit Mom's Quit Connection for Families at www.momsquit.com.
- **Substance use/abuse in the household is dangerous** – Drugs and alcohol pose a serious risk in households with babies and children. For help with substance abuse call Reach NJ, a 24/7 helpline at (844) 732-2465.
- **Car safety** – Be sure to follow car seat safety laws when selecting and securing car seats. Always place your infant in a rear-facing car seat with a five-point harness until 30 pounds or 2 years old. Be sure all passengers wear safety belts and do not text and drive. Visit the County Clerk's store in the Deptford Mall every first and third Saturday of the month from 10:00am to 2:00pm to meet with an officer in the Child Safety Seat Program.
- **Do not leave an infant unattended** – Always supervise your baby in the bathtub and/or around water. Never leave your baby in the car unattended.
- **Immunizations** – Keep your baby up to date on immunizations to help build immunity to life threatening diseases. Talk to your baby's pediatrician about vaccines. If uninsured or underinsured contact the Gloucester County Health Department at (856) 218-4100.
- **Lead testing** – Test your child for elevated blood lead levels at one year old. Children with high lead levels often have no symptoms. Elevated lead levels can cause developmental delays, behavior problems, and iron deficiency anemia in children. Talk to your child's pediatrician for testing or contact the Gloucester County Health Department (856) 218-4100.



For more information on the WIC program, call (856)218-4116, email gwcic@co.goucester.nj.us, visit the NJ WIC participant portal at <https://wic.nj.gov/participantportal>, or scan the QR code



FALL IN LOVE AT GCAS

When it comes to pets, what some may see as "less adoptable", Commissioner Director Frank J. DiMarco and the staff and volunteers of the Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS) see as perfect in their own way. We believe each pet is deserving of a loving home.

This month, Director DiMarco and GCAS shine an extra spotlight on some of our special adoptables as we celebrate Adopt a Less-Adoptable Pet Week. This celebration is recognized nationally during the third week of September, beginning this year on **Monday, September 16**.

For the entire month of September, pet adoption fees are reduced to just \$35. If you've been thinking about adopting a pet, now is the perfect time. **To learn more about pet adoption through GCAS, please visit <https://www.goucestercountynj.gov/177/Adoption-Services>, scan the QR code, email gcas@co.goucester.nj.us, call (856) 881-2828, or visit the shelter, located at 1200 North Delsea Drive in Clayton.**



Gloucester County Board of Commissioners

Frank J. DiMarco, *Director*

Jim Jefferson, *Deputy Director*

Nicholas DeSilvio

Denice DiCarlo

Joann Gattinelli

Christopher Konawel Jr.

Matt Weng

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TRY YOGA ON THE RIVER



The popular outdoor "Yoga on the River" classes presented by the Gloucester County Department of Health continue this fall, with classes on **Wednesday, September 11** and **Wednesday, September 25** from 10:00am to 11:00am at Red Bank Battlefield, located at 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park.

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

Pre-registration is required for Yoga on the River. To register, please email ckephart@co.goucester.nj.us or call (856) 218-4108.

WE'RE HIRING!

Gloucester County is currently hiring for multiple positions throughout the County. Available openings include Vet Technicians, Animal Attendants, EMTs, CNAs, Dispatchers/911 Operators, and more.

To complete and submit an employment application, please visit <https://www.goucestercountynj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/128/Employment-Application-PDF> or scan the QR code.

For additional information, please email hrdept@co.goucester.nj.us or call (856) 853-3264.



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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.