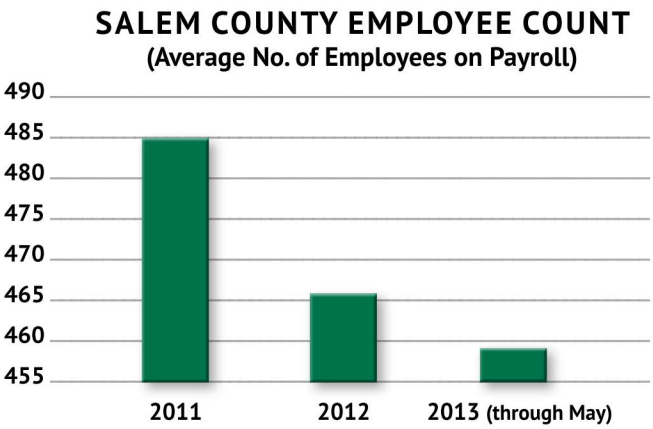
The Board of Chosen Freeholders wants to continue to inform Salem County residents of what's going on in their County Government. As we finish up the first half of the year the Freeholders are continuing to make progress on moving the County forward while maintaining a balanced budget and improving services.

Confronting the County's Financial Challenges Leads to an Effective Balanced Budget

As you may know the financial burdens placed on county governments have never been greater than they are right now. The Freeholder Board had to tackle some of the most pressing issues with an open mind, a commitment to realistic goals, straightforward problem solving and innovative thinking. "***We continue to talk about Salem County's financial situation and seek to reduce spending while balancing efficient delivery of our vital services.***" *Bob Vanderslice, Freeholder*

2013 County Budget Approval Process a Success!

The 2013 County Budget was balanced and adopted as of May 15, 2013. Even though this was a challenging year we were able to successfully balance the county's checkbook once again. Our approach continues to be the same as last year – reduce costs and improve efficiencies, while pushing for more tax relief. You will find this balanced budget meets our fiduciary responsibilities and moral obligations to prudently manage County financial resources. The graph below shows one example of how we cut County spending by working more efficiently with a smaller government.



Please study the budget on the next page carefully and call or email us with questions you may have. Our journey to financial recovery has begun and we want your input as we move through the journey together.

Julie Acton,
Freeholder Director

GOOD NEWS

MAJOR STORM DAMAGE REPAIRS COMPLETED

Pittsgrove's Greenville and Alloway's Mill Pond Bridges Reopen!

"Salem County has seen a significant amount of weather related damage in the past two years. The elected officials, local leaders and dedicated county staff have worked tirelessly to repair our roads and bridges for the safety of our residents."

Ben Laury, Freeholder

"It is good for Salem County to have both of these bridges open, lifting the frustration for our residents and the many travelers who pass through our county over the busy summer season."

Lee Ware, Freeholder

7 STEPS TO FREEDOM

KICK-OFF BIG SUCCESS!

See photos of the 7 Steps to Freedom Kick-Off, held June 1st, on the 7 Steps to Freedom Facebook Page. Find out more about the cell phone tour at 7StepsToFreedom.wordpress.com

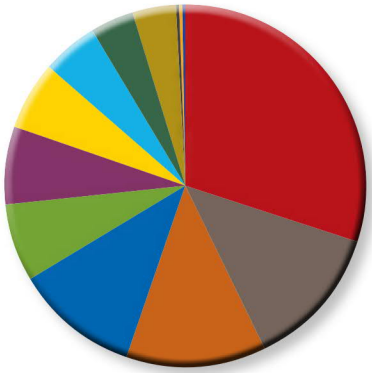
Taking a Look at the 2013 Balanced Budget

Here's how far we have come on our journey...

Once again this year we started with a deficit of $6.1 Million. This situation did not happen overnight. In fact the yearly deficits are caused by the budget issues over the past 5-10 years from which we are now recovering. The balanced budget of $81 Million is presented below. This budget reflects the hard work of our administration and the commitment to the promise we made when we took office.

We know that every dollar counts. We balanced this budget pledging to continue to work on streamlining government and creating greater efficiencies. We strive to achieve this without compromising or sacrificing programs and services that protect and serve the people of Salem County.

SALEM COUNTY EXPENSES



Public Safety	$ 24,212,924.00	30.00%
Grants	$ 10,400,528.04	13.00%
Insurance	$ 10,155,577.00	12.40%
Health & Human Services	$ 8,945,842.87	11.00%
Statutory	$ 5,904,503.00	7.00%
Debt Service	$ 5,617,199.79	7.00%
Education	$ 5,093,271.00	6.00%
General Government	$ 4,120,550.00	5.00%
Unclassified	$ 3,462,192.80	4.00%
Public Works & Capital Improvement	$ 3,406,258.32	4.00%
Miscellaneous	$ 258,575.00	0.30%
Deferred Charges	$ 127,062.15	0.20%
Judgments	$ 100,000.00	0.10%
Total Appropriations	$ 81,804,483.97	

The Freeholders along with County employees have been thinking outside the box to find new ways to cut costs. We continue to seek more options to save money such as grants, FEMA reimbursements and prescription rebates.

PUBLIC SAFETY
911 Center
Alternative Youth Shelter
Correctional Facility
Emergency Services
Fire Marshal
Fire School
Juvenile Detention
Medical Examiner
Prosecutor's Office
Sheriff's Office

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Alcohol Treatment
Commission on Women
Health Department
Maintenance of Patients in State Institutions
Office on Aging
Office on the Disabled
War Vets Burial
Welfare Board

EDUCATION
Bookmobile
County Superintendent of Schools
Reimb. for Residents Attending Out of County 2 yr. College
Salem Community College
Salem County Vo-Tech
Special Services School District

MISC. APPROPRIATIONS
Code Enforcement
Contingent
Deferred Charges
Judgments
Land Use Administration
Parks & Recreation

UNCLASSIFIED
Bus Service
In Lieu of Taxes Pilot Prog.
Transportation
Utilities
Veteran's Services

STATUTORY
Police & Fireman's Retirement System
Public Employee's Retirement System
Social Security

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
Adjustor's Office
Administrative & Executive
Agricultural Board
Auditor
Board of Elections
Board of Taxation
Bond Costs
Clerk of the Board
County Clerk
County Counsel
Cultural & Heritage
Economic Development
Engineering
Grant Management
HR/Payroll
IT
Labor Counsel
Public Information Office
Purchasing
Special Counsel/ Consulting
Surrogate's Office
Treasurer's Office

SPOTLIGHT *Who Handles the County's Finances?*

Meet Katie Coleman, CFO/Treasurer of Salem County

Katie Coleman brings a unique blend of talents to the role of County Treasurer. A 2009 graduate of Rutgers University Law School in Camden, Katie also holds an accounting degree from Rowan University. She was in private practice in Elmer when the Freeholders tapped her to be the Chief Financial Officer for the County. Katie says she is now in her element – engrossed in numbers, fiscal management, and regulatory compliance. Raised on a farm in Alloway, a township she calls home to raise her own family, Katie comes from generations of grain and vegetable farmers. The Board of Chosen Freeholders says Katie brings that no-nonsense, frugal approach to managing the County's funds and instills those values within County departments. "She is perfect for Salem County government," said Julie Acton, Freeholder Director. "We are blessed to have her."

Click Here to View Budget Presentation

SPOTLIGHT *Necessary Services...Public Safety*

Sheriff Chuck Miller, Dedicated to the Protection and Safety of all Salem County Residents

Sheriff Miller has sought out various grants and initiatives to provide for enhanced services to all Salem County residents including:

- Senior Car Fit Program
- Child Safety Seat Program
- Child Identi-Kit Fingerprint Service
- Adult Gun Lock Give Away
- Eddie Eagle Child Gun Safety Program
- TRIAD
- Civilian "Police Academy" For Seniors
- Citizens Emergency Response Team
- Certified Bike Patrol Officers
- Enhanced K-9 Squad
- Warrant Squad, a Cooperative effort with the Prosecutor's Office

Accomplishments Since 9-1-1 Center Restructure:

- Radio Technology Enhancement Project
- Improved Communications Center and Operations
- Cutting Edge Technology Research

Sheriff's Inmate Labor Details Saves the County at least $150,000 a year:

- Road clean-up, trash removal, painting, building modifications and repairs
- Landscaping and grounds maintenance of County Veteran's Cemetery, Vocational /Technical School, Mannington Meadows Nature Observation Area, and County Ball Parks
- Cleaning and housekeeping services at several County buildings

"Our Sheriff's Department, Emergency Services, and our Prosecutor's Office all do a fantastic job. Keeping the public safe contributes mightily to the quality of life we have in Salem County."

Dale Cross, Freeholder Deputy Director

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Saved the County an Estimated $48,000 in 2012

CERT trains neighbors to help neighbors. It also affords all citizens the opportunity to volunteer during disasters, drills and preparedness activities. 44 volunteers donated nearly 2000 hours of service during Hurricane Sandy resulting in big savings to the county budget.

For an application call 856-769-2900
Learn more at www.readysalem.org

"We have been CERT Volunteers since 2010 and found it to be a fulfilling way to give back. We can serve the community in a way that we feel is very important."

Judy and Ross Caldwell. Mannington Residents

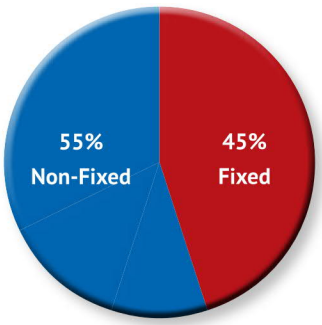
Another Year of Cost Savings Achieved!

While the recession has focused our needs to find efficiencies and cost savings, this administration has pursued savings since day one. All of Salem County's local governments are facing similar financial constraints. It is imperative that we continue to seek ways to cut spending and collaborate with other government entities to share services. Given that 45% of the County expenses ($37 Million) is fixed and cannot be cut by law, we accomplished balancing the budget through innovative changes and actions.

Innovative Actions to Balance Our Budget:

- **Instituted Shared Services**
- **Increased Employee Shared Health Contributions**
- **Continued Hiring Freeze**
- **Negotiated Gloucester County Jail Contract**
- **Provided Utility Savings**
- **Reduced Department Spending by 10%**

NON-FIXED VS. FIXED EXPENSES



SPOTLIGHT *Another Consolidation Move to Save Tax Dollars*

Newly Merged Public Health and Human Services – Ready to Serve

Do you need help trying to maneuver through enrollment in Medicare?
Are you struggling to pay for your prescriptions?
Do you need a public health nurse to help manage your health care?
Are you concerned about a failed septic system?
An animal with rabies? Food poisoning?

The services offered by the County of Salem through the Department of Public Health and Human Services are many and varied. Most program costs are covered by grants, some are needs based or have financial requirements, and others are available for the asking.

Now, under the newly merged Department of Public Health and Human Services, the asking is easier. The Department can provide "one stop" and "no wrong door" services to residents of Salem County. You make the initial call, and we will make sure you get to the right person for all the help you need.

"Something as basic as a structural change in how government is aligned can mean a world of difference to residents who need assistance from multiple agencies" said Freeholder Director Julie Acton. "The merging of the Social Services Department and Public Health also reflects the trend throughout the state."

Cooperating agencies now under the Department of Public Health and Human Services umbrella are:

- Environmental Public Health
- Health Education and Disaster Preparedness
- Nursing Division
- Office on Aging
- Office of Disability Services
- Mental Health
- Municipal Alliance
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services

Beth Timberman, Freeholder gives Bob Vanderslice, Freeholder a flu shot. ***"This is just one of the many services we offer our County residents through the Salem County Department of Public Health and Human Services. Visit our website to find out how we can help you."*** *Beth Timberman, Freeholder*

"Our goal with the merger is to combine multiple related services," said Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, who chairs the new Human Services Committee. The delivery of these services will now be more efficient and easier for residents to access."

Freeholder's Mission

The Salem County Freeholders set forth their guiding principals in their Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values. The second half of the year we will continue to embrace our *Core Values of Commitment to County Residents: Fiscal Responsibility, Public Safety, Public Health and Wellness, and Economic Development,* while enhancing the quality of life for Salem County residents.

How You Can Contact Us

As we have named our newsletter...we are "Open to the Public" and we want your input. Here's how you can contact us:

- **Attend Workshops & Regular Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month, see website for the schedule & location.
- **Contact Us – We want to hear from you!**
  E-mail: freeholders@salemcountynj.gov
  Phone: 1-856-935-7510, x8483
  Fax: 1-856-935-9102
  Address: 94 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

STANDING: Freeholders Bruce Bobbitt, Ben Laury, Bob Vanderslice, Beth Timberman SEATED: Deputy Director Dale Cross, Director Julie Acton and Freeholder Lee Ware