

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

INFORMING SALEM COUNTY RESIDENTS



In 2012 The Freeholder Board set its goals on changing public opinion concerning the way government runs. Under a unified vision, we adopted a mission to enhance Salem County resident's quality of life by ensuring their safety, prosperity and wellness. The caveat, however, was to ensure that we achieve our goals as fiscally responsible as possible. *"In my world, fiscal responsibility is synonymous with the Prudent Man Theory. In other words, when you're investing or spending other people's money, you do it as if it were your own."* Bob Vanderslice, Freeholder

Freeholders Overcome the County's Financial Challenges with Great Success

Financial Recovery - New Budget \$6 Million Less!

Budget deficits continued to be a financial challenge for Freeholders as they balanced the budget each year. This year is different. **Budget spending for this year is \$6 Million less than last year.** This budget shows the financial recovery of the County which has been a goal of this administration since day one.

"We balanced this budget by continuing to streamline government, creating greater efficiencies and thinking outside the box." Julie Acton, Freeholder Director

Here's how we accomplished financial success:

- 3 Years of fiscal restraint leading to significantly smaller government.
- Focusing on 3 core values - Public Safety, Public Services, and Health & Human Services.
- Reducing debt service.
- Rebuilding the County surplus account.
- Realizing increased revenue through the jail merging and County Clerk fees.
- Shared services.

The 2014 budget is balanced. Our budget spends less, has a good surplus, and it includes a tax reduction. All this without sacrificing the quality of services necessary to educate, protect, and serve the great people of Salem County.

HAPPENINGS

new jersey 350

innovation • diversity • liberty

New Jersey is celebrating 350 years of history in 2014. Our state's rich heritage, unique resources and resilient, determined people are what make this state the place we're proud to call home. Since its creation in 1664, New Jersey has played a pivotal role in the shaping of American life and culture.



SALEM COUNTY ARTS IN BLOOM
FREE open studio tour.

Sat & Sun, May 17 & 18, 10am - 5pm
Find out more about both at
www.visitsalemcountynj.com

"Spring is in the air and all types of art is available for anyone to access FREE of charge. We hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to explore the arts in our beautiful County!"

Lee Ware, Freeholder

Public Works Projects

Public works and fiscal responsibility are our priorities. We use Federal and State funding to the maximum extent possible for road and bridge projects.

The following are anticipated 2014 construction projects:

Federally Funded Road Projects:

- Resurfacing of Salem-Hancock's Bridge Road and Commissioner's Pike.

State Funded Road and Bridge Projects:

- ADA curb ramps at various locations throughout the County.
- Resurfacing of Pointers-Auburn Road, Woodstown-Alloway Road, Woodstown-Pedricktown Road, and Hollywood Avenue.
- Palatine Culvert Replacement.

Dam Rehabilitation Projects:

- Willow Grove Dam and Camp Karney Dam.
(Subject to issuance of permits and availability of funds.)

We will continue to effectively use every possible resource to keep our County roads safe.

County Prepared for Harsh Winter with New Brine System

In an effort to better prepare roads for major winter storms, the Salem County Public Works Department added two new 1,000 gallon brine tanks to its equipment this season. Brine acts as a barrier between the asphalt and winter precipitation, helping to prevent the roads from freezing over. The new tanks enable the County to prep roads up to 72 hours ahead of a winter storm.

"The County saw record snowfall with hazardous conditions this year so the use of brine was found to be very effective in making the roads easier to travel on." Ben Lury, Freeholder

Emergency Planning and Preparedness

The offices of the Sheriff and Prosecutor are dedicated to keeping County residents safe. They continually work on emergency planning so they are prepared to respond under a variety of hazardous conditions and emergency threats. Below are just some of the activities being worked on:

- **Active Shooter Training:** Conducted in schools, commercial buildings and critical infrastructure facilities throughout the County.
- **County Preparedness:** Trained and drilled County employees for response to an active shooter in the Courthouse and Five Star Buildings.
- **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP):** Initiated Coop which is a plan to continue operations or essential functions of the County in the event of disruptive circumstances.

"Training such as this allows our law enforcement and emergency responders to prepare themselves for these acts of violence targeting innocent citizens. These incidents in the past remind us that we can never be too prepared. I applauded our Sheriff and Prosecutor recognizing the need to have a plan and preparing all employees on how to identify suspicious individuals and how to respond should something happen on our campus."

Dale Cross, Freeholder Deputy Director

\$2.6 Million Received in Federal Disaster Recovery Funds

As of December 2013, the County has received \$2.6 Million in FEMA Funding for recently declared Federal disasters. This is a cumulative total of assistance received by the county, municipalities and individuals. This is Federal funding used to reimburse government entities and individuals for storm damages and costs. It is vital for our community partners to receive the Federal assistance to recover in the wake of several local disasters.

"In light of the numerous recent disasters, we continue to encourage individuals to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies." Bruce Bobbitt, Freeholder

SPOTLIGHT ... Joseph Hannagan, Director of Salem County Veterans' Services



Joseph Hannagan has been the County Veterans' Services Director for just over a year now. He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and retired from Pennsylvania Textiles as the Vice President of Manufacturing. As Director, Joe works to connect Salem County veterans with important services including education, medical, social services and employment. He serves as the Interment Officer for the Salem County Veterans Cemetery.

Joseph took this position because it involves giving back to the community by helping other veterans. Although the position is part-time, Joseph says he is available by phone around the clock. Feel free to contact him at (856) 339-8603.

Please join us Monday, May 26, 2014 at noon for our Memorial Day service to dedicate our new flag poles and plaza. Come and pay your respects to our fallen heroes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH JERSEY TIMES

SPOTLIGHT ... Kevin Crouch, Clerk of the Board



Kevin Crouch is a life-long resident of Woodstown. A graduate of Grove City College with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, he continued his education by attending both Rowan University and Rutgers Center for Government Services. Kevin holds the following professional licenses: Certified Public Accountant, Certified Municipal Finance Officer, Public School Accountant, and School Business Administrator Certificate of Eligibility. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Kevin is the managing partner of Crouch & Company, LLC, Certified Public Accountants in Woodstown. Started by his father in 1974, Kevin is proud to continue the business that he joined in 1993. His primary focus is income tax preparation, payroll services, and inheritance tax compliance. As a past member of the Woodstown-Piles Grove Board of Education, he chaired both the Policy and Personnel committees. In addition, he served both the Borough of Woodstown and the Township of Alloway as municipal finance officer. He continues his service to local government by providing payroll services to a variety of municipalities and school districts.

Top Notch Cops

Under the leadership of Sheriff Chuck Miller and Prosecutor John "Jiggs" Lenahan the Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Offices embarked on a two year accreditation process through the Commission on the Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

The purpose of the Accreditation Program is to improve the delivery of public safety services. CALEA provides public safety agencies an opportunity to voluntarily demonstrate that they meet an established set of professional standards. The goals are to:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair personnel practices
- Solidify interagency coordination
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency

After many months of policy revision and adoption of the first phase, a team from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) performed a two day on-site assessment. Both agencies passed with flying colors. The Freeholders are extremely proud of both County law enforcement agencies for receiving this highly acclaimed accreditation.

Free Screenings from Healthcare Services

The County of Salem is able to provide free cancer screenings to County residents who are uninsured or under insured. Funds are available to Salem County residents for breast, prostate, cervical, and colon cancer screenings.

If you know anyone who does not have health care insurance or who cannot afford to pay the deductible or co-pays, call the County Department of Health and Human Services at 856-935-7510 extension 8480. Cancer screening funds are made available through a state grant.

In theory we all should have access now to affordable health care, but the reality is not everyone can pay the premium or deductibles. These free screenings will help more people get the care they need.

Unique Partnership with Meals on Wheels



The County Health Department and Meals on Wheels have joined hands in a unique partnership to have a public health nurse visit clients.

This partnership improves the basic health care services to our most vulnerable senior residents. People who rely on home-delivered meals sometimes have great difficulty getting

out for routine wellness checks, so now a county public health nurse goes directly to them.

Judy MacNeal, an RN with the Health Department, now reviews client charts and accompanies the Meals on Wheels counselor on all visits to new clients and to homes for six month evaluations. She can also make visits when a Meals on Wheels volunteer reports a special need. During the home visits, she does screenings for blood pressure, sugar, and cholesterol, as well as providing counseling on nutrition and chronic disease management.

"You may have seen Judy doing health screenings at various locations in the County. She is very dedicated to our preventative health care programs, so making the home visits with Meals on Wheels was a natural step for her." Beth Timberman, Freeholder

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Growing Economic Development in Salem County



The Salem County Economic Development Council has been actively working with local industries to gain insight and provide assistance for business needs and plans for expansion. The Council is working with the NJ Economic Development Authority and the NJ Business Action Center to market available properties in the County for development. Representatives from the State Agencies have provided the Council with information on development funding and financial incentives from the recently enacted Economic Opportunity Act of 2013. The Council has initiated a working relationship with the "Grow New Jersey" initiative to identify potential commercial and industrial companies to bring into the County.

Here's our Economic Development progress so far:

- **Successfully submitted a grant application to the USDA for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant, which provides funds for an Agricultural Business Enterprise Center.** The Center is providing business development skills for the County agriculture industry.
- **Contacted a grain processing and exporting company** who has indicated desire to locate facilities in the County.
- **Began an agricultural business initiative to provide an alternative processing facility** for the dairy industry to produce cheese and yogurt products locally.
- **Actively supporting the local wine industry** as it develops a regional wine trail.
- **\$7.5 million secured in grant money from Federal and State agencies for continuing work on the reconstruction of the County Shortline Railroad.**
 - Rebuilding the segment of track in Woodstown/Pilesgrove.
 - Reconstruct the Oldmans Trestle and complete another two miles of track work.
 - Restoration of 14 miles of the 18 mile shortline which has resulted in increased reliability and safety and allowed the users served by the rail to increase their freight shipments and the numerous jobs that are supported by those industries.

"Working with the Salem County Improvement Authority, the Freeholder Board is able to utilize the Authority's bonding and redevelopment capacity to support economic development. Current work is underway to update the County Economic Resource Guide to inform prospective industries of the resources available in the County and aid in the continued growth of Salem County's economy."
Julie Acton, Freeholder Director

Contact Us – *We Want to Hear From You!*

As we have named our newsletter...we are
"Open to the Public" and we want your input.

Attend Workshops & Regular Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wed.
of every month, visit the website for the schedule & location.

"Like" our page on Facebook to follow us. 

E-MAIL: freeholders@salemcountynj.gov

PHONE: 1-856-935-7510, x8203

FAX: 1-856-935-9102

ADDRESS: 94 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079



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

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