

Over the past three years the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders steered toward a more efficient government. As a team we addressed the needs of the citizens and we continue to protect the tax-payers in our County. In reviewing this newsletter you will see many accomplishments achieved by not just one individual but by a committed team. Be assured that we will continue to work together keeping Salem County the best place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

Balanced Budget = Responsible Spending

In May, the Freeholder Board adopted a \$79.5 million balanced budget for the 2015 year. The Freeholders put together a plan that continues to reflect responsible spending for the County and its residents. By mandating a 10% cut in each department's discretionary spending, the Freeholder Board successfully kept a necessary tax levy increase to a minimum. Despite the Board's efforts, a 2% increase in the tax levy was required to offset rising health insurance costs and increased contractual salary and wage obligations.

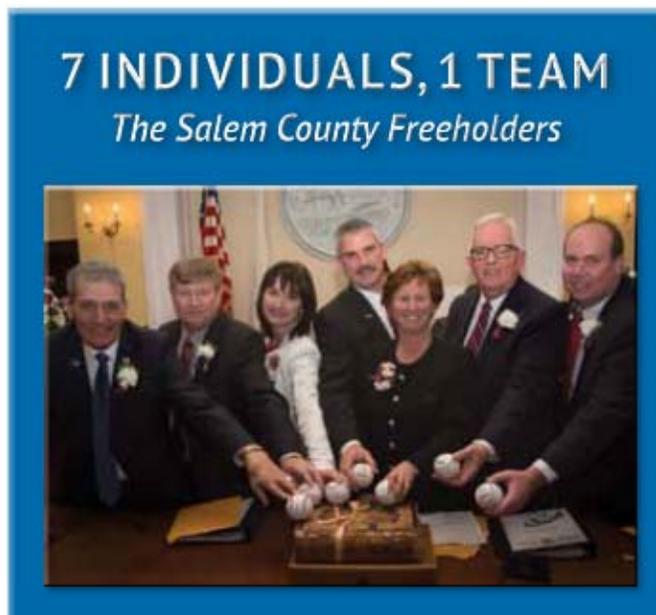
The Freeholders continually look for ways to decrease spending and increase revenue. For the 2015 year, the County was able to reduce the annual debt service appropriation by refinancing two debt issuances. The County continues to reap additional revenue through the housing of inmates from outside the County, and additional revenues are anticipated from various sources, including reimbursement for inmate medical expenses and federal funds for damage from various storms. Those additional revenues will go directly to replenish the County's surplus.

By managing the budget and spending responsibly, the County is able to fund projects that impact the daily lives of residents, including necessary capital improvements to roads, bridges and other infrastructure. It has also allowed the Freeholders to allocate \$75,000 for economic development in an effort to attract businesses to the County and provide jobs for residents.

County's Financial Stability Gets "AA" Rating

The efforts over the past four years to reduce spending and increase revenue have led to a substantial improvement in the County's financial state. That success culminated with the County's bond rating being upgraded to "AA Stable" by Standard and Poor's rating service.

What does that mean for the County? Previously, the County's budgetary performance had been weak, with six consecutive years of surplus decline. The financial performance turnaround began with significant spending cuts in 2012 and additional savings realized in 2013. Effective financial management and a strong bond rating allow the County to finance capital projects at lower interest rates, which translates into significant savings for the taxpayers.



"The County has been proactive with an aggressive plan to cut expenditures and bring in new revenue sources. Revenue sources, such as the prisoner agreement with Gloucester County, will continue to maintain or improve financial performance."

– Julie Acton
Freeholder Director

County Teams up with State/ Federal for Road Funding

The County has teamed up with the State and Federal Government to receive on-going funding for bridge work and road resurfacing projects. Two bridge projects have been completed and another bridge rehabilitation is currently underway. Multiple road resurfacing projects will be worked on this summer and will continue into the fall.



On the completed bridge projects the County secured \$1.1 million to replace and repair two bridges: Palatine Culvert in Pittsgrove Township and Ballingers Mill Road in Alloway Township. A major project has also been started which includes rehabilitation of the Willow Grove Bridge and Water Control Structure

in Pittsgrove Township. Federal funding was authorized to cover 80% of the construction costs.

Road work projects are on-going and include resurfacing and safety improvements to keep our residents and travelers safe on County highways. Over \$6 million in federal and state funding has been secured for road projects. One major road safety project will include work in compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Curb ramps at various locations throughout the County will be resurfaced or constructed this summer to accommodate those with disabilities.



"Keeping the County roads safe for our residents is an important role of our government. We work diligently to fulfill that role and procure funding from the Federal and State Government to lessen the burden on the County budget."

Ben Laury, Freeholder Deputy Director

Veterans Corner



EVENTS

SALEM COUNTY FAIR

August 4-7, 2015, Salem County Fair Grounds

VETERANS 2ND ANNUAL PICNIC

October 18, 2015, 12:00-4:00 PM Salem County Fair Grounds

MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL CEREMONY

November 9, 2015, 6:00 PM, Salem County Community College

Salem County is dedicated to offering veterans a wide variety of services. Last year alone over 2,300 veterans were helped with a variety of issues and the County continues to look for more ways to serve them.

The County provides veterans with:

- Phone call counseling.
- Assistance in preparing and filing claims. We will meet with veterans in the County office and in their home or assisted living facility as needed.
- Speaking engagements for educational purposes and participation in community parades and functions.
- Assistance working with funeral directors, obtaining markers and making arrangements for burial in the County Veterans Cemetery.
- Assistance obtaining military history, awards and discharge papers.
- Special affairs throughout the year honoring our veterans, such as the "Salem County Salutes Our Armed Forces Enlistees Ceremony," hosted by the Salem County Freeholders.

Check the website for the complete calendar and detailed listings of all the services we offer veterans at www.salemcountynj.gov/departments/veterans-services/



"Our veterans have served our country and it is our privilege to provide services to assist them with a wide variety of issues. We want to demonstrate respect for our County Veterans by supporting and honoring them throughout the year."

Julie Acton, Freeholder Director

SPOTLIGHT ... John Cuzzupe, Undersheriff

John Cuzzupe retired from the New Jersey State Police at the rank of Captain in 2010 after 26 years of distinguished service. He was hired in October 2010 by Salem County Prosecutor John Lenahan as an agent for the Office of Professional Standards. He was responsible for managing the Commission on the Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). As a result of his efforts, the Salem County Prosecutor's Office became the third Prosecutor's Office in the state to obtain the coveted law enforcement accreditation.

In March of 2013 John was sworn in as Undersheriff under the authority of Salem County Sheriff, Charles M. Miller. He is assigned as the Director of the County Communications Center where he directs 26 full time Public Safety Telecommunicators and 10 part-timers in Emergency Communications (911). During his tenure John has directed and successfully completed the new radio system project which was a major undertaking. John earned a Bachelor's Degree from Farleigh Dickinson University. He brings remarkable leadership and management skills to Salem County that compliment Sheriff Miller's mission and goals of the Sheriff's Office. John resides in Pilesgrove Township with his wife Karen and three children.



SPOTLIGHT ... *Adult Protective Services*

The Department of Health and Human Services manages the Salem County Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. This program assists adults 18 years and older who are being abused, endangered or exploited. The County has specially trained caseworkers who investigate situations that are referred to them. Most cases involve elderly residents. In some cases there is physical abuse and the police are contacted. Other cases involve financial exploitation and may be referred to the County Prosecutor.

The department has three APS caseworkers. Marikay Green and Stephanie Bradway in the Office on Aging and Judy MacNeal, an RN in the Health Department. "The hardest part in this casework is seeing horrible living conditions or seeing someone has been financial exploited, but the person is capable of making his or her own decisions and they don't want the situation changed. Until a person is no longer capable of making rational decisions, that person has the right to make poor ones," said Marikay, who has worked APS cases for 21 years. Stephanie agreed and said, "The most difficult thing is separating your emotions from what you feel you want to do from what must be done." Judy also finds casework very rewarding and said "when I am able to resolve a situation there are many tears of thankfulness."

To make a referral please call the Salem County Office on Aging at (856) 339-8622 or (856) 451-1207 Ext. 8622.



Collaborating for Senior Safety

The Sheriff's Office along with Office on Aging has been working with senior residents of the County. The program is called TRIAD which is a national organization. It is designed to provide our seniors with tools and education to prevent them from becoming victims of a crime. The Salem County TRIAD meets quarterly and provides professional speakers to educate seniors. Education is the key to safety and TRIAD provides information for them on identity theft, personal protection, computer crimes, phone fraud and home security.

There are currently over 700 senior TRIAD members in Salem County. Our next meeting



is a catered cook-out at noon on Wednesday, June 17th at the Golden Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Route 45 in Mannington. Attendees are provided these complementary lunches by a different sponsor each meeting. RSVP is required, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 935-7510, Ext. 8396 or 8378.

Another valuable service to Salem County seniors is Senior Citizen Photo Identification Cards. The Sheriff's Office offers ID Cards to Salem County residents over the age of 55. ID's are done Monday through Friday from 9am - 3:30pm. Visit our website at www.salemcountysheriff.com/enforcement/id-program for more information and to download an application.



"Protecting our senior citizens is a crucial part of our duty as Freeholders. Our older residents deserve our respect and care so we are proud to be advocates on their behalf."

Dale Cross, Freeholder

Keeping Our Residents Safe...

Mobile Video Recorders (MVRs) - In 2014 the Salem County Prosecutor's Office initiated a program to purchase state of the art MVRs (Mobile Video Recorders) for every municipal police patrol vehicle in the County. Mobile Video Recorders are fixed cameras mounted on the interior of a police vehicle. The cameras capture footage normally in front of the vehicle and are used during routine stops. When the patrol unit returns to the station recordings on the MVRs are automatically downloaded to a secured computer system. The entire project was funded utilizing money from the Salem County Prosecutor's Office Forfeiture Funds.

Child Passenger Seat Inspections - Child Passenger Seat Inspections educate how to properly insert a child car seat. You may make an appointment by calling: 935-7510, Ext. 8399.

Project Life Saver - Project Life Saver assists adults with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, as well as, children with such conditions as Autism or Down Syndrome. The eligible resident will be given a bracelet to wear to keep track of them. An average search is 30 minutes from the time of the call. The program is open to Salem County residents who:

- Have a qualifying diagnosis by a doctor.
- Live in a private residence.
- Have a responsible caregiver with the client at all times.
- Will allow an officer to come out once a month and replace the battery.

For more information and to see if your loved one qualifies call: 935-7510, Ext. 8373.



"The safety and well-being of our citizens is paramount to the Freeholders' mission. We continually look for new programs to offer and strive to protect Salem County residents throughout their lives."

Beth Timberman, Freeholder

County Team Connects with Education



Creating a well-educated workforce increases the potential for employers to locate their businesses here in Salem County. The Freeholder Board is connected with two major educational institutions in the County – Salem Community College and Salem County Vocational Technical Schools.

Salem Community College creates educational and career opportunities for local students. The Freeholders are excited to welcome new leadership at the college with incoming president Dr. Michael R. Gorman. Salem Community College not only has programs that lead to jobs but also has agreements with other 4-year institutions to accept students' earned credits when they transfer. Two such transfer destinations are Wilmington University and Rowan University.

Salem County Freeholders have also been closely involved with the Salem County Vocational Technical School. The High School has just begun an expansion phase which has been partially funded by the County of Salem. This much needed expansion includes an additional seven new classrooms, repurposing of some of the current classroom structures and other necessary renovations.

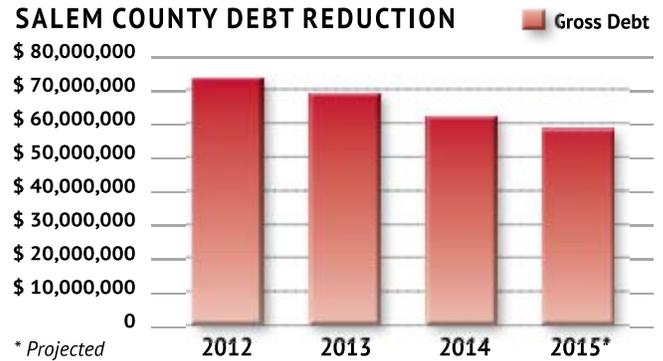


"We are continually involved with education in the County. Our goal is to help educational institutions and private business sectors work together for the benefit of our County and residents."

Doug Painter, Freeholder

Reduction in Debt

Over the past four years, the Freeholders have pledged to reduce the County's outstanding debt. By using existing funds for capital projects instead of borrowing, debt has been reduced in each of the last four years.



"We are proud of the fact that we not only ended the "decade of debt," but have begun a new trend by prudently managing the County's finances and reducing debt under our tenure."

Bob Vanderslice, Freeholder

Did You Know?

Salem County has preserved 32,669 acres of farmland making us #1 in the State for farmland preservation and open space.

Agriculture remains a significant component of the County's economy and farming is the predominant use of land. That is why the County has been very aggressive in its preservation efforts. The Salem County Agriculture Development Board works closely with the state and non-profit organizations to help bring in money for the preservation of our farms. Farmland preservation is valuable to the County in many ways and is a basic concept. Preserving farmlands keeps farmers in business so they in turn can produce fresh food. The fresh food keeps the county residents and economy healthy.



"Salem County has the most permanently preserved farmland in the state. It maintains the character of our beautiful County and is also an industry that helps support the County economy."

Lee Ware, Freeholder

Visit SalemCountyNJ.gov for Detailed Information About County Services and Much More.

Freeholder Workshops & Regular Meetings:
1st & 3rd Wed. of every month (except summer months).
Visit our website for times and location.

"Like" our page (Salem County Government).

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