

OCEAN COUNTY TOURISM – GREAT DAYS AHEAD!

With the spring into early summer great weather just ahead, it is a perfect time to talk about inviting friends and family to visit here in Ocean County.

If you visit the county website you will learn that Ocean County is home to one-third of the fabulous Jersey Shore 44 miles of the Atlantic Ocean coastline with sandy beaches, inviting surf, fantastic fishing and great activities for family members of all ages. Visit www.oceancountytourism.com. Grab families and out of state friends to show them what Ocean County has to offer.

Have a great summer.....the next time you hear from us it will be September!

Ocean County Office of Senior Services
 The One-Stop Center
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“Making it Easier For Seniors To Choose Services”

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Ocean County Office of Senior Services

May/June 2016 Newsletter



Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari

A Message From Joseph Vicari: Freeholder Chairman

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2016



A visit to the website of the Administration on Community Living allows you a peek at some important history.

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing. A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as “Senior Citizens Month,” the prelude to “Older Americans Month.”

By the way the latest census data available indicates 46,243,211 Americans age 65 and above. Seems we have grown since 1963!

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since Kennedy has issued a formal procla-

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mation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs, and other such activities.

This year's theme is *Blaze A Trail*. It fits well as May is a month of fresh beginnings when perennials bloom once again, blazing a trail of bright color. The Administration for Community Living will use this theme as an opportunity to raise awareness about important issues facing older adults. They will also highlight the ways that older Americans are advocating for themselves, their peers, and their communities.

The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation have created OceanWalk to inform county residents of "Great Places to Walk" in Ocean County. Be a trailblazer! Call us today at **732-929-2091** for a copy of "OceanWalk" so you can start logging your steps, distances, etc., or to find out more information about Older Americans Month activities throughout the county.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

On Thursday, May 12 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, we will be conducting a public hearing to determine the pressing issues involving older adults who reside in Ocean County.

This meeting is an important step in our annual Area Plan Process; by area plan we mean how we receive the funding for Ocean County senior programs, and then move ahead to distribute those dollars to the agencies that will do the work with us in the next year; we are part of a vast aging network of service providers. We will describe this to you in more detail when you join us at the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Lacey Nutrition Site located in the Village Lutheran Church at 701 Western Boulevard, Lanoka Harbor. Please call the Ocean County Office of Senior Services at **732-929-2091** to confirm your attendance.



40th ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS ART EXHIBIT

Our Ocean County artists are certainly blazing a trail of both talent and color! The 40th Annual Senior Citizens Art Exhibit celebrates the creative talents of older adults in Ocean County. Healthy aging includes many kinds of activity including physical, social and creative. Ocean County offers countless ways to express and enjoy the arts, history and culture. Enrich your life through classes, exhibits, fairs, celebrations, tours, parks and historical sites. They are all here in Ocean County for all ages to share and enjoy.

First Place winners from the county level Senior Citizens Art Exhibit will be eligible to enter the 2016 New Jersey Senior Citizens Annual Juried Art Contest and Exhibition in the fall.

Save the dates – The 40th Annual Senior Citizens Art Exhibit will be open to the public in the Grunin Center 2nd Floor Gallery from Friday June 10 through Thursday, June 23 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to noon; closed on Sundays. A Reception and Award Ceremony will be held in the Grunin Center on Friday June 24 at 10:30 a.m. Work will be removed immediately following the award ceremony.

For further information, please contact Patti Cadamatre in OCC College Relations at **732-255-0400 Ext. 2380** or visit www.ocean.edu to download an entry form.

THANK YOU TO OUR TAX VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you needs to go out to another group of talented older adults here in Ocean – our tax volunteers. We extend a huge thank you to all of the AARP Tax Aide volunteers and the VITA volunteers for their assistance to Ocean County residents during the past income tax season.

The efforts of these committed and dedicated volunteers once again demonstrate that individuals can make a huge contribution and every day they make Ocean County an even better place to live.