

2015 NJ SENIOR CITIZEN ART SHOW

Each year, this art show is a cosponsored project of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Mercer County Division of Culture and Heritage who actually produces the exhibit. It is also supported by the state wide Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

18 of the state's 21 counties had 1st place winners – we are proud to congratulate the all the Ocean County winners here:

- John Genuard, Randy, 1st Place, Pro Acrylic
- Lois Linde, James, 1st Place, Non-Pro Works on paper: Drawing
- Louis Riccio, Counting Sheep, 2nd Place, Pro Oil
- Connie O'Hara, Lady Of The Woods, 2nd Place, Non-Pro Sculpture
- Paul Burrowes, Girl At The Beach, 3rd Place, Pro Sculpture
- Dolores Sisia, Up a Lazy River, Honorable Mention, Non-Pro Oil
- Linda A Saladino, Catch A Wave, Honorable Mention, Non-Pro Pastel
- Vincent J Nardone, Back Bay Whimsy, Honorable Mention, Pro Pastel
- Marie DeVenezia, Retired Now, Honorable Mention, Pro Works on paper: Drawing

Ocean County Office of Senior Services
The One-Stop Center
P.O. Box 2191
1027 Hooper Ave., Bldg. 2, First Floor
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191



Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
John C. Bartlett, Jr.,
John P. Kelly,
James F. Lacey,
Gerry P. Little,
Joseph H. Vicari
Carl W. Block, Administrator

Ocean County Office of Senior Services

Joseph H. Vicari, Freeholder
Chairman
Jackie Rohan, Director

www.co.ocean.nj.us

“Making it Easier For Seniors To Choose Services”

Printed by the Ocean County Printing & Graphic Arts Department Freeholder John P. Kelly, Liaison



Ocean County Office of Senior Services

January/February 2016 Newsletter



Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari

A Message From Joseph Vicari: Freeholder Chairman

As we look forward to 2016, I want to take this opportunity to tell you I have contacted our legislative leaders to express my disappointment in the fact that there is no Social Security COLA increase planned in 2016; as in the past, I will continue to advocate for both Medicare and Social Security issues throughout the year.

Let me also extend a special thank you to all of those who have helped us to carry out the work of Senior Services throughout the year. Ocean County has a wonderful system of services for older adults and their caregivers but it would not be possible without the effort of our staff, service providers, advisory council, governmental officials and volunteers working together in that common goal.

We ended the year with an enormously successful Medicare Part D Enrollment; more than one client has saved thousands of dollars by working with our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors to find the right plan to assist them with pharmaceutical costs in the New Year. These counselors continue to lead the state in their client activity.

Access to services is provided through the five Information and Assistance Representatives located at the main Office of Senior Services at 1027 Hooper Ave., Building #2, Toms River and the two additional representatives stationed for your convenience at the County Connection at the Ocean County Mall.

Our staff assists callers/walk-ins with community resource information as well as applications for numerous benefits. The priority issue areas for 2015 were identified as follows: Medicare/Health Insurance, Prescriptions, In Home Services, Caregiver Information, Housing, Nutrition, Utility Assistance and Tax Programs.

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The One-Stop Center
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Additionally, those same services are provided at various funded Outreach locations throughout Ocean County. The Office of Senior Services has toll-free telephone numbers and a website at www.co.ocean.nj.us. The Ocean County Office of Senior Services resource directory is also available online. Not only can the resource directory be viewed on the Internet; specific documents can be e-mailed to older adults and caregivers. As we came to print there were over 18,000 website hits in the last year alone. This is an especially helpful tool for working caregivers or long distance caregivers.

Our department administers a comprehensive system of community based services including Access Services such as transportation, information and assistance and care management; Community Support such as education, recreation, physical and mental health screenings, physical fitness, adult day services, legal assistance; Home Support such as friendly visitor, telephone reassurance, residential maintenance, housekeeping, certified home health aide; Nutrition Support such as congregate meals, home delivered meals, nutrition counseling and education, Caregiver Support such as Respite, Caregiver Support Groups, In-Home Education and Support, etc.

Please call or visit our office for further information or to request a copy of our most current Resource Directory, 732-929-2091, or 1-800-668-4899 (In State only).

I will continue to advocate for our older adults and caregivers who rely upon these critical services.

ATTENTION! PAAD AND SENIOR GOLD BENEFICIARIES

Effective January 1, 2016, income limits for PAAD and Senior Gold have remained the same as 2015. Call our office for additional eligibility details.

Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD)	Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program
Income limit: Less than \$26,575 (single) less than \$32,582 (married). *For PAAD the total income cannot equal or exceed the indicated limit for the person to be eligible.	Income limit: \$26,575 - \$36,575 (single) \$32,582 - \$42,582 (married) *For Senior Gold the total income must be between the amounts indicated to be eligible.



HIGH MARKS AGAIN FOR SENIOR SERVICES

It is important to note that the Office of Senior Services has once again received high marks in a recent on-site assessment conducted by the State of New Jersey. The annual assessment by the Division of Aging Services is to ensure the County agency is in compliance with the provisions of the Older Americans Act along with federal and state policies.

To quote directly from the state report:

“The Ocean County Office of Senior Services (Area Agency on Aging/AAA) continues to do an exemplary job in administering a comprehensive, accessible system of community-based services to the elderly in Ocean County. Through networking with community partners, collaborative efforts to deliver services to older adults, extensive Outreach, Information and Assistance and advocacy; the Ocean AAA is achieving its mission to “LEAD THE WAY” in Advancing the Well Being of Older Adults in Ocean County.”

Our delivery of service has always been topnotch to the seniors that live in this County. I am very proud of the work done by Jackie Rohan, the Director of Senior Services and her hard working staff and community providers. They continue to go above and beyond to make certain seniors that call Ocean County home have the best quality of life available to them.



TAX HELP IS AVAILABLE

The Ocean County Office of Senior Services provides a list of volunteer income tax counseling sites. Ocean County is fortunate to offer Free Income Tax Assistance to people unable to afford this service. The AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are specially trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service and the NJ Division of Taxation to understand the many provisions of the tax code, particularly those that affect older people. Personal one-on-one assistance is provided to help the taxpayer complete Federal and State tax returns. Please call the Office of Senior Services at 732-929-2091 or 1-800-668-4899 for the site nearest to you.