

OCEAN COUNTY TOURISM – GREAT DAYS AHEAD!

As we enter spring into early summer, we know the great weather is just ahead, so it is a perfect time to talk about inviting friends and family to visit with us here in Ocean County.

Have you seen the county's tourism website? Visit the site and 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 and show them what Ocean County has to offer.

*Have a great summer.....the next time you hear from us it will be September!
But don't hesitate to call us at 732-929-2091.....we are always glad to hear from you.*



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

“Making it Easier For Seniors To Choose Services”

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The One-Stop Center
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Ocean County Office of Senior Services

May/June 2019 Newsletter



Freeholder
Joseph H. Vicari

A Message from

Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari: Freeholder Chairman

As the Freeholder Chairman for the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, it is my goal to keep you informed of programs available to assist seniors and to advocate on your behalf for the continued viability of benefits such as Social Security, Medicare and Home Delivered Meals. Programs such as these are vital to the financial stability of many older adults in Ocean County who rely on them to meet their basic needs. In this issue of the newsletter, I am encouraging eligible seniors to take advantage of the New Jersey Property Tax Relief Program designed to help defray the high cost of property taxes in New Jersey.

The Division of Taxation has begun mailing applications for the 2018 Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze) to senior citizens and disabled residents who may be eligible for the program. The deadline for filing 2018 applications is on or before October 31, 2019. They have shared the following information with us:

The Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze) Program, now in its 21st year, reimburses qualified applicants for the property tax increases they incur each year. Applicants must continue to meet all the income eligibility and residency requirements and must file an application each year to receive the reimbursement.

Residents applying for the 2018 reimbursement must have total income that was \$87,268* or less for 2017 and \$89,013* or less for 2018. These limits apply for all applicants, regardless of marital/civil union status. Applicants who are married or in a civil union and living in the same household must report combined income of both spouses/civil union partners. (*Income eligibility subject to change by the State Budget.)

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Freeholder Message continued

There are two versions of the Property Tax Reimbursement application. Form PTR-1 is for applicants who are filing an application for the first time (or who filed an application last year but did not meet all the eligibility requirements). Form PTR-1 applicants must provide income and property tax information for both 2017 and 2018. Form PTR-2 is a personalized application for those who received reimbursement checks for 2017 (or who would have received reimbursement payments had budgetary restrictions not been in place). The PTR-2 application contains some of the information provided on the resident's base year application. Any questions feel free to call the dedicated and knowledgeable staff of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services at **732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899 (In State Only)** or **1-877-222-3737** and they will be glad to assist you.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH MAY 2019



Older adults have made countless contributions to ensure a better life for future generations. Since 1963, communities across the country have shown their gratitude by celebrating Older Americans Month each May. The 2019 theme, **Connect, Create, Contribute**, encourages

older adults and their communities to:

- **Connect** with friends, family, and services that support participation.
- **Create** by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment.
- **Contribute** time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

Communities that encourage the contribution of older adults are stronger! By engaging and supporting all community members, we recognize that older adults play a key role in the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives.

No matter where you are in your life, there is no better time to **Connect, Create, Contribute**. We hope you will join in and a great start would be to call us at **732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899 (In State Only)** or **1-877-222-3737** to get a list of our senior centers located throughout the county; they host incredible activities especially during the month of May.....go ahead: **CONNECT, CREATE AND CONTRIBUTE!**

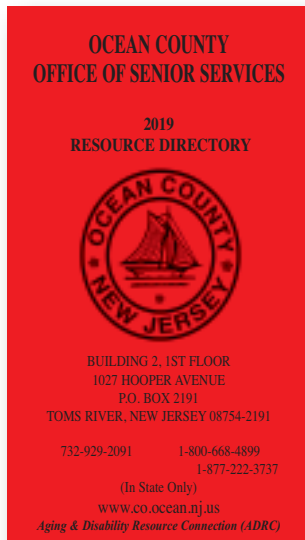
WANT TO ENGAGE WITH US? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

On Thursday, May 9th 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 and your opinions, ideas and input are invaluable to the overall success of the plan. **What do we mean by Area Plan?** Each year our office applies for and receives funding to support Ocean County senior programs intended to improve the quality of life for residents age 60 and over. We then distribute these dollars to agencies that will work with us to provide an array of services designed to meet the needs of older adults. It is always our goal to make sure that the services we fund are the services you need and the public hearing is where you get to do just that. In line with this year's theme for Older Americans Month, we encourage you to join us at the hearing and **Connect, Create and Contribute** to this important process! We will describe this to you in more detail when you join us at the meeting.

This year's public hearing will be held at Southern Ocean Medical Center, 1140 Rt. 72 West, Manahawkin, NJ. Please call the Ocean County Office of Senior Services at **732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899 (In State Only)** or **1-877-222-3737** to confirm your attendance and we will save a seat for you at this important event.

2019 OCEAN COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES RESOURCE DIRECTORY AVAILABLE



Our new “RED” resource book for 2019 is now available at the Ocean County Office of Senior Services. The 72 page directory includes information on benefits, consumer protection, education, health services, housing, legal services, nutrition, outreach, recreation, social services, transportation and volunteer programs.

Please call for a copy of this new Resource Directory, **732-929-2091, 1-800-668-4899 (In State Only) or 1-877-222-3737**. This 2019 Ocean County Office of Senior Services Resource Directory is also easily accessible on our website at www.co.ocean.nj.us, click on “Senior Services”; on the right side of the webpage, you will see “Consumer Resource Directory” as well as a variety of additional information and links to important services.

ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU TO OUR TAX VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you needs to go out to a dedicated group of talented older adults – our Ocean County 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 this year’s income tax season.

The efforts of these dedicated volunteers confirm that individuals can make a difference in the lives of others and improve the quality of life in Ocean County by *contributing* their time and expertise to those in need.

43RD ANNUAL SENIOR ART EXHIBIT

The 43rd Annual Senior 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 Art Exhibit will be eligible to enter the 2019 New Jersey Senior Annual Juried Art Contest and Exhibition in the fall.

Save the dates – The 43rd Annual Senior Art Exhibit will be open to the public in the Grunin Center 2nd Floor Gallery from Saturday June 8th through Saturday June 29th. (Gallery is open when classes are in session, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to noon). A Reception and Award Ceremony will be held in the Grunin Center on Friday, June 14th at 10:30 a.m. Removal day will be on July 1st at 10:00 a.m. to noon; all accepted artwork must remain for the duration of the exhibit and must be removed on the removal day, no exceptions.

For further information, please contact Valarie Morris at Ocean County College **732-255-0400 Ext. 2380** or visit www.ocean.edu to download an entry form.

