

# GLEN ROCK PERENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION

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Glen Rock's Senior Connection Newsletter

## **Senior Freeze Applications due February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

The Senior Freeze program is a State program available to New Jersey residents 65 and older or individuals with disabilities who meet the eligibility requirements. This program allows qualifying individuals to be reimbursed for a certain portion of their property taxes each year.

### **What are the qualifications?**

- Be at least 65 years old or receive Social Security Disability benefits.
- Have lived in New Jersey continuously for at least the last 10 years, as either a homeowner or a renter.
- Have owned and lived in that home for the last three years and have paid the full amount of property taxes on the home.
- Have leased and lived at a site in a mobile home park for the last three years and have paid the full amount of property taxes/site fees.
- Live below the required income level for eligibility - \$91,505 for single or combined income if married or in a civil union, according to the State Division of Taxation. All income for the year must be taken into account, including any that does not have to be reported on State income tax returns, such as disability benefits, tax-exempt interest, and Social Security benefits.

### **How does it work?**

Those who qualify are given a base amount, or portion of their regular tax bill they are responsible for, after the initial application is filed. Taxpayers must pay the full tax bill every year. The State program will then reimburse the taxpayer the difference between the entire tax bill and the base amount. ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS MUST FILE EVERY YEAR (PTR-1 form the first year and PTR-2 for every year after, as well as the accompanying eligibility form). If a year is skipped, an application should still be filed as soon as possible after the deadline to retain the previous base year tax amount. Applicants must prove they meet the requirements for the program for that missing year.

### **How do I apply?**

There is no online application. The form must be printed, completed and mailed.

Forms are available at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/printform.shtml>, or by calling 1-800-882-6597.

Mail a completed application to: NJ Division of Taxation Revenue Processing Center Senior Freeze (PTR), PO Box 635, Trenton, NJ, 08646-0635. Senior Freeze (PTR).

Applicants are notified of eligibility by mail. Reimbursements are made by paper check. No direct deposit available.

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## "SHOVEL FOR SENIORS"

It's nice to know that help is available for occasions like a snowstorm as we don't want any seniors slipping on ice or snow!. Be prepared in advance by reaching out to the boro's offices at 201-670-3956 ext 1 and sign up with Chris O'Reilly (Parks & Rec office) to get on the SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL LIST. If you are prompted to leave a message, please do so with your name and call back phone number. You will be partnered up with someone who will help you when that snowstorm comes! (You can also sign up for the Big Sweep leaf removal at the same number).

MANY THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP OUT WITH THIS PROGRAM!

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### *THE BOROUGH IS HERE TO HELP !!*

**DPW Recycling Pickup:** For those senior residents who live alone and are unable to place recycling to the curb for normal pickup, the DPW can arrange to pick up recycling from the back of the house. This service is intended for those senior residents who are physically unable to put their recycling to the curb and must be re-applied for at Borough Hall prior to the start of each year. For more information, please contact the Department of Public Works at 201-670-3980.

If you are a senior who finds themselves unable to place your garbage cans in front of your home if a snow emergency is called, please inform the boro office in the event of a snowstorm. A member of the DPW will pick up your garbage in your yard as usual. Again, the number to call is 201-670-3980.

### LET'S CONTINUE TO BE SAFE IN THESE COVID TIMES...

Yes, we are still washing our hands, wearing masks and keeping socially distant. And yes, we would all like to leave it behind and get back to normal. I know I can't wait to hug my children and my grandchildren, eat in my favorite restaurant and go overnight on a treasured get-away.

But we still have to be patient and show others that together, we can get through this pandemic and remain healthy.

So please...I know it's not easy and we all want to enjoy getting together with family and friends, but right now we are at record high numbers, and a lot of those numbers are a result of our desire to celebrate together these past few months.

Hang in there—it's frustrating for sure, but we will all get the opportunity to be vaccinated.

PLEASE be vigilant! Even after you are vaccinated, continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and do all the things you have been doing to remain healthy and safe. Remember, the vaccine takes time to work in our system, it is not immediate. Like any vaccine, for example the flu shot, there is a period that it takes the body to gain protection after getting vaccinated. We are not only staying safe for ourselves, but our loved ones and neighbors as well.

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We have been ravaged by COVID-19 for almost a year now. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The groundbreaking cooperation between leading medical experts here in America and pharmaceutical companies globally has made a return to normal something we can imagine in the not-too-distant future.

As you have certainly been following, the COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed and is now being made available to individuals aged 65 and older and individuals ages 16-64 with medical conditions, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The conditions include:

Cancer

Chronic kidney disease

COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

Down Syndrome

Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies

Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

Sickle cell disease

Smoking

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

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At this moment, there are two significant challenges with respect to the vaccine rollout. First, there is not have enough of the vaccine (from any of the pharmaceutical companies) to meet the demand. This will resolve over time – but, right now, it is making it difficult to obtain the vaccine. The second challenge is that there are individuals who do not have an email account or access to the internet to register/make appointments for the vaccine. To address this issue, we understand that there is a group currently working on establishing a call center to provide an alternate means for individuals to have access to vaccine information and to register for appointments. At this time, we do not have details regarding the call center; but we will provide this information as soon as it is available.

According to third party sources, getting the vaccine will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe. If you have questions about whether you should be receiving the vaccine, you should speak with your health care provider.

So, what should you do now? If you have an email account and access to the internet, you can register for the vaccine at <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>. Once you register, you should be contacted when the vaccine and appointments for getting the vaccine are available. The Borough website will be updated regularly with information regarding access to the COVID-19 including how and where to register.

In the meantime, continue to wear your mask, wash your hands thoroughly, and stay physically distant from those who are outside of your household. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, self-quarantine and get tested.

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## **Be a part of the municipal budget process!**

Taxes are one of the most hotly debated topics in local communities. Ever wonder how the decisions are made to spend YOUR money? Come be a part of the budget process! Ask questions!

Give input!

Budget basics:

- Our local municipal budget needs to be passed by Ordinance every March-April (per NJ State requirement).
- Budget to be introduced by Council by mid-late March and adopted 28 days later.
- Two public hearings on the budget need to take place and be posted on website with 4 weeks in between hearings.
- Budget must be adopted by majority of governing body (Council).

Current Glen Rock Budget Process:

1. CFO, Lenora Benjamin, requests operations and capital items from departments/divisions and prepares documents.
2. Initial (non-public) budget meetings with Finance Committee (co-chairs Teresa Gilbreath, Jon Cole and member Mary Barchetto) and select department heads to discuss rationale for requests.
3. Public budget meetings held by the Finance Committee with departments and divisions to discuss:
  - o Requests from initial meeting, adjust/approve Operations budget and discuss capital requests.
  - o Debt service for next year/ implications for municipal portion of taxes
4. CFO prepares budget documents.
5. Budget introduced at Council.

Dates will be posted on the Borough website, in the Glen Rock Gazette and included in the Borough's weekly email. The Finance Committee welcomes residents participation and input.

### **BOROUGH CALENDAR**

Our awesome Glen Rock 2021 Calendar is out and features some amazing photography by local borough photographers. If you haven't received your copy you can request one be sent to you by call Liz Outerbridge at the GR Borough office. Please leave a message at 201-670-3956 or email [grinfo@glenrocknj.net](mailto:grinfo@glenrocknj.net)

