



# The GLOUCESTER COUNTY Democrat

The Official Newsletter  
of the Democratic Party of Gloucester County

## A Message from the Chairman, Michael Angelini



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We can especially be proud to be Democrats in 2009! Last November we elected the first African-American president of the United States, Barack Obama. It was a tough fall campaign and many of you worked hard for the national Democratic ticket of Obama and Joe Biden. But we Democrats prevailed. With President Obama in the White House, we can begin the challenge of getting people back to work, fixing our broken health-care system and restoring our nation's ailing economy.

Congratulations to Freeholder Director Steve Sweeney and fellow Freeholders Warren Wallace and Frank DiMarco for their victories in the fall. County government remains solidly in Democratic hands, and will continue to provide the critical services and programs our citizens have come to expect. Under the able direction of Steve, the Freeholders Board will continue to find cost-efficient means to deliver these services and programs to save taxpayer dollars.

At the local level, I want to congratulate all our Democratic candidates who won their respective elections. Once again, the voters expressed their clear confidence in our Party. Democrats now control 18 of the county's 24 towns. In 2009, we must continue to work hard to elect Democrats to local offices, so Gloucester County can continue to be a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Once again, this year will be a challenge for Democrats.

Freeholder Deputy Director Bob

Damminger and Freeholder Joe Chila are up for re-election, along with Sheriff Carmel Morina. With Bob, Joe and Carmel back to serve us, Gloucester County will continue to move in the right direction. At the state level, we need to return Assemblyman John Burzichelli to Trenton and welcome Celeste Riley as his running mate to represent the Third Legislative District. From the Fourth District, we also need to return Assembly members Paul Moriarity and Sandy Love. In the Fifth District, Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts and Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz-Perez will be seeking re-election. With these dedicated Democrats in Trenton, Gloucester County will continue to have the strong representation it needs in state government to improve our quality of life.

As your Chairman, it has been my pleasure to lead the Democratic Party of Gloucester County. So, a hardy thanks to the Gloucester County Democratic Committee for all its hard work last year, especially during the historic November election. In 2009, with a new Democratic administration in Washington, we finally can look forward to a government that works for the people's interests and not the special interests.

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# In the Spotlight

## MELISSA HOFFMAN *Mayor of Clayton*



In this issue, we feature **Melissa Hoffman**, who has served as Clayton's mayor since 2008. Melissa was first elected to Borough Council in 2003. Since then she has worked hard for her community by her leadership skills and strong commitment to improving the quality of life within Clayton.

**Q. Why did you decide to enter public service?**

**A.** My parents have always been active in public service in Monroe Township, so I was raised to always try to help others through public service.

**Q. What have been your major accomplishments as Mayor?**

**A.** Bringing the borough into the 21st century with technology, along with possible economic development projects with Franklin Township through the Gloucester County Department of Economic Development; joining the county's EMS program; and reinstating the borough's Veterans' Affairs Committee, which has implemented a program of redesigning street signs with the names of veterans who were killed in action with their individual military branch of service on the street sign.

**Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A.** I love to read, listen to music, and spend time with my daughter.

**Q. What is your favorite vacation spot?**

**A.** New York City or Washington, D.C.

**Q. What is your favorite movie?**

**A.** Because I have a 3-year-old who controls the house, I would have to say "Kung Fu Panda" right now.

**Q. Who are some of the musical artists on your MP3 player?**

**A.** Britney Spears, Staind, Tito Nieves, Celia Cruz, Taylor Swift, Paramore, Linkin Park, Fergie, Katy Perry, and Debussy.

**Q. What is your favorite TV show?**

**A.** Monday Night Football

**Q. Who has been an influence on your life?**

**A.** My daughter, Ally.

**Q. What do you see as the future of the Gloucester County Democratic Party?**

**A.** I see our future as continuing to be the strong family unit we are, growing with new members and running another successful campaign for the residents of Gloucester County.

## Celeste Riley joins John Burzichelli to represent 3rd district



John Burzichelli



Celeste Riley

Bridgeton City Council President Celeste Riley will join Assemblyman John Burzichelli to represent the Third Legislative District in Trenton. She will replace Assemblyman Doug Fisher, who will become the state's next Secretary of Agriculture. Celeste also will become the first woman ever to represent the Third District. She won a seat on the Bridgeton City Council in 2006 and has served as its president since 2008. Celeste teaches at the Morris Goodwin Elementary School in Greenwich, Cumberland County.

"As an educator and public servant, her commitment to improving all of South Jersey's communities is without question," said Assemblyman Burzichelli.

John Burzichelli was elected to the General Assembly in 2001 and has served as Deputy Speaker since 2006. He is Chair of the state's Tourism and Gaming Committee, and also serves on the Budget Committee and Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee.

John and Celeste will run together in the November general election. Along with Senate Majority Leader Steve Sweeney, South Jersey will continue to have strong representation in Trenton.



## Back in County Government: Steve Sweeney, Warren Wallace & Frank DiMarco



Steve Sweeney

Warren Wallace

Frank DiMarco

Freeholder Director Steve Sweeney and Freeholders Warren Wallace and Frank DiMarco have returned to county government to continue fighting for Gloucester County. During these challenging times, Steve, Warren and Frank have fought to rein in government spending. For instance, they have regionalized shared services, such as the county EMS program, which save taxpayers millions of dollars. Because of their responsible fiscal management, Standard & Poor's raised the county's bond rate to AA+, the highest bond rating in South Jersey. In 2009, Steve, Warren and Frank, along with the entire Freeholder Board, will focus on holding the line on the county's tax rate, economic development and investing in our infrastructure, and shrinking the size of government.

## Bob Damminger, Joe Chila and Carmel Morina prepare for fall campaign

Deputy Freeholder Director Bob Damminger, Freeholder Joe Chila and Sheriff Carmel Morina will seek re-election in November to continue serving Gloucester County. Bob has been Deputy Director since 2000, and is serving his fourth term as a Freeholder. He oversees the Departments of Public Works and Land Preservation and Open Space, which, to date, has preserved more than 15,000 acres of open space and farmland throughout the county. Joe is serving his first term on the Freeholder Board and since 2003 has been the Mayor of Woolwich Township, one of the fastest-growing municipalities in the nation. He oversees the Office of Veterans Affairs, as

well as other departments, and will continue to provide the critical health-care services our military veterans need and deserve. Carmel is serving his first term as Sheriff. For six years, he was Greenwich Township's Chief of Police, implementing a variety of public-safety programs that made his community safer. Carmel is a certified Chief Law Enforcement Executive, and is a graduate of the New Jersey Police Academy and the Gloucester County Police Academy, including its D.A.R.E. officer-training program.



Bob Damminger



Joe Chila



Carmel Morina

# Doug Fisher to become state agriculture secretary



Doug Fisher

Assemblyman Doug Fisher was endorsed by Gov. Jon S. Corzine to become New Jersey's next Secretary of Agriculture.

Doug, who is serving his fourth term in the Assembly representing the Third Legislative District, has also served as Deputy Majority Whip since 2008. He is Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Last year Doug fought a proposal by the governor to eliminate the state Department of Agriculture. He has long been a champion of the farming community throughout South Jersey, and has vowed to work for the replenishment of the depleted Garden State Preservation Trust, which finances the preservation of farmland and open space.

"He has character, knowledge and the ability to deal with the political process that invariably comes with this territory," said Gov. Corzine. "I'm thrilled to support him."

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