

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

NEW YEAR, NEW START!

Gloucester County is working to provide the best services, programs, and events to residents in 2022 - that means YOU!

We're looking forward to the things we have planned in 2022, and we hope you will join us. To make sure you don't miss out, we'll be sending you news updates monthly.

If you have any questions or comments on the content of our newsletter, please give us a call at (856)-853-3271 or send an email to socialmedia@co.gloucester.nj.us.

Sincerely,

Frank J. DiMarco

Director of the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners

MAKING HISTORY IN YOUR BACKYARD

Gloucester County's county college, Rowan College of South Jersey, and Rowan University announce Veterinary School

The Rowan University School of Veterinary Medicine will be housed on the campus of Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ), the first in the state.

Rowan will establish undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and internship/residency programs at the veterinary school. Additionally, an A.S. in veterinary technology to B.S. in veterinary technology pathway program will be offered in collaboration with Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester. Rowan University will become one of two

universities in the nation to offer Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of Medicine, and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees.

"We believe the partnership between the County, Rowan University, and Rowan College of South Jersey creates a unique opportunity for students. We continue to create ways for our students to excel in future career paths thanks to the growing landscape of the county, all while keeping education affordable," said Commissioner Lyman Barnes, Liaison to Education.

CLAYTON RANKS #1 AS THE MOST AFFORDABLE NJ TOWN TO LIVE IN



A recent survey found that the Borough of Clayton has been recognized as the most affordable place to live in New Jersey. Annual property taxes, mortgage payments, closing costs, and homeowner's insurance were amongst some of the lowest amounts in the state. Clayton's Mayor told NJ.com that he is "extremely excited and proud" of Clayton's recognition, and believes this shows that Clayton is "a community where people want to live and raise their families."

Originally featured on NJ.com: <https://bit.ly/3fCrVmU>



Pictured: Tony Lowman, Provost, Rowan University; Matthew Edson, Founding Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine; Director Frank J. DiMarco, Gloucester County Board of Commissioners; Former Senate President Steve Sweeney, Third Legislative District; Commissioner Lyman Barnes, Gloucester County Board of Commissioners; Ali A. Houshmand, President, Rowan University; Deputy Director Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Board of Commissioners; Frederick Keating, President, Rowan College of South Jersey.

 Please recycle our newsletter after use- thank you for doing your part! 

The County of Gloucester complies with all state and federal rules and regulations against discrimination in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, and activities. In addition, the County encourages participation of people with disabilities in its programs and activities and offers special services to all residents 60 years of age and older. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the County's ADA Coordinator at (856) 384-6842/ New Jersey Relay Service 711.

VETERANS SERVICES

Since 1998, the Gloucester County Commissioner Board has been working to improve the services that are available to our Veterans and their families. The Office of Veterans Affairs is open full-time and can assist with program applications, free wills, vocational rehab, discharge paperwork, Federal Medal applications, disability claims, and much more.

Call (856)-401-7660 or visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov or email Bob at bjonas@co.gloucester.nj.us

Veterans: Did you know there's income tax exemption for Veterans? Under legislation passed by former Senate President Steve Sweeney, you are eligible for a \$6,000 exemption (\$3,000 for Tax Years 2017 and 2018) on your New Jersey Income Tax return if you are a military veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States on or any time before the last day of the tax year. Your spouse (or civil union partner) is also eligible for an exemption if they are a veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances and you are filing a joint return. **For more information, please call 609-292-6400**

GET YOUR FURRY-FRIENDS THEIR ANNUAL FREE RABIES VACCINE

The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners - in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS) - have announced the dates for the 2022 Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic offered to residents' pets.

"DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE TO GET YOUR PET THEIR RABIES VACCINE," said Director Frank J. DiMarco.

"We provide these free clinics so your pets can stay healthy, happy, and safe." Director DiMarco serves as Liaison to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter.

For more information please call (856) 881-2828 or email Wendy at wcarey@co.gloucester.nj.us



Director DiMarco with a friend from the Gloucester County Animal Shelter

Check out the dates through the beginning of March below:

Harrison Township	Logan	Mantua
March 5 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Harrison Twp. Public Works 1151 Colson Ln. Mullica Hill	March 5 • 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Municipal Building Complex 125 Main St. Bridgeport	March 5 • 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mantua Public Works Yard 407 Main St Mantua
Wenonah	West Deptford	
March 5 • 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wenonah Fire House 14 South West Ave. Wenonah	March 5 • 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Public Works Garage 124 Grove Ave. West Deptford	

View the full schedule at <https://bit.ly/2022Rabies> or scan the QR code:

To scan the QR Code: Open up the camera app on your smartphone and point to the QR Code. Click the notification on your screen to open the website on your phone.



YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO PREPARED Register Today for Register Ready

The Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management works collaboratively with the State to assist you. The Registry is designed to assist emergency responders in locating those residents that may need assistance evacuating in an emergency and who lack adequate assistance from

families and caregivers. You (or someone on your behalf) should register if you may find it difficult to get to safety with family or friends or to a public shelter during an emergency evacuation because of a physical or cognitive disability, communication barrier, or lack of transportation.

Fill out the form directly online at the NJ Special Needs Registry website OR call the Division of Disability Services at (856) 384-6842.



For Weekly Updates from Gloucester County, Subscribe to our Digital Newsletter

Receive a weekly wrap-up of all things happening in Gloucester County straight to your inbox every Friday. Scan the QR Code, email socialmedia@co.gloucester.nj.us or call (856) 853-3271 to subscribe.

To scan the QR Code: Open up the camera app on your smartphone and point to the QR Code. Click the notification on your screen to open the website on your phone.

SENIOR SERVICES

The Nutrition Program provides a well-balanced mid-day meal to seniors who are 60 or older or the spouse of a participant. The mid-day meal is served Monday through Friday at the Nutrition Sites listed. In addition to a meal, the sites also foster social inter-

action, and offer recreational and leisure activities as well as providing access to other supportive services available to Gloucester County senior citizens. Meals are planned by a nutritionist to ensure the recommended nutrients.

**Mantua Township
Community Center**
111 Mercer Avenue
Sewell, NJ 08080

Glassboro Senior Center
152 S Delsea Drive
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Thorofare Fire Hall
100 Firehouse Road
Thorofare, NJ 08086

**Pfeiffer
Community Center**
301 Blue Bell Street
Williamstown, NJ 08094

First Baptist Church Jericho
981 Mail Avenue
Deptford, NJ 08096

Second Baptist Church
1534 Pine Street
Paulsboro, NJ 08066

For more information, please call: (856) 384-6900 or email Eric at efisher@co.gloucester.nj.us

Serv-a-Tray is our home-delivered meal program designed to maintain health through proper nutrition and enable homebound seniors to remain in the community with independence and dignity. To be eligible, persons must be age 60 or older; homebound;

unable to shop or prepare their own meals; have no one to assist with meals; and be on a regular diet. A complete midday meal is delivered to participants Monday through Friday and frozen meals are available for the weekends.

Seniors- Apply for Property Tax Relief

Under the Homestead Benefit program, eligible homeowners receive a credit against their local property taxes. The Senior Freeze Program, established by former Senate President Steve Sweeney, is available to residents over 65 years of age who meet certain income eligibility standards, or residents receiving Federal Social Security benefits. Eligible Senior Freeze applicants receive a check for the difference between their current property taxes and the

property taxes paid on their first year of eligibility in the program.

The Senior Freeze Hotline is 1-800-882-6597, and the Homestead Benefit Hotline can be reached at 1-888-238-1233. For more information on these programs, including income eligibility standards, residents are encouraged to visit the website of the New Jersey Division of Taxation at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/

Volunteers:

Would you like to give back to the community? Volunteer at Gloucester County Senior Services Nutrition Program. Call (856) 384-6900 for more information on how you can get involved!

GRANT AWARDED TO EXPAND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Gloucester County has received a \$1,000,000 Green Acres matching grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Garden State Preservation.

This grant will be used to fund the Gloucester County Open Space Preservation Program and the Farmland Preservation Program.

The objective of the Open Space

Preservation Program is to expand the existing county and municipal park system in Gloucester County. Through this program the county has been able to expand all three county parks: Red Bank Battlefield, the James G. Atkinson Park and the Scotland Run Park along with five additions of lands adjacent to the County golf course and greenway in Mantua Township.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Director Frank J. DiMarco, Deputy Director Heather Simmons and Commissioner Jim Jefferson attended the ribbon cutting for Musings and Light, a new business in Mullica Hill, on Saturday, November 13th.



Director Frank J. DiMarco, Deputy Director Heather Simmons and Commissioner Jim Jefferson joined Harrison Twp. Committee Members to welcome new business owner, Meredith LeConey of Musings & Light, to downtown Mullica Hill.

Musings & Light sells handcrafted bead bracelets, artisan jewelry and gifts. With the opening of their brick and mortar boutique, Owner Meredith LeConey hopes to feature local artisans and on trend items that will only be available at Musings & Light in downtown Mullica Hill. "We are listening to the owners and managers of these small businesses to see what their needs are and where Gloucester County Economic and Workforce Development can assist, particularly with our small business recovery grant and micro loan programs," said Deputy Director Heather Simmons, liaison to the Department of Economic Development and Workforce Development Board.

FREE VACCINES AVAILABLE

Don't hesitate to get yours today at the Gloucester County Health Department, located at 204 E. Holly Avenue, Sewell 08080.

Register today at: covidvaccine.nj.gov or call our COVID-19 hotline at (856)-218-4142.

To see our full list of hours of operation or to read more about the COVID-19 vaccination, please visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov

GLOUCESTER COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL RESCUES BALD EAGLE

The Gloucester County Animal Control Division received a call on Saturday, December 11 in South Harrison Township regarding a sick or injured Bald Eagle.

Animal Control arrived at the scene and immediately contacted Elk Fire Department and Mullica Hill Fire Department for ladder assistance. The bald eagle was taken to Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research for further testing and review

"We want to remind residents the importance of animal safety. If you see an animal that you believe needs care, do not ever approach the animal. Always call Animal Control for the experts to do their jobs," said Director Frank J. DiMarco. "It's best to contact experts so no one gets hurt- including the animals."



For more information, please call (856) 881-2828 or email Wendy at wcarey@co.gloucester.nj.us

HELP US RE-NAME GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

Every month we'll send you the latest information from our county Board of Commissioners and departments straight to your mailbox.

We need your help to come up with a creative, fun name that encompasses what its like to live, work and play in Gloucester County!

Fill out the form below and it just

may end up on the front page!

If you do not have computer access but would like to submit a name, please call (856) 853-3271.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWSLETTER NAME IDEA HERE:

Scan QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3nImLE6>

To scan the QR Code: Open up the camera app on your smartphone and point to the QR Code. Click the notification on your screen to open the website on your phone.



**All contact information in the form is optional, only required piece for submission is your Newsletter name idea.*

DREAM PARK

The Gloucester County DREAM Park was created to provide opportunities for those who own horses to have a place to participate in shows and competitions, and also as a place to allow the public to experience the magnificence and beauty of these animals first hand.

This Park is also a source of educational opportunities for the equestrian community, those with special needs, and for any individual interested in learning more about horses.

Therapeutic Riding:

The DREAM Park Therapeutic Riding Center is located at the DREAM Park in Logan Twp. We offer horseback riding lessons to children and adults with a variety of special needs. Also offering limited able bodied/non-therapeutic lessons.

For more information, please visit the Therapeutic Riding Center at dreamparknj.com/therapeutic-riding/ or call (856) 241-1415 or email dreampark@gcianj.com

