

# GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

## GLOUCESTER COUNTY ANNOUNCES START OF ROUTE 322 AND FRIES MILL ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN MONROE

The County of Gloucester has contracted R.E. Pierson Construction Co. to complete intersection improvements to Glassboro Road. (US Rt 322) and Fries Mill Road (CR 655), announced Commissioner Deputy Director Heather Simmons, Liaison to Engineering and Public Works. Work on the project got underway on January 30.

Deputy Director Simmons said the project consists of road widening, drainage improvements, traffic signal improvements, ADA curb ramp installation, and roadway resurfacing. Turn lanes and through lanes will be provided on all approaches to address current congestion at this intersection. Utility relocation will also take place during construction.

"Critical funding from the state is what keeps our roads some of the best in the southern part of the state," said Simmons. "Crews will be able to get the job done largely by utilizing lane shifts. Alternative

traffic routes or closures will be utilized when required."

Typical work hours will be from 7:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Some nighttime work will be scheduled to minimize disruption to traffic flow.

This is one of many transportation projects made possible by former Senate President Steve Sweeney. Thanks to his advocacy during his time in Trenton, the New Jersey Department of Transportation awarded more than \$110 million to Gloucester County through the Transportation Trust Fund and other NJDOT programs for repairs and improvements to roads and bridges that improve the quality of life for residents.

"This consistent attention to our roads keeps them in good shape so that we rarely face an emergency situation that can drain resources or cause a danger," said Director Frank DiMarco.



This project is anticipated being completed in Mid-September 2023. The Construction Contract is for \$6,768,850.22.

For more information about the Department of Public Works or current road projects, call 856-307-6400 or visit [gloucestercountynj.gov/480/Public-Works](http://gloucestercountynj.gov/480/Public-Works).

## NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Gloucester County Commissioner Deputy Director Heather Simmons has announced two new recovery grant opportunities available to Gloucester County municipalities, non-profits, and local businesses.

Simmons noted that both grant opportunities stemmed from recommendations made by the 75-member

Gloucester County Economic Recovery Collaborative. Simmons convened that team of community stakeholders in 2021 to address regional recovery priorities.

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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.



## CONGRATS TO OUR LOCAL CHAMPIONS!

Commissioner Jim Jefferson spent a special morning at Woodbury Junior-Senior High School to honor the Woodbury High School football team, cheerleaders, and band. The team rallied past Mountain Lakes High School 31-7 at Rutgers University on December 3, becoming NJSIAA/Rothman Orthopedics Group 1 Champions, the first in New Jersey state history!



An added special bonus was the presence of Nakobe Dean of the Philadelphia Eagles, who spent time with the players answering questions and giving words of encouragement. It was a fitting tribute to this historic accomplishment.

**Congratulations to all!**

## MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



In January, Commissioner Jim Jefferson participated in the Monroe Public Schools annual swearing-in ceremony. Pictured are Monroe Township Mayor Gregory Wolfe, Commissioner Jefferson, Monroe Township Board of Education Member Dr. Rena Morrow, and Senator Fred Madden.

## RCSJ AND ACENDA CELEBRATE PREMIER PARTNERSHIP

On February 8, Director Frank J. DiMarco, Deputy Director Heather Simmons, and Commissioner Jim Jefferson gathered as Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) and Acenda Integrated Health celebrated the signing of a premier partnership agreement. The Commissioners and representatives of both entities were joined by state and local government officials, educators, health care leaders, and RCSJ faculty, staff, and students to celebrate this landmark accomplishment. This partnership is intended to prioritize mental health and wellness for RCSJ's students and employees, as well as the entire South Jersey region.

As part of the partnership, RCSJ's Behavioral Sciences Center Building will now be known as the Acenda Behavioral Sciences Center. "Our partnership with Acenda Health is a unique and important one," said Director DiMarco. "With the rebrand of the Acenda Behavioral Sciences Center, we're opening opportunities for our students, and our community on a personal and educational level. We are constantly working to think beyond the ordinary and commit to bringing the best of the best here."



The partnership's goals include creating a culture on campus that prioritizes wellness via collaborative mental health promotions and awareness workshops that will benefit students and staff. "Today is such a special day because we are combining efforts and saying with our mouths and with our wallets that educating young people is also about healing their mind, body, and soul," said Commissioner Jefferson, who serves as liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Health and Human Services.

## POLISH UP THOSE RESUMES- MEGA JOB FAIR IS MARCH 24

Gloucester County will hold the annual Mega Job Fair on Friday, March 24 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the RCSJ Gymnasium.

The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners and Workforce Development Board (WDB) encourage attending residents to dress for success, bring copies of their resume, and prepare for on-the-spot interviews.

“The Mega Job Fair is one of the largest job-seeking resources the region has to offer. These events give businesses and job seekers the opportunity to find

the match that’s best for them,” said Deputy Director Heather Simmons, liaison to the Department of Economic Development.

The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners and the Gloucester County Workforce Development Board sponsor workshops to help registered individuals prepare for the fair.

**For more information, visit [www.gcwdb.org](http://www.gcwdb.org), call (856) 384-6963, or email [ecdev@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:ecdev@co.gloucester.nj.us).**

## 2023 HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION DATES ANNOUNCED

Since 1989, Gloucester County has conducted a series of collection days where residents can drop-off their “Household Special Waste” (HSW) at a designated location. This is done in an effort to provide a more convenient HSW disposal schedule for County residents.

“Disposing of these wastes properly is key to ensure protection against harsh chemicals entering our environment. This is an easy way to do your part in keeping our planet clean,” said Commissioner Lyman Barnes.

### Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex



493 Monroeville Road (Rt. 694)  
South Harrison



**April 8, 2023**  
**September 16, 2023**



8:00am – 2:00pm  
Rain or Shine

### Gloucester County Road Department



1200 N. Delsea Drive (Rt. 47)  
Clayton



**May 20, 2023**  
**October 14, 2023**



8:00am – 2:00pm  
Rain or Shine

### Accepted Materials

Oil based paints, stains, motor oil, antifreeze, CFL bulbs, fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, lead acid, Ni-cad, lithium, & all rechargeable batteries, fire extinguishers, solvents, pesticides, cleaners, kerosene, herbicides, gasoline, turpentine, varnish, fertilizers, rat poison, auto & floor care products, weed killers, lighter fluid, propane tanks, photographic & pool chemicals. 55 gallon containers require prior approval.

Participation limited to Gloucester County residents.

Commercial businesses are prohibited from participating in these events!

**For Additional Information Call (856)478-6045**



Sponsored by the Gloucester County Improvement Authority/Office of Recycling & the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners, Frank J. DiMarco, Director  
The GCIA is an equal opportunity/BA compliant government agency.



## GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. DiMarco, *Director*

Heather Simmons, *Deputy Director*

Lyman Barnes

Denice DiCarlo

Nicholas DeSilvio

Jim Jefferson

Christopher Konawel Jr.

## CERTIFIED GARDENERS OFFER GARDENING AND LAWN CARE ADVICE

Gloucester County's Certified Gardeners offer residents advice on all aspects of gardening and lawn care, including pest identification, plant disease diagnosis, gardening for pollinators and more.

Deputy Director Heather Simmons urges gardeners ranging from novices to experts to reach out to the Certified Gardeners to receive help, tips or inspiration. She also reminds residents that free pH soil testing is available. Testing pH can help tremendously as you start or continue your gardening journey!

You can reach the Certified Gardeners by phone at (856) 307-6464 or email at [gardener@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:gardener@co.gloucester.nj.us).

**For additional information, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/399/Certified-Gardeners-Program>.**



## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE

The Gloucester County Health Department offers free COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters. Don't hesitate to get yours today at the Gloucester County Health Department, located at 204 E. Holly Avenue in Sewell.

Register today at [covidvaccine.nj.gov](https://covidvaccine.nj.gov) or call the County's 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](https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov).

## SNAP MINIMUM BENEFITS WILL EXPIRE IN FEBRUARY

Beginning March 2023, all households eligible for the NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will receive a minimum \$50 monthly benefit following the end of federal SNAP emergency allotments in February.

Under the new minimum benefit program, if a SNAP household was approved for less than \$50 in SNAP benefits (\$23 is the minimum federal SNAP benefit), they will receive their regular monthly benefit plus an additional state supplement to bring them to \$50. The NJ Department of Human Services will mail notices in February to all SNAP households advising them of the benefit reduction along with a reminder of their regular benefit amount resuming in March.

Commissioner Jim Jefferson serves as liaison to the Gloucester County Division of Social Services and says SNAP recipients worried about the overall reduction in benefits should check their eligibility for other food assistance programs including WIC for women and children under 5, free or reduced school meals, or the commodity supplemental food program for older adults over 60 years of age.

For more information regarding services offered by the Gloucester County Division of Social Services, please call (856) 582-9200 or visit [www.gloucestercountynj.gov/510/Social-Services](https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/510/Social-Services).

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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.