

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

NATIONAL CAREGIVERS DAY & SUPPORT GROUPS

National Caregivers Day is observed each year on the third Friday in February. This year's observance, which celebrates people who selflessly provide assistance, physical comfort, and emotional support to those in need, will take place on **Friday, February 16**. Caregivers come in a variety of forms: family caregivers, professional caregivers, independent caregivers, private duty caregivers, and informal caregivers.

In Gloucester County, caregivers can obtain support and assistance from the Gloucester County Caregiver Support Program. This program provides services to meet individual caregiving needs. Through the Division of Senior Services, Caregiver Specialists connect caregivers of older adults with available resources and help them manage their caregiving responsibilities.

Furthermore, caregivers and kinship carers have an opportunity to connect with others through a monthly "Led by Love" caregiver and kinship care support group.

Meetings for these groups are held monthly. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Caregiver Support Group

**Division of Senior Services,
115 Budd Boulevard, West Deptford**

Wednesday, January 31

Wednesday, February 28

9:00am - 12:00pm

"Led By Love" Family Caregiver Support Group

**Division of Senior Services,
115 Budd Boulevard, West Deptford**

Wednesday, January 24

Wednesday, February 21

9:00am - 12:00pm

This year, there will also be an additional caregiver support group meeting held monthly in Clayton. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Caregiver Support Group

**Government Services Auditorium,
1200 North Delsea Drive, Clayton**

Tuesday, January 23

Tuesday, February 20

12:00pm - 3:00pm

Light refreshments are served at each meeting.

For more information or to attend a meeting, call (856) 384-6900 or email seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us.



LOOKING FOR TRUE LOVE? CONSIDER PET ADOPTION

As Valentine's Day approaches, the Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS) encourages residents to consider adopting a pet. GCAS is in continual need of adopters to provide a forever home to a furry friend, whether it be a dog, cat, rabbit, or even a guinea pig.



While the need is year-round, this Valentine's Day, **Wednesday, February 14**, GCAS will discount its adoption fees by 50%

Also, GCAS has partnered with **The Convent Tattoo & Body Piercing Studio**, located at 10 Superior Way in Deptford, on a special Valentine's Day fundraiser. On **Wednesday, February 14 from 8:00am to 5:00pm** (first come, first served), select tattoos will be available for \$50, with half of the proceeds donated to GCAS.

The Gloucester County Animal Shelter is located at 1200 North Delsea Drive in Clayton. To learn more about pet adoption as well as volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved, please visit <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/160/Animal-Shelter>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 881-2828.



DELIVERING JOY TO OUR SENIORS

On Tuesday, November 21, a collective effort of service resulted in the delivery of 60 Thanksgiving meals to senior residents throughout Gloucester County!

Each recipient received not only a full Thanksgiving meal, but also an additional bag of goodies - including apple pie, cheese and crackers, oranges, apples, cranberry juice, and even a holiday card.

Deserving seniors were identified and the meals were distributed by the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services staff, along with AmieriCorps Seniors volunteers and Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Division.



Deputy Director Jefferson commented, "Our Senior Services staff works so hard all year to support our senior citizens throughout the county. Today was just another example of the great work they do, day in and day out. As I joined our staff to deliver Thanksgiving meals to seniors, we shared smiles, laughs, and so many hugs of appreciation."

To learn about the many programs and resources available through the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services, please visit <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/303/Seniors> or scan the QR code. The Division can

also be reached by phone at (856) 384-6900 or by email at seniors@co.goucester.nj.us.



EXPERIENCE NATURE THIS WINTER



The Gloucester County Department of Parks & Recreation proudly announces new seasons of its Nature Tots and Nature at Night programs, both of which take place indoors at the Scotland Run Park Nature Center, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton.

Nature Tots

The Nature Tots program for young children offers a free nature lesson along with a related craft activity. From January through March, the sessions take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 9:30am to 10:30am. Here is a list of upcoming dates and topics:

Tuesday, January 23 - Eagles

Tuesday, February 13 - Pond Life

Tuesday, February 27 - What Lives in Leaves?

Tuesday, March 12 - Gardening for Wildlife

Tuesday, March 26 - Spring Birds

Due to limited space, pre-registration is required for the Nature Tots program. Registration for each session opens one week prior to the session. To register, please visit <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/707/Nature-Tots> or scan the QR code. For more information, please call (856) 881-0845.



Nature at Night

The Nature at Night Program, designed for all ages, offers the opportunity to learn about nature through an exciting lineup of presentations led by local experts, with stories, visuals, and real animals on display. From January through April, the sessions take place on the third Thursday of each month, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.



Here is a list of upcoming dates, presenters, and topics:

Thursday, January 18

Mike McGraw, Senior Wildlife Biologist

“Native Reptiles”

Thursday, February 15

Matt Bealor, Assistant Professor, Rowan University

“Animal Behavior”

Thursday, March 21

Bill Pitts, NJ Department of Environmental Protection

“Rare Biodiversity of New Jersey”

Thursday, April 18

Alice Shenko, Associate Professor, Delaware Valley University

“Small Mammals in the NJ Pinelands”

Pre-registration is required for the Nature at Night program. To register, or for more information, please visit <https://secure.rec1.com/NJ/gloucester-county-nj/catalog/index/9e07443975c6fb579c07e0b5dd2faf8b>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 881-0845.



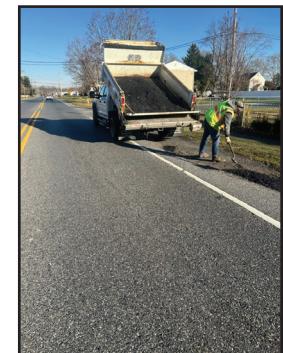
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TRANSFORMS ATKINSON PARK



In addition to its ongoing duties, Gloucester County's Department of Public Works has been hard at work transforming Atkinson Park, one of the County's most beloved green spaces. The photo above offers a glimpse of the overhaul, as crews removed existing bushes and grasses to make room for a fresh start and cleared a slope away for new landscaping. Stay tuned as the department continues to breathe new life into Atkinson Park.

MAINTAINING OUR ROADWAYS

Gloucester County's Department of Public Works crews and contractors work throughout the year to maintain and improve the more than 400 miles of County roadways. Here is some of their recent work.



Repair of washout along the edge of CR 673 Cedar Road in East Greenwich. The slope had to be reconstructed by installing dense graded aggregate (crushed concrete) and then installing two different sizes of rip rap to reestablish the slope of the bank from the edge of the road to the pipe crossing at the bottom of the slope.

Roadway patching in front of the Broadway Theatre on CR 553 ALT Broadway in Pitman.

Roadway patching on CR 555 Tuckahoe Road in Washington Township.

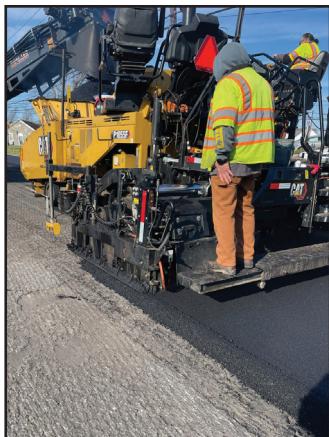


Patch truck performing work on CR 694 Monroeville Road in South Harrison Township.

Snow fence being installed on CR 655 Fries Mill Road near Grant Avenue in Franklin Township. These fences are installed in farm land along County roads to help control snow drifts across the roads during winter storm.

Crewman cleaning inlets on CR 651 Greentree Road in Washington Township prior to a rainstorm.

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South State Crew paving the intersection of CR 656 Parkville Station Road and Kings Highway in West Deptford.

Patch truck working on CR 608 Clayton Avenue in Elk.

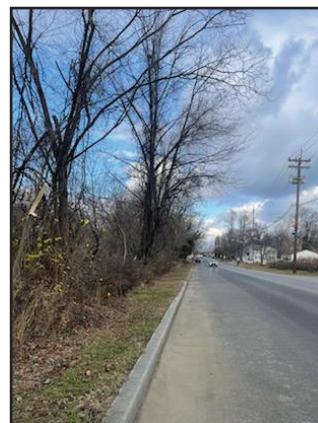


South State Crew milling CR 643 Grove Road in West Deptford in preparation of paving.

Tree trimming operation on CR 643 Grove Avenue in National Park.



Boom mowing being performed on CR 635 Lambs Road in Pitman.



Shoulder cleanup and downed tree removal on CR 694 Monroeville Road in South Harrison after heavy rain.



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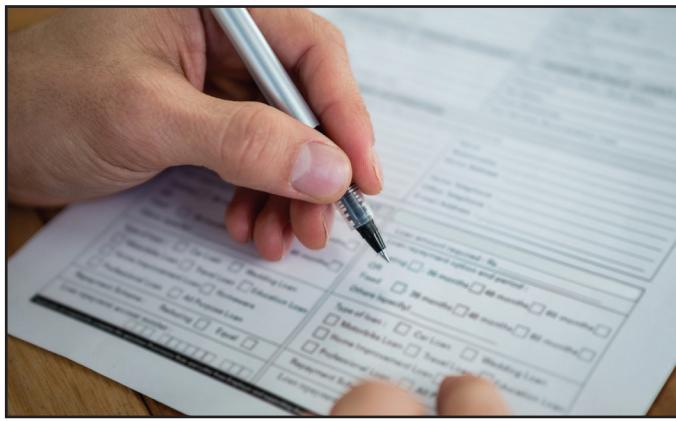
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FREE SIMPLE WILLS OFFERED FOR VETERANS



The Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs provides simple wills at no cost to veterans of all military branches. A simple will is an uncomplicated will that does not involve trusts or other complex estate plans. To be eligible for this program, the veteran must be a Gloucester County resident who received an honorable discharge.

For more information about the free simple wills workshop, please email vets@co.goucester.nj.us, call (856) 401-7660, or stop by the Office, which is located at 211 County House Road in Sewell.

To learn more about all of the services and resources available from the Office of Veterans Affairs, please visit www.goucestercountynj.gov/267/Veterans-Affairs or scan the QR code.



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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.