

Gloucester County Today

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

2024 PUBLIC WORKS ROAD PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

County Commissioner Matthew Weng, liaison to the Department of Public Works, has announced the Department's full slate of road projects for 2024. Over \$5 million in federal aid, over \$10 million in state aid, and nearly \$2 million in county/state mill & overlay funds will be used to improve roads throughout Gloucester County. "As in past years, the County will optimize its use of federal, state, and county funds to increase convenience and safety for residents through these projects," noted Commissioner Weng.

2024 Federal Aid Projects - \$5,100,000

- Kings Highway-Berkley Road to Broad Street (SR 45) (East Greenwich, West Deptford, Woodbury) - \$2,800,000
- Berlin Cross Keys Road (Monroe) - \$900,000
- Kings Highway-Glen Echo to the Roundabout (Swedesboro) - \$1,400,000

2024 State Aid Projects - \$10,200,000

- Broadway and Evergreen Avenue (Woodbury, Deptford, Westville) - \$2,900,000
- Harrisonville Road (Woolwich and S. Harrison) - \$1,600,000
- Cedar Road (Harrison Township) - \$1,500,000
- Almonesson Road and Clements Bridge Road (Deptford) - \$2,800,000
- New Brooklyn Road (Monroe Township) - \$1,400,000

2024 County Mill & Overlay Projects - \$1,877,830

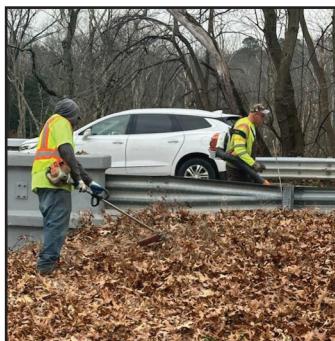
- CR 653 Paulsboro Swedesboro Road (US 322 to Kings Highway, Woolwich Township) - \$140,178

- CR 607 Tomlin Station Road (Broad Street to I-295 overpass, Greenwich Township) - \$201,857
- CR 667 Aura Road (Whig Lane to Buck Road, Elk Township) - \$358,857
- CR 613 Porchtown Road (SR 40 Harding Highway to Taylors Road [Iona Lake], Franklin Township) - \$123,357
- CR 676 Mantua Blvd (Center Street to Wenonah Ave, Mantua Township) - \$471,000
- CR 555 Tuckahoe Road (SR 42 to Cross Keys Road, Washington Township) - \$254,564
- CR 662 High Hill Road (Township Line Road to Beckett Road, Logan Township) - \$148,589
- CR 551 Auburn Road (Oldmans Creek Road to 900 feet south of Hazel Boulevard, Woolwich Township) - \$179,428
- CR 610 Clayton Road (Genova Lane to Corkery Lane, Monroe Township) - \$149,150

PUBLIC WORKS HARD AT WORK YEAR-ROUND

Although the winter months are upon us, the Gloucester County Department of Public Works remains hard at work to address scheduled and emergent maintenance needs on our roadways. Here are some highlights of recently completed work.

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Cleanup work being performed around the guardrail at the intersection of CR 534 Good Intent Road and CR 621 Almonesson Road in Deptford. Crews removed weeds, high grass, leaves, and debris around the bridges and guardrail.

GET INVOLVED AT THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER



The Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS), located at 1200 North Delsea Drive in Clayton, serves an invaluable role in protecting the health and welfare of Gloucester County's animals. Since first becoming operational in 1990, GCAS has been expanded repeatedly and currently has 64 kennel runs for dogs and 200 cat cages. GCAS acts as an impoundment and adoption facility for the public, handling over 3,000 domestic animals each year and hosting special events throughout the year.

GCAS continually seeks assistance from the public in

carrying out its important mission. Four of the main ways that residents can get involved are by adopting, fostering, donating, and volunteering. Read on for more information about how you can help.

Adopting

GCAS is in continuous need of permanent homes for animals that find their way to its doors. While there are a few steps involved to ensure a good fit and the best care for animals in GCAS' care, adding a furry friend to your family can be an extremely rewarding experience. The adoption process involves a pre-adoption application, approval, adoption contract, and fee, all focused on maximizing the chances of a successful, permanent placement.

Fostering

Fostering is another way you can help GCAS provide care for its animals. By fostering you can help GCAS learn about an animal's personality and help socialize them in a loving home. Fostering increases an animal's chance of getting adopted and lets you enjoy an animal's companionship without a long-term commitment. Best of all? You help an animal overcome the stress of being at a shelter and might even save a life.

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2024 RABIES CLINICS ANNOUNCED

Frank J. DiMarco, Commissioner Director and liaison to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS), has announced that the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and GCAS, will once again hold free rabies vaccination clinics for Gloucester County residents' pets.

Saturday, February 24, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Glassboro Highway Garage
125 Grove Street, Glassboro

Saturday, March 2, 9:00am - 11:00am

Harrison Public Works Facility
151 Colson Lane, Mullica Hill

Saturday, March 2, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Mantua Public Works Yard
407 Main Street, Mantua

Saturday March 2, 9:00am - 12:00pm

West Deptford Public Works Garage
124 Grove Avenue, West Deptford

Saturday, March 2, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Logan Municipal Building Complex
125 Main Street, Logan Township

Saturday, March 9, 10:00am - 11:30am

Washington Township Public Works
1 McClure Drive, Sewell

Saturday, March 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Newfield Municipal Building
18 Catawba Avenue, Newfield

Saturday, March 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Paulsboro Borough Garage
300 Baird Avenue, Paulsboro

Saturday, March 9, 10:00am - 12:00pm

South Harrison Municipal Complex
664 Harrisonville Road, South Harrison

Saturday, March 16, 10:00am - 11:30am

Pitman Public Works
599 Elwood Avenue, Pitman

Saturday, March 16, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Woolwich Fire Department Substation
124 Woodstown Road, Woolwich Township

Saturday, March 16, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

"Drive-Thru" Auction Park
300 Anderson Avenue, Swedesboro

Saturday, March 23, 9:00am - 11:00am

Greenwich Township Public Works
Garage
1200 Memorial Avenue, Greenwich
Township

Saturday, March 23, 9:30am - 11:30am

Woodbury Fire Department
29 Delaware Avenue, Woodbury

Saturday, March 23, 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Wenonah Firehouse
12 South West Avenue, Wenonah

Saturday, April 6, 9:00am - 11:00am

Clayton Public Works Garage
Washington Avenue, Clayton

KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE THIS WINTER

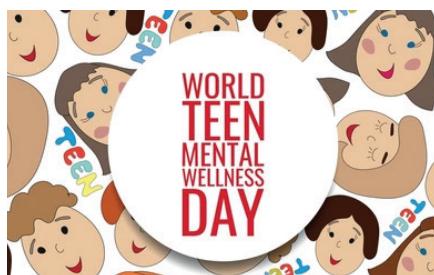
If you're cold, your pets are too! Please bring them inside and follow these important guidelines to keep them safe this winter.

- After walks, wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach. They may step in ice, salt, and chemicals, which can be painful.
- Thoroughly clean up any antifreeze spills. Antifreeze is lethal to dogs and cats.
- If your pet must stay outside, New Jersey statute requires pets to have shelter with proper insulation, wind break, and protection from the elements.
- Never let your dog off leash on snow or ice. Dogs can lose their scent in the snow and become lost.
- Make sure your pets are wearing collars and ID tags with up to date contact information.



Microchipping is the best way to help reunite with your pet should they become lost. Contact the Gloucester County Animal Shelter at (856) 881-2828 or gcas@co.goucester.nj.us for microchipping information and pricing.

TEEN MENTAL WELLNESS DAY



Saturday, March 2 is Teen Mental Wellness Day. This day serves to raise awareness and encourage conversations on the topic of Mental Health and Wellness, specifically in teens. These conversations bring awareness of the available resources to help mental health.

One in seven children between the ages of 10 and 19 experience mental illnesses such as depression. It is incredibly important to prioritize mental health for yourself as well as provide support with those struggling around you.

There are many different ways to help support teen mental health. A few of these include being an active, understanding listener. Being supportive in a large way is letting the teen know that therapy is an option if needed.

Talking to a professional is typically the best resource to help navigate mental health issues.

More information about mental wellness can be found by visiting www.globalwellnessinstitute.org or scanning the QR code.



BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month, when we pause to recognize and learn about the more than 5.3 million Americans who are living with brain-injury related disabilities. There are two types of acquired brain injury - traumatic and non-traumatic.

A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is defined as an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. Traumatic impact injuries can be defined as closed (or non-penetrating) or open (penetrating). Examples of a TBI include injuries resulting from falls, assaults, motor vehicle accidents, and sports injuries.



Often referred to as an acquired brain injury, a non-traumatic brain injury (NTBI) causes damage to the brain by internal factors, such as a lack of oxygen, exposure to toxins, pressure from a tumor, etc. Examples of NTBI include stroke, near-drowning, aneurysm, tumor, infectious disease that affects the brain (e.g., meningitis), and lack of oxygen supply to the brain (e.g., heart attack).

For more information regarding Brain Injury Awareness, please visit www.biausa.org/, scan the QR code, or call (800) 444-6443.



NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH

February is National Cancer Prevention Month and Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Health, reminds residents of the importance of screening. "Screening tests are used to find cancer before an individual has any symptoms," noted Jefferson. "Screening can help medical professionals find and treat many pre-cancers and cancers early, before they have a chance to spread." Read on to learn more about recommended screenings for several common types of cancer.

Breast Cancer

- **Women ages 40 to 44** have the option to start annual breast cancer screening with mammograms.
- **Women aged 45 to 54** should get mammograms every year.
- **Women 55 and older** can switch to mammograms every two years, or can continue yearly screening.

Lung Cancer

Annual lung cancer screening is recommended for people who:

- Have a 20 pack-year or more smoking history, *and*
- Smoke now or have quit within the past 15 years, *and*
- Are between 50 and 80 years old.

A pack-year is smoking an average of one pack of cigarettes per day for one year. For example, a person could have a 20 pack-year history by smoking one pack a day for 20 years or two packs a day for 10 years.

Colon/Rectal Cancer

The American Cancer Society recommends starting regular screening at age 45. This can be done either with a sensitive test that looks for signs of cancer in a person's stool (a stool-based test), or with an exam that looks at the colon and rectum (a visual exam).

Cervical Cancer

The HPV test and the Pap test can help prevent cervical cancer or find it early. Women should start getting Pap tests at age 21. The HPV test looks for the human papillomavirus, which can cause cell changes on the cervix. The Pap test (or Pap smear) looks for precancers, cell changes on the cervix that might become cervical cancer if they are not treated appropriately.

Prostate Cancer

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that men make an informed decision with their health care provider about whether to be screened for prostate cancer, after getting information about the uncertainties, risks, and potential benefits of screening. The discussion about screening should take place at:

- **Age 50 for men who are at average risk** of prostate cancer and are expected to live at least 10 more years.
- **Age 45 for men at high risk** of developing prostate cancer. This includes African Americans and men who have a first-degree relative (father or brother) diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age (younger than age 65).
- **Age 40 for men at even higher risk** (those with more than one first-degree relative who had prostate cancer at an early age).

FREE SIMPLE WILLS FOR VETERANS

The Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs, through an attorney, provides simple wills at no cost to all active military personnel and veterans of all military branches. A simple will is an uncomplicated will that does not involve trusts or other complex estate plans. Veterans must be a Gloucester County resident with an honorable discharge or on active duty. The next workshop will take place on **Thursday, March 28**.

To learn more and to register for a workshop, call (856) 401-7660 or stop by the Office, located at 211 County House Road in Sewell.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH



March is National Nutrition Month and Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Health, encourages residents to pause and use this time to be mindful of the food we consume to fuel our bodies.

This year's theme "Beyond the Table" focuses on bringing awareness to eating sustainably, which is easier than it sounds. Here are some tips to get started:

- **Grow a vegetable or herb** – this can be done in a pot on a patio or on a windowsill. Try to incorporate your vegetable or herb into your meal planning for the week.
- **Shop locally** – purchase produce in season at a local farmer's market. If you can't make it to a local farm or shop the "local" produce section at the grocery store. This helps support local farmers and reduces the amount of fuel needed to ship foods.
- **Limit plastic water bottles** – use a refillable bottle and fill it from the tap or with filtered water. This limits plastic waste and saves you money.

- **When shopping** – purchase items in bulk and select minimally processed foods, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy, and fresh meats.
- **When meal planning** – try preparing one plant-based meal a week. This could be a salad, vegetable or bean soup, or meals with beans as a protein source.

For more information on National Nutrition Month, visit www.eatright.org or scan the QR code.



TIRE AMNESTY PROGRAM

March is Tire Amnesty Month in Gloucester County. From **Friday, March 1 through Friday, March 29, from 8:30am to 3:00pm**, residents can drop off automobile tires at the Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex, located at 493 Monroeville Road (Rt. 694) in South Harrison Township. Additionally, there will be a special Saturday drop-off date at the same location on **Saturday, March 16 from 8:00am to 2:00pm**.

Participation is limited to Gloucester County residents only. Commercial businesses are not permitted. No tires larger than passenger pick-up truck size will be accepted. Tires may be on or off the rim, but must be separated by type. There is a limit of 10 tires per residence. Residents with more than 10 tires to dispose of should contact GCIA/Office of Recycling at (856) 478-6045

Public Works Continued from Page 1



Patching being performed on CR 667 Cedar Road in Harrison Township. Crews are keeping up with patching while the County prepares to mill and pave this road in 2024 as part of our yearly NJDOT county aid projects.



Crewman cleaning inlets prior to a rainstorm on CR 634 Fish Pond Road in Washington Township.



Tree removal on CR 612 Williamstown Road in Franklin Township. The tree was leaning over the road, causing trucks to contact the limbs.

All the news you need and more from Gloucester County

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SENIOR HOLIDAY PARTIES A HIT



Gloucester County's seniors enjoyed a holiday season filled with cheer at the five Senior Christmas Parties hosted by the Gloucester County Board of Commissioners during December at Auletto Caterers in Deptford. The Commissioners enjoyed joining our cherished senior attendees for laughter, warm wishes, and unforgettable memories.

HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION DAYS

Gloucester County's 2024 household special waste (HSW) collection days have been announced:

Saturday, April 13, 8:00am - 2:00pm

Saturday, September 14, 8:00am - 2:00pm

Gloucester County Solid Waste Complex
493 Monroeville Road (Rt. 694),
South Harrison Township

Saturday, May 11, 8:00am - 2:00pm

Saturday, October 5, 8:00am - 2:00pm

Gloucester County Roads Department
1200 N. Delsea Drive (Rt. 47), Clayton

All collection dates are rain or shine. Please note that this program is for Gloucester County residents only. Commercial businesses are prohibited from participating. For more information, including materials that are accepted, please visit <https://www.gcianj.com/county-recycling/household-special-waste/>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 848-4002.



PROJECT SEARCH ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Project SEARCH is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Project SEARCH is a business-driven transition-to-work internship program for individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities who seek employment. During the ten-month long period, eight to ten interns per program site rotate through three unpaid internships at business host sites, with the objective of securing competitive employment.

In addition to support from the Gloucester County Board of County Commissioners, the Department of Economic Development, the Workforce Development Board, and the Division of Human and Special Services, Project SEARCH is driven by collaboration with many community partners, including award-winning Jefferson Hospital, Gloucester County Special Services School District, The Arc of Camden County, and New Jersey's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Developmental Disabilities.

For more information or to apply for Project SEARCH, please call (856) 384-6874 or email lcerny@co.goucester.nj.us.



Gloucester County Animal Shelter Continued from Page 2

Donating

GCAS accepts the donation of items and money to assist in caring for the homeless animals of Gloucester County. There are a number of ways to donate, including via PayPal and an Amazon Wish List, and 100% of all donations are used to support the animals.

Volunteering

Finally, if you love animals and have a few hours to give, you can become a volunteer at GCAS. Volunteers help in a number of different ways, including:

- Assisting with tasks, such as light cleaning or assisting in the laundry room
- Escorting potential pet parents through adoption areas
- Socializing cats and kittens
- Taking dogs outside for walks

Potential volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. To get started, all you need to do is complete a volunteer application and attend a volunteer orientation. You can give as much or as little time as you can afford, as there is never a time commitment required.

To learn more about the Gloucester County Animal Shelter and find out how you can get involved by adopting, fostering, donating, or volunteering, please visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov/160/Animal-Shelter, scan the QR code, call (856) 881-2828, or email gcas@co.goucester.nj.us.



NATURE SPRINGS TO LIFE AT SCOTLAND RUN



The Gloucester County Department of Parks and Recreation's Nature Tots and Nature at Night programs continue 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. Here is a list of upcoming dates and topics:

Tuesday, February 27, 9:30am – 10:30am or 11:00am 12:00pm

“What Lives in Leaves?”

Tuesday, March 12, 9:30am – 10:30am or 11:00am 12:00pm

“Gardening for Wildlife”

Tuesday, March 26, 9:30am – 10:30am or 11:00am 12:00pm

“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 offers participants of all ages the opportunity to learn about nature through an exciting lineup of presentations led by local experts, with stories, visuals, and real animals on display. Here is a list of upcoming dates, presenters, and topics:

Thursday, March 21, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Bill Pitts, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
“Rare Biodiversity of New Jersey”

Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Alicia 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.



REGISTER NOW FOR SENIOR ART CLASSES

Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services, encourages residents to discover their artistic side as the next round of Senior Art Classes gets underway at the Senior Nutrition Centers. In this class, you will learn techniques for painting on cotton t-shirts using acrylic paints. All materials are included. However, participants may bring their own t-shirt to paint on if they wish. Participants are encouraged to bring along a photo of something that they'd like to paint for inspiration.

Tuesday, February 20, 10:00am

Second Baptist Church
1540 Swedesboro Avenue, Paulsboro

Thursday, February 22, 10:00am

First Baptist Church of Jericho
981 Mail Avenue, Deptford

Tuesday, February 27, 10:00am

Pfeiffer Community Center
301 Blue Bell Road, Williamstown

Thursday, February 29, 10:00am

Thorofare Fire Hall
100 Firehouse Road, Thorofare

Tuesday, March 5, 10:00am

Glassboro Senior Center
152 South Delsea Drive, Glassboro

Thursday, March 7, 11:00am

Mantua Township Community Center
111 Mercer Avenue, Mantua

The Senior Art Classes are free, but pre-registration is required as each class is limited to 25 participants. To register, please call (856) 384-6900 or email seniors@co.glooucester.nj.us.

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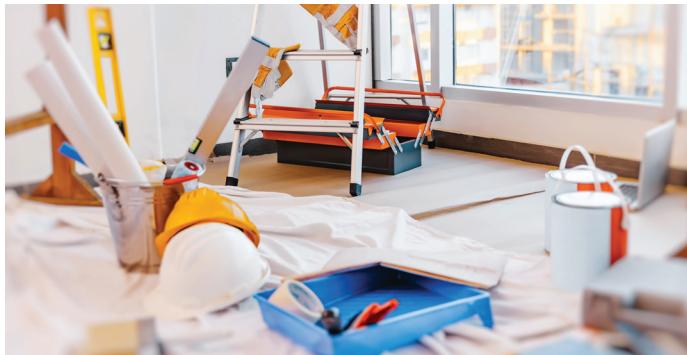
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HOME RENOVATION HELP AVAILABLE



Commissioner Joann Gattinelli, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Economic Development, reminds residents that the County can help low- and moderate-income homeowners renovate their homes through emergency repair and deferred payment loan programs. The purpose of the Housing Rehabilitation Program is to bring owner-occupied dwellings up to local and state building codes, as well as to provide a more livable and suitable environment for the homeowners, increase property values, and serve as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization.

To learn more about these assistance programs, visit <https://www.glocestercountynj.gov/591/>

Owner-Occupied-Rehabilitation-Program,
scan the QR code, call (856) 307-6664, or email
cevelazquez@co.glocester.nj.us.



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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.

 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.