

GLOUCESTER COUNTY TODAY

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S PARKS THIS SPRING

With Spring in the air, Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Parks and Recreation, proudly announces a wide range of 2024 spring programming, offering something for everyone.

In addition to the programs and events detailed in these pages, April is a big month for the County's parks. Whitall House, located at Red Bank Battlefield Park, 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park, will open for the season, as will the ballfields at James G. Atkinson Park, located at 138 Bethel Mill Road in Sewell. Finally, trout season is open!



SAVE THE DATE FOR WATERFEST

On **Sunday, June 2**, from 11:00am to 4:00pm, the popular Waterfest event returns to Scotland Run Park, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton. Now in its 27th year, Waterfest is Gloucester County's largest environmental fair, featuring live animal shows, exhibits, food, canoeing, kayaking, and more!



BEST OF GLOUCESTER: VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BUSINESSES



Commissioner Joann Gattinelli, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Economic Development, announces that the 2024 Best of Gloucester County contest is underway! With over 100 categories to choose from, Gloucester County residents can vote for their favorite diner, pharmacy, food store, fitness center, and so much more as part of this year's contest. Voting in the Best of Gloucester County contest runs through July 26 and will culminate with an awards ceremony at a location to be determined.

This year's contest sponsors are the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce, TD Bank, and the South Jersey Times.

Cast your vote today by visiting <https://gcbestof.com/> or scanning the QR code. You can also find the ballot in the South Jersey Times every Monday, Wednesday or Sunday.

Please note that there is a limit of one ballot per resident. For more information, call (856) 307-6930 or email ecdev@co.glocester.nj.us.



Commissioner Joann Gattinelli is pictured with Tony Mione, owner of Angelo's Pizza in Washington Township

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NATURE AT NIGHT

There's still one more chance to experience Nature at Night! This program, designed for all ages, offers the opportunity to learn about nature through presentations led by local experts, with stories, visuals, and real animals on display.

The program takes place indoors at the Scotland Run Park Nature Center, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton.

On **Thursday, April 18**, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm, Dr. Alicia Shenko, Associate Professor at Delaware Valley University, will present "Small Mammals in the NJ Pinelands".

Pre-registration is required for this program.

To register, or for more information, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1304/Nature-at-Night>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 881-0845.



STOCK UP AT THE PLANT SALE

The Spring Garden Expo and Plant Sale will take place on **Saturday, May 11**, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at Scotland Run Park, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton. Hosted by the Gloucester County Certified Gardeners, this event is a great opportunity to obtain plants for all your gardening needs. Offerings include annuals, perennials, butterfly favorites, heirloom tomatoes, vegetables, and more. In addition, attendees can obtain free pH soil testing and get their questions answered at the Q&A Booth. Proceeds from the sale are used to support Certified Gardeners' projects and programs throughout the county.

For more information, please call (856) 224-8045 or email eschreiter@co.glocester.nj.us.



SPRING PADDLES

Explore beautiful Wilson Lake and the many wonders it has to offer on a guided canoe and kayak tour at Scotland Run Park, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton. Tours will be offered from 9:30am to 11:30am on the following dates (participants must arrive by 9:15am):

Thursday, April 18 **Thursday, May 2**
Thursday, May 16 **Thursday, June 6**
Thursday, June 20

Both canoes and kayaks are available. In order to participate in the event you must be able to operate a canoe or a kayak. This program is free to the public.

Due to the limited number of boats available, pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1089/Spring-Paddles> or scan the QR code.



DISCOVERY WALKS

Join Rowan professor Dr. Dan Duran and explore the trails around Scotland Run Park Nature Center, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton. Discover all kinds of animals, including birds, frogs, insects and more. Explore the native plant vegetation of the park and learn how all of these species fit into the larger ecosystem. Discovery walks will take place from 9:30am to 10:30am on the following dates:

Tuesday, April 9 **Tuesday, April 23**
Tuesday, May 14 **Tuesday, May 28**

This program is free to the public. Adults and children are welcome. Pre-registration is required for this program.

To register, or for more information, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1091/Guided-Trail-Walks>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 881-0845.



BIRD WALKS

Come search for the many birds that visit or inhabit Scotland Run Park, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton. These walks, led by volunteer birders from the Gloucester County Nature Club, are free of charge and will take place from 8:00am to 9:30am on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 17
Wednesday, May 1
Wednesday, May 15



Participants should meet at the Nature Center parking lot and are encouraged to bring binoculars. Registration is not required.

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

A special Spring Wildflower Walk and Talk event will take place on **Saturday, April 13**, from 10:00am to 11:30am at Scotland Run Park, located at 980 East Academy Street in Clayton. Join us for an informative presentation about South Jersey spring wildflowers followed by a walk around the park.

Pre-registration is required for this program. To register, or for more information, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1344/Spring-Wildflower-Talk-and-Walk---413>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 881-0845.



IT'S ALWAYS A GREAT DAY AT THE PITMAN GOLF COURSE



The Pitman Golf Course, located at 501 Pitman Road in Sewell, is owned and operated by the County of Gloucester and is a service of the Board of County Commissioners. Open to the public, the course offers players of all abilities the opportunity to enjoy a fun and challenging game of golf. The layout is a classic Alexander Findlay design dating back to 1927 and is very golfer-friendly, offering the chance to score your lowest round of the year.

Other amenities include a practice green and driving range, clubhouse with bar and restaurant, golf pro shop, USGA handicap service, and club rental. Special discounted rates are available for Gloucester County residents and you can save even more by booking online.

Pitman Golf Course is also the perfect location for your next golf outing, wedding, or any other group activity you might be planning. The clubhouse and banquet facilities can accommodate groups of 300 or more and the food and beverage experience will delight your guests.

For more information about Pitman Golf Course and to book your tee time, please visit <https://www.pitmangolfcourse.com>, scan the QR code, call (856) 589-6688, or email gcgolf@co.glocester.nj.us.



YOGA IN THE PARK

The popular Yoga in the Park classes return this Spring to James G. Atkinson Park in Sewell and Scotland Run Park in Clayton. These beginner-level classes, which are open to all Gloucester County residents, can help you relax and improve your well-being. Participants should bring their own yoga mat. Classes will be held at the following locations and times:

James G. Atkinson Park
138 Bethel Mill Rd, Sewell
Wednesday, May 1
Wednesday, May 8
Wednesday, May 15
Wednesday, May 22
10:00am - 10:45am

Scotland Run Park
980 East Academy Street, Clayton
Wednesday, June 12
Wednesday, June 19
Wednesday, June 26
10:00am - 10:45am

MOVIES IN THE PARK

The always popular Movies in the Park series resumes this May. Gather the family and bring your blankets and chairs to catch a free movie throughout the county all season long!

• Friday, May 3 - Woodbury Heights

Super Mario Bros. Movie

Veterans Park, West Jersey Avenue & Elm Avenue, Woodbury Heights

Rain date Saturday, May 4

• Friday, May 10 - Greenwich Township

Trolls: Band Together

Memorial Avenue Park, 1200 Memorial Avenue, Greenwich

Rain date Saturday, May 11

• Friday, May 17 - Elk Township

Super Mario Bros. Movie

Elk Township Recreation Park, 700 Whig Lane, Monroeville

Rain date Saturday, May 18

• Friday, May 24 - Clayton Borough

Little Mermaid

DJ Bentz Memorial Soccer Complex, 1 Garwood Boulevard, Clayton

Rain date Saturday, May 25

• Friday, May 31 - Mantua Township

Migration

Chestnut Branch Park, 545 Main Street, Mantua

Rain date Saturday, June 1

All shows begin at dusk (approximately 8:00-8:30pm). Unless otherwise noted, the rain date for each movie will be the next day. For rainout information, please call (856) 251-6738 after 6:00pm on the day of the show.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga is designed especially for older adults. This very gentle form of yoga helps to relax and improve well-being. Classes will be held at:

Pitman United Methodist Church
758 North Broadway, Pitman

Wednesday, April 10

Wednesday, April 24

2:00pm - 3:00pm



Pre-registration is required for Yoga in the Park and Chair Yoga. To register, please email ckephart@co.glocester.nj.us or call (856) 218-4106. For additional information, please visit www.glocestercountynj.gov/1394/Adult-Fitness-Programs or scan the QR code.

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IT'S TIME FOR PICKLEBALL

Pickleball season will soon be in full swing at James G. Atkinson Park, located at 138 Bethel Mill Road in Sewell, which is home to 12 lighted pickleball courts that are open seven days a week. As the fastest growing sport in the nation, pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong, and can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels.

In addition to hosting open play meetups, the Spring pickleball men's leagues and women's leagues will get underway on Thursday evenings from 5:00pm to 9:00pm starting **Thursday, May 2 through Thursday, June 6**. **Registration runs through Friday, April 26, although leagues may fill earlier.**

On **Saturday, May 4**, from 9:00am to 4:00pm, the fifth annual Picklenic event will bring together enthusiasts for a day full of open and tournament play. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own picnic lunch. The rain date for this event is **Sunday, May 5**.



To learn more about all things pickleball at James G. Atkinson Park, including open play meetups, leagues, and Picklenic, please visit <https://www.glocestercountynj.gov/666/Pickleball>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 251-6738.



FREE RABIES CLINICS CONTINUE



Frank J. DiMarco, Commissioner Director and liaison to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter (GCAS) reminds residents that there is still time to take advantage of the free rabies vaccination clinics for pets.

Saturday, April 20, 9:00am - 10:30am

Deptford Township Community Center
1219 Delsea Drive, Deptford

Saturday, April 27, 9:00am - 10:30am

Westville Public Works Garage
114 Crown Point Road, Westville

For additional information, please call (856) 881-2828
or email gcas@co.glocester.nj.us.

MICROCHIP MANIA

Director Frank J. DiMarco, liaison to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter, has announced the next County Microchip Mania event, offering residents a convenient opportunity to microchip and vaccinate their pets at a discounted price. "If your dog or cat is ever lost, having them microchipped is the best way to help ensure their swift, safe return," noted Director DiMarco.

Microchip Mania will be held at the Gloucester County Animal Shelter, located at 1200 North Delsea Drive in Clayton, on **Saturday, May 4 from 10:00am - 2:00pm**

Fees for microchipping and vaccination are as follows:

- Microchip \$30
- Distemper (dog/cat) \$15
- Bordetella (dog) \$15
- Flea & Tick (dog/cat, one month) \$30

These fees can be paid with cash or with a debit or credit card. Checks are not accepted.

The Animal Shelter respectfully asks that dogs not be on retractable leashes and strongly discourages body harnesses for this event.

Please note that appointments are not required. For more information about Microchip Mania, please contact the Gloucester County Animal Shelter by email at gcas@co.glocester.nj.us or by phone at (856) 881-2828.

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EXPLORE HISTORY AT RED BANK BATTLEFIELD

Want to get out of the house and enjoy the warming weather? Spring offers two special opportunities to explore history at Red Bank Battlefield Park, located at 100 Hessian Avenue in National Park.

First, the annual Spring Festival and Earth Day Celebration will take place on **Sunday, April 21**, from 11:00am to 4:00pm, rain or shine. This event will include activities such as sheep shearing demonstrations, farm animals, kid-friendly crafts, tours of the Whitall House, hearth cooking demonstrations, colonial textile demonstrations, spinning, and embroidery.

Then, on **Sunday, May 19**, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm, join the West Jersey Artillery Regiment for an afternoon of cannon firing and history. This event will feature an educational program explaining the role of the regiment in the Revolution and the challenges of manning a cannon. The Continental Marines will also offer educational programs throughout the afternoon.

"Red Bank Battlefield Park and Whitall House are examples of Gloucester County's rich history," noted Deputy Director Jefferson. "These events are a great way for residents and visitors alike to welcome warmer weather and enjoy learning about our past. It really brings history to life."



For more information about the Spring Festival and Earth Day Celebration and Family History Day, please call (856) 224-8045 or email eschreiter@co.goucester.nj.us.

VETERANS CEMETERY OFFERS HONOR AND DIGNITY



The Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery, located in Williamstown (Monroe Township) provides a final resting place for veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents. The cemetery serves as a place of healing and commemoration for veterans' families, friends, visitors, and service attendees.

Pre-registration for internment is required. To learn more about the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and how to pre-register for internment, please visit www.gloucestercountynj.gov/286/Veterans-Memorial-Cemetery or scan the QR code.



GET YOUR VETERANS' ID CARD TODAY

Denice DiCarlo, liaison to the Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs encourages Veterans who have not yet done so to apply for their Veterans' Photo ID Card, which can be used to obtain Veterans' discounts, by taking their original DD-214, showing an Honorable Discharge, to one of the following locations:

**Gloucester County Clerk's Office,
1 North Broad Street, Woodbury
Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 4:00pm**

**County Store, second floor of the Deptford Mall,
1750 Deptford Center Road, Deptford
Monday through Friday, 10:00am to 8:00pm**

In addition to receiving a Veterans ID Card, by recording their Military Discharge Papers with the County, veterans gain the security of knowing that their discharges are permanently on record with the Clerk's Record Room. All documents are considered confidential and can be accessed by only veterans or their family members.

This service is provided free of charge.

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



PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS CONTINUE

Commissioner Matthew Weng, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Public Works, acknowledges the hard work of the department's crews, who continue their efforts through the winter to maintain and enhance our community's roads and infrastructure. "On behalf of the entire Board of County Commissioners, we extend our gratitude to the dedicated, hard working men and women of the department", said Commissioner Weng. Below are some recent projects.



Snow fence repairs on CR 639 Ganttown Road near Washington Township High School



Inlet cleaning on CR 682 Carpenter Street in Glassboro



Maintenance on traffic signal control cabinet at CR 610 East Academy Street and CR 655 Fries



Vacuum truck cleaning of a clogged storm pipe on CR 680 Harmony Road in Greenwich



Tree trimming on CR 553 Woodbury Glassboro Road in Woodbury Heights



Road patching on CR 553 Woodbury Glassboro Road in Glassboro

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Health, reminds residents that April is Autism Awareness Month (many adults with autism prefer the term "Autism Acceptance Month"). "This is a time to appreciate differences, promote understanding, and make the world a more inclusive place for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder," noted Deputy Director Jefferson.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurobiological disorder characterized by impairments in social communication and interaction as well as restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior. Individuals with autism have difficulty interacting with others, building relationships, using language, regulating their emotions, and understanding others' points of view.

The term "Spectrum" highlights how the specific social and behavioral challenges vary for each individual and sometimes across each person's lifetime. Some have challenges that significantly impair their daily activities and require constant supervision to stay safe while others have few noticeable impairments.

At this time, the causes of autism are unknown. Most researchers believe there is no one cause.

According to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the national rate of children identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder is 1 in 36 children. New Jersey now has the third highest rate of autism in the nation: 1 in 35 children.

There is no cure for Autism Spectrum Disorder but there are ways to help. The key is to diagnose it early. Understanding and accepting people with autism is crucial. Everyone is unique and it is important to respect their way of seeing the world. Even though there is no cure, research shows that activities promoting independence can improve daily skills and overall functioning.

To learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder, please visit <https://autismnj.org> or scan the QR code.



Resources for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism NJ (800) 4-AUTISM

Weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm
www.autismnj.org

SPAN NJ - Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
(800) 654-7726

www.spanadvocacy.org

Autism Society - Southwest NJ Affiliate #532
www.solvingthepuzzle.com/SE4SK

Special Events for Special Kids
www.facebook.com/se4sk

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STD AWARENESS MONTH

April is Sexually Transmitted Diseases Awareness Month and Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Department of Health, takes this opportunity to remind residents of the importance of testing.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), also known as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), are very common. Millions of new infections occur every year in the United States. If left untreated, STDs can cause long-term issues.

If you are sexually active, getting tested for STDs is one of the most important things you can do to protect your health and is as easy as talk, test, treat. Make sure you have an open and honest conversation about your sexual history with your doctor and ask whether you should be tested for STDs.

If you are not comfortable talking with your regular health care provider about STDs, the Department of Health offers confidential and free testing every Wednesday from 3:00pm to 4:30 pm by appointment.

To register for an account and schedule an appointment online, please visit <https://gloucester.medicatconnect.com>, scan the QR code, or call (856) 218-4151.



SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY TO BE HELD APRIL 17



The Gloucester County Board of Commissioners is sponsoring Senior Health and Fitness Day on **Wednesday, April 17**, announces Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, liaison to the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services. **The event will be held at Scarpinatos Cucina & Catering in Washington Township and will include a free breakfast as well as a health fair. Breakfast seating is available at 9:00am and 11:30am.**

Various wellness screenings, including total cholesterol, blood pressure, foot, chiropractic care, eye, balance, hearing tests, and massage therapy, will be available. County and community agencies will also provide helpful information on programs and services available for seniors.

This event is open to Gloucester County residents aged 60 and above. A limited number of tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis during operating hours at the Division of Senior Services offices, located at 115 Budd Boulevard in West Deptford, and at the six senior nutrition sites located throughout the county.

For additional information, please contact the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services at (856) 384-6900 or email seniors@co.gloucester.nj.us.

STATE OF THE COUNTY

On January 12, the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce hosted the 20th Annual State of the County at Rowan University.

In his remarks, Commissioner Director Frank J. DiMarco highlighted the important work the County has done over the past year as well as future plans. Also in attendance were Deputy Director Jim Jefferson, Commissioner Matt Weng, and Economic Development Director Tom Bianco.



GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. DiMarco, *Director*

Jim Jefferson, *Deputy Director*

Nicholas DeSilvio

Denice DiCarlo

Joann Gattinelli

Christopher Konawel Jr.

Matt Weng

JUMP INTO FUN AT DREAM PARK

On the weekend of February 3 and 4, attendees at the DREAM Park in Logan Township witnessed the incredible talent of horse and rider pairs in the Low Hunter Over Fences class. Judged primarily on the horse's jumping form, this class also puts a spotlight on the horse's temperament, overall style of movement, and their willingness to perform. Hats off to all the riders who showcased a spectacular blend of precision and harmony as they navigated the course.



If you missed this event, there are plenty of opportunities to join in the fun and excitement. For a list of upcoming events, please visit the DREAM Park website at <https://dreamparknj.com/events/list> or scan the QR code.



DREAM PARK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Therapeutic Riding Center South Jersey at the Gloucester County DREAM Park is back at it following their winter break and students are very happy to be back in the saddle. As with many wonderful programs, there is always a need for volunteers.

To learn how you can be part of the magic that happens on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please call Terry Lewis at (732) 261-6441 or the DREAM Park at (856) 241-1415.

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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.