

# Gloucester County Today

ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED AND MORE FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY

## SHOP AROUND THE CORNER

As the holiday season approaches, there's no better time to show some love for our local businesses! The Gloucester County Commissioners and Economic Development Liaison Joann Gattinelli invite you to shop local in 2024 and support the great entrepreneurs across the County. When you shop local, you're not just giving gifts; you're strengthening our community and keeping the spirit of Gloucester County alive.

### Why Shop Local?

**Unique Gifts:** Discover one-of-a-kind treasures that you won't find anywhere else.

**Support Your Neighbors:** Your purchases directly benefit local families and help create jobs in our community.

**Boost the Local Economy:** Money spent locally tends to stay

within the community, contributing to our schools, parks, and services.

This year, consider visiting our charming shops, artisan markets, and local eateries. Whether it's handmade crafts, delicious treats, or thoughtful gifts, there's something for everyone right here in Gloucester County.

Let's make this holiday season special by supporting our local entrepreneurs. Together, we can create a vibrant community filled with unique offerings and holiday cheer!

Learn more or take the shop local pledge at <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/508/11289/Shop-Local>

SHOP . DINE . GO LOCAL



## FLY WITH THE EAGLES

Join the county's Nature Tots program on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024** to explore the high-above-the-sky world of eagles. The youth nature program covers a wide variety of topics from snakes to plant life. These sessions are free, rain or shine, and include a related craft for children, but space is limited.

**November 12, 2024**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Gloucester County Nature Center

980 E Academy Street, Clayton, NJ 08312



Pre-register at [bit.ly/GCNatureTots](https://bit.ly/GCNatureTots), scan the QR code or call 856-251-6710 for more information.



## COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER NEEDS SUPPLIES AND LOVING HOMES



Archer



Boston

The Animal Shelter is looking for donations for the season, and asking for loving families to consider adopting this year. Below are some links for more information, and pictured above are some furry friends who called the shelter home in 2024.

For a current list of pets for adoption, visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/223/Our-Pet-List>.



To learn more about donating to GCAS, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/211>, scan the QR code, call (856) 881-2828, or email [gcas@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:gcas@co.gloucester.nj.us).



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## NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

Each November is recognized as National Family Caregivers Month, a time to remember and honor family caregivers. This year's theme is **#CaregivingAroundtheClock**, which honors those working tirelessly to keep older loved ones in their homes for as long as possible, selflessly putting the needs of others before themselves to provide 24/7 assistance.

In honor of National Family Caregivers Month, the Gloucester County Commissioners and Director Frank J. DiMarco are excited to announce the Division of Senior Services' first-ever Caregiver Expo. The event is scheduled for **November 15th** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Deptford Senior Center at 1341 Tanyard Rd, Deptford, NJ. This event is an integral part of our efforts to support and honor the caregivers in our community. Attendees will get a unique opportunity to connect with family caregiver providers, learn about invaluable services, and celebrate those who selflessly assist their loved ones.

Whether you're a caregiver, a senior, or someone interested in senior health and well-being, this event is for you. Come and explore the resources available in our community, gain valuable insights, and show your appreciation for our



outstanding caregivers.

It's important for caregivers in Gloucester County to know that support is not limited to National Family Caregivers Month. Throughout the year, the Gloucester County Caregiver Support Program is here to provide services that cater to individual caregiving needs. Through this program, the Division of Senior Services works closely with family caregivers and caregivers of older adults to connect them to available resources. Additionally, caregiver and family caregiver support groups meet monthly, providing a platform for caregivers to connect with others in similar situations.

**Meetings for these groups are scheduled for the following dates and locations in November:**

### **Caregiver Support Group:**

**Tuesday, November 19**, from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
at 1200 N. Delsea Dr. Clayton, NJ 08312

**Tuesday, November 26**, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
at 115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford, NJ 08096

**Wednesday, November 27**, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
at 115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford, NJ 08096

### **"Led by Love" Family Caregiver Support Group**

**Wednesday, November 20**, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
at 115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford, NJ 08096

**To register to attend the expo, an upcoming support group meeting, or for more information, please call (856) 686-8338 or email [seniors@co.goucester.nj.us](mailto:seniors@co.goucester.nj.us)**

## HOLIDAY CRAFT CLASSES

Crafting classes will take place at each Senior Nutrition Site in December. Participants will create a decorative holiday centerpiece.

Classes will take place on the following dates:

**December 5** @ 9:30 am – Second Baptist Church, 1540 Swedesboro Ave. Paulsboro, NJ 08066

**December 6** @ 9:30 am – Glassboro Senior Center, 152 S. Delsea Dr. Glassboro, NJ 08028

**December 9** @ 9:30 am – Pfeiffer Community Center, 301 Blue Bell Rd. Williamstown, NJ 08094

**December 12** @ 9:30 am – First Baptist Church of Jericho, 981 Mail Ave. Deptford, NJ 08096

**December 12** @ 11:00 am – Mantua Township Community Center, 111 Mercer Ave, Mantua, NJ 08080

**December 13** @ 9:30 am – Thorofare Fire Hall, 100 Firehouse Rd. Thorofare, NJ 08086

Classes are open to all Gloucester County Residents 60 years of age and older.

Please note that there is limited seating in each class, so registration is required.

**To register or for more information, please get in touch with the Division of Senior Services at (856) 384-6900 or email [seniors@co.goucester.nj.us](mailto:seniors@co.goucester.nj.us)**



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## HOW GREEN IS YOUR THUMB?



The Gloucester County Certified Gardener Program is a county facilitated program in which residents receive horticulture training and in exchange provide volunteer service to the county

through a variety of venues. Certified Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Gloucester County in delivering horticulture programs and information to the general public. Volunteer opportunities also include our Certified Gardener Helpline, staffing information booths at community events, helping with gardening demonstrations and classes, as well as community beautification efforts. Anyone interested in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Certified Gardener. No previous education or training in horticulture is necessary.

The training program runs from January through May, but applications are accepted year-round.

**For more information, call 856-224-8045 or email [gardener@co.gloucester.nj.us](mailto:gardener@co.gloucester.nj.us).**

**For help from our Certified Gardener Helpline with things like soil testing and insect problems, call 856-224-8052.**



## NEW ID LAW COMING IN 2025

State law will soon require REAL ID cards, or an equivalent document, if you want to fly in the United States. The deadline for the new federally-approved driver's license was recently moved to May 7, 2025, allowing several months for residents who are planning to take to the air next year.

To get a REAL ID in New Jersey, you must bring two proofs of residential address, one proof of Social Security Number, and six points of ID (a U.S. Passport or birth certificate counts for four points; one-point forms of ID include a high school diploma, social security card, bank/credit union statement, debit card, property tax statement, etc).

COVID-19 backlogs in state agencies charged with issuing driver's licenses and identification cards prompted the last REAL ID extension in late 2022. The original 2020 deadline to get REAL IDs had been extended multiple times because of the pandemic.

Visit <https://telegov.njportal.com/njmvc/AppointmentWizard> to make an appointment, or call (609) 292-6500.



## SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR VETERANS EVERY DAY



In Gloucester County, our Veterans are our priority. Your commitment to serving our Country will never be forgotten.

We are here to assist our Veterans, so please make sure that you know about all the programs and services that are offered. Please reach out to our office if you are in need of assistance or have any questions about benefits and programs you may be eligible for.

**You can visit our office at 211 County House Rd, Sewell, NJ 08080, contact the Gloucester County Office of Veterans Affairs at (856) 401-7660 or visit our website at [https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/267/Veterans-Affairs](http://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/267/Veterans-Affairs)**

**The Office of Veterans Affairs is open five (5) days a week for:**

- Vocational Rehab
- Free Wills
- VA Disability Claims
- VA Healthcare
- Applications
- Discharge paperwork
- VA Clinic Appointments
- And more



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## DILIGENT AT WORK KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFE

With the holidays coming, we are doing our best to get the roads ready across Gloucester County! Traveling during the holiday season is hard enough without debris and other hazards on the road.



County street sweeping along CR 652 Elm Avenue in Woodbury Heights.



Tree trimming on CR 663 Tanyard Road in Deptford.



Workers created a trench to increase site lighting at the Fire Academy.



Workers performed grading for vehicle and equipment storage at the Fire Academy.



Milling in the Clayton ambulance parking yard for battery recharge area.



Mowing being performed at the intersection of CR 655 Fries Mill Road and US 322 in Monroe.



Boom mowing being performed on CR 651 Greentree Road in Washington.



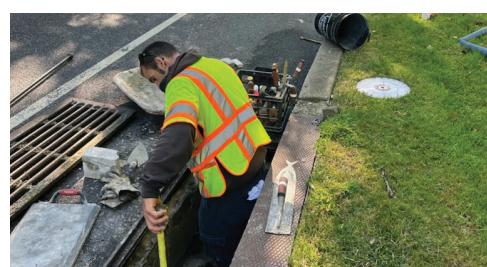
Boom mowing being performed on CR 633 Blue Bell Road in Monroe.



Boom mowing being performed on CR 654 Hurffville Cross Keys Road in Washington.



Weed whacking being performed around guiderail on CR 634 Fishpond Road in Washington.



Inlet repair on CR 656 Parkville Station Road in West Deptford.



Mowing and weed whacking along US 322 Mullica Hill Bypass in Harrison.

## YOUNG LEADER: LUKE YODER, 2024 CHILDHOOD CANCER AMBASSADOR

Deptford resident Luke Yoder, 13 years old, was honored by Gloucester County for his esteemed efforts in raising awareness for childhood cancer as part of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Luke was designated the 2024 Childhood Cancer Ambassador for Gloucester County, showing leadership at such a young age to raise awareness for young cancer patients everywhere.



2024 Childhood Cancer Ambassador Luke Yoder with Gloucester County Deputy Director Jim Jefferson (right), his parents Ken and Laurie, and younger brother Adam.

## FIVE PET SAFETY TIPS FOR THANKSGIVING

You may be tempted to give your pets some of your Thanksgiving feast, but many treats we love can make our pets ill.

Keep your pet safe with these five tips:

1. Don't feed your pet turkey. Turkey is high in fat, so even small pieces can cause pancreatitis, especially in smaller pets.
2. Keep wine glasses higher than snout and tail level! Alcohol can cause pets' blood sugar and pressure to drop dangerously.
3. Baking chocolate is even more toxic than regular chocolate as it contains higher amounts of caffeine and theobromine. But no matter what sweet treats you're baking, keep nosy snouts out of the kitchen.
4. Hide the bread dough. The stomach provides a warm environment for yeast to produce ethanol, so when bread dough is swallowed, it continues to expand, causing ethanol toxicosis.
5. Whether you are bringing your pets with you or boarding them, check their chips before you leave for vacation. Microchips help your pets get home safe if they do get lost.

## WREATHS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



On **December 7**, we will join together in honor of those who have served our nation at the Gloucester County Veterans Cemetery for the annual Wreaths of Remembrance Ceremony. The event, founded by Gloucester County's Paul Blackstock, is a solemn ceremony held for our nation's heroes with wreaths being placed by those who served to honor the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women and express our gratitude for their sacrifices.

**December 7, 2024**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Gloucester County Veterans Cemetery

240 N. Tuckahoe Road, Williamstown, NJ 08094

**For more information, call 856-401-7660.**

**The event is free and open to the public.**

# HOMEBUYER DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program is intended as a means of stabilizing property values and overall quality of life in targeted neighborhoods throughout the County. The major objective is to increase the supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income families. The goal of this program is to help Gloucester County residents achieve their dream of homeownership.

By providing assistance with down payment and closing costs, Gloucester County enables low-income applicants to qualify for a mortgage in addition to:

Increase the supply of affordable housing for families for an extended period of time.

Stabilize property values and create a balance between rental and ownership housing stock in certain neighborhoods.

Help renters who have steady incomes but cannot make the leap to ownership because they lack the needed lump sum to cover closing and down payment costs.

## Eligible Borrowers

Any low to moderate income household that does not exceed 80% the median income adjusted for family size at the time of purchase may be considered for this program. A household is classified as all persons living in the home regardless of blood relation, marriage or other circumstance. Other eligibility criteria include:

Any low to moderate income household that has not owned a home in the past three years (except with issues related to health, safety and welfare of a family as reviewed on a case-by-case basis, i.e., displaced homemakers and loss of primary residence due to natural disaster).

## Minimum 3% personal financial investment

The applicant must complete a minimum of an eight hour Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved Home Buyer Education course. See link below to find a HUD approved counselor /agency.

## Eligible Properties

HOME funds may be used for one-to-four-unit properties that are previously or publicly owned. A variety of housing types are eligible, including:

### Condominium units in a single-family or multifamily building

Manufactured housing on permanent foundation where a deed for the land is to be recorded.

### Single-family (one unit) homes

The unit must be located within one of the 24 municipalities of Gloucester County to be eligible.



The unit cannot exceed the maximum sales price as determined by HUD.

Assistance through this program provides 0% deferred payment loans up to \$25,000 as required through underwriting that will be applied first to closing costs and the balance to down-payment assistance. A mortgage and Deed Restriction will be placed on the acquired property. The restriction on affordability is determined by subsidy provided in accordance with HUD regulations. Repayment of funds is based on the affordability period.

Full payment of the County funds is required should the household sell, transfer, refinance, obtain a reverse mortgage or utilize any vehicle to obtain cash against the equity of the property within the initial affordability period (can range from 5-10 years).

There is an extended period of affordability where 1/5 of the affordability subsidy will be forgiven for the next 4 year period.

The County will require 1/5 repayment should the owner transfer, sell, refinance obtain a reverse mortgage or utilize any vehicle to obtain cash against the equity of the property.

## Contact Us

Further explanation of these criteria are outlined in the application and policy manual. You must contact the office prior to executing a sales agreement to ensure availability of funds and reasonable time for review in order to align with an anticipated settlement date. Failure to communicate with this office may impact required processing time to accommodate your closing date.

**Scan the QR Code or Visit [bit.ly/GCHDPA](http://bit.ly/GCHDPA) for more information.**



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## HOLIDAY TIPS FOR FAMILIES OF SUBSTANCE USERS

For many families, the holidays can be a time of tension, strife, and overindulgent behavior. This stress can be particularly severe for families of substance users. For these families, the thought of managing substance abuse issues while maintaining peace and unity can be overwhelming — and mishandling these issues can lead to further estrangement from the substance user or a relapse for the recovering person.

The Gloucester County Division of Human Services wants to remind families to set boundaries that are simple, clear and doable, and that must be adhered to in order to participate in family festivities. This of course includes being clean and sober. Additionally, the holidays are not the best time to bring up examples of how your loved one or their substance use has affected you negatively in the past. **For more holiday tips, scan the QR code.**

**Gloucester County Office of Addiction Services**  
856-384-6885

**Referral For Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Support Services**  
856-384-6885

**NJ Addiction Services Hotline (24/7)**  
844-276-2777

**Gloucester County Municipal Alliance**  
856-384-6874

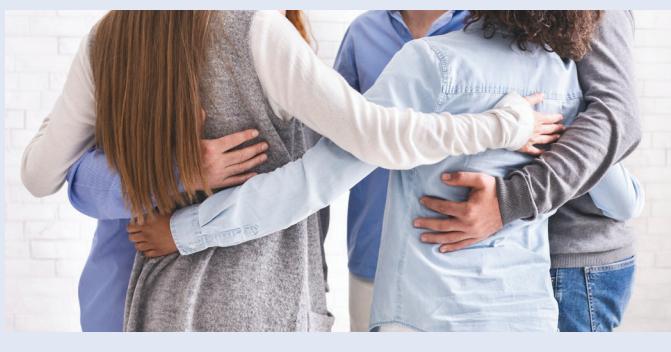
**Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (24/7/365)**  
9-8-8

**Southern NJ Alcoholics Anonymous**  
[www.snjaa.org](http://www.snjaa.org)

**Narcotics Anonymous of NJ**  
[www.nanj.org](http://www.nanj.org)

**Gloucester County Mental Health Board**  
856-384-6889

**Living Proof Recovery Center at RCSJ**  
856-216-7134



## FREE CANDLELIGHT TOURS OF WHITALL HOUSE



Take a candlelit trip back to colonial days this winter at the Whitall House, a Georgian style home that was part of a 400-acre colonial plantation on the banks of the Delaware River. Built by James and Ann Whitall in 1748, it also served as an American Revolution field hospital and now sits as part of Red Bank Battlefield Park. Rain or shine, free admission for all ages. Call 856-224-8045 for more information. Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas during the birth of our nation!

**Friday, December 6, 2024** from 6pm-9pm

**Saturday, December 7, 2024** from 3pm-8pm

**Sunday, December 8, 2024** from 4pm-7pm

## RING IN A HEALTHY NEW YEAR

The Gloucester County Health Department is providing free Health Screenings on **Friday, December 6, 2024** between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

1750 Deptford Center Road, Deptford, NJ 08096.

**No appointment needed!**



## Gloucester County Board of Commissioners

Frank J. DiMarco, Director

Jim Jefferson, Deputy Director

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Joann Gattinelli

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## WE'RE HIRING!



Gloucester County is currently hiring for multiple positions throughout the County. Available openings include Vet Technicians, Animal Attendants, EMTs, CNAs, Dispatchers/911 Operators, and more.

To complete and submit an employment application, please visit <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/128> or scan the QR code.

For additional information, please email [hrdept@co.goucester.nj.us](mailto:hrdept@co.goucester.nj.us) or call (856) 853-3264.



## PICK A COURT FOR PICKLEBALL



Gloucester County has 12 lighted pickleball courts, open 7 days a week! The courts are host to open play meetups and pickleball leagues.

Call 856-251-6710 between 8:30am-4:00pm for more information.

James G. Atkinson Park, 138 Bethel Mill Road, Sewell, NJ 08080

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 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.