

GTWorks is Mayor David R. Mayer's weekly newsletter that informs residents of the current projects and events happening in Gloucester Township.

From the Police Department to Public Works to the Department of Recreation, we want you to stay In the Know of the latest news in our community!



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### Hispanic Heritage Month Nominees

Learn more about the 2017 Hispanic Heritage Month Nominees.



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Good luck to Arrow and Cpl. Gerace at the National Dog Trails in Alabama!



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### 26th Annual Pumpkin Festival

Find out all you need to know about the Blackwood Pumpkin Festival this weekend!

# Congratulations to our 2017 Hispanic Heritage Month Nominees

Every September 15th through October 15th, Mayor Mayer and Council celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring outstanding Latino Members of our community. Those are the exemplary citizens who have demonstrated significant contributions in the areas of community service, personal or professional achievements, or general good deeds that have had a positive impact on our citizens.

“We congratulate the 2017 nominees on being selected to receive such an outstanding award. We appreciate all you do for our community and for making Gloucester Township a great place to live!” said Mayor David R. Mayor.





## Noberto Cruz

Noberto is recognized for his zest and love that he portrays amongst the youth of our community, particularly the Youth Group in St. Jude's Church. For the past two and half years he has worked unceasingly as the Youth Director of Our Lady of Hope Parish Community and has demonstrated leadership by actions and guidance. "Personally I have never encountered a zealous person who loves church and community like Mr. Cruz. His heart transcends creed, race, and culture. He exemplifies what being a Latino is all about," said Fr. Rene Canales.



## Nadia Lizbeth Ayala-Claros

Nadia Lizbeth is an 8th grade student at C.W. Lewis Middle School and is originally from El Salvador. She has been in USA for five years. Her ESL teachers were amazed by her quick learning skills and love of learning. Nadia is at all times kind and caring and has a very pleasant personality. When it comes to helping her peers, Nadia has true leadership qualities. She is very helpful to her younger brother as well. She is a great sister, loving daughter and a perfect student. She aspires to be a science teacher when she grows up and she will undoubtedly become one because of her hard work and determination.



## Jalen Hunt

Jalen is a senior at Timber Creek High School. He is admired by Timber Creek's staff due to his hard work and endurance. Jalen is the Vice President of the World Language Club. His Spanish teacher says, "He is motivated to not only learn the Spanish Language, but also all of their diverse cultures." Jalen is respected by his class mates for his positive leadership skills and diverse interests. He participated on the Winter Track Team, the Soccer Team, Cross Country, and Indoor Track. He also is a prominent member of the Green Team. Jalen is known to have a positive effect on everyone he meets, striving for excellence in the classroom and on the athletic field.



## Sulietha Nunez

Sulietha was nominated by her guidance counselor and her Spanish teacher. Her guidance counselor, Mrs. Harley said, "Suleitha is dedicated, goal-oriented, ambitious, and a hard-working student. Sulietha has been one of the top students in all of her courses. Her transcript reflects the effort, time and dedication she puts into all of her work, which has given her a GPA of 4.2415 and a class rank of 28/295." Mrs. Alaqua, her Spanish teacher said, "I have the pleasure of having Suleitha in my class for two years. She is a very caring and mature young lady."



## Melanie Rodriguez

Melanie is recognized for being an outstanding scholar. Besides her glowing transcript, Melanie is a part of the cheerleading team, the secretary of her class, part of the History Club, and does her part to help the Transition Project. However, this is just a small glimpse into the leadership and kindness of Melanie's heart. Melanie is also a big advocate for those in need. She creates care packages for organizations to give to the needy. Melanie is truly an exemplary student with a bright future.



## Michael Acevedo

Michael is a graduate of Rowan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Michael is a member of the Political Science Honor Society and has been working in New Jersey's 4th Legislative District Office since 2009 as a Legislative Aide. Micheal has taught and administered a student enrichment program for high school students. He has a variety of interests including reading, softball, basketball, golf, running, and politics.



## Benedit Lora-Nunez

Benedit is a senior at Triton Regional High School and is an ESL Student. Despite not beginning his high school career at Triton, he has joined clubs and has been committed to improving his academics. Benedit has consistently stayed after school for extra help as well as to volunteer for for History Club and Key Club events. He is always willing to translate when new students come to Triton and has served for an informal mentor to new ESL students at Triton.





## Vanessa Marinero

Vanessa is an 8th grade student at Ann A. Mullen Middle School. She is a cheerful, respectful, dedicated, and hardworking young lady. Vanessa enjoys helping anyone who is in need. She is an alter server at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. She had the privilege to serve at one of the largest cathedrals three times. Vanessa aspires to be a Missionary when she grows up because she wants to help others and travel. She is an exemplary student and a member of our community who exhibits remarkable leadership qualities and generously contributes to anyone in need without expecting anything in return.



## Sophia Aguirre

Sophia is a student at Triton High School and a member of the National Honor Society who never backs down from a challenge and consistently selects the most rigorous academic curriculum available at Triton Regional High School. She always works hard and puts her full commitment into everything she does. In addition to her academic achievement, she is a talented Volley Ball player who has played for her community team for a number of years. Through her involvement in the Key Club, she has participated in multiple community outreach projects. No matter what is happening in school, Sophia is always willing to get involved and does so with enthusiasm.

## 2017 USPCA National Patrol Dog Trials



Mayor David R. Mayer, Cpl. Chris Gerace, Ptl. Michael Przeworski and K-9 Officer Arrow attended the 2017 USPCA National Patrol Dog Trials this past week.

The United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) is the Nation's oldest and largest Police K-9 Organization. Since 1971, they have been training and certifying police dogs in General Patrol Dog use, Tracking, Protection, Narcotic Detection, Explosive Detection, Arson, Fish and Game and Search and Rescue.

The United States is broken down

into various "Regions" that participate and hold field trials each year. Those teams meeting top scores are invited to attend the National Police Dog Field Trials where the National champion is selected. This time the Trials were held in Foley, Alabama on September 24-29.

Gloucester Township is proud to have our very own officers attend the event that brings K-9's and their handlers together from all over the nation. We wish them the best of luck in their final days at the 2017 USPCA National Patrol Dog Trials!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT**

**OCTOBER 7th at Timber Creek HS Parking Lot**

The event begins at 5pm / Movie begins at dusk  
Food trucks and games / Free admission!

**JUMANJI** PG-13

PRESENTED BY  
**Mayor David R. Mayer and Council**

RAIN DATE 10/13/17. For more information please call 856-374-3514 or visit www.glotwp.com



Interested in going to **Radio City Music Hall** for the *Christmas Spectacular*? Tickets are now on sale at the Recreation Center! The trip will take place on Friday, December 1st and the cost is \$105.00 per person. Price includes coach bus transportation and a ticket to the show. Please call (856) 435-5734 with any questions.



# Celebrate a Fall Tradition at the 26th Annual Blackwood Pumpkin Festival

Blackwood, New Jersey comes alive on the first Sunday of October with entertainers, vendors, shoppers and families who come together for the Blackwood Pumpkin Festival! This tradition began in 1992, therefore this year marks its 26th year. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of visitors have attended. The festival, presented by Mainstage Center for the Arts, will take place on Sunday, October 1st from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in and around the area of Mainstage's Performing Arts Academy. The rain date is Sunday, October 8th.

For the first time in the festival's history, the Black Horse Pike will be closed from the intersection of Church Road through Lake Avenue. Since parking in downtown Blackwood fills up quickly, free parking with a free shuttle bus service to the festival is available at Highland Regional High School.

The festival will feature amusements, food, music, shopping, live entertainment, pumpkin painting, hayrides, moon bounces, a petting zoo, face painting, scarecrow building, costume contests, Farmer's Market with fresh produce, Mainstage studio treasure hunt, and much more! New additions to this year's event include a Puppy Parade/contest, Great Cake Bake Off and Ukelele Jam Session. Unforgotten Haven will also be collecting for Hurricane relief in the Blackwood Fire Hall Parking Lot.

"We're thrilled that the South Jersey community has been able to enjoy the Blackwood Pumpkin Festival for 26 years now. It's such a fun way for friends and families to spend a day celebrating the joys of the fall season," said Anne Marie Weaver, Director of Special Projects, Mainstage Center for the Arts. "We appreciate all those who visit the event, which raises funds for Mainstage's year-round performing arts programs for kids and their families."



## DETAILS FOR ENTERING A CONTEST:

### • Costume Parade/Contest:

Sponsored by Bounce U of Blackwood  
(for children up to age 12)

11:30 am and 1:15 p.m., in the park at the corner of Railroad and West Lake Ave. Register 15 minutes before the contest of your choice at the Mainstage Information Booth

### • Talent Contest:

Sponsored by GCV Productions  
(for ages 5-18)

Performances will be assigned between 11:15 – 2:45 pm. Participants must preregister by September 29th. For details about registration, please visit <http://mainstage.org>.

### • Pumpkin Carving Contest:

Sponsored by McDonald's of Blackwood

Please bring already carved or decorated field-grown pumpkins to Mainstage's Academy Hall, 27 S. Black Horse Pike between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### • Cake Decorating:

Drop off Academy Hall - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm. Winners announced at 3:00 p.m. - Academy Hall Stage. Rules will be available at <http://mainstage.org>.

### • Puppy Parade:

For a howling good time, bring your dog in costume to compete in the Puppy Parade, sponsored by Winslow Animal Hospital. Prizes will be given out for several categories. 11:50 a.m., 1:45 p.m. - in the park at the corner of Railroad and West Lake Ave. Register 15 minutes before the contest of your choice at the Mainstage Information Booth. Winners to be announced immediately after the parade.

## Let's Keep In Touch!

As your Mayor, I'm eager to hear from you should you have questions or concerns; so please do not hesitate to call my office at (856) 374-3514 or email me at [dmayer@glotwp.com](mailto:dmayer@glotwp.com)

I'd like to thank you for choosing our beautiful Gloucester Township your residence and for making our community a great place to live, work and play!

Sincerely,



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP  
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT

