

*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!*



## Update on a Rare Derecho that tore through Gloucester Township Community Yesterday

Last night our community suffered from a powerful windstorm that has caused significant damage in Gloucester Township. The strong wind damaged residential, commercial, and township properties throughout the area and will take a long time to clean up and recover from.

"I want to thank Gloucester Township Police Department, Public Works, Office of Emergency Management, and Fire Companies who worked through the night to make sure that nobody was injured. This was a significant storm that has caused a lot of damage; and it's going to take several weeks for us to be able to collect all the debris; so please be patient as we are working on making our community clean and safe again," said Mayor Mayer.

"Within the first hour of the storm we received about 190 calls; everything from traffic lights out, downed trees, alarms, people trapped in their cars as the trees came down on top of them. We estimated that there were approximately 15 thousand of residents that had no power. As bad as it was, the miracle of the storm was that there were no injuries. It's been challenging with the traffic conditions, but we've put all the resources available to make a good progress so far. We deployed our mobile charging stations to various locations to make sure the residents who lost power were able to charge their devices. It's all-hands-on-deck approach here. We are in full recovery mode at this point and we are going to continue to monitor the situation and put out every resource we can for our residents," said Chief David Harkins.

Please watch Mayor David Mayer and Chief David Harkins as they made their way around the township earlier today assessing the situation and making sure help and resources are being channeled to those in need.

## June 4, 2020



### **PAGE 2** PTSD Awareness Month

June is PTSD Awareness Month. Find out how you can help raise awareness.



### **PAGE 3** Message from GTPD Chief David Harkins

A Message from Chief Harkins Regarding Mr. George Floyd's Death.



### **PAGE 4** Give Blood. Give Life.

Don't miss the GTPD's American Red Cross Blood Drive this Monday, June 8th at the Senior Center.



# Governor Phil Murphy Announces New Jersey Will Enter Stage Two of Restart and Recovery Plan

As part of his restart and recovery plan, Governor Phil Murphy announced this week that New Jersey will enter Stage Two on June 15, 2020.

Guided by strict protocols from the New Jersey Department of Health, as well as input from the Governor's Restart and Recovery Commission and complementary Advisory Councils, Stage Two will include outdoor dining for restaurants and indoor, non-essential retail as of June 15th. Beginning on June 22nd, barber shops and salons will be able to reopen. In the period to follow, New Jersey will work toward the gradual opening of personal care, gyms, and health clubs, at reduced capacities as the stage progresses. All of these activities will be allowed pursuant to strict health and safety guidelines that will be issued in the coming days. New Jersey ended maximum restrictions and moved to Stage One on May 18, 2020.

"As we move through Stage One of our strategic restart and recovery process, public health data continues to demonstrate our collective success in flattening the curve of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations," said Governor Murphy. "It is with these favorable metrics, coupled with expanded testing capacity and contact tracing, that we can responsibly enter Stage Two of our multi-stage approach to recovery. Our economic restart must instill confidence among our residents and visitors that their safety, and that of their families, is our number one priority. I encourage all New Jerseyans to continue their vigilance in keeping themselves and their communities safe by social distancing, wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, and limiting gatherings."

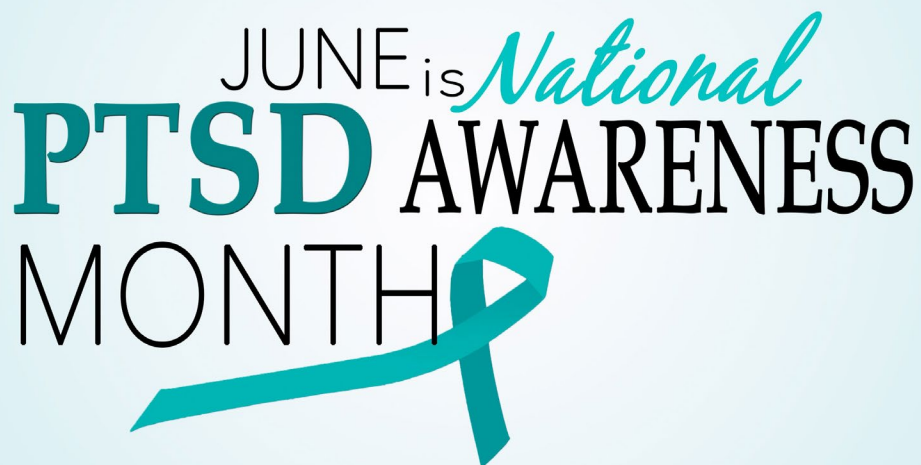


## June is #PTSDAwarenessMonth

There are currently 8 million people in the United States who suffer from PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder), a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault.

Anyone can develop PTSD at any age. A number of factors can increase the chance that someone will have PTSD, many of which are not under that person's control.

For more information and PTSD treatment options, as well as how YOU can raise awareness, please visit <https://www.ptsd.va.gov>



# A Message from Gloucester Township Police Department Chief David Harkins

*A Message from Chief David Harkins Regarding Mr. George Floyd's Death and our Sacred Trust:*

"As we continue our efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the men and women of the Gloucester Township Police Department were shaken by the events that are happening this week in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The tragic death of Mr. George Floyd during the course of seemingly "routine" arrest, leaves me feeling disheartened and disgusted.

I feel disheartened because we in law enforcement work every day to earn the sacred trust of those we serve. I am disheartened because of what the arresting officer did and because the other officers did not intervene on behalf of Mr. Floyd. If they had, I would not be typing this message.

I feel disgusted because someone in my profession represented us very poorly. The officers involved failed to do the right thing. Their actions can undue all of the good work done every day by police officers throughout the country. But we will not let that happen.

We work every day to build the bonds and earn that sacred trust that we have with our Gloucester Township community. The men and women of the Gloucester Township Police Department love to serve our community, and they share in the disgust that I feel.

After the release of the video of the incident, every officer was directed to watch the video and reflect on what was done wrong. I asked all of the officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff to reflect on "why we do what we do" as servants to our community. We will honor the memory of Mr. Floyd by striving to do even better. We will not cover for, or make excuses, we call it as we see it. It appears that this was wrong, and Mr. Floyd should not have died during this incident. We will re-commit ourselves to being servants to our community. We will make our community bonds even stronger than they are.

We are proud of who we are, and of what we do. We will not go backwards, we will forge ahead. We will continue to serve with Compassion, Courage, Honesty, Respect, Fairness and Integrity. We are the thread that is interwoven in this great community of Gloucester Township, and we will be honorable Servant Leaders. We will strive to earn that sacred trust every day. That is what I expect of my officers and staff, and that is what they have delivered."

*David J. Harkins*

*Chief of Police*



NJ SHARES/Volunteers of America Unveil New Program Providing Rent and Mortgage Assistance to Camden County Residents In Need

Camden City, N.J. – Volunteers of America Delaware Valley (VOADV) and New Jersey SHARES Inc. (NJ SHARES) are partnering to offer a new assistance program for Camden County residents in need. The SHARES Mortgage Assistance Rent or Taxes (SMART) Program provides critical funding for rent or mortgage assistance to individuals that are currently facing eviction or foreclosure.

"Our SMART Program is designed to assist households on the brink of an emergency situation, where

foreclosure and eviction are eminent," explained Cheryl Stowell, CEO of NJ SHARES. "As New Jersey begins the process of re-opening from the COVID-19 shut down, this type of assistance will be even more critical and needed. Our partnership with VOADV will enable us to get funding into the hands of those who need it most throughout the Camden County region." The SMART Program is designed to assist low-to-moderate income households in New Jersey with a combined total monthly income between 135% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Eligible households may then receive a one-time grant up to \$1,500, to aide with a mortgage or rent payment.

To be eligible for the SMART Program, individuals must be Camden County residents and meet the following pre-qualifications: - - Have a back-owed rent or mortgage that puts the household in danger of

eviction or foreclosure;

- Be experiencing a financial crisis, defined as a period of intense financial difficulty which the household did not create and which the household lacks the current means to overcome;
- Be able to demonstrate the ability to make on-time payments in the future;
- Have a total gross monthly income level that does not exceed 300% of the current Federal Poverty Level (FPL);
- Complete and submit an application, as well as all necessary supporting documentation.

VOADV's Navigational Resource Centers will serve as the SMART program's only referral source in Camden County, pre-qualifying households and assisting them with the grant application process. For more information or to apply for the SMART Program, call (866) 657-4273 or email [njshares@njshares.org](mailto:njshares@njshares.org)

# GIVE BLOOD. GIVE LIFE.

Join Gloucester Township Police at the GTPD's American Red Cross Blood Drive this Monday, June 8th from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Gloucester Township Senior Center (1261 Chews Landing Rd). Appointments are preferred. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use the sponsor code: gloucester township police

The American Red Cross New Jersey Region has an Emergency Need for blood and platelet donors of all types to give now. Inventories are critically low. Please consider donating and help replenish the blood supply for patients in need!



Without A, B & O we can't save anybody. You are the #MissingType we need.

## Gloucester Township Police Department

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Appointments are preferred. Call **1-800-REDCROSS**

**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE**

Sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code:  
**gloucester township police**



Save time on the day of the donation and visit  
[www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass)

## 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David R. Mayer'.



GLoucester TOWNSHIP  
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT

