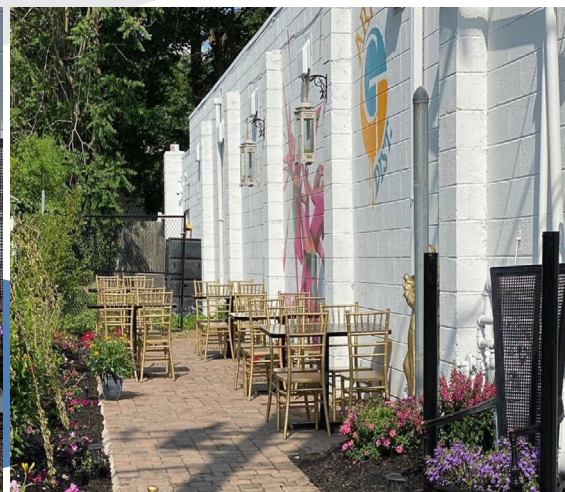


WORKS

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!



Pictured is Wild Fig Restaurant in Downtown Blackwood section of Gloucester Township ready to welcome its guests this Monday

June 11, 2020



PAGE 2

Free Food Distribution at CCC This Weekend

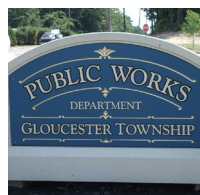
Camden County Freeholders partner with *Touch NJ & Farmers Against Hunger.*



PAGE 3

A Message from Chief David Harkins

Chief Harkins answers your frequently asked questions.



PAGE 4

Public Works Yard Now Open Friday/Saturday

Public Works yard will be open for brush drop-off on Fridays/Saturdays 8 AM-4 PM.

Mayor and Council lift zoning restrictions for GT eateries to aid business owners and jumpstart local dining

On Monday, July 8th, in an effort to promote the reestablishment of public commerce in the Township, Mayor David Mayer and Township Council passed a resolution temporarily lifting the zoning restrictions for local dining establishments starting June 15th, 2020. Please see the original ordinance for more details:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Wild Fig restaurant welcomes you back; but here's what to expect:

"We will be reopening on Monday June 15th for take out and outdoor dining only from 4pm-10 pm. This will not be business as usual. We are legally required to follow all regulations set forth by the NJ State government. To better serve you, we require your compliance and ask for your understanding! •At Shana's Wild Fig You are restricted to 4 guests per table. We ask that you do not move any tables or chairs as we have carefully placed them six feet apart and are strictly following rules and guidelines in place. We also ask that your children are supervised at all times. •In order to serve as many of you as possible, we know you're excited to be out, the table is reserved for your party for 1 hour from the time your food arrives if we have other patrons waiting. If we do not have other customers waiting, feel free to enjoy yourself as long as you'd like! We've also changed our menu a bit to allow faster service! We will be offering weekly specials so be sure to follow us on [Instagram @wildfig](#). •Should our outdoor dining area be full, you will be asked to wait in your car until a table becomes available, and a staff member will text you •We encourage social distancing-Stay 6 feet apart! Everyone's health is extremely important to us. •If you have any of these symptoms, please DO NOT COME OUT: Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath, Body Aches, or Sore Throat. •Masks are required in all public areas. If you get up from your table, please wear your mask. Your server will be wearing theirs! We have been and will continue to take extreme precautions and sanitize regularly.



GLoucester Township
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT

Thank You!
Wild Fig

Thank You to Our Residents that Donated Blood This Week at the GTPD Red Cross Blood Drive!



The Gloucester Township Police Department's Blood Drive that took place this past Monday was a success. Huge thanks to our wonderful residents who came out and donated blood!

It is more important now than ever because the American Red Cross New Jersey Region has had an emergency need for blood and platelet donors as inventories are critically low. Even though our blood drive has ended, you can still donate. Click below to locate a blood drive near you.

CLICK HERE

Camden County Board of Freeholders
in partnership with Touch New Jersey
and Farmers Against Hunger
Presents:

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 • 12PM

CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE
PARKING LOT 6
(please follow directions when entering campus)

Drive-up and walk-up options
MUST wear masks and
practice social distancing

TOUCH
NEW JERSEY
Fighting Hunger and poverty at home



camden county
Making It Better. Together.

Get Connected
f i t
CamdenCountyNJ

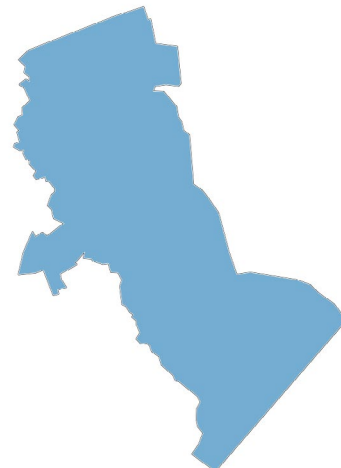
WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

As of this week, Gloucester Township has a 67.5% self-response rate for the 2020 Census. Census results are important as they shape the future of our community. Census data informs how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed for the next 10 years.

We are counting on you! Help us boost those numbers by visiting <https://my2020census.gov> if you have not responded yet.

New Jersey
Self-Response
62.9%

Gloucester Township, New Jersey
Self-Response
67.5%



A Message from Chief David Harkins: Frequently Asked Questions

As we have continued to react and respond to the ghastly incident that resulted in the death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota last week, I have received many inquiries from many concerned citizens of whom we are proud to serve. Since I have received so many inquiries, I thought it would be best to address the questions that I have received so that all of our community can learn and be informed about the Gloucester Township Police Department. Here is a list of “frequently asked questions” that my staff and I have received:

Q: Are the police officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department being trained to de-escalate altercations by using peaceful conflict resolution strategies?

A: All Gloucester Township Police Officers have been training in de-escalation techniques. Officers participate in mandatory Use of Force training twice per year which incorporates de-escalation tactics. Each officer shall be guided by the principle that the degree of force employed in any situation should be only that which is reasonably necessary. The use of force should never be considered routine. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey, and this department, that officers will use only that force that is objectively reasonable and necessary. Additionally, we support and routinely have officers trained in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. This program is an innovative international model of police based crisis intervention combined with community health care and advocacy partnerships where the officers receive intensive training to respond to citizens experiencing a behavioral crisis.

Q: Are the police officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department forbidden from using carotid restraints (chokeholds, strangleholds, etc.)?

A: Officers are not permitted to perform chokeholds, carotid artery neck restraints, or similar tactics on any individual, except in the very limited situations when deadly force is necessary to address an imminent threat to life. Carotid restraints, chokeholds and strangleholds are not taught or demonstrated in any GTPD training, or any New Jersey Police Academy. Hog tying methods are also not allowed. Every officer is trained to be aware of and avoid positional asphyxia, and to immediately recognize the signs and to avoid it.

Q: Are hog-tying methods authorized tactics to be used by Gloucester Township Police Officers?

A: Hog tying methods are also not allowed or ever instructed. Every officer is trained to be aware of and avoid positional asphyxia, and to immediately recognize the signs and to avoid it.

Q: Are officers forbidden from transporting civilians in uncomfortable positions, such as face down in a vehicle?

A: Officers are not authorized to transport anyone face down. All persons riding in motorized vehicles owned or operated by the Gloucester Township Police Department shall wear seatbelts. It shall be the officer's responsibility to ensure that all persons riding in a vehicle owned or operated by the Gloucester Township Police Department, are wearing their seatbelts. If an officer or employee wishes to transport a person or prisoner without a seatbelt fastened (i.e. medical condition, unruly or dangerous prisoner), the officer must first obtain permission to transport the non-seat belted person from a police supervisor.

Q: Are the police officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department required to intervene if they witness another officer using excessive force? Will officers be reprimanded if they fail to intervene?

A: Yes, our policy on use of force reinforces the responsibility of officers to take those steps possible to prevent or stop the illegal or inappropriate use of force by other officers. Every law enforcement officer is expected and required to take appropriate action in any situation where that officer is clearly convinced that another officer is using force in violation of state law or this general order. Officers have a legal, moral and ethical obligation to report all situations in which force is used illegally by anyone. This policy sends a clear message to officers that they share an obligation beyond the requirements of law. Officers are encouraged to do whatever they can to interrupt the flow of events before a fellow officer does something illegal and before any official action is necessary. Officers can serve each other and the public by simply saying or doing the right thing to prevent a fellow officer from resorting to force illegally or inappropriately. Officers will be face discipline if they fail to intervene.

Q: Are the officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department required to exhaust every other possible option before using excessive force?

A: Gloucester Township Police Officers are never authorized to use excessive force.

Q: Are the officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department required to report each time they threaten to or use force on civilians?

A: The Gloucester Township Police Use of Force policy mirrors the direction of the New Jersey Attorney General's Directive on Use of Force. Our policy states: In all instances when physical force, mechanical force, enhanced mechanical, or deadly force is used, each member or employee who has employed such force shall complete and submit use of force reports. In addition, if an officer employs constructive force by pointing a firearm at a person, this must also be reported.

Q: Are the officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department thoroughly vetted to ensure that they do not have a history with abuse, racism, xenophobia, homophobia/transphobia, or discrimination?

A: Yes, all applicants and new hires pass a significant background check, a series of interviews, and a psychological exam.

Q: Are the officers in the Gloucester Township Police Department trained to perform and seek necessary medical action after using force?

A: Yes, our use of force policy states: If the use of force results in an injury to any party, prompt medical attention shall be offered and/or provided as soon as it is safe for officers to do so. The officers are also trained to do this in our use of force training.

Q: Is there an early intervention system enforced to correct officers who use excessive force?

A: Yes we have a Professional Standards / Early Warning System. This system is monitored by the Gloucester Township Police Department Professional Standards Unit who report directly to the Chief of Police, with oversight by the Camden County Prosecutor's Office.

Q: How many complaints does an officer have to receive before they are reprimanded?

A: It varies depending on the offense committed by an officer. Major offenses (insubordination, excessive force, dereliction of duty, conduct unbecoming an officer, etc.) may be punishable by suspension up to termination. Minor offenses (ex. Lateness, uniform issue, forgetting equipment, etc.), a system of progressive discipline and re-training may be used. Any and all accusations of possible criminal conduct including excessive force complaints are investigated by the Camden County Prosecutors Office. You can also see information about our Professional Standards Process and annual Internal Affairs statistics by visiting: <https://gtpolice.com/operations-division/professional-standards-bureau/>

Officers are also regularly offered police chaplain services, counseling of employee assistance programs, and participation in officer resiliency programs. **Q: What happens if someone dies while in the custody of police?**

A: All in custody deaths are investigated by the Camden County Prosecutors Office and the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General. The Gloucester Township Police Department would not participate in the investigation.

Our relations and service to ALL of our community members is the driving motivation behind everything that we do at the Gloucester Township Police Department. Every full time police officer from the Chief of Police to the newest Recruit Officer must attend a program called "Policing in a More Perfect Union," which is held at the US Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA. This program is described from their website as follows: "The program is designed to give police officer recruits a historical understanding of the constitutional rights and restrictions that are defined in the Bill of Rights. Policing in a More Perfect Union also examines the history of policing in a democratic society, and provides a forum for new officers to discuss the importance of their role in protecting the rights of all citizens."

Also, all Police Supervisors attended a program last year at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in New York titled "Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust." This program enables law enforcement officers to examine the role their profession played in the Holocaust and challenges them to reflect upon their professional and personal responsibilities in a democracy today. These are just two of the many initiatives that we have undertaken to emphasize our role as servant leaders to all members of the community.

We will do whatever it takes to ensure that we eliminate the scourge of racism from our community. We will re-examine everything we do to make ourselves better, so we can be servant leaders who can heal the divisions in our community. The Gloucester Township Police Department are active participants in the New Jersey Attorney Generals "Excellence in Policing Initiative", for more information on this program go to <https://www.nj.gov/oag/excellence/>.

I want to invite our community members to attend our Citizens Police Academy, go to <https://gtpolice.com/programs/community-relations/citizen-police-academy/>, and to be sure to sign up for our Community Notification System at <https://gtpolice.com/> so you can learn more about the Gloucester Township Police Department.

For more information about the many community programs of the Gloucester Township Police Department, go to <https://gtpolice.com/programs/>

To find out more about how you make a difference, please contact the Gloucester Township Police Community Relations Bureau at communityrelations@gtpolice.com for more information.

Thank you, GTPD!



"The women and men of the Gloucester Township Police Department are proud to serve, protect, and promote a safe community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. We take great pride in keeping our residents and visitors safe by providing professional police services through our community partnerships.

Please feel free to contact us at any time: Email your general questions to Police@GTPolice.com or contact our Community Relations Unit at 856-228-4011. As always, if you have an EMERGENCY CALL 911. If you need immediate non-emergency police service in Gloucester Township call our non-emergency line at 856-228-4500.

Thank you, and STAY SAFE!"

GTPD

Public Works Yard Now Open on Weekends for Brush Drop-Off!



The Public Works yard is now open for residential brush drop off on Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 am- 4:00 pm until further notice. There is a high volume of storm debris to collect in Gloucester Township, so we do appreciate your patience and understanding. Please place all brush at the curb as Public works cannot go onto private property.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation; please do not hesitate to contact us at 856-228-3144 or publicworks@glotwp.com should you have any questions or concerns.

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

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

