# WGRKS

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

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

### August 18, 2022





ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL GLOUCESTERS ACROSS THE GLOBE

## GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 2022 GLOBAL GLOUCESTER DAY CELEBRATIONS

Gloucester Township will be participating in the 2022 Inaugural Global Gloucester Day on September 3rd on the grounds of the historic Gabreil Daveis Tavern.

Gloucester Day was an annual event in England for centuries, celebrating the lifting of the Siege of Gloucester in 1643 when the city held out against Royalist forces during the First English Civil War. Recently revived in 2009 and now held the first Saturday in September, the 2022 version of Gloucester Day will be Gloucester Collaboration's (GC) first global Gloucester Day and become the annual "birthday" celebration for the Gloucester Collaboration. Gloucester Collaboration is the concept conceived after the visit of the Duke of Gloucester, England, to Gloucester, Virginia, where strong connections were forged with folks of both Gloucesters.

The mission of the Gloucester Collaboration is to enhance the quality of life for all Gloustonians – the residents of the twelve (12) communities of Gloucester around the world – through collaboration and cooperation between fellow Gloustonians.

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PAGE 2 2022 Gloucester Day Gloustonians to celebrate the 2022 Inaugural Global Gloucester Day

Officials Tour Downtown Blackwood

Mayor Mayer and state officials visit the Arts

District to discuss projects





PAGE 4 Annual Drive-In Movie Night Enjoy the original Hocus Pocus at Gloucester Township's free event



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#### 2022 GLOBAL GLOUCESTER DAY

#### As it begins, GC involves the following 12 communities:

- City of Gloucester, UK the Original Gloucester
- County of Gloucester, Virginia, USA
- County of Gloucester, New Jersey, USA
- Gloucester City, Camden County, New Jersey, USA
- Township of Gloucester, Camden County, New Jersey, USA
- City of Gloucester, Massachusetts, USA
- Town of New Gloucester, Maine, USA
- Community of Gloucester, North Carolina, USA
- Community of Gloucester, Ottawa, Canada
- Gloucester Village, Sierra Leone
- Town of Gloucester, New South Wales, Australia
- Community of Cape Gloucester, Queensland, Australia

The Gloucester Township Historic and Scenic Preservation Committee is proud to be taking part in a September 3rd, 2022 Global Celebration and collaboration of unity with twelve like-named Gloucester communities throughout the United States and abroad. On September 3rd at 10 am a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at the Historic 1756 Gabreil Daveis Tavern Museum House and Grounds. The ribbon cutting will dedicate the newly installed elevated walkway on the trails to the North Branch of Timber Creek and Otter Branch. The Gloucester Township Rotary Club Foundation funded, through grant writing, the construction of the elevated walkway allowing visitors to explore and follow in the footsteps of boat revealers of the 1700's & 1800's. After the ribbon cutting, guided history walks along the trail and grounds will be conducted. The day will conclude at 12pm with the ringing of bells throughout Gloucester Township and around the world in the "Global Gloucesters". The event is free and all are welcome to attend! Saturday, September 3, 10am-12pm.



Join us in celebrating Gloucester Day with other Gloucester's around the world!

## SATURDAY SEPT 3RD AT 12 O'CLOCK

ring a bell in honor of the Gloucester we love so much!



## **OFFICIALS TOUR DOWNTOWN BLACKWOOD TO DISCUSS PROJECTS**

Last week Mayor David Mayer, Speaker Craig Coughlin, Majority Leader Lou Greenwald, Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty, and Assemblyman Bill Spearman toured downtown Blackwood to discuss upcoming projects and economic opportunities that will be happening in the Arts District.

Gloucester Township will be acquiring the historic First National Bank Building, with the intention of transforming this unused property into a community arts & events center. The floorplan is designed to provide a versatile space that will be utilized for a black box theatre-in-the-round, temporary art exhibit, event hall, lecture hall, family movie theatre, community events and other gatherings. This building will be the centerpiece of the district, catalyzing revitalization efforts and attracting investors to the area. The NJDCA Community Capital Needs Grant is providing \$129,000 for the acquisition of this building and a further \$71,000 to assist with reconstruction, while the Neighborhood Preservation Program is contributing another \$25,000 to assist with the external façade renovation.



## **OFFICIALS TOUR DOWNTOWN BLACKWOOD TO DISCUSS PROJECTS**

The Township is contributing over \$400,000 to the project and other funds from county (\$50,000) and Federal (\$400,000) resources are being leveraged as well. In addition, the Township is funding the acquisition and demolition of the adjacent building to provide a parking lot for the new facility.

NPP Funding is assisting with both phases of the rehabilitation of Harwan Park in the center of the NPP district. Before this project was started, the park was dark, unsafe, and in disarray. Phase I of these improvements included the removal of large trees, lighting improvements, landscaping, painting the gazebo, and improved security. The second phase of these improvements will include additional seating and landscaping, more lighting, flagstone pathways, and an LED sign at the front of the park. In addition to NPP funding, the Township's Open Space Fund has been utilized to help with these improvements.

Funding is also being used from the NPP budget to support a weekly farmers' market in Harwan Park, showcasing not only the park improvements, but the wares of local farmers, artists, and crafters. Entertainment for these events is provided by the NPP Program.

Blade Signs: The NPP District is purchasing blade signs for businesses throughout the area to raise their profile while simultaneously providing an aesthetic boost to the area, helping lend to the atmosphere of a neighborhood business district.

Mural Art: A mural celebrating the history of Blackwood – which stretches back over 300 years – will be painted on the side of the white building adjacent to the cemetery, lending to the feeling of place and historical significance of the area. Placemaking improvements such as this help demonstrate the revitalization investment in the area, making it more attractive to investors and residents alike.

Temporary Artwork for Vacant Buildings: In cooperation with the Camden County College Arts Department, the NPP District will be providing the owners of several vacant buildings with artistic cover-ups for the windows of their empty buildings. Improving these storefronts helps to fight the perception of economic distress, while allowing several local artists a place to showcase their talents.

Façade Renovation Programs: A substantial portion of NPP funding in this first year has been dedicated to commercial and residential façade renovation projects. Grants of up to \$5,000 per property will be used to improve the street-facing side of at least 8 properties in the district. The Township is also contributing \$25,000 in matching funds to this project.



#### **Next Movie Night: September 9**

Don't forget your blankets and chairs for this free movie night! Food and games available at 7:00 pm. Movie begins at dusk. Thank you to our generous sponsor, Davis CPA Group, PC! Rain Date: September 16



#### **Gloucester Township Movie Night**

LOCATION: Veterans Park DATE: Friday, September 9 (Rain date 9/16)

**ADMISSION:** Free

Davis CPA Group, PC Accountant & Tax Preparers 1400 Chews Landing Rd (856) 627-2100

**SPONSORED BY:** 

#### **ANNUAL DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT** Mayor David R. Mayer and Council are excited to announce that Gloucester

Township will be hosting Gloucester Township's annual Drive-In Movie Night on September 24th at 5:30 pm. Admission is free. There will be food trucks, games, and activities for children. The movie: the original HOCUS POCUS, will begin at dusk. In case of bad weather, the rain date is Sunday, September 25th.



## 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!

David R. Mayer





