



March 2, 2023

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!



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES 2023 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, Gloucester Township Mayor and Council celebrate Black History Month by honoring outstanding African American members of our community.

"I want to congratulate each and every one of the award recipients. You are an inspiration. I love this event because I see hope for the future. As current and future leaders you are making a difference in our Gloucester Township community. Thank you for that impact and thank you for that inspiration. I'm a firm believer that we have a great community here in Gloucester Township because we embrace our differences. We respect one another and we celebrate our differences and that is what tonight is about. Tonight is about recognizing individuals within the African American community who are outstanding because you stand out!" said Mayor Mayer.

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2023 Black History Month

Learn more about the award recipients



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2023 Black History Month

Learn more about the award recipients



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GTPD Open House

Gloucester Township Police want YOU to join their team!



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP WILL CELEBRATES 2023 BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Kayla Cisrow is an exemplary citizen who demonstrated significant contributions in the community and has many professional accomplishments. Kayla has been a dance teacher at Highland High School for 7 years; and she is known within the community for her students' performances. Her personal accomplishments are that she helps out with youth in many different churches from her hometown. She currently runs the Praise Dance team at the 1st Baptist Church and volunteers at Asbury AME Youth program by teaching them how to problem solve through dance.



Ava Cooper is an 8th grade student at Glen Landing Middle School. Ava has been actively involved in clubs and activities during her school years. She has been in the choir for two years and drama for all three. She provides an outstanding performance in both areas ensuring that characters come alive and that the audience is fully engaged in the performances.

She is an outstanding young lady who acts as a role model for her peers and is always respectful and diligent in her work ethic. She is constantly looking for ways to improve on the stage and is always putting herself out there to try new things. Ava frequently pursues solo opportunities in the choir and

is looking for frequent feedback to improve her performances. She is always thinking of others before her own needs. Ava wants to achieve success not only for herself, but she also wants to be successful so that her fellow cast members and choral cohort shine alongside her.



Mr. Byron Carmichael has been an assistant principal at C.W. Lewis for the past 6 years. He always puts the needs of the students first. He works diligently to make the school a safe and welcoming learning environment. He has that burning desire to inspire others to be successful and to make learning fun. Mr. Carmichael is an instructional leader as he oversees the Math department. As a result, the school has seen growth in Math and Mr. Carmichael has played a large part in that growth.

As an advocate for kids, Mr. Carmichael can always be found interacting with students in the hallway, the cafeteria and other places to assist wherever he is needed. He is fair and understands the middle school child. He is aware of his role and handles situations that arise with competency and empathy.



Tyler Hines began his athletic career making history at his local high school. A former professional basketball player for one of the top teams in Greece, he started a Basketball academy and a mentoring/leadership program in Gloucester Township upon returning to town. The mission of this program is to provide the youths of Sicklerville and surrounding communities the tools and opportunities to accomplish their dreams. For the past three years Tyler returned to his roots at the Black Horse Pike School district and mentors students in all three high schools. He teaches the young people problem solving skills, self-advocacy and even guides them along a career path.



Nasir Ali-Gillard is currently the Class of 2024 President at Timber Creek High School, a position he truly deserves as an amazing example of a true leader that he is. He is involved in all facets of the school community. From the beginning of the year when the hallways are being decorated for the homecoming week to the planning of the 1st annual movie night, to the many other fundraising events, Nasir is always involved in helping to plan. He is often seen motivating others to get involved as well in school activities and events and encourages quieter students to not be afraid to share their voices and also get involved. Nasir maintains good grades as well and is known to also serve as Charlie the Charger for

school events and activities. He is a great example for the rest of the students of what it means to make the most of your time during what should be some of the best 4 years of your life!

[CLICK HERE
for more photos](#)

Najatene' Saunders demonstrates three distinct characteristics that make her a perfect candidate to be honored for Black history Month. These characteristics include scholarship, leadership and service. Najatene' currently has a 4.56 GPA and is ranked 10 out of 279 students. In addition to her academics, Najatene' is a leader among her peers. She is the president of



National Honor Society, a youth mentor for the South Jersey region of Greater Philadelphia Church of Christ, invited to speak for the virtual "Power" conference and attended the NSU Shark week preview this year. Najatene' is always willing to lend a helping hand to her classmates, school, and community. She participates in community service projects through her membership in National Honor Society, French Honor Society, and Science Honor Society. Service activities include tutoring, speaker at the Ann Mullen Junior National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, participating in fundraisers supporting the women's shelters, blood drives and collecting food donations.

Timber Creek High School is lucky to get to call Mrs. **Kelly McKenzie** their Principal and leader. She truly cares about the students, staff, and the community. She has the amazing ability to connect with students on all educational levels and ethnic diversities and is an inspiration to many as a strong black woman in a powerful position! She lives in town and has 4 kids



of her own and it's also because of this that she is fully invested in making Timber Creek High School the best it can be! Mrs. Kelly McKenzie exemplifies what it means to be an exceptional leader and goes way above the responsibility of an educator by truly and genuinely supporting and fulfilling the needs of everyone around her. She is always available, answers every phone call even off hours, her door is always open, she drops whatever she is doing at any moment and makes sure whomever may need her has her full attention. She is every student and staff's biggest cheerleader and will do whatever it takes to ensure all of our successes individually and as one large family!



Daejah Purnell is an exemplary citizen and outstanding among her peers. She is committed to improving her school and community while maintaining the highest of academic levels, ranking number 1 in her junior class. Daejah serves as the president of the No Place For Hate student leadership group where she has completed training under the Anti-Defamation League on ways to reduce bias and bullying. She also serves as the Vice President of Student Council and co-president of the African American club. In addition to her many leadership roles she still finds time to participate in charitable walks and outreach programs. Everything Daejah does is infused with love, kindness and grace. She is truly an inspiration and distinguished role model.



Ilona Bruce has a passion for African culture and Black History and has been showing that since she was able to read. She would come into the library asking questions about specific topics like Ruby Bridges or the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Over the years, Ilona's passion for learning about her culture has only increased. She proved to be one of the most dependable students. Ilona's family has been very supportive of her curiosity and has taught her so much about her cultural heritage. Outside of school, Ilona plays lacrosse and is an all star cheerleader on a predominantly white squad. She takes the opportunity to share her knowledge and passion for her cultural heritage with her teammates. Ilona is an exemplary young woman and will do great things as an African American woman!



Willie A. Smith II is currently the Vice President of the Office of Strategy Realization for South Jersey Industries. In this role he is responsible for the prioritization of projects and programs across the enterprise to ensure that they align with strategic goals and deploy the best use of capital and resources. Will has over 20+ years of experience with increasing responsibility in IT and sourcing arenas. Some previous roles include the Director for Software and Services at Sungard Availability Services and Strategic IT Vendor Program Manager at Lockheed Martin.

Will also serves on the board of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey with the mission of economically empowering and sustaining African American communities and businesses in New Jersey. As a resident of Gloucester Township for over 20+ years and a former GTGAA cheer/team dad he is the proud father of two Timber Creek graduates and he has and continues to serve the community. As the former treasurer and current member of American Associated of Blacks in Energy South Jersey Chapter in the past two years he has raised over \$45,000 for students of color around his community to attend college.



OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
3 - 5 PM

Employment Information

- Police Officer
- Special Law Enforcement Officer
- Telecommunicator
- Crossing Guards

Gloucester Premium Outlets- GTPD Training Center
100 Premium Dr, Blackwood NJ 08012

Gloucester Township Police Department
#JoinGTPD



GTPOLICE.COM

Save the Date



**beatles & beer
singalong**

ARTS | CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 PM



Gloucester Township Police Want YOU to join their team!
Sign up for the NJ Civil Service Exam and attend the GTPD Open House!
 The New Jersey Civil Service Commission has officially posted the job announcement for Gloucester Township, New Jersey residents, so take that first step and sign up for the exam! Online applications are being accepted from now until March 31, 2023 at 4 PM so don't delay- [Click HERE](#) for all the details!



Dr. Michael Billingsley and his alumni band will perform an evening of the Beatles in collaboration with Kings Road Brewing and The British Chip Shop. General admission ticket buyers will be able to sample recent releases from King Road Brewing while enjoying a singalong style performance of some of the Beatles' most memorable songs! VIP ticket buyers will be treated to a pre-concert beer and food tasting hosted by Kings Road Brewing and The British Chip Shop. Space is limited. Proceeds support scholarships and future programming. Proudly presented by the Arts at Camden County College. For more information please [CLICK HERE](#).

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

