

February 29, 2024



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## GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

On Monday, February 26th, Gloucester Township celebrated the 2024 Black History Month presenting awards to 10 distinguished African-American individuals who, through their selfless acts, have made a significant contributions and provided exemplary services to our community.

Council President Orlando Mercado welcomed everyone to this annual event: "We gather today to celebrate 10 outstanding honorees that contribute to the fabric of Gloucester Township. You are going to hear about the inspirational work that they do, the contributions they make to our community, and the obstacles that they have to overcome," said Council President, Orlando Mercado.

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# GLoucester Township's Black History Month Celebration

## Kakliah Bruce –



“When I think about making a contribution to the community, I think about the impact that Mr. Bruce has made on the student body at CW Lewis Middle School. Many people might ask what kind of impact a substitute teacher can truly make, but there are no questions about that once you see what Mr. Bruce can do when he steps into a room. Ask our middle schoolers and you will find that Mr. Bruce brings so much happiness and passion to their classrooms, ask our teachers and they will praise his ability to work with any student, under any circumstances.

Mr. Bruce has contributed to the school. By assisting the counseling department in gaining access to donations from Target and the community. These donations helped the counseling center to create a large closet for students in need to be able to find clothing and essentials that make getting ready for school easier. Mr. Bruce has been essential in making this a space that helps build our students up and provides them with basic needs without being stigmatized,” says Rhianna Byrne, School Counselor who had nominated Kakliah Bruce.

He has taken on the role of mentor, teacher, friend, and coach to the students. Mr. Bruce “shows our students what community, dedication and drive look like.”

## Michael Jones –



“Michael Jones has demonstrated commitment to creating a culture within our schools that reflects our students’ experiences, meets their needs, and creates connections between community and the school. In his former role as Vice Principal, he sought to form relationships with township leaders and businesses in an effort to establish Highland High School as a community partner and promote a unified vision for supporting students. He was integral in the planning and hosting of the Barbershop Talks for students in collaboration with Legendz Barbershop. This event invited student to get a free haircut and refreshments while they discussed topics relevant to helping students manage various challenges they face in high school and as they plan for their future.

Mr. Jones plays an essential role in assessing the growth and needs of Multilingual Learner program and in determining what additional staff are needed to ensure these students receive adequate support to be successful in school and in life. He supported expanding the program beyond the school day to include home visits and nightly adult classes for parents, as well a other school and home partnerships that will help us continue to build this program. Michael Jones is true to the mission of improving equity for students in Gloucester Township, Runnemede and Bellmawr. He understands his potential to have a powerful influence on improving students’ experiences and is dedicated to maximizing his impact,” says Julie Scully, Assistant Superintendent, and Marcie Geyer, Director of Curriculum, who had nominated him.

## Pastor Michael T. Williams –



Pastor Williams is a Minister of Music, Life Coach, Preacher and Teacher of the Gospel and the Pastor of Outreach and Community Development for Shades of Worship International.

Majoring in Biology, Pastor Mike Williams has been an RN for 20 years. Pastor Williams was employed by Cooper Hospital and Penn Health and currently is employed by Bayada Home Health - Pediatric School Care.

Pastor Williams is Co-Pastor of Shades of Worship International, a multicultural ministry that endeavors to bridge racial and cultural divides by embracing and encouraging diversity in worship.

He is a Chaplain with Gloucester Township Police Department and is there 24/7 for when people need his faith and comfort. Pastor Mike is also in charge of Food Distribution at Shades of Worship Church. He reached out to the Gloucester Township Family Services Center regarding providing a service to the most vulnerable population with food insecurities. He now distributes food to the seniors in Shenandoah, to Senior Campus 1, and to Franklin Square in Gloucester Township. They also have food distribution that happens every Thursday at 6pm at his Church. Pastor Mike Williams was nominated by Council President, Orlando Mercado.

## Sydney Griffin –



“Sydney Griffin is a tremendous member of the class of 2024. She is a model of excellence, kindness, and class. She is a great representation of our Timber Creek student body and the Gloucester Township community. Sydney is a dedicated athlete, a great student in the classroom and a leader in clubs and organizations. As one of the original members of the Student Voice Committee, Sydney represented Timber Creek at the Rowan University Transformative Student Voice Convening in May of 2023. This program helps young people, particularly those most disadvantaged by inequity, create and participate in efforts to improve their schools. She actively engaged at the convening and put her new learning into practice as a Student Voice Leader this year. Her leadership has inspired a

lot of our younger students to get involved with Student Voice and is helping Timber Creek to be stronger and more developmentally and culturally responsive. We are excited to see where her path will lead her once she graduates as she surely is leaving a lasting legacy here at Timber Creek!” said Jordana Simmons, AACC Advisor, who had nominated Sydney.

# GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

## Jasmin Lewis –

“Jasmine is highly motivated, intelligent and overall a great student. She is a standout member of our Student Voice Committee and it’s in the environment that she truly thrives! From presenting the group’s ideas to the administration, presenting to the adults in the symposium she attended last spring and in sharing ideas during the meetings to her peers, she has a strong voice that she uses in a positive way to try to create a better school community and ultimately allow each person to celebrate and share their culture. In addition to Student Voice, Jasmine is also a member of the Class of 2024 Executive Committee, Interact Club, Future Medical Professionals Club, National Honor Society, and African-American Culture Club. She has also participated on the Girl’s Soccer Team, the Girls’



Lacrosse Team and is a 4-year Varsity Swim Team Member! When Jasmin is participating in all of the above and with any free time she may have, she can be found working at Bear Paddle Swim School as a Swim Instructor and volunteers at James W. Lilley Elementary school as a tutor for struggling younger students. Jasmine keeps herself very active yet she always finds time to volunteer in community events such as Martin Luther King Day of Service each year, our fall and spring festivals and many, many more. Jasmine is well rounded student and a caring and mature young woman who is destined to be great and we are so proud to call her a Charger!” said Jordana Simmons, AACC Advisor, who had nominated Jasmin.

*(Jasmin’s father accepted the award on behalf of his daughter, Jasmin, who was not able to attend the event)*

## Tammy Dash –

“When considering someone for this honor, we wanted to recognize someone who continuously goes above and beyond to impact those in our community positively. Our nominee is responsible for supporting and nurturing the mental health of our students, families, and staff. As education has identified and shifted to supporting the whole student, we have recognized the impact of anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, and many other contributing factors to one’s mental health. Mrs. Tammy Dash is our go-to person as a licensed clinical social worker and is the person who makes that impact on our community.



I can’t speak enough of what Mrs. Dash means to our school. Together with Mrs. Goggin, our school counselors help all of our students deal with the social and emotional minefield that we call life. Whether it’s dealing with issues that arise in the student’s life outside of school, the digital environment of social media, or student-to-student interactions at school, Mrs. Dash befriends our students, becomes their trusted adult, helps students process their emotions, and mentors the students’ social and emotional development. If you are a staff member at Blackwood Elementary School, you probably had a conversation with Mrs. Dash regarding students you identified in your classroom needing support or asked her for advice for issues you might be struggling with in your personal or family life. Mrs. Dash makes herself available for students, teachers, and parents.

In a world where we now recognize mental health issues, we would be lost without Mrs. Tammy Dash’s knowledge, guidance, and compassion. There’s no other person that has as big of an impact on our community. Mrs. Dash can work with any of the 577 students, the 75 staff members or the countless families represented in our school,” said Alexander Ferrante, Principal, Blackwood Elementary School.

## Eric Butler –

“ It is with great admiration that I nominate Mr. Eric Butler as a Gloucester Township Black History Month Honoree. Eric Butler has worked as an English Language Arts teacher for the Gloucester Township Public Schools District for nine years. During that time, Mr. Butler has left an indelible mark on Charles W. Lewis Middle School staff and student body as well as the district as a whole.



Alongside his role as an exemplary ELA teacher, Mr. Butler has taken on many other significant responsibilities at CWL, all in an effort to give back to his students and community. He is the lead organizer of our Black History Month celebration at C.W. Lewis. Additionally, he was assistant basketball coach at CWL for three years before becoming a coach at GCIT, which he has been doing for the past two years. Mr. Butler’s unwavering dedication to his students does not only fall under the purview of sports. He also co-piloted our Young Men of America’s program and brought it to our school and community through various social projects.

Mr. Butler’s dedication to giving back does not end once he leaves the school. In fact, Mr. Butler has spent most of his life giving back in various ways either as a teacher, a fraternity brother, or a church member. He has served as a parent, coach, and consultant for the South Jersey Chapter of New Jersey Orators. Wielding his wonderfully talented way with words, Mr. Butler has performed his own original poetry on Legacy for the Pi Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority’s Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast. Finally, he was selected to speak on the topic of Resilience at that same sorority the next year.

All of these achievements are more than commendable; however, what is most important and impressive about Mr. Eric Butler is his poetic, empathetic heart. He is a poet by not only trade but also in the way he perceives the world. Mr. Butler sees unfettered potential, a rawness in everyone he meets and makes it his mission to help them cast that raw ore into something strong and unyielding. He is role model for all who encounter him, especially young African-American and black children who see themselves in him and aspire to be like him,” said Chelsea Shiloh, Gloucester Township Schools.

# GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

## Alex Hick –

“For the Black History Month Award, I nominate Alex Hick, pastor, chef, and owner of Embrace restaurant in Gloucester Township.

Alex, like many others, lost his restaurant during the Covid shutdown but came back even stronger. Guided by a vision from God and inspired by his wife’s military and police career, he opened Embrace restaurant where he combines ministry, generosity, and delicious home-cooking to create a spa-like atmosphere where patrons are encouraged to unwind and dine. It’s there Alex serves our hometown veterans for free every Wednesday. Alex creates a serene atmosphere these heroes feel safe to share their stories, restore their spirit and bask in the peaceful environment that is Embrace.

Alex also feeds several disadvantaged and displaced families at Christmas time and employs folks who have made some mistakes in the past but are seeking a second chance. At-risk youths also find a home at Embrace as Alex provides mentorship to give them lessons in etiquette and to promote the good works of service.

Alex has been married to his wife Akine who served as an NYPD officer and served her country in both Desert Storm and Desert Shield for 22 years,” said Andrea MacPherson, Aide to the Mayor, who had nominated Alex.

## Timothy Lee Mims Jr. –

“Timothy Lee is a distinguished member of the Chesilhurst, NJ Police Department where he serves as a community police officer and previously a DARE officer. His police car that he parks in front of his home in Brittney Woods, acts as a beacon to the community youth to gather and seek out fatherly advice from Lee. Whether the problem is bullies, a lost dog or just needing that one extra basketball player to even out teams, Lee is always ready to lend an ear or a hand.

The elderly residents in town also seek him out because no matter the problem Lee always seems to have a solution. He was able to guide a disabled neighbor through the process of having her mail delivered to the door and has been known to climb ladders to close and open windows of neighbor’s house to help avoid possible problems.

In the summer, Lee can be seen performing at the GT Farmers’ Market where he draws a crowd of supporters and followers. His signature smooth jazz sound is remarkable as he is and this year, he is adding GT’s Juneteenth celebration to his tour dates. When he is not making music at the Farmers’ Market, he is signing the books that he has authored and connecting with residents.

His first publication entitled “365 days of Happiness Through Preparation, Perception and People” was used in field-training program for his police department along with his second book “The Voice Behind the Badge” which deals with the challenges of being a black police officer in these tumultuous times.

Lee’s greatest joy is his family. He has been married to his wife Ursala for 22 years and together they have two very respectful and civic-minded sons, Adon-Lee, 17, and Adrien, 14.

Lee has dedicated his time and talent to his community and exhibits a high degree of commitment both professionally and civically and is strong, effective leader in his community,” said Mayor David Mayer who had nominated Lee Mims.

## Fedora Adjei –

“Fedora is all of the things that an advisor can ask for of a student, but she is more than just immensely talented, highly accomplished, or greatly involved. She is also more than a tireless worker, dependable, respectful, or any other of the other platitudes an advisor would commonly use to endorse students. What makes Fedora different is that she isn’t just deeply concerned about others; she also has the unique ability to make those around her want to be and do better. Fedora is the type of student that isn’t just concerned with building a resume or putting herself in a position to succeed – she is the type of student that inspires those around her to be better, do better, and expect more.

Fedora was an integral part of Student Council in Triton. She held an officer position for two years. Student Council would not have flourished without Fedora. She constantly developed activities to build school spirit while helping keep the club organized and focused on helping those less fortunate. Fedora has planned fundraisers, service projects, leadership banquets and pep rallies. She truly is a fantastic young lady who will go on to make a difference in the lives of others,” said Samantha Spaulding, Student Council Advisor at Triton who had nominated Fedora.



[CLICK HERE for more photos](#)

OMBRELLA & GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP  
present

# TOWN HALL

ON COLLABORATIVE PURCHASING  
*a way to save money through joint purchasing*

MARCH 27, 2024  
12PM-2PM  
SENIOR BUILDING  
1261 CHEWS LANDING RD.

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!

rsvp by March 20th  
at [GloTwp.com](http://GloTwp.com) or  
by calling 856-374-3514



- GUEST SPEAKERS
- NETWORKING
- FREE LUNCH

Save the date: on March 27th join local businesses and non-profit organizations for a Town Hall on collaborative purchasing and explore opportunities for better pricing on services.

The event will take place on March 27th, 12pm-2pm, at the Gloucester Township Senior Center (1261 Chews Landing Rd). Free lunch is provided!

To register, [CLICK HERE.](#)

**4/13/24**  
 1261 CHEWS LANDING RD  
 GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP, NJ

27th Annual  
 GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP  
 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

# 5K

## RUN & WALK

- 5K RUN/WALK
- ONE MILE WALK

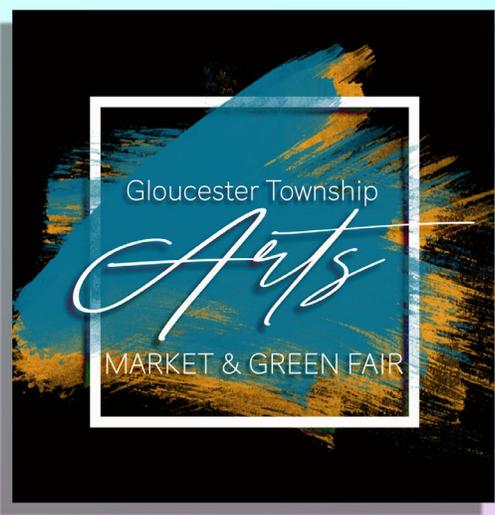
**PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE  
 A T-SHIRT & POST-RACE  
 BREAKFAST BUFFET!**

VISIT [GLOTPWR.COM](http://GLOTPWR.COM)  
 FOR MORE INFO OR  
 SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Register here

ALL PROCEEDS FUND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS  
 FOR GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP STUDENTS

## GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP invites you to



Sunday, April 28th, 2024, 10am-3 pm  
Rain date Sunday, May 5th, 10am-3 pm

15 S Black Horse Pike



Vendor Application is Available Online at  
[www.GloTwp.com](http://www.GloTwp.com)

Arts • Crafts • Food Trucks • Fun • and More!

Attention Vendors: Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Gloucester Township Arts Market. For more information, please [CLICK HERE.](#)

camden county  
Making It Better. Together.

## LOOKING FOR A JOB? NEED A CAREER CHANGE?

### JOIN US FOR THE CCTS JOB FAIR

- Open to CCTS Students and the Community
- Meet With Potential Employers and Learn About Job Opportunities

Wednesday  
**March 6th**  
 4-7pm

For more information, contact:  
 Lisa Lord, Manager of Workforce and Career Development  
[careercenter@ccts.net](mailto:careercenter@ccts.net)



from classroom to career

CCTS  
CAREER CENTER

[CCTS.org](http://CCTS.org)



CAMDEN COUNTY  
TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Gloucester Township Campus Cafetorium, Bldg. 4  
343 Berlin Cross Keys Road Sicklerville, NJ

The Camden County Technical School will hold a job fair on Wednesday, March 6th, 4-7pm at 343 Berlin Cross Keys Rd. The event is open to the community.

# Retire Your Old Flag!



Dispose of your American Flags properly! The Gloucester Township Flag Disposal Boxes are located at:

- Camden County College
- Veteran's Park
- Community Park by Veterans' Memorial

The flag drop-off boxes are meant to serve as a safe, secure retirement of worn flags for Gloucester Township community and are a convenient way of disposing while respecting our national symbol.

Flags should be folded respectfully before being placed in the box. Department of Public Works ensures proper disposal of the worn flags in accordance with the United States Flag Code.

## BAGELS & DOUGHNUTS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Join the GT Recreation Department for this FREE Holiday Event! Enjoy bagels, doughnuts and juice with the Easter Bunny! Plus games and crafts. Please bring a nonperishable food item for our local food bank.

March 23, 2024  
10am-12 Noon

  
GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP  
Recreation Department  
80 BROADACRES DR  
GLOUCESTER TWP NJ  
856-435-5734  
RECDEPT@GLOTWP.COM

Save the Date: On Saturday, March 23rd, join the GT Recreation Department for this FREE Holiday Event! Enjoy bagels, doughnuts, games and crafts with the Easter Bunny! Please bring a nonperishable food item for our local food bank. The event is Saturday, March 23rd, from 10am - Noon at 80 Broadacres Drive.

## 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!

*David R. Mayer*



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP  
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT

