

February 27, 2025

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 about the latest news in our community!



Gloucester Township Celebrates Black History Month at Monday's Council Meeting

On Monday night, we proudly celebrated Black History Month during the Township Council Meeting, where Rev. Dr. Casondra Hill-Cole led a powerful invocation, setting the tone for an evening of reflection, recognition, and celebration. The night also featured a moving singing performance, reminding us of the deep cultural and historical significance of this month.

A heartfelt congratulations to the ten outstanding Gloucester Township residents recognized for their dedication, leadership, and contributions to our community. Their hard work, service, and achievements continue to make a lasting impact, shaping a brighter future for all.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who joined us in honoring and celebrating the rich history, culture, and accomplishments of Black leaders in our community and beyond. Events like these remind us of the importance of unity, progress, and the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice for all.



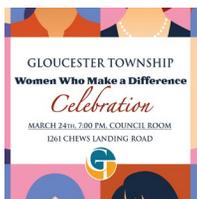
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Black History Month Nominee's
Gloucester Township honors outstanding residents for Black History Month.



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Remembering Mary O'Neil
Hider Lane Senior Club honor Mary O'Neil's legacy at their monthly meeting.



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Women Who Make a Difference
We are now accepting nominations for our Womens History Month Celebration.





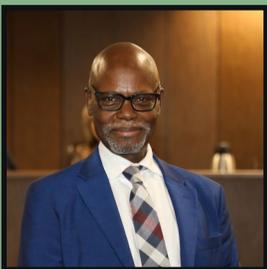
Coach Michael McBride is a highly respected leadership speaker and consultant, known for his impact both on and off the football field. Through his W.I.N.G.S. Project, he equips leaders with essential tools for success, speaking at numerous events on leadership, culture, and personal development. His influence spans Fortune 500 companies, educational institutions, and law enforcement agencies, emphasizing the transformative power of leadership. McBride is also the co-founder of “A Few Good Men,” a mentorship program impacting thousands of high school football players, driven by his goal to develop 10,000 leaders by 2030. His coaching legacy includes mentoring nine NFL players and achieving numerous Coach of the Year awards, while prioritizing his players’ academic success, resulting in millions of dollars in scholarships. Ultimately, McBride’s mission centers on personal growth and serving others, believing that service is the ultimate gift.



Mrs. Chantel Washington is an exceptional educator, passionately dedicated to student success through dynamic, student-centered instruction that fosters critical thinking and real-world application. She cultivates a respectful, engaging classroom environment, utilizing methods like Socratic Seminars and flexible learning approaches, including digital detox days, to support both academic and personal growth. Her unwavering commitment to student well-being is evident in her open-door policy and empathetic support, making her an invaluable asset to the Highland community and leaving a lasting positive impact on her students.



Star Benjamin stands out as a remarkable student leader, driven by dedication and initiative, who significantly impacts her school and community. From her pivotal role in creating a student-centered dress code through Student Voices to her impactful leadership as President of the Black Culture Club, where she organized meaningful events like the Black History Month assembly, Star consistently elevates student perspectives and fosters exclusivity. Her commitment extends to community service through MLK Service Day projects and her organizational skills as Class of 2025 Executive Board Secretary, where she leads by example, inspiring others with her compassion and unwavering willingness to volunteer, making her an exceptional role model whose influence will endure.



Mr. Sani Umar, a dedicated employee of Gloucester Township Public Schools for 39 years and Supervisor of Facilities since 2009, has consistently demonstrated an exceptional commitment to both the district and the broader community. Beyond his conscientious work managing the largest K-8 district in New Jersey, he selflessly supports numerous community events, including Gloucester Township Day, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration, the TBAA Annual Soccer Tournament, and the Gloucester Township Educational Foundation, consistently ensuring their success through his unwavering dedication and resourcefulness. His ability to navigate challenges, exemplified by his efforts during the 2025 MLK Day amidst severe weather, coupled with his humanitarian spirit and willingness to assist, makes him an invaluable asset and a highly deserving candidate for a 2025 Black History Month Honoree.



Denise Hall, a 65-year-old resident of Gloucester Township, is set to complete her 100th half marathon during the Philadelphia Marathon Weekend. Having already achieved the feat of running a half marathon in all 50 states, she began running at the age of 54, joining the South Jersey chapter of Black Girls Run in 2013. This organization, which promotes health and fitness among Black women, provided her with a supportive community. Hall completed her first half marathon in 2014 and reached her goal of running in all 50 states by April 2022. Now, she is on the verge of completing her 100th race, with support from her running group.



Tressa Lewis is nominated for the 2025 Black History Month Award due to her exceptional dedication to both education and community service. Starting as a nurturing kindergarten teacher at Chews School, she fostered a positive and creative environment, leading to her promotion as acting vice principal. Beyond her educational roles, Tressa actively contributes to her community through Wayland Tremble Baptist Church, where she leads outreach programs like Christ and Cultural Humility and organizes the annual Back to School Block Party, providing essential supplies and health information to students and families. She further extends her support by participating in Winterfest Night, offering meals and resources, and engaging in community beautification projects in North Philly. A devoted mother of two, Tressa's leadership, compassion, and tireless efforts to uplift those around her make her a truly deserving candidate for this honor.



Isabelle is nominated for Black History Month recognition due to her profound commitment to community service, unity, and social justice, mirroring the values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Through active involvement in NJHS, she volunteers monthly with the Share Food Program, participates in the Heart Walk fundraiser, and supports Philabundance, demonstrating a dedication to addressing community needs. Isabelle also extends kindness through personal acts, such as creating cards for the homeless and assisting at Mullen's preschool, fostering empathy and belonging. Her leadership, evident since her early years as an altar server and through initiatives like hand-making bracelets for classmates to promote unity, consistently inspires others to embrace respect and justice. Isabelle's exemplary service and leadership make her a beacon of hope and a deserving honoree.



Donna Ellison is nominated for her exemplary citizenship in Gloucester Township, where she significantly impacts both students and the community. As a permanent substitute teacher at Ann A. Mullen School, she promotes educational and emotional well-being, serving as a trusted mentor and actively participating in programs like PBIS CARE and the National Junior Honor Society. Her dedication extends to the Brittany Woods Community Action Group, where she acts as a liaison and spearheads initiatives like the annual Community Clean-Up, instilling civic responsibility in students. Donna's leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment make her a beacon of inspiration and a deserving recipient of this recognition.



Billie Frazier, a 12th-grade student at Timber Creek Regional High School, is nominated for Black History Month recognition due to her outstanding academic, athletic, and leadership achievements. Maintaining a 3.7 weighted GPA, serving in the National Honor Society, and acting as Vice-President of the Class of 2025, she also excels as a multi-sport athlete, earning All-Conference honors in soccer and achieving school records and All-American status in track and field. Billie's leadership extends to her role as team captain in both sports, and she actively volunteers to inspire fellow students while demonstrating a strong work ethic and a commitment to community. Her positive impact, recognized by her "Athlete of the Week" feature on PHL17, makes her an exceptional representative of Timber Creek.



Ashley Haynes, a 12th-grade student at Timber Creek Regional High School, is nominated for Black History Month recognition due to her exceptional academic achievements, leadership, and community service. Maintaining a 4.0 weighted GPA and serving in the National Honor Society, she also leads as President of the African American Culture Club and participates in No Place For Hate and Interact Clubs, while demonstrating leadership as a captain of the Varsity Soccer Team and representing Timber Creek at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Summit. Ashley's dedication extends beyond academics and athletics, as she actively contributes to the F.O.R.C.E. program, fostering a positive school climate, and demonstrates a strong work ethic, integrity, and empathy in all her endeavors, making her a quiet yet impactful leader who embodies the spirit of service and excellence.



COFFEE WITH A VET

WHEN:
LAST TUESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH



WHERE:
GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP
SENIOR CENTER

The second Coffee with a Vet event was a tremendous success on Tuesday, February 25th, bringing together local veterans for a morning of camaraderie, conversation, and support. We were honored to welcome Ted Gallagher, a Veteran Services Officer from Camden County, who spoke about the many resources available to veterans, including benefits, upcoming events, and support programs. He also emphasized the importance of community-driven initiatives like this one in fostering connections among veterans.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this free event, and to Boswood Bagels and Ren's Coffeehouse & Books for their generous support in making the morning even more special. We look forward to continuing this tradition on the last Tuesday of every month—so mark your calendars and join us again on March 25th at 10 AM for another meaningful gathering over coffee and conversation.

For more information regarding this event, [CLICK HERE](#).

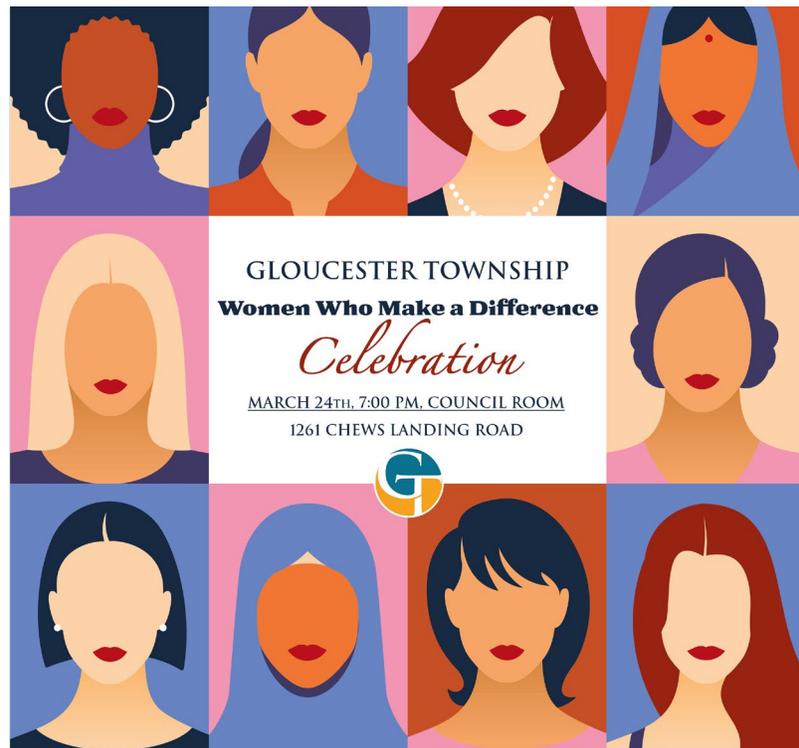
Hider Lane Senior Club Remembers Mary O'Neil at their Monthly Meeting

The Hider Lane Senior Club gathered today for their monthly meeting, bringing together members for an afternoon of information, support, and remembrance. This month, attendees had the opportunity to hear from Arosa of South Jersey an integrated Care Management and Home Care service that allows families to focus more on meaningful connections and less on the challenges of care giving.

The meeting also served as a time of reflection and remembrance as the club honored the life of Mary O'Neil, a cherished member of the Hider Lane Senior Club who recently passed away. Mary, a 1952 graduate of West Carthage High School, shared 69 years of devoted marriage with Al O'Neil and was deeply committed to her family, including her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She served Gloucester Township with dedication as an Assistant Township Clerk and at the Gloucester Township Senior Center. A passionate sports fan and avid traveler, she enjoyed monthly casino trips and the camaraderie of her "Birthday Club" gatherings. Her unwavering love for her family and vibrant spirit will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Submit Your Nominations Now!



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP
Women Who Make a Difference
Celebration
MARCH 24TH, 7:00 PM, COUNCIL ROOM
1261 CHEWS LANDING ROAD



Nominate exceptional women for Gloucester Township's Women's History Month recognition! Submit an essay highlighting their contributions by March 10th. Awards will be presented on March 24th at the Township Council Meeting. [CLICK HERE](#) for the submission form.

BREATHE EASY
THIS PUBLIC PROPERTY
is

SMOKE-FREE
INCLUDING CHEW AND
ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES



Tobacco-Free
FOR A HEALTHY NEW JERSEY

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 0-16-09

With warmer weather ahead, here's a reminder: All Gloucester Township parks are BREATHE EASY zones—100% smoke-free!

That means no smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco in any parks or recreational areas. This policy, part of Ordinance No. 0-16-09, helps keep our outdoor spaces clean, safe, and enjoyable for all.

Thank you for helping us keep the air fresh for everyone!

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 as your home and for making our community a great place to live, work and play!

David R. Mayer



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT

