



February 26, 2026

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 BY HONORING OUTSTANDING RESIDENTS

Gloucester Township's Black History Month Celebration was a meaningful and inspiring evening as Mayor David R. Mayer and Township Council proudly honored outstanding individuals whose leadership, service, and dedication continue to strengthen our community.

The program opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an Invocation from Deacon Ken Carpinelli and a powerful rendition of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

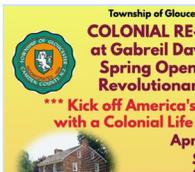
This year's honorees, Joseph Wood El, Pastor Durell Robinson, Kalen Gant, Dr. Violet Y. Martin, Sage Harvey, Jayden Yeboah, Christina Abolarin, and Ryan Thompson, were recognized for their impactful contributions and commitment to excellence. The celebration, organized by the Black History Month Committee, was a true reflection of unity, recognition, and pride within Gloucester Township. For more photos, [CLICK HERE.](#)



PAGE 2-3

Black History Month Honorees

Read more about those who were honored at this weeks council meeting.



PAGE 4

SAVE THE DATE

Gloucester Township Historic & Scenic Preservation Committee event.



GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP
JOIN THE EXCITEMENT



Glen Landing is truly fortunate to have Mr. Joe as a valued member of its team. In a field where there is a notable lack of male role models, Mr. Joe stands as an exceptional example for students and colleagues alike.

Throughout his life, Mr. Joe has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving others. In his prior career, he provided grief counseling to victims of the September 11th tragedy, offering compassion and support during one of our nation's most difficult moments. In his personal life, he continues that spirit of service by volunteering his time to help operate local food banks. Whether professionally or personally, Mr. Joe remains focused on uplifting others and serving the greater good.

Mr. Joe is a daily inspiration within the Glen Landing school community, making a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of his students. One student shared, "I appreciate everything that you have done for me. I have matured a lot with you, and I would not be the person I am today without you. You mean a lot to me, and you will always be something special to me. Even when I do wrong sometimes, I know that you always care."

He is approachable, intentional, and ensures that those around him feel seen, heard, and valued. His dedication to service and community action reflects the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There is no one more deserving of this recognition for his kindness, compassion, and steadfast commitment to others.



Pastor Durell Robinson is a Gloucester Township resident whose life reflects a strong commitment to service, leadership, and community impact. We are proud to recognize his meaningful contributions to Gloucester Township and surrounding communities.

Professionally, Pastor Robinson serves as a Learning Implementation Specialist and Healthcare Consultant with Independence Blue Cross. In this role, he supports healthcare organizations through training, workflow optimization, and patient-centered initiatives that strengthen overall service delivery.

Beyond his professional career, Pastor Robinson is the Senior Pastor and Founder of The Way Church, where he leads outreach efforts focused on practical support, mentorship, and spiritual development. His initiatives include annual Thanksgiving food distributions serving approximately 200 individuals, Christmas morning supply drives in Camden, and mentorship programs that have guided more than 100 individuals over the past five years in life readiness and personal growth.

In 2021, Pastor Robinson led the Gloucester Township Peace Walk, bringing residents and community partners together to promote unity and civic engagement. His mentorship work centers on equipping individuals with confidence, life skills, and purpose.

What distinguishes Pastor Robinson is his ability to use his platform to uplift others and create opportunities for growth and stability.



Kalen Gant is a dedicated Gloucester Township resident whose commitment to youth development and community service makes him a deserving honoree.

As the owner of Top Notch Sports and Fitness, Kalen has spent the past six years training local athletes, using his platform to mentor and positively influence young people throughout the community. His work focuses not only on athletic performance, but on building discipline, confidence, and character.

He has served as a coach for the GT Stallions for two years and is also a flag football coach, leading teams to consecutive championship victories, including a Travel Flag Championship with Jersey Travel Flag.

A standout athlete at Haddon Heights High School, Kalen excelled as a defensive tackle, leading the Colonial Conference in tackles, sacks, and tackles for loss during his senior year. He was selected to the West Jersey Football League "Super 100" Team and played in the Adam Tali-ferro All-Star Game.

Kalen remains committed to giving back to the community that helped shape him, understanding that strong mentorship and community support are vital in developing the next generation. His leadership and dedication continue to make a meaningful impact on Gloucester Township's youth.



Dr. Violet Y. Martin has over 30 years of experience in Human Services and Education, dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion, and improved outcomes for children and families.

She began her career as a Social Worker with the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice, supporting vulnerable youth. She later served as a School Social Worker in Glassboro and Winslow Township Public Schools, advocating for students with disabilities and at-risk learners.

From 2002 to 2012, Dr. Martin worked in an administrative role with the Gloucester County Special Services School District, supporting students with complex needs and transition planning. Since 2012, she has served as Director of Special Services for the Gloucester Township Public School District, leading efforts to strengthen inclusive practices, expand mental health supports, and ensure equitable special education services.

Dr. Martin has also served in higher education as a Field Advisor for Wilmington University and currently teaches as an Adjunct Professor at Rowan University. She is a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor and holds a Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees, and a Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Innovation.

Her career reflects a steadfast commitment to service, advocacy, and educational equity, making a lasting impact on students and families in Gloucester Township and beyond.



Sage Harvey is an exceptional young leader who exemplifies perseverance, academic excellence, and community service.

In the classroom, Sage consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and commitment to high academic standards. She actively participates in discussions, contributes thoughtful ideas, and leads by example among her peers. Respectful and focused, she is always willing to support others and uplift those around her.

Beyond academics, Sage is deeply committed to serving her community. She has helped organize toiletry drives benefiting women’s shelters and has participated in preparing and distributing food to individuals in need during the holiday season. Her compassion and generosity reflect a genuine desire to make a difference.

Sage has also shown extraordinary dedication to her personal goals. For the past six years, she has balanced being a full-time USAG gymnast and a dancer at On Pointe Dance Studio while maintaining placement on the Principal’s List. Most notably, she is currently New Jersey’s USAG Level 6 Vault Champion, an achievement that highlights her discipline and resilience.

Through her leadership, service, and accomplishments, Sage embodies the values celebrated during Black History Month — excellence, perseverance, and commitment to community.



Jayden’s growth and transformation during his time at Timber Creek have been nothing short of inspiring. As a freshman, he faced behavioral challenges, but rather than allowing those early struggles to define him, Jayden made the decision to change. The maturity and accountability he has shown since then have made a lasting impact on our school community.

Over the years, Jayden has developed into a respectful, driven, and positive leader. He now mentors younger students, offering guidance and encouragement while modeling responsibility and growth. His willingness to give back reflects both his character and the lessons he has embraced along the way.

Jayden maintains strong academic performance and takes pride in his achievements while remaining actively involved in school life. He serves as a Class of 2026 Officer and is the President of the African American Culture Club, where he fosters a welcoming space centered on culture, inclusion, and pride.

With aspirations of continuing his education at Howard University, Jayden demonstrates a clear commitment to excellence and leadership. His journey is a testament to perseverance, resilience, and the power of personal growth, making him truly deserving of this recognition.



Christina Abolarin is a highly respected member of the Class of 2027 and a true leader among her peers. She is a student whom both teachers and classmates trust with responsibility, consistently rising to every occasion with confidence and integrity.

As an active member of the Class of 2027 Executive Committee, Christina volunteers her time at class-sponsored community events and plays a key role in fundraising efforts that support class activities. She approaches service — whether large community initiatives or smaller individual tasks — with maturity and dedication beyond her years.

Christina is deeply involved in school life. She is an active participant in DECA, a member of the African American Culture Club, part of the school’s step team, serves as the basketball manager, and is a member of the girls’ tennis team. Her ability to balance academics, athletics, leadership, and service reflects her strong work ethic and commitment.

Christina carries herself with integrity, pride, and a strong connection to both her school community and her culture. She sets a powerful example for her peers and continues to represent Timber Creek with excellence.

Ryan Thompson is an outstanding member of the Timber Creek community and a positive force for students throughout Gloucester Township. The administrative and counseling team proudly recognizes his meaningful impact on our learning environment.

Ryan serves as a Student Mentor at Timber Creek Regional High School, where he encourages goal setting, healthy decision-making, and personal growth. Students are drawn to his energy and authenticity, and he consistently builds strong, trusting relationships that foster confidence and accountability.

He actively supports the basketball program and volunteers his time at the Hines Basketball Clinics, working with elementary, middle, and high school students. Ryan also leads his own youth program, Elite Level Athletic Training (ELAT), and serves as the Assistant Basketball Coach at Rowan University, using his experience to mentor young athletes both on and off the court.

Ryan works closely with students in the CARE Program at Camden County College’s Restorative Education setting, helping guide them toward positive choices and academic success. His straightforward approach and ability to meet students where they are make him an invaluable role model.

A Gloucester Township resident, Ryan’s commitment to youth development and community engagement continues to leave a lasting and meaningful impact. Ryan was unable to attend the ceremony due to prior commitments.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS OF THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Township of Gloucester - Glendora, NJ

COLONIAL RE-ENACTMENT at Gabreil Daveis Tavern - Spring Open House and Revolutionary Weekend

*** Kick off America's 250th Birthday
with a Colonial Life Experience ***

April 18 & 19, 2026

Saturday: 9-5

Sunday: 9-3

Rain or Shine!

- Tavern Tours
- Period Reenactors
- Blacksmithing
- Colonial Crafters
- Primitive Archery!!
- Shoot a Flintlock Rifle!
- Kids' Games!!
- Throw Tomahawks!
- Artillery Demo (cannon!!)
- Children's Musket Drills!



Join the fun!
Admission is FREE!

More Info: www.facebook.com/glotwphistory
Tel. 856.228.4000 X3249

Location: 500 Third Ave, Glendora, NJ 08029 (Look for signs)



Gloucester Township
Recreation Department

GLOUCESTER TWP. RECREATION

Winter FUN Starts Here!

⚽ Sports • 🎨 Arts • 💪 Fitness • 🧘 Yoga •

📄 Register now through CommunityPass!

✉ recdept@glotwp.com | ☎ 856-435-5734

Gloucester Township Recreation – Something for
Everyone!

Winter is the perfect time to focus on staying active and healthy! Check out our programs and activities to keep moving all season long. [CLICK HERE](#) to see more information.

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

