



Herma Simmons Elementary School, Clayton welcomed students back on September 2



**SAINT ANTHONY'S ITALIAN FESTIVAL** - One of Southern New Jersey's most popular events, the St. Anthony's Italian Festival returns to Glassboro on Saturday, September 12th from 2PM to 10PM. Come enjoy a celebration of culture, gastronomy, art and music the festival attracts visitors from all over the Delaware Valley. What makes this event so special is the opportunity for the Borough of Glassboro to continue the tradition of partnership with St. Anthony's Mutual Aid Society. St. Anthony's Mutual Aid Society was founded in the early 1900's by Italian immigrants settled in and around Glassboro as an organization dedicated to helping families with monetary support and providing a place to socialize where their traditions and customs were protected and revered. The festival will have entertainment for the entire family. There will be several musical acts, Italian food vendors, a beer garden, kids zone, and much more. The event will begin with a procession starting at St. Anthony's Mutual Aid Society ending at Glassboro's Town Square at 1:45 p.m. Free Parking, Food Trucks, Family Seating Area, Music entertainment by Greg Armstrong & Friends and Right Turn at 40! Games, 50/50, Contests, Beer & Wine Garden, Kids Activities. St. Anthony's Mutual Aid Society's Homemade Wine Competition is RETURNING for the 2026 St. Anthony's Italian Festival presented by Nexus Glassboro and Rowan University. Wine judging will take place during the festival on September 12th at 6 p.m. Winners will be announced on the Main Stage at 7:45 p.m. before Right Turn at 40 takes the stage.

**CRAB FEAST** - Join us for the annual St. Michael's Mutual Clubs Crab Feast on Saturday, September 12th from 2 PM to 6 PM. Feast Ticket includes: All you eat crabs, corn, spaghetti & crabs, dessert, draft beer & soda. Crabs Served Cleaned with Old Bay and Garlic & Butter. Cost is \$45 Per person. For tickets contact, Mike Rastelli at (609)774-4557. – St. Michaels is located at 406 Giammarino Avenue, Gibbstown.

**FALL ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL** - Join Monroe Township on Saturday, September 12th, from 10 AM to 3 PM at our annual Fall Arts & Crafts Festival on Main Street. There is so much to do with nearly 300 vendors, including local artisans & crafters, food trucks, face painting, petting zoo, bounce houses, and more. This is a Family & pet-friendly event! Parking at Pfeiffer Center (church side), Newfield Bank, United Methodist Church, and side streets along Main.

**WILDWOODS AIR SHOW** - Welcome the 177th Fighter Wing to the 2026 Wildwoods Air Show. Get ready to experience the unmistakable speed, power, and sound of the F-16 Fighting Falcon over the Atlantic! The air show is completely FREE to attend, with premium viewing and reserved seating options available for an upgraded experience on the weekend of September 12th & 13th.

## FATAL ACCIDENT

*Monroe Twp Police Department Press Release:* On Friday, September 4th at approximately 12:06 AM, Monroe Township Police Department responded to the area of S. Black Horse Pike (US 322) and E. Malaga Road for a motor vehicle crash. A white Maserati, operated by a 54-year-old Franklin Township man, was traveling west on S. Black Horse Pike. A red Toyota, operated by a 33-year-old male from Woodstown, was exiting Walmart on to S. Black Horse Pike. The Toyota entered the S. Black Horse Pike and merged into the lane of travel and initiated a lane change into the inside westbound lane of travel. The front of the Maserati impacted the rear of the Toyota. The force and direction of impact caused the Maserati to roll over numerous times, ejecting the driver from the vehicle.

Despite lifesaving efforts by police and emergency personnel, the driver of the Maserati succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased on scene. The driver and passenger from the Toyota were transported to Cooper Trauma Center for non-life-threatening injuries.

The collision is being investigated by Sgt. John Van Leer #7123 of the M.T.P.D. Traffic Safety Bureau. Any witnesses are asked to contact Sgt. Van Leer by phone at 856-728-9800 ext. 583. The Monroe Township Police Department was assisted at the scene by Williamstown Fire Company, Cecil Fire Company, Gloucester County EMS, Inspira Paramedics, and A Jacks Towing and Recovery. As always, anonymous tips can be called into our tips line at 856-875-2940.



Ocean State Job Lot Glassboro Store Team Leader Tom Bergamo cut the ribbon during the grand opening celebration, joined by Ocean State Job Lot team members; Gloucester County Commissioner Nick DeSilvio; Glassboro Borough Council President Anna Miller; Glassboro Borough Councilwoman Danielle Spence; and representatives from Angels Community Outreach. The Glassboro location is OSJL's 12th store in New Jersey and second in Gloucester County. *Story on page 7.*

## ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMERS AND PROCESS

Last week, Congressman Van Drew responded to findings from a federal audit of Atlantic City Electric (ACE) that found the company overbilled customers and made errors related to federal tax law.

"For years, we have been saying something was wrong with what people in South Jersey were paying for electricity," said Congressman Van Drew. "We were told that we were crazy and that there was nothing to see here. We held public hearings on the issue, we pushed ACE for answers, we challenged the explanations we were being given, and when the numbers still did not add up, I asked FERC to step in and audit the company. Now the result of this audit shows exactly why we were right to demand answers. This has to be made right. The people who paid more than they should have deserve refunds now. And this audit must lead to real rate decreases, so families are not continuing to pay some of the highest electric costs in the country, especially after the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities spent years approving increase after increase instead of looking into this. Once again, I am calling for their resignation."

In a press release from Frank Tedesco, Senior Communications specialist for Atlantic City Electric on Friday, Sept. 4th, stated, "We care about our customers and are committed to keeping energy costs as low as possible. That's why we take the findings from the recent FERC audit seriously and are implementing its recommendations to strengthen our processes. Based on our initial analysis, following confirmation with FERC staff, any refund would amount to less than two cents per month over a 12-month period. As always, we remain focused on delivering the safe, reliable and affordable service our customers expect."

Congressman Van Drew responded to Atlantic City Electric's claim that refunds tied to the recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) audit would amount to less than two cents per month. "First we were told nothing was wrong, and people were simply using more electricity," said Congressman Van Drew. "Then we were told residential customers were not impacted by this. Now we are being told the impact is less than two cents a month. The only thing worth two cents is Atlantic City Electric's response. No one in South Jersey is buying it. FERC has confirmed that transmission customers were overcharged, and those transmission costs are ultimately passed through in what customers pay. During the same period, families watched their electric bills double and, in some cases, triple. We are not going to dismiss that as a coincidence or accept another typical corporate response. We will be following up with FERC, and I still expect the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to finally do its job and get to the bottom of this. "Atlantic City Electric has broken the trust of the people of South Jersey. The answer is simple: show us the full numbers, refund every dollar people are owed, lower the rates, and lower the transmission and delivery costs. We are not letting this go."

## DWI / ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD ARREST

On Saturday night September 5th, at approximately 11 PM, we received a call from alert employees at McDonald's, 5851 SH 42, reporting a male inside the restaurant who appeared to be highly intoxicated while accompanied by a young child. Employees reported that the male was slurring his speech and having difficulty walking straight. Washington Township police officers arrived within one minute and quickly located the male and his daughter. Officers administered field sobriety tests and during the investigation, the man admitted to officers that he had consumed alcohol. Officer Matos assisted by staying with and distracting the child during the investigation and arrest. As a result of the investigation, a 37-year-old Collings Lakes man was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a second-degree crime. The child was safely turned over to a family member, and the man was subsequently lodged in the Salem County Jail. We are extremely grateful to the McDonald's employees who recognized that something was wrong and immediately called police. Their willingness to get involved may have prevented a tragedy. This is a great example of "See Something, Say Something." If something doesn't look right, make the call. You never know when speaking up could prevent someone from being seriously hurt. Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or has additional information is asked to contact Officer Bentsen at JEBentsen@pd.twp.washington.nj.us. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.



Friday, September 11th will be the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. There are several towns throughout our County that have prepared a Remembrance Ceremony to mark the occasion for residents to gather and join together in a solemn spirit of unity to reflect on those who lost their lives on that day and the courage and sacrifice made by so many to ensure that we never forget. The Nine Eleven Observance in **Mantua Township** will occur this Friday morning, Sept 11th @ Chestnut Branch Park beginning just after 8 am. It has been 25 years since that tragic day. It is a day of remembrance and day to honor those that were lost that day and to ensure they are not forgotten. The park will have a shuttle tram from the parking area to the staging area for those that may have difficulty walking to the seating location at the Place of Reflection. In **Harrison Township**, officials invite the community to gather for the Annual Patriot Day Commemoration at the Mullica Hill Baptist Church and 9/11 Memorial at 6:30PM. The Church is located at 18 S. Main Street. The town's 9/11 Memorial was built in 2018 to bring together three powerful artifacts: a steel beam from the World Trade Center, a concrete slab from the Pentagon and a stone from the Flight 93 crash site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. It stands at the center of Main Street as a lasting reminder of the American spirit as Patriot Day is a time for reflection, remembrance and honor. The **Washington Township** Fire Department will be hosting its 9/11 Remembrance Walk in recognition of the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. The Washington Township Police Department is also proud to participate alongside their Fire Department partners, and they invite the community to join them on Friday, September 11th at 6 PM at Washington Lake Park to remember those who lost their lives and honor the first responders who courageously answered the call. 25 Years Later....We Will Never Forget. In the **Borough of Clayton**, residents and guests will gather on the front lawn of the municipal building around the 9-11 memorial at 9AM where a prayer service will be held for those in attendance. The **Borough of Pitman** will hold a ceremony for all residents on Friday, September 11th at 6PM in Ballard Park. First responders from across the community, members of Borough Council and Administration and the Pitman Jr/Sr High School music Department will gather for a remembrance ceremony. A **9/11 Memorial Stair Climb** will be held on Friday, September 11th at 10:45 AM at Jefferson Health Cherry Hill Hospital, 2201 Chapel Avenue West, Cherry Hill. Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital and Jefferson Moss Rehab Institute for Brain Health (which treats veterans, national guard and first-responders with Traumatic Brain Injury) will host members of the Cherry Hill Fire Department, Cherry Hill Police Department, and members of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) at Cherry Hill High School West for a 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Participants will be climbing 1067 steps, which is the amount of first responders that were killed on 9/11, as well as the ones that have since passed away from 9/11 related illness. The amount of steps equals approximately 60 flights, so participants plan on going from the 1st to the 6th floor of the hospital building, resulting in going up 5 times and down 5 times.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



By Cindy Merckx

Twenty-five years ago, our world changed in an instant. The attacks of September 11, 2001, pierced the heart of our nation, as we watched in disbelief as events unfolded on our own soil. But in the shock and sorrow that followed, something remarkable happened: our communities united in ways that demonstrated the very best of the American spirit. In the immediate aftermath, of the tragedy sank in, churches across every community in the Philadelphia-Camden-Gloucester County region opened their doors. They became gathering places for those seeking comfort, answers, and a way to process their grief. The faithful filled sanctuaries for prayer vigils, finding solace in shared worship and community.

This tradition of remembrance continues to this day as several churches will hold a prayer service. In Mantua Township, the "Place of Reflection" at Chestnut Branch Park was established as a permanent memorial and gathering place, where residents and families come together each Patriot Day to honor those lost. In the weeks

that followed, a wave of patriotism swept through our neighborhoods that was truly unforgettable. Almost every home and business flew an American flag. We were hurting, but we would not be broken. The spirit of service was perhaps most powerfully embodied by our local first responders. As the world watched the heroic efforts at Ground Zero, firefighters from across our region felt a profound call to action.

I remember that my own local Malaga Volunteer Fire Company in Franklin Township sent several firefighters to New York to assist in the search for survivors as a volunteer brotherhood of firefighters nationwide came throughout the day and night following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001". They were not alone several of Gloucester County's fire and ambulance personnel were also among those who headed to North Jersey to provide mutual aid. This willingness to rush toward danger, to help strangers in a time of unimaginable crisis, is a point of immense pride for our entire region.

Twenty-five years have passed and the pain has softened, but the memory remains. The churches have continued their annual prayers. The flags still wave. And the communities continue to honor the heroes and victims of September 11, 2001, ensuring that the courage, unity, and compassion shown in those dark days will never be forgotten.



Mantua Township Place of Reflection Sentinel of GC file photo, 2011

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Sept. 10th- Newfield Council-7PM
- Sept. 10th- Clayton Council-6PM
- Sept. 14th- Monroe Open Space-7PM
- Sept. 15th- Monroe Econ Devel Comm-7pm
- Sept. 15th- Franklin Twp Planning Board-7PM
- Sept. 16th- Franklin Twp BOE-Adm Office-6PM
- Sept. 16th- Franklin Twp Library Board- 7PM
- Sept. 16th- Heggan Library Board-5:30PM
- Sept. 21st- Franklinville Board Fire Comm-7:30PM
- Sept. 21st- Franklin Twp BOE-Janvier School-6PM
- Sept. 21st- Monroe Twp Enviro Comm-6:30PM



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BACK TO SCHOOL!

This week Harrison Township and Clearview Regional students will head back to classes for the 2026-2027 school year. We wish them all the best of luck! Harrison Township Police officers will be selecting random uses to follow, and bus stops to monitor to ensure the safety of children as they travel to and from school. Motorists and residents should keep an eye out for children going to and from their bus stops and remember that flashing red lights on the bus mean STOP! Plan for a few extra minutes on your morning commute to deal with the influx of school traffic.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, FIRST DAY AT HERMA SIMMONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Herma Simmons Elementary School welcomed students back on September 2 with a spirited "Lights, Camera, Action!" theme. The school's Clippers arrived ready for their close-ups and an exciting new year of learning. Faculty and staff were joined by members of the Clayton Police Department and Mr. K in greeting students and helping the first day run smoothly. The warm welcome reflected the enthusiasm and community spirit that make Herma Simmons Elementary School special. With students back in their classrooms and the new school year underway, it was time for lights, camera ...and action! Pictures below.



BINGO EVERY THURSDAY MORNING!

All are welcome; must be 18 or older. Doors open at 7:30AM-Books start selling at 9AM; Games start at 10AM. Bagels, Donuts & pretzels for sale. Also coffee, tea, juices & soda for sale. Location: Glassboro VFW Post 679, 275 Wilmer Street, Glassboro. (856)243-5000.

NEW GROCERY STORE

Sprouts Farmers Market in Washington Township will open on Saturday, September 12th with a Ribbon Cutting taking place at 6:30 AM.

The BOROUGH OF CLAYTON announces the sale of 2025 and prior year delinquent taxes and other municipal charges through an on-line auction on SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 – 9:00 am. For a listing of all parcels, delinquencies and costs, along with bidding instructions, please visit <https://clayton.newjerseytaxsale.com> \*\*information can be viewed free of charge\*\*

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# Our Towns

Email your events to [ftsentinel@comcast.net](mailto:ftsentinel@comcast.net) - there is no cost - when available space permits

**POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**  
Please join us and members of the American Legion Post 252 for our annual POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 18th at 6PM at the Pfeiffer Community Center, 301 Blue Bell Road, Williamstown. National POW/MIA Recognition Day in the United States is observed on the third Friday of September (9/18). It honors American Prisoners Of War and those Missing In Action from all conflicts, reinforcing the nation’s promise that they are never forgotten. There will be light refreshments served immediately following at the American Legion Post 252.

**FRANKLIN TWP COMMUNITY DAY**  
Celebrating our Country’s 250th Year! A day of fun for the whole family! Join us on Saturday, September 19th (RD 9/20) from Noon until Evening that ends with a spectacular Fireworks Show! Live Music, Delicious Food, Hay Rides, Helicopter Rides, Basket Auction, Games and a Wildlife Raptor/Reptile Show at 2PM followed by a Medieval Knight Show and More. The fair grounds are located at Coles Mill Road and Pennsylvania Avenue, Franklinville (next to Janvier Elementary School)

**WOODBURY’S ANNUAL CAR SHOW**  
The show will be held at Evergreen Antiques and more, 429 S. Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury on September 19th (RD 9/20). FREE Registration. Show is from 11AM to 2PM. Pre-Register at (856)205-3075.

**COMEDY NIGHT**  
Support the Rotary Club of Glassboro NJ and enjoy a night full of laughter at this upcoming Comedy Night on September 19th from 7-9 PM at the Courtyard by Marriott (325 Rowan Blvd). This is a ticketed 21+ event where proceeds directly fund local scholarships and community causes throughout Glassboro. Admission to Glassboro Rotary Comedy Night featuring headliner Chip Chantry, with Dan Callahan, Steve Hartman, and Campbell Gibson. Seating is general admission Cost \$35. Cash bar and Marriott Bistro food will be available for purchase. Every ticket, every laugh, and every sponsor helps make a difference. Come out, bring friends, enjoy a great show, and help us support local students and community service. To purchase tickets go to: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/glassboro-rotary-comedy-night>.

**SCARECROWS ON MAIN STREET**  
Help us decorate the town of Williamstown for the fall season! Set up September 20th through October 3rd. Categories are Most Original, People’s Choice and Funniest. Winners will be announced at the annual Halloween Parade and posted on our Facebook page! Fore more info and to register, visit: [tinyurl.com/Scarecrow-26](http://tinyurl.com/Scarecrow-26).

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
The annual Old Stone House Village Harvest Festival is just around the corner! Our volunteers are busy at work finalizing all of the details for this fun, family event and we hope you'll visit us Saturday, September 26th from 10am-2pm where you'll get to step back in time and see historic trade demonstrations, play olde time games, take a hayride, pick a pumpkin, and do some shopping with our vendors! This is a FREE event but donations are graciously accepted and used toward the restoration and preservation of the buildings in our village located at 208 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell (Washington Township).

**GLASSBORO CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL**  
Glassboro Craft Beer Festival will be held at Glassboro Town Square and will feature 50+ breweries, food trucks, various craft vendors, live entertainment, photo opportunities, and more on Saturday, September 26th with live music by Shot of Southern! Don't miss your chance to purchase one of our limited VIP tickets to earn you an extra hour of sampling and a lanyard to hold your custom Glassboro Craft Beer Festival pilsner cup. \*Everyone in the festival must be 21 years of age or older. No pets or children will be permitted into the event. TICKETS ON SALE NOW: [https://events.beerfests.com/e/glassboro-craft-beer-festival/tickets?utm\\_source=affiliate&utm\\_name=Facebook-Event-26&utm\\_campaign=Facebook-Event-26&utm\\_id=6a031e37b1d84bc9975300360a1e60a9](https://events.beerfests.com/e/glassboro-craft-beer-festival/tickets?utm_source=affiliate&utm_name=Facebook-Event-26&utm_campaign=Facebook-Event-26&utm_id=6a031e37b1d84bc9975300360a1e60a9)



## COMMUNITY MEET & GREET

### FRANKLIN TWP. COMMITTEE CANDIDATES:

# PHIL VENTICINQUE

# EUGENE J. CALDWELL II

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Newfield Terrace Community Center

**PHIL VENTICINQUE & EUGENE J. CALDWELL II FOR FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**  
Protecting Franklin Township takes neighbors coming together. Join Phil Venticinque and Eugene J. Caldwell II at the Newfield Terrace Community Center for our fourth Community Meet & Greet! We are dedicated to bringing an experienced, steady, and results-driven approach to our township. With over 55 years of unmatched combined service, our campaign is focused on practical solutions for our community. Come out to ask questions, share what matters most to your family, and get transparent updates regarding the high-density housing developments affecting our town.  
☐ Where: Newfield Terrace Community Center (127 New Jersey Ave, Newfield, NJ 08344)  
☐ When: Sunday, September 13, 2026  
☐ Time: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Let’s gather together and focus on steady leadership for Franklin Township.  
*Paid for by Venticinque & Caldwell for Franklin Township Committee;*  
*2156 Chew Ave, Franklinville, NJ.*

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY SENIOR PICNIC**  
Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday on Wednesday, September 23rd from 11 AM to 3PM at Red Bank Battlefield Park, 100 Hessian Avenue, National Park. Open to Gloucester County Residents 60 years and older. Tickets on Sale now! A limited number of tickets will be available for \$2 each at Division of Senior Services Office 115 Budd Blvd. West Deptford M-F from 8:30 AM to 4PM and at each of the Senior Nutrition Sites.

**BUILDING DEDICATION**  
The members of the Williamstown Fire Company No. 1 are excited to invite the community and fellow First Responders to celebrate the Building Dedication of their new fire station on Saturday, September 26th from 1PM to 10PM. Join us for a day of celebration, community pride and appreciation. Event Highlights include: Parade at 1PM, Sugar Ruch Rocks from 3PM to 7PM, Food trucks throughout the day, Beer Garden and a 50/50 Drawing. This new building represents more than brick & mortar – it represents the commitment, dedication and sacrifice of the volunteer firefighters who proudly serve this community every day. It is a symbol of its past, present and future that will serve and protect the residents, businesses and those who visit Monroe Township for generations to come. “As we dedicate this new station, we also celebrate the partnerships, friendships and support that make our fire company strong. This achievement would not be possible without the incredible backing of the residents, businesses, elected officials and neighboring emergency service organizations. Thank you for your continued support of the Williamstown Fire Company.

**THE GREAT PUMPKIN GLOW**  
The Great Pumpkin Glow is a brand-new experience lighting up Swedesboro, that is a perfect for a fun night out with friends or a family trip to remember. Thousands of glowing jack-o'-lanterns fill the night. Walk through huge pumpkin displays, snap some pics at fun photo ops, and grab some seasonal treats along the way. Join in the fun times at Dalton Farms, 660 Oak Grove Road, Swedesboro NJ 08085 from Sept 25-Oct 31st. Sept. Fri, Sat, Sun. In October on Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun Hours to be announced. 856-341-4740

**WESTVILLE FALL FESTIVAL**  
September 26th – Car Show hosted by South Jersey Pontiac Club. Over 75 vendors, music, food trucks, arts & crafts and family activities. Located at Route 47 and Duncan Avenue in downtown Westville.

**CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF FALL IN DOWNTOWN WOODSTOWN**  
Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 26 as Woodstown Central Railroad joins the annual Woodstown Fall Festival for a full day of autumn fun. With the return of Steam Locomotive No. 9, guests can choose their own adventure: Woodstown Fall Fest Special Departing directly from Downtown Woodstown at: 12noon, 2PM and 4 PM. You can enjoy a scenic 12-mile roundtrip steam-powered journey through the Salem County countryside before returning to explore everything the Fall Festival has to offer. Looking for even more fall fun? Hop aboard the U-Pick & Maze Train: A Bil-Dol Farm Experience, where you'll travel by steam train to Bil-Dol Farm for: Tractor-pulled wagon tours U-Pick sunflower fields Exclusive access to the patriotic-themed corn maze. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with family and friends while enjoying everything fall has to offer in South Jersey.

**ANCHOR FILING NEWS**  
The Deadline is November 2nd! Homeowners/Renters Under 65 and Not Collecting Social Security Disability! Eligible New Jersey homeowners and renters under age 65 and NOT collecting Social Security disability benefits may have their applications automatically filed when online filing becomes available. If you do not receive an Auto-File Confirmation Letter, you will have the opportunity to file an ANC-1 Application for property tax relief on your own. For more information visit the NJ Division of Taxation website at <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor/#njtax>

**NEPAL, SEPTEMBER 11 AND DEADLY SURPRISES**

by Dr. Glenn Mollette  
Surprises can be deadly. A devastating flood recently hit Nepal and China. A glacier collapse caused a massive flood that killed over 1,300 people and left more than 5,000 missing. The flood destroyed entire communities, including the border crossing between Nepal and China and caused over \$2.56 billion in damages. Rescue efforts are still underway, but the search area is divided into seven zones, with three remaining to be searched.  
A devastating flood hit the Grand Canyon on August 29, killing two people and leaving one missing. The flood was caused by heavy rainfall and compound climate extremes, sweeping through Bright Angel Canyon and the Phantom Ranch area. It destroyed footbridges, trails and utilities, and damaged the Trans canyon waterline, causing stage 4 water restrictions. The South Rim of the park is still open, but with limited access to water.  
In July, 2025 a horrific Texas flood occurred. Heavy rainfall and a flash flood warning that came too late swept through a campsite in Texas, killing at least 120 people, with 160 still missing The campsite Camp Mystic, lost 27 campers and counselors.  
Hurricane Katrina was a category 3 storm that made landfall off the Louisiana coast on August 29, 2005 with maximum sustained wind speeds of 120 miles per hour. An estimated 1,200 people died as a direct result of the storm, which also cost an estimated \$108 billion in property damage making it the costliest hurricane on record  
These events were surprising and deadly. Who could have imagined such tragedies? These people were shockingly surprised. Surprises can happen to any of us at any time. It’s almost impossible to always be on guard. We can travel and live with a cautious attitude but weather conditions can rapidly change.

Events can happen in our daily travel routine whether we are driving, flying or just going to the office. Such was the day of September 11, 2001. Hundreds of people had booked airplane tickets for a day of routine air travel that ended up being their last life’s event. People in the World Trade Towers had reported in to carry out their daily work assignments, but it would be their last day of life. Officials at the Pentagon had shown up for a routine day of service. Terrorist hijackers of four planes successfully carried their surprise mission of death to over 3000 people. Their planning to hijack our planes and carry out their mission was successful. Most of us remember where we were that day and the terror of that day.  
Just last week a demented woman with a knife took the life of another woman in Times Square in New York City. The demented woman was shot by police and killed but her surprise attack injured one woman while killing another.  
So often, it is the surprises that we can’t handle. A motorist who is drinking intoxicated. The surprise medical report. A financial surprise that drains us and many more. Typically, if we know, we can handle the situation. We can move to higher ground, or take shelter. We can try to avoid bad people if we know where they are and what they are up to. We can seek medical care if we have advanced information. What brings us the most grief is when we are surprised.  
May we all remember the families impacted by these deadly events. May we be very aware that we are not immune to such events and live our lives prayerfully and as intuitively as possible.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
The First United Methodist Church, Landis Avenue in Vineland welcome everyone to attend several upcoming events. On October 25th there will be a Great Window Re-dedication Service at 10am in the Sanctuary All are welcome. On November 8th, Beck's Philadelphia Brigade Concert will be held at 3pm in the Sanctuary All are welcome. On December 5th the Children Song of New Jersey Christmas Concert will be held at 3pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome. The Sub Sale at Giovanni's Deli continues until September 30th. Ticket are \$12 and can be obtained by contacting the Church Office at 856-691-0940.  
Food Bank - The Food Bank at the Church is open every Wednesday from 830am to 1030am. ID is required. Clothes Closet - The Clothes Closet is open every Wednesday from 9am to 11am. Donations of clothing, pants, shirts, socks, coats, blankets, and household goods are needed. Further information on the Church programs can be obtained by contacting the Church Office at 856-691-0940.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/SERVICES**  
Franklinville Baptist Church, 1829 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, has several family orientated services with Pastor. Sunday School 9:45 followed by a traditional church service at 11 AM. Wednesday bible study at 7 PM. For more info call 856-694-0670

**ST. MARY'S MALAGA**  
Please join us for morning Mass at St. Mary's Church, Route 40/47, Malaga on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday's morning at 9AM.

**PLAINVILLE UM CHURCH**  
Plainville United Methodist Church, 3242 Main Rd, Franklinville invites you to join them for Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. in person or via zoom.

**OBITUARIES**

**MICHAEL ANTHONY LINSINBIGLER**  
Michael Anthony Linsinbigler, age 69, on Thursday, August 27, 2026. Devoted father of Christina Marie Webb (David) of Bear, Delaware, and Michelle Anne Linsinbigler (Gage Daly) of Newfield. Dear brother of Rita Bleda of Vineland, Eileen Subers (the late Rich) of Clayton, Harry Linsinbigler (Denise) of Newfield, and the late Terry Boxczyk (Steve). He will also be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews.  
Michael was the cherished son of the late Harry Franklin Linsinbigler and Bertha Ann (née Valerio) Hernandez. He spent his early years in West Conshohocken before his family moved to Malaga, where he lived for a couple of years. He attended Clayton High School and eventually settled in Clayton, where he remained for the rest of his life. Michael dedicated his working life to the glass manufacturing industry, building a career as a machinist and millwright. He began with Bellco Glass, Inc., followed by Comar Glass, and later worked for Kimble Pharmaceutical Glass. He concluded his career with Corning Pharmaceutical Glass, where he worked until his retirement in 2020. A lifelong sports enthusiast, Michael enjoyed following the Philadelphia Sports teams. One of Michael's greatest passions was his motorcycle. He loved taking trips on his bike and especially enjoyed traveling to events such as the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Above all, Michael loved people. Services are private at the convenience of the family under the direction of the BARCLAY FUNERAL HOME of Clayton.



## Don't take the day for granted, life is short and can change in a moment

**HEGGAN LIBRARY FRIENDS AND PERFECTING CHURCH JOIN FORCES VIA USED BOOK DRIVE**  
Perfecting Legacy, the 55+ ministry of The Perfecting Church in Sewell, NJ held a Used Book Drive benefiting the M. E. Heggan Free Public Library in Washington Township.  
The Perfecting Church’s commitment to service led Perfecting Legacy , a group dedicated to empowering older adults, to explore ways its members could extend their impact, particularly by supporting local communities. The group reached out to Martha Frampton, then President of the Heggan Library Friends, to see how they could support the library’s literacy efforts. This led to a partnership involving a church book drive, with the Public Library serving as a natural partner.  
“We wanted to find a way for Perfecting Legacy to serve our community in a meaningful and practical way, “ said Patricia Murray, a Perfecting Legacy team member. “Supporting literacy is a natural extension of our church’s commitment to empowering people and strengthening our community.” Perfecting Legacy hopes this will be the beginning of an ongoing relationship with the Heggan Library Friends.

The Used Book Drive was held at the Perfecting Church from August 16 through August 30, 2026. Donated books will be sorted by Perfecting Legacy volunteers to ensure that materials meet the library’s guidelines. Gently used books are sold in the Heggan Friends’ Bookstore inside the library during regular library hours.  
The Friends of the Library is a 501© 3 non-profit dedicated to fundraising and assisting the library in any way needed. If you would like to join, membership forms are available either at the library or on our website at <http://www.hegganlibraryfriends.org/membership.html>. Friends’ meetings are held each month on the third Tuesday of the month in the library meeting room at 4 pm



Perfecting Legacy members Kim, Sandi, Patty, and Chris from The Perfecting Church in Sewell, NJ, are book drive volunteers. They filled two SUVs with books donated by church members to be donated to the Heggan Library Friends.

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# POLICE ACTIVITY LOG

## MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH – PITMAN DOWNER ROAD

On Wednesday September 2nd at approximately 8:43 A.M., Washington Township Police officers responded to a MV crash involving a school bus and another vehicle at Pitman Downer Road and Orion Way. The preliminary investigation determined that the school bus was traveling across Pitman Downer Road from Framingham Drive toward Orion Way when it was struck by a vehicle traveling northbound on Pitman Downer Road. The driver of the second vehicle was transported to Jefferson Hospital with minor injuries. Four children from the school bus were also transported to Jefferson Hospital as a precaution with suspected minor injuries. The crash remains under investigation by Officer Christopher Tarasevich. Anyone who witnessed the crash or has information that may assist with the investigation is asked to contact Officer Tarasevich at cmtarasevich@pd.twp.washington.nj.us.

## CLAYTON NATIONAL NIGHT OUT & FIRE PREVENTION NIGHT

The Community is invited to join us on Wednesday, September 23rd from 6PM to 8PM at Autumn Pasquale Park, Clayton. Meet your police officers and firefighters, safety displays & demonstrations. Fire Prevention education for all ages plus Kids activities and family fun. Combined fire and police looking forward to seeing everyone there!

## INTERSECTION PROJECT OPENED AT 322 & FRIES MILL ROAD

A roadway opening ceremony was held at the intersection of US 322 and Fries Mill Road on Thursday, September 3rd. This has been a long standing project for many years as the intersection has seen many delays over approximately fourteen years. Construction began in February of 2023 with some further delays over the past couple years but persistence finally paid off. The traffic signals were activated and work crews finished all striping that afternoon, but the intersection is fully open and operational.

## COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH INVOLVING SCHOOL BUS

*Monroe Twp Police Press Release:* On Thursday afternoon September 3rd, the Monroe Township Police Department responded to the area of 730 N. Tuckahoe Road (CR 555) for a reported crash involving multiple vehicles. Upon arrival, officers determined that five vehicles were involved, including two commercial dump trucks and a school bus. The preliminary investigation determined that a commercial dump truck was traveling northbound on N. Tuckahoe Road, approaching traffic that had stopped for an uninvolved school bus. The dump truck driver failed to observe the stopped traffic and struck the rear of a passenger vehicle occupied by one adult and three juveniles.

The force of the collision pushed that vehicle into another passenger vehicle occupied by an adult female. That vehicle was then pushed into the rear of a school bus occupied by nine juveniles and two adults. The school bus subsequently struck the rear of a second commercial dump truck, whose driver had begun moving and attempted to avoid the collision occurring behind it. One juvenile became trapped in the rear seat of the passenger vehicle and was extricated by fire department personnel.

As a result of the crash, 12 juveniles and two adults were transported to area hospitals for evaluation and treatment. All individuals have since either been released or remain in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries. The commercial carrier associated with the two dump trucks is cooperating with the investigation. The crash remains under investigation, and motor vehicle complaints are pending at this time. The collision is being investigated by Sgt. John Van Leer #7123 of the M.T.P.D. Traffic Safety Bureau, phone 856-728-9800 x583. Any witnesses are asked to contact Sgt. Van Leer.

## LEWDNESS ARREST

On Wednesday, September 2nd, at approximately 3 PM, Washington Township Police Officers responded to Marshalls for a report of a male walking through the store with his genitals exposed from his pajama pants. Needless to say, this was not the type of “Marshalls find” shoppers were expecting. Officers located the individual a short time later walking in front of the nearby McDonald’s. The 26-year-old Williamstown man was arrested by Washington Township police officers and charged with Lewdness before being released on a summons. As with all criminal matters, the charge is an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

## BUSY NIGHT ON MIDNIGHTS

It was a busy 11 PM – 7 AM shift for police officers on September 3rd, with proactive patrols and motor vehicle stops resulting in five separate warrant arrests throughout Washington Township. Whitman Drive & Route 42 — During a motor vehicle stop, a Williamstown man was found to have an active warrant for his arrest. At County House Road & Mt. Pleasant Road — A motor vehicle stop resulted in a Sicklerville man being arrested on an active warrant for his arrest. At Wawa – 4231 Black Horse Pike — Officers responded for a report of an unwanted person. Upon making contact, a Bellmawr man was found to have multiple outstanding warrants for his arrest. He was arrested and transported directly to Deptford Police Department. At Berlin-Cross Keys Road — During a motor vehicle stop, a Pine Hill woman was found to have an active warrant for her arrest. On State Highway 42 — During a motor vehicle stop, a Camden man was found to have an active warrant for his arrest. Great work by our officers who continue to stay proactive throughout the overnight hours while most of Washington Township is sleeping.

## TWO WASHINGTON TWP POLICE VEHICLES STRUCK ON SH42

At approximately 1:41 AM on September 3rd, two marked Washington Township Police vehicles were struck while officers were effecting an arrest on SH42 Northbound. Sgt. Nichols, Ofc. McNair and Detective Russo, all members of the Washington Township Police Department’s Auto Theft Task Force ATTF, had conducted a MV stop on Route 42 between Exits 7 and 7B. During the stop, officers determined that an occupant of the vehicle had outstanding warrants and was being placed under arrest. While officers were completing the arrest, Sgt. Nichols returned to his marked patrol vehicle and was seated inside completing paperwork. A 2010 Mercury Milan approaching the police vehicles from behind struck Ofc. McNair’s unoccupied marked patrol vehicle before continuing forward and striking Sgt. Nichols’ patrol vehicle while Sgt. Nichols was still seated inside. Fortunately, Sgt. Nichols did not report any injuries, and Ofc. McNair was outside of his patrol vehicle at the time and was not injured. Both police vehicles sustained significant damage and were rendered inoperable. The driver of the vehicle that struck the police vehicles was identified as a 63 year old Deptford man. He sustained minor injuries. Because the crash occurred outside Washington Township’s jurisdiction, the NJ State Police responded to the scene and is handling the crash investigation. The investigation is ongoing. This incident serves as an important reminder to motorists: Slow down and move over when approaching emergency vehicles stopped along the roadway. Police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, tow operators, and other roadside workers depend on motorists giving them the space they need to safely do their jobs. We are extremely thankful that Sgt. Nichols and Ofc. McNair were not seriously injured. Damaged police cars can be replaced. Our officers cannot.

## PARTY CANCELLED — NOT IN WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP!

Thanks to a heads-up from Glassboro Police Department, Washington Township Police officers learned of a large “Rowan University Welcome Week” party being advertised for an event venue at Echo Plaza in our town. The event, scheduled from 10PM–2 AM on 9/4, had 800+ people indicating interest, with tickets being sold and party buses, VIP entry and drinks advertised. Officers contacted the venue owner, who advised the event would not be permitted. The promoter was less cooperative, refusing to identify himself or remove the online advertising and ticket sales directing attendees to Washington Township. With the party still being advertised, Police remained on location until midnight turning students away and preventing the gathering from spilling into the parking lot or surrounding area.





**Sgt. Ippolito “Lee” Gonzalez 5K**



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**Sgt. Ippolito “Lee” Gonzalez.**  
★ ★ ★

**RUN ★ HONOR ★ REMEMBER**



Former Franklin Twp Chief of Police Brian Zimmer received well-deserved recognition for his years of service to Franklin Township last week with a gathering of police officers, family and friends at the Franklin Township Community Center. Several police officers that served the Franklin Township community while Brian was the police chief were in attendance for the event. Brian has recently been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and has been receiving treatment



## HAZMAT INCIDENT AT DEPTFORD TWP WALMART

Press Release issued by Gloucester County Office of Emergency Management on September 3rd: As a follow-up to the Hazmat incident at Deptford Twp Walmart, 820 Cooper Street on September 1st.

In coordination with Deptford Twp. Police and Walmart management, a review of the circumstances surrounding the incident at Walmart, located on Cooper Street in Deptford has been completed, which began at approximately 4:15PM on September 1st.

The investigation determined that the incident was caused by an aerosol canister of ‘hot shot flying insect killer’ that fell from a store shelf and landed beneath a shelving system. The impact damaged the canister’s cap and spray mechanism, resulting in the unintentional discharge of the product. Following an overnight deep cleaning of the store, while the store remained closed to customers, store personnel located the empty canister beneath a shelf. Based on the investigation and review of store surveillance footage, officials determined that this canister was the source of the discharge and there was no evidence of malicious intent. During the incident, numerous individuals were evaluated by EMS personnel. Nineteen people were transported to the following hospitals for further evaluation and treatment: Inspira Medical Center in Mullica Hill, Jefferson Washington Township Hospital and Cooper University Hospital in Camden. Additional individuals sought evaluation at Inspira Satellite Emergency Department in Woodbury at various points throughout the evening after self-transporting to that facility. The product’s Safety Data Sheet (JSDS) identifies potential hazards associated with exposure, including eye and skin irritation and the potential for harmful effects if swallowed or inhaled. For exposure to this product, the manufacturer’s safety information advises rinsing the mouth if swallowed and moving an affected person to fresh air and keeping them comfortable for breathing if inhaled. Individuals who feel unwell following an exposure should contact a poison control center or their healthcare provider.

If you were present during the incident and experienced effects from the release but did not receive medical evaluation or transportation, you may wish to follow up with your primary healthcare provider. Anyone who develops concerning or persistent symptoms would seek appropriate medical attention. Gloucester County OEM and Hazmat officials remained in communication with the emergency departments that evaluated or treated individuals. Officials also received guidance from public and environmental health officials within the Gloucester County Health Department and made appropriate notifications to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

If you were a shopper or employee in Walmart on September 1st but were not present in the incident area when the product was discharged there is no further action recommended.

## WASHINGTON TWP POLICE REPORT

It was a busy Labor Day weekend for the Washington Township Police Department (WTPD). Officers handled 329 CAD calls for service, including 73 motor vehicle stops and 13 arrests, including 4 DWI arrests. Officers also investigated 6 motor vehicle crashes, 3 hit-and-run crashes, 3 domestic disputes, 3 shoplifting complaints, 3 noise complaints, and multiple calls involving persons in crisis. Domestic Violence Arrest: A Turnersville woman was arrested for domestic violence assault against a family member. DWI Arrest: A Sicklerville man was arrested for DWI following a motor vehicle stop on the Black Horse Pike near Whitman Drive. The Alcotest returned a BAC of .19%. DWI / Endangering Arrest: A Newark, Delaware woman was arrested for DWI following a motor vehicle stop on the Black Horse Pike near Wawa, 4231 Black Horse Pike. Her three children, ages 11, 8 and 2, were passengers in the vehicle and were turned over to a family member at the scene. The Alcotest returned a BAC of .12%. She was additionally charged with three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

DWI / Warrant Arrest: Officers responded to the McDonald’s parking lot at 5801 Black Horse Pike for a report of a man unconscious behind the wheel. A 22-year-old Woodbury man was located unconscious and unresponsive in his vehicle and appeared to be suffering from an overdose. Officers also determined that he had an active \$3,000 warrant for his arrest. Warrant Arrest: A Primrose Motel resident was arrested on an outstanding warrant following a stop. Methamphetamine Arrest: A Pitman woman was arrested for possession of methamphetamine/CDS Restraining Order Arrest: A Williamstown man was arrested for violating a restraining order after officers discovered him inside a vehicle with the protected party during a motor vehicle stop. NCIC Fugitive Arrest: During a pedestrian stop on Tuckahoe Road near Evergreen Avenue, officers identified a Pennsylvania man as an NCIC wanted fugitive out of Illinois. A Fugitive from Justice warrant was issued. He was cleared for incarceration and turned over to the County Jail. Domestic Violence Arrest: A Turnersville woman was arrested for domestic violence assault against her husband. Warrant Arrest: A Galloway woman was arrested on an active warrant out of Absecon following a pedestrian stop. Shoplifting / Hindering Arrest: A Williamstown woman was arrested for shoplifting \$141.83 worth of merchandise from Walmart. She initially provided officers with a false name but was subsequently correctly identified. Warrant Arrest: As a result of a motor vehicle stop, a Williamstown man was arrested on outstanding warrants out of Washington Township and Monroe Township. Missing Juvenile: A resident reported her 13-year-old granddaughter missing. Officers subsequently located the juvenile. DCPD was notified regarding conditions observed at the residence. Gloucester County Animal Control was also contacted regarding the condition of several dogs found in crates. Psychiatric Emergency: A 14-year-old girl from a Washington Township group home indicated that she wanted to harm herself. She was transported to Inspira for a crisis evaluation. Psychiatric Emergency: A resident called police reporting that his sister was making suicidal statements. Officers responded to the residence and made contact with the juvenile. She was cooperative and was transported to Jefferson for a crisis evaluation. Psychiatric Emergency: A Glassboro woman pulled to the side of the road while traveling to work and called 911 stating that she needed help. Officers responded and transported her to Jefferson for a crisis evaluation. Psychiatric Emergency: Glassboro Police requested assistance checking a WT residence for a missing juvenile. Our officers located the juvenile at the residence. After making suicidal statements, she was transported to Jefferson for a crisis evaluation. Noise Complaint: A Fries Mill Estates resident reported that the generator at Lowe’s was on. The generator was off upon officers’ arrival. Suspicious Incident: A Lupus Lane resident reported seeing two individuals looking into his vehicle. The subjects fled the area in a silver sedan toward Glassboro. We Are Hiring! We are accepting applications for Police Officer and Special Officer II until September 18th. Scan the QR code or check our website for additional information!

## LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,  
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ACCESS TO LEGAL NOTICES

TAKE NOTICE pursuant to P.L. 2025, c. 72, the complete text of each legal notice of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District 3 may be obtained or viewed by the public on the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District 3’s official internet website as follows:  
<https://www.bofdistrict3.com/notices.php>

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the New Jersey Secretary of State legal notices webpage of each public entity can be viewed as follows: Statewide portal: <https://nj.gov/state/statewide-legal-notices-list.shtml>

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# SENTINEL SPORTS

Norm Merckx, Sports Editor

**40TH ANNUAL GLOUCESTER COUNTY KIDS' FISHING CONTEST**  
By Ray Merckx

This Saturday, September 12th marks the 40th Annual Kids' Fishing Contest for Gloucester County. The contest is always a great event and consistently produces excellent catches across all age brackets, both from boat and shore. As always, the event is held at Scotland Run Park in Clayton from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Registration for this event is usually held at the lake up to an hour before kickoff. This year, however, anglers can register early by following the link provided at <https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/1191/Kids-Fishing-Contest--912>. You can also call 856-251-6710 for more information about the contest.

The event is open to any angler aged 18 or younger, and each participant may only use one rod and reel. Anglers aged 16 through 18 must present a valid New Jersey Freshwater Fishing License to participate. Any fish caught must be returned to the water uninjured, and the final weigh-in will be held promptly at 11:30 a.m. Keep in mind this is a rain-or-shine event, so be sure to prepare for the elements. Currently, the weather forecast calls for sunny skies with highs reaching the low 80s, making for ideal fishing conditions. However, since early fall weather can shift quickly, be sure to check the forecast the day before.

Here are a few helpful tips for the contest: Live Bait: Whether fishing from shore or a boat, use a bobber with at least an 18-inch leader beneath it. Nightcrawlers and live minnows will be your two best options. Lures: A 4- to 5-inch plastic worm—hooked either Texas-rigged or wacky-rigged—will be your best bet at Scotland Run. Stick with proven colors like green pumpkin or black and blue. Swimbaits: It wouldn't hurt to throw a 3- to 4-inch swimbait in yellow perch or sunfish patterns, as larger bass will be aggressively feeding on panfish fry this time of year.

I hope all of our young anglers will catch a fish and the best of luck. Above all, just remember to have fun, stay safe, and enjoy your time on the water and keep those lines tight!

**DELSEA HS FOOTBALL!**

It's time for Friday Night Lights! The Delsea Crusaders are ready to take on the Haddonfield Bulldogs this Friday night. Let's pack the home stands and bring the energy! John Oberg Field Kickoff @ 7:00 PM Let's go Crusaders! You can Purchase your tickets: <https://bit.ly/4wIOAMo>

**GLASSBORO HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2026 INDUCTION CLASS AND INDUCTION BANQUET TICKET INFORMATION**

The Glassboro High School Sports Hall of Fame is proud to announce its 2026 Induction Class, recognizing an outstanding group of former student-athletes, championship teams, and a distinguished contributor whose accomplishments, leadership, and dedication have left a lasting impact on the school's proud athletic tradition. This year will be the 50th anniversary induction for the GHS Sports Hall of Fame. Individual inductees will include: Corey Clement (Class of 2013); Zenee Gadson (Class of 2012); Shannon Graves (Class of 2008); Steven Mecke (Class of 1976); Emily Donaldson Smith (Class of 2006); William Stewart (Class of 1985); Patricia Wible Folk (Class of 1967); David Kalapos (Class of 1974, Contributor. Team inductees will include: 1967 Glassboro High School Boys Outdoor Track Team and 2009 Glassboro High School Boys Outdoor Track Team. The Class of 2026 will be formally inducted during a ceremony following dinner on Thursday, October 15th commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Glassboro High School Sports Hall of Fame. This milestone celebration will honor not only this exceptional class but also five decades of recognizing the athletes, coaches, teams, and contributors who have shaped the rich tradition of Glassboro High School athletics. Selected by the Glassboro High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee, this year's class represents generations of Bulldogs whose achievements have brought distinction to Glassboro High School. Family, friends, alumni, past inductees, and members of the Glassboro community are encouraged to mark their calendars for this special celebration. The 2026 Glassboro High School Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at Masso's Catering, South Delsea Drive, Glassboro. Refreshments will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m., with the Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony immediately afterward. For the 50th anniversary, the Sports Hall of Fame will specially recognize founding and long contributing members of the committee and the five Olympic Conference National Division and Sports Hall of Fame inducted teams from the 1975-1976 school year on their 50th anniversary of their winning seasons. Tickets are \$75 each. For tickets, please contact Glassboro High School Athletics, Attn: Sarea Rochester, GHS Sports Hall of Fame, 550 Bowe Blvd., Glassboro, NJ 08028, [srochester@gpsd.us](mailto:srochester@gpsd.us), 856-652-2700, ext. 1102 or Vic Mangeney at [vmang@comcast.net](mailto:vmang@comcast.net), 609-634-2147. For the induction, the Sports Hall of Fame will have a program and ad book. For information on placing an ad, please contact us. For more information, please contact the Glassboro High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee at [Ghshof76@gmail.com](mailto:Ghshof76@gmail.com).

**YOUTH SPORTS COSTS ARE NUTS. HERE'S A BETTER OPTION**  
OP-ED By Dale Evans

For millions of American families, sleepaway camps, travel leagues, and organized sports programs during summer vacation are getting harder to afford. The average overnight summer camp costs \$1,250 for just one week. Playing youth basketball now costs more than \$1,000 a year. Youth soccer runs nearly \$1,200. It's no surprise that six out of 10 families say youth sports strain their budget. Most sports, anyways. But a few -- most notably tennis -- are vastly more affordable, especially at the USTA National Tennis Center.

To get started, players need a racquet and a few balls -- about \$30 worth of equipment total. That's it. No team, league, uniform, or club membership necessary. With roughly 270,000 tennis courts across the United States -- many of them open to the public -- there's a good chance one is nearby. And if not, a backyard wall, driveway, or local park will do just fine for most practice sessions.

That flexibility is especially important during the summer months. Unlike many activities that require advance registration or organized schedules, the barrier to entry for tennis is low. Players can rally for an hour after dinner, on a Saturday morning, or while traveling. There's no waiting for a season to start and no minimum number of players required. That accessibility is why so many Americans are giving the sport a try and the exact reason the USTA National Tennis Center remains a public facility. While the share of kids ages 6 to 17 in team sports or sports lessons fell nearly five percentage points between 2017 and 2022, the number of Americans ages six and older playing tennis has grown by 34% since 2019. Tennis is also uniquely adaptable. Wheelchair tennis has become one of the fastest-growing adaptive sports in the country, but accessibility extends well beyond that. Players with visual impairments can use specially designed audible balls and modified court formats, while deaf and hard-of-hearing players can participate with visual cues and adapted instruction. Flexible rules, court sizes, and equipment help ensure that people of different ages and abilities can enjoy the game.

A middle schooler and a grandparent can share the same court, the same game, and the same memories. Few activities offer that kind of connection across generations.

The health case for tennis is equally compelling. Just three hours a week on the court can reduce cardiovascular disease mortality by 56%. One study found that people who play tennis regularly live about 10 years longer than sedentary individuals -- more than any other sport studied, including running, cycling, and swimming.

Those health benefits are especially important today and emphasized at the National Tennis Center through P.A.C.E.S. for school groups and Black History Month Cardio Tennis for families. The average American teenager spends seven hours a day behind a screen, while only about one in five adolescents meets the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. That gap has consequences for physical health, mental health, and social development. Tennis offers a simple antidote: time outdoors, movement, and face-to-face connection, all in a single activity.

But the deeper reason tennis sticks is that it doesn't feel like exercise. It combines fitness with competition, friendship, and fun -- and that combination is what turns a healthy activity into a lifelong habit.

The best thing parents can give their kids this summer isn't a week at sleepaway camp or a packed travel schedule. It's a racquet, a court, and someone to play with.

Dale Evans has been Director of Tennis Programs at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York since 2022. He is an RSPA Master Professional and Certified Racquet Sports Executive.

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### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

CryptQuote answer

A good many car drivers don't need seat belts as much as they need straight jackets.

— Source Unknown

CryptoQuip answer

Special sweet potatoes that, when consumed, cause folks to speak more frankly: candid yams.

Even Exchange answers

1. Nearly, Nearby 6. Sensor, Senior  
2. Beard, Board 7. Geese, Reese  
3. Rooster, Poster 8. Palace, Palate  
4. Camel, Carmo 9. Flour, Frow  
5. Elate, Elite 10. Policy, Police

Go Figure!

Stickers Answer

TRACK  
TRACE  
TRADE  
GRADE  
GLADE  
GLIDE

### Puzzles4Kids

Answer

When do astronauts eat their mid-day meal?  
At launch time.

### SCRAMBLERS

Solution

1. Synonym; 2. Brief  
3. Ghoul; 4. Sprain

Today's Word  
FAMILY

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 |   |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 |   |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 |   |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 |   |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 |   |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 |   |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |   |
| 6 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |   |
| 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 |

### MINI SUDOKU

Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 |

## ILD4

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4 - NJ

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- Motor Vehicle Issues
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EUGENE DRUCKER AND FRIENDS KICK OFF 19TH SEASON

Eugene Drucker and Friends return to Music at Bunker Hill on September 20, 2026 at 3:00 pm. Multiple Grammy winner and former Emerson Quartet member Drucker is joined by William Frampton, viola; Roberta Cooper, cello; and Gili Melamed-Lev, piano in a program of Bach, Bruch, Beethoven, and Brahms, culminating with Schumann’s Piano Quartet in E flat.

On October 18, the long-running mezzo-soprano and guitar duo of Grammy winners Sasha Cooke and Jason Vieaux present Songs of the Americas, with works from Granados and Rodrigo to Copland and Sondheim.

Flautist Mimi Stillman and Dolce Suono Ensemble return with Musica en tus Manos on November 22 with music by Gaubert, Rorem, Tian, a NJ premiere by Jacob Bancks, and a Latin Set that is sure to raise the temperature in the hall.

Spring concerts feature Elizabeth Starr Masoudnia, English hornist of the Philadelphia Orchestra on 4/4/27 (The Hutchins Ensemble), pianist Michelle Cann 5/23/27 (Women of Chicago’s Black Renaissance), and Schwarz and Bournaki Cello & Piano Duo 6/6/27 (music of Arthur Foote, Beethoven and Brahms).

Concerts are held at Bunker Hill Presbyterian Church, 330 Greentree Road, Sewell, NJ. Phone (856) 494-6077. Tickets are \$30 for adults and seniors, \$5 for students with ID. Advance online ticket purchase is advised. Hybrid format offers live and remote viewing. More information is available at [www.musicatbunkerhill.org](http://www.musicatbunkerhill.org).

This program is made possible in part by funding from The Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission at Rowan College of South Jersey, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts.

About Music at Bunker Hill

Founded in 2008, Music at Bunker Hill brings great performers to the heart of southern New Jersey, enhancing the cultural life of our community by preserving the tradition of classical music while exploring other musical genres. With outreach concerts in schools and libraries, our artists inspire the next generation with their passion for the arts and standards of excellence. Our goal is to make great music affordable, accessible, and appealing to as many people as possible.



Eugene Drucker and Friends  
9/20/26 • 3:00 pm  
MUSIC at Bunker Hill  
Bunker Hill Presbyterian Church  
330 Greentree Road  
Sewell, NJ 08080 (856) 494-6077

SOUNDS LIKE AMERICA

In a musical conversation developed for her NPR series, America in Pursuit, renowned pianist and thought leader Lara Downes presents a unique program of live music and conversation with Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award-winning singer, multi-instrumentalist, and cultural historian Rhiannon Giddens. This concert and conversation will reflect on the roots and routes of American music, and the crossroads where traditions come together. Exploring our nation’s story through its music, Downes and Giddens share iconic songs from Amazing Grace to Paul Simon’s American Tune, tracing our history and celebrating our shared hopes and struggles. This program, which also includes multimedia work produced via Downes’ national initiative The Declaration Project, invites audiences to find common ground and shared purpose in imagining the possibilities of the American future. Closed Captioning is available at this performance in addition to our standard accommodations.

Join us on Friday, October 30th, at 7:30 PM at the Pfleeger Concert Hall. Ticket prices: \$35 / \$25 / \$10 Ticket link: [go.rowan.edu/america](http://go.rowan.edu/america)

IT’S POSSIBLE TO SALVAGE CANADIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND MORE

An Op-Ed by Lawrence S. Wittner



Canada and the United States have frequently maintained that they have a special relationship, characterized by the world’s longest undefended international border, peaceful interaction, common values, and a close defense partnership through NATO.

Nevertheless, the two nations are currently locked in an increasingly destructive battle.

In late 2024, shortly after his re-election as U.S. President, Donald Trump started provoking Canadians by referring to their country as the 51st American state. Over the following months, he continued alluding to Canada’s U.S. statehood, posted a map on his Truth Social media platform showing it as part of the United States, and taunted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau by calling him “Governor Trudeau.” Canadians could retain “O, Canada” as their anthem, Trump remarked, “but it’ll be for the state.”

Mark Carney, having replaced Trudeau as leader of the Liberal Party as nationwide parliamentary elections loomed, responded bluntly: “America is not Canada, and Canada never, ever will be part of America in any way, shape, or form.” Canadians seemed to agree, for, in response to Trump’s incendiary remarks, they gave the new Liberal leader and his party—initially trailing by huge margins in polls on the forthcoming elections—a stunning election victory.

Trump’s arrogant attitude toward Canada reflects not only his belief that the United States should dominate the Western Hemisphere, but his assumption that the U.S. government, with its vast economy, has the upper hand when it comes to its relationship with Canada. Because the United States purchases the bulk of Canadian exports while Canada purchases only a small fraction of America’s vast exports, “we don’t need Canada,” Trump explained, “they need us!”

In these circumstances, it’s hardly surprising that Trump, a keen admirer of the tariff, has weaponized it to bring Canada to heel. This August, dissatisfied with the Canadian response to his trade demands, he slapped a 50 percent tariff on Canadian imports into the United States. Canada “wants the benefits of being a State, without being one,” he complained.

Carney responded: “Last spring, I warned that America is trying to break us so that they can own us. And promised: ‘That will never, ever happen.’ We are keeping that promise.”

Canadians overwhelmingly approved of Carney’s stance. Polling conducted shortly after U.S.-Canadian talks collapsed indicated that three-quarters of Canadians agreed with Carney. Even Doug Ford, the conservative Premier of Ontario, said Carney had his “full support” and that Trump could “kiss my ass.”

Clearly, something has happened to the friendly relationship between the two nations.

Actually, it was not always so friendly. During the War of 1812 between Britain and the United States, U.S. military forces invaded Canada in the hope of seizing portions of it and annexing them to the United States. But they were soundly defeated by British troops, Canadian militia, and their Native American allies. American enthusiasm for annexing portions of Canada flared up again during the 1840s, when British and American joint control of the Oregon Territory was opposed by those who, rallying behind the slogan “Fifty-four Forty or Fight,” demanded it all. Ultimately, though, the territory was divided at the 49th parallel, with the northern half becoming British Columbia and the southern half forming the states of Oregon and Washington. Cross-border violence, though, did flare up from 1866 to 1871, when armed bands of Irish-Americans conducted Fenian raids on British army forts, customs posts, and other Canadian border targets in an unsuccessful attempt to trade Canada for Irish independence.

Beginning in the 1870s, however, American relations improved considerably. Disputes over maritime rights and boundaries were settled amicably, while military alliances between the two governments during the two world wars and the Cold War helped foster good feelings between officials and the public of both nations. Friction did develop, at times, over trade policies, as well as over the Canadian government’s more peace-oriented foreign policy, which included closer cooperation with the League of Nations and the United Nations, plus stronger support for nuclear arms control and disarmament. Canadian public opinion was usually strongly pro-American—at least until the advent of Donald Trump, when such opinion dropped precipitously. Also, unlike Trump, 80 percent of Americans have a favorable view of Canada.

Sadly, then, the many years of increasingly friendly relations between Canada and the United States have been sabotaged by Trump’s reckless, domineering behavior.

Of course, the cordial relationship between the two North American nations could be restored by a variety of future developments, including a sharp repudiation of Trump in the November 2026 U.S. Congressional elections, his departure from public office, or merely his sudden obsession with another issue.

Even so, the ease with which the Canadian-American relationship has been damaged illustrates the fragility of international relations and, more specifically, the fact that centuries of growing cooperation among nations can be upended by the sudden tantrums or crackpot nostrums of individuals. Indeed, the current situation is all too reminiscent of how deranged and power-mad national rulers wrecked the international order in the past.

Remedying this deeper problem of international fragility calls for a shift toward a world order more strongly grounded in international law. Following this law, developed by the global community, would provide a considerably more rational and effective way to handle international disputes and foster international cooperation.

Thanks to centuries of effort, there are currently international institutions—for example, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court—that create this international law and interpret it. Admittedly, these international institutions remain relatively weak, largely because the rulers of powerful nations prefer to bypass them so that they can keep the reins of power in their own hands. Nevertheless, with public effort, these institutions can be strengthened so that they can more effectively perform their vital role of safeguarding the human community.

The current crisis in U.S.-Canadian relations is the latest indication that it’s time to get on with that job. Dr. Lawrence Wittner, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany and the author of *Confronting the Bomb* (Stanford University Press).

OCEAN STATE JOB LOT CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF GLASSBORO WITH COMMUNITY DONATIONS AND CRAZY DEALS®

Ocean State Job Lot (OSJL) celebrated the grand opening of its newest store today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 731 Delsea Drive in Glassboro. The 40,000-square-foot store, formerly home to Big Lots, marks OSJL’s 12th location in New Jersey and its second in Gloucester County, continuing the company’s strategic repurposing of well-known, vacant retail sites across the Mid-Atlantic.

OSJL executives and team members were joined by local officials and community partners for the celebration, including Gloucester County Commissioner Nick DeSilvio; Glassboro Borough Council President Anna Miller; and Glassboro Borough Councilwoman Danielle Spence.

As part of OSJL’s ongoing commitment to giving back to the communities it serves, the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation donated one pallet of food to Angels Community Outreach.

The grand opening celebration continued with family-friendly activities including free coffee and donuts, free glitter tattoos, and free photos with Woody from Toy Story. The first 100 people also received a gift card valued between \$10.00 and \$100.00.

To drive excitement during its opening, OSJL is offering high-value incentives for savvy shoppers. Through Wednesday, September 16, customers who sign up to be a Job Lot Insider and spend \$30.00 or more will receive 40% back as a Crazy Deal® Gift Card to use on a future purchase.

Job Lot Insiders can also shop over 1,000 items available online at [oceanstatejoblot.com](http://oceanstatejoblot.com), which allows them to get 100% back in Crazy Deal® Gift Cards, essentially making the products free. Job Lot Insiders have received over \$500 million in Crazy Deal® Gift Cards to “Shop for Free” at OSJL stores and its website.

“We’re excited to open our doors in Glassboro and welcome the community into our newest Ocean State Job Lot,” said Tom Bergamo, Store Team Leader, Glassboro. “Our team has put a lot of work into getting this store ready, and we’re looking forward to bringing customers the value, variety and friendly service they expect while building strong connections throughout the Glassboro community.”

The Glassboro store has created new employment opportunities in the area. OSJL expects to continue expanding across the Mid-Atlantic with an additional store opening in Phoenixville, PA, next week.



HOW TO GET READY FOR EMERGENCIES THE LOW-COST, NO-COST WAY

Major disasters are happening more often now, about once every two weeks. Add on the smaller emergencies that happen every day — like a fire in someone’s home — and it’s more important than ever for everyone to get their households prepared.

At the same time, as prices continue to climb on just about everything, getting prepared for a disaster can feel out of reach, too much of a financial burden. But the American Red Cross New Jersey Region has a few simple, low-cost or no-cost steps everyone can take to help them get prepared.

“New Jersey has seen its share of severe storms recently, so if you’re not already, National Preparedness Month is the perfect time to get prepared,” said Wendy Vara, regional executive, American Red Cross New Jersey Region. “Disasters can happen anywhere, at any time and getting your household ready for them doesn’t have to break the bank. Try a few of these low-cost or no-cost steps and get started protecting your loved ones.”

STEPS TO PREPAREDNESS - Download the Red Cross Emergency app which helps you and your loved ones before, during, and after a disaster. The app includes guides to help you prepare, National Weather Service alerts, live weather maps and help locating Red Cross shelters. And best of all — it’s free to all users, available in English and Spanish, and designed with accessibility in mind. Find it by searching for ‘American Red Cross’ in your app store or visiting [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps).

Develop an emergency plan for your household — a great way to get started, and it won’t cost a thing. Pick two places to meet — right outside your home or a place outside your neighborhood in case you can’t get home or have to evacuate. Plan how you will evacuate. Think about where you will go, how you will get there, where you will stay and what you’ll take with you. Plan well in advance if you’ll need help leaving or use public transportation.

Don’t forget your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters on your phone. Customize your kit to meet your household’s specific needs. If you have young children, don’t forget formula and diapers. If you have pets, include leashes, carriers, food, bowls and litter. Make up emergency contact cards for the whole family in case the internet is down and save the information on everyone’s phone. Don’t forget the number for your children’s school or daycare

Gather supplies for a go-kit and a stay-at-home kit — use items you already have on hand to keep the cost down. Build your kit slowly, perhaps buying an item every time you shop. Look for sales — buy one, get one free, clearance bins, clip coupons, shop discount stores.

Your go-kit should include three days of supplies that you can take with you. Your stay-at-home kit should have two weeks of food and water and a one-month supply of medications, if possible. Other items could include a flashlight, a first aid kit, a battery or hand-crank radio.

Make sure to include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (flashlight, cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.) and critical personal records. You might also want to include sanitation and personal hygiene items, extra cash, maps of the area, pet supplies, baby supplies, matches, N95 masks, a manual can opener, extra car and house keys, towels, work gloves, a multi-purpose tool, blankets and sleeping bags.

Take the Red Cross Emergency Kit Challenge! Proudly display your preparedness kit on social media using #EmergencyKitChallenge, and tag three friends to do the same. Together, we can help more people be better prepared for emergencies.

If you own a business or are part of a school or organization, it’s critical you are prepared, that you know what to do should an emergency happen. The Red Cross has a free service — Ready Rating Program — that provides tools, resources and information for improving your group’s ability to withstand disaster, maintain operations, and protect lives and property.

“Disasters don’t wait for the ‘right time’ — they can happen in the middle of the night, while you’re at work or your kids are at school,” Vara said. “Being prepared is your best defense. Whether it’s a fire in someone’s home or a storm that affects an entire county, these emergencies can change lives in just minutes. During September, set aside a little time to get you and your loved ones ready.”

Township of Franklin  
Public Schools  
Kindergarten  
Registration for  
2026-2027



1. Visit our district website at [www.franklintwpschools.org](http://www.franklintwpschools.org)
2. Click on Kindergarten Registration on our homepage
3. Complete the Online Pre- Registration and steps 2-4.

**Please Note** Children must be 5 years old on or before

October 1st, 2026 and must reside in the Township of

Franklin or Borough of Newfield.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Humeny at our  
Administration Office Building at (856) 629-9500, Ext. 1200

**AG DAVENPORT RENEWS CALL FOR EPA ACTION ON MICROPLASTICS**

Attorney General Jennifer Davenport led a comment letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) once again urging it to include microplastics on its Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 6. The letter follows two prior multistate efforts -- both led by New Jersey -- requesting the inclusion of microplastics on this list of contaminants. The newly filed letter was joined by 12 other attorneys general.

“We are still learning the extent of the health risks posed to all of us by microplastics, and to respond appropriately we need more data,” said Attorney General Davenport. “Given that kids are particularly at risk from exposure to these tiny plastic fragments, it is especially important that the EPA require greater data collection and monitoring to inform further action to protect public health.” “New Jersey urges the federal government to do the right thing by requiring national testing to better understand the impact pollution from microplastics is having on the safety of our drinking water,” New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Acting Commissioner Ed Potosnak said. “Pollution from microplastics is widespread in the environment – and our understanding of the potential public health consequences is rapidly expanding, especially for children. By conducting microplastics monitoring across the nation, we will be able to develop strategies and standards to protect the health of all Americans.”

Microplastics have gained attention as a topic of public health concern in recent years, and New Jersey has led numerous efforts to prompt further study of these tiny, ubiquitous particles. EPA is required to regularly publish two lists of unregulated contaminants pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act: the UCMR and the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL). The UCMR allows EPA to monitor the presence of 30 contaminants in public water systems by collecting data regarding their frequency and occurrence. The CCL identifies priority contaminants for further research and potential regulation, but does not require monitoring or data collection. In November 2025, then-Governor Phil Murphy led a petition, signed by six other governors, asking EPA to add microplastics to the forthcoming draft of the UCMR 6. In June 2026, Attorney General Davenport led a comment letter, joined by 14 other attorneys general, applauding EPA’s inclusion of microplastics on the draft CCL 6, and calling for EPA to include microplastics on the forthcoming draft of the UCMR 6. The draft UCMR 6 was published on July 1, 2026, and did not include microplastics.

The letter asks the EPA to reconsider its current proposal and include microplastics in the final version of the UCMR 6. The states call for strong federal action on this important issue to ensure that necessary frequency and occurrence information is collected, which will enable future research and regulatory efforts to adequately address the risks posed by microplastics to the environment and public health. If microplastics are not added to the UCMR, our understanding of them will be stymied by the lack of consistent nationwide definitions, analytical methodologies, and requirements for monitoring and data collection. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA must include a contaminant on the UCMR if requested by a petition of at least seven governors, unless EPA determines that doing so would prevent the listing of other contaminants of a higher public health concern. However, EPA did not determine that other contaminants present a higher public health concern when it published the UCMR 6 this summer without including microplastics.

Microplastics are tiny, often invisible particles less than 5 millimeters in diameter — even as tiny as 1 nanometer — composed of polymers and various chemical additives that were either originally part of a plastic product or were adsorbed from the surrounding environment. Research indicates microplastics are found throughout our environment including in our planet’s water, air, and land and because of the nature of the particles has the potential to affect human health. They have been found in all human organ systems, including the brain, and depending on their size and shape, can lead to cellular or tissue damage. In addition, microplastics can act as vectors for toxic chemicals to enter the human body, compounding exposure. Joining Attorney General Davenport in filing the comment letter are the attorneys general of Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Vermont, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

**GOVERNOR DELIVERS ALL FOUR PILLARS OF DATA CENTER PLAN, PUTS POWER BACK IN THE HANDS OF COMMUNITIES**

Last week, Governor Mikie Sherrill delivered on all four pillars of her comprehensive data center plan, signing legislation (S3379/A4096) to increase transparency around data centers’ energy and water use and announcing statewide guidance to help municipalities negotiate strong community benefits agreements (CBAs), as well as technical assistance from the EDA, DEP, and BPU for communities. These actions follow the signing of nation-leading legislation in July that requires data centers to bring their own clean energy and establishes a separate rate class for these developments to shield other ratepayers from shouldering the costs of data center energy demand.

This major milestone comes just three months after Governor Sherrill first announced her data center plan, giving communities across New Jersey the tools to hold data centers accountable while ensuring they can participate in and benefit from the AI innovation happening in the state. New Jersey has moved aggressively to put this comprehensive framework into action.

"At the beginning of this summer, I announced the most comprehensive data center plan in the nation to establish strong guardrails and hold data centers accountable. Just three months later, I am delivering on all four pillars of that plan — taking action so that towns across New Jersey know we have their backs," said Governor Sherrill. "I am laser focused on driving down costs and making sure our state is more affordable. When it comes to data centers, we're doing that by putting power back in the hands of communities and ensuring data centers play by our rules — paying their fair share for energy and contributing to the grid, being transparent about their energy and water usage, making meaningful investments in communities, and bringing good union jobs when they are building."

S3379/A4096 requires data center owners and operators to submit semiannual reports to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) detailing their water and energy use. The reports will provide greater transparency into data centers’ demands on the state’s energy and water resources, including total energy consumption, energy used for cooling and information technology equipment, peak daily water use, water sources, and on-site and backup power supplies.

The Governor also announced new statewide guidance from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on CBAs to give municipalities the tools to ensure they are in the strongest negotiating position with data center developers over proposed projects. This guidance was sent to municipalities on August 25, via a Local Finance Notice, and outlines how municipalities can leverage CBAs to help mitigate data center impacts, share in the economic benefits of these projects, and secure meaningful investments for their communities.

The guidance provides key considerations for evaluating impacts on local infrastructure and resources, assessing emergency response and infrastructure needs, and negotiating tangible community investments — from public infrastructure improvements and blight remediation to schools and workforce development programs. It also outlines state labor standards, including prevailing wage and project labor agreement requirements.

**HIGHLIGHTING \$6.2M STATE INVESTMENT IN ROWAN VET SCHOOL**



The Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine at Rowan University welcomes its second class of future veterinarians this fall, with about half of the students coming from New Jersey. The milestone comes as the state invests \$6.2 million in the school to help build New Jersey’s veterinary workforce. Sen. John Burzichelli, Asw. Heather Simmons and Asm. Dave Bailey Jr. joined members of the South Jersey legislative delegation at Rowan in August to present the state investment in New Jersey’s only veterinary school. “This is exactly the kind of investment that can pay dividends for generations,” said Sen. John Burzichelli. “We are giving New Jersey students another opportunity to pursue a professional career here at home while addressing a real need for veterinarians across our state. Having this school at Rowan University makes it even more impactful for South Jersey.” “Veterinary workforce shortages are a national challenge, and New Jersey is poised to be part of the solution,” said Asw. Heather Simmons. “Training more veterinarians here means strengthening the pipeline for the practices, farms, shelters and public health systems that depend on them, while giving more talented graduates a reason to build successful careers in New Jersey.” “I have heard time and again from families and farmers about how South Jersey needs more veterinarians,” said Assemblyman Dave Bailey, Jr. “The state is making sure the Shreiber School can continue training local students right here at Rowan University. This investment will have a positive impact on the region and throughout New Jersey.”

The Shreiber School is building a pipeline of practice-ready veterinarians while expanding clinical, research and public health capacity through its One Health approach and more than 70 clinical partners. The state’s newest investment in programming and operations recognizes veterinary medicine’s vital role in New Jersey’s public health, food and agricultural infrastructure. From protecting the food supply to addressing emerging diseases and antimicrobial resistance, veterinarians are increasingly essential to challenges that connect animal, human and environmental health. For more information, contact the legislative offices of Burzichelli, Simmons and Bailey at 856-226-3530 or ld3nj.com.

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
VEGETATION CONTROL  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

In compliance to Section 9.10 & 9.15 of the New Jersey Pesticide Control code (N.J.A.C. Title 7, Chapter 30) the Gloucester County Public Works will be applying herbicides for the control of Roadside Vegetation on an area-wide basis as needed, throughout Gloucester County during the period of April 4, 2026 to September 30, 2026. Township residents can request a packet of information from their Mayor’s Office regarding a state approved “Questions and Answers” sheet and proposed individual pesticides used throughout Gloucester County, which explains everything you need to know about our program, important phone numbers and your health and well being.

The herbicides to be used in the Roadside Vegetation program will be **Roundup PRO®** (Active ingredient – Glyphosate), **Trimec®922** (Active ingredient – 2,4-D, dimethylamine salt, Dimethylamine Dicamba and MCPP-p Dimethylamine Salt.) and **EsplAnade EZ®** (Active ingredient – Indaziflam, Diquat dibromide, and Glyphosate isopropylamine salt. All herbicides will be applied by low pressure truck mounted sprayer or hand-held sprayer.

In case of any pesticide emergency, please contact The New Jersey Poison Information and Educational System @ 1-800-222-1222 for routine pesticide related health inquiries.

Upon request the GCPW shall provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application, except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessities pesticide applications sooner than that time.

Updated information on the time and location of herbicide applications can be found and reviewed @ <http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/p/pw/highway/mosdiv/msl.asp>. For those seeking further information please contact Wayne J. Wurtz, Jr., General Supervisor, NJCPA license number 69093A at The Gloucester County Public Works/Mosquito Control Division @ 1-856-307-6400, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, except on holidays.

**For information on pesticide regulations, pesticide complaints and health referrals, contact the New Jersey Pesticide Control Program @ 1-609-984-6568.**

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN HEATHER SIMMONS NAMED 2026 ELECTED WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT**

Assemblywoman Heather Simmons (D-Gloucester) has been named as a 2026 Elected Woman of Excellence Award recipient by the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), recognizing her commitment to public service and the South Jersey communities she represents.

Simmons represents New Jersey’s Third Legislative District in Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties, and has spent 15 years in elected office. Before joining the General Assembly, she served 12 years as a Gloucester County Commissioner, where she focused on fiscal responsibility, economic development and creating opportunities for local businesses and families.

Last week, her legislative work continues to center on the issues she hears about most from residents: affordability, healthcare, workforce development, education and economic opportunity.

Among her signature accomplishments has been championing New Jersey’s comprehensive menopause insurance coverage law, the first in the nation to require insurance coverage for a broad range of menopause-related services and treatments. She is now working to establish a Menopause Center of Excellence in New Jersey to help close longstanding gaps in menopause research, data, provider education and access to evidence-based care.

“I’m honored to receive this recognition, but what means the most to me is knowing that the work we’re doing is making a difference for the people we represent,” said Simmons. “I’ve always believed that public service is about showing up, listening, and then doing something about the problems people are facing.”

Simmons said she is especially proud to be recognized alongside women legislators from across the country. “There are so many women in public service who are doing important work in their communities, often without much recognition,” Simmons said. “I’m grateful to be included among them, and I’m proud to bring the voice and perspective of South Jersey to Trenton and beyond.”

The Elected Woman of Excellence Award recipients will be recognized at NFWL’s 2026 Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in November. Founded in 1938, NFWL is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to providing women legislators with opportunities for leadership development, education and collaboration.



**GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION EXPANDING EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP IN NJ**

Governor Mikie Sherrill on Friday, September 4th, signed legislation enhancing state resources for small businesses transitioning to employee ownership models, easing access to a proven wealth-building engine for firms and workers. The legislation equips the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) with a range of tools to establish the Employee Ownership Transition Program, which will include reimbursements for feasibility studies, consultative services, outreach, and the establishment of a revolving loan fund to directly finance employee ownership conversions. “Helping businesses stay rooted in New Jersey is vital to protecting thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in investment,” said Governor Sherrill. “Investment in proven business succession strategies like employee ownership will protect jobs and maintain the vibrancy of our communities, and with the NJEDA’s Employee Ownership Transition Program, small business owners across the state will have the resources needed to responsibly plan for the future.”

Employee ownership plans are successful nationwide and around the state, creating and sustaining wealth for employee owners. New Jersey is home to nearly 90 ESOPs, with nearly \$65 billion in plan assets covering over 423,000 current employees and retirees and an average stock account for eligible current employees of nearly \$190,000.

The legislation signed today, S4218/A5016, expands the NJEDA’s existing efforts in supporting transitions to employee ownership through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) Assistance Program. The bill enables the Authority to:

- Provide financial assistance to defray the costs of employee ownership feasibility study services;
- Offer consultative services to participating businesses that have elected to transition to an employee ownership model;
- Administer loan financing and other financial tools through a newly-established Employee Ownership Revolving Loan Fund, the first such fund in the nation to directly finance employee ownership formation;
- Publish information and resources about employee ownership models for employees and employers on the NJEDA website;
- Conduct outreach to businesses, in partnership with educational institutions, on the advantages and implementation of employee ownership models;
- Furnish education, outreach, and early-stage technical assistance on employee ownership models, enabling businesses to proactively incorporate employee ownership models into growth and succession planning.

**SIMPLE SNAKE PREVENTION TIPS**

(Feature Impact) Summer is peak snake season, so if you've recently gotten jump-scared while gardening or walking up your porch steps, you're not alone. Typically, snakes aren't slithering around looking for someone to bite - they're often searching for food, water and shelter, and the vast majority (97% in the U.S.) aren't venomous. Even if the risks of any real danger are low, though, you probably have no desire to share your shelter or yard with any slithering housemates. Check out these snake prevention tips to reduce the possibility of unwanted reptilian encounters on your property.

Tidy Up Your Yard - If there's one thing snakes love, it's overgrown vegetation. Tall grass, piles of leaves and unkempt landscaping offer cool, sheltered hiding places for snakes and other pests. By keeping your lawn mowed, shrubs trimmed and garden weeded, you immediately make your yard less attractive to snakes and other pests.

Seal Exterior Cracks and Gaps - Seeing a snake outside your home is one thing but inside is a whole new level of startling. Conduct a thorough inspection of your house's foundation to look for holes or cracks where uninvited guests may be able to infiltrate. Batten down the hatches by sealing these up and installing sturdy mesh over other openings like vents and crawl spaces.

Control Rodent Populations - Households with a mice or rat problem are also susceptible to predators that like to eat rodents. Addressing the first issue removes a major food source for snakes around your property and makes them less likely to hang around.

Don't Leave Food Around - Speaking of food sources, if you have bird feeders or have other animals you feed outdoors, store your supplies in sealed containers. When you host outdoor gatherings, clean up promptly so crumbs and spills don't attract insects and rodents (and in turn, snakes). Promptly gather any fallen fruit from trees on your property as well.

Practice Snake Safety - It never hurts to exercise a little extra caution when you're spending time in places where you might encounter snakes. Stay alert when pulling equipment out of sheds, going elbow-deep in garden weeds, walking around in the dark or moving piles of wood, rocks or debris. Educate family members, especially kids, on what to do if they see a snake: stay calm, don't provoke it, give it space and tell someone.

If you're experiencing recurring snake sightings or issues on your property, it might be worth calling a professional. A wildlife removal or pest control specialist can look around your home and give you more specialized guidance on how to keep your spaces safe and snake-free.

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

In compliance to Section 9.10 & 9.15 of the New Jersey Pesticide Control code (N.J.A.C. Title 7, Chapter 30) the Gloucester County Public Works, Mosquito Control Division (MCD) will be applying pesticides for the control and reduction of adult populations on an area-wide basis as needed, throughout Gloucester County during the period of April 26, 2026 to October 31, 2026. Township residents can request a packet of information from their Mayor’s Office regarding a state approved “Questions and Answers” sheet and proposed individual pesticides used throughout Gloucester County, which explains everything you need to know about our program, important phone numbers and your health and well being.

The pesticides to be used in these programs will be **Fyfanon ULV®**-(Malathion), **Duet Dual Action Adulicide®**-( Prallethrin-Sumithrin), **Zenivex® E4 RTU** – (Etofenprox), **DeltAGard®**-(Deltamethrin), **PermaSease® 4-4** – (Permethrin and Piperonyl Butoxide), **Anvil 2+2®**– (3-Phenoxybenzyl-(1RS, 3RS; 1RS, 3RS)-2,2-dimethyl-3-(2-methylprop-1-enyl) cyclopropanecarboxylate), **PermaSease® 3-15** – (3-Phenoxyphenyl) methyl (+/-) cis, trans-3-(2,2-dichlorethenyl)-2,2-dimethyl cyclopropanecarboxylate and **Merus 3.0** – ( Pyrethrins). All chemicals will be applied by truck, aircraft or hand held Ultra Low volume spraying equipment for adult mosquito control.

In case of any pesticide emergency, please contact The New Jersey Poison Information and Educational System @ 1-800-222-1222 for routine pesticide related health inquiries.

Upon request the MCD shall provide a resident with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application, except for Quarantine and Disease Vector Control only, when conditions necessities pesticide applications sooner than that time.

Updated information on the time and location of adulicide applications can be found and reviewed @ <http://www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/p/pw/highway/mosdiv/msl.asp>. For those seeking further information please contact Wayne J. Wurtz, Jr., General Supervisor, NJCPA license number 69093A at The Gloucester County Public Works/Mosquito Control Division @ 1-856-307-6400, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, except on holidays.

**For information on pesticide regulations, pesticide complaints and health referrals, contact the New Jersey Pesticide Control Program @ 1-609-984-6568.**