

GloucesterTownshipPatch

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From the Mayor's Desk

By [David Mayer](#) [Email the author](#) August 26, 2011

[Opinion](#)

Mayer Touts Green Movement

The township is moving to improve energy efficiency.

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Since becoming Mayor last year, I have worked hard in developing an Energy Master Plan for our community. Instead of looking at energy issues individually, we have assembled a plan that will not only meet the energy needs of the municipality but also save taxpayers money, and in some instances, make revenue for our township.

Our Gloucester Township Energy Master Plan consists of solar projects, energy audits, energy purchase consortiums and recycling initiatives. By looking at these projects in one plan, we are better able to coordinate and implement ideas that will help our environment and make sense from a financial perspective for the township.

Our Solar initiative is currently underway, as we have already placed solar panels on the municipal hall and are working to bring a solar field to an abandoned Owens Corning landfill on Somerdale Road. We aren't stopping there. We have partnered with both the Gloucester Township School District and the Black Horse Pike Regional School District in one of the largest solar shared services agreements in New Jersey. This shared services agreement will allow our schools and some additional municipally owned buildings to have solar panels installed that will dramatically reduce energy costs for our township and school districts.

We are currently in the process of conducting energy audits of seven municipally owned buildings and have again partnered with the Black Horse Pike Regional School District to thoroughly review schools and buildings for energy efficiency upgrades. This program will also allow for greater savings as we use less energy and increase efficiency in our buildings.

We have also entered into a purchasing consortium with the County of Camden that will allow us to purchase energy from a third party supplier. This "aggregation" will result in a reduction of the price we pay for electricity.

And lastly, we are implementing single stream recycling that will reduce the amount of trash we produce and increase our recycling revenue. In November, the township will be delivering to every residence a new recycling canister which will be larger than the current yellow bins and will hold plastics, glass, paper and cardboard all in one. This recycling program will be fully automated with new one-manned trucks with an automated mechanical arm that will lift the canister. We are also excited about our partnership with the American Cancer Society as we will be promoting Breast Cancer awareness on our recycling canisters. This program will reduce the amount we currently pay for trash disposal and will increase the revenue we receive from recycling.

Through very diligent work by our Green Team, the township will also be certified by the state as a Sustainable New Jersey community. This recognition will be received because of the many green initiatives spearheaded by our Green Team including the establishment of our first community garden, making Gloucester Township Day a Green Fair, establishing electronic and appliance recycling programs and coordinating the Mayors Wellness Campaign to name a few.

Please follow our progress on the townships website at www.glotwp.com. Information about our Green Team and Sustainable Gloucester Township can also be found there. Let's all help Gloucester Township go Green!



Gloucester Township

Spring/Summer 2010

Energy Initiatives to Help Save on Expenses

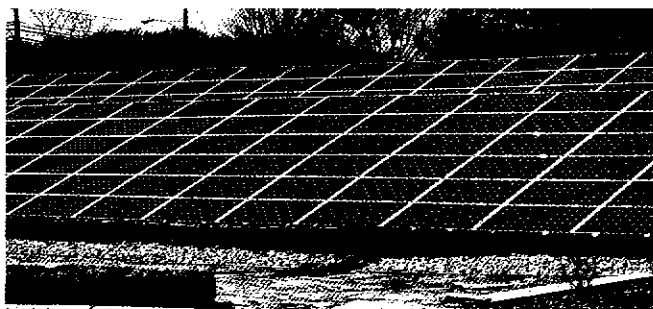
Gloucester Township is in the process of implementing a town-wide Energy Master Plan.

Mayor David Mayer announced that the Township will be reviewing all government-owned buildings and land in an effort to maximize utility savings as well as the potential of developing revenue for alternative energy.

This plan will include an energy audit as well as the installation of solar panels on the Municipal Hall this summer.

Under a federal grant, the Township will also install LED lights in all of our traffic signals and renovate the HVAC system to provide remote climate control.

The Township Housing Authority has also taken the solar initiative with the installation of several solar panels (pictured below) to serve the new Senior Housing project at Lakeland.



Financial Changes Coming: Township Going Back to Calendar Year Budget

The Township will be going to a calendar year Budget starting January 2011, replacing the Fiscal Budget that has existed for many years. The Fiscal Year Budget procedures have proven to be more expensive and impractical and Mayor David Mayer has recommended the change to a Calendar Year Budget.

The Mayor notes that sending several tax bills each year is sometimes confusing and expensive and the Budget time conflicts with other procedures such as labor contracts. Going to a Calendar Year Budget will help streamline Township finances and save money.

The Township is required to follow State mandated procedures for conversion. First, a Transition (6-month Budget) is created for end of 2010. This will include a tax bill in July for the August payment, and then a bill in October which will have the November quarter payment as well as the First and Second quarter payments for 2011.

State procedures for Fiscal Year towns have created extra billings over the past two years. The first half of 2010 also had two bills, one in January, and the other was recently sent in early April. Once the Township completes the transition, only one bill will be sent each July.

Chief Ed Smith Retires;

Harry Earle becomes New Police Chief

Chief Ed Smith has retired after 32 years on the Township Police force, the last 4 as Chief. He was praised by Mayor and Council at the transition ceremony held in early March.

Deputy Chief Harry Earle has been promoted to Chief of Police by the Mayor and assumed responsibility for the 110-member police force. Chief Earle is a lifelong resident of the township, a product of the local school system, and has been with the force for 21 years.

United States
Census
2010

HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTED?



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Make a difference in your community. Help Gloucester Twp. get what it needs for the next 10 years. Please fill out your 2010 US Census Form. We can move forward when you send it back.

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A Message from David Mayer



As I enter my second year as your Mayor, I am committed to continue the effort we started to bring financial stability and economic vitality to Gloucester Township. Over the past year, we stabilized the financial condition of the township by moving our township budget from a calendar year budget to a fiscal year budget and introduced two budgets that held the line on municipal taxes. We reduced administrative overhead and improved the quality of life for all our residents.

We did this while at the same time improving utility efficiencies and developing an Energy Master Plan which will include solar initiatives, energy aggregation and initializing sustainable community initiatives like the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, and the soon to be announced single stream recycling program.

We initiated shared services that included a trash collection initiative with three other municipalities that resulted in a savings of over \$640,000. We continue to pursue these initiatives, and recently announced a trash disposal plan that will save even more taxpayer money.

We also updated the township's website, bringing residents a more user friendly and information packed venue. And we initiated GT Citizens Access that provides residents the ability to view council meetings LIVE on-line through live streaming and the ability to e-mail questions for Council from the convenience of their homes.

We must continue our efforts to bring new businesses into Gloucester Township like the Hit Doctor Sports Complex which is to be located on Erial-Williamstown Road, and will continue to work to improve the quality of life for all our residents through collaboration with our police, code enforcement, public works and community development departments. I thank you for the privilege of serving you as Mayor and welcome any suggestions on improving our community.

Sincerely,
David Mayer

ATTENTION DOG AND CAT OWNERS

Please take notice that the Township Clerk's Office is issuing new and renewal dog and cat licenses for 2011. Please note that any dog or cat license renewed after March 31, 2011 will incur a \$15.00 late fee per dog or cat. Any new dog or cat license will not be issued a late fee. The Clerk's Office will need to see a copy of an updated rabies certificate. You may obtain your dog or cat license in person or by mail.

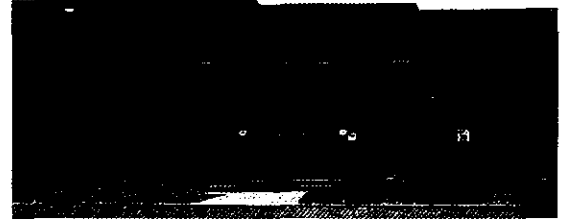
For Mail-ins: Township of Gloucester - Dog Licensing
PO Box 8
Blackwood, NJ 08012

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your check made payable to : Township of Gloucester

Fee: Spayed or Neutered	\$21.00
Non-Spayed or Non-Neutered	\$24.00

(Please add a \$15.00 late fee to the above fees when renewing after March 31st.)

Hours for licensing are Monday - Thursday 8am -5pm.



COUNCIL TOWN MEETINGS

The Gloucester Twp. Council will be having local town meetings throughout the Twp in 2011. This will be in addition to their regularly scheduled meetings. These meetings will be informal & will let the residents know about local government happenings. Below is a schedule of the meeting dates and locations for 2011:

May 18, 2011

Chews Fire Hall

October 19, 2011

Pt. Ariel Park

The meetings will be held at 7:00pm. For more information, contact the Township Clerk's Office.

COMMUNITY IMPACT COUNCIL

April 20 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm The Community Impact Council will have a guest speaker, Regina Kulola, from NJ Watershed Ambassador Program Rutgers Cooperative Extension, which proves to be a very interesting program.

May (Dates to be announced) The CIC will be planting around the Township.

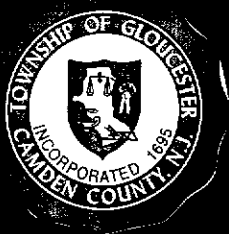
June 11 & 12 The CIC will be participating in the Relay for Life. Volunteers are needed for all activities planned and activities still on the board for discussion.

PROPERTY TAX NEWS

The Twp mailed out nearly 9,000 revised tax bills for the May quarter to residents who were eligible for the 2009 Homestead Benefit program. This program was the Homestead Rebate Program that was suspended by the State last year. The 2009 program was reinstated as a credit on the May tax bills for those who qualified and applied (dialed in application) last October. Most credits were about \$300 (2008 amounts were near \$1200). The amounts were set by the State and electronically transferred to the Twp. No further credits have been set for the 2010 program and are subject to the State Budget.

The next tax bills will be coming out in July & will contain August & Nov 2011 payments, as well as Feb & May 2012 quarters. The Twp is back on a Calendar Year Budget system which allows for one billing for the year - saving money over 2010's 4-billing system. It is also expected that the tax rate will show little increase this year, as the Township's Budget has no increase and the 2 school systems have proposed Budgets with very little increase.

The Property Tax Reimbursement (PTR) booklets have been out since late February to qualified Seniors and Disabled Persons. The light-blue booklets need to be filled out with the applicant's income information and taxes paid information (form needs to be certified by Tax Office). Last year, the State approved reimbursements to what people received in 2009 and no new applications were entered for 2010. This year there has been no indication from the State whether anyone will receive anything at this time. PLEASE STAY TUNED...



Gloucester Township

Township's ZERO Budget Increase Helps Stabilize New Tax Bills

Mayor David Mayer's first calendar year Budget, adopted by Council in June, contained a zero tax increase and shows as a tax rate decrease (from the transition year rate last year) on the new tax bills that were sent out in late July.

Tax bills were delayed nearly a month for all towns as the State did not release its Aid information that is required to be placed on the tax bills. This delay led to a payment extension of the third quarter payments until Aug. 23.

The local municipal rate was reduced from .867 to .824 and helped offset some of the increases from the other taxing districts. The result was a net increase in the tax rate of about .05, or about \$100 annually on a \$200,000 home.

This is also the first year that only one tax bill will be sent. Mayor Mayer initiated a conversion from fiscal year to calendar year budgeting last year to save money and streamline finances. Having one bill (with 4 payments on it) saves tax dollars from previous years' 3 billings.

Also, all tax billing information is available online at the Township's website. Property owners are encouraged to pay their taxes online.



GTPD's Newest K9s

Ptl. Chris Gerace with his K9 Arrow & Cpl. Mark Pickard with his K9 Max.

Single Stream Recycling Coming Soon and will Help GT Save Money on Disposal Fees PLUS Increase Grant Revenue



The Township is taking its next step to "Aim for Zero Waste" by beginning the Single Stream, or Zero Sort, recycling program.

In a joint program between Mayor and Council and the GTMUA, all residents and businesses will now be increasing their recycling from just cans, bottles, and newspapers to include more plastic bottles, junk mail, cardboard and paperboard, jar lids, paper towel rolls and more. All will be placed in the same container.

All of this will be placed in a new, larger recycle container similar to the one shown above that will be provided by the Township. The Township is partnering with the American Cancer Society and Breast Cancer Awareness and the new containers will be pink at the top with the BCA ribbon. The containers will be paid for by the increased Grants revenue from the additional recycling. Containers will be distributed to each residence by the end of the year.

In addition to the increased recycle grant money, the Twp. will be saving significant dollars on trash disposal fees.

The containers are made so that they will be efficiently emptied mechanically by a single-manned GTMUA truck. The recycled items will be sorted by the recycling disposal company.

Energy Management Plan Moving Forward

Mayor David Mayer and Council are reviewing the details for the "solar farm" that is planned for the old Owens Coming property on Somerdale Road. This will allow for solar panels to create electricity for nearby schools and other government properties.

The excess power will be sold to the electric company. The solar farm will be managed and operated by a private firm at no cost the taxpayers via a power purchase agreement.

The Township also has the solar panels operational at the Municipal Building, with the savings shown on a monitor in the lobby. Additional projects include partnering with the two school districts to add solar to their facilities.

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MAYOR'S CORNER

Fall will soon be upon us and I would like to update you on some of our Township initiatives over the last six months. A special thanks to our Police Dept. who anchored our annual National Night Out event.

Our Police Department has expanded its community relations division to educate our children with a great DARE program in the schools' fifth grade classes - and now starting this Fall in the seventh grade - as well as increasing communications with residents using technology with our instant notification program. We are now able to issue immediate bulletins, updates, and alerts through the mass notification system. Please sign up for Global Connect on the Township website.

I am most pleased that our Budget for calendar year 2011 came in with a ZERO tax increase. This was the culmination of hard work from all of our staff members and Council. We were able to agree on fair and reasonable labor contracts, plus implement other cost saving programs.

We have several shared services agreements in place, with our schools and with other districts. We have partnered with Cherry Hill to save on trash collection and we are working with nine towns to save even more on trash disposal.

We are working with our schools to implement our Energy Management Plan and save money on utilities through solar power. We are also working with the GTMUA to expand our recycling to zero sort, or single stream recycling. This will allow for more items to be recycled in an easier manner and reduce our trash disposal costs. Increased recycling also means increased tonnage grants. This is all part of our Sustainable Gloucester Township commitment!

Our website has become very productive and interactive with many forms and contacts available online. Our Council meeting information is available, as well as our meetings are live-streamed. We now have our property tax information updated regularly so you can pay your taxes directly online.

We have quite a bit of information shown throughout this newsletter, which we hope will keep you connected with what is happening in Gloucester Twp. Please feel free to contact my office with any issues or my future Community Chat dates and locations.

Sincerely,
David Mayer



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October 19, 2011

Point Ariel Park

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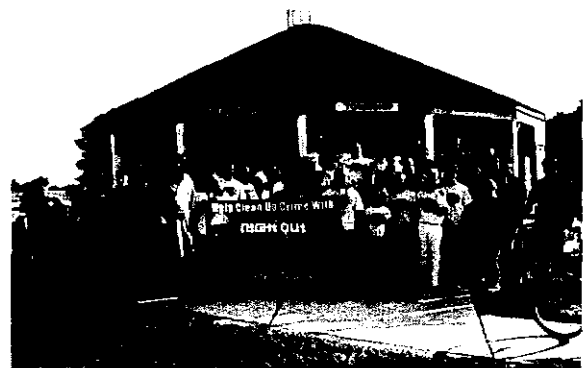
SEPTEMBER 11TH DEDICATION



In memory of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, Gloucester Township will be dedicating a portion of a beam that was retrieved from the World Trade Center on Sunday, September 11th, 2011 at 8:15 AM at the Chews Landing Fire Department Fireman's Commons located on the corner of Chews Landing and Somerdale Roads.

This event is open to the public. Please join the Chews Landing Fire Department, Mayor David Mayer, Township Council, the Gloucester Township Police Department, Gloucester Township EMS and the other Fire Districts of Blackwood, Blenheim, Erial, Glendora and Lambs Terrace in this memorial event.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2011



Thank you to all participants in our National Night Out event. Once again it was a great success.