

G L A S S B O R O

*A brief update on
events and information
relating to Glassboro
residents and business owners*

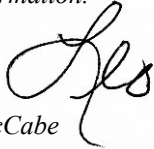
Briefs

Spring 2006

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

There are a lot of exciting things going on in Glassboro over the next few months. This edition of Borough Briefs will provide you with information about special events and programs. Please take the time to review the information.

Sincerely,



Mayor, Leo McCabe



Glassboro's Public Library Celebrates 50 Years of Service

On April 2, 2006, the Glassboro Public Library, a branch of the Gloucester County Library System, held an open house to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

The event was held from 2-4 pm and included musical performances by students from Glassboro High School, and facepainting for children. In addition, children's craft projects were offered by members of Rowan University's Elementary Education Club. A brief ceremony took place at 2:30pm. Assemblyman Dave Mayer presented a proclamation from the State Assembly. Council member Ingres Simpson, liaison to the library, presented a proclamation from the Mayor and Council. Proclamations were also received from the Board of Chosen Freeholders.



Branch Manager, Carol Wolf accepts a proclamation from Assemblyman Dave Mayer during the Library's 50th Anniversary celebration

In 1956, the Glassboro Women's Club established the Glassboro Public Library with \$2,000 seed money from the borough. Mrs. William Shaw, president of the club, was a leader in this effort. It was originally located in the borough's Public Works Building on South Main Street. The first president of the Glassboro Library Association was Frank Jones and the first librarian was William J. LeKernice.

In 1963, the First National Bank of Glassboro, donated \$16,000 for mortgage payments and the library moved to the corner of High and Center streets (now the Glass Museum). Then, in 1979 the library moved to its present location at 2 Center Street.

In 1996 the Glassboro Library became a branch of the Gloucester County Library System and was refurbished by the borough. Over the last ten years, the Glassboro Public Library Branch has emerged under its manager, Carol Wolf, as the second busiest branch of the system, after Mullica Hill. It circulates approximately 100,000 volumes each year.

The Glassboro library houses over 53,000 books, videos, CDs and other items. In addition, the library provides children's programs, Internet access, and a meeting room available to community organizations. For more information, contact Carol Wolf, Branch Manager at the Glassboro Public Library, 856-881-0001 or Bob Wetherall, Director of GCLS, 856-223-6010

In This Edition:

Glassboro Civic Intern Program

\$ Available for Housing Rehabilitation Projects

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Train Station Update

Main Street Newsletter Includes:

Annual Memorial Day Parade

Arts in May

May 6, 2006 visit Downtown Glassboro for an "Evening of Galleries" celebrating Glassboro's Arts in May

Presented by SJ Gas, Glassboro Arts Alliance and Main Street Glassboro

Reminder:**Organ Donation**

At the October 11, 2005 Council Meeting, Mayor Leo McCabe, by resolution, agreed that the Borough of Glassboro would sign onto a program called Workplace Partnership for Life. This program endorses an organ and tissue donation program being promoted by a former Glassboro resident and prosecutor, Andy Weber.

Glassboro is the first municipality in Gloucester County to sign on to this program that is also being endorsed by the NJ Conference of Mayors.

Messages about organ and tissue donation will be promoted on paychecks and hanging posters. Scheduled special events will also be held to spread the word around town.

Weber, a donor recipient, is thankful to have the opportunity to share this program with our community and hopes to spread awareness about the importance of organ donations.

Civic Intern Program

Each summer, 14-15 year old Glassboro residents are offered the opportunity to learn more about the Borough, while earning a \$160 stipend, through a three-week internship program sponsored by Mayor and Council.

Interested students are asked to submit a one page essay about themselves, telling why they want to be in this program. The essays are reviewed and approximately 10-12 students are chosen.

Applications for the program will be available at Glassboro High School, Glassboro Intermediate School and Borough Hall. Deadline for application is June 5, 2006. The student interns will work from July 12 - July 27.

Glassboro is Ready to Go Cyber

With a \$750,000 United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) grant, Glassboro has created the first and only fiber optic network ring in Gloucester County.

The project was completed in February and provides the municipality, Rowan University, the local school board and the private investor at NCO access to unlimited high speed inter and intranet opportunities.

Rowan and the local BOE are connected to the system, the municipality will be connected by the summer. NCO, a local telemarketing firm located at the Alvin Shpeen Building on Academy Street is also using the system successfully.

Currently the Borough, with the help of the consulting firm, Damiano & Long, is working to secure a service provider to maintain and manage the system and develop a plan for local businesses to connect to the system.

Glassboro Council President, Tony Fiola states, "The new Cyber district not only allows the Borough to offer state of the art fiber optics to its current businesses, but also provides an incentive to companies that want to utilize the highest quality of fiber optic services to relocate in Glassboro."

The Borough is accepting RFPs from any interested service providers and would like to hear from any businesses that are interested in connecting to this high speed fiber network. For more information contact the Glassboro Economic Development office at 856-881-9230 x.321.

Glassboro's Painter's Union Lends a Helping Hand to the Community Revitalization

In May, Glassboro will become the new home of the South Jersey Museum of American History. They will be located at the Historic American Legion Building at 123 East High Street.

In a coordinated effort between a local businesswoman, Theresa DiVietro the owner of Innovasion, a new store on East High Street in Glassboro and the Main Street Glassboro office, the Local Painter's Union was called upon to help paint the interior of the building.

In just one week, the eight painters from Local Painter's District Council 711 primed and painted the entire first floor of the American Legion Building. The paint was donated by DiVietro and the Finnaren & Haley store in Turnersville discounted the cost of the paint to contribute to the effort.

DiVietro states: "We have a special event scheduled for May and we wanted the Museum to be opened for the event. It was up to us to get this done in a timely fashion in order to meet our deadline and we did it by working together and making an investment in the community."

The Local Painter's District Council 711 is located at 14 East High Street in Glassboro. They continually help the town with projects and support special events like the annual Main Street Glassboro Unity Day Festival.

DiVietro adds: "It is so nice to have business friendly neighbors who appreciate the amount of work that is going into the revitalization of Glassboro's downtown. The volunteer painting crew was very easy to work with and they did an outstanding, professional job."



The following members of Local Painter's District Council 711, volunteered their time to help paint Glassboro's Historic American Legion Building. Pictured from left to right: Local District Organizer Ed McDonald, Costantino Kantankis, James Lecato, Sal Marianna, James Bozzelli, Arnold McComet, Fred Jerdan, Carl Centinaro and Vincent Mazzamuto.

Glassboro Introduces Two New Housing Rehab Programs

The Borough is proud to announce that we have two new rehabilitation grant programs for eligible, low to moderate-income homeowners.

With the help of a Regional Contribution Agreement (RCA) between the Borough and Medford, Glassboro is receiving funding to assist with one of the programs.

According to Councilman George Cossabone, "The grant will help approximately 17 - 20 eligible homeowners who otherwise could not afford to make the necessary repairs to their home by providing up to \$20,000 in funding."

With the RCA funding, at least \$10,000 must be used for a major system repair, like a new roof, windows, siding, heating system, etc. The rest of the money can be used for other health and safety repairs to bring the residence within Borough code.

The Glassboro RCA grant is being coordinated through the Glassboro Economic Development (GED) office and managed by the consulting firm, Triad and Associates.

Glassboro's Council President, Tony Fiola states, "We are very fortunate to be able to secure this funding. Over the years, our Neighborhood Preservation Program has helped more than 15 homeowners improve their quality of living. Now we can do the same for more people in additional areas of town."

Glassboro's Economic Development office is also able to provide additional funding to approximately 15 low to moderate income homeowners with a local COAH grant funding program. The Glassboro COAH, Council on Affordable Housing, program accumulates funds generated through a percentage of new development permitting fees. It is set up as a revolving program, where homeowners apply for the funding for health and safety repairs and in the future, if there is a sale of the property, the loan is paid back to the borough to replenish the account.

Glassboro residents interested in applying for either the RCA or COAH program can obtain an application at the GED Office located at 10 Poplar Street. When filling out the application, homeowners are asked to provide the following documentation: proof of income, residency and insurance. After the application is received, it is reviewed and eligibility will be determined.

Homeowners should understand that both the RCA and COAH program are "loan" programs and a lien is placed on the property for the entire time of the loan. The lien does not interfere with other financing opportunities, it just helps the office monitor the sale of the property to insure the account is reimbursed.

In addition to the two new rehabilitation programs, the GED office is working to put together a first time home buyers loan program to help low and moderate income families afford a down payment to purchase their first home.

Fiola adds, "It is very important to try to make Glassboro a great community for homeowners as well as for businesses. The improvement of our neighborhoods is just as important as the revitalization of our downtown business area."

If you are interested in any of the new GED loan programs, contact Randi Woerner at 856-882-9230 x321, for more information.

GLASSBORO Briefs

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

2006 Trash & Recycling Holiday Schedule

Public notices about trash removal will appear in the Gloucester County Times or you can find more information on our website at www.glassboroonline.com or call 881-8422. Please note throughout the year there is no residential trash pick up on Mondays.

MEMORIAL DAY - Mon., May 29

No Mon. recycling collection to be collected throughout the week.

NOTE: Trash collection begins at 6am until Labor Day. Highway hours 6am-2pm.

INDEPENDENCE DAY - Tues., July 4

Trash and recycling will be collected on Mon. July 3.

LABOR DAY - Mon., Sept 4

No Mon. recycling collection to be collected throughout the week.

NOTE: Trash collection begins at 7am until Memorial Day. Highway hours 7am-3pm.

COLUMBUS DAY - Sat., Oct. 9

No Mon. Recycling collection to be collected throughout the week.

ELECTION DAY - Tues., Nov. 7

Normal trash collection.

VETERANS DAY - Fri., Nov. 10

Trash and recyclables to be collected Mon., Nov. 13.

THANKSGIVING - Thurs., Nov. 23

Trash and recyclables to be collected Fri. Nov. 24. Fri., Nov. 24 Trash and recyclables to be collected Mon. Nov. 27

CHRISTMAS - Mon., Dec. 25

No Mon. Recycling collection to be collected throughout the week.

NEW YEARS DAY 2007 - Mon., Jan. 1,

2007 - No Mon. recycling collection to be collected throughout the week.

Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries

The Glassboro Fire Department and the Bureau of Fire Prevention would like to remind all residents that their batteries in their smoke detectors should be changed every six months. Also a little known fact that smoke detectors have an average life span of 10 years. If your units are close to this life span, it is recommended that they be replaced.

Springtime is upon us and everyone will be working on landscaping their yards. If you are adding mulch around your home, remember to keep it moist. There have been numerous instances where mulch has been ignited by discarded cigarettes or by spontaneous combustion. Most of these fires go undetected for a period of time, and can cut off escape routes should it extend to the structure.

Glassboro Moves Forward With Its Plans to Renovate the Historic West Jersey Train Station

So, there is a new sign on the property at the historic West Jersey Depot on the corner of Oakwood and Whitney Avenue, but the building still looks the same?

To update everyone, the Borough, with the help of the Glassboro Historic Commission, received two grants to help purchase and renovate the building. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) awarded the Borough a \$230,000 grant to use for the purchase of the building and renovations. But, before any construction/renovations are started, the municipality needs to know if the building is structurally sound and if so what can be done with the building to achieve a functional end result.

So, the Borough secured another grant through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) to conduct the design phase of the project.

The Borough awarded the Design Phase contract to the architectural firm DPK & A. They are currently in the process of evaluating the structural condition of the building, surveying the property, and talking to several members of the community to find out what the community would like to see happen at the site.

According to Councilman George Cossabone, "The Design Phase allows us to think outside the box about ways we can utilize the train station site in the future, and also assures that the site becomes a place of destination in Glassboro."

DPK & A is in the process of collecting the history surrounding the West Jersey Depot site as well as several other rail lines that ran through Glassboro. The design phase will continue for the next several months and when it is complete, the



The West Jersey Station today.

municipality along with the Glassboro Historic Commission and Rowan University will present the findings and a plan for the building to the public.

Cossabone adds, "We are very excited about the possibilities surrounding the renovations of the West Jersey Depot. We are proud we can now save this historic structure and bring it back to the community as a valued asset."

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