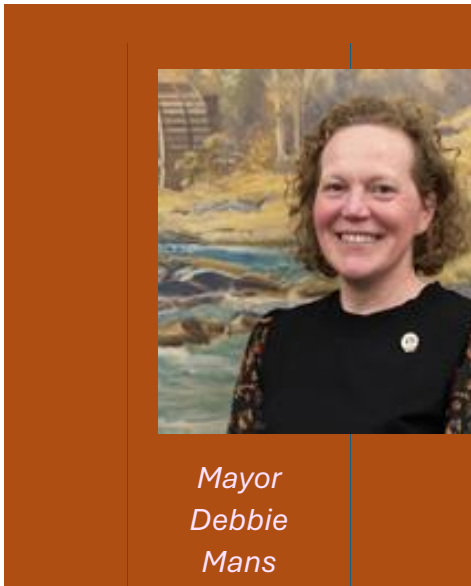




BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE NEWSLETTER

November 2024



*Mayor
Debbie
Mans*

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings,

Welcome to our second Borough newsletter! The focus of this newsletter is safety, which is especially important this time of year as kids return back to school and we begin to lose daylight making it harder to see pedestrians, joggers, and bikers.

Community members have identified pedestrian safety and vehicular circulation as a top priority for improvement within Glen Ridge. As your Mayor, I have been working with the Council, Police Department, Board of Education, and Borough staff to plan and implement pedestrian safety improvements and increase educational communications to drivers.

We are pleased to provide a comprehensive update to our residents on this work through our recently released "Borough of Glen Ridge 2024 Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Report." The [Report](#) can be found on the Borough's [website](#). From orange pylons along Ridgewood Avenue to new

stop signs on Hillside and Highland Avenues to the establishment of a Traffic Officer position within our Police Department, learn about how we use data to assess high-risk areas and work with experts to implement traffic improvements.

Please remember safety is a shared responsibility. Everyone – drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and the Borough – shares responsibility for road safety.

- Mayor Debbie Mans

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The Office of the Municipal Clerk

The State of New Jersey implemented a plan for Early In-person voting in 2023 in order to better accommodate the voting population.

Essex County provides several locations throughout the County where residents can vote prior to Election Day.

2024 General Election - Early Voting Locations

Please be advised that Early Voting for 2024 General Election will take place from October 26 to November 3, 2024. Voting Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Early Voting Locations are as follows:

<p>BLOOMFIELD WATSESSING PARK COMMUNITY CENTER BLOOMFIELD AVENUE</p> <p>EAST ORANGE EAST ORANGE CITY HALL 44 CITY HALL PLAZA</p> <p>FAIRFIELD FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER 22 I HOLLYWOOD A VENUE</p> <p>IRVINGTON IRVINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING 1 CIVIC SQUARE WEST</p> <p>VERONA VERONA COMMUNITY CENTER 880 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE</p>	<p>WEST ORANGE BERSON FAMILY CENTER, SOUTH MOUNTAIN RECREATION COMPLEX 560 NORTHFIELD A VENUE</p> <p>NEWARK ESSEX COUNTY COMPLEX PARKING GARAGE WEST MARKET STREET ENTRANCE</p> <p>CHERRY BLOSSOM WELCOME CENTER BRANCH BROOK PARK</p> <p>WEEQUAHIC PARK COMMUNITY CENTER MEEKER AND ELIZABETH AVENUE ENTRANCE</p> <p>WEST SIDE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER 600 SOUTH 17th STREET</p>
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The logo features a large, stylized red checkmark on the left, followed by the word "Vote" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Parks & Recreation Department

The Borough of Glen Ridge Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce two new safety features in our parks.

On-Site Weather Station

Lightning strikes the U.S. about 25 million times a year, kills 20 or more people each year in the U.S. on average, and injures hundreds more. The Borough's new on-site weather station at Hurrell Field will monitor conditions, sending mobile and audio/visual alerts tailored to our weather policies—like Wet Bulb Globe Temperature and lightning—empowering our residents to make safety decisions with real-time accuracy. The system includes a countdown timer so that after a lightning strike is detected, a countdown will be initiated until given the all-clear and outdoor activities may resume. Also included in the system is a 'Quiet Mode' for notifications to ensure peace during weekends off-hours when parks are closed. The Perry Weather System detects all lightning strikes within our area down to 100 meters of accuracy, using the National Lightning Detection Network, the same system used by the U.S. government and military. The Borough website and a mobile app will enable us to communicate weather alerts to athletic groups and other organizations that use our parks regularly.



Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's)

AEDs are important at fields because they can help save lives in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. The AEDs are designed to be user-friendly and help bystanders take immediate action. Every minute that passes between cardiac arrest and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by 10%. AEDs can improve the sudden cardiac arrest survival rate for people of all ages and athletic levels. In a joint effort with the Glen Ridge Athletic Association, we have installed Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) at the following sites In the Borough: Forest Avenue Field, Sherman Avenue Field, Hurrell Field and Carteret Park.

Also important to the safety and health of our residents...

Flu Vaccine Clinic

WHO: For Glen Ridge Residents & employees ages 18 & UP

WHEN: Thursday, November 7th, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

WHERE: Glen Ridge Train Station 228 Ridgewood Avenue Glen Ridge, NJ

No appointment needed.

Limited quantities available.

For more information: Call The Bloomfield health Department 973-680-4058



Police Department

Upcoming Events & Road Closures:

A8K Race – Thanksgiving, Nov. 28th, 2024 8AM – 12PM. – All of Ridgewood Avenue From Linden to Sunset as well as surrounding streets.

Police Department Trading Cops

The Glen Ridge Police Department is proud to announce the fourth edition of the “Cop Card” program. Residents and children can collect 30 individual cards by interacting with members of the Glen Ridge Police Department. Each Cop Card features an individual member of the police department, includes an inspirational message, and provides a brief history of the officer. Collect all thirty!



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the most up to date department information



Facebook/glenridgepd



@glenridgepd

Glen Ridge Public Library



2024 was an eventful one at the Library with the new Young Adult Area and Study Rooms debuting in May along with a new restroom and water fountain on the first floor, all provided by the Library Construction Bond Act! The water fountain has already provided over 4,000 plastic bottles worth of use. We had a successful “Adventure Begins at Your Library” Summer Reading challenge and continue to offer programming for all ages.

Also included in the grant are “Aunt Flow” vending machines that provide FREE period products in both of the Library’s public restrooms to anyone who might need them.



The Pickup Lockers that debuted in March 2023 fourth and final Library who Glen Ridge

new floor in the chairs in the computer area

Planning Voice” Library to see what the

were completed in April 2024 with the installation of the locker bank, courtesy of the Friends of the Glen Ridge have completely sponsored the project at no cost to the taxpayer!

We are continuing to improve our physical space with a Meeting Room; reupholstered stools, and new tables and Children’s Room reading area; and new carpet in the public on the second floor.

As we look forward to 2025, we are continuing the Strategic process that began this year with the “Your Library, Your Survey that received over 800 responses! We are excited future holds for the Glen Ridge Public Library.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Glen Ridge Public Library added another column of lockers!!

(including TWO lockers for extra large stacks)

REQUEST

- ✔ Place your hold online
- ✔ Select “Glen Ridge Public Library Locker” as pick-up location
- ✔ Get notified when ready

RETRIEVE

- ✔ Pick up within 3 days
- ✔ Scan your card at the locker
- ✔ Assigned locker will open
- ✔ Remove items, close door + be on your way!

DID YOU KNOW...

The Glen Ridge Public Library has partnered with

AUNT FLOW

FREE-VEND, WALL-MOUNTED PERIOD PRODUCT DISPENSERS

Easily accessible in each public restroom -

Never be caught by surprise again!!

Glen Ridge Public Works Department

The safety of the public and Borough employees is always at the forefront of the Public Works Department.

In conjunction with the Police Department the Public Works Department has installed traffic pylons and flash on motion LED solar powered stop signs at various locations throughout the Borough to enhance pedestrian and motorists' safety.

Safety measures addressed

- Pruning of trees obscuring regulatory signs and motorists' line of sight
- Newly painted crosswalks and stop bars
- Pothole repairs
- Three out of service fire hydrants replaced



The Glen Ridge Athletic Association

The Glen Ridge Athletic Association (GRAA) is winding down its 2024 Fall season and excited for the upcoming slate of Winter sports. Emails regarding upcoming Winter sports will be sent shortly -- be sure to visit www.graa.org for more information and to register.

Over the past few months, GRAA has seen great improvements to our youth sports programs and initiatives. In a joint effort with the borough of GR, we have installed Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) at all Glen Ridge fields. The existing scoreboards at Carteret and Forest fields have been upgraded and are now working. We have also refurbished the batting case at Hurrell Field for baseball and softball.

And here's a fun fact. Approximately 86% of all students enrolled in GR schools participate in GRAA sports. We continue to strive to grow that number. We look forward to hearing any feedback from the community - please email info@graa.org. We look forward to seeing everyone on the fields!





Environmental Advisory Committee

New and improved website

The GREAC is please to present the community with our revamped [website](#). Same address (goglenridgegreen.org) but an entirely fresh look and updated content. Bookmark it as a resource for sustainability tips, town information and events — and please share with neighbors!

Fall Sustainability Tip: Leave the Leaves

Leaves are nature's original mulch—they block out weeds and provide beneficial nutrients as they break down. They fertilize the soil as they decompose, and they help to camouflage beneficial insects like fireflies and butterflies as they overwinter. If you don't like where they've landed, rake leaves off of patios and walks into garden beds or a compost pile or mow them into the lawn. "Leaving the leaves is investing in the future generation of pollinators," says Clay Bolt, manager of pollinator conservation and communication at the World Wildlife Fund-US.

Upcoming Events



Annual Pumpkin SMASH
Sat. 11/2, 9-11 am
Benson Street Green
(76 Benson Street @ Wildwood Terrace)

When the Halloween fun is done and it's time to say goodbye to your pumpkins and jack o' lanterns, don't trash them, smash them! Suggested donation is \$5.



Winter Seed Sowing Workshop
Wed., 11/6, 6:30 pm
Glen Ridge Public Library

The Native Seed Library is returning to the library! To kick things off, the GREAC will present a workshop on winter seed sowing where we will discuss and demonstrate various ways to cold stratify and germinate native seeds. Attendees will be able to take some seed packets home with them.

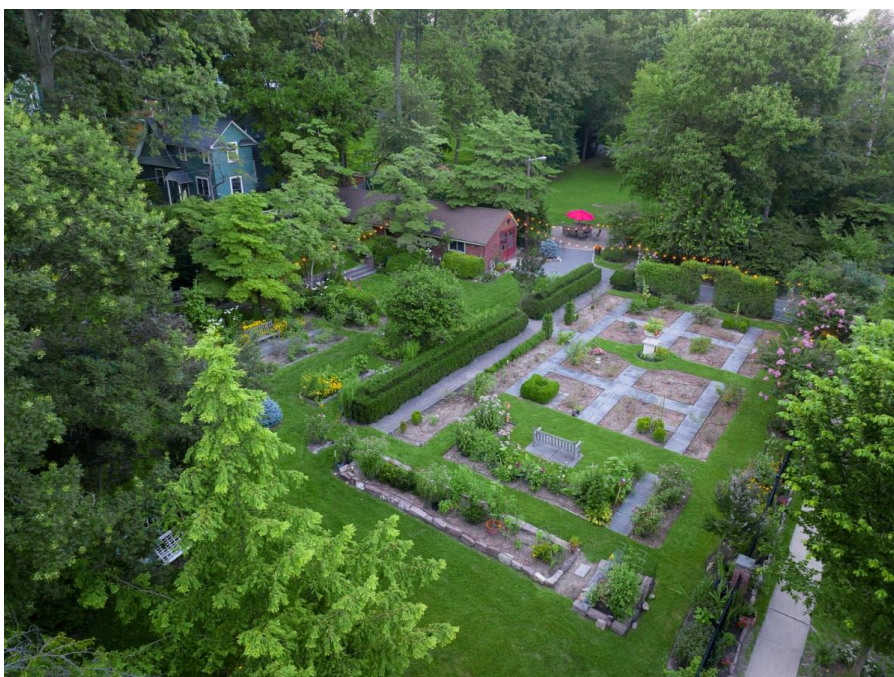
And stay tuned for the annual **Glen Ridge Arts and Eco Fair on Sat. May 17th** – spring will be here before you know it!

Freeman Gardens

It was a big year for Freeman Gardens! We remain grateful to our community whose generous support allowed for the completion of two very important projects: the remediation and restoration of several rose beds, and the installation of a slate walkway for improved accessibility. The garden was home to many celebrations, including our three annual community-building events, Rake and Bake, Grub n' Roses, and Fall Fest. And, in September, we welcomed Tiny Gallery to the garden, giving visitors another element of beauty to explore. A new collection of miniature art will be on view starting in November.



Freeman Gardens Association is a 100% volunteer-run and community supported nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Follow us on Instagram [@freemangardens](#) or reach out to freemangardens07028@gmail.com with any questions.



Glen Ridge Historical Society

Glen Ridge Historical Society's Gingerbread Decorating Event - Join us!

Order your tickets today & join us for our annual children's Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop!

Date: December 14, 2024

Time: 1:00-3:00

Location: Central School, 180 Hillside Ave, Glen Ridge

Entry Fee for one gingerbread house kit is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. Space is limited, sign up today!

<https://www.glenridgehistory.org/news-and-events/2024-gingerbread>



Not a member? Please consider joining. Membership dues make events like this possible!

Glen Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Squad

GRVAS volunteers were very active in 2024, responding to nearly 1200 calls through October 31st. Our volunteer transport drivers assisted numerous senior citizens with car access to medical appointments. In addition, we provided EMS support to the Lager Run, Ashenfelter, Rhino Romp, football standbys and so many other community events. In fact, our high school seniors organized and handled all EMS support for the Rhino Romp. Our blood drives in 2024 collected over 130 units of blood for those in need.

All of what we do is free to our community, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the financial support we receive from our friends and neighbors. No one will ever receive a bill for our services.

As the field of EMS changes, we are committed to making sure our members are trained in the most up to date BLS medical interventions and protocols. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to send 8 members to the EMS Council of NJ educational symposium and recently we acquired a training manikin, which we can use to practice airway management, lifting and moving techniques and number of other very valuable skills. We also have worked with Mountainside Hospital in a Patient Surge Drill to train for a mass casualty event.



Seniors at the Rhino Romp



EMS Council Training



Mountainside Hospital Surge Drill