



The Clayton Police Department is both joyful and sad as we say goodbye to Celeste Keen, who was our part time Police Secretary. Celeste Keen worked 24 years with the Gloucester County Prosecutors Office before being hired by the Clayton Police Department on July 10th, 2014. Celeste has left a lasting mark on all of the officers and citizens she has served over the course of her career. Thank you for touching our hearts in such as positive and meaningful way. A heartfelt thanks from your Clayton Police Family. May you find joy and peace everyday in your retirement. Pictured from left to right; Ptlm. Donavun Rhodes, Ptlm. Robert Martines, Celeste Keen, Chief Andrew Davis, Police Clerk Chloe English, Sgt. Lauren Franklin, and Ptlm. Benjamin Masino. (photo Clayton PD facebook)

ROUTE 44 DETOUR BEGINS THIS WEEK

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials today announced the start of a preventative maintenance project to repair the drawbridge on Route 44 over Mantua Creek between Paulsboro and West Deptford in Gloucester County. Beginning at 7 a.m., Monday, May 7 until 3 p.m. and continuing daily Monday through Friday for several months, NJDOT's contractor, Agate Construction, will close the bridge to conduct preventative maintenance on the bridge deck, substructure, and mechanical apparatus that operates the bridge. The bridge will be closed until the project is complete.

The \$400,000 preventative maintenance project will enhance operational performance and safety on the bridge. Improvements include deck, substructure, and roadway repairs, as well as mechanical maintenance of the bearings, scuppers, wire ropes and sheaves, and warning gongs. The following detours will be in place until the project's completion:

Southbound Detour - Motorists heading south on Route 44 will be directed to turn left on Mantua Grove Road; Turn left to merge onto I-295 southbound; Take Exit 18 and keep left to merge onto Berkley Road and follow Berkley Road to Route 44/Broad Street.

Northbound Detour - Motorists heading north on Route 44 will be directed to turn right on Berkley Road; Merge onto I-295 northbound; Take Exit 19 to Mantua Grove Road and follow Mantua Grove Road and turn right to continue on Route 44/Crown Point Road. The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors.

LEGISLATORS TO CONDUCT HEARINGS ON TROUBLING VIDEOS OF TEACHERS UNION OFFICIALS

State legislators announced in a press release on Monday, May 7th that they will hold joint committee hearings in the wake of online videos that appear to show teachers union officials suggesting that teachers should not report assaults against students, including an alleged sexual assault.

Several videos have widely circulated online that appear to show teachers union officials condoning inappropriate teacher conduct. In one video, a union official not only suggests teachers should not report an incident where a teacher has hurt a student, but also refers to some students as "dirt bags" and claims a teacher having sex with an underage student will not face jail time.

"These union officials appear to be advocating for teachers to not report assaults against students," said Senator Sweeney (D-Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland). "In one video, a union official says, 'I need to know the truth so I can bend the truth.' That's not how it works. We need to know the truth so we can hold everyone accountable for what they say and what they do. We don't know whether this is occurring in our public schools, but the allegations are serious. Clearly, there is a need for thorough fact finding on the part of the Senate. No adult in a school setting - regardless of who they are - can look the other way when it comes to violence against a student. Whether it's student on student or teacher on student - there is zero tolerance for this kind of egregious conduct. No one charged with educating students should be denigrating them. The stakes are too high to ignore - we're talking about our children."

"We must find out whether this type of alleged deplorable behavior is occurring," said Senator Ruiz (D-Essex). "We have to ensure that our students are safe in our schools and that all protocols in reporting cases of suspected abuse or mistreatment are done properly. Even if these are isolated incidents, there should be zero tolerance for any abusive behavior. As a parent, as an advocate and as a legislator, I am angry at the language used to describe my children. Every child, regardless of income, ethnicity and geography, deserves to be treated with dignity."

"We cannot ignore the concerns of parents and education advocates about what appears to be condoned in these videos," said Senator Fred Madden (D-Camden/Gloucester). "We need to hold joint hearings of the Senate Labor and Education committees. These videos are disturbing. What I've seen is totally unacceptable. We have to make sure that the teacher disciplinary system in place serves the best interests of our school children." Senator Ruiz and Senator Madden said they will announce the hearing date as soon as it is scheduled.

STUDENTS VISIT SENIOR CENTER FOR A SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY ACTIVITY

Students from The Archway Schools' Horticulture Program visited the residents of The Fountains at Cedar Parke for a special Mother's Day Flower Arranging Demonstration. Under the direction of Horticulture Instructors Kristine Henle-Blank and Hannah Gunson, the students showed residents how to create beautiful Mother's Day Teacup Arrangements with colorful flowers and greenery. There was plenty of light-hearted conversation and socializing, as both students and residents shared stories, smiles and new found friendships. This was the second flower arranging demonstration by the Archway School students coordinated by both Horticulture Instructors, Careers Teacher Brooke Chmura, along with Susan Mantz, Activities Director of The Fountains at Cedar Parke.

"For our students, this was such a fun and rewarding experience. It helps the students build social and communication skills, form relationships and build their confidence. The work we do in the horticultural program is very therapeutic for most of the students, and it was really special for them to share that bond with the residents," said Kristine Henle-Blank, Horticulture Instructor at Archway Programs.

Ms. Susan Mantz, Activities Director at The Fountains at Cedar Parke, said the event is great for the residents too. "It's just fun for them to be with the younger generation. They get so much enjoyment from having the students come. For many of them, it's like being in the classroom again," Mantz said.

Pat Weaver, a resident who was visiting with the students after the flower arranging demonstration said it gives her something to look forward to. She thanked the students for bringing a bit of sunshine into the lives of the older generation. When asked if she liked making the floral arrangement with the students she responded, "Oh yes, my cup runneth over."



Horticultural Instructor Kristine Henle-Blank with student Gavin Over, kicking off the Flower Arranging Demonstration

GLOUCESTER COUNTY ANNUAL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On Thursday, May 3rd, The Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders held their sixth annual Enlistee Recognition Ceremony to honor 38 high school seniors from schools across Gloucester County that have chosen to enlist in the US Military after graduation rather than attend college. The event featured speeches from military personnel Command Sergeant Major Mike Colbert of the United States Army and NJ Army National Guard as well as Colonel Bradd Thompson of the United States Air Force and New Jersey Air National Guard.

During the event, students were paired and seated with veterans from the community. During the dinner ceremony, each student received an award from a representative of their chosen branch of the military. Pictured From left to right: Freeholder Jim Jefferson, Command Sergeant Major Mike Colbert, United States Army and New Jersey Army National Guard, Jacob Platt,



Williamstown High School Senior, United States Navy Enlistee, Freeholder Heather Simmons and Colonel Bradd Thompson, United States Air Force and New Jersey Air National Guard.

RCGC ASSISTANT DEAN OF STEM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC) students, faculty and staff have long been of the opinion that Assistant Dean of STEM, Dr. Christina Nase, is an inspiring figure at the College. The American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) could not agree more.

On April 29 the AAWCC honored Nase, along with 39 of her contemporaries selected from community colleges across the country, with their annual "40 Under 40" award. The association bestows this honor annually to 40 young women making a game changing impact on their community college's campus.