# the Montoe news

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#### It's a Bumper Crop at the Community Garden

Tomatoes, peppers and flowers grew tall and plentiful during the inaugural season at the Monroe Township Community Garden on Applegarth Road.

"What a bountiful first season," Council Vice President Leslie Koppel said. "All of the 96 garden plots were rented and thrived this season. We know the excitement will grow over to next year."

The brainchild of Mayor Richard Pucci, the Township Council, the Monroe Township **Environmental Commission and** a group of dedicated residents, the 12-acre Community Garden, which is the biggest Middlesex County, opened on June 1 on the west side of Applegarth Road, just south of the Applegarth Volunteer Fire Company.

The Community Garden site was donated to the Township for open space by Todd Ochsner, a life-long Township resident. In addition to the Community Garden, there are long-range plans for the park that include a butterfly garden, children's park, environmental pavilion, and a location for outdoor cultural events.

"While the Township owns the park, the garden is administered by the Friends of the Monroe Township Community

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Friends of the Monroe Township Community Garden

Treasurer Gary Busman fixes some stakes at his plot at the Community

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**Check out the** local calendar of events, pages 12-13.

#### **Dey Farm Makes Even More History**

The Dey Farm historic site is undergoing historic preservation renovations with a \$1 million grant from Middlesex County.

"It has been great to see the work progress over the past few months," said Township Historian John Katerba. "The roof of the England House is being replaced and the gutters were hand-made to look identical to how buildings were made back in the 1800s."

Work on the 40-acre Dev Farm on Federal Road between Applegarth and Perrineville roads started in April with site preparation. It continued in May with the roof replacement and gutter work on the England House as well as the pouring of the foundation for the Prospect **Plains** Road One-Room Schoolhouse, being erected on the northwest corner of the site.

"The circa 1850s Schoolhouse was one of the original schools in the Township and was formerly Township Municipal Building, Courthouse and then home to the Recreation Department," Mr. Katerba said. "It will soon be the first building folks will see as they travel Federal Road down approach the farm."

The schoolhouse has been dismantled, numbered placed in storage and will be rebuilt once the foundation work is complete. Also, a walkway will be built connecting the schoolhouse with the Dey Farm House and Barn.

In addition, a major portion of the project will be the renovations of the timber-frame

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Township Historian John Katerba and Council President Gerald Tamburro discuss the historic renovations being done to the England House's roof at the Dey Farm Historic site on Federal Road.

## Municipal News



#### **Eagle Scout Protects Millstone River**

When Eagle Scout candidate Eric Evans was looking for project ideas and heard about the new Community Garden on Applegarth Road, the Monroe teen knew there would be a need for a rain garden to help protect the Millstone River, on the northern border of the site.

"As we were researching the land, it became more of a wet meadow type of rain garden," said Eric, age 17. "The meadow collects rain water and water runoff from the road, cleans the toxins in the water and helps prevent flooding. It stores floodwaters, filters pollutants, improves water quality and controls erosion."

The 1,600-square-foot wet meadow also creates a habitat for native birds and pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies, which helps pollination of the garden plots at the Community Garden.

While the extreme cold and heavy

snows last winter prevented work from being done on the meadow, the 10-year Scout veteran was busy planning the project, visiting several local nurseries and stores seeking donations of plants, seeds and boulders to complete the project.

Then, when the weather broke, Eric reached out to his friends, family and fellow scouts, for help installing the meadow over the course of a May weekend.

"My family gave me a lot of support," Eric said. "I enjoyed working on the project because it is satisfying to know that not only would people enjoy it for years to come, but that it would also be helping our environment."

The MTHS senior said he plans on attending Stockton University in Galloway where he will study business and then plans on joining the Marines as an Officer.

Continued on page 6







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## Around the Town

### **Transportation Division Keeps Rolling**

By Mayor Richard Pucci

In the two years since moving to its new location adjacent to the Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road, the Town-Transportation ship Division has seen more residents using its free shuttle services for non-emergency medical appointments and inand-out-of-town destinations more regularly.

So far, in 2015, the Transportation Division has transported 12,285 passengers. Of those, 3,923 were on the non-emergency medical buses, 2,259 were on the out-of-town trips, 3,834 were on the Freehold Route, 2,053 were on the Princeton Route and 216 were on the In-Town Shuttle.

In 2014. the Transportation Division transported 24,757 total passengers. Of those, 7,240 were on the non-emergency medical buses, 4,730 were on the many out-of-town trips, 4,261 were on the Princeton Route, 7,941 were on the Freehold Route, and 564 were on the In-Town Shuttle.

The medical buses take seniors and residents with disabilities to doctors located in Monroe, Jamesburg, Cranbury, Plainsboro and Princeton for nonemergency appointments. There is a five business day notice required to book a seat on the medical appointment bus. Trips to Monroe and Jamesburg based doctors run five days a week; Cranbury shuttles run on Friday mornings; Plainsboro and Princeton routes run on the second and fourth Thursday morning of each month, and the Hightstown routes run on the third Tuesday morning of each month.

The Division also has Out-of-Town routes that pick up residents, regardless of age, at locations throughout the Township and will bring them to specific stops including the Freehold Raceway Mall, Centra-State Medical Center, Windsor Town East Center (Multiplex Cinemas, Shop-Rite), Princeton Medical Center. Palmer Square, and other top destinations.

In addition, residents can use the In-Town Shuttles on Tuesdays and Thursdays to locations in the Concordia Shopping Center, Town Center, Apple Plaza and downtown Jamesburg. Residents in the adult communities will be picked up on the main street in their community. We will pick up Monroe seniors that do not live in an adult community curbside at their



**Mayor Richard Pucci** 

private homes. Reservations are required to be made 24 hours in advance. This service is for errands only; grocery shopping is on a separate bus, which runs on Mondays; registration is required for that service.

Furthermore, Transportation Division runs special trips to various locations in the tristate area. These trips often have registration fees, and include excursions to various malls, museums and playhouses. This year, the trip to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis was a favorite among resi-

Also, the Transportation Division regularly works with the Township Historian to provide a tour of Monroe including many of the important historical locations throughout the Township, such as the Dey Farm on Federal Road and Washington Crossing on Prospect Plains Road near the intersection of Perrineville Road. The ride provides an in-depth look at the Township that is espe-

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#### **TOWN HALL**

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#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

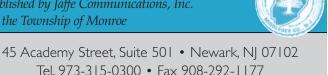
#### Mayor: Richard Pucci ......rpucci@monroetwp.com **Council President:** Gerald Tamburro ......gtamburro@monroetwp.com **Council Vice President: Council Members:** Stephen Dalina ......sdalina@monroetwp.com Michael Leibowitz ..........mleibowitz@monroetwp.com Elizabeth Schneider .......eschneider@monroetwp.com **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

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Aiiiiiai Colletoi(132) 321-0222
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<b>Court Administrator</b>
<b>Township Engineer</b> (732) 605-9440
EMS and First Aid (non-emergency) .(732) 521-1880
<b>Health Department</b> (732) 521-4400 ext. 192
<b>Environmental Protection</b> .(732) 521-4400 ext. 118
Monroe Township Library(732) 521-5000
<b>Utilities Department</b>
<b>Office of Senior Services</b> (609) 448-7140
<b>Parks Department</b> (732) 723-5000
<b>Police (non-emergency)</b> (732) 521-0222
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<b>Recreation</b> (732) 723-5000
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<b>Tax Collector</b> (732) 521-4405
<b>Township Clerk</b> (732) 656-4573
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### 10nroe news

Published by Jaffe Communications, Inc. for the Township of Monroe



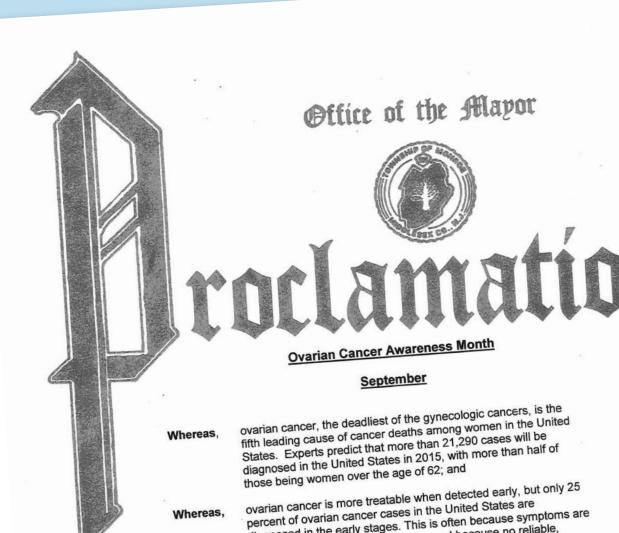
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Whereas,

Whereas,

easily administered tool exists; and the 5-year survival rate for the 75% of the women diagnosed with advanced disease is only 27%, whereas the 5-year survival rate for Stage I disease patients is nearly 92% and for Stage II disease patients is 72%. Currently, 50 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer die from it within five years. Among African-American women, only 48 percent survive five years or more; and

diagnosed in the early stages. This is often because symptoms are

easily confused with other diseases and because no reliable,

Whereas,

early detection of this disease remains the best way to save women's lives and is not normally diagnosed with routine pelvic and pap exams. Symptoms may include abdominal pressure or bloating, persistent digestive problems, excessive fatigue, frequent urination and sometimes abdominal bleeding. Women also should be aware that risk factors are higher for those who are over 50 years of age, who have a personal or family history of ovarian, breast, or colon cancer, and who have borne a child; and

Whereas,

it is appropriate to commend the scientists, physicians, and other medical and health professionals who are working to advance knowledge and understanding of ovarian and other gynecological cancer. It is also appropriate to encourage all Monroe Township residents to learn more about the disease and the importance of early detection, as this can save lives and protect the health and well-being of countless women; and

Whereas,

prominent buildings across North America and the world will turn their lights teal or display teal ribbons to raise awareness for ovarian cancer,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, RICHARD PUCCI, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and urge all citizens to "Turn the Towns Teal" in the Township of Monroe.

Dated: August 11, 2015

Richard Pucci, Mayor

#### Step Back in Time at the Dey Farm

The Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission will return the Dey Farm to its 19th Century roots with the annual free Vintage Baseball Game at noon on Saturday, September 26.

"Autumn at the Dey Farm is always a treat," Township Historian John Katerba said. "We are very excited to have the Flemington Neshanock and Philadelphia Athletics back for a vintage baseball double-header oldtime baseball game. Once again, the teams will play with rules from the 1860s and 1870s."

The players wear vintage uniforms, use vintage equipment and speak in old-time lingo

to give the look, sight and feel of a 19th Century game.

"It is more than just a ballgame," Mr. Katerba said. "It is a wonderful day out for the family. You can get an up-close look at how the national pastime began and see how it has evolved over the years."

During the games the don't fielders batters gloves, can request where pitches are thrown and the umpire warns the batter before calling strikes. Spectators are encouraged to ask the players questions during the game, and the players are always more than willing to keep the crowd abreast of the various rule changes.

"The interaction is always tremendous," Mr. Katerba said. "We are usually lucky to have a rousing rendition of 'Casey at the Bat' and 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame' performed during the intermission. So pack a picnic basket; bring a lawn chair, blanket, or sit on a hay bale, relax and enjoy two 'splendiferous' matches of vintage baseball."

While you're visiting, tour the Dey Farmhouse and grounds. Come learn more about Monroe Township's history.

The event is sponsored by the Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission, and is free for all. Parking is available on Federal Road.

#### **Clean Communities**





**The Monroe Spark** Soccer club earned \$500 for cleaning Mounts Mills Road between Buckelew Avenue and Spotswood Englishtown Road. The clean-up was funded through grant money obtained by the Township Department of Public Works through NJ Clean Communities. The grant money is earned by reporting recycling tonnage in Monroe.

## Township to Share Radio Service with East Brunswick

In a move that will save Monroe \$700,000, the Township will enter into a shared services agreement with East Brunswick for access to its radio communication system, Master Core.

"Our Police, EMS, fire, DPW, Transportation Division, Utilities Department, Recreation Department and School District all use the Township's current system, which is 20 years old," Township Business Administrator Wayne

Hamilton said. "It is getting harder to find parts to repair the system and the current system support level is described as a 'Best Effort,' by the provider, Motorola."

In addition, the Township will make upgrades to its own equipment to ensure compatibility with the East Brunswick system. The Township Council budgeted \$3 million for the upgrades, which include the purchase of new radios, upgrades to

existing radios, installation of new consoles (including a mobile console for remote operations), and training for the proper use of the new equipment.

"Our system is an analog system, and when East Brunswick upgraded its system a few years ago, we lost them as a back up," Mr. Hamilton said. "Now we will have direct communication with the East Brunswick System, and will expand our

radio coverage penetration."

Through the shared services agreement, the Township will pay East Brunswick \$25,000 each year for access to the neighboring municipality's communications, Master Core.

The upgrades to the dual band radio system will also give the Township's system the ability to work with the NJ Interoperable Communications System,

giving the Township state-wide coverage, and connectivity with Middlesex County's radio system.

"Radio Communication is vital to our first responders," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "The new equipment and system upgrades will bring our system into the digital age and ensure the protection of communication for the men and women serving Monroe in emergency situations."

# Monroe: Proud to be an Award Winning Township

By Council President Gerald W. Tamburro

It is always nice to be recognized for our achievements.

Over the past few months, the Township has been honored by a national security company – ADTsecurity.com, a private security company – SafeWise, a private data analysis company – Value Penguin, and a financial consumer reporting service – NerdWallet.

All of the reports praised the Township's safety record, which earned Monroe the

designation as the 23rd safest city in the United States by ADTsecurity.com, the 15th safest town in New Jersey by SafeWise and the 5th safest mid-sized town by Value Penguin. Monroe was most recently recognized by NerdWallet as the top place in New Jersey for first-time homebuyers.

According to ADT, the private security company analyzed data from the 2013 FBI Uniform Crime Report to assemble a list of the 25 safest cities in the U.S.A. Each city receives an overall Safety Score based on the number of violent crimes and property crimes, weighted accordingly and relative to population.

Monroe Township earned an overall safety score of 91.3 with just nine violent crimes and .79 burglaries per 1,000 residents in 2013, according to ADT's report.

The latest NJ State Police Uniform Crime report showed that Monroe Township has the lowest crime rate among the 25 municipalities in Middlesex County. Monroe Township's crime rate was 6.2 per 1,000 residents with a total of 252 crimes in 2013, which is the latest data available.

The 2013 average crime rate for all municipalities in Middlesex County was 17.7 offenses per 1,000 people, which is more than 2.8 times greater than Monroe Township's crime rate of 6.2.

There are many factors involved to make a safe community. In Monroe, more than 50 percent of Township residents live in gated active adult communities, there is a low tax rate and an outstanding public school district.

Safety, low property taxes, excellent services and more lead to NerdWallet's ranking of Monroe as the number one municipality in New Jersey for first-time home buyers. The report touted the Township's high-level of services as compared to its low median property tax rate compared to other municipalities in the state.

This report comes just two years after the Township was named the number one community for Empty Nesters by New Jersey Monthly. According to the story, Monroe was chosen because of its low taxes, open space and superb location in Central Jersey, among other key factors.

We are proud of the



Council President
Gerald W. Tamburro

many services we provide, from our Library, which sees about 1,200 people a day, the Senior Center with its more than 16,000 registered members, and Community Center which sees hundreds of children and adults stop in for open gym, roller hockey, basketball, pickleball and table tennis each day.

Being recognized nationally for our safety record is an honor that I would like to share with all of Monroe's resi-Police Chief dents. Michael Lloyd and all of the women and men of the Monroe Township Police Department should be commended for their hard work to make Monroe a safe place to live, raise a family and retire.



**Monroe Township first** responders including Police, EMS, Fire and DPW personnel were on hand to meet face-to-face with residents at the annual National Night Out event on Aug. 4 in Thompson Park.

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#### Eagle Scout Continued from page 2

"I would like to thank (Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection) John Riggs for the idea of the wet meadow," Eric said. "I would also like to thank those who made donations like Tidbury Creek Farms and Nursery in Monroe, Allegiance Landscaping in Helmetta, Rare Find Nurseries in Jackson and all the scouts who made donations."

# Sixth-Annual Green Fair Set for October 3

Flu shots, freecycling, health screenings, a shredding truck, environmentally themed arts and crafts and more will be on display at the sixth-annual Green Fair, which will be held at the Oak Tree School on Applegarth Road on October 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Green Fair, co-sponsored by the Environmental Commission and the Monroe Township Public Library, has more than 2,000 visitors each year who get to meet directly with vendors and a wide array of environmentally-friendly organizations, committees and businesses.

"We are trying to

freshen the Green Fair up a bit," said Rajani Karuturi, Co-Chairwoman of the Green Fair Committee. "We sought new unique vendors to help us spread the green message with some new faces this year."

Ms. Karuturi, who is co-chairing the event with fellow Environmental Commissioner Karen Toth, said the Green Fair Committee eyed vendors that represent alternative energy sources, hybrid vehicles, healthy living, household and landscaping plants, and other "green" businesses.

In addition, the Monroe Township Public Library will once again host environmentally themed story times, puppet shows and arts and crafts, and the Monroe Township High School Environmental Club will host games for children.

"Every year, the Library hosts one of the most interesting sections of the fair," Ms. Karuturi said. "The puppet show, story times and arts and crafts really engage the kids and help spread the environmental message."

Furthermore, Saint Peter's University Hospital and CentraState Hospital will be offering free health screenings at the fair.

Continued on page 8

# Monroe Township Chorus Salutes Broadway

Take a trip down under the bright lights of Broadway as the Monroe Township Chorus pays tribute to the classic sounds of Broadway at 2 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Senior Center.

"Over the years, we have been entertained by musical theater," Chorus Director Sheila Werfel said. "Whether, the shows were performed in New York City, at Community Theaters, in summer Stock Companies, in

small towns and villages or on TV, we were instantly taken to another place and another time."

The Chorus, which is made up of residents from throughout Monroe, will perform the free concert (no registration required) at the Senior Center, located at 12 Halsey Reed Road, under the leadership of its Director and Conductor Sheila Werfel, and the Music Director David Schlossberg.

"Make it a Sunday afternoon not to be missed," Ms. Werfel said. "You will be emotionally moved when you hear the Chorus sing songs from some of the greatest shows."

The show will feature sing-a-longs, fun and laughter, and a good time for everyone.

For additional information, please contact Sheila Werfel at 609-619-3229

# Celebrate Octoberfest with the Community Center

Summer is just coming to an end and as fall approaches the Recreation Department is busy planning its annual Octoberfest and Halloween Parade celebrations.

Scheduled to start at noon on Sunday, October 18, Octoberfest will commence with the annual Community Volunteer Awards in the Community Center gymnasium, located at 120 Monmouth Road.

"It is a pleasure to honor folks that do so much for our community," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "There are so many great people that give back to Monroe and what better way is there to start a celebration than to publicly thank some of our finest residents."

Following the awards, the free event will continue in the Community Center parking lot and on Monmouth Road between Sheffield and Cornell avenues.

"There is a real block-party feel to Octoberfest," Recreation Superintendent Mary Lange said. "Between the food, music, performances and vendors, there is something for everyone at Octoberfest."

There will be free inflatable rides and pony rides for children and Township Departments and Commissions, scout troops, and local businesses and organizations will be on hand for the celebration.

Just 13 days later, the Recreation Department will hold its annual Halloween Parade.

"With Halloween on a Saturday, we're hoping to kick off trick-or-treating right at the Community Center by holding the parade on Halloween," Councilman Dalina said. "Usually, the event is held the week before, but it will be a nice way to start this fun holiday together."

Residents are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m. at the hockey rink at the Community Center on Monmouth Road for registration and the costume judging will begin at 10:45 a.m. followed by the parade through the Community Center and Mill

Continued on page 14

## **Monroe Champions**

By Coach Gregory Zammitti

The Monroe Township baseball team continued its magical run remaining undefeated with a 51-0 record since the summer of 2014 by clinching Monroe's first ever 8U Mid-Atlantic Cal Ripken Regional Championship held in Mount Olive, New Jersey this July. The team won the region in dramatic fashion closing out the tournament with a come from behind victory by scoring 4 runs in the bottom of the 6th inning to beat Paulino (Metro New York) 6-5. The eight team region comprised of teams representing New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Delaware, and eastern Pennsylvania with significant young talent on display and many well played games throughout the tournament.



The Monroe 8U Falcons team includes: Alberto Beltra, Nick Fletcher, Kyle McCauley, Nick Monaco, Eric Petrow, Anthony Salesi, Jacob Weiss, Zach Wallace, Connor Wendroff, Charlie Yatsko, and Joseph Zammitti. The coaching staff includes Manager Jim McCauley, Coach Gregory Zammitti, Coach James Monaco, and Coach Anthony Salesi.



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### **Teens: Monroe Wants** to Hear from You

Mayor Richard Pucci is proud to announce the formation of the Monroe Township Mayor's Advisory Youth Committee.

The committee will be comprised of 10 Monroe Township teen residents, grades 9-12, who will provide input the Mayor and Council on local issues. Committee members will gain a greater understanding of the community at large, local government, youth leadership and civic participation.

Adult advisors, led by Councilman Stephen Dalina, will assist the commission in developing a mission statement and goals. Meetings will be held once a month at the Municipal Building.

All Monroe Township high schoolers are invited to attend an information session Thursday, September 10 at 7 p.m. in the Monroe Township Municipal Building. Applications will be distributed at this meeting and are due to the Mayor's Office by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15.

For additional information, please contact ntharney@monroetwp.c

#### Sixth-Annual Green Fair

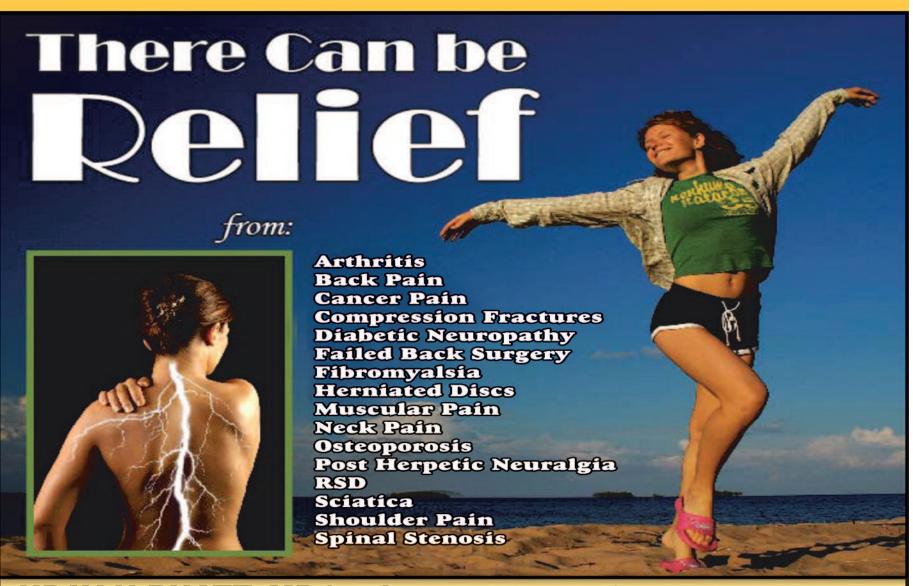
Continued from page 7

"We want to highlight the importance of healthy living as a part of being a sustainable community," Ms. Toth said.

Also, a shredding truck will be available for residents to have their important personal documents shredded and recycled in a secure manner.

The Fair will also feature freecycling, where residents can bring unwanted but functional items. Other residents can give those items new homes. Any items not reclaimed will be given to RISE, a non-profit organization based out of Hightstown that provides services to area families and individuals in need.

"The Green Fair is always a place where residents leave knowing they can make positive changes to their lives and to their community, and ensure they are living green, sustainable lives," Council Vice President Leslie Koppel said. "I can't wait to see everyone there."



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#### **Holocaust Survivors Share Personal Stories with Students**

By Eileen Oldfield, Community Volunteer

Monroe Township High School's freshman class sat silent and spellbound in the high school's auditorium this June, as three figures on the stage commanded their attention.

Applause echoed through the hall as Township residents Paul Beller, Lois Flamholz, and Sol Lurie approached the podium to speak about their experiences in Nazioccupied Europe.

"The reason that I do this, even though this is very hard for me, is that I want the young people to know what it is to discriminate," Ms. Flamholz, who survived the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps, and a death march to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, said to the students. "You have to be good to everybody. You have to treat everybody the same. Then, hopefully, something like what I went through will never happen again."

Ms. Flamholz and Mr. Lurie, of Greenbriar at Whittingham, and Mr. Beller, of Stonebridge, spoke as guests of the Henry Ricklis Holocaust Memorial Committee, which works to sustain the memory of the Holocaust, and to further Holocaust education. Named for Monroe Township resident Ricklis, Henry the Committee brought guest speakers into Monroe Township High School for the past 16

years, according to the school's School Social Studies Department Coordinator Matthew DeFilipis.

The Committee hosts an annual essay contest for the freshman students as well. The contest, which students enter voluntarily, asks students to analyze the Holocaust's overall impact, and to assess their reactions to the survivors' stories. The top 10 essayists receive \$50 gift certificates, and will also be honored at a Board of Education meeting. The top essay will be read at the Holocaust Ricklis Memorial Committee's annual memorial service, and at a variety of township organizations as well.



Holocaust Survivors Paul Beller, Sol Lurie and Lois Flamholz with daughter of the foundation's namesake, Rhonda Ricklis Rothschild and Ricklis Committee Chairman David Rothman spoke at the Monroe Township High School Freshman class back in June.

Last year's essay contest drew 250 submissions. Each year, the number of essay submissions increases, Mr. DeFilipis said.

For Mr. Beller the impact on the students is clear: the quiet, motionless auditorium means the students are listening, he said. The

most important lesson is one of respect and tolerance, Mr. Lurie added.

"We have to love one another, and respect one another," Mr. Lurie, who survived six concentration camps, said. "If we do that, we are going to have a beautiful world to live in."



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#### **Dey Farm Makes Even More History**

Continued from page I

Dey Barn.

"The barn was carefully dismantled and is being refurbished as we speak," Mr. Katerba said. "It will be reassembled incorporating the original timbers and construction techniques used in the 1800s to maintain the structure's historic integrity."

The Dey Farm is

unique because the entire 40-acre parcel (along with the houses and barns) did not cost the taxpayers any money, and is overseen by its all-volunteer Historic Commission.

Upkeep on the farm is done primarily by the Township Department of Public Works and volunteers from the Historic Preservation Commission. In recent years, many local volunteers and scouts have done work at the farmhouse.

"The renovations and additions to the Dey Farm will give residents an even deeper look into what Monroe was like in the early 20th Century," Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider said.

# Senior Center to Host Third-Annual Community Cares Thanksgiving

The annual Thanksgiving Day feast at the Senior Center is back, as the Monroe Township Office of Senior Services is preparing for the thirdannual Community Cares meal at the Senior Center.

"Community Cares has become a hallmark event for the Senior Center," said Bonnie Leibowitz, Monroe Township Office of Senior Services Director. "We feel that no one should spend Thanksgiving alone, so we are once again opening our doors and inviting our Monroe family to spend the day with us."

The two-hour event is set for noon on Thursday, November 26 in the Irwin Nalitt Meeting Room in the Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road, open to any resident over 55 and his or her family.

The meal includes all of the regular dishes

served during Thanksgiving, including turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, vegetables, bread and more, prepared by City Streets Café of East Windsor.

"The food is served family-style to each table," Ms. Leibowitz said. "We want people to feel like the Senior Center is their home for the day and the folks at the table with them are their family."

Tickets for the event will be sold for \$10 per person at the Senior Center starting October 5. Last year's sponsors included: The Gardens at Monroe; BCB Bank; Brookdale Assisted Living at Wynwood; Saint Peter's Hospital; Point of Care Pharmacy; Seaview Orthopedics; Senior Bridge; Hospice of New Jersey and the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Comm-

unity Cares Thanksgiving program. Volunteers can help set up the afternoon before and the morning of the event. In addition, volunteers can also help during the day serving food, greeting guests, handing out goodie bags and cleaning up.

"We would not be able to hold Community Cares if it weren't for the wonderful, dedicated volunteers who have helped make the event so successful," Ms. Leibowitz said. "I know it is hard to ask folks to help on Thanksgiving, but it really is a terrific way to give back to people who do not have anywhere to go for Thanksgiving."

Seniors and their families in need of a place to go for Thanksgiving, or anyone interested in helping with the event, either with time or donations, should contact the Office of Senior Services at (609) 448-7140.

#### **Transportation Division**

Continued from page 3

cially helpful for new residents to get acquainted with the community.

The Transportation Division will continue to find ways to make it even easier to use its services and find out about the many transportation services we provide by using the Township website www.monroetwp.com and the television station, Channel 28 for Comcast subscribers, to keep residents informed with the most up-to-date transportation information.

For more information, call the Transportation Division at (609) 443-0511.

# Library 2 Go Prepares for September Launch

After 12 years and more than 200,000 books circulated, the Library is getting ready to unveil its new Bookmobile.

"We got a lot of miles out of the Bookmobile," Library Director Irene Goldberg said. "We are circulating about 2,500 books to more than 400 residents each month through the Bookmobile. but it has grown to become so much more."

The Bookmobile does more than bring books to various locations throughout town, which is why the new vehicle is known as the Library 2 Go.

"Library 2 Go is about bringing Library services directly into the community," Assistant Library Director Leah Wagner said. "We host storytimes at the Spray Park on Avenue K, stop at the pool at Monroe Manor, teach computer classes at various active adult communities and had a great time bringing the Library to the MT SEPA camp for the kids to check out materials."

In addition, the Bookmobile facilitates the Library's homebound services. Through the homebound programs, residents who are unable to visit the Library due to long-term illness, surgery or no longer able to drive can get library materials delivered to their homes. Then the volunteers and staff will pick up the items so they are returned in a timely manner. Library staff determines the eligibility for this program.

"You can do everything you can at the Library through the Bookmobile," Ms. Goldberg said. "Our staff makes book recommendations, helps residents get Library cards and can even help with reference questions. The great part is they get to meet and interact on a more personal level with our patrons."

The new Library 2 Go Bookmobile is slated to begin service by the end of September.

"The dedicated Library and Bookmobile staff has done a great job over the years bringing our vast Library services directly to our residents," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "The new Library 2 Go Bookmobile will allow us to continue this great service."

For the Bookmobile schedule, more information about the Bookmobile, the Library or information on how you can help at the facility visit www.monroetwplibrary.org or call (732) 521-5000.

## Recreation Calendar of Events

The Recreation Events Calendar will no longer be mailed out separately at the beginning of each year and will now be included in The Monroe News. It will also be available online at **www.monroetwp.com**.

## September 2015

Monroe Township Department of Recreation 120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp., NJ 08831 732-723-5000 • monroerec.com



# Spray Park : Picke-Ball & Table Tennis

Closes for the season at 8:00PM on September 7th. Will open again Memorial Day Weekend Open gym begins first week of September 8:00AM—11:00AM Monday—Friday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		I	PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	3	4	5
6	7 LABOR DAY Spray Park closes for the season at 8:00 PM Community Center closed for the day	8 MTBA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	MAYOR'S CUP PICKLEBALL Community Ctr., 9:00 AM MTGSA Monthly Meeting, Community Ctr., 7:00 PM	MAYOR'S CUP SHUFFLEBOARD Rossmoor, 9:00 AM MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting, Community Ctr., 7:30 PM	PATRIOT DAY	12
13 NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY	RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Center 7:00 PM	15	PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	MAYOR'S CUP BOCCE Thompson Park 9:00 AM	18	19
20	21	22	23 AUTUMN BEGINS	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		1	I

#### October 2015

Monroe Township Department of Recreation 120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp., NJ 08831 732-723-5000 • monroerec.com



Sunday, October 18, 2015,
12noon-4:00PM
Free Admission at the
Monroe Twp. Community Center
120 Monmouth Road

Saturday, October 31, 2015
10:30AM REGISTRATION
Free Admission at the
Monroe Twp. Community Center
120 Monmouth Road

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				I	2	3
4	5	6	7 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	8 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	9	10
II	I 2 COLUMBUS DAY	I3 MTBA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	I 4 MTGSA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	15	16	17
OCTOBERFEST Community Center 12:00 - 4:00 PM	RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Center 7:00 PM	20	21 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	3 I HALLOWEEN PARA Community Center 10:30 AM

## Recreation Calendar of Events

#### November 2015

Monroe Township Department of Recreation 120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp., NJ 08831 732-723-5000 • monroerec.com





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Registration for GRANDPARENT'S DAY OUT begins today. Event held 12/28/15	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	5	6	7
8	RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Center 7:00 PM	MTBA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	VETERANS DAY MTGSA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	13	14
15	16	17	I 8 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING Community Center Closed for the Day	27	28
29	30					1

# The Path to Good Health Starts Here

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Internal Medicine
Family Medicine
Obstetrics/Gynecology



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#### It's a Bumper Crop at the Community Garden Continued from page 1

Garden, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization," Council Vice President Koppel said. "The Garden has become a great place for residents to meet new friends and work with their neighbors in a rather serene setting."

The Friends of the Community Garden are also the fundraising arm for the Garden and successfully acquired a \$1,000 Community Partner Grant from Wells Fargo, as well as

the donation of tools from Costco. The Friends also work with their fellow gardeners to make sure the grounds stay clean and in order.

"We are very happy with the first season," Friends President Len Baskin said. "It truly is a Community Garden. Everyone keeps an eye on neighboring plots and they have all done a great job keeping the site clean."

The first phase of the Community Garden,

designed with the assistance of the Conservancy of New Jersey, comprised 96 tenfoot by ten-foot garden plots, all of which were rented for \$30 a year by residents on a firstcome, first-served basis. A waiting list has already been established for phase two, which will include an additional 76 plots that will be available in spring 2016.

"Phase One included grading work for the site, construction of a temporary parking area, walkway, fertilizing and seeding, and installing an eight-foot-tall deer fence with a rodent guard," Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection

John Riggs said. "The Township installed a fire hydrant and a two-inch water line to service the garden for irrigation. The site also includes a shed and compost area."

The driveway and gravel parking area were constructed using rubble from the now demolished Heights Farm Equipment site.

In addition, a wet meadow was built on the site by Boy Scout Eric Evans as his Eagle Scout Project. The meadow will help reduce sediment that enters the Millstone River.

The Department of Public Works also built a small rest area in the shade using Clean Communities grant money. Through this statewide program, municipalities earn grant money based on how many tons of recycling is done. Monroe more than earned \$92,000 in 2015 and a small portion was used for the benches, made from recycled materials, the Community Garden.

"The Friends, Townadministration, ship Utilities and Public Works Departments should all be commended for the hard work they did in making the at the first season Community Garden blossom," Council Vice President Koppel said.



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#### Celebrate Octoberfest Continued from page 7

Lake School parking lots.

"After the parade, costume contest winners receive trophies and we will have free apple cider and doughnuts," Ms. Lange said. "And all of the children that attend will get a free bag of candy."

The costume contest

divisions include: baby buggy (carriages and strollers), toddlers (walking to two years old, preschool, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders, 3rd and 4th graders, and 5th graders and up. Ten trophies will be awarded for each division and there will be one grand prize

winner awarded for the best overall costume.

"Each year the costumes get more and more elaborate," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "The Halloween Parade is a great way to put a spotlight on the creativity of our residents."

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Councilman
Michael Leibowitz

With 7,246 acres of Open Space, the Township has taken great steps towards its goal of ensuring 50 percent of land remains undeveloped. A big part is ensuring many of those preserved lands remain as wooded areas.

More than 374 acres of the 7,246-acre total is Township parklands. We are taking steps to ensure that our parks meet the needs of our residents throughout the Township.

To purchase land for preservation, the Township uses its Open Space Trust Fund, which was authorized by the voters and established through a 2.5-cent (per \$100 of assessed valuation) Open Space Tax. Using the Trust Fund, the Township has been able to purchase open space and preserve more than 1,290 acres of farmland. Monroe regularly works with Middlesex County and the State of New Jersey on open space purchases, sharing the cost and work that goes into the preservation of land.

This summer, construction began on the expansion of Veterans Park on Avenue K near the Outcalt section of town.

#### Township Park System Expanding

By Councilman Michael Leibowitz

The expansion includes the addition of two multipurpose fields, a cricket pitch and picnic area in the park, which already includes a spray park, playground area and a veterans' memorial.

These fields will give more practice and game opportunities for residents in the north end of the Township, and the cricket pitch is one of the most requested facilities we have. This will be the second pitch in town. The first pitch, located at the Daniel Ryan Field on North State Home Road, is always busy on weekends, so we want to make more room available for this growing sport.

On the other end of town, work has already started on the 68.8-acre Park at Rocky Brook Estates on Disbrow Hill Road near the border with East Windsor and Millstone. The park will include 7,200 linear feet of walking trails and a temporary pool of water that is often home to amphibians and insects.

We were able to get this land donated from the developer of Rocky Brook Estates. Along with the land, Pulte Homes will build more than one mile of natural trails and establish a signed vernal pool that will inform visitors how the pool works and why it is important to the area.

Furthermore, we are about to wrap up the inaugural season at the 12-

acre Community Garden on Applegarth Road. All 96 ten-foot by ten-foot garden plots were rented for \$30 for the inaugural season, and residents enjoyed the fruits (and vegetables) of their labor, at the often busy garden, located just south of the Millstone River on Applegarth Road.

A 40-acre site across from Congress Hill Farm connects James that Monroe Park to Federal Road was recently acquired and the Environmental Commission recently applied for a grant to construct the Town's first designated equestrian trails on the property.

The Township is also eying parcels for future preservation, including a 74-acre parcel adjacent to James Monroe Park, on Dey Grove Road.

Also, 107 acres between Hoffman and Federal Roads are being sought for its historical significance. The location is believed to be where General Charles Lee camped the night before the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778. The Township Historic Preservation and Open Space and Farmland Preservation Commissions are working with the New Jersey Department of Environ-

mental Protection,
Middlesex County
Cultural and Heritage
Commission, and the
Crossroads of the
American Revolution to
preserve the parcel.

The Lee encampment parcel would be the second historical piece in Monroe, second to the Dey Farm on Federal Road.



**The Scarpari family** along with Mayor Richard Pucci, Council President Gerald Tamburro, Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider, and Council Vice President Leslie Koppel unveil the sign dedicating field 3 at the Tommy Allen Softball Complex to Monroe Township Girls Softball founder Ellen B. Scarpari.



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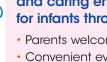
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#### **Bookmobile Patron Turns 101**



The bookmobile staff (Lisa Dipierro and Tammy Aarseth) celebrates loyal bookmobile patron Christine Wilson's 101st birthday at her home in Rossmoor.

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