

the **Monroe** news

TOWN HALL | Municipal Plaza | Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831 | www.monroetwp.com



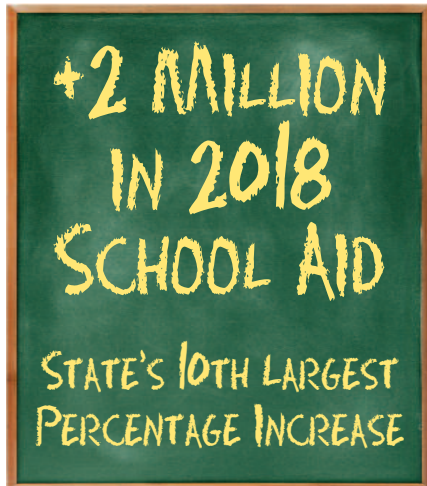
Monroe Receives Funding in State Budget

Residents See School Funding and Homestead Rebate Increase

With the State approving a new budget on July 1, Monroe taxpayers scored an important victory, receiving an added \$2 million to its annual school state-aid award and \$1.4 million in the Homestead Rebate Property Tax Relief Program.

SCHOOL STATE AID

“We’ve spent years writing letters, making phone calls and holding petition drives, calling for an end to the disparity in state-aid funding,” said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “I’ve personally worked with the Governor and our state legislators, even offering testimony to the Senate Select Committee. It took our collective voices to enact change.”



Additionally, in late July, legislators advanced a measure that would overhaul school state-aid distribution, helping Monroe Township achieve 100 percent of it’s entitled funding.

Leading the charge for fair funding, Tamburro, the Township Council, school dis-

trict administrators, the school board, parents and advocates worked tirelessly on behalf of the community.

In recent weeks, the Monroe Township school board opted to dedicate \$1 million of this year’s additional state aid to offset property taxes, said district Business Administrator Michael Gorski.

“The remaining amount will be used to replenish an almost exhausted capital reserve fund intended for long-range facility planning,” Gorski said.

HOMESTEAD REBATE

The adopted State budget also included \$1.4 million in tax relief for Monroe seniors and

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Monroe Expands Open Space with Two New Parks

Residents will soon have two more choices for recreation in Monroe Township.

Park

A new park, located on Cranbury Half Acre Road, across from the Orchards at Monroe neighborhood, is approximately nine acres of multi-use open space, including a basketball court, swings, playgrounds, an all-purpose athletic field and a picnic grove.

The property, which will be conveyed to the Township in the fall, was designed and built by KHovnanian to provide recreation amenities in the south-

western quadrant of town.

Township officials are currently reviewing program needs and resident requests for future offerings at the park, including volleyball courts and a cricket field.

Trails

Further south, new recreation trails have been built off of Disbrow Hill Road for walking, running and bird watching.

Adjacent to the Rocky Brook neighborhood, this new recreation area, built by Pulte, currently has two trail loops and a parking area for residents.



The still-to-be-named gem has great potential for future passive recreation, including a picnic area, bicycle racks and a fitness trail.

“We are excited to be able to expand our open space inventory with parks and recreational

opportunities for all of our residents,” said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “Parks improve our quality of life and the health and wellbeing of our community.”

The official grand opening, naming and dedicating these parks, will be announced this fall.

TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831
www.monroetwp.com

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor:

Gerald W. Tamburro gtamburro@monroetwp.com

Council President:

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Council Vice President:

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Miriam Cohen mcohen@monroetwp.com

Charlie Dipierro cdipierro@monroetwp.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Township Main Number(732) 521-4400

Animal Control(732) 521-0222

Construction Office(732) 656-4585

Court Administrator(732) 521-4020

Township Engineer(732) 605-9440

EMS and First Aid (non-emergency) .(732) 521-1880

Health Department(732) 521-4400 ext. 192

Environmental Protection .(732) 521-4400 ext. 118

Monroe Township Library(732) 521-5000

Utilities Department(732) 521-1700

Office of Senior Services(609) 448-7140

Parks Department(732) 723-5000

Police (non-emergency)(732) 521-0222

Public Works(732) 656-4575

Recreation(732) 723-5000

Recycling(732) 656-4575

Tax Collector(732) 521-4405

Township Clerk(732) 656-4573

Traffic Safety(732) 521-0222 ext. 126

Transportation(609) 443-0511

Mayor Thanks Community Effort for Additional State Funding

By Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

We've been incredibly busy this spring, making major headway on two very important initiatives in our community: state school aid and the Homestead Rebate tax credit.

In the last edition of the Monroe News, I was telling readers that we needed more than the \$344,000 in new school funding included in the initial state budget and to press lawmakers to restore funding to the Homestead Rebate program.

I'm pleased to report that when the state approved an amended new budget on July 1, Monroe taxpayers scored an important victory with the addition of \$2 million for our schools and \$1.4 million in the Homestead Rebate property tax relief program.

In late July, our Governor also signed legislation that should gradually implement the school's state aid funding formula.

None of this could have been accomplished without our collective efforts.

I applaud our Board of Education for using a large portion of this latest round of funding to

provide much-needed property tax relief.

I'm especially grateful to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, who sponsored the legislation that grants full state aid funding and to our 14th District representatives, Sen. Linda Greenstein and Assemblymen Wayne DeAngelo and Dan Benson, who have been lobbying to end school-aid disparities for Monroe residents over the last several years.

I am proud to have fought alongside the Township Council, school district administrators, Board of Education and, most importantly, the parents and advocates who championed our cause for so long.

Together, we wrote letters, we held petition drives, we made phone calls, we sent delegations to speak at statewide forums, and yes, we even marched on Trenton; all of which proved to be pivotal steps in the right direction.

The recently-adopted state budget also included \$1.4 million in tax relief for Monroe seniors and residents who qualify for the Homestead Rebate program. Special thanks to Assembly



Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

Speaker Craig Coughlin (D-Woodbridge) for his hard work and commitment to restoring this funding. Qualifying residents should see these refunds in their fourth quarter tax bills.

This is an important milestone for us as taxpayers, as we will finally see some much-needed state property tax relief.

Since I became Mayor two and a half years ago, I've made it my highest priority to ensure that our message reached lawmakers in Trenton.

But there's still more work to do. I will continue to work hard with our state legislators, council, school district and residents for a better Monroe Township. This level of cooperation proves that we are more effective and stronger together, working toward a common goal.

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Monroe Township: At Your Service

When it comes to residential services, Monroe Township sets the bar pretty high.

Each year, the Township's departments and staff find new and innovative ways to improve the lives of residents through expanded programs and services.

Learn about the latest additions from the Township's Library, Recycling Division, Police and Transporta-

tion Departments:

Library Extends Hours

Starting Sept. 9, the Monroe Township Library will be opening three hours earlier on Sundays, extending its hours to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Resident response will determine whether this pilot program continues beyond winter, said Library Director Irene Goldberg.

Staff plan to offer additional programming for both the youth services and adults during these modified opening hours.

"Sunday is one of the few days most people have off from work," Goldberg said. "The library is a destination with no price tag. You can find a quiet corner, listen to a presenter, check out an art gallery or have a



James Nice, 2, peruses the Library's selection on a warm summer day.

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Monroe Receives Funding

Continued from page 1

residents who qualify for the Homestead Rebate program.

Mayor Tamburro lobbied legislators for full restoration of the rebate and Council passed a resolution in June in support of that effort.

Local officials applauded State legislators, including Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, for their hard work and commitment to the cause.

"The Homestead

Rebate Program provides critical property-tax relief to many of our community's fixed-income seniors," said Township Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider. "I'm pleased that the State is fulfilling its responsibility to this taxpayer base and to some of our region's most vulnerable residents."

Monroe's qualified residents should see these credits in their November tax bill.

Learn How State Mandated Affordable Housing Requirements Impact Monroe

at the

Fair Share Affordable Housing Overview

October 3, 2018 • 7 P.M.

Council Chambers

1 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township

Questions? Contact 732-521-4400 ext. 114

Cultural Arts Annual Juried Art Show/Free Exhibit Open

Oct. 22-Oct. 29

During Monroe Library's Public Hours

For Details Call 732-521-4400 or

visit www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com

Community Cares Thanksgiving Luncheon

Tuesday, November 20

Noon to 2 p.m.

Senior Center, \$5 per person

Call 609-448-7140 for information.



At Your Service *Continued from page 3*

snack at our café.”

For further details, contact a library staff member at 732-521-5000 or 4 Municipal Plaza.

Curb-to-Curb In-Town Shuttles

Senior community residents now have the benefit of curb-to-curb pick up through the Monroe Township Department of Transportation in-town shuttle service.

Already in effect, this latest resident benefit eliminates communal pick-ups at Monroe’s senior communities, allowing residents the convenience of catching the shuttle right outside their homes.

“Meeting at a central location was a difficult some residents, especially in inclement weather,” said Amy Rutherford,

Monroe Department of Transportation’s office coordinator. “Aside from offering transportation, we aim to make traveling easier for our community.”

The Transportation Department already offers curb-to-curb pick up to residents living outside the senior communities.

In addition to the in-town shuttles, the Department also offers out-of-town shuttles and medical transport. More information Monroe’s Transportation Department can be found at www.monroetwp.com or by calling 609-443-0511.

E-Waste Recycling Additions

As of 2018, the Monroe Township Recycling Division is adding to its list of acceptable e-waste recycling materials.

clinging materials.

According to State statutes, recycling programs may collect specified covered electronics, including computer central processing units and monitors, laptops, televisions and as of late, household printers and fax machines.

“We discourage residents from throwing these items away, because some do include hazardous materials,” said Joe Slomian, Monroe Recycling Department representative.

For details on Monroe’s recycling program, visit www.monroetwp.com, contact 732-656-4575 or visit 76 Gravel Hill-Spotswood Road during operating hours.

Police Safe Exchange Zone & Project



Medicine Drop-off

Monroe Police Department's Safe Exchange Zone provides peace of mind to anyone seeking to exchange, purchase or sell items online through websites or platforms like Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace.

The department has designated two well-lit parking spots in the front of its headquarters, 3 Municipal Plaza, that are monitored 24 hours per day just for this purpose.

Additionally, the Department offers project medicine drop-off, a secured box located in the

lobby of the police headquarters, where residents can safely dispose of any unused, excess or outdated prescription drugs at any time without question.

“We strongly encourage our residents to utilize these services whenever necessary,” said Monroe’s Police Chief Michael E. Lloyd. “There are a variety of ways in which our department strives to keep residents safe and these services are part and parcel with that mission.”

Call the Police Department personnel at 732-521-0222 for further information on either service.

OEM Encourages Residents to be Prepared

New Jersey residents have faced all sorts of emergency situations in recent years. The Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management works year-round to ready their response and prepare residents for any number of hazards that may strike.

Locally, the OEM team is comprised of

police, fire, ems, public works, utilities, communication, purchasing and social service professionals. Whether its emergency shelters, evacuations, tree clearing, traffic safety or medical services, these individuals are prepared to respond 24-seven when an emergency is declared within Monroe.

Led by Monroe Township Police Chief Michael E. Lloyd, OEM team members meet monthly with Middlesex County emergency management officials, New Jersey State Police, Red Cross and emergency coordinators from across the county to share resources and train.

Residents should

always be prepared with supplies to sustain a 72-hour emergency. Here is important information to use in the event that disaster strikes the community.

Receiving Nixle Messages & Emergency Alerts

OEM and the Police Department utilize the NIXLE alert system to



notify residents of emergency and vital information through text message, email and reverse 9-1-1 calls. Text 08831 to 888777 to receive real-time Nixle alerts and advisories directly from

Continued on page 23

Township Capital Improvement Projects Continue

MONROE TOWNSHIP SPONSORED PROJECTS:

Township-wide Paving: Municipal road paving is scheduled to begin this fall at nine locations throughout the municipality. The paving is a continuation of Monroe's annual road maintenance program, which addresses road repairs and conditions. Monroe Township roadways currently scheduled for construction include portions of Texas Road, Avenue E, Federal Road, Mounts Mills Road, State Street and Stevens Avenue. Full roadway paving is slated for Springwood, Fernhead and Municipal Plaza. This project includes standard mill-and-paving operations with upgrades to crosswalks and installation of ADA ramps and

storm water management basins. Repaving makes roads safer for motorists, as well as pedestrians and cyclists.

Spotswood Ave & Ellingham Ave Road Paving: This construction project began in mid-August and will continue into the fall. Construction includes the milling and paving of Spotswood Ave. and Ellingham Ave. to 10th Street. Additional improvements consist of concrete upgrades and drainage improvements.

Matchaponix, Pergola & Spotswood Gravel Hill Signal: Design plans and approvals continue to progress for this signal and intersection improvements.

Cedar Brook Pump Station: The construction has been completed. This pump station is designed to alleviate

high water conditions in the Cedar Brook Pond, which have historically contributed to flooding of Applegarth and the streams near Rossmoor.

DEVELOPER SPONSORED:

Spotswood English-town Road Closure: The installation of the sanitary sewer force main and the PSEG gas main and connections is near completion. The road closure is slated to be lifted in early October. Repaving of these impacted areas will be completed late fall.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY SPONSORED:

Perrineville Road Closure: The bridge replacement and road widening project is on schedule to be complete with the road reopening in December.



This area of town has been a focus of road and drainage improvements.

Old Bridge-Englishtown and Mounts Mills Road: Middlesex County is currently working with their traffic engineer on design plans for traffic signal installation and road widening at this location.

Prospect Plains and Perrineville Road Intersection: Work is expected to begin at the intersection of Perrineville and Prospect Plains Road in September to improve pedestrian crossings and traffic signal devices.

Bucklew and Schoolhouse Road Intersection: Work is ongoing at this location and includes curb, sidewalk and pedestrian upgrades.

STATE SPONSORED:

Railroad Crossing Repair: Conrail has notified the Township that at-grade crossing repairs will be completed this year on both the Federal Road and South Middlesex Blvd. rail crossings.

Route 33 & Applegarth/Butcher Road: At the request of Monroe Township, NJDOT has agreed to install dedicated left turn arrows onto both Route 33 East and West.

Route 33 Paving: NJDOT has begun road improvements along portions of Route 33 corridor through the Township, paving and striping will follow this work.

Fourth of July in Monroe



Everyone had a blast on the shore of Manalapan Lake during Monroe's Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular, organized by Monroe's Recreation Department, with highlights that included rides, vendors and a more than 20-minute fireworks display.

Monroe Celebrates a Milestone Birthday and a Colorful Past

Exactly 180 years have passed since a small “Committeeship,” opting to secede from South Amboy and with a nod from the New Jersey General Assembly, carved out a community all their own: Monroe Township.

“This was about a group of people having pride in a certain area that wanted to get a better handle on things and take care of their own,” said Township Historian John Katerba of those

founding members.

Coincidentally, half a century prior, the Township’s namesake, James Monroe, fifth president of the United States, had accompanied George Washington to a modest federal-style home on Hoffman Station Road in June of 1778 for an overnight stay on the eve of the battle of Monmouth.

At the time of its incorporation, Monroe spanned 60-square miles and a growing number of quaint hamlets peppered the landscape with settlers lured in by the prospect of fertile earth and a network of waterways needed to power the era’s burgeoning milling and shipping industries.

“If not for Manalapan Lake, people wouldn’t have congregated

here,” Katerba said. “They dam-med it up in 1710 to harness the power, which ultimately led to settlement.”

Just prior, the Camden-Amboy Railroad, boasting the nation’s first steam-powered engine, had laid track in Monroe in 1833, bringing with it ease of transportation, as well as the nation’s first train fatality at the Monroe-Hightstown border with none other than future President John Quincy Adams and a would-be business mogul Cornelius Vanderbilt on that fated derailed ride.

“Of course, the railroad had a few hiccups along the way, but the locals discovered they could move goods and people more quickly, which again, led to a population boom,” Katerba said.

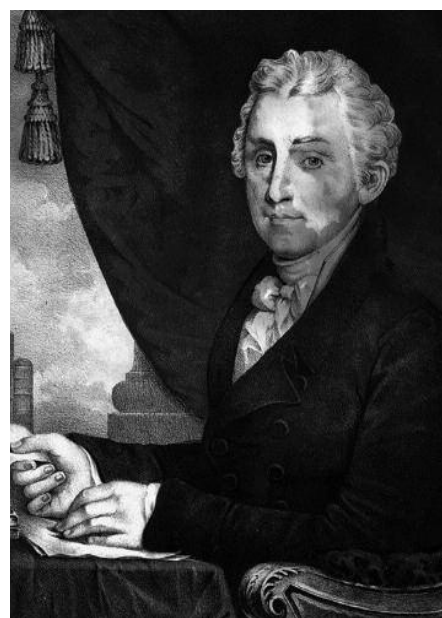
The inaugural Township Committee meeting was held at a Spotswood



A vintage photo of the Hoffman Station Road House, where James Monroe quartered along with George Washington.



Manalapan Lake in 1910



Depiction of Monroe’s namesake President James Monroe

hotel and subsequent meetings at residents’ homes and other area lodgings until 1938, when the powers that be designated a former one-room school house on Prospect Plains Road to host these official gatherings – a tradition that continued all the way up until 1982.

Over the years, neighboring communities broke away from the Township, in whole or in part, including Helmetta, Cranbury, Jamesburg, East Brunswick and North Brunswick, paring Monroe’s borders down to the present-day 43-square miles.

“This is really just skimming the historical

surface,” Katerba said. “But there’s a whole host and depth of history here in our Township from both before and after our incorporation. Monroe continues to evolve and change as time organically spins the fabric of this community from a variety of colorful strands.”

To learn more about the history of Monroe, contact the Township’s Historic Preservation Commission at 732-521-4400 or stop by the Dey Farm on Federal Road from 1 to 4 p.m. for a seasonal tour on the first Sunday of the month between May and October.



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Monroe Receives \$85,000 in State Clean Communities Grants to Fight Litter

The State Department of Environmental Protection awarded Monroe Township an \$85,000 Clean Communities grant in late June as part of its annual initiative to assist with litter removal and programming and to enhance community beautification throughout the state.

The DEP based its most recent awards, totaling \$19.4 million in 2018, on the number of housing units and miles of County or municipally-owned roadways within each respective community and region.

"I'm excited to announce that we'll soon be embarking on a communitywide litter cleanup campaign, which will be largely driven by this latest grant award," said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "Our recycling staff has taken the lead on this project as a way to improve the efficiency of its operation and restore our natural landscapes."

Experts point to pedestrians, motorists, overflow of household garbage, construction sites and uncovered trucks as major contributors to the nation's widespread litter problem.

To counteract these factors and as a means to jumpstart its litter-removal campaign, Monroe's Recycling



Joseph Slomian, Recycling Department representative, leads a Clean Communities litter survey in Monroe this past spring.

Division has begun promoting its Clean Communities mini-grant program.

"We offer \$500 mini-grants to qualified non-profits wishing to host a litter cleanup event," explained Joe Slomian, a representative from Monroe Township's Recycling Department. "It's a great way to get involved, to make a visible impact through community service and to impress upon our residents the severe consequences of littering."

As a complement to the litter removal campaign, a portion of the Clean Communities grant money will also be designated for equipment upgrades, stormwater cleanup, as well as education and prevention initiatives, Slomian said.

"We are very pleased

with this grant funding and with the steps our Recycling Department and our Environmental Commission, which also routinely hosts cleanups, are taking to be proactive," said Councilman Leonard Baskin, liaison to the Monroe Township Environmental Commission. "It's going to take strategy and a combined effort by our community to effectively tackle what amounts to a persistent littering problem."

New Jersey's Clean Communities grants are funded through legislated user-fees placed on manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors that produce litter-generating products.

To learn more or apply for the mini-grant program, contact Slomian at 732-656-4575.

Hometown Superstars



Monroe's own celebrated gymnast, 15-year-old Rhea Alathur, took home four gold medals in all-around, uneven bars, vault and balance beam and a silver on floors at the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington. Photo courtesy of the Alathur family.



Accomplished swimmer, Mason Kucharski, 14, received a gold medal for the 25-meter medley relay, a silver medal for the 25-meter backstroke and two bronze medals for the 25-meter freestyle and relay at the Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games at The College of New Jersey campus in Ewing. Photo courtesy of the Kucharski family.

Mayor's Open Office Hours:
Keeping the Lines of Communications Open

The Fourth Thursday of Every Month
Between 5:30 p.m. & 6:45 p.m.
Contact 732-521-4400 ext. 114

Arbor Day Foundation Names Monroe Tree City USA for 28th Year!

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Monroe Township Names New Captain

Surrounded by family, friends and a barrage of uniforms, longtime resident, Capt. Michael Biennas, swore an oath at the June 6 Township Council meeting, stepping into his newest role as the Monroe Township Police Department's second highest ranking officer.

Son to a Tom's River police officer, Biennas first charted his professional path into law enforcement at the age of 23.

Upon his hire in Monroe, Biennas attended training at the New Jersey State Police Academy in Seagirt in January 1988.

Day one on the job, Biennas signed on with the department as a patrolman, working rotating shifts. Nine years later, he moved into an office setting and to the position of traffic safety sergeant.

In that capacity, his work primarily revolved around serious and fatal motor vehicle accidents along Township roads.

In 2000, Biennas returned to the beat, get-

ting back behind the wheel, only this time in a supervisory role as a patrol sergeant – a post he held for more than a decade.

"I've worked the road almost my entire career," Biennas said. "I was really looking for the opportunity to lead a squad."

In 2011, the Department reassigned Biennas back into the Traffic Safety Bureau, where he served for the next four years.

He successfully met the requirements for promotion to the rank of lieutenant in 2014 and subsequently, was placed in charge of the Patrol Division.

Under his newest title, Biennas is tasked with auxiliary oversight of civilian employees, as well as the Police Department's three primary divisions: administration and the patrol and detective bureaus.

"Monroe's a great place to work and live," he said. "You get that small-town feeling in the middle of New Jersey."



Monroe Welcomes New Utility Department Director



Monroe named Joseph E. Stroin Jr. new director of the municipal Utility Department this past July. The Sayreville native and T4-license holder graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Stroin began his career with a Fortune 500 international energy company. He held various senior-level positions in operations, engineering, and marketing while directing organizations in culturally diverse locations on the

East and West Coasts, the Midwest and Hawaii. Stroin was then recruited back to the New Jersey-based Elizabethtown Water Company as vice president of operations. At that time, EWC was the sixth largest investor-owned public water utility in the U. S.

After completing the Oxford University Leadership Program, he founded a consultancy practice and built it from a grass roots company into a multi-disciplined management firm dedicated to helping small businesses grow.

North Jersey District Water Supply Commission then tapped Stroin to lead its operations. The Commission is responsible for overseeing the largest regional water supply system in

the State and its facilities serve the water needs of more than three million people in North Jersey.

While he's enjoyed all of his diversified work experience, Stroin says his recent move to Monroe is the pinnacle of his professional career.

"The opportunity to interact one-on-one with the Township's customers and residents is most rewarding," he said. "There's a strong history of infrastructure improvement, quality and customer service excellence here in Monroe and that foundation will allow the Utility Department to continue to be recognized as an outstanding provider of water and sewer services."

New Senior Center Director at the Helm



Since July, Monroe's Senior Center has had a new director at the helm, who comes to the Township with a wealth of experience in non-profits, the healthcare sector and municipal programming.

Karen Theer has held a number of distinguished titles over the course of her career, to include director of resource development with Prevent Child Abuse NJ, recreation supervisor of the East Brunswick summer day camp and youth council, recreation director of Hazlet Township and her most recent position as director of East Windsor's Senior Center.

In East Windsor, Karen was instrumental in spurring major expansions in programming and a spike in enrollment – growing the program from 389 to 1,388 members in only a few years.

She has also spent the better part of a decade volunteering with an East Brunswick assisted living center and another six years working as a part-time certified home health aide, giving her a well-rounded perspective on senior living.

Among her many accolades, Karen has been the recipient of East Windsor's 2016 Employee of the Year, United Way of Central Jersey's Hometown Heroes Award in 2010 and East Brunswick Township's Women Who Have Made a Difference Award in 2001, just to name a few.

"I'd like to continue in the rich history that has been handed down to me," she said. "In the coming weeks, I'm going to take a listen-and-observe approach and explore new ways to diversify programming. My goal here is to make a positive difference for older adults by enriching their lives and helping them thrive in mind, body and spirit."

Seeking Election Poll Workers

The Monroe Township Clerk's Office is currently taking poll worker applications for the upcoming Nov. 6 General Election. Applicants must be:

- At least 16 years old
- Live in Middlesex County
- Must be Available from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Day of Election

Applications are available on the Monroe Township website, www.monroetwp.com, or by contacting the Monroe clerk's office at 732-656-4573 or in-person at 1 Municipal Plaza, room 108.

Photography Club President Offers A Snapshot from the Vietnam War

At least half a century has passed since a kid from Woodbridge signed an enlistment contract that guaranteed him a one-way trip to a battle-scarred jungle some 8,000 miles away.

Now 69 years old, Monroe resident Vince Minkler, a veteran and president of the Township Recreation Department's Photography Club, still marvels at the serendipitous events that led him to become an aerial combat photographer for the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

It was 1967 and an 18-year-old Minkler, angling to get behind the lens, was on short supply of

knowledge and experience as he prepped for an entrance exam into this specialty field at basic training in San Antonio, Texas.

For hours, he pored over the only study guide he had at his disposal: an instruction manual from a 35-millimeter box of film.

"I knew nothing," Minkler admits. "I was reading about F-stops and shutter speeds. The test was multiple choice...I was amazed to find out I passed."

Bypassing any technical school, he headed straight for Mather Air Force Base just outside of Sacramento, California, where he

spent more than three years fine-tuning his craft through mundane photo assignments and dark-room details.

Ceremonial photos of ranking brass and occasional trips out to the airfield, capturing jet-powered B-52 bombers, became a status-quo workday.

At the tail-end of his enlistment, deployment orders finally dropped and Uncle Sam whisked Minkler off to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, just outside of Saigon in Vietnam.

"I was doing a lot of landscape photography, the bomb squads marking targets and F-4s coming in to put the ordnances down," Minkler said, noting the focus of his lens could change drastically depended on the day and the assignment.

In one surviving photo, Minkler captures a foreign allied soldier, anxiously clutching a parachute pack as he prepares to hurl himself into the sky, abandoning his seat on a low-altitude flight and with it, all sense of security.

In another, he traipses along dirt pathways in a squalor village, zooming in on barefoot children



A photo captured by Minkler during his deployment in the Vietnam War.

and their doting mothers – Minkler's best attempt at depicting the daily humdrum of a remote community in a war-torn tropical terrain.

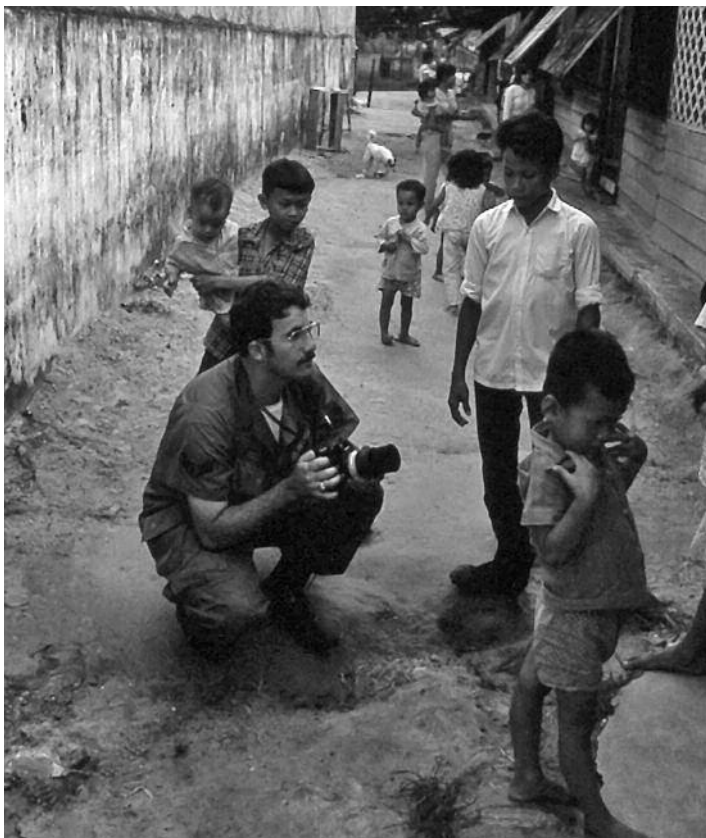
Some days were less remarkable, as he snapped refueling platforms along the flight lines; others, just extraordinary, like his run-in with then South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in the presidential palace.

Returning home near the close of the conflict, Minkler bounced around a few jobs before settling into computer programming and consulting, which he retired from

only a few years back.

All the while, he's kept a practiced, keen eye for photography – in some instances on a professional level for local media outlets or private clients and in others, just for the sheer enjoyment as he marks nearly a decade with Monroe's Photography Club.

"I really enjoy seeing other people improve their photography skills based on what they've learned," he said. "I personally feel like I'm missing something if I'm not out taking pictures – coming back with that one print-worthy photo you would hang on the wall."



Retired Air Force combat photographer, Vince Minkler, in the field during his tour through Vietnam.

Info for Monroe Recreation Department's Photography Club: 732-723-5000

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Answering the Call of Duty

The Monroe Township Fire District No. 2 welcomed four new firefighters, Brian Yockman, Matthew O'Brien, Anthony DePasquale and Andrew Slane, at a July 12 swearing-in and induction ceremony at the Halsey Reed Road station.



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Recreation Calendar of Events

September 2018

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



Pickleball & Table Tennis



Open gym available
8:00am—1:00pm
Monday—Friday
Starting September 5th



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Facility is open 7 days a week, 8:00am-9:00pm						1
2 Last day of Summer Hours. Community Ctr closes at 1 PM for Labor Day weekend	3 LABOR DAY Community Ctr closed SPRAY PARK closes for the season at 8 PM	4	5 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM FIRST DAY OF PICKLEBALL & TABLE TENNIS, Open Gym, 8 AM - 1 PM Daily	6 MAYOR'S CUP SHUFFLEBOARD, Rossmoor, 9 AM	7	8
9	10 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	11 MTBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	12	13	14	15 VFW POST 262 MEETING, Community Ctr, 9 AM
16	17 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN, Community Ctr, 11 AM MTGSA BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM MONROE WOLVERINES MEETING, Comm. Ctr, 7 PM	18	19 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM	20 MAYOR'S CUP BOCCE, Thompson Park, 9 AM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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Recreation Calendar of Events

October 2018

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



OCTOBERFEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Sunday, October 21, 2018
Begins 12noon
Food, Music, Vendors, and more
at the Community Center



Saturday, October 27, 2018
10:30am REGISTRATION
Free Admission at the
Monroe Twp. Community Center
120 Monmouth Road



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM	4	5	6
7	8 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	9 MTBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN, Community Ctr, 11 AM MTGSA BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM MONROE WOLVERINES MTG, Comm. Ctr, 7 PM	16	17 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM	18	19	20 VFW POST 262 MEETING, Community Ctr, 9 AM
21 OCTOBERFEST Community Ctr, 12 Noon	22	23	24	25	26	27 HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST, Community Ctr, 10:30 AM registration
28	29	30	31 	ADULT FITNESS A.M. CLASSES Core Conditioning—Saturdays 8:30-9:30am Cardio Tone—Saturdays 9:30-10:30am Seize the Day Fitness—Mondays and Thursdays 9:30-10:30am Yoga—Saturdays 9-10am and Sundays 10-11am Zumba Toning—Fridays 9:30-10:30am		

November 2018

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



Grandparent's Day Out

Registration for Grandparent's Day Out will open November 1st. Forms and additional information can be found online at www.monroerec.com or at the Community Center. Online registration is not available for this event and forms must be dropped off or mailed to the Community Center. Space is limited and is first come, first serve. Event is scheduled to be held on December 27th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ADULT FITNESS P.M. CLASSES Kickbox & Tone—Tuesdays 7:15-8:15pm Low Impact Aerobics—Mondays and/or Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm Ultimate Fitness—Mondays and/or Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm				1 Registration opens for GRANDPARENT'S DAY OUT	2	3
4 	5	6 ELECTION DAY 	7 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM	8	9	10
11 	12 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN, Community Ctr, 11 AM	13 MTBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	14	15	16	17 VFW POST 262 MEETING, Community Ctr, 9 AM
18	19 MTGSA BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM MONROE WOLVERINES MTG, Comm. Ctr, 7 PM	20	21 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM	22 Community Center Closed 	23 Community Center Closed	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MTHS STEM Academy Enters its Sophomore Year

In its first year, Monroe Township High School's Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Academy is helping redefine education by placing select students in small structured, career-focused learning communities.

Last fall, the Academy opened its classrooms to the first wave of sophomores, handpicked by faculty the year prior based on a number of prerequisites.

"We vet the kids in terms of coursework, grades, attendance and by talking to their teachers," said acting high school Principal Scott Madreperla.

Participants must declare an area of inter-

est early on, choosing from: biomedical, engineering and information technology.

"We want to support students who have an early focus on their careers," said STEM teacher Sharon DeMarco. "Here they have the opportunity to do more college and career planning in their classes."

Fifteen students made last year's cut and a crop of 15 sophomores are headed into the Academy's ranks this fall.

Academy-goers rarely cross paths with their non-Academy peers in a classroom setting. Instead, they're limited to a more restricted schedule with fewer elective options to

keep them on an academic track in-line with their particular subset of learning.

Still following the state-prescribed curriculum, Academy instructors tailor classes that traditionally fall outside of math and science coursework, such as language arts or history, to include STEM-related subjects as well.

Furthermore, each Academy student is assigned a career mentor from the high school staff, who assists pupils in navigating difficult decisions and producing the newest trend in college admissions, the coveted "portfolio."

The Academy requires this batch of bright young minds to create a



STEM student, Priyansi Khara, and teacher, Sharon DeMarco.

digital portfolio, a comprehensive summary of their work, which may include anything from lab experiments to reflections and blogs to internship information.

Academy educators are currently in the process of diversifying fieldtrips, a time-honored favorite among all students, that incorporates elements of study and experts that may pique a professional

interest.

"Part of what we're trying to do here is create a different kind of experience that merges classrooms with outside experiences, so kids get a realistic career perspective," Madreperla said.

For further details on the High School's STEM Academy, log onto www.monroe.k12.nj.us or contact 732-521-2882.

Local PBA 255 Connects with Kids

From February to June, community police officers stationed at schools greeted students of all ages, opening a new line of communication.

Since then, summer has begun, but it doesn't mean the relationship between Monroe Township police officers and the community's children has ceased.

Two members of Monroe Township Local Police Benevolent Assoc-

iation 255, Wes Panckeri, state delegate, and Mark Salemi, sergeant at arms, came up with an idea to stay connected with the town's youth: bracelets.

While on patrol, officers are encouraged to stop by local youth hangouts — the recreation center, schools and the Library's Bookmobile — to hand out stylish blue and black rubber bracelets, proudly displaying "Monroe Township PBA 255" in white.

"We have been handing out the bracelets for about a month now, and it's a great way to stay connected with the kids," said Brian Burns, president of PBA 255.

Besides getting a chance to sit in the iconic purple and gold-lettered police vehicles, the children also get a chance to talk, learn about and put a name and face to the individuals out there patrolling the streets of Monroe.



Monroe Officer Wesley Panckeri made a new friend while handing out PBA bracelets in Thompson Park this summer. Photo courtesy of Local PBA 255.

During the school year, sixth grade stu-

Continued on page 19

MTHS Spring Sports Roundup

GMC Sportsmanship Award Winners

- Angela Oskierko
- Nick Rios

Monroe Township High School won the overall Sportsmanship Award in the Red Division.

GMC Scholar Athlete

- Ashley Patten
- Jack Brzozowski

NJSIAA Scholar Athlete

- Simone Girgis

SPRING SPORTS

Boys Baseball

- (12-9) Lost to Freehold in State Tournament 1-0 as #6 seed.
- Lost to Woodbridge as #4 seed in GMC Tournament.
- All Division – Nick Payero & Bryant Skurbe.
- All Conference – Nick Payero.

Girls Softball

- (13-9) Lost to Marlboro in 1st round of States 7-1 as a No. 8 seed.
- Lost to JP Stevens in 2nd round of GMC as No. 6 seed.
- All division - Marion Fopeano & Sarah Stepnowski.
- All conference - Marion Fopeano.

Boys Spring Track

- Jordan Kaplan 800 meter sectional champ.

Mehki Abbott Sectional Javelin Champ.

- Jordan Kaplan (5th) and Mehki Abbott (4th) in the State Group 4.
- All conference - Jordan Kaplan & Mehki Abbott.

Girls Spring Track

- (4-4) – Beat JP Stevens.
- Gennyka Liebenthal won sectional Javelin.
- Gennyka Liebenthal (6th) in the State Group 4 meet and advanced to the Tournament of Champions.
- All Conference – Gennyka Liebenthal Angelica Piccini.

Boys Tennis

- (11-7) – beat New Brunswick 5-0.
- Lost to Montgomery in 2nd round of States as a No. 8 seed.
- All division – Vikram Manisankar.

Golf

- (14-3)
- Won Red Division Championship; No. 1 seed in County Tournament.
- Finished 5th in the County Tournament.
- All Division - Adithya Palekar & Tanay Mandala.
- All Conference.

Boys Lacrosse

- (19-2) – Beat Southern in Sectional Quarter

Finals 9-4.

- Beat East Brunswick 7-6 to win GMC Championship as No. 1 seed.
- Lost to Lenape in States as No. 4 seed; 10-1 in Sectional Semi-Finals.

- All Conference – Mike Cavallo, Christian Gianola, Jordan Perry, Isaac Hernandez, Anthony Abreu, Jack Cusanelli, Jon Cerbie.
- Defensive Player of the Year – Jordan Perry.

Girls Lacrosse

- (16-6) Lost to Princeton 17-8 as a No. 4 seed in Sectional Semi-Finals.
- Beat South Brunswick 7-6 in double overtime to win GMC Championship as a No. 2 seed.



Boys Lacrosse

Photo courtesy of Monroe School District

- All Conference – Liz Skobolev, Kendall LaMauro.
- GMC Offensive Player of the Year – Ashley Patten.
- Ashley Patten & Liz Skobolev each scored their 100th career goal.

2018 Hall of Fame Inductions

- Dana Armstrong – Class of '96 (Soccer, Basketball, Softball).
- Norman Greene –

Class of '93 (Soccer, Basketball).

- Marc Tyson – Class of 2010 (Football, Wrestling).
- Blake Bascom – Class of 2010 (Football, Basketball, Wrestling).
- A.J. Rudowitz – Class of 2006 (Basketball).
- Nicole Ragucci – Class of 2008 (Soccer, Winter Track, Spring Track).
- 2009 Football team.

Seniors v. Senior Games



Games were in full swing May 30 as senior citizens and high school upperclassmen teamed up on the bowling lanes, as well as the shuffleboard, pickleball and bocce courts. Pictured here are the top-performing pairs, although everyone was a winner with new friendships formed and an unforgettable day had by all.

Tiny Cancer Survivor Has Big Fundraising Ambitions

It's a summer morning in the Moskowitz house, and upon signaling, a mother races over to her spritely young daughter, applying tinted gloss to a smile that beams from the inside out.

Petite in stature and sporting princess pajamas, eight-year-old Monroe resident, Avery Moskowitz, seems an unlikely powerhouse – but she's battled through stage four neuroblastoma and is ready to take her fight against cancer to the next level.

Cradled in her nimble arms is a custom-dressed American Girl Doll, the inspiration for her most recent fundraising efforts.

At the Monroe Township Community Center on May 12, Avery and her mother, Shara Moskowitz, with immeasurable help from outside nonprofits, volunteers and local business, organized the first-ever "Avery's American Girl Doll Hair & Nail Salon."

The six-hour endeavor featured a raffle, a toy drive, an American Girl Doll spa, a children's manicure station and a whole host of Disney princess greeters.

Avery's benefit garnered more than \$1,300 and a windfall of toys that she happily sent along to nonprofits and

organizations that had bought her comfort, wellness and joy during her own health scare, including:

A Moment of Magic Foundation, Friends Are By Your Side, Wigs and Wishes, Love Holds Life Children's Cancer Foundation and Dr. John Maris, MD, a pediatric oncologist with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"They helped me and I want to help them," Avery said, matter-of-factly.

Avery's Bravery

Shara Moskowitz first noticed her then-three-year-old's waning appetite and energy levels in 2013.

Two cancer diagnoses later, including neuroblastoma and full body, which encompassed Avery's skull, spine, shoulder blades, upper arms, full pelvis, thighs and bone marrow, it's difficult to quantify her treatments in any concise measure.

Over the years, doctors' attack strategies incorporated lengthy hospital stays, multiple surgeries, rounds of chemotherapy, a stem cell rescue, blood and platelet transfusions, medications and even radiation treatments that once forced the little fighter into quarantine, isolating her from the

basic comfort of human touch.

"My heart hurt every time she asked, 'Please hold me mommy,'" Shara Moskowitz said. "My tiny (girl) couldn't understand why mommy and pop-pop had to wear gloves and a gown to be in a room with her."

During a prolonged visit to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Shara Moskowitz discovered one saving grace that kept both their spirits high and very likely factored into Avery's love of all things royal.

"We watched a lot of Disney movies," the mom said. "After these two months, we were both able to say most of the movies verbatim."

Today, Avery has been found with "no evidence of disease," and yet computerized tomography and nuclear medicine scans, as well as bone marrow biopsies, have become routine but necessary evils in monitoring her health.

Avery must now contend with the long-term side-effects of her treatments, such as organ damage, stunted growth, spinal wedging, double cataracts, dental complications and permanent hearing loss, a condition that requires



Avery Moskowitz poses with an American Girl Doll, the inspiration for her latest fundraising effort.

her to wear hearing aids in both ears.

"Despite all she has gone through, Avery is an amazing, loving and giving child," Shara Moskowitz said. "If she saw, or heard another child upset or crying, she would say, 'Mommy, can we please give them one of my toys or stickers to make them happier?'"

Raising Funds, Awareness & Spirits

A few years ago, the Moskowitz family set up a booth at a popular local fair to sell decorated clams to raise money for a few good causes close to Avery's heart – only to find themselves mostly shunned by the large passing crowds.

"No one likes to see or acknowledge it," Shara Moskowitz said of pediatric cancer as she choked down tears.

"People can't handle the pain of it...that's why we do so much."

But for a girl whose own future has been uncertain at times, Avery keeps her eyes ahead, already gearing up to make next year's American Girl event even bigger and better.

"She always brings a smile to the face of anyone who meets her," Shara Moskowitz said. "She has taught me so much: How to persevere, live in the moment and love on a deeper level. Fortunately, through an unfortunate circumstance, this experience with my daughter has renewed my faith in humanity.

"There are so many selfless people out there in this world that love to just give and not ask anything in return," she added.

To learn more about next year's fundraiser, including how to donate raffle prizes, email Averysdollsalon@gmail.com or follow the official Facebook page: "Avery and Her Bravery."

Local PBA 255

Continued from page 16

opportunity to connect with police officers in the community by being a part of Law Enforcement Against Drugs, or L.E.A.D, a drug and alcohol awareness program. For 10 weeks, students learn valuable life lessons from the officers to help them make informed decisions.

“We want the kids to

know that the police are approachable and that there’s no need to be afraid,” Burns said.

The bracelets are not only a stylish fashion statement, they are a statement of safety and understanding. So look out for them around town kids and know that Monroe Township police officers are there whenever duty calls.

Catching the Action



More than two dozen residents, both parents and children, reeled in all the excitement of the Monroe Township Recreation Department’s annual fishing derby Aug. 14 at Thompson Park.

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Memorial Day Salute



Memorial Day ceremonies, held on May 28 at the municipal complex and Veterans Park, were fitting tributes to honor those who've laid down their lives to preserve this nation's freedoms. With Township officials, local veterans' groups and public participation, this marked one of Monroe's most well-attended Memorial Day observances in recent memory.



Recycle Coach

To access the Recycling Department's extended calendar, upcoming collection events, curbside collection reminders and other helpful information, sign up for Monroe Township's new "Recycle Coach" app on your smart phones and tablets through iTunes and Google Play.

Visit the Township's homepage, www.monroetwp.com or call Monroe's Recycling Department at 732-656-4575 for further details.

MTUD Partners with AWR to Offer Optional Water/Sewer Protection Programs

The Township's Utility Department recently partnered with American Water Resources (AWR) to bring Monroe homeowners optional water and sewer line protection programs at a below-market cost.

Since June, eligible residents now have the opportunity to enroll in AWR's water and sewer line protection programs, which can safeguard homeowners from unexpected, yet significant financial expense in the event of problems with their service lines.

Recognizing that companies were marketing these types of plans to Monroe homeowners individually, the Township bid-out an opt-in plan that could leverage aggregate pricing and a higher level of services on behalf of all residents.

"Through the bidding process, we relied on the economies of scale to achieve lower pricing while at the same time setting a higher level of performance standards, includ-

ing faster response times and enhanced restoration," said Monroe Township Utility Department Purchasing Agent Tim Stoessler. "We are pleased with the results achieved with our bid and feel the program has the potential to save any one homeowner thousands of dollars in costly repairs that are not typically covered by homeowners' insurance."

Officials noted that Monroe does not financially benefit from the three-year contract with AWR. The Township stipulated in the bid specifications that any compensation commonly paid to municipalities through this type of agreement be passed along to residents in the form of lower rates.

The protection plans cover the portion of the water and sanitary sewer lines for which the homeowner is responsible. Each plan offers, per occurrence, coverage of \$10,000, respectively, and there are no limits on the number of occurrences covered per year.

Both lines most commonly run from the exterior wall of the home to the curb box or cleanout located near the curb line.

For the duration of Monroe's contract, AWR's plan rates, excluding tax, are: \$1.99 for water line protection, \$3.99 for sewer line protection or a combination of both protection programs for \$4.98.

The partnership gives Monroe residents access to a 24-hour dedicated customer support and claims hotline, a two-hour response time from an insured, licensed professional and a one-year warranty on work performed.

Where applicable, residents should check with their community manager prior to enrolling in any AWR program to determine their responsibilities.

Learn more at www.AWRUSA.com/Monroetwp or call 1-866-273-3789.

The Monroe News reaches every home, business and post office box in Monroe.

Green Fair to Focus on Healthy Living

Green living and healthy living have long been synonymous.

So, it was an easy decision for organizers of the 9th Annual Green Fair, set for Sept. 29 at the Monroe Township High School, to settle on “healthy living” as this year’s theme.

“The point of the event is to promote a greener lifestyle and educate people on sustainability and green living,” said Mihir Majmundar, Green Fair Committee chairman.

Given the theme, the 2018 event, slated from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will make blood pressure and cholesterol checks, as well as flu shots inclusive to the day’s offer-

ings.

New for this year, food vendors are encouraged to eliminate plastic straws and an updated Green Tips booklet will include municipal and County trail maps.

From 11 a.m. to noon, presenters for the Oceans Rock Interactive Program will teach children all about sea creatures and oceans and close with a dig for take-home seashells and fossil shark teeth.

Surrounded by vendors selling eco-friendly products, other kid-friendly crafts, games and activities will be available throughout the day.

“Whether you are a

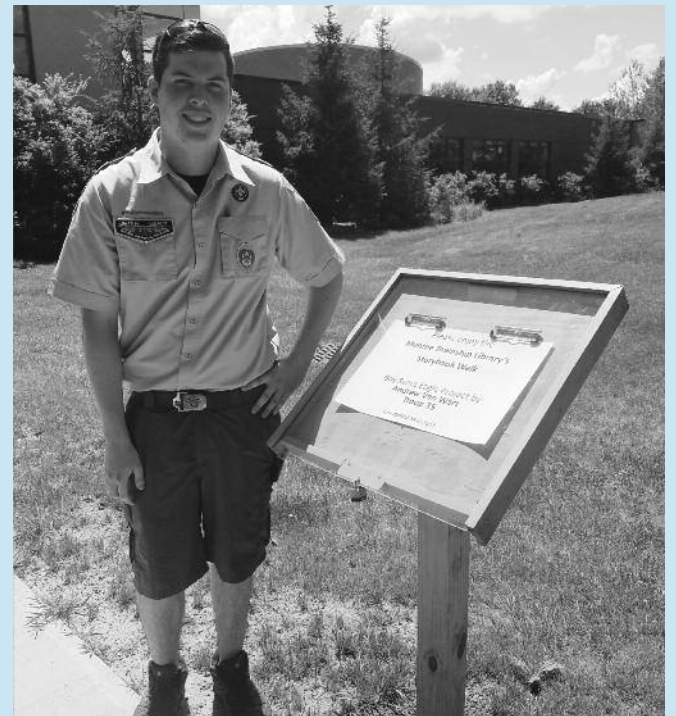
kid or an adult, there’s always something new to learn at the Green Fair,” said Councilman Charles Dipierro.

Live music will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and keynote speaker, Dr. Maria Choy, will discuss “Nutritional Medicinal Benefits from Our Ocean” at 1 p.m.

Visitors can head outside for the Enviro-Mobile, a mobile environmental classroom, a freecycling booth, paper shredding and locally grown produce for purchase.

More information on the Green Fair can be found under announcements on the Township website homepage: www.monroetwp.com.

Stories in Motion



Eagle Scout candidate and local resident Andrew Van Wart unveiled his project, *Stories in Motion*, in June at the Monroe Township Library grounds. The series of displays allows visitors to walk through a rotation of children’s books, page by page, along a pathway leading to the on-site playground.

Historic Preservation Commission Invites You to:

An Open House at the Historic Dey Farm

The First Sunday of Each Month through October
Between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Old Time Baseball with Vintage Baseball Clubs

Flemington Neshanock v. Philadelphia Athletics

On Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018

Swing by the Historic Dey Farm for a Tour or to see America’s Favorite Pastime Played as it was in the 19th Century!

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National Night Out



Enjoying a night out at Thompson Park Aug. 7, residents met up with local emergency responders and staff from Monroe Township, who hosted games, activities and rides during National Night Out.

Middlesex County Paper Shredding Event

Saturday, Sept. 29 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or until shredder truck is full) at the Monroe Township Green Fair, outside Monroe Township High School, 200 Schoolhouse Road.

Visit www.middlesexcounty.nj.gov and search “paper shredding” for details.

Cultural Arts Summer Concerts



The Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission held its weekly Concerts in the Parks Series, featuring an impressive lineup of performers, ranging from Broadway to rock-n-roll, funk and more, between July 12 and Aug. 16 at Thompson Park, Performances were funded through a grant from

Middlesex County through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on Art and the Department of State.

Photo Credit: Scott Friedman photographed Big Package on July 12.

L.E.A.D. Field Day



Local and state emergency responders gathered at Monroe's Middle School June 13 to meet with students for the annual Law Enforcement Against Drugs field day. Students learned the pitfalls of drug-use, got acquainted with responders and enjoyed outdoor games, a luncheon and a prize-packed raffle.

Do You Have or Know Someone Who Has an Accomplishment or Achievement Worth Recognizing?

Share it with the Township by Contacting Eileen Biennas at 732-521-4400 or ebiennas@monroetwp.com.

The Township recognized resident Austin Aiken, seen here with Council President Stephen Dalina, at a June 6 Council meeting after learning of the Cadet's acceptance into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.



OEM Encourages Preparedness

Continued from page 4

the local police department and other local agencies. There is no charge for registering, but standard text messaging rates may apply.

Signing Up for the Special Needs Registry

For residents who require special assistance during an emergency or who have medical equipment that requires electricity, Monroe Township, working together with Middlesex County, has developed a voluntary **Special Needs Registry**. A registration form,

found at www.monroetwp.com under "Alerts" and "Emergency Planning," must be completed and returned to police headquarters for inclusion in this registry.

When Electricity Goes Out

All outages should be reported to Jersey Central Power & Lights at 1-888-LIGHTSS (888-544-4877), online at www.firstenergycorp.com or through the JCPL smart phone app. Remember, telephone and garage doors might not be operational dur-

ing an outage.

Monroe's Emergency Shelters Locations

The Monroe Township Senior Center and the Monroe Township Community Center are designated as emergency shelters. Both facilities are fully operational with backup generators should any long-term shelter service be required.

Now is the time for Monroe residents to prepare themselves, their homes, their families, their neighborhoods and their places of business for all potential hazards.

Monroe's LOWV Marks Milestone Anniversary



On July 8, the Monroe Chapter of the League of Women Voters marked their 30th anniversary at the Dey Farm. Beautiful weather greeted a crowd for tours, children's activities and live music.

Cable TV Public Hearing

The current franchise agreement between Comcast and Monroe Township is up for renewal in March 2020.

The Monroe Township Cable Television Advisory Committee will hold an open public hearing Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building's council chambers, 1 Municipal Plaza.

Monroe Township residents are invited to the hearing to share their thoughts on the current cable television services agreement with Comcast and offer recommendations for improvement.

"It should be clearly understood that the Township has no control over billing rates or programming," said Councilwoman Miriam Cohen, liaison to the Advisory Committee. "These are competitively determined by the consumer marketplace."

According to the terms of the current franchise agreement between Monroe and Comcast, there's an automatic 10-year renewal upon expiration of the agreement. However, based on state law, if the Committee finds evidence that Comcast has not satisfied the terms of the current franchise agreement, there will not be an automatic renewal.

Ultimately, the State Board of Public Utilities has the final say in whether or not a franchise agreement is renewed.

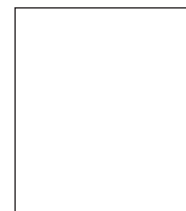
Upcoming Recreation Events

Octoberfest: Sunday, Oct. 21 begins at noon at Community Center

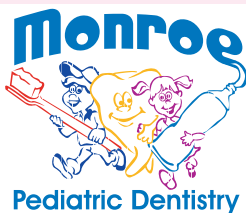
Halloween Costume Contest: Saturday, Oct. 27 /Registration begins 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center

Grandparent's Day Out: Registration opens Nov. 1 for the Dec. 27 event

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Touch-A-Truck



The Library, with the support from the Friends of the Library, rolled out its Touch-A-Truck event July 13, receiving quite a bit of fanfare from families, who explored a tractor, an ambulance, a limousine, a squad car, DPW vehicles and the bookmobile.



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