



Monroe's Bond Rating Shows Township's Strong Financial Footing

Township Secures Record Low Interest Rates

In yet another affirmation of Monroe's strong fiscal position, Standard and Poor's has given the Township an "AA+" bond rating, the second highest bond rating assigned by the company and only awarded to 10 percent of municipalities nationwide. The Township's short term borrowing rate is SP 1+, the highest rating available in that category.

Such a strong rating underscores the strong creditworthiness of Monroe as an issuer of bonds, signifying the municipality has strong financial backing, excellent credit reserves and limited debt.

Because of such a strong bond rating, following a detailed review of the Township's finances by third-party independent fiscal experts at Standard & Poor's, Monroe can borrow money at the

lowest interest rates.

"Our excellent bond rating reflects our flat municipal tax rate, strong administrative management, consistent financial operations and low debt," explained Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "This accomplishment is not solely because of my Administration. This bond rating is based on years of conservative, limited government. We've continually tightened our belt, not spending a nickel more than we must, and the financial services companies have clearly taken note."

As part of the bond sale, the Township secured 12 bidders that yielded a net interest of 1.52% on one-year notes and 2.35% on 18-year notes. This is among the lowest rate of any similar municipality with a similar duration loan.



Taxpayers directly benefit from capital projects funded at low interest rates that most other municipalities are not offered.

With the AA+ rating, Monroe is also being recognized for proactive planning, in which Township leaders deliberately limit borrowing, manage emergency surplus, and focus on the reduction and limited use of municipal debt.

"I am proud of our sound business practices that directly result in taxpayer savings," Tamburro said. "Monroe is in a strong financial position for years to come." ■

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Mayor Introduces Weight Restriction Ordinance to Ban Tractor Trailers from Cranbury

Facing more than 1,200 trucks travelling along two Monroe roads into Cranbury each day, Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro is promoting an ordinance that is designed to greatly reduce the ongoing problem.

The Township Council, at the mayor's request, introduced an ordinance on Wednesday, September 4 that would place weight

restrictions on trucks permitted to travel on Cranbury Station Road, Prospect Plains Road and Cranbury Half Acre Road, west of Applegarth Road.

Under the proposed ordinance, scheduled for a final reading, public comment and vote on Monday, October 7, no truck weighing more than eight tons would be allowed on these major

arteries into Cranbury. If approved, this ordinance would then be forwarded to Middlesex County and the state Department of Transportation for final approval.

"This proposed ordinance has been developed based on careful study and deliberation," Mayor Tamburro said. "While we

Continued on page 11



TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

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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 & 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

From the Mayor's Desk

When Carole graduated from Montclair State and I graduated from Seton Hall, we lived on a tight budget. We were married with our first child; we had to make every dollar count. Especially, since my National Guard unit was activated and I was stationed at Fort Dix. Five kids later, we still needed to be wise with our money.

We carried little debt and always lived within our means.

I have used those same principles as your Mayor. Yes, I have been called “frugal” and “careful,” but I refuse to spend what I don’t have.

2019 is another year of flat taxes at the municipal

level. Our sewer rates are the lowest in the area and our AA+ bond rating ensures we pay little interest on our debt. Our debt is lower now than when I took office and represents less than 20% of our borrowing capacity.

We limit hiring and our recent contract negotiation reformed our health care plan to be more fair to taxpayers and employees, amounting in significant savings for you.

By being “careful,” Monroe has the second lowest overall tax rate of the 25 towns in Middlesex County.

But there are obstacles outside the control of Town Hall. State court-



Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

ordered affordable housing on Route 33 and Mounts Mills Road has been a challenge. I will continue to fight these developers and I won’t give them an inch beyond what the state courts are ordering.

I will continue to manage our budget, protecting our tax dollars and remaining “careful.” ■

Monroe's Overall Effective Municipal Tax Ranking in Middlesex County

Taxing District	Overall Effective Tax Rate	Taxing District	Overall Effective Tax Rate
Cranbury	1.93	East Brunswick	2.74
Monroe	2.08	South Amboy	2.77
Old Bridge	2.08	Milltown	2.85
South Brunswick	2.09	Cartaret	2.89
South Plainfield	2.18	Middlesex	2.96
Edison	2.27	Woodbridge	2.97
Plainsboro	2.29	North Brunswick	3.01
New Brunswick	2.33	Spotswood	3.02
South River	2.38	Perth Amboy	3.02
Piscataway	2.42	Jamesburg	3.26
Sayreville	2.51	Dunellen	3.27
Metuchen	2.58	Highland Park	3.40
Helmetta	2.71		

*Source: Middlesex County's 2018 Abstract of Ratables.



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Monroe Moves to Save Longo Farm From Residential Development

The Longo farm located at 10 Old Church Road has been continuously farmed for nearly a century. Recently, Monroe Township has advanced an ordinance to save this prime real estate abutting Applegarth and Old Church Roads from development into single-family dwellings.

The almost 10-acre parcel will be preserved as open space or farmland for generations to come as the Township moves closer to its 50 percent land preser-

vation goal. The existing Longo family house and property will remain.

“This is a terrific piece of property and I am glad the Township has moved forward to preserve the property from development,” said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “We are at the cusp of another large purchase and excited to continue our strong efforts to preserve open space in Monroe for generations to come.” ■



Longo property from Old Church Road.

Mayor Tamburro Halts New Housing Development

Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro has issued a stop work order for the interior of Building 6 at the “Lennar at Monroe Parke” development on Spotswood Englishtown Road and suspended any new building permits at the site because the builder is in violation of a state court-imposed settlement.

The Township of Monroe is one of 300 municipalities in the state that are under a state court order allowing developers to build affordable and market rate housing, despite previous zoning.

“Home builders have had some success in court against municipalities regarding affordable housing, but I will not allow them to exceed their court approvals by one inch,” Mayor Tamburro said. “That is why I am stopping any new construction

on this site.”

As part of the state court settlement, Lennar received approval to construct a mix of market-rate homes and affordable-rate homes at a construction site at 647 Spotswood Englishtown Road, at the corner of Mounts Mills Road.

Under the agreement, once 76 market-rate homes are issued Certificates of Occupancy, then five affordable units must be built and issued Certificates of Occupancy.

Lennar quickly moved forward to construct 73 market-rate homes, yet municipal inspectors have found little evidence of progress that affordable units are being built. Municipal officials suspect it would take many months, if not years, for affordable housing to be built on the site.

That is why Tamburro

has intervened.

“This issue, to me, is much more paramount than five affordable housing units,” Tamburro explained. “All too often, national home builders think they can come into a town and ignore the state and local requirements that protect our residents. If you ignore these requirements, we shut you down. Pure and simple.”



Tamburro noted the Township has other issues with Lennar in regards *Continued on page 5*



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Monroe Focuses on Road Work Over Summer

Municipal Road Improvements

This summer, crews have been steadily moving throughout the Township, prepping roads for milling, paving and striping. As part of the Township's \$1.4 million capital investment, the following roadways are being improved:

- Erickson Avenue
- Six portions of Federal Road
- Union Valley Road in the area of Carly Court
- Half Acre Road between Applegarth and Union Valley-Half Acre roads
- Dey Grove Road, between Perrineville

and Jurgelsky roads

- Centre Drive
- Mounts Mills Road from Spotswood-Englishtown Road to the Regency entrance

In addition, upgrades to McKnight Avenue, Sherman Street, two sections of Hoffman Road and an additional portion of Schoolhouse Road will be completed.

County Road Improvements

Middlesex County has completed several infrastructure improvements this year, including:

- Portions of Half Acre Road between Forsgate Drive and Prospect Plains Road

- Spotswood Englishtown Road from Mounts Mills Road to Country Club Drive
- Prospect Plains Road from Perrineville to Hoffman Station roads
- A portion of Butcher Road

State Grant Funded Projects

Monmouth Road

Partially funded by a \$310,000 state grant, this project included roadway widening, milling, new pavement, striping, new painted crosswalks, repair of drainage improvements and concrete improvements to comply with ADA standards.



Road milling, paving and striping is underway throughout Monroe, thanks to the Township's \$1.4 million capital investment, state grants and county infrastructure improvements.

Schoolhouse Road

A state transportation grant of \$557,200 helped fund this project to repair and restore the pavement from the railroad tracks to Spotswood Gravel Hill Road.

Daniel Road & 10th Street

To begin this month, improvements include road milling, paving, drainage, curb and ADA concrete improvements. Construction is to be completed this fall. ■

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Monroe Works to Improve NYC Commute

Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro established the Monroe Township Commuter Council this year, a critical step toward improving private bus service to New York and Jersey City.

Thanks to the Committee's efforts, two morning express buses to Midtown began this spring.

"The express buses have been extremely popular, and we are working with the bus companies to add an express bus to Wall Street later this year and even more express buses to midtown," Mayor Tamburro said.

On September 5, the Township Council approved a construction contract to repave the entire Applegarth Park & Ride (near Wawa), adding new lighting, sidewalk replacement and new and expanded bus shelters. That project will be completed this fall.

The Mayor appointed the municipal business

administrator as chair of the Commuter Council, along with Monroe Township resident and commuter Gauresh Patel, who helped spearhead the committee's formation. Patel serves as vice chair of the Commuter Council, which also includes State Senator Linda Greenstein, Assembly members Dan Benson and Wayne DeAngelo and Councilman Charles Dipierro. The committee also includes Monroe residents who commute regularly.

"Monroe Township is a desirable location and many of our residents commute to and from New York City and surrounding areas," Mayor Tamburro said. "We are working together to improve this commute, the communication, the reliability and facilities so our residents can have a much better experience."

Questions about the Commuter Council? Contact Pam Broskie in the mayor's office, 732-521-4400. ■

Monroe Says No to New Housing

Continued from page 3

to Stonebridge, a Lennar development off Applegarth Road. The Township Council, with the recommendation of Mayor Tamburro, voted to authorize the taking of performance bonds if Lennar fails to make the long-delayed and needed repairs at Stonebridge.

"Our hope is that Lennar and other home builders will realize that we take our agreements very seriously," Mayor Tamburro said. "All we ask of builders is to follow the letter of the law. And if they choose not to, then they have to deal with us." ■

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Taking the Oath



Congratulations to Sergeant Joseph Silvestri and Sergeant Anthony Trohalides who were sworn in before the Mayor, Council, family, friends and fellow Monroe Township Police Department officers.

Monroe Adds Emergency Response Vehicles to Enhance Safety

Monroe is committed to public safety, providing residents with the latest crime-fighting technologies and other tools to ensure emergency responders have what they need to protect and serve.

Police Department

The Monroe Township Police Department has a 2019 Dodge Charger patrol car and a 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV added to the fleet.

The new Tahoe, in service as Unit 28, will replace a 2013 Dodge Charger that will be reconditioned as a Traffic Detail car. The new Dodge Charger, in service as Unit 30, is an addition to the fleet.

The MTPD Fleet consists of nine Ford Utility trucks, six Chevy Tahoe SUVs, 19 patrol cars, two traffic vehicles and two Animal Control vans.



The Monroe Township Emergency Medical Services team welcomes the 2018 Ford 450 Ambulance to their fleet.

EMS

The Monroe Township Emergency Medical Services team added a 2018 Ford 450 Ambulance.

The new ambulance, in service as #504, replaces a 2005 GMC Ambulance that answered approximately 1,200 calls per year and logged 208,000 miles.

The 2005 GMC Ambulance will be reconditioned as a special operations truck, replacing a 1996 Ford Ambulance that will be decommissioned from service.

The EMS fleet consists of 13 ambulances, three supervisor vehicles and two specialty vehicles. ■

Monroe Welcomes New Police Chief

Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, Council President Stephen Dalina, members of Monroe Township Council, Assemblyman Wayne D'Angelo, Freeholder Leslie Koppel, Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew Carey, Fire Chief Peter Gasiorowski and Police Chief Michael Lloyd were among family, friends, MTPD officers and colleagues in attendance on July 11 to witness the Ceremonial Swearing In of Michael Biennas as Chief of the Monroe Township Police Department.

Congratulations Chief Biennas!



MTPD Congratulates 29 Youth Academy Graduates

The inaugural Monroe Township Police Youth Academy was held this summer at the Monroe Township Middle School.

Free to Monroe residents entering seventh or eighth grade for the 2019-2020 school year, the program was designed to give young adults a first-hand look into a career in law enforcement while building confidence and promoting self-reliance and teamwork. Each recruit participated in team building exercises, cadence drills, classroom learning and physical training sessions led by volunteer police personnel.

Graduation ceremonies

were held on July 26, when 29 recruits received certificates of completion and kudos for a job well done. Graduates opened the August 5 Township Council meeting with a cadence call then led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Monroe police Sergeant Ronald Breuer recognized Detective Dale DeGraw for conceptualizing the Youth Academy and thanked police who volunteered their time to make the program possible.

Congratulations to the inaugural graduating class of the Monroe Township Police Youth Academy! ■



The inaugural Police Youth Academy class.



The inaugural Police Youth Academy class poses for graduation.

Monroe Promotes Four Police Officers

Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro and Chief Michael Biennas announced four promotions within the ranks of the Monroe Township Police Department.

Effective August 1, Lieutenant Lisa Robinson was promoted to Captain, replacing Biennas who assumed the role of Chief on July 1. Sergeant John Strych was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Officer Brian Burns to Sergeant. Officer Brian Dziomba also was promoted to Sergeant following the retirement of Sergeant Robert Bell in July.

“The Monroe Township Police Department is one of the most professional police departments in the state. With the strength of our Police Department, Monroe Township continues to lead in being the safest city in Middlesex County and fourth in the state,” said Mayor Tamburro. “These are all extremely capable individuals and I wish them much success in their new positions.”

Chief Biennas said the police department has a long history of dedicated law enforcement and public safety professionals who go above and beyond

in their respective duties.

“These accomplished officers have proven themselves as assets to the force and I expect they will continue to be outstanding leaders in their new roles of increased responsibility,” he said.

The Monroe Township Police Department comprises 62 sworn officers. The Department consists of a detective bureau, a juvenile/youth services bureau, a domestic unit, a traffic safety bureau and has an officer assigned to senior citizen crime prevention. ■

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New Facilities Open at Daniel Ryan Field



Mayor Tamburro and members of the Township Council held a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Aug. 20 at a new concession stand and ADA-compliant restrooms at Daniel Ryan Field. Monroe Wolverines celebrated, as Middlesex County Freeholder Leslie Koppel, a Monroe resident, cut the ribbon.

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This offer is available for new clients only and cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. One time services are not eligible for this offer. Expires 9/30/19.

Monroe Secures State Grants to Improve Energy Efficiency and Save Taxpayer Dollars

Monroe Township has received a total of \$154,470 in grants from the New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) under the Direct Install program aimed at cutting energy costs by replacing outdated operational equipment with energy efficient alternatives.

"As a budget conscious and environmentally friendly municipality, I am proud of our efforts to reduce operating costs

while upgrading equipment with efficient alternatives," said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro.

"We will continue to look for opportunities to make Township facilities as cost effective and energy efficient as possible. These measures also help us maintain our silver status with Sustainable New Jersey."

Most recently, the Township received \$28,914 for energy improvements at the Department of Public

Works facility. Awards also were granted in each of the last two years for lighting upgrades as well as heating and cooling efficiency measures at the municipal building (\$67,936) and police department (\$57,620.)

Existing small to mid-sized commercial and industrial facilities with an average peak electric demand not exceeding 200 kW in any of the preceding 12 months are eligible to

participate in the Direct Install program. Applicants must submit the last 12 months of electric utility bills indicating that they are below the demand threshold and have occupied the building during that time. Buildings must be located in New Jersey and served by the state's public, regulated electric or natural gas utility companies.

As part of the evaluation process, a certified

contractor performs an energy assessment, establishes a scope of work and prepares all necessary documentation as required by the Board of Public Utilities.

If approved, the program pays up to 70 percent of the cost of the installed measures.

This program applies to non-residential, commercial and industrial buildings only. ■

Monroe Township Eagle Scout Earns Jefferson Award

Monroe Township High School student Shankar Saikia from Boy Scout Troop 3 received the New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award for Public Service at a special ceremony held at the Trenton War Memorial.

The Jefferson Awards is the nation's oldest and most prestigious recognition program for volunteer/public service; the official recognition program of the United States Senate. The Jefferson Awards was established in 1972 by the American Institute for Public Service in cooperation with the U.S. Senate and the White House. Honorees are selected from hundreds of nominations across the state in 20 categories.

Shankar, honored May 19, was selected as an honoree in the STEM cat-

egory, which recognizes outstanding service and contribution for the application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills and knowledge by an individual or team to develop solutions to problems at the individual, home, school, community or global level.

This spring, Shankar was an Eagle Scout and a Senior Patrol Leader in Troop 3. Associated with the Thomas Edison Center since 2017, Shankar wanted to highlight Edison's phonograph. As an Eagle Scout candidate in 2017 he chose to design an information kiosk as his service project.

He worked for eight months on researching the phonograph in collaboration with Kathleen Page Carlucci, the museum's

Director, and Dr. Paul Israel, Chief Editor of the Edison Papers at Rutgers University.

During the spring of 2018, he led his troop to build a permanent outside exhibit showcasing the history of the phonograph on the grounds of the Center, located within the Edison State Park in Edison. The exhibit stands behind the Edison Memorial Tower, listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Shankar has continued to be associated with the museum as a volunteer and has expanded his work to promote a variety of STEM-themed projects for scouts and other students.

"Shankar's hard work in the planning, construction and installation of an outdoor information kiosk at the Thomas



Monroe Township High School student Shankar Saikia from Boy Scout Troop 3 received the NJ State Governor's Jefferson Award for Public Service at a special ceremony held at the Patriots Theater in the Trenton War Memorial on May 19. Mayor Tamburro met with Shankar to congratulate him on his award and thank him for his commitment to community service.

Edison Memorial Tower and Park in Edison is a testament to his dedication

and perseverance," said Michael C. Sabanos, Troop 3 Scoutmaster. ■

Important Dates at Recreation

- September 9** Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, *Community Center*, 7pm
- September 10** MTBA General Membership Meeting, *Community Center*, 7:30pm
- September 16** Senior Lunch and Learn *Community Center*, 11am-12:30pm
- October 6** Basketball Pals begins *Community Center*, 9-10:30am
- October 8** MTBA General Membership Meeting, *Community Center*, 7:30pm
- October 13** Monroe Recreation Octoberfest, *Community Center*, 12 noon
- October 21** Senior Lunch and Learn *Community Center*, 11am-12:30pm
- October 21** Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, *Community Center*, 7pm
- October 26** Halloween Event *Community Center*, 10:30am
- November 12** MTBA General Membership Meeting, *Community Center*, 7:30pm
- November 18** Senior Lunch and Learn *Community Center*, 11am-12:30pm
- November 18** Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, *Community Center*, 7pm
- December 10** MTBA General Membership Meeting, *Community Center*, 7:30pm
- December 16** Senior Lunch and Learn *Community Center*, 11am-12:30pm
- December 16** Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, *Community Center*, 7pm
- December 27** Grandparents Day Out, *Community Center*, 10:30am

Monroe Soccer Closing Ceremonies



Mayor Tamburro congratulated all Monroe Recreation Soccer League players, coaches and volunteers for a successful season at the league's closing ceremonies in June.

New Restroom and Facility Underway at Monroe Soccer Field



Soccer players and their fans will enjoy the new restrooms at the Monroe Soccer Field on Prospect Plains scheduled to open this fall.

Monroe Recycling Coordinator Named to State Association



Joe Slomian

Joe Slomian, the Township's recycling coordinator, has been named to the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Association of Recyclers, a non-profit, non-partisan network that serves as the voice of recycling in New Jersey through education, advocacy, and the promotion of professional standards.

Slomian is one of six municipal coordinators who have been appointed to the Board, the remainder of which comprises state and county officials, as well as private business groups.

Slomian explained the board promotes sensible recycling legislation, as well as hosts workshops, educational programming and an annual symposium. ■

Monroe Township Receives Another \$600K in Road Improvement Grants

Monroe Township announced it will receive an additional \$600,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for milling, repaving and reconstructing Costco Drive.

“Monroe Township is one of only two dozen municipalities across the state to receive funds from this competitive grant and it is our first time receiving

this award,” said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “We very much appreciate our legislators, including Senator Greenstein and Assemblymen DeAngelo and Benson, for recognizing our need to improve Costco Drive and supporting our efforts to secure the necessary funding to mill, repave and reconstruct the entire length of the roadway.”

This year, the Department reports receiving 59 applications requesting more than \$85 million but awarded \$30.1 million. Of the applications received, 25 grants were awarded representing 24 municipalities in 13 counties. Of the 25 projects, 19 were Pavement Preservation awards totaling \$20.8 million.

“As Chairman of the Assembly Transportation

and Independent Authorities Committee, I am thrilled that Monroe Township is the recipient of this critical grant from the state’s FY’19 program,” said Assembly Daniel R. Benson. “This state Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) grant to provide for pavement preservation on Costco Drive lessens the burden on Monroe Township’s tax-

payers while providing safer and smoother roadways.”

This grant is above the \$557,200 state grant received earlier this year from the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2019 Municipal Aid Program for the Schoolhouse Road – Pedestrian and Roadway Improvements project. ■

Weight Restriction Ordinance *Continued from page 1*

recognize Cranbury has a thriving warehouse sector for its benefit, we can not allow local residential roads in Monroe to serve as a main thoroughfare.”

The ordinance was developed following a municipal study this summer, showing more than 1,200 trucks each day travelling along Cranbury Half Acre Road and Cranbury Station Road. Following such alarming information, the mayor immediately asked his professional staff for recommendations on how to significantly reduce the tractor trailer traffic.

It was decided that an eight-ton limit on all trucks would force these tractor trailers to follow approved routes to Route 130 or Liberty Way in Cranbury.

Weekday studies conducted by the Monroe Police Department and the

municipal engineer tracked the volume of tractor trailers heading to and from Cranbury.

“Our professionals noted a steady stream of tractor trailers on these roads, which is alarming because Monroe doesn’t have any warehouses in the area,” Mayor Tamburro said. “There is no doubt that all of this traffic on

these local streets is to and from Cranbury. Monroe residents have overwhelmingly voiced their concerns about this tractor trailer traffic and now, armed with research, we can act.”

Mayor Tamburro has continually expressed concern about the increasing tractor trailer traffic from Cranbury warehouses, questioning why these

tractor trailers aren’t directed to Liberty Way or Route 130, as outlined in the Cranbury Master Plan.

Monroe officials are questioning why Cranbury officials never completed their proposed two-mile “Liberty Way Bypass,” a road on Cranbury’s master plan that would have diverted tractor trailers

directly to Interchange 8A of the New Jersey Turnpike.

Because this traffic solution was never completed, Cranbury-based truck traffic now steadily traverses Monroe’s residential neighborhoods each day to the ongoing concern of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. ■

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Monroe Enjoys National Night Out

The 2019 Monroe Township National Night Out held August 6 at Thompson Park was yet another tremendous success with Monroe's first responders and other community organizations providing information and education to hundreds of residents and visitors.

Thank you to the Monroe Township Police Department and all participants for hosting another very informative, educational and fun evening for adults and children of all ages. ■



Police Department and Middle School Taking the LEAD Against Drugs and Bullying

The Monroe Township Police Department engaged Monroe Township Middle School students in a fun and educational Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Field Day on Tuesday, June 18.

The day's events included tours of first responder vehicles with presentations by police, EMS and fire personnel. Students were

treated to lunch and presented with team awards and raffle prizes.

The LEAD program provides programs and resources to deter youth and adults from drug use, drug related crimes, bullying and violence while reinforcing

mutual respect, goodwill and relations between law enforcement and their communities. ■



Local Veteran is a “Ghost Army” Hero

Surrounded by artwork that he created during World War II, Seymour Nussenbaum, now 96, can still recall when he enrolled at Pratt College in 1943 to study art, taking a course in camouflage hosted by the U.S. Army.

He never finished his coursework; he was drafted and began basic training in Fort Meade, MD, as part of the 603rd Camouflage Engineers.

The mission? To serve in the visual deception wing of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, known as the legendary “Ghost Army.”



Seymour Nussenbaum

The brainchild of journalist Ralph Ingersoll and Col. Bill Harris, the Ghost Army used inflatable tanks, sound effects and imagination to fool the Germans on the battlefield. The 1,100 members of the troop made up of artists, illustrators, sound specialists and radio experts were masters of deception, masking reality and duping the enemy.

In May 1944, Nussenbaum’s unit was shipped off to England. He was assigned to the factory section, creating fake patches for military uniforms.

Nussenbaum went on 20 missions with the Ghost Army, even working with General George Patton’s division, although he never got to meet the famous General.

The real troops moved at night, so the Ghost Army would set up inflatable tanks and dummy soldiers in other places to confuse

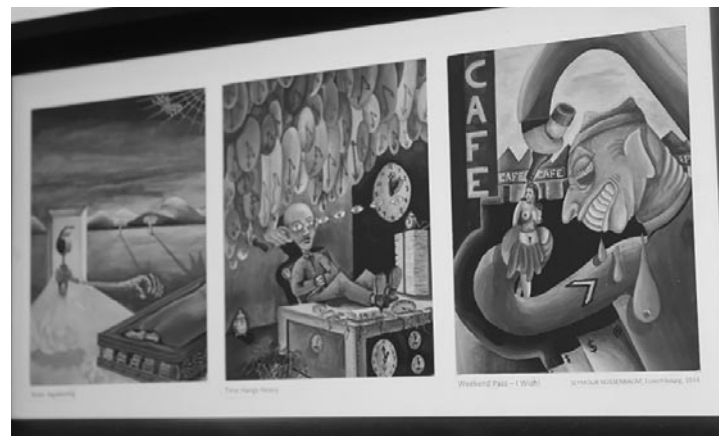
the Nazis.

“We got lucky that no one ever called our bluff,” Nussenbaum said. “We were only equipped with basic rifles and one .50 caliber machine gun.”

The Ghost Army set up a base in Paris the day after the city was liberated. “The French citizens gave the U.S. Troops a tremendous welcome,” Nussenbaum recalled, “throwing flowers to the troops in the streets.”

“There were hedge rows and a bunch of farmer fields in the area,” he continued. “We were working on the fake, rubber tanks and we had one all blown up, which weighed about 90 pounds, and we had to move it. So, four guys each took a corner and we began to walk with it.”

“Two Frenchmen on bicycles took notice as well as a guard on duty who, quick-witted as he was, replied, ‘the American soldiers are



Nussenbaum tried his hand at surrealism painting while stationed in Germany during WWII.

During his time in Luxembourg, Nussenbaum procured a tile from a building and painted it with the Luxembourg seal.

The tile now hangs in his home in Monroe.



very strong,’” Nussenbaum recalled, with a laugh. “And we just kept moving along.” Nussenbaum was in Germany when the Nazis surrendered in 1945. Once stateside, the Army silenced them about their missions for 50 years.

He received the European Operations medal and the Silver Star for contributions in five battle zones. But he couldn’t say why.

After the war, Nussenbaum enrolled in college on the GI Bill, majoring in illustration. He worked in packaging design for 30 years with companies such as the Barton’s candy brand.

Today, Nussenbaum focuses on his collection of Judaic artifacts from his home in Monroe, welcoming visitors to the “Nussenbaum Museum.” ■

Parks Department Hard at Work



The Monroe Township Parks Department works to keep the Township’s five recreation and parks facilities safe and optimally functioning for residents and visitors. The work includes maintaining playgrounds with fresh mulch.



Senior Services



September 2019 Center Activities

**Pre-Register for All Programs
REQUIRED EACH MONTH.**

**Please Make ONE Check Payable to:
"Township of Monroe"**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p>2</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p>	<p>3 9:00 Chorus 9:00 Gentle Mat Yoga 9:15 Body Works 10:15 Triple 15 10:30 Songwriting 101 10:45 Beginners Meditation 11:15 POUND 12 Chess-Mates/ 1 T. Tennis 12:00 Brain Injury Support 1:30 The Dreyfus Case, 1</p>	<p>4 9:00 H. Bones Grads 9:00 Total Toning 10:15 Bodies in Motion 10:30 CBD/ Healthy Bites 11:15 Breathe/ Line Dancing 11:30 Stressbusting 101 1:00 Jewelry Gems/ Games 1:00 Beg. Healthy Bones 1:00 Parkinson's Support 2:00 Trusts Protection</p>	<p>5 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:30 Beg. Mah Jongg 10:00 Ceramics (\$) 10:15 Body Works 10:30 Cookin' w. Chef Lori 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:30 Mixed Watercolor 2:00 Let's Jam! 2:00 Mandolin Practice <i>(Ballroom End Tonight)</i></p>	<p>6 9:15 Zumba Gold Appraisal Time, By Appt. 10:15 Boot Camp 10:30 Harmonica 11:00 Member Know-How 12:30 Watercolor Exp. 12:30 Bonnie's Kids 1:00 Table Tennis 2:00 Rhythm and Sound (No Saturday Classes, 9/7)</p>	
<p>9 9:00 SHAPE IT UP 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10:00 Move & Groove Car Fit Assessment, by Appt. 10:30 Robinson Artshop 11:15 Yang Tai Chi 1:00 Yarn It / Games /Tennis 1:30 Bully Prevention 3:00 Happy Travel Club</p>	<p>10 9:00 Chorus 10:30 Autumn Art & Music Blood Pressure, By Appt. 10:30 Between the Covers 11:00 Green Thumbs 12 Chess-Mates/ 1 T. Tennis 1:00 Oro Macht Frei</p>	<p>11 9:00 H. Bones Grads 10:30 TED Talk 10:30 Wobble Screenings: <i>for Balance, by appt.</i> 11:15 Line Dancing 1:00 Jewelry Gems/ Games 1:00 Beg. Healthy Bones 2:00 Maggie's Broadway Showstoppers</p>	<p>12 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:30 Beg. Mah Jongg Memory Scr., By Appt. 10:00 Ceramics 10:15 Body Works 10:30 Reverse Mortgages 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:30 Mixed Watercolor 1:30 Life Among the Stars 2:00 Mandolin Practice <i>(Mat Yoga End Tonight)</i></p>	<p>13 10:00 Open Canasta 10:15 Boot Camp 10:30 Harmonica 10:30 Itchy Trigger Finger 12:30 Watercolor Exp. 1:00 iPhone Basics \$ 1:30 The Dreyfus Case, 2 2:30 Karaoke with Rick</p>	
<p>16 LIHEAP, by appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10:30 The Gluten News 1:00 Yarn It 1:00 Games / T. Tennis 2:00 1970's Remembered</p>	<p>17 8:45 Drivers Safety 9:00 Chorus 10:30 Judge for Yourself 12 Chess-Mates/ 1 T. Tennis 1:30 Cancer Support 1:30 Forty Second Street</p>	<p>18 9:00 H. Bones Grads 10:30 Why We Wobble 1:00 Jewelry Gems/ Games 1:00 Beg. Healthy Bones 1:00 Acting Up 2:30 THE TIME MACHINE 2:30 Diabetes Support</p>	<p>19 9:00 Chair Yoga 9:30 Shade Tree Meeting 10:00 Ceramics 10:30 Worldly Book Tour 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 2:00 Mandolin Practice 1:30 Composing Singers</p>	<p>20 10:00 Open Canasta LIHEAP, by appt. 10:30 Harmonica 10:30 Signs of Dementia 12:30 Bonnie's Kids 1:00 iPhone Basics 1:30 Life of Albert Einstein 2:00 Art of the Masters 7:00 The Infernos</p>	
<p>23 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10:30 Staying Abreast 11:15 Yang Tai Chi (\$) 1 Yarn It / Games / T. Tennis 1:00 Life's Support 1:30 MUSIC BINGO</p>	<p>24 9:00 Chorus 9:00 Gentle Mat Yoga \$ 10:00 Beg. Meditation (\$) 10:15 Triple 15 \$ 10:30 Home Sharing 101 11:15 POUND (\$) 12 Chess-Mates/ 1 T. Tennis 1:30 Science Today 2:00 Michael & Ted Present</p>	<p>25 9:00 H. Bones Grads 9:00 Total Toning (\$) 10:15 Bodies in Motion (\$) 10:30 Meet the Author 11:15 Breathe/Stretch (\$) 12:00 Volunteer Luncheon <i>(BY INVITATION ONLY)</i> 1:00 Jewelry Gems/ Games 1:00 Beg. Healthy Bones</p>	<p>26 9:00 Chair Yoga \$ 10:00 Ceramics 10:30 Louisa M. Alcott 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:30 Mixed Watercolor (\$) Oxygen Bar, by appt. 1:30 Life of Fred Astaire 2:00 Mandolin Practice</p>	<p>27 9:00 Zumba Gold \$ 9:30 PRP for Pain 10:30 Harmonica 10:30 Put a PIN in It 10:30 Dabble & DO (\$) 12:30 Watercolor Exp. (\$) 1:00 Table Tennis 2:00 The Rolling Stones <i>No Transportation Available</i> 3:00 Hebrew Conversation \$</p>	
<p>30 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10:30 My Life in Comics 1 Yarn It / Games / T. Tennis 1:30 Denzel Washington: Featured Film <i>Happy Rosh Hashanah!</i></p>	<p>If You are Unable to Attend a Program, You Must Call to Cancel: 609-448-7140.</p> <p>Waitlisted Members Will Appreciate Your Courtesy.</p>		<p>Saturday Pop-Ups! Leave Your Legacy <i>Sat., Sept. 14, at 10:30 a.m.</i> Final Expenses 101 <i>Sat. Sept. 21, at 10:30 a.m.</i> See Class Flyer for Details. Be Sure to Register Early!</p>		<p>Fall Session Commences! Most Classes Begin the Week of 9/23. <i>Please Refer to Our Class flyer for Complete Details about our Autumn Line-up.</i></p>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Monroe Twp. Office of Senior Services Presents:

The 4th Annual Table 'N' Treat

Monday, October 28, 2019

10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monroe Township Senior Center

TREATS AT EVERY TABLE!

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For More Information: 609-448-7140

Monroe Township Green Fair Offers Sustainable Solutions and Healthy Living Options

The Monroe Township Environmental Commission, in cooperation with the Monroe Township Library, will host the tenth annual Green/Health & Wellness Fair on **Saturday, September 28** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Monroe Township High School located at 200 Schoolhouse Road.

This year's event offers more than 100 exhibitors and speakers who will provide valuable information, products and services to help attendees stay healthy and save money while protecting the environment.

For additional information, contact Environmental Commission Secretary Kathy Budge at 732-521-4400 ext. 130.

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Sep 10	Nov 12
Oct 8	Dec 10

WEDNESDAYS 7-8 PM

Sep 18	Nov 20
Oct 16	Dec 18



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4th of July Festivities



Mayor Tamburro, Council Vice-President Schneider and Councilwoman Cohen at Thompson Park for Monroe's 4th of July celebration, which included a Dance Party.

Gone Fishin'



The Recreation Department hosted the annual Fishing Derby event on June 22 at Thompson Park. More than 100 lines were cast into the lake, pulling up perch, sunfish, catfish and more. Prizes were awarded to the top four finishers in each division. This year's Grand Prize winner was Mia of the 7th-8th grade division.

Thank you to the Gardens at Monroe for sponsoring the event. Congratulations to all!



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