



Mayor and Town Council Introduce a 2021 Budget with Modest Tax Decrease

Mayor Stephen Dalina and the Township Council have introduced a 2021 municipal budget that included a modest tax decrease. The proposed budget reduces the municipal tax rate from \$.493 to \$.490 per \$100 assessed value and will be presented for public hearing at the June 2 Township Council meeting. As part of the new budget, water and sewer rates will remain the same.

“This has been an extraordinary and unprecedented year for everyone and the pandemic has caused most of us to have to tighten our belts a bit. The township budget is no different,” Mayor Dalina said. “As your new mayor, I have painstakingly evaluated our balance sheet and made the adjustments necessary to develop a responsible budget proposal that reflects the current economic reality.”

Among the factors that led to

the modest tax decrease were a 23 percent reduction in the township’s statutory debt over the past five years, resulting in a \$357,000 decline in the township’s debt service. With the help of a strong AA+ bond rating, the township is refinancing previous bonds this month and expects to save an additional \$136,000 annually and \$1.5 million over the duration of the loans. The township also aggressively pursued federal CARES ACT funding which helped keep tax rates down and provided a modest surplus increase.

The township initiated a hiring freeze last year during the height of pandemic shut-downs and many non-essential positions were furloughed. The township also was able to reduce expenses when programs and services were impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. Many of these programs are being



Mayor Stephen Dalina

reintroduced in this budget.

“I want to recognize the turmoil and uncertainty our residents faced this past year during the pandemic and resulting economic uncertainty. Remarkably, the township achieved a 99% tax collection rate, which helps keep taxes

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Monroe Seeks Public Participation in Master Plan Survey

As a first step in gaining feedback from residents and businesses alike as Monroe Township updates its Master Plan, Mayor Dalina and Township Council have launched an online survey focused on future plans for land use, transportation, recreation and open space in the Township.

“Each of us have unique ideas and experiences that are very valuable to this process. We want to hear from all of our residents as we plan for the future of our hometown,” said Mayor Stephen

Dalina. “The public input survey is a first step in working together with the community at large to develop a thoughtful and strategic Master Plan.”

All residents and business owners are encouraged to complete the master plan survey at publicinput.com/MonroeMP by July 1. Residents with limited access to technology may call 732-0521-4400, Ext. 132 for assistance completing the survey.

The Master Plan effort will take

place this summer and will focus on municipal land use zoning, road, sidewalk and transit improvements. It will set a vision for future open space acquisitions, as well as new parks and recreational plans.

Next steps will include community workshops and other ways to solicit community input. All relevant documents will be posted on the municipal website, Monroe-Twp.com, for public review. ■

Please complete the survey at
publicinput.com/MonroeMP
by July 1, 2021



TOWN HALL

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor:

Stephen Dalinasdalina@monroetwp.com

Council President:

Miriam Cohenmcohen@monroetwp.com

Council Vice President:

Elizabeth Schneidereschneider@monroetwp.com

Council Members:

Terence Van Dzuratvandzura@monroetwp.com

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Charles Dipierrocdipierro@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 & 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

Vaccine Angels Are the Pride of Monroe

Throughout the winter and spring, as Monroe officials worked to secure as many local vaccination appointments as possible, there has been a volunteer group that has made all the difference for so many residents.

The Monroe Township Vaccine Angels program, initiated by Mayor Dalina and the Township Council, has helped hundreds of seniors and other township residents access COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

In the early days of the vaccination roll-out, the Vaccine Angels helped navigate residents through the various scheduling portals in the hopes of securing local appointments.

“We have reached the critical point where any eligible Monroe resident can get a shot locally, based on their own scheduling convenience,” Mayor Dalina said. “I salute the many volunteers in town who helped secure vaccine appointments, as well as those who generously gave of their personal time in various



Florence Wallach relied on the Monroe Senior Center and the Vaccine Angels to receive her COVID shot. The senior center coordinated transportation, while the Vaccine Angels secured her an appointment.



important capacities at local vaccination centers. Together, our local volunteers have made an incredible and lasting difference to improve the overall health of this community.”

If you or someone you know qualifies for the vaccine and needs assistance finding an appointment, call Eileen in the Mayor’s Office at 732-521-4400, ext 114. ■

2021 Budget *Continued from page 1*

low,” Mayor Dalina said. “I would also like to thank the Township Council for their input and participation in the budgeting process as we continue to work together to navigate the pandemic, manage resources and maintain valuable services to our residents.”

Under the proposed plan, the average taxpayer whose house is assessed at \$320,410 would pay \$1,569 for the municipal portion of their property taxes.

“This budget year is considerably important as we prepare for the future

of our township,” said Mayor Dalina who noted that this budget cycle will fund the township master plan process in 2021. “There is nothing more important to our township than engaging all our residents as we plan for our future.” ■



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Mayor Stephen Dalina

Message from the Mayor

Township Creates Economic Development Advisory Board

community and its workforce.

We want to work collaboratively with Monroe’s business leaders to attract businesses that will add to the Township’s already strong and diverse economic community. It is also important for all of us to support existing local businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic.

This initiative will dovetail with our Master Plan efforts — where the Township is exploring appropriate plans for all types of land use, particu-

larly commercial activity. Of course, new business opportunities in the Township lead to property tax relief, from non-residential tax revenue, and that’s a win for everyone.

The Economic Development Advisory Board will formulate and recommend policies and programs to the Township Council that encourage desirable new businesses to establish roots in Monroe while providing valuable resources to existing Monroe businesses. The Board also will study challenges faced by commercial enterprises in

similar communities and propose potential solutions.

According to the ordinance, the board will comprise nine volunteer members, with two co-chairs, including Township residents and business leaders.

This is yet another way for more residents and businesses to share ideas and plan for the future of our great community. Monroe Township has a wealth of business knowledge and talent just waiting to be shared. This new advisory board will pro-

vide a conduit for the business community to have a louder voice.

Interested business owners and residents are invited to complete a downloadable application at www.monroetwp.com. Submissions may be sent to the Municipal Clerk by mail at the Administrative Offices, email preid@monroetwp.com or fax to 732-521-3190.

“I very much look forward to maximizing the potential of this new advisory board,” Dalina said. ■

At my strong urging, the Township Council is creating the Monroe Township Economic Development Advisory Board to promote economic growth and job creation.

The board will align local business leaders with elected officials to maximize the talents of the

Monroe Receives \$550,000 to Upgrade Key Roads

Monroe is receiving a \$550,000 Pavement Preservation grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for improvements to portions of South Middlesex Avenue and Fitzgerald Avenue located in the South Middlesex Industrial Park.

“Monroe Township is one of a few municipalities across the state to receive funds from this competitive grant,” said Mayor Stephen Dalina. “The Council and I recognize that securing these grants plays a vital role in maintaining Township infrastructure and ensuring safe

travel for all who traverse our municipality.

“I’m thankful to the 14th Legislative District, including Sen. Linda Greenstein and Assemblymen Wayne DeAngelo and Daniel Benson for their hard work in support of Monroe Township,” he added.

The NJDOT reports receiving 41 applications requesting more than \$45 million for the FY2021 program. Of the applications received, 33 grants were awarded representing 29 municipalities and 2 counties for a total of \$30.1 million. Of the 33 projects, 29 were pavement preservation awards total-

ing \$20.8 million.

“As Chairman of the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, I can attest that Monroe Township is a deserving recipi-

ent of this critical funding from the state’s FY’21 program,” said Assemblyman Benson. “This state Transportation Trust Fund grant to provide for pavement preservation for the

South Middlesex Industrial Park roadway lessens the burden on Monroe Township’s taxpayers while providing safer and smoother roadways.” ■

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Township Secures County-Funded Upgrade to Perrineville Road

Following a request from Mayor Dalina, Middlesex County conducted a milling and resurfacing project on Perrineville Road through the beginning of May.

The two-week long proj-

ect stretched from Forsgate Drive to Fir Drive at the entrance of Thompson Park.

“Monroe enjoys a strong relationship with Middlesex County, which understands our needs for the best roads

possible,” Mayor Dalina said. “I very much appreciate the quick response and expert work of the county for a project that did not rely on municipal dollars.” ■



Monroe Residents Thank Vaccine Angels

Dear Mayor Dalina,

THANK YOU for the very smooth, efficient vaccine operation set up at the Monroe Township Senior Center. I was impressed by all the volunteers and staff supporting this operation. THANK YOU to all the workers who participated in making this happen so successfully.

THANK YOU to Eileen who put me in touch with “vaccine angel,” Kevin Gately. Kevin worked tirelessly to help me schedule an appointment.

Great job everyone! Great team effort! THANK YOU.

Sincerely, Charlotte Woolston

Good Morning Mayor Dalina,

On February 7, I wrote to you. My wife had gotten her first vaccine and was scheduled for her second but I heard nothing about making an appointment even though we both registered the same day on the NJ site.

Frustrated, I had asked if you could offer any assistance. A day later, I received a call from Eileen in your office explaining that there was little your office could do and encouraging me to be patient. Although this did not help, I was grateful to get a response from your office.

Two weeks ago, I received another call from Eileen telling me that she had an opening for me to get the vaccine. Since I had gotten my first shot by that time I thanked her for thinking of me.

I am writing to commend you and Eileen for your concern and your response. I do not know what your political affiliation is and do not care because the actions of you and Eileen have nothing to do with political party and everything to do with human decency.

Very truly yours, Peter Gerstheimer

Dear Mayor Dalina,

I had the special number your office gave out for seniors over 75. I thought what have I got to lose other than being told I couldn't be helped. I called the number and asked to speak to Eileen Biennas. I was connected to Pam Broskie. After I told her my tale of woe and all I've been trying to do to get a vaccine appointment she took my name and number and told me she would refer this to one of the volunteer's who have offered their time to call around trying to get appointments for our Township's seniors.

Later in the day, the volunteer from your office, Theresa Rapisardi, called me to inform me she was calling CVS, Walgreen's, etc. to try to book appointments. When I told her I was finally able to secure an appointment she was pleased.

I need to thank Pam Broskie of your office and the volunteer, Theresa Rapisardi, for taking the time in listening to my trials and tribulations. They were agreeable, understandable, helpful and most importantly KIND over the phone. I thank you for having such caring individuals on your staff that are helping the seniors of Monroe Township.

Sincerely, Tom Krieger

*Please note these letters have been edited for space.

Fight Continues with “Bald Eagle” Developer

Mayor Stephen Dalina, with the support of the Township Council, announced that the Township’s attorney has been instructed to return to court to secure the right of residents to be heard and defend its zoning ordinances. The Mayor and Council are committed to protecting a vital bald eagle preserve from a developer’s overreach.



A bald eagle lands on Prospect Plains Road.

The developer convinced a Superior Court Judge to allow the development and remove the Zoning Board from further input into the site plan application. The Court’s order would severely limit public participation, take the hearing out of Monroe, and ignore procedural safeguards included in the State’s Municipal Land Use Law.

The Township’s Zoning Board in March 2019 denied a request by Developer SP II, LLC to develop an almost 50-acre site on Route 33 for high intensity housing. Following a determination that the site contained the nesting area for a bald eagle, the developer was forced to restrict nearly half of the developable portion of the property.

Mayor Dalina and Council have instructed the Township Attorney to seek a modification of the Court’s order to require that all procedural safeguards be restored. The motion suggests that a public hearing on this application should be in Monroe, on notice to Township residents, at a time convenient to residents and with assurances that a full and complete record is made to capture all objections. Mayor Dalina added, “This development should be vetted by our Township professional staff like every other development in Monroe and every other municipality in this State.”

Instead of reconsidering the development or reducing its size and scope, the developer pursued a plan that includes the same number of housing units on approximately 15 acres of the site. Following a denial of their application, the developer sued Monroe Township, and specifically former Mayor Gerald Tamburro, claiming they had been defamed.

“Mayor Tamburro correctly characterized this developer’s attempt to ‘jam-in’ this project adjacent to a bald eagle habitat and another housing development as ‘contrary to the public’s interest and previous approvals,’” Mayor Dalina said.

“This is about the public’s right to be heard and the Township’s right to enforce its zoning ordinances,” Mayor Dalina

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Around the Town

Play Ball in Monroe!

Mayor Dalina threw out the first pitch in Monroe Baseball's opening day game on April 10, with the Yankees taking on the Red Sox. Mayor Dalina, as well as the Township Council, wishes all players a fun and safe season! ■



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DEP Awards Monroe \$116K to Fight Litter and Encourage Recycling

Monroe is receiving a state \$116,211 grant to further enhance local litter-removal and recycling efforts based on the municipality's excellent performance in recycling efforts.

"Keeping our township litter-free while protecting the environment is a top priority for the Council and me. We all need to do more to help keep our

community clean and we will dedicate the necessary resources to support this mission," said Mayor Stephen Dalina. "We have instituted a monthly community clean-up campaign and the DPW team maintains an efficient process for recycling materials both at the yard and through curb-side pick-up. This award will allow us to host more community clean-up events and

improve our recycling program."

Recycling tonnage grants are awarded through the State's Recycling Enhancement Act and are funded through a \$3 per-ton surcharge on trash disposed at solid waste facilities statewide. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) then allocates funds back

to municipalities based on how much recycling each community reports accomplishing during a particular calendar year.

Each year, Monroe Township is required by law to file an annual report documenting recycling tonnage with the DEP. To file this report, the Township Recycling Coordinator collects information on the weight in

tons of recycled materials from all commercial and institutional establishments in the Township.

The year-long documentation process begins in mid-January with outreach efforts to local establishments, followed by reporting to the NJDEP in late-April and grant award notifications released the following January for two years prior. ■

Monroe Offers Free Trees to Residents

On April 24, Monroe residents stopped by the DPW Yard and the Monroe Township Library to pick up free tree seedlings, as part of the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign. The annual event is run locally through the township's Shade Tree Commission. More than 800 seedlings were distributed.



(From left to Right) Councilman Van Dzura, Council President Cohen, Joel Greenberg, Council Vice President Schneider, Surabhi Argarwal, Darren Kutz.



Volunteers hand out tree seedlings at the library, 4 Municipal Plaza.

Thank You Clean Communities

Volunteers fanned out on March 27 to pick up litter on North State Home Road.

Mayor Dalina, Councilman Dipierro and Councilman Van Dzura and other town officials were on-hand to express appreciation to the many groups and individuals who turned out for the annual rite of spring. ■



American Red Cross Honors Monroe Police Officer for Heroism

Police Officer Douglas Perrone continues to receive accolades for his life-saving response to a driver trapped in a burning car.

Central New Jersey Executive Director and Regional CEO Rosie Taravella of the American Red Cross presented Perrone with a “Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action.”

On November 26, 2020 Officer Perrone responded to a report of an overturned vehicle, fully engulfed in flames, and a driver trapped inside. His bravery that night resulted in the driver being safely extracted from the vehicle. ■



Mayor and Council Express Appreciation to Emergency Dispatchers

Mayor Dalina presented Monroe Township’s Public Safety Telecommunicators with a token of thanks on April 11 for all of their hard work and dedication.

On behalf of the Township Council, he proclaimed April 11-17 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Appreciation Week and thanked each dispatcher for their caring, compassion and devotion to Monroe Township.

Many thanks to all dispatchers for keeping Monroe residents safe 24 hour per day, 365 days per year. ■



Monroe Partners with Local Pharmacies to Deliver Vaccine to Homebound Residents

This spring, Monroe Township EMS crews, accompanied by Township police officers, have transported pharmacists from Texas Road Pharmacy and Point of Care Pharmacy to the homes of homebound residents to administer COVID vaccine.

“This was a big step in our fight against COVID-19 and keeping our residents safe. The Township Council and I are thrilled that the coveted COVID-19 vaccine was delivered to our homebound residents,” said Mayor Stephen Dalina.

“On behalf of the Council and from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank these two local pharmacies for partnering with us on this meaningful initiative,” the mayor added. “Special thanks to our highly skilled and very compassionate EMS and police crews for supporting these efforts. It’s all about working together to help those in need.”



Texas Road Pharmacy



Point of Care Pharmacy

The program to deliver vaccines to Monroe homebound residents began with a collection of names from concerned residents calling the Mayor’s office. This included the St. Peter’s nurses working at each of the Township’s adult communities who were asked to submit names of homebound residents.

“I would be remiss if I

didn’t also thank the County of Middlesex who initially stepped up to offer the J&J vaccine prior to the unfortunate recall,” Mayor Dalina added.

Any Monroe resident needing a homebound vaccination or assistance scheduling a vaccination appointment should contact the Mayor’s office at 732-521-4400, ext. 114. ■

Monroe Thanks First Responder Rob Drako

Celebrating 31 years of dedication and service to EMS, Operations Coordinator Robert “Rob” Drako was honored on April 30 during his retirement walk-out ceremony at the EMS facility among family, friends, and EMS personnel. As part of the self-proclaimed “original crew,” Drako was presented with a handmade plaque recreation of his patch #6 by Judy Olbrys, Director of EMS. ■



A Garden Grows in Monroe

The township greenhouse, less than two years old, is thriving under the care of the Monroe Community Garden members.

This year’s season started March 15 with 26 Garden members looking to have a new experience growing plants from seed to sprout. It was an ideal temperature inside the greenhouse located in the Community Garden; most of the plants germinated and grew at a very quick rate. The final count this spring: more than 60 trays of seeds germinating, with 2,200 to 2,500 plants growing.



Pictured (L-R) Councilman Van Dzura, John Riggs, Councilman Baskin and Mayor Dalina.

The club now has five garden sites for donations to the Monroe Food Pantry on a monthly basis, as well as contributions to the county food pantry and weekly distributions to those in need. A plant

sale was also held in the Monroe Community Garden Parking lot at 124 Applegarth Dr. on Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. All plants cost \$2 apiece. ■

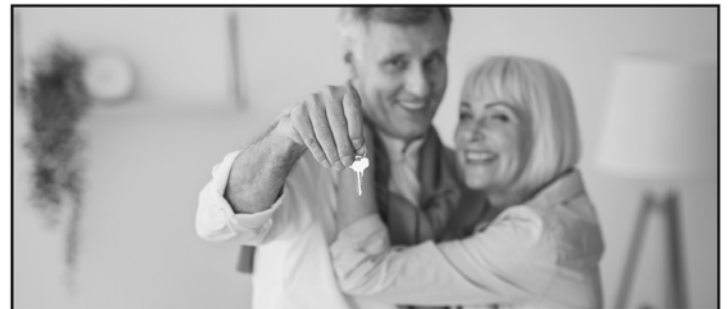
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A Very Peachy Tuesday in Monroe

Parker staff at Monroe shared the joy of National Peach Cobbler day with the entire community on Tuesday, April 13 through sweet and generous donations.

Staff visited essential parts of the community including the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Senior Center to hand-deliver the deliciously peachy treats.

The group of Parker staff included Cindy Marazo, Admissions Manager, Parker at Monroe, Michael Brophy, Director of Sales, Parker Health Group and Sarah Petty, Clinical Community Liaison, Parker.



Memorial Day in Monroe

The Township honors those who made the supreme sacrifice for America on Monday, May 31. The remembrance ceremony includes a 9 a.m. wreath laying and services at the Veterans Monument at town hall, 1 Municipal Plaza, followed by a similar program at 9:45 a.m. at Veterans Park on Avenue K.

Monroe Food Pantry Says "Thank You" to our Generous Organization Partners

- | | |
|---|--|
| Stonebridge Men's Club | GW Resident Civic Club |
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| B'nai B'rith of Monroe Twp. | Brookside Elementary School |
| Regency Women's Group | Rasi Laboratories |
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| Regency Culture Club | St. Anianus Coptic Orthodox Church |
| Monroe Indians for Civic Action | Regency Actors and Players |
| Sewa Community | Stonebridge Bridge Club |
| GW Friends Club | Stonebridge Women's Club/
National Mah Jongg League |
| Stonebridge Veterans Club | BCB Bank |
| After Hours Club of Whittingham | Stonebridge Women's Club |
| Shalom Club Concordia | Southfield Estates Community |
| G.W. Connections @ Greenbriar | Clearbrook Billiards Club |
| Concordia Seniors Association | Jewish Healthcare Op. |
| Greenbriar Whittingham Pickleball Club | Mens Club of Renaissance at Cranbury Crossings |
| GW Tennis Club | Shalom Club Concordia |
| New Kids on The Block | Sewa Diwali 2020 |
| Woodland Student Council | Knights of Columbus |
| Regency Wed. Golf Group | GW Friends Club |
| Womens Club of RCC | India-US Forum of Monroe Twp. Inc. |
| Italian American Senior Cultural Club | NJ Principals & Supv. Assoc. |
| Yiddish Club of Whittingham | The Ponds at Clearbrook |
| Whittingham Senior Social Club | RCC Women's Club |
| Italian American Club of RCC | The Food Architects, LLC |
| The Shalom Club | Regency at Monroe HOA |

Monroe Restocks its Food Pantry

As food insecurity continues to hit New Jersey hard due to the COVID-19 pandemic, supplies are running low at pantries.

To continue to aid families in need, Monroe partnered with Middlesex County, through MCFOODS, to host a four-hour Springtime Food Drive on April 17 at the Monroe Township Park and Ride.

"What an incredible day with so much generosity," said Jennifer Apostol, director of MCFOODS, based in neighboring East Brunswick. "I am so thankful to all of you for agreeing to work with us, helping to promote the food drive and assembling so many wonderful volunteers."

She referred to the turnout from Monroe residents as "tremendous," noting it was a record-setting day with 14,000 pounds of food donated to the Monroe Pantry and



Residents donate items during the Annual Spring Time Food Drive sponsored by MCFOODS.



From Left to Right; Councilman Dipierro, Council Vice President Schneider, Mayor Dalina, Councilman Van Dzura, Jennifer Apostol (Director, MCFOODS).

MCFOODS and more than \$1,800 in monetary donations.

"Your support and

these generous donations are so meaningful and will truly help so many of our neighbors in need," she added. ■

Fight Continues *Continued from page 5*

said. "As the Township's new Mayor, I will work with my colleagues on the Council as well as the Township Attorney to fight this to the Supreme Court if we have to."

"In our opinion, the Court chose to punish the Township for informing the public about this housing project application," said Mayor Dalina. "Instead of requiring the

developer to submit his plans to the Zoning Board, as required by State Law, the Court granted unprecedented special treatment to this builder to submit his plan for review only to a Court-appointed hearing officer."

The Township previously amended its housing plan to account for reducing the scope of development on this site while

meeting its State mandated affordable housing obligation. "Developers despise home rule because it's not their home and they don't have to deal with the consequences," Mayor Dalina said. "Be sure — The Council and I will lead this fight for fairness and we will not be intimidated by this developer." ■

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Monroe

Recognizing the continued need to vaccinate the vulnerable elderly population, Monroe partnered with Middlesex County and Hackensack Meridian Health to open a COVID-19 vaccine clinic specifically for those ages 55 and older in Monroe, which began April 30.

Vaccinations were administered at the Monroe Senior Center, 12 Halsey Reed Road.

“Monroe Township Council and I have taken advantage of every opportunity to help our residents, particularly our seniors, get vaccinated as soon as a vaccine became available. It is an honor to have partnered with Middlesex County and Hackensack Meridian Health to provide a dedicated clinic for our seniors at our senior center, we jumped on board,” Mayor

Dalina said. “We are thankful to the County of Middlesex for their ongoing support of our efforts to vaccinate our most vulnerable residents and we appreciate Hackensack Meridian for joining the effort.”

“Vaccinating every resident that wants to be vaccinated remains Middlesex County’s priority during this pandemic, and this clinic, which focused on

those most susceptible to the coronavirus disease, is a testament to that commitment,” added Director Ronald G. Rios of the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners. “It is an honor to partner with Hackensack Meridian Health and Monroe Township to bring these vaccines to our seniors, providing a sense of relief during this pandemic and, hopefully, the opportunity

for visits with loved ones.”

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have been committed to serving our surrounding communities,” said Todd Way, president, central market, Hackensack Meridian Health. “Together, partnering with Middlesex County and Monroe Township, we protected the elderly residents of Monroe with our vaccination clinic.” ■

Monroe Partners to Save Electric Costs at Public Buildings and to Promote Green Energy

The Township has for a number of years taken advantage of the competitive electric power supply market by seeking competitive bids for power supply for its municipal electric accounts.

These accounts include municipal facilities such as the administration building, recreation centers, police station, library facilities, as well as MTUD facilities and streetlights. Through the competitive process the Township has saved tens of thousand of dollars for taxpayers.

Earlier this year, seeking to leverage the power of joint purchasing, the Township joined the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting or ‘NJSEM,’ which is a purchasing consortium of nearly 200 municipal entities throughout the State of New

Jersey.

The NJSEM went out to bid earlier this year, and the Township’s new power supply contract, the first under the NJSEM program, commenced in November.

Under the new contract with NJSEM, the Township has been able to obtain power supply for the municipal facilities at a cost that is about 5% lower than the cost of power supply under the Township’s previous contract, and about 17% lower than the cost of power supply provided by JCP&L, resulting in estimated savings to Township taxpayers of about \$185 thousand over the 19-month contract term.

In addition to these significant cost savings, the contract obtained

through the NJSEM joint purchasing program provides for power supply that has enhanced renewable energy content — above and beyond the minimum renewable energy content required by the State and reflected in JCP&L power supply.

The result is that, in

addition to achieving nearly \$200 thousand in cost savings, the additional renewable content will displace an estimated 280 tons of carbon emissions from the power grid.

This joint purchasing initiative truly represents a win-win for the Township and taxpayers, and builds

upon the success of the Monroe Township Community Energy Aggregation (MTCEA) program, first launched in 2013, which has resulted in millions of dollars in electricity cost savings for residential electric customers in the Township. ■



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