

the Monroe news

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“Community Cares Thanksgiving” Brings Monroe Together

More than 130 residents enjoyed a full Thanksgiving meal with neighbors and new friends at the Monroe Township Office of Senior Services’ Inaugural “Community Cares Thanksgiving” on November 28.

“Many of our seniors needed a place to go to celebrate Thanksgiving,” explained Bonnie Leibowitz, Monroe Township Office of Senior Services Director. “We were more than happy to invite them into our new Senior Center so they could enjoy the day with us.”

The program was sponsored by BCB Community Bank, the Gardens at Monroe, Greenbriar Whittingham Connections, Parker at Monroe, Point of Care

Pharmacy, Saint Peter’s Healthcare System, Seaview Orthopedics, Wynwood at Forsgate, VFW Post 262, Hospice of New Jersey, Clearbrook Jewish War Veterans, Jewish Congregation of Clearbrook, Joseph Shapiro DDS, and McCaffrey’s Princeton Market.

“I have to thank our sponsors. Without their generous contributions, the Community Cares Thanksgiving couldn’t have happened,” Ms. Leibowitz said. “We also received many donations from residents and I



Volunteers cut and plate pies for the Monroe Township Office of Senior Services Inaugural Community Cares Thanksgiving feast.

want to thank them for their support.”

The meal included turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, bread and desserts.

Planning for the event started

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Marching Band Crowned State and National Champs

The bus ride home from the US Bands National Championships in Allentown, PA was a little more cramped for the Monroe Township High School Marching Band who, on Nov. 9, won the Group 2A National Championship.

Students had to make way for the 10-foot-tall trophy that was taking up prime seating on the ride home.

“The trophy towered over the students and couldn’t stand upright on the bus,” MTHS Marching Band Director Martin Griffin said. “A lot of hard work and dedication went into winning this championship, and I couldn’t be happier for the kids.”

The National Championship was the culmination of an already successful season as the band, directed by Mr. Griffin and Alfred Hadinger, also won the Group 2A US Bands State Championship on Oct. 19 at Rutgers University.

“This is the first time MTHS Marching Band has ever won a state or national championship,” Mr. Hadinger said. “We couldn’t be more proud of the accomplishment.”

The MTHS Marching Band, comprising 54 students in grades 8 through 12, competed against 23 high school bands from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, and

Massachusetts at J. Birney Crum Stadium in Allentown. The band performed “New World Symphony,” by composer

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



The award-winning Monroe Township High School Marching Band performing at the US Bands National Championships in Allentown, PA. Photo courtesy of Ron Moy.

Monroe Voters Cast Ballots

Township voters selected two incumbents and one newcomer to the Township Council in the Nov. 5 general election.

In Ward 1, newcomer Democrat Elizabeth Schneider won a four-year Council seat. She received 2,785 votes and Republican Harold Kane received 2,618 votes.

In Ward 2, Democratic Council President Gerald W. Tamburro

retained his four-year seat with 2,804 votes. Republican challenger Jeremy Marcus received 2,197 votes.

In Ward 3, Republican Councilman Michael Leibowitz retained his four-year seat, receiving 2,058 votes. Democratic challenger Robert Zeglarski received 1,665 votes.

In total, 14,815, or roughly 46.3 percent of the 31,967 registered voters, cast ballots in the general election.

Greetings from Hank

Council Vice President Henry Miller, retiring at the end of the year, says hello to those in attendance at the Monroe Township's 175 Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 5 at the Dey Farm on Federal Road.



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Energy Program to Save Residents 15 Percent Off Bill

By Mayor Richard Pucci

After many years of being an advocate for Group Energy Aggregation purchasing, I am pleased to announce Monroe residents will soon be able to take part in a program that will save them money on monthly electric bills.

On Nov. 14, the Monroe Township Council awarded a 22-month contract to ConEdison Solutions of New York to provide electrical power supply to Township residents.

The contract approval should save residents nearly 15 percent of the generation portion of their electric bills over the term of the contract. On average, the savings would translate to roughly \$160 annually for the average customer, and even more for those with all-electric homes. The total projected savings for all Monroe residents combined is \$4 million.

The contract award is the result of the Monroe Township Community Energy Aggregation (MTCEA) Program that was launched in early 2013. Monroe is one of the first municipalities in the state to successful-

ly award an electric supply contract under the Government Energy Aggregation (GEA) Act, which gives municipalities the authority to undertake a bulk purchase of electric power supply for its residents.

The contract signed with Con Edison Solutions sets a fixed price of \$.08435 per kilowatt-hour for electric power generated for 22 months for all residents who receive electric power from JCP&L beginning in February. The program also provides for the continuation of budget billing for those residents who have similar arrangements with JCP&L. As a comparison, the current JCP&L electric supply rate is more than \$.107 per kilowatt-hour.

Participation by residents in the Energy Aggregation Program is voluntary. All residents currently provided electric supply by JCP&L received a mailing containing a program description and an "opt-out" card. Prior to enrollment, residents will have 30 days to decide if they wish to "opt-out" of the program.

Residents who already



Mayor Richard Pucci

have a third-party electric provider will have to "opt-in" to the program. It is recommended that residents check whether or not they would be penalized for leaving their third-party supplier prior to "opting-in" to the program. Residents should also ensure that the MTCEA rate is better than the one they are currently receiving, remembering that the MTCEA rate will be fixed at \$.08435 for 22 months. Those with third-party suppliers that want to "opt-in" to the program should contact ConEdison Solutions directly at their toll-free phone number, (855) 884-9794, to request to enroll.

Municipal Energy Aggregation has been a long-time goal of mine. I am happy that it has finally taken off in New Jersey, and that Monroe Township is among the first municipalities to conduct a successful bid under the program. MTCEA will provide welcome electric rate relief for our residents,

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TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor:

Richard Pucci rpucci@monroetwp.com

Council President:

Gerald Tamburro gtamburro@monroetwp.com

Council Vice President:

Henry Miller hmillier@monroetwp.com

Council Members:

Stephen Dalina sdalina@monroetwp.com

Leslie Koppel lkoppel@monroetwp.com

Michael Leibowitz mleibowitz@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
- Municipal Utilities Authority**(609) 655-1050
- Office on Aging**(609) 448-7140
- Parks Department**(732) 723-5000
- Police (non-emergency)**(732) 521-0222
- Public Advocate**(732) 521-4400 ext. 135
- Public Works**(732) 656-4575
- Recreation**(732) 723-5000
- Recycling**(732) 656-4575
- Senior Center**(609) 448-7140
- Tax Collector**(732) 521-4405
- Township Clerk**(732) 656-4573
- Traffic Safety**(732) 521-0222 ext. 126
- Transportation**(609) 443-0511

the Monroe news

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Community Gardens Coming to Applegarth Road

Community gardens, a butterfly park, arts pavilion, rain gardens and barrels, and a tot lot are coming to a new 12-acre park on Applegarth Road near the Millstone River.

The 12 acres were dedicated to Monroe at no charge as part of a non-contiguous cluster zoning agreement between the Township and the Verde Group, who has plans to construct 40,000 square feet of commercial and retail space and 153 townhouses on Applegarth Road at the intersection of Route 33.

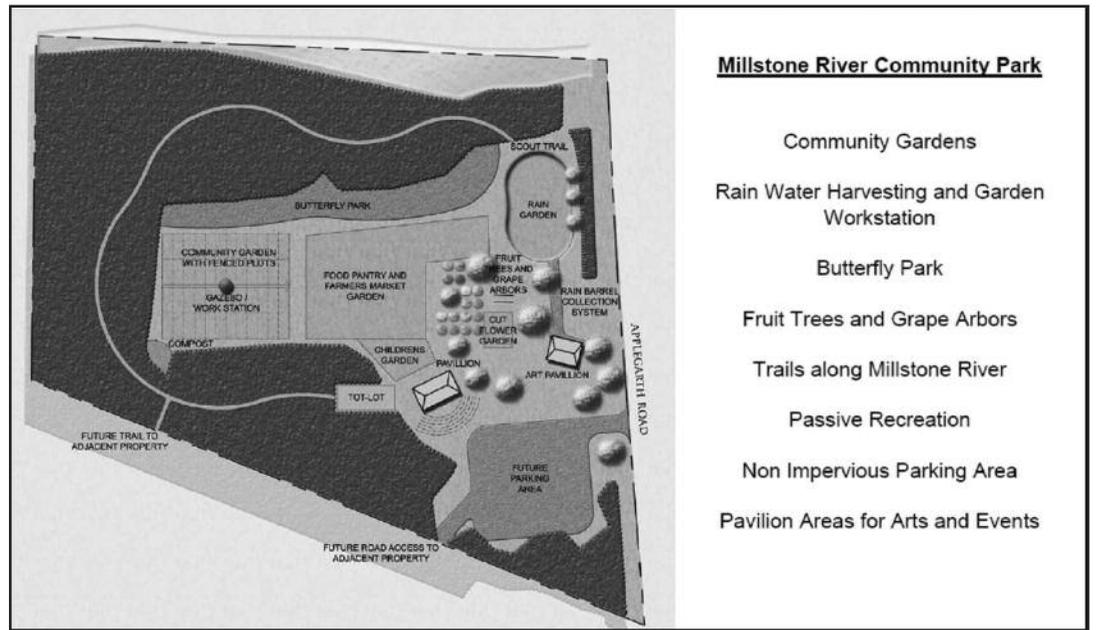
"This is an environmentally themed park that will serve as a place for the Township Environmental Commission to hold rain garden demonstrations," Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection John

Riggs said. "It also protects the area near the Millstone River, which has been a concern for the Township."

The community gardens will also satisfy the needs for the community, especially for residents of some of the active adult communities who cannot plant gardens on their property.

"Several residents have been asking for community gardens for the past few years," Mr. Riggs said. "They are working on the creation of a nonprofit organization, a 'Friends of the Farm,' that will pay for the materials needed to make these gardens a reality, and keep the burden off of the taxpayers."

In addition, the plans call for a large garden that will be tended by members of the "Friends of the Farm." The food



will be grown and distributed to the Township Food Pantry, and also for a future Farmers Market to help raise money for the Community Gardens.

"There will be a children's garden for kids to learn how to grow their own food," Mr. Riggs said. "We will also have fruit trees and a cut flower garden on the site."

Since the parking lot

will be gravel, the only impervious surface on the site will be two pavilions: one for arts and the other for environmental purposes.

"We will have space for artists to come and sketch and maybe hold outside classes," Mr. Riggs said. "The space will work well for environmental lectures and demonstrations, such as how to build rain barrels."

Site preparation for the park is expected to be done by April, and tentatively the park is slated to open in the early summer.

"There are already many residents ready to help get this park up and running," Mr. Riggs said. "It will be a unique park that will provide activities other than sports for residents of all ages."

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Monroe Township Photography Club

The Photography Club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Community Center and is open to all Monroe residents, High School age or older.

All aspects of picture taking and equipment are discussed. All levels of photography experience are welcome. Annual dues are \$25.

For More info call (732) 723-5000

Manalapan Lake Casts a Line in State Trout Program

Central Jersey has a new trout fishing location - the Manalapan Lake in Thompson Park was recently added to the State Division of Fish and Wildlife's Trout Stocking Program.

"I would like to thank Boy Scouts Troop 60 and all of the amazing com-

munity volunteers who worked so hard to get the lake added to the list," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "This project is a testament to what can be accomplished when people come together for a positive purpose."

The date of stocking

and number of fish that will be placed in the lake will be announced in February.

The State Fish and Wildlife Council approved the change on Nov. 19, at the culmination of a two month open public comment period, where fish and

Continued on page 6

Green Grant Goes for Green Tips Booklet

Monroe Township recently received a \$2,000 grant from Sustainable New Jersey to offset the costs of the Green Fair.

“The Monroe Township Environmental Commission and the newly formed Green Team should be commended for their work in acquiring the grant,” Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection John Riggs said. “We are fortunate to have Renee Haider, who works for Sustainable New Jersey, chairing the Green Team. Her knowledge of the organization’s grant programs was extremely

helpful in acquiring the \$2,000.”

The money will be used to offset the costs of materials used at the Green Fair including the Green Tips Book. The full color booklet is updated annually and includes helpful information on sound environmental practices that residents can use around the home.

The booklet also features updates on environmental projects around town, such as the Manalapan Lake Trout Stocking project, where local scouts and volunteers have worked to get the lake accepted into the state Division of

Fish and Wildlife’s Trout Stocking program.

“The Green Tips Book is an important piece of the Green Fair,” Mr. Riggs said. “It is given to everyone that attends the fair, ensuring that they leave the fair with the knowledge to make a difference in their everyday lives.”

In addition, the booklet is distributed as part of the new residents’ packages and is also available on the Environmental Commission page of the Township website www.monroetwp.com.

The grant will also help cover the cost of



John Riggs receives the \$2,000 grant from Sustainable NJ.

T-shirts for the volunteers working at the fair.

“We like the volunteers to stand out, so attendees can more easily locate them and get

the help they need,” Mr. Riggs said. “This grant will make next year’s Green Fair is an even bigger success.”

Table Tennis Served Up Daily at the Rec

They enter the Monroe Township Community Center on Monmouth Road each morning, paddles in hand, ready to volley for serve, and play matches in a contest that started as an after-dinner parlor game in England: table tennis.

“We have several tables and plenty of room to play,” Program Supervisor Jay Brown said. “Anyone registered at the Community Center, regardless of age, can play.”

Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., one gym at

the Community Center is reserved solely for Table Tennis.

“There was a lot of interest in having open table tennis at the center,” Mr. Brown said. “So, we set aside one full gym for anyone interested in playing. Besides being a member of the community center, the only other requirement is that you enjoy table tennis.”

Paddles and balls are available and provided by the Monroe Township Recreation Department.

Community Center registration is \$5 and is open to all Township residents. Those who need to register can do so in person at the Community Center. Payment can only be made by check or money order, made out to Monroe Township Recreation. Cash and credit are not accepted.

“We are always looking for new people to come and play,” Mr. Brown said. “It is always so much fun, and the players help each other learn more about the sport each day.”

The ball is in your court: For more information, visit www.monroetwp.com or call (732) 723-5000.



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Matthew Macyda Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

Since he was six years old, Matthew Macyda has been tying his uniform kerchief and reciting the Boy Scouts Oath: "On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

Ten years later, at the age of 16, Matthew achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

"Originally my parents signed me up as a Cub," Matthew said. "I wanted to continue with my friends, and after they left I wanted to continue because it was fun."

Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve, and a major part of obtaining the rank

is the Eagle Scout project. For his project, with the help of his fellow Scouts, classmates from St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, friends, and family, Matthew reconstructed a garden to the south of the Dey Farmhouse and installed a birdhouse there.

"The garden was in bad shape, and the original birdhouse had fallen over in Hurricane Sandy," Township Historian John Katerba said. "Matthew and his family and friends took to the challenge and made a special area at the Dey Farm that people will enjoy for years to come."

The project taught Matthew, who plans to become a paleontologist, a thing or two about what it takes to work as a team to complete

a task.

"I learned that leadership isn't all it's cracked up to be," Matthew said. "I didn't think the first weekend would be easy because my Troop was camping, but my classmates and friends helped. The second weekend the troop and friends helped me finish it. I was happy. I had a mix of family, friends and Scouts; it wasn't limited."

The project is the culmination of many years of hard work Matthew put in as a Scout where he earned merit badges, went camping, and took trips to many historic places in New Jersey.

"I don't have a favorite part of being a Scout," Matthew noted. "I like meeting tons of people and making friends and all of the

activities we do. I loved learning all of the information I needed for the Merit Badges, and had fun while I was doing it."

The fun came on memorable camping trips, snow tubing and whitewater rafting adventures, and so much more, which Matthew was able to participate in because of the support of his parents.

"I'd like to thank my mom and dad for all their support on my journey to Eagle Scout," Matthew said. "I appreciate all of the help I got from my classmates, friends, fellow scouts and local



Matthew Macyda (center) proudly stands with his mother and father at the birdhouse he constructed at the Dey Farm on Federal Road as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

businesses that donated to my Eagle Scout project. But it was my parents who were there for me from day one, and I cannot thank them enough."

Manalapan Lake Casts a Line *Continued from page 4*

wildlife officials received 69 comments in favor of the program and none opposing it.

Recently, Middlesex County Division of Parks and Recreation representatives constructed a boat launch at the lake, which allows anglers to bring their manual or electric powered boats to the lake.

The project began three years ago, when the County and Township "mapped" the lake. Representatives from the NJ Division of

Fish and Wildlife, Township Department of Public Works (DPW) workers and Shannon Cenci from the Township Engineer's Office used sonar equipment to measure the lake's depth, which was mostly between eight and 12 feet deep.

Then in August 2011, more Fish and Wildlife representatives came to take oxygen readings of Lake Manalapan and determined the water had enough oxygen to sustain fish life.

Once the state gave the go-ahead, Troop 60 constructed more than 80 fish habitats at the DPW garage, under the supervision of DPW Supervisors Casey Florek and Robert Hode. The habitats were made from brush collected by the Township DPW into wet concrete, which was poured into two, three-gallon plastic planters. The structures dried for two days and were then placed in two locations in the Manalapan Lake, in the northwest and

southeast portions of the lake.

In July 2012, state Fish and Wildlife officials conducted a fish netting, where they collected samples of fish in the lake to get an idea as to how many are in the lake and to determine their health.

"It is basically just a fish census," Township DPW Forman Casey Florek said. "They determined that the fish were in good health."

Then in Aug. 2012,

the lake received 822 unexpected new residents, when Fish and Wildlife officials transported fish from Brainerd Lake in Cranbury when its dam broke. A few weeks later, 20 channel catfish were added to the lake from a state hatchery.

"We look forward to seeing more people spending time outside with their families at one of the most beautiful locations in Monroe – the Manalapan Lake," Councilman Dalina said.

My Friend: the Council Vice President

By Council President Gerald W. Tamburro

One of the first people I met when I got involved in Monroe Township was my esteemed colleague and friend, Council Vice President Henry Miller.

The January 1, 2014 Council Reorganization Meeting will be the first time I start the New Year without my friend, Hank, on the dais with me.

Hank was a 12-year veteran of the Township Council when I was first elected in 2001. After 24 years of dedicated service to the residents of Monroe Township, Hank, who has served as Council President in

the past, chose not to seek re-election and will not return to the Council in 2014.

A former educator and school administrator, Hank first got involved in the Township in the 1980s when he was appointed to the Planning Board, eventually serving as the board's chairman and working on the Master Plan committee.

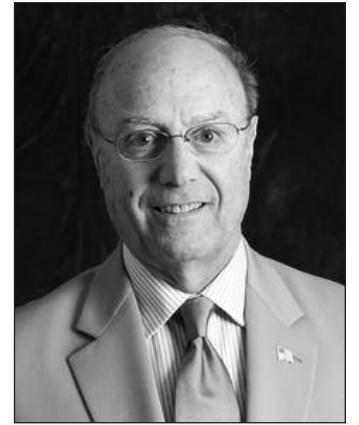
As the councilman representing the First Ward, Hank has seen Monroe blossom from a semi-rural area to the suburban community it is today, working closely with Mayor Richard

Pucci to build Monroe into a vibrant, diverse town.

Throughout his 24-year career on the Council, Hank served as liaison to many committees and commissions, including the Commission on Aging, the Affordable Housing Board, and the Historic Preservation Commission, where he has worked diligently to preserve Monroe's past. In addition, he has been honored by the New Jersey League of Municipalities, inducted as a member of its Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

Hank was instrumental in the preservation of the Dey Farm on Federal Road. Through his work with the Preservation Commission and the establishment of the Dey farmhouse as the Township's museum, residents can see artifacts, pictures and so much more to get a glimpse of Monroe's history.

As the Council Liaison to the Commission on Aging, Hank was key in the development and opening of the new Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road and has been a vocal advocate for the senior citizens of Monroe Town-



**Council President
Gerald W. Tamburro**

ship — something Hank said he will continue to be.

I am truly grateful to have worked with Hank and I am happy to call him my friend. It is important to know that Hank Miller will continue to work for the betterment of Monroe for years to come.

Energy Aggregation to Save Residents 15 Percent

Continued from page 3

in particular to the 5,500 households living in all-electric retirement communities.

JCP&L will still provide delivery service and will continue to issue a single bill for electricity. The JCP&L bill will include charges for delivery service (which will continue to be provided by JCP&L) and a separate line item for power supply received from ConEdison under the MTCEA program.

In addition, residents who are on a 12-month budget plan with their current provider in which they pay equal monthly payments will be able to maintain the same type of billing plan.

The MTCEA Program was implemented with the assistance of the energy consulting team hired by the Township consisting of Gabel Associates of Highland Park, a state-registered energy agent, and

Cooling America through Local Leadership (CALL), a not-for-profit entity. The MTCEA Program is structured so that the Township does not incur any out-of-pocket expenses for consulting fees or professional services. Township Attorney Joel L. Shain provided legal services to the Township in its negotiations with Gabel and ConEdison Solutions.

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Stonebridge Men's Club Raises Big Money for Local School and Pantry

One of the main goals of the Stonebridge Men's Club is to support local organizations in an effort to build upon bonds formed in the community.

This year, the club raised an impressive \$20,000 and used the funds to help the Academy Learning Center purchase iPads for its students and the Township Food Pantry fill its shelves.

"Stonebridge is a relatively new community and the Men's Club has made strides to incorporate itself into the larger Monroe Community," the club's Fundraising Chairman Tony Guerriero said. "For the past six years, we chose two local organizations in need and offered help."

The Academy Learning Center, located on Matchaponix Road, is a Middlesex County-operated school, which provides specialized, classroom based instruction, based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis for students with autism or autistic-like behavior. The program involves parents in a collaborative partnership with school staff to provide a consistent approach to the students' educational and behavioral needs.

There are approximately 140 children at the school, including children with disabilities and autism. According to Principal Erik R. Soldberg Ph.D., the academy was facing budget cuts.

Senior Services and the Rossmoor Kiwanis Club runs the pantry, which helps residents in need, regardless of age.

"The pantry fills an important need within the Township, and the



Peter Mariono, Bonnie Leibowitz, Tony Guerriero & John Collela – the Stonebridge Men's Club presents a check to Bonnie Leibowitz for the Monroe Township Food Pantry.

Photo courtesy of the Stonebridge Men's Club

"We heard about the cuts, so the Men's Club raised \$10,000 to buy six Apple iPads and a 64-inch Smart Board for the students," Mr. Guerriero said.

A Smart Board is an interactive white board that allows teachers to save notes written with a digital pen on its surface and so much more. Both interactive tools will aid in the teaching.

The second donation was \$10,000 to the Monroe Township Food Pantry. Monroe Township Office of

Stonebridge Men's Club donated \$10,000 to help the pantry purchase food for its clients," Mr. Guerriero said.

The club raised the funds through its annual Golf outing and with the distribution of the Stonebridge Community Calendar featuring advertisements from area businesses.

"We are very happy to help and be part of the Monroe Township community," Mr. Guerriero said.

Get the Picture with the Photography Club

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, then the Monroe Photography Club wants to help residents write one huge novel.

The Photography Club, which meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Monroe Township Community Center on Monmouth Road, is open to all residents from high school age to senior citizens.

"It is right in our Mission Statement," Club President John Sandstedt said. "We want to promote the art of photography throughout the community."

That is only the final sentence of the club's mission statement. The

statement begins: "The objectives of the Monroe Photography Club shall be: To provide rewarding experiences for photographers wishing to improve technical and artistic image-making skills and to provide opportunities for its members with hands-on experiences to increase their image-making abilities without regard to the use of film or digital cameras."

The club is open to anyone with an interest in photography, and those of all skill levels using any type of camera.

"We have some members using point-and-shoot cameras and others using digital SLRs," Mr. Sandstedt said. "If someone wants to come in and submit a picture

taken with a phone they can. The ground rule is that they are Monroe Township residents interested in photography. That is who we are."

The first meeting of the month is a workshop where the club, which is a member of the NJ Federation of the Camera Clubs, holds lectures on photography or conducts hands-on lessons about taking pictures and editing them using Photoshop.

The second meeting is a photo competition, where members enter print or digital photos on a selected theme or open subject.

"We have a judge from the Federation critique each picture submitted to the contest," Sandstedt said. "The critique is always constructive and is meant to help the members improve their picture-making."

There are \$25 annual dues that are used to offset the costs of the guest speakers and judges. Winning pictures are presented on the club's website and featured in its newsletter.

The club started with 16 members and its numbers are now around 45; they are hoping to reach 100 members over the next few years.

"We want to work with people to make them better photographers," Sandstedt said. "Bear in mind, the better we make



Photo courtesy of Sherwin James

a member, the harder it is for me to win competitions. But that's what makes this so much fun."

Those interested in

joining the club should visit the website www.monroephotographyclub.com or call

(732) 723-5000.

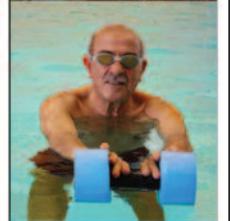


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2014: The Year of the Monroe Township Senior Center

Celebrate 2014! On Friday, Jan. 17, from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., ring in the New Year during a special luncheon celebration. Music, dancing, and good eats are on the menu. Tickets: \$10 each. Musical entertainment provided by Jerry Castaldo and catering by Hogback Deli, with three lunch choices. Please consult the January Senior Center Newsletter for more information. Please be sure you are registered with the Office before making reservations for this event.

Soup for Pennies! It's a SOUPER day, on Feb. 13, as we support our Pennies Fund for the Needy, with this delicious fundraiser filled with assorted soups and dessert. Tickets: \$10 each. Registration information available in the Senior Center newsletter.

Tai Chi for Beginners & Intermediates! Join Siobhan Hutchinson for eight sessions of Tai Chi,

starting in February. Beginners and Intermediates alike can take advantage of the extra 30 minutes of basic instruction starting at 10:30 a.m. Course fee: \$45. Information regarding registration will be available in the February newsletter.

Chair Yoga! We welcome Jaya Gupta as she provides an eight-week Chair Yoga program on Wednesdays, starting on Feb. 5, at 10:30 a.m. Each session lasts an hour and will include poses, breathing techniques, and deep relaxation. Course fee: \$40. Information about how to register will be available in the February newsletter.

Beginners Acrylics! In February, we welcome Andrea Casey as she offers an acrylics class for beginners on Wednesday afternoons. The last class will include a special exhibition of artwork. Cost: TBD. Supplies are pro-

vided by the instructor. Information regarding registering will be available in the February newsletter.

Beginners Spanish! Lais Baiot provides this free class for individuals who wish to learn how to speak Espanol. For more information, please consult the February newsletter.

Monthly Collage! Resuming on the first Friday of the month in February, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., join Clare Godleski for this monthly art class. No experience required. Students will create individual collage-works using various mediums and textures. Pre-registration and a \$10 fee are due prior to class. Supply list available at the Senior Center.

Got Game? Join us on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday afternoons for open game days. If you have a group of friends to

play cards, Mah Jongg or Chess, we have a table and chairs for you! Please call the Center ahead of time to reserve a table.

Income Tax Assistance Program Starting in February, trained AARP-Tax Counselors will provide — by appointment — assistance with seniors' tax returns on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Senior Center. On select days and times, transportation will be available upon request. All pertinent information and documents are needed on the appointment day. The Office will start taking appointments on January 28.

Ceramics Studio! On select Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Bev, from J&B Ceramics, for bisque painting fun. An initial fee of \$5 is required upon registering in advance. Students pay Bev directly for their ceramic pieces as well as

for additional studio time. Please register in advance.

Support Groups! Two new support groups are available for caregivers: Alzheimer's Support on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. and Stroke Support on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. In addition, support groups are available for Cancer, Diabetes and Parkinson's. Please check the calendar for meeting dates.

For a complete listing of the Special & Ongoing Activities each month, please obtain the SENIOR FOCUS, the newsletter of the Office of Senior Services, or visit online at: www.monroetwp.com.

Click on: "Departments" then "Office of Senior Services." The Calendar of Events, per month, is listed on the right margin. Click on the month you want to see.

Marching Band Crowned State and National Champs *Continued from page 1*

Antonin Dvorak.

"Winning Nationals was the most incredible moment in the history of the MTHS Falcons Marching Band," Mr. Griffin said. "I want to thank the students and their parents for helping us reach our goal of US Bands Champion."

The band won with a school-record score of 95.613 out of 100 possible points and also won the caption award for "Best Overall Effect." It is earned by evaluating how the music, drill, and color guard elements fit together, how well the band performs,

and how well the students engage the audience.

Marching Band is an extracurricular activity at the high school that steps off in the summer with two weeks of band camp. Practices are three days a week during the school year. In addition,

the band practices and competes on weekends from the start of school through mid-November.

The band has taken home numerous awards throughout the season, including Best Music, Percussion and Color Guard at local US Bands competitions.

"I would like to thank the students, parents and teachers in the MTHS Marching Band," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "Winning two prestigious titles in a single season is a memory the students will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

Monroe Bookmobile Reaches a Milestone By Councilman Stephen Dalina

It seems like it was just yesterday, but it was 10 years ago that the Monroe Township Public Library's Bookmobile made its first trip, bringing books and other items directly to residents.

The Bookmobile crew marked the occasion on Oct. 14 with style, holding two parties, one at the Monroe Village on Brainerd Drive and the other at Mill Lake School on Monmouth Road.

At the parties, Bookmobile patrons had cake, cookies, and signed a birthday card for the library on wheels.

For those who don't know, the Bookmobile brings its circulation of nearly 2,500 books, including many popular titles spanning all genres



**Councilman
Stephen Dalina**

for adults and children, in both regular and large print, many DVDs and audiobooks, directly into the community.

The concept is great for Monroe. There are 10 active adult communities and some of our residents have a difficult time making it to the library. The Bookmobile brings these library services directly to the residents and has done

so at an amazingly successful rate.

While it does not have all of our current best-sellers, the Bookmobile circulates roughly 2,000 books each month, meaning nearly 80 percent of the books in the traveling library get exchanged every month.

The Bookmobile makes stops at nearly all of the Active Adult Retirement Communities, the Monroe Village, the Greens at Forsgate, and also goes to the after school programs at public schools throughout the district.

In addition, the Bookmobile facilitates the library's homebound services. Through the homebound programs, residents who are unable to visit the

Library due to long-term illness, surgery or no longer being able to drive can get library materials delivered to their homes. Then the volunteers and staff will pick up the items so they are returned in a timely manner. Library staff determines eligibility for this program.

Just as the Bookmobile turns 10 years old, the Township

Council has approved the funding to replace the aging first vehicle. Hopefully, in the coming months, a new Bookmobile will be bringing more items even closer to our residents' homes.

For more information about the Bookmobile or to see if you are eligible for the library's Homebound Services visit www.monroetwp-library.org.



The kids at the after-school program at Mill Lake School with the bookmobile a Happy 10th Birthday on Oct. 14.



Bookmobile Coordinator Lisa Dipierro gets residents to sign to a card for the Bookmobile's 10th birthday.

An American college student is suddenly stricken by a rare illness, the complication of which could be deadly. So rare is his affliction that his only recourse is to seek treatment in a foreign land.

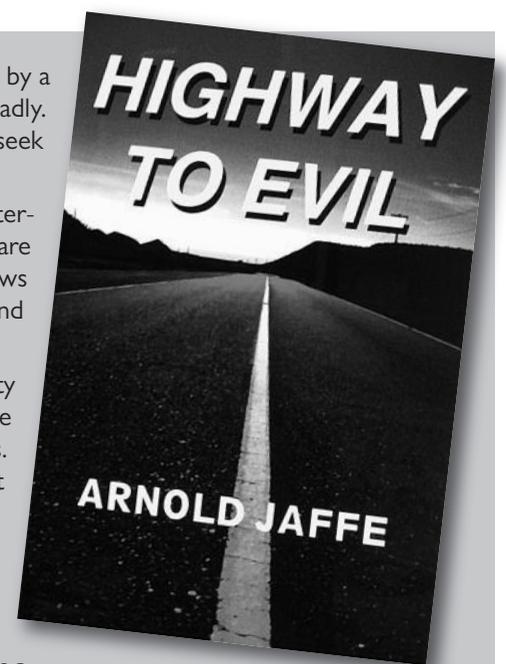
While there, he is abducted by an ultra militant terrorist organization. Their demands for his freedom are impossible for the home country to meet. What follows is a tension filled standoff between the kidnapers and those frantically working for his release.

Exacerbating the urgency of his plight is the reality that the victim only had a few days in which to resume his treatment or else face dire medical consequences. As the time before he had to undergo his treatment dwindled to a few hours, much of the world is consumed by the drama and suspense.

Would he be freed from confinement or suffer the consequences?

Find out in the latest novel from one of Monroe's greatest fiction writers – Arnold Jaffe

“Highway to Evil” is on sale now at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and via email at Arnsue51@aol.com



Recreation Calendar of Events

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

January 2014

Monroe Township Department of Recreation
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CALL 732-723-5000 FOR INFORMATION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEARS DAY	2	3	4
5	6 SENIOR LUNCH AND LEARN Community Center, 11:00 AM	7	8 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:00 PM	9 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	10	11 USING YOUR ANDROID TABLET Library, 9:45 AM, Must register
12	13 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MTG. Community Center, 7:00 PM	14 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	15 WEBSITE WORKSHOP UNIVERSAL CLASS Library, 10:00 AM, Must register	16 START-UP WITH THE INTERNET Library, 10:00 AM, Must register	17 CELEBRATE 2014 Senior Center, 12:30 PM Call the Center for details	18
19	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	21	22 WEBSITE WORKSHOP LEARNING EXPRESS Library, 10:00 AM, Must register	23 START-UP WITH THE INTERNET Library, 10:00 AM, Must register	24	25
26	27 CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: Momenta in Motion String Quartet Library, 1:00 PM	28	29 WEBSITE WORKSHOP LEARNING EXPRESS Library, 10:00 AM, Must register	30 START-UP WITH THE INTERNET Library, 10:00 AM, Must register	31	

February 2014

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4 STROKE SUPPORT GROUP, Senior Center, 9:30 AM, Call the Center for details	5 CHAIR YOGA Senior Center, 10:30 AM, \$40, Call the Center for details	6	7 MONTHLY COLLAGE Senior Center, 10:00 AM, \$10, Call the Center for details	8
9	10 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MTG. Community Center, 7:00 PM	11 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	12 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:00 PM	13 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15
16	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY	18 COFFEE AND A BOOK: The Hundred-Foot Journey, Library, 10:30 AM, Must register	19 CHAIR YOGA Senior Center, 10:30 AM, \$40, Call the Center for details	20	21	22
23	24 SENIOR LUNCH AND LEARN Community Center, 11:00 AM	25	26 ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT Senior Center, 2:00 PM, Call Center for details	27	28	

March 2014

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1st 10:00AM—2:00PM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 FREE RABIES CLINIC DPW Complex, 10:00 AM
2	3	4 STROKE SUPPORT GROUP, Senior Center, 9:30 AM, Call the Center for details	5 CHAIR YOGA Senior Center, 10:30 AM, \$40, Call the Center for details	6	7	8 GREAT DECISIONS: TURKEY Library, 10:30 AM
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	10 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MTG. Community Center, 7:00 PM	11 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	12 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:00 PM	13 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	14	15
16	17 SENIOR LUNCH AND LEARN Community Center, 11:00 AM	18 INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB Library, 10:30 AM, Must register	19 CHAIR YOGA Senior Center, 10:30 AM, \$40, Call the Center for details	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT Senior Center, 2:00 PM, Call Center for details	27	28	29 PETER YARROW, Marasco Performing Arts Center, 7:00 PM, Tickets for sale at tinyurl.com/mtwpcac
30	31					

“Community Cares Thanksgiving” *Continued from page 1*

in July, and eventually included nearly 70 volunteers, who helped advertise for the event and then set up the Senior Center, ran the food from the kitchen to the tables, and cleaned up after the event.

“It truly and honestly warmed my heart to see so many of our residents giving back to the community on Thanksgiving,” Ms. Leibowitz said. “The volunteers gave up so many hours of their lives to

help their neighbors. It is what community is all about.”

In addition, several volunteers walked around the event helping residents use fabric pens to fill out quilt squares with what they are thankful for. The quilt will be stitched together by a quilting group.

“We wanted to start a tradition that we hope will live on with Community Cares Thanksgiving,” Ms. Leibowitz said.

Plans are already in the works to continue the program next year.

“I want to thank Mayor Richard Pucci, the Township Council and Business Administrator Wayne Hamilton,” Ms. Leibowitz said. “Their contin-



Herb Leibowitz and Monroe Township Office of Senior Services Director **Bonnie Leibowitz** cut and plate pies for the Thanksgiving feast.



Volunteers Eileen Oldfield and Bryanna Harvie sort quilt squares that Community Cares attendees filled out with what they were thankful for this year. The quilt will be sewn together and raffled off at a dessert party in 2014.

ued and lasting support allows us to offer such wonderful programs to all of our residents.”

Happy Birthday Monroe!



Residents wait for Monroe's birthday cake to be cut at the Township 175th Anniversary celebration at the Dey Farm Historic site on Oct. 5.

Rah! Rah! Monroe Cheerleading Sends Three Teams to Nationals

All three of the Monroe Township Wolverines Pop Warner Cheerleading teams eligible to compete for the national title will be on the main stage at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, during the week of December 9.

"The Pee Wees, Junior Midgets and Midgets all placed in states and regionals so they will be vying for the national championship," Wolverines President Kelly Lange said. "We are so proud of the girls and all of the hard work they've put in to get to where they are."

The Wolverines started their season in August, practicing and

competing for months. All of the teams placed at the state tournament held at the Sun National Arena in Trenton, which allowed them to compete at the regional tournament.

The Pee-Wees won their division at the regional tournament in Trenton on Nov. 10. The Junior Midgets and Midgets both came in third in their divisions at their tournaments during the Nov. 16 weekend in Albany, NY.

The girls will next compete at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney.

"These are tough competitions and the girls have worked so

hard to get to the nationals," Ms. Lange said. "We can't wait to get back to Monroe and share our magical Disney experiences with the Township."

The competition will be broadcast live on ESPN3, which is the ESPN network's streaming online channel at www.espn3.com.

"I would like to congratulate the girls, their coaches and their parents for once again representing our great town in a national competition," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "I wish them luck and I am sure they will represent Monroe Township proudly in Disney World."



Monroe Township Wolverines Cheerleaders are ready to head to the National Championships in Disney World in Orlando, Florida.



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Snow Tips and Helpful Hints

With the 2014 Farmer's Almanac predicting a snowy winter, the Monroe Township Department of Public Works is offering some helpful tips to make your shoveling experience easier this year.

"The guys take pride in keeping the streets clean during snow events," said DPW Superintendent Wayne Horbatt. "We work in shifts to keep the 114 miles of Township roads clear and safe for travel."

Middlesex County is responsible for the 44 additional miles of county roads in Monroe.

The first roads to be plowed in Monroe are the through roads that see the most traffic, and then the side roads are done so emergency vehicles can make it to residents' homes.

"Prior to plowing we put down a melting agent, and then we make a single pass down the roads so emergency vehicles can have access if needed," Mr. Horbatt said.

The DPW crews are instructed to plow from curb to curb, and recommend residents move their vehicles off the streets to make plowing easier.

The DPW has compiled a list of 10 helpful hints for a snow event:

1. Park all cars, if possible, in your driveway when snow is in the fore-

cast. It makes less snow you have to remove from your driveway and it makes it easier to clear the roads properly.

2. Please pull basketball hoops off the road, if possible.

3. Please advise children to keep off the roads when plow trucks are in the area.

4. Please advise children to make "forts" in your yard not by the road side. This can be very dangerous!

5. Please, when driving, try to give the plow trucks plenty of room. Sometimes it is difficult for the drivers to see and the trucks can slide or have to swerve to avoid things.

6. When shoveling or snow blowing, throwing snow in the road is prohibited.

7. Please try to put garbage and recycling cans off the road. Snow

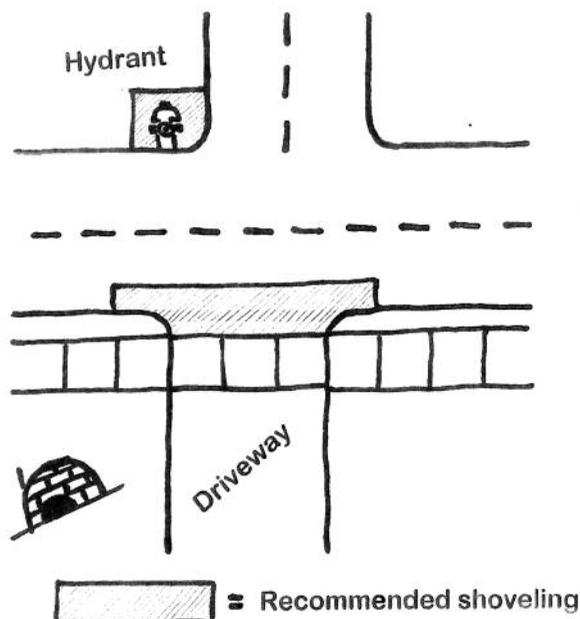
drifts can knock them over without even touching them with the plow.

8. Please shovel out an area around fire hydrants so our Fire Dept can get to them in case of an emergency.

9. If you have to finish shoveling your driveway before the road is completely cleared, try to shovel a flared out end (see drawing), so when the plow comes again it only puts a minimum amount of snow back in your driveway.

10. Give your plow guy a smile or a wave; they are working long and hard hours to make your streets safe.

"Our DPW staff always keeps the safety of our residents in mind when working during snow events," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "They should be commended for keeping Monroe safe for travel."

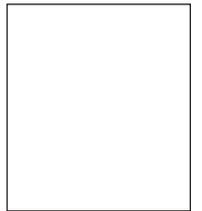


Liz Ciccone ad
1/4 page

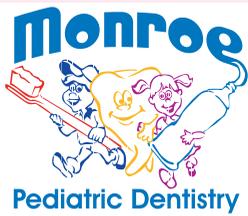
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Mayor Richard Pucci and Council President Gerald Tamburro listen as Richard Hills discusses the benefits of Vermicomposting at the Fourth Annual Green Fair.



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