

# the Monroe news



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## Monroe Prepares Birthday Celebration

"We're going to need a giant cake," Township Historian John Katerba joked. "And a whole lot of candles."

Monroe turns 175 years old this year and the Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission is holding two free celebrations at the Dey Farm to mark the occasion.

The fun will kick off on Sept. 28 when the Flemington Neshanock and Philadelphia Athletics bring old-time baseball to Monroe during their third-annual doubleheader at the Dey Farm.

"The teams play with uniforms, equipment and rules from the late 1800s," Mr. Katerba said. "It is a great way to see how baseball has changed over the years,

and also how rules changed from year to year in the early days of the game."

Then, on Oct. 5, the Dey Farm will host area Civil War reenactors from the Second New Jersey Brigade and give spectators a look at what life was like for soldiers during the war.

"It is a full living history weekend," Mr. Katerba said. "It will be more than just having a battle reenactment. When you arrive at the farm, it will be like you trav-



**The Captains of the Flemington Neshanock and the Philadelphia Athletics determine who will bat first at the old-time baseball game. The teams will once again face off in a doubleheader on Sept. 28.**

eled back to the 1860s."

Oct. 5 is a busy day in the southern end of the Township, as the Green Fair will be taking

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## Township Swears in New Police Chief

Monroe Township Police Chief Michael Lloyd realized in high school he wanted to be a police officer after spending a day with officers.

"I've always been interested in being a police officer," Chief Michael Lloyd said. "My uncle was a Police Officer in North Jersey and when I was in high school, I did a ride along with the Dover Township Police Department as part of a career day. That's what really hooked me."

Fast forward to 2013 and Chief Lloyd not only fulfilled his dreams of being a police officer, but was sworn in as the fourth chief in the history of the Monroe Township Police

Department.

"I am very fortunate to have the honor of leading such an outstanding organization," Chief Lloyd said. "I've been very fortunate to have ascended through the ranks and to have been provided some exceptional training opportunities, (FBI National Academy and West Point Leadership and Command) and I appreciate the support and confidence of Mayor Pucci and the entire Township Council."

Chief Lloyd started his Monroe Township Police career in July 1988 as a dispatcher.

"Prior to getting into law enforcement I worked in this area and really liked it," Chief

Lloyd said. "I was able to secure a position as a police dispatcher and saw firsthand the outstanding attributes of the Monroe

*Continued on page 8*

**Check out the local calendar of events, pages 14-15.**



**Chief Lloyd and his family just after he was sworn in as the fourth Chief in the Monroe Township Police Department's history.**

## Monroe Township Turns 175



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What began as the agricultural southern portion of South Amboy has blossomed into the thriving diverse community we know as Monroe Township.

"We've come a long way from our small start as a farming settlement, but we've never lost touch with our agricultural roots, even as we've grown into a rural-suburban community," Mayor Richard Pucci said.

On Feb. 23, 1838, the Council and General Assembly of New Jersey passed "an act to set off from the City of South Amboy, in the county of Middlesex, a new township, to be called the

Township of Monroe."

There was no specific reason for Monroe's secession from South Amboy, but many speculated that it was because the area could be self-sufficient because of the booming agricultural landscape.

Since incorporating in 1838, Monroe's population has increased by nearly 1,542 percent from 2,435 to the nearly 40,000 residents who live in the Township today.

"It isn't only population that's changed," Township Historian John Katerba said. "In 1838, there were only eight stores, four grist-

mills, 18 sawmills, a paper mill, an academy and eight schools. We have many more stores and much fewer mills. While there is the same number of schools, our buildings are much larger than the schoolhouses of the 1800s."

One lasting tradition in Monroe is the naming of neighborhoods.

"Even before Monroe was incorporated, it was broken into neighborhoods, and most people will recognize the names of many from the roads in town," Mr. Katerba said. "Prospect Plains, Union Valley, Tracey Station and Hoffman

*Continued on page 17*

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## Township of Monroe - 2013 Budget Message

By Mayor Richard Pucci

In accordance with my responsibilities under the Faulkner Act, I have submitted the Mayor's Budget recommendations for the Municipal Government in 2013. I would like to thank the Business Administrator and all Department Heads for their outstanding efforts in formulating the budget.

Although the state and national economies continue to struggle and local property tax appeals continue at extraordinary levels, I have submitted a Budget for Municipal Purposes that totals \$50,142,993.76, which is down \$1,740,527.98 from 2012. Municipal services remain intact, despite some budget reductions. Many municipal capital improvements have been delayed and scaled back this year.

The proposed spending plan translated into a reduction in the municipal tax rate of \$.01 or \$16.54 less this year for the average assessed homeowner (\$165,400).

It has been another challenging budget year, as property tax refunds/credits have totaled \$1,584,099.45 in 2012, investment income con-

tinues to be at historic low levels and state aid again is flat. However, local real estate values appear to be stabilizing and the Township-wide property revaluation will be completed by the end of the year and will take effect in 2014. These factors should drastically reduce the impact of the extraordinary tax appeal refunds in the last four years.

Furthermore, we are achieving our goal of reducing utilization of Utility Surplus revenues.

Despite a struggling real estate market and economy, Monroe continues to have one of the lowest municipal tax bills in Middlesex County (4th lowest of 25 towns in the County).

The 2013 Municipal Purpose Tax, which is the only portion of property taxes that the Mayor & Council are responsible for, is estimated at 21 percent of the total property taxes. The Board of Education makes up the largest portion of property taxes at 57 percent. The County comprises 16 percent of the bill; and the Fire Districts at 6 percent.

Monroe Township remains one of the pre-



**Mayor Richard Pucci**

mier residential communities in Middlesex County with a beautiful and green landscape. We are proud of our quality municipal services and schools. Monroe Township continues to have the second lowest crime rate in Middlesex County. Furthermore, Monroe Township remains only one of two communities in Middlesex County with a population density of less than 1,000 people per square mile.

Our positive record of achievement is primarily due to a continued effort of everyone working together in a united way for the betterment of the Township.

A special thanks must be extended to our Township employees, our volunteers who serve on the numerous boards and agencies, and especially to our volunteers in our emergency services who continue year after year performing such dedicated services for all of our residents.

### TOWN HALL

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

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor:**

Richard Pucci .....rpucci@monroetwp.com

**Council President:**

Gerald Tamburro .....gtamburro@monroetwp.com

**Council Vice President:**

Henry Miller .....hmiller@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** .....(732) 521-6111
- 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
- Tax Collector** .....(732) 521-4405
- Township Clerk** .....(732) 656-4573
- Traffic Safety** .....(732) 521-0222 ext. 126
- Transportation** .....(732) 521-6100

## the Monroe news

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Office of the Mayor



# Proclamation

**HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE**  
**April 14, 2013 – April 21, 2013**

**“HOW SURVIVAL HAS INFLUENCED OUR LIVES”**

- WHEREAS,** 68 years ago, the Holocaust...the state sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators finally came to an end. In its wake, six million Jews including one and a half million children were murdered. Gypsies, Poles, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, political dissidents, the physically handicapped and Righteous Christians who tried to stop these atrocities, were also marked for destruction; and
- WHEREAS,** we honor all the victims of the Holocaust, both those who perished and those who survived. Today, we specifically recognize the survivors and members of the Henry Rickdis Holocaust Memorial Committee. **Their survival has not only influenced their own lives, their survival has influenced the lives of everyone they have touched.** Their willingness to bear witness to the history of the Holocaust, to share their life stories, to relive the pain of the past along with the joys of the present, **is a testament to their courage and an investment in a future based on acceptance, love and understanding;** and
- WHEREAS,** the history of the Holocaust requires that everyone in Monroe Township, reflect on the moral responsibilities of both individuals and society; and
- WHEREAS,** we the people of Monroe Township must always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and
- WHEREAS,** residents must actively dedicate themselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and
- WHEREAS,** pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980) the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday April 14, 2013 through Sunday April 21, 2013;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, RICHARD PUCCI,** Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim the week of **Sunday April 14, 2013 through Sunday April 21, 2013 as Days of Remembrance in memory of the victims and in honor of the survivors** who help us remember the history of the Holocaust so that this nightmare will never be repeated, and further proclaim that as citizens of the Township of Monroe, we will strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through education and remembrance.

**Dated: April 14, 2013**

  
RICHARD PUCCI, MAYOR



*(Left to right) Council President Gerald Tamburro, Mayor Richard Pucci, William Lidman, President of the Men's Club at Congregation Beit Shalom, and Laury Schreck, the Financial Secretary of Congregation Beit Shalom, present a Shoah candle to the Mayor and Council President on April 8, 2013.*

# Cheerleaders Win National Championship

The Monroe Wolverine Cheerleaders once again represented Monroe Township proudly at the Pop Warner National Championships in Orlando, Fl. this past December.

The two teams that made the trip to the National Competition were the Pee Wee and Midget Cheer teams. Both teams compete at Level 4 - the highest skill level in Pop Warner Cheerleading.

The competition season for the Wolverine Cheerleaders begins in

October at the Sun Arena in Trenton. Monroe sent five teams to this competition starting with Mitey Mite and Tiny Mite cheer.

"These teams are not scored at a competitive level. They do exhibition, and they did a great job," Cheer Director Mary Lange said.

The next three teams to compete were Junior Pee Wee, Pee Wee and Midgets.

"Both Junior Pee Wee and Midgets were Central Jersey champions, and Pee Wee Cheer placed second," Ms. Lange said.

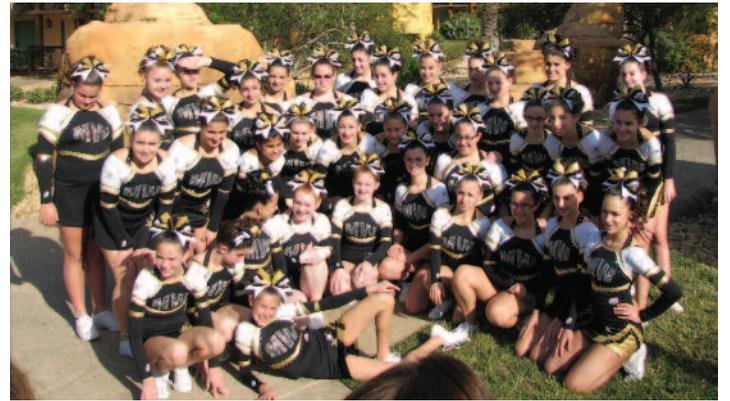
The girls then competed at Central Qualifier and advanced to the Regional Qualifier held again at the Sun Arena in November.

"At the Regional Qualifier all three teams performed exceptional routines," Ms. Lange said. "The Pee Wee team won the Regional title and the Midget team came in third place, which qualified both teams for Nationals. However, the Junior Pee Wees fell short of qualifying."

At Nationals, held at Walt Disney World in Florida, the Midget team was crowned National Champions, facing some stiff competition along the way.

"Head Coach Kelly Lange had made some changes to the routine between the Regional and National Competition," Ms. Lange said. "The end result was that Monroe came back and beat every team in their division, taking home the big trophy."

However, the Pee Wee team placed third in a



**Midget Cheerleaders** were crowned national champions after facing some stiff competition at Walt Disney World in Central Florida.

Photo provided by Monroe Township Department of Recreation

very tough division.

"We're proud of all of the girls," Ms. Lange said. "These girls are third in the county in their age group in cheerleading. It is an honor just to compete in nationals, and to finish in the top three is something to be very proud of."

Since 2004, the Monroe Wolverine Cheerleaders have been making a statement at the National Competition by winning 14 national titles.

"Many of the girls who started winning the very first national titles for the Wolverine organization

have also just won the first National title at the high school level," Ms. Lange said. "We would like to extend our congratulations to the Monroe Township High School competition cheer team on their huge accomplishment."

"Monroe Wolverines cheer would like to thank Mayor Richard Pucci, the Township Council, our sponsors and the Recreation Department for all the support we get and the greatest of facilities to prepare for these competitions," Ms. Lange said.



**Pee Wee Cheerleaders** came in third at national championships.

Photo provided by Monroe Township Department of Recreation

**The 2012-2013 Competition** cheerleaders of Monroe Township High School made a statement on March 17th, becoming the first team in school history to win an International cheerleading championship. After two thrilling performances in sunny Orlando, the girls took first place at the Americheer Internationals Cheer & Dance competition. This was a total team effort. Congratulations to all the girls for their hard work throughout the entire season.

Coaches: Sinead Kelly, Karissa Titus, Chelsea Walus

Top row: Taylor Smith, Bryanna Rutzler, Victoria Giannola, Alyssa Dabroski, Mikayla Agresto, Madeline Mullen, Sabrina Cioffi, Suuny Worden, Jessica Albrecht

Middle row: Karissa Titus, Ashley Dilkes, Briana Gurriero, Stephanie Vicuna, Alyssa Purcell, Jenna Marshall, Tomasine Naddeo, Paige Albach, Kayla Coughlin, Mariann Glade, Gianna Vassallo, Rebecca Tessler, Chelsea Walus

Bottom row: Brooke Ciaston, Allison Sullivan, Heather Fleming, Cali Lucas (Captain), Carly Johnston (Captain), Lindsey Zybrick (Captain), Alyssa Talalai, Jessica Quijano



Photo provided by Monroe Township High School

## Signing Up for OEM Alerts

Hurricane Sandy posed many problems for Township residents and officials, causing prolonged power outages across the municipality.

With many residents signing up for bundle packages with cable companies, many people were left without home phones, which made communicating extremely difficult.

"We sent 150,000 update calls through our reverse 911 system, but many residents didn't have land-line access," Township Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Ernest Feist said. "Recognizing this might be an issue prior to the storm, we established the OEM Facebook page as an additional means

of sharing information with residents."

The site, [www.facebook.com/MonroeOEM](http://www.facebook.com/MonroeOEM), can be viewed by anyone with Internet access, not just Facebook users, as well as those with "smart" cellular phones with data plans. As of publication of this issue, there are 2,114 people who "like" the OEM page.

"I would encourage residents to 'like' the OEM page," Mr. Feist said. "We will continue to update it as needed, just as we did when tracking snow events throughout the winter."

The best way to keep abreast of emergency situations is to sign up for the Middlesex County Community Notification System. Through the

system, residents and business owners who subscribe receive information about severe weather alerts, boil water advisories, health emergencies, road closures, community events and public works announcements.

This program allows officials to target specific areas of the Township depending on the situation because the software uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

"There are 2,020 residents signed up for the system," Mr. Feist said. "Registration can be done online, and we are currently setting up sign-up events to help residents register for the program."

Those interested in

signing up for the notification system should visit <https://middlesex-countynj.onthealert.com>.

Furthermore, the OEM has established an account with the NIXLE alert system, where residents can register their e-mail addresses and cell phones to receive updates.

"Residents will receive text messages and e-mails for alerts, so even those without 'smartphones' can get the updates," Mr. Feist said.

There are currently 1,669 people signed up for the Monroe Township OEM Nixle alert system. To register, visit [local.nixle.com/Monroe-township-office-of-emergency-management](http://local.nixle.com/Monroe-township-office-of-emergency-management).



"Links to all of the notification systems can be found on the Monroe Township website, [www.monroetwp.com](http://www.monroetwp.com)," Mr. Feist said.

The OEM will continue to look for ways to keep modes of communication open during emergencies to help keep residents informed of the latest happenings.

## JCP&L Upgrades Communications Post-Sandy

The Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management is working with JCP&L to improve communication between the power company and residents, especially during disasters.

"The number one complaint from residents after Hurricane Sandy was the lack of communication from JCP&L about when power would be restored," Township Engineer and Director of

the Office of Emergency Management Ernest Feist said. "We've been in contact with them since the storm, asking them to better communicate not only with residents but with local officials as well."

JCP&L is expanding and restructuring its external affairs team to provide more accurate, location-specific information and strengthen its outreach to public officials.

"They are going to

provide e-mail and text message blasts to local officials, first responders, critical facilities and business owners," Mr. Feist said. "If we have more information locally, we'll be able to keep our residents better informed as to what is happening during major events such as Sandy."

Furthermore, local officials will have educational sessions with JCP&L to discuss how the local electrical infrastructure works, giving

officials a better understanding of how power is restored following major outages.

"We all learned a lot about how the grid in Monroe functions during Sandy," Mr. Feist said. "JCP&L will give us more specific information about the process of repairing and restoring local substations following outages and just general information about how the system operates."

In addition, JCP&L

launched its mobile website in November 2012. In 2013, the utility is developing a smartphone application for Apple and Android devices, as well as a program that will send outbound alerts and notifications via e-mail, text or phone. Mr. Feist encourages Monroe residents to sign up with JCP&L at [https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/jersey\\_central\\_power\\_light.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/jersey_central_power_light.html).

*Continued on page 18*

## Monroe is Dedicated to Preserving Natural Resources

By Council President Gerald W. Tamburro, Chairman, Affordable Housing Board

The heart of the Township Seal is the Mighty Oak, the nearly 300-year-old white oak tree that proudly stands at the northwestern portion of the intersection of Prospect Plains and Applegarth Roads.

The Mighty Oak is a symbol of Monroe's strength and perseverance and also a reminder of our dedication to preserving one of our most valuable natural resources, trees.

For the 15th consecutive year, Monroe Township has been named a Tree City USA Community due to our Shade Tree Commission's continued efforts to preserve and plant trees throughout the Township.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. In order to be named a Tree City USA community, a municipality has to have a shade tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance. Earning this prestigious title wouldn't



**Council President  
Gerald W. Tamburro**

have been possible without the efforts of our dedicated Shade Tree Commission, which works to preserve trees throughout the Township and encourages residents to plant new ones on their property.

On April 21, Girl Scouts Cadette Troop 81564 aided the commission and the community by planting a flowering plum tree, donated by Tidbury Creek Farms, in front of the Monroe Township Public Library.

The planting was just one part of our Arbor Day Celebration, as the girls discussed the benefits trees provide for everyone, such as producing oxygen, helping to soak up ground water and providing shade, among many other interesting facts.

In addition, the Scouts ran an arts and crafts table where they

helped children make trees out of construction paper and brown paper bags.

Throughout the year, the Shade Tree Commission plants new and replaces dead roadside shade trees that prevent roads from superheating and help absorb roadside pollution. Furthermore, shade trees reduce soil erosion, cut heating and cooling costs for homeowners, provide homes for wildlife, increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and overall beautify our Township.

The tree-planting program is funded through fees assessed when developers cut down trees to build houses on their property, so new trees can be planted at no cost to the Township.

The Shade Tree Commission has broadened its educational scope and has posted a list of recommended shade trees for planting in different areas on the township's website, [www.monroetwp.com](http://www.monroetwp.com). Just click on Boards and Commissions and then the Shade Tree Commission.

## Boys Win County Title



**Monroe Township High School Boys Varsity Soccer team** was honored by the Township Council for winning the County Title. The team also made it to the state finals where it lost by one goal in overtime.

## Monroe Township Photography Club

The Photography Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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## Friends of the Library Make the Difference

The Friends of the Library provides funding for a lot of activities at the library.

"We sponsor the international film festival, purchase library equipment not included in the budget, buy CDs for the Library's music collection, sponsor lectures and much more," Friends of the Library President Helaine Evans said. "We raise money to help fund things outside the scope of the Library's operating budget."

The Friends fund free passes to library card holders to several museums and parks including: the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadel-

phia; the Frick, Guggenheim and Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City; the Garden State Discovery Center in Cherry Hill; Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton; Insectropolis in Toms River; the Montclair Art Museum in Montclair; and the Popcorn Park Zoo in Forked River.

"These free passes are a significant savings for residents who want to take a day trip in the tri-state area," Ms. Evans said. "From art and science museums to zoos and historical sites, the free passes cover a lot of interests of residents of all ages."

The Children's Summer Theatre Festival

brings live performances right to the Library.

"We always get a great response from the kids," Ms. Evans said. "They love the performances and we love hosting the events."

In addition, the Friends sponsor lecture series and book discussions throughout the year and also hold the International Film Festival.

"The film fest runs sporadically throughout the year," Ms. Evans said. "We host movies of all types by directors from around the world. It is always interesting."

Joining the Friends is easy. Membership forms can be found at the Library or downloaded from the library's web-



**Friends of the Library** Rita Lawrence, Helaine Evans, Alberta Mandelblatt, and Eileen Soffer are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the Friends of the Library.

site, [www.monreotwplibrary.org](http://www.monreotwplibrary.org). Annual membership is from July 1 to June 30 and there are three levels of membership: Basic for \$10, Family for \$15 and Patron for \$25.

"Members get advance notice for popular programs, free

receptions at some of our events as well as input into new and exciting programs," Ms. Evans said. "Most importantly, membership means you are helping your community by supporting the Library and funding its many services."

## New Police Chief *Continued from page 1*

Township Police Department. So when the test to become a police officer was given, I knew this is where I wanted to be."

In January 1990, he was appointed to patrolman and attended the Middlesex County Police Academy. Eleven years later, Chief Lloyd was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of the Patrol Squad. Seven years later, he was promoted to lieutenant in the administration division.

Then in 2010, Chief

Lloyd was promoted to captain. Chief Lloyd also graduated from the FBI National Academy 245th Session in 2011, and is the only Monroe Township police officer to graduate from the FBI Academy. He said the major benefits of attending the academy is the quality of the education he received and the ability to network with law enforcement officials from around the country and the world.

"The training staff at the academy is made up of leaders in their

respective fields and the officers selected to attend have the ability to choose courses that they deem to be most beneficial to them," Chief Lloyd said. "The networking between classmates was incredible. In no other place can an officer interact with law enforcement officials from every state and even other countries. It allowed the students to compare what might be new to their organizations and what organizations may have been using this technology/policy/initiative for

years."

Residents can get an up-front view of some of the technologies and initiatives the Monroe Township Police Department has implemented at National Night Out in Thompson Park on August 6.

"National Night Out provides a setting where an officer and a resident can interact in a relaxed comfortable setting," Chief Lloyd said. "The event allows Monroe residents to see the many services that are provided from various

Township Departments including police, EMS and recreation as well as the various fire districts."

Chief Lloyd says that he is proud to serve the residents of Monroe and said he would've never been able to succeed in law enforcement without the love and encouragement of his family.

"Most of all I am thankful of the support that my family has given me through the years," Chief Lloyd said.

## Celebrating Diversity in Monroe

By Councilwoman Leslie Koppel

Having grown up in Monroe, it has been my pleasure to watch it grow into such a diverse community.

It is my honor to be the Council Liaison to two Township Commissions that celebrate diversity: the Human Relations Commission and the Cultural Arts Commission. While both Commissions work tirelessly throughout the year, both have full plates in the coming months.

The Human Relations Commission mission statement is simple: make recommendations to help eliminate all types of discrimination based on, but not limited to, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, ethnicity, health, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender or the perception of these qualities.

June is an exciting time for the commission as we get set to honor Monroe school students who exemplify the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. The awards are given to one student in each grade from each Township school.

It is the Commission's hope that by reaching out and building the pillars of character within the students it will help end racism, bigotry and intolerance in future generations. Furthermore, it is the commission's hope that the children will spread the message of positivity to other students, their parents and relatives.

We give out the character awards annually and it is always one of the most well attended Township Council meetings of the year. It is always a pleasure to see the students and their families in the council chambers for such a happy occasion.

The Commission meets the second Tuesday of every month, except July and August, when it discusses its endeavors to celebrate and promote different cultures, ethnicities and organizations that work to spread the message of positive human relations.

The Cultural Arts Commission's name says it all. Its mission is to establish and improve programs, projects and events to foster and bring cultural arts to the Township for the benefit

of all our citizens.

Throughout 2012-2013, the Commission sponsored the Westfield Symphony Orchestra playing "Songs from the Silver Screen," the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company performing the Legacy project honoring Holocaust survivors and those who did not survive the atrocities of World War II, Troy "Satchmo" Anderson and the Wonderful World Band performing a Tribute to Louis Armstrong, among other great performances. All of the shows are held locally at reasonable costs and all programs are free for students.

One program that is always a delight is the free Summer Concert Series, held lakeside in Thompson Park. This year, the six-week program runs on consecutive Thursdays starting July 11 and ending

August 15. It features Ray Rodriguez y Swing Sabroso (salsa music), Random Test Reggae Band, Claudio Roditi Group (Brazilian jazz), the Tru Tones (oldies and classics of the 50s and 60s), George Manikas (Mediterranean ensemble) and Aztec Two Step (folk-rock).

The summer shows offer cultural diversity with eclectic musicians playing a wide variety of music. I invite everyone to come out and share in the free summer



**Councilwoman  
Leslie Koppel**

fun. The atmosphere is always amazing at the free summer concerts with the Manalapan Lake as the backdrop.

The celebration of diversity in Monroe is just one of the great many reasons it is a great place to live, raise a family and retire.

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# Around the Town

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## Off to the Races...



*Cub Scouts of Pack 3 held its annual Pinewood Derby earlier this year. The Scouts build and design the cars and then race them down a track where gravity is the only engine.*



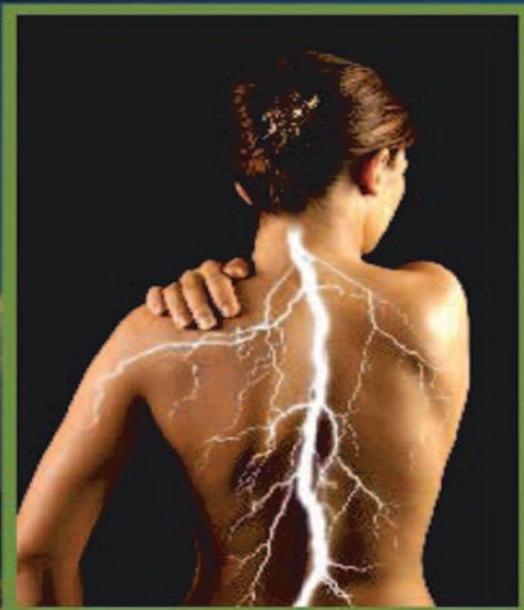
## Opening Day

*Mayor Richard Pucci addresses the crowd at the opening day of youth baseball in Monroe, which featured the annual Parade of Players and a free raffle for all the players.*



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*from:*



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- Back Pain**
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## Thanksgiving for the Community

With the new Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road set to open in the near future, Office of Senior Services Director Bonnie Leibowitz is looking for help organizing a Thanksgiving dinner for residents at the new facility.

“We are just starting a committee to help plan a Thanksgiving dinner for residents, regardless of age, that do not have a place to go for the holiday,” Leibowitz said. “It will not be a free meal, but it will be a place for people to come together as a community on a day where we give thanks for what we do have.”

The committee would be responsible for helping to plan and work the Thanksgiving feast.

“This is just an idea at the moment, and the committee will help get the whole party started,” Ms. Leibowitz said.

Ms. Leibowitz said the initial plans for Thanksgiving at the Senior Center call for the feast to be early in the afternoon, so volunteers can spend the day with their families.

Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Ms. Leibowitz at (732) 521-6111.



## Hard Work Pays Off for Eagle Scout

**Boy Scout Sean Evans** attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout on March 23 after years in the organization and the hard work he put in on his Eagle Scout Project – the construction of a Veterans Memorial in Veterans Park on Avenue K.

## Summer Series at the Senior Center

### Retirement Planning Seminar (2 Sessions)

Wednesday, June 19 & 26,  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This comprehensive personal finance course is designed for individuals/couples, between 45 & 75 years old, about to retire or in the early stages of retirement. Topics include: income planning, asset allocation, pitfalls to avoid — all based on recent academic research.

- Financial tools are included to help better understand risk, taxes, budgeting, and estate planning.

- An optional educational kit will be available for purchase.

- Free analysis will be offered, by appointment.

- Developed by RICHNESS OF LIFE Institute

Presented by: Len Hayduchok, CFP

Pre-Registration Fee: \$6 (Center Member), \$8 (Twp. Resident), \$10 (Non-Resident), (In-Person, by June 12)

### Power of Music

Wednesday, July 10,  
6:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun and interactive presentation about MUSIC!

Fran Pannella will explore what music is, how our brains process it, and why music is such a powerful part of our lives. She will conclude with a lively journey through six decades of music. Light refreshments served. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

### Numerology: What's Your Number??

Wednesday, July 17,  
6:30 p.m.

Find out what your number means, with Siobhan Hutchinson, and how it relates to your personality, well-being, and future. Light refreshments served. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

### Cooking Demo

Wednesday, July 24,  
7:00 p.m.

Join Chef Ilene Emerick, Culinary Arts Institute graduate and

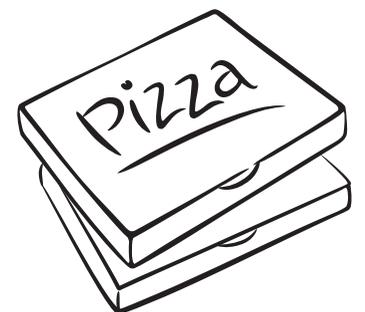
Manager of Dining Services at Winwood at Forsgate, as she demonstrates — and we taste — her tasty offerings! PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

### The Carol Burnett Show, Pizza Plus!

Wednesday, August 14,  
5:30 p.m.

Join us for laughs and good eats! We kick the evening off with our DVD presentation of “Carol’s Favorites” (like “Mrs. Wiggins”) followed by pizza and drinks. Then, we will enjoy more of the best with “Went with the Wind!” and “As the Stomach Turns.” Dessert will conclude the evening.

TICKETS: \$7 — due upon registering in person at the Senior Center.



### ALL PROGRAMS REQUIRE ADVANCE REGISTRATION!

June Seminar Registration Begins on May 17th.  
July Program Registration Begins on June 18th.  
August Program Registration Begins on July 17th.

## Lawn Watering Tips

"If you are watering your lawn every day, you are probably over-watering your lawn," said Monroe Township Utilities Department Director Michael Rogers. "The only time you need to water on a daily basis is when you are installing sod or seeding."

Over-watering weakens the root structure by causing grass to grow shallow. It also makes lawns more susceptible to mold.

"We advise residents to reset their sprinkler control clocks to water between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. twice a week," Mr. Rogers said. "Most lawns only need between 1 inch to 1-1/2 inches of water a week, including rainfall."

Water pressure is greatest between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., resulting in

more of the lawn being watered. Watering between those times can help reduce the risk of mold, fungus and other lawn diseases invading lawns. Also, it is cooler, less windy and there is more moisture in the air at night, which means more water will reach the ground rather than being evaporated.

Most sprinkler systems have built in water sensors. If they don't, empty tuna cans be used to collect and measure the water to determine how many minutes each sprinkler zone needs to run.

"Most lawns need a 1/2-inch of water on the lawn in shady spots and 3/4-inch in sunny spots," Mr. Rogers said. "Watering this much twice a week will give you the 1" to 1-1/2" per

week."

Keeping grass a bit taller can ease the need to water more than twice a week

"Lawns should be cut to between 2.5 and 3 inches," Mr. Rogers said. "If it is lower than two inches, a lawn will need more water to survive, which increases the possibility of drought and disease overcoming the lawn."

Mr. Rogers said that by following these suggestions, residents can have lush, beautiful lawns, and, more importantly, save some money in the process.

"And it's not just about saving hundreds of dollars a year, it's about saving one of our most important natural resources - water," Mr. Rogers said.

## A Look Back at Physical Culture City



In 1905, Bernard MacFadden established Physical Culture City around Lake Margurite in what is now the Outcault neighborhood. The concept of the Physical Culture City was to establish a place for people to live a healthy lifestyle focusing on exercise and diet.

## Birthday Celebration *Continued from page 1*

place at the same time as the Oak Tree School on Applegarth Road.

"Anyone attending the Green Fair could take a quick trip around the corner and see living history at the Dey Farm on Federal Road," Mr. Katerba said.

The Dey Farmhouse and its outlying buildings will be open for guided tours by Historic Commissioners for both events.

"The farmhouse has a lot of artifacts from Monroe's past that shows how far we've come in the 175 years," Mr. Katerba said. "We even have Native American artifacts that pre-date Monroe's incorporation. All of the items were found right in Monroe, and each has a story associated with it."

The Living History Weekend promises to be a big celebration of

Monroe's past and its future.

"The Dey Farm is the perfect location for such a significant Township anniversary," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "The Historic Preservation Commission holds events the whole family can enjoy and we look forward to sharing this celebration with the whole community."



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# 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](http://www.monroetwp.com).

## May 2013

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



**Veterans Park**  
*spray ground*  
OPENING DAY OF THE  
SPRAY GROUND IS  
FRIDAY, MAY 24TH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:00 PM	9 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 	13	14 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	15 SPECIAL SPORTS MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	16	17	18
19	20 MAYOR'S CUP WOMEN'S GOLF Concordia, 8:00 AM	21	22	23	24 Veterans Park Spray Ground Opens for the Season	25
26	27 MEMORIAL DAY 	28	29	30	31	

## June 2013

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



Wifflemania at  
Daniel P. Ryan  
Football Field  
9:00AM



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 MAYOR'S CUP WOMEN'S TENNIS Concordia, 8:00 AM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 WIFFLEMANIA Daniel P. Ryan Football Field, 9:00 AM	10	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 MAYOR'S CUP MEN'S TENNIS Concordia, 8:00 AM
16 FATHER'S DAY 	17	18	19	20	21 SUMMER BEGINS	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## July 2013

Monroe Township Department of Recreation  
120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp. NJ, 08831  
732-723-5000 • [monroerec.com](http://monroerec.com)



CELEBRATE  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
AT THOMPSON PARK  
ON JULY 4, 2013  
5:00PM—9:00PM  
FIREWORKS AT DUSK



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> MAYOR'S CUP MEN'S GOLF, Concordia, 8:00 AM Summer Rec Camp & MTSEPA Camp Begin	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION Thompson Park, 5:00 PM Community Center Closed	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:00 PM	<b>11</b> MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> SPECIAL SPORTS MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> MAYOR'S CUP BASKETBALL Community Center, 6:00 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

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CentraState is an affiliate of UMDNJ - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

\*Source: 2011 Press Ganey



Patricia, Monroe resident

## Protect Your Home from Burglars

The Monroe Township Police Department is offering crime prevention tips to help residents protect their homes from burglars.

"Modern burglars are more brazen than ones of the past," Monroe Township Police Chief Michael Lloyd said. "He may dress as a service repairman and may knock right on your door. Be careful and only let people in who have made prior appointments in your

home, and have proper identification."

Burglars often cruise neighborhoods for empty homes, looking for indicators such as newspapers that haven't been picked off the driveway, or mail left in the letterbox.

"There are also cases where burglars will see a homeowner doing work in the yard and enter through the other door," Chief Lloyd said. "We don't want to alarm our residents; we want to

make sure they are aware of their surroundings and take the necessary steps to keep their families and themselves safe."

One way to help prevent home burglaries is to know your neighbors, make them aware of your family's living situation, such as who is living in the house and who visits regularly.

"The more familiar your neighbors are with your living situation, the easier it will be for them

to spot strangers at your house," Chief Lloyd said.

When not at home, residents should give their house a "lived-in" or "at-home" look by leaving lights on in two different locations in the house or leaving a radio playing on a talk station.

"You don't want to leave any notes indicating you're not at home and do not leave extra keys in obvious places outside of the house," Chief Lloyd said. "The

simplest rule to follow is to lock all doors, windows and your garage."

In addition, residents should keep their car doors locked to deter would-be thieves from entering the vehicles more easily.

For more information or to reach the Monroe Township Police Department for non-emergencies, call (732) 521-0222. For emergencies dial 9-1-1.

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| Jinhwa Chang       | Maria Matalski      | Laureen Strugala   |
| Jonathan Cohen     | Andrew Tancredi     | Jerry Bogue        |
| Deborah Datkowitz  | Robert Steinberg    | Mike Tota          |
| Margot Datkowitz   | Gina DiPierro       | Andy Tancredi      |
| Kristina Fernandes | Jennifer Miranowicz | Bob Milosh         |
| Nilesh Patel       | Michele Otto        | James Furey        |
| Doris Hossain      | Jooyoung Park       | Marilyn Ticktin    |
| Amanda Lenard      | Dzevat Perovic      | Patricia Lombardi  |
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Realtor Associate



## Monroe Township Turns 175 *Continued from page 2*

Station were among the first neighborhoods, but none were more famous than Outcalt."

Outcalt is located in the northwest section of Monroe, near its border with Helmetta and Spotswood. The neighborhood became famous in 1905 as Bernard MacFadden opened Physical Culture City near Lake Margarite.

"MacFadden was a Jack Lalane before Jack Lalane," Mr. Katerba said. "He started the

whole fitness movement and he had a little village in Outcalt where people worked out and learned about eating healthy. They stayed in the area for two years and then McFadden ran into legal trouble for publishing photos of women in full one-piece bathing suits. He was later released and cleared of charges."

Monroe has always celebrated its history, especially its rural roots, placing its museum in

the historic Dey Farmhouse on Federal Road, between Perrineville and Applegarth roads.

"The 40-acre farm is one of the most beautiful locations in Monroe," Mayor Pucci said. "There are two historical farmhouses, a barn, potting shed and other historical buildings that have all been in Monroe for years. It is a great place to visit, either for one of the many Historic Commission events or for a nice springtime picnic."

The Dey Farmhouse, parts of which dates back to the 1820s, is the centerpiece of the historical site and houses many Monroe artifacts.

"There are church bells, desks, bottles from local dairies, uniforms from local soldiers and so much more," Mr. Katerba said. "The arti-



**Prospect Plains School 1890** - Utilizing a \$1 million County Grant the Prospect Plains Schoolhouse will be rebuilt on the Dey Farm property. It is currently broken down and in storage at the Department of Public Works.

facts give visitors a sense of what life was like in Monroe from the 1800s until today. It is a museum that truly celebrates Monroe."

Thanks to a \$1 million grant from Middlesex County, work will be done on the Dey Farmhouse and adjacent barn to ensure that it is there for future generations to enjoy. In addition, the money will also be used

to re-construct the Prospect Plains Road Schoolhouse, which is currently disassembled and in storage at the Department of Public Works.

"We are dedicated to preserving Monroe's history and to making the Dey Farm a destination for people from all over the County to enjoy," Mayor Pucci said.



**The Dey Farmhouse** and adjacent barn on Federal Road between Applegarth and Perrineville Roads.

## Creativity Shines at Studio M

Do you have an idea you'd like to make tangible? Do you have a favorite model you'd like to see duplicated or a home-movie you want to edit?

Then you should visit the brand new "Studio M" at the Monroe Township Public Library.

"Studio M is really exciting," Virtual Branch Manager Karen

Klapperstuck said. "We are dedicating an entire room for our residents to let their creativity shine."

A highlight of the studio is the 3-D printer.

"Most people don't know what it is when they hear '3-D printer,' but once they see it, they are genuinely amazed," Librarian Tyler Rousseau said.

The 3-D printer uses a

plastic filament, a heating element similar to a glue gun, a cooling fan and a motorized arm to create hard plastic objects from designs that are inputted via computer.

"There are websites where you can download designs, most of which are free," Ms. Klapperstuck said. "We also have a program, called "Blender," where

you can create your own designs."

The Library also has a 3-D scanner, where residents can scan in an object to "print" using the 3-D printer.

"The printer and scanner are just one aspect of the Maker Studio, but they are definitely an exciting component of it," Ms. Klapperstuck said. "The

great thing is that anyone can use it, whether they are or aren't technologically savvy, it is simple enough to use."

In addition, Studio M includes computer terminals where residents can scan pictures and edit them using Photoshop, edit videos and even record their own green screen adventures.

*Continued on page 20*

## CONGREGATION BEIT SHALOM OF MONROE TWP.

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**MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

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## JCP&L Upgrades

*Continued from page 6*

Monroe keeps residents informed of alerts and critical information about emergencies and community events through the Middlesex County Community Notification System. Through the system, residents and business owners who subscribed can receive emergency alerts, advisories and other important information via telephone. Residents can subscribe to the program on Middlesex County's website, [www.co.middlesex.nj.us](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us).

"Prior to Sandy, the Township OEM established a Facebook page, ([www.facebook.com/MonroeOEM](http://www.facebook.com/MonroeOEM)), which is updated during times of emergencies," Mr. Feist said. "The site is available to anyone with an Internet connection and can also be viewed on cell phones or tablet devices with data plans or Wi-Fi access."

For residents who have cell phones without Internet access, the OEM has added Nixle as another mode of emergency communications. Use your cell phone to text 08831 to 888777 and your phone will receive text alerts that are sent out by the OEM. Standard messaging rates will apply. You can also visit [local.nixle.com/Monroe-township-office-of-emergency-management](http://local.nixle.com/Monroe-township-office-of-emergency-management) to sign up.

"Our alert system, coupled with the promise from JCP&L to increase its communication, should make it easier for people to understand what is going during major power outage events," Mr. Feist said.

## Grant to Expand Special Needs Recreation Programs

The Township recently received a \$10,000 grant from the state Department of Community Affairs to provide additional recreational programs for children with physical, emotional and learning disabilities.

The funds are being provided under the Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities program. The Township will provide matching funds of \$2,245.

"A major goal of the program is to provide these special needs children with recreational activities that will make them more self sufficient and help them interact with siblings and other children," Program Supervisor Al Magliaro said. "Also, children with learning disabilities will improve their motor movement skills and coordination by participating in the program."

One of the new programs the Township Recreation Department will sponsor is a Pop Warner Challenger Football program for children with special

needs, ages 5-16. The program also includes uniforms for cheerleaders who will learn cheers and dances.

In addition, the Township will expand its Track Stars program by 30 hours over a six-week program. Through Track Stars, the children learn the basics of all track and field events, from long jump to racing.

"We have a great group of coaches and volunteers who help with the program," Mr. Magliaro said. "The kids all get T-shirts and we're going to be able to get some new equipment because of the grant."

The grant will also be used to enhance the Summer Camp program, adding additional trips geared towards the children with special needs. In addition, the Recreation Department will be able to start the new Sunshine Activities program, which will expand sports activities and arts & crafts for children ages six to 15.



These grant-funded programs supplement the Township's long-standing programs for children with disabilities. These programs include MT. SEPA, a five-week summer camp program with 500 participants, Kings & Queens bowling with 40 students, Buddy Ball baseball with 50 participants and Basketball Pals with 50 participants.

"We are happy to expand our special needs programs with the help of the state grant," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "Our Recreation Department has a long history of working with the developmentally disabled, and the grant will help us to better serve their needs."

## Green Fair Seeks Volunteers

The Monroe Township Environmental Commission and the Public Library needs volunteers to make the 4th Annual Green Fair even better than the last.

"The event has grown every year, with more and more people learning what steps they can take to green up their homes," Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection John Riggs said. "We're looking for people to help us plan and work the event to make it the best one yet."

Scheduled for Oct. 5 at the Oak Tree School on Applegarth Road, the Green Fair features organizations, vendors and businesses sharing eco-friendly information, advice and products with residents.

"We'd like help getting advertisers for our

Green Tips books, reaching out to vendors, and setting up and cleaning up for the event," Mr. Riggs said. "We're hoping to get the high school kids involved again. Two years ago they set up games and arts and crafts for the kids; we'd like to see that return to the fair."

Last year, the fair featured Farmer Al's selling local produce, Stop & Shop displaying its Nature's Promise line of organic foods, a petting zoo, hybrid vehicles, natural cleaning products, the shredding truck, live music and much more.

"One of the attractions we are hoping to expand is the Freecycling event, where residents bring unwanted but functional items such as furniture, electronics, bicycles, clothing and fish

tanks. Other residents can give those items new homes," Mr. Riggs said.

The 2013 Green Fair will feature tours of the Oak Tree School. The school was designed to LEEDS standards, featuring solar panels and natural light coming from 90 percent of the building through windows that are glazed with high-efficiency, thermal Solarban glass. Also, a 50,000-gallon underground gray water system was installed to collect and filter storm water, so it can be used for the school's toilet water.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact John Riggs at [jriggs@monroetwp.com](mailto:jriggs@monroetwp.com) or call him at the Municipal Building (732) 521-4400 ext. 118.

## Scouts Mark Arbor Day



**Councilman Michael Leibowitz** (Center) with the Girl Scouts of Troop 81564 who planted a flowering plumb tree outside of the Library on April 21 as part of the Township's annual Arbor Day Celebration.



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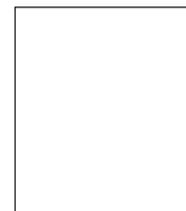


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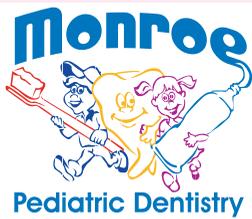
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**Arbor Day Events:** The Scouts did arts and tree-related crafts projects with the kids at the Children's Department at the Library.

## Creativity Shines at Studio M

Continued from page 17

"We have a green screen setup, so residents can film scenes inside the library and add their own backgrounds in iMovie," Ms. Klapperstuck said. "There is also music editing software, so people can create and record music for free in the library."

Furthermore, Studio M will have Basic Arduino Programming, which is an open-source electronic prototyping platform.

"The Arduino kits allow patrons to create and program electronic devices," Ms. Klapperstuck said. "They are very easy to use and can do things

like create keyboards out of clay. They are a lot of fun."

Equipment for the Maker Studio was donated to the Library by a bequest from Margaret C. Gryson, a gift from Penny and John North, the Friends of the Monroe Township Library and Wells Fargo bank. Everything is free except 3-D printing, which costs \$1 per item.

"The Library is a place to set creativity and imagination free," Library Director Irene Goldberg said. "The Maker Studio will allow our residents bring their imaginations to life."

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