

the **Monroe** news

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



Monroe Opens New Senior Center

"It is wonderful to be in our new home," Bonnie Leibowitz, Director of the Township Office of Senior Services said. "We are excited to be working with our residents in our new location."

The new Senior Center located at 12 Halsey Reed Road is open for business.

"We have more than 13,500 registered members of the Senior Center who regularly use many of our programs, social services and classes," Ms. Leibowitz said. "In the old facility we only had room for about 250. Now we can have multiple events occurring at the same time without worrying about space constraints."

The primary goals of Senior

Center programs are wellness, education, recreation, nutrition and social services. The primary function of the Senior Center is to be the home of the Township Office of Senior Services, which facilitates health education and health screenings; numerous support groups for those with Parkinson's Disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke and low vision; on-site county probate services once per week; free AARP tax preparation every spring; food for the needy; defensive driving; computer



The New Senior Center and Transportation Division located at 12 Halsey Reed Road.

education and many other programs. There is designated private office space for these services in the new building.

"We are confident that the new center will provide the privacy that residents need when dealing with personal matters,

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Celebrate Monroe's Birthday this Fall

Get ready to party like it's the 19th Century, as Monroe prepares for its 175th Anniversary Celebration this fall at the Dey Farm Historic Site on Federal Road.

The celebration will begin on Saturday, September 28, when the Historic Preservation Commission welcomes an old time baseball doubleheader between the Flemington Neshanock and the Philadelphia Athletics.

"All of the uniforms and equipment are replicas of what players used in the 19th century," Township Historian John Katerba said. "They will play the game in the field next to the England House at the Dey Farm

Site, which is perfect for the event. When baseball first started, players had to make their own fields in open lands."

Throughout the games, players interact with the crowd and explain the various differences in rules and how the game changed over time.

"We always get a rousing rendition of the poem 'Casey at the Bat' narrated by 'Brooklyn' Brad Shaw of the Neshanock," Mr. Katerba said. "It is a great day outside for the whole family, and, best of all, it is free."

The following weekend, on October 5, the field will transform from a baseball field to a battlefield when the

Commission hosts Civil War re-enactors from the 2nd New Jersey Brigade for a free day of Living History.

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



Mayor Richard Pucci and Council President Gerald Tamburro meet with residents during the National Night Out event on Aug. 6 in Thompson Park.

Special and Regular Election Information

September 25 is the last day to register to vote in the upcoming Special General Election on October 16.

The Special General Election is being held to fill the final year of the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg's term.

Residents will vote at their normal polling locations for the Oct. 16 special election and the polls will be open from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

In addition, the Township Clerk's Office will hold evening hour voter registration on Oct. 15, the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 regular General Election. Again, residents will vote

at their normal polling locations between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Voter registration applications are available on the Township's website, www.monroetwp.com or in the Clerk's Office in the upper level of the Municipal Building located at 1 Municipal Plaza.

Monroe Township's Polling Places

Ward 1: District 1 – Encore Monroe, 1 Brookside Drive

Ward 1: Districts 2, 3, 4, 5 – Rossmoor Clubhouse, Rossmoor Drive

Ward 1: Districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 – Clearbrook Cultural Center, Ardmore and Halsey Road

Ward 1: District 11, 12 – Monroe Twp. Fire & EEMS Facility, 16 Centre Drive

Ward 1: District 13 – The Ponds Club, 100 Waterside Blvd.

Ward 1: District 14, 17 – Oak Tree School 226 Applegarth Road

Ward 1: District 15 – Monroe Village, 1 David Brainerd Drive

Ward 1: District 16 – Renaissance at 33, 101 Medici Blvd

Ward 2: District 1 – Woodland School 42 Harrison Avenue

Ward 2: District 2 – Brookside School, 370 Buckelew Avenue

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Township Seeks To Reduce Electricity Costs For Residents

By Mayor Richard Pucci

With many of our residents living in homes that are powered solely by electricity, as well as the overall increase in the cost of electricity, the Township has been looking for ways to reduce electrical costs for its residents.

In fact, 15 years ago the Township initiated the Monroe Township Pilot Program to aggregate energy costs, decreasing energy costs for residents. However a year after the program began, municipal aggregation was ended by the state's Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act.

However, with the Government Energy Aggregation Act (GEA), which was passed in 2003, New Jersey became one of only three states (Illinois and Ohio are the other two) that allows for a government-operated purchasing cooperative for energy aggregation. Essentially this means multiple energy consumers purchase electrical energy under the auspices of a government aggregator (the Township). The end result: If a resident has JCP&L as his or her sole

energy provider, the resident could possibly see a 10 percent reduction in annual electrical generation and supply costs. JCP&L would continue to be responsible for distribution; the consolidated bill would still come from the utility.

After researching how other municipalities have benefited from the program, the Township has initiated the process of allowing a third party electric energy supplier (other than JCP&L) to provide electricity to Township residents.

The energy aggregation program is specifically structured by State law. The Township will not receive any revenues from this program nor will it incur any out-of-pocket expenses for professional services or consulting fees.

There are 18,450 residential units in Monroe that could benefit from the program. Of those, 10,519, or 57 percent, of the residences are located in the 10 active adult communities in the Township, and 5,500 of those homes are serviced solely by electrical energy.

The Township Council authorized the



Mayor Richard Pucci

program and hired a consultant, Gabel Associates, that will collect and analyze account data, develop bid specifications, reach out to the public, communicate with the State Board of Public Utilities and applicable regulatory authorities, and prepare and review the necessary documents to develop and implement the government energy aggregation program in Monroe.

In addition, Gabel Associates will hold several public meetings throughout the Township to educate residents on how the aggregation process works and how to benefit from the program.

All JCP&L serviced residential electric consumers will be included in the program unless they opt-out or are already served by a third party provider. Furthermore, anyone who enrolls can leave the program at any time (one time only) with 30 days notice, and will not incur a cancellation fee.

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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 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** (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
- 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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Township Tops List of Communities for Empty Nesters

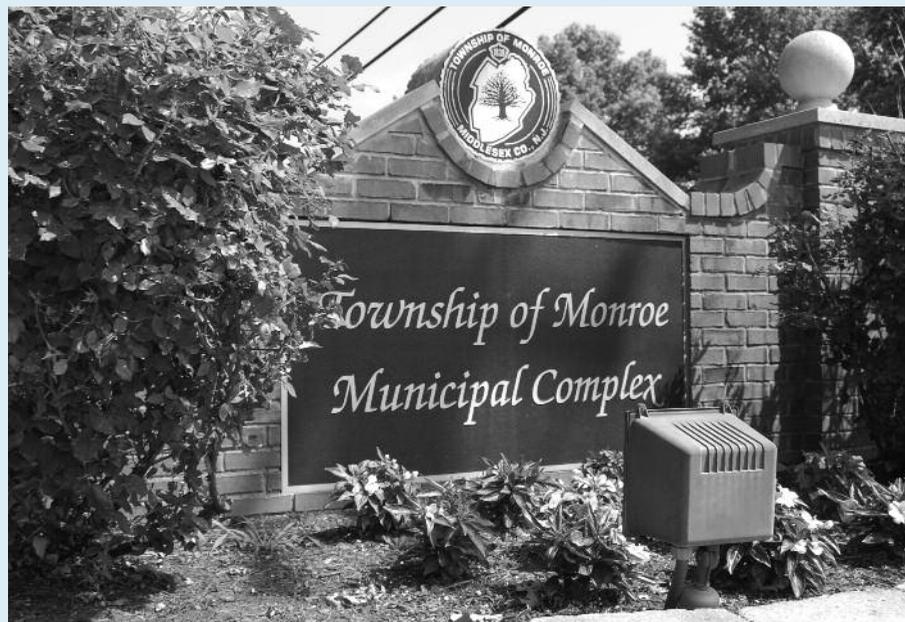
Monroe Township was named the Best Community for Empty Nesters in the state in an article in the September 2013 issue of New Jersey Monthly.

According to the story, Monroe was chosen because of its low taxes, open space and location in Central Jersey among many other factors.

"Many of the Jersey towns with a significant number of 55-plus communities – such as Manchester, Stafford, and Little Egg Harbor are located further south," the article stated. "Monroe has the advantage of being closer to population centers of Northern and Central New Jersey and even New York. That makes it a good choice for empty nesters eager to down-size, but not ready to retire."

In addition, the article, which is available online at www.njmonthly.com, also cited quick commutes to New York, whether by bus or train, as an advantage of living in Monroe.

"Express buses stop at Rossmoor and other locations to pick up passengers for the 55-minute commute to the Port Authority in Manhattan," the article stated. "There are also several park-and-ride lots. New Jersey Transit riders typically drive a half hour to Matawan, New Brunswick or Princeton for the direct train connection to



New York City."

Furthermore, the Township's low tax rate and local health-care industries also taken into consideration in getting Monroe to the top of the list.

"The presence of industrial ratables (drawn to the proximity of Exit 8A off the New Jersey Turnpike) helps keep taxes under control. The abundance of seniors also has spurred 'overwhelming growth in the [local] health-care industry.'"

The excellent school system and low crime rate were also cited in the article as reasons to live in Monroe.

"Monroe Township High School ranked 124 last year on the New Jersey Monthly list of Top High Schools," the article stated. "Younger families seek out three-bedroom ranches for

about \$325,000 or the higher-priced four-bedroom colonials. Like the empty nesters, they appreciate the access to nearby centers of employment and culture such as New Brunswick and Princeton."

Monroe was the only Middlesex County community on the list of Top Towns for Empty Nesters, and beat out communities such as West Caldwell, Pennington, Florham Park, North Caldwell and Manchester.

"We have worked hard throughout the years to make Monroe a great place to live, raise a family and retire," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "It is an honor to be named by an independent survey as the best Community for Empty Nesters."

Township Seeks To Reduce Electricity Costs

Continued from page 3

Residents who are already served by a different third party supplier may join the Township's energy aggregation program, but are advised to check and see if there is a cancellation or penalty from the supplier. Most important, residents who are on a 12 month budget plan with their current provider where they pay equal monthly payments will be able to maintain the same type of billing plan.

Please remember that municipal energy aggregation applies to the generation or supply portion of your bill (not your JCP&L distribution portion), so monthly billing will still be done by JCP&L.

The Township has done plenty of research into this program, and the municipalities that we have spoken with have told us that their residents are receiving the savings anticipated before program implementation. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide our residents with the same level of savings.

Monroe Bookmobile is a Moving Landmark

You may have seen it driving through Monroe, parked at a school or a clubhouse in an active adult community, or in the Spray Park in Veterans Park.

It is filled with 2,500 books, including many popular titles spanning all genres for both adults and children, in both regular and large print, many DVDs and audio-books.

The Monroe Township Public Library Bookmobile circulates roughly 2,000 books each month - nearly 80 percent of the books in the traveling library get exchanged every month.

"The Bookmobile travels Township roads five days a week bringing items in its collection closer to the homes of residents who may have difficulty visiting the

Library building," Library Director Irene Goldberg said.

In addition, during the school year, the Bookmobile, makes a stop at the after-school programs at the elementary schools.

"The Bookmobile is an excellent supplement to the school libraries," Ms. Goldberg said. "And it gives the children a chance to interact with the Library right at their schools."

In the 10 years since it first started rolling, the Bookmobile has become the mobile arm of the Public Library, allowing residents to do whatever they can at the Library building right on board. Whether borrowing a book or DVD, signing up for a library card, it can be done in the mobile lending facility.

The Library, located at 4 Municipal Plaza, is one of the busiest buildings in the Township, hosting more than 1,000 visitors each day to borrow from the hundreds of thousands of books, DVDs, CDs, audio-books, novels and so much more.

The Children's Department is constantly buzzing with many youngsters participating in a wide variety of story-times, craft projects, and, during the school year, using the many resources available to Library cardholders to do research for class projects.

The Library recently took a step into the future with Studio M, a digital media room, located near the Children's Department. The room has a wall that can be used as a green screen for film projects and video editing software available to the public.

The highlight of Studio M is the 3-D printer, which 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.

Equipment for the Studio was donated to the Library by a bequest from Margaret C. Gryson, a gift from Penny and John North, the Friends



The Bookmobile was on-hand at the annual National Night Out on Aug. 6 in Thompson Park, registering residents for Library cards, providing storytimes and puppet shows for everyone in attendance.

of the Monroe Township Library and Wells Fargo bank.

"The Library is so much more than a lending facility," Ms. Goldberg said. "It is a place for residents to meet and read, learn about a variety of topics and so much more. It has grown with the demands and technology of the 21st century

and will continue to serve Monroe's residents well into the Township's future."

For the Bookmobile schedule, more information about the Bookmobile, the Library or information on how you can help, visit www.monroetwp-library.org or call (732) 521-5000.



Children's Library Specialist and Library Puppeteer Rebecca Osowski shows kids the puppet of the hero of "Jack and the Beanstalk." The Library regularly hosts free puppet shows for children.

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Annual dues are \$25.
For More info call (732) 723-5000

Green Fair Expands for 2013

Freecycling, environmentally-friendly storytimes, hybrid and electric cars, bicycle exchange and so much more are on tap for the fourth-annual Green Fair on October 5.

The Fair, set to run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oak Tree School on Applegarth Road, is once again co-sponsored by the Monroe Township Environmental Commission and the Public Library.

"We are happy to continue our work with the Library to give residents the knowledge and access to products to make their lives a little greener," said John Riggs, Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection. "The Library provides arts and crafts, storytimes and puppet shows that bring the children at the fair into the 'green' conversation."

Freecycling is a major component of this year's

Green Fair. Through Freecycling, residents can bring items that are in good working condition, such as furniture, toys, lamps, tools or other items they do not need anymore, and leave them at the freecycling site at the fair for someone else to take home.

"We want to remind people that this is not a dump for garbage," Mr. Riggs said. "The idea is to keep perfectly good items out of the landfill. Items that are not taken by residents will be donated to RISE."

RISE is a non-profit organization based out of Hightstown that provides referral and support services to area families and individuals in need.

In addition, the fair will feature the Bike Exchange, an all-volunteer effort that collects, repairs and sells bikes from its shop in the Capitol Plaza Shopping Center on the Trenton/

Ewing border. The bike exchange not only makes low cost bikes available to low-income families, it also makes financial contributions to the Boys and Girls Club.

Furthermore, representatives of St. Peter's Medical Center will be on hand to check blood pressure and cholesterol. Electric and hybrid cars will be on display. The shredding truck will be available for residents to shred old documents. Bee keepers and worm composters will share information, and so much more.

"We're also happy to have the Clean Energy Lighting Station back this year," Mr. Riggs said. "You can buy two lamps and 10 CFL bulbs for \$10. You can't get that deal in any store."

Also new this year is the inflatable Soil Tunnel provided by the Freehold Soil Conservation District.

"The tunnel gives a

blown-up image of what is in the dirt below us," Mr. Riggs said. "There are large images of worms, grubs and other things that reside in soil."

As always, the fair will include tours of the Oak Tree School, which was designed to LEEDS standards, has 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 under the school that is used to collect and filter storm water, so it can be used for the school's toilet water.

"The Environmental Commission will have a table featuring our trail plans, birds of Monroe and so much more," Mr. Riggs said. "And Clearbrook's Energy/Green Committee will have several tables with great green ideas for the home."

The Township Department of Public Works will have the Enviro-Mobile, its mobile environmental classroom, at the fair. There will be vendors selling eco-friendly products.

The Fair is being held the same day as the Township Historic Preservation Commission's Old Timey Baseball Game at the Dey Farm, located on Federal Road between Applegarth and Perrineville roads. It will be the perfect day to be in Monroe.

"I want to thank Green Fair Committee Chairwoman Kathy Budge as well as everyone else who has helped with the fair for all of their hard work and dedication to making Monroe a clean, green place to live," Mr. Riggs said.

Special and Regular Election Information *Continued from page 2*

Ward 2: Districts 3, 9, 11, 12 – Whittingham Towne Center, 100 Whittingham Dr.

Ward 2: District 4 – Monroe Township Library, 4 Municipal Plaza

Ward 2: District 5, 6, 7, 8 – Concordia Clubhouse,

1 Clubhouse Drive

Ward 2: District 10 – Oak Tree School, 226 Applegarth Road

Ward 3: Districts 1, 3 – Monroe First Aid Building, 47 Monmouth Road

Ward 3: Districts 2, 5, 7 –

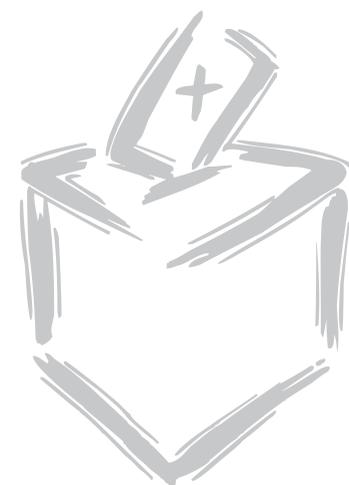
Monroe Twp. Community Center, 120 Monmouth Road

Ward 3: Districts 4, 9 – Woodland School, 42 Harrison Avenue

Ward 3: Districts 6, 8 – Brookside School, 370 Buckelew Avenue

Ward 3: Districts 10, 11 – Regency Clubhouse, 61 Country Club Drive

For more information visit our website at www.monroetwp.com or call the Township Clerk at (732) 656-4573.



Farewell Mike Rogers

By Council President Gerald W. Tamburro

Fred Rogers used to start his long running PBS show "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" by asking the audience if they would "be my neighbor."

Monroe Township is losing a man I've been fortunate to call a friend and all residents should be proud to call a neighbor, as Mike Rogers has retired from the position he has held since August 1982.

Our Mr. Rogers is one of the hardest working and most knowledgeable members of our municipal team. While it is sad to see such a talented man go, I would like to wish him well in his retirement.

As Director of the Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) and the Monroe Township Utilities Department (MTUD), Mr. Rogers oversaw 43 square miles of water and wastewater service, which consists of \$500 million in facilities. His job was the orderly planning, financing and construction of the facilities, ensuring the best



Mike Rogers

possible water and sewer services for Monroe as it grew from a largely rural community to a suburban-rural community.

In addition, Mr. Rogers was the Zoning Board of Adjustment Engineer from 1992 to 2003, advising the board on every application.

Taking advice from Mike over the years was always easy because of his extensive knowledge and expertise in all areas of water and sewer. Our Mr. Rogers is a licensed professional engineer in New Jersey, New York and North Carolina and is a licensed planner in New Jersey. He is also a licensed sewage collection and treatment plant operator in New Jersey.

Even if you go back to his college studies, Mike has an exceptional resume graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York and achieving a

Masters in Engineering in Ocean Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. For those who do not know, both schools are among the most highly regarded engineering schools in the United States, and we were all lucky to have a graduate from those esteemed universities to work for the people of Monroe.

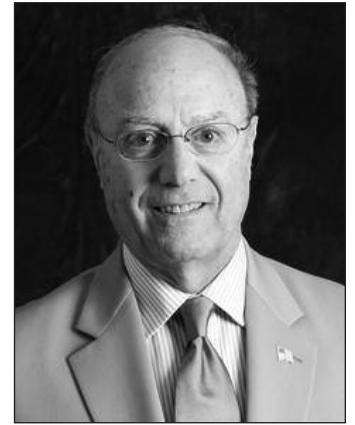
Furthermore, Mike holds memberships in many professional organizations. He is a Past President of the Association of Environmental Authorities of NJ, a member of the American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, Past Vice President of the Raritan Valley Society of Professional Engineers, a member of the Monmouth County 208 Policy Advisory Committee, a member of the Middlesex County 208 Technical Advisory Committee, Past Chairman of the Water Resources Association of Lower Raritan/Middlesex County, and is a Charter President of the Optimist Club of Greater Monroe Township.

Mike Rogers will always be an important member of the extended Monroe Township family. Through his hard work and under his direction, Monroe has been able to supply water and sewer to its residents without a fee increase in more than 20 years, keeping the rates

among the lowest in the state.

He has led by example and leaves Monroe in the very capable hands of his crew at the MTUD.

I would like to thank Mike for his many years of service to the citizens of Monroe, and wish him the best of luck in his retirement. It is well deserved.



Council President Gerald W. Tamburro

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Mayor's Cup Winners



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Monroe Moves Forward with Green Team

The Township Council has established a Green Team Advisory Committee to further the pursuit of keeping Monroe a green and clean community for many years to come.

The formation of the team is part of the Township's goal to become a Sustainable Jersey Certified Community.

"Over the past three years we've made strong efforts to be a Sustainable Jersey Certified community," said Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection John Riggs. "Participating in

Sustainable NJ will open the doors to grants for our green initiatives, such as the Green Fair and park development. Once we are certified, it will open us up to even more opportunity."

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and funding to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Through the program, municipalities "check off" actions such as "Hold a Green Fair" and "Energy Audit a Building," among many other items to earn

points toward being Certified Sustainable.

"The Green Team is made up of members who are passionate about Monroe and will work hard to promote sustainability to preserve Monroe's future for generations to come," Mr. Riggs said.

The Members of the Committee are:

- **Councilwoman Leslie Koppel**
Council Representative
- **John Riggs**
Environmental Commission
- **Renee Haider**
Environmental Commission

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Fourth of July Fun



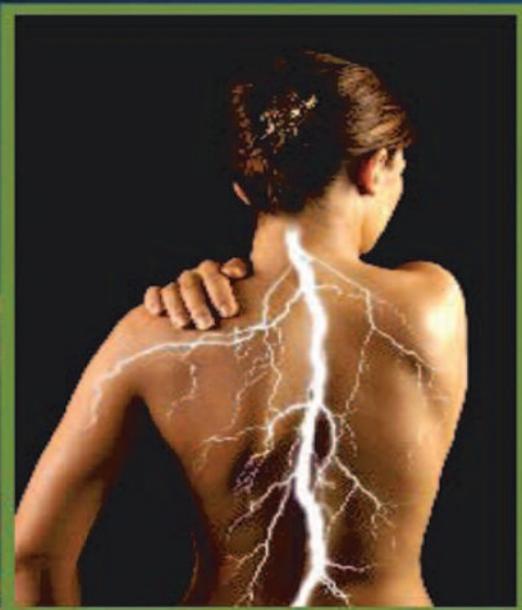
The Township held its Annual Independence Day Celebration in Thompson Park on July 4. The event featured vendors of all sorts, great food, a DJ who provided fun and games and a Hula Hoop Contest.

Mayor Richard Pucci and the Township Council were surrounded by local children as they counted down to the main event, the fireworks extravaganza.



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Community Center Turns 20 at Octoberfest on Oct. 20

Just as Monroe Township is celebrating its 175th Anniversary, the Community Center on Monmouth Road will celebrate its 20th Anniversary at Octoberfest on Oct. 20.

"The Community Center is an important part of Monroe," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "It is a safe place for residents of all ages to exercise, compete in various sports or participate in a number of fun activities."

Scheduled to start at noon, Octoberfest celebrates everything that the Community Center offers, but most importantly it celebrates the residents and local

organizations of Monroe.

"We'll kick off Octoberfest with the Community Volunteer Awards in the gymnasium," Councilman Dalina said. "Every year the Township honors residents who volunteer their time and efforts to make Monroe such an amazing place to live."

The free event will be held on Monmouth Road, between Sheffield and Cornell avenues, and will feature inflatable rides and games for kids, a DJ, a magic show, pony rides, food vendors, local organizations and merchants, Boy and Girl Scout troops, several boards and commis-

sions, police, fire, and first aid personnel, and other volunteer groups.

Built 20 years ago and expanded four years ago, the Community Center features a fitness center, outdoor inline hockey rink for both youth and adult hockey leagues, two gymnasiums used for both youth and men's basketball leagues, various fitness classes, youth and adult programs, recreation summer camp, M.T.S.E.P.A. Camp and so much more.

"The Community Center and Recreation Department provide so much for our residents, hosting many sports and activities both at the cen-

Splish Splash



Children enjoy inflatable rides at the Recreation Summer Camp Water Games Day at Daniel Ryan Field on North State Home Road. Recreation Summer Camp runs for five weeks giving children a wide variety of events and field trips to participate in during summer.

ter and around the community," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "Octoberfest is a great way for us to

thank them and the residents who do so much for Monroe."

Celebrate Monroe's Birthday *Continued from page 1*

"It will be like you were transferred back to the Civil War era when you visit the farm on October 5," Mr. Katerba said. "You can see how soldiers dressed, ate, slept, fought and just generally lived. The reenactors do a great job, are very engaging and encourage people to ask questions."

It will be a busy day in the southern end of the town on October 5 as the Township will also host its fourth annual Green Fair at the Oak Tree School on Applegarth Road, just

around the corner from the Dey Farm.

The Dey Farm House, which is the Monroe Township Museum, will be open for tours during both events. The museum features artifacts from Monroe's history including arrowheads, military and sports uniforms, school house furniture and so much more.

"It will be two busy weekends at the Dey Farm," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "We will celebrate Monroe's 175th Anniversary with glimpses into its past."

Celebrate Monroe Township's 175th Birthday

Join us at **TWO** exciting events at the Historic Dey Farm

Vintage Baseball Game — 1860s style
Saturday, September 28th — starting at noon
Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a double-header game.

And

Civil War Living History Day and 175th Birthday Celebration
Saturday, October 5th from 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Meet Soldiers, Learn about Camp Life, Civilian Activities, and Historic Artifacts.

Tour the Dey Farm Museum at both events.
Located on Federal Road between Applegarth and Perrineville Roads



Glass Negatives Give Fresh Look at Local History

Monroe Township accepted an early 175th birthday gift recently when Township Historian John Katerba received 46 glass negatives that give a glimpse of what the area was like around 1912.

"The Lester Memorial Home in Jamesburg gave the slides to me," Mr. Katerba explained. "At one point, the glass plate slides were stored near a boiler, so I had to clean them up before having them developed. The Lester family recognized a few of the images. However, many remained a mystery. So, I started to do some digging and discovered some interesting information about some of the photos."

A majority of the photos were taken between 1912 and 1913 around the Monroe and Jamesburg area.

"After looking through the unidentified plates I noticed some clues that helped me identify the locations of the photos and gave a better insight into the time and place they were taken," Mr. Katerba said. "I recognized familiar buildings and features from other period photos I've found over the years."

Some of the most

noteworthy discoveries were four photos taken during Woodrow Wilson's stop to the area on his first presidential campaign.

"With the help of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, I was able to pinpoint his visit to Jamesburg between October and November 1912," Mr. Katerba said. "The photos are incredible because they show the crowd walking right up to President Wilson; he only had two Pinkerton Detectives for security."

Another photo shows the construction and placement of the "white bridge" in Thompson Park, which is just east of the ski hill and south of the bridge that crosses the Manalapan Lake.

"What was amazing is that the bridge was pre-fabricated before being dropped into place," Mr. Katerba said. "I had no idea they had pre-fab concrete bridges in the early 1900s."

Also in the Collection are many photos of the State Home for Boys.

"The photos depict what the institution was originally intended to be, a training school," Mr. Katerba said. "The glass plates captured the boys being taught black-

smithing, bread baking, classroom instruction, painting and even set designing for a play."

The photos were shot in black and white by Harry A. Edwards of Jamesburg, who ran a photography and typewriter rental business according to an old ad.

"I was able to recognize the photographer after reviewing some of the photos from an old 1913 Jamesburg Fire Department brochure that was made to raise money for a new fire warning bell for the station," Mr. Katerba said. "The Fire Department Band is featured in a lot of the photos including the ones with Woodrow Wilson."

The photos are still being organized and a few are left to be identified and studied. Mr. Katerba said, hopefully the photos will be on display in the Monroe Township Public Library in 2014.

"The photos opened up a lot of new research avenues and are providing an even richer history of Monroe," Mr. Katerba said. "I can't thank Greg and David Lester enough for their thoughtfulness and trusting me with such precious items."



The boys at the Boys Home on Spotswood Gravel Hill Road learn the blacksmithing trade sometime between 1911-1912.

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Community Center a Hub of Activity

By Councilman Michael Leibowitz

Between adult and youth basketball and hockey leagues, cheer-leading practices, residents using the Fitness Center or participating in specialty exercise classes and community groups using meeting space, the Community Center on Monmouth Road is busier than ever.

Just entering its 20th year in Monroe, the Community Center is much, much more than just a basketball gym; it is the home of the Monroe Township Recreation Department.

The Department operates from a state-of-the-art facility at 120 Monmouth Road, which features two full-size gyms, the Fitness Center equipped with resistance weight training machines and cardio equipment (including treadmills, stationary bikes and an elliptical machine), an outdoor inline hockey rink, as well as many meeting rooms and classrooms.

The Community Center also serves as the home of the Summer Camp program, which has more than 1,500 chil-

dren enrolled, and many more on a waiting list. Also, at the end of the summer, the Municipal Alliance holds its camp, which is geared towards keeping kids drug and alcohol free. The Recreation Department also hosts M.T.S.E.P.A Camp, with programming designed specifically for children with special needs.

In addition, the Recreation Department hosts specialty camps for golf, basketball, wrestling, theatre, baseball, girls' volleyball and a host of other interests, including a photography club,

The camps give our children a place to go and have fun with their friends, and hopefully make new ones. The specialty camps provide an outlet for children to excel in their sport of choice.

The Community Center isn't just for kids. Weekday mornings one of the gyms is transformed from a basketball court to pickleball courts. Pickleball is a net sport played on a court that is roughly the same



**Councilman
Michael Leibowitz**

size as a paddle tennis court and is played using wooden paddles and with a special Wiffle ball.

The hockey rink got a little busier this year, with fall and spring youth inline hockey leagues. The facility was also host to the Legends League for residents over 17 years old.

Furthermore, the facility is used by organizations such as the VFW, local Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other local organizations that use the Community Center for their regular meetings.

The Community Center is a vital component of Monroe Township; it helps keep our residents of all ages active, healthy and happy.

For more information, visit www.monroerec.com, call (732) 723-5000 or just stop by!



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Senior Center to Host a Community Thanksgiving

The Monroe Township Office on Aging is holding its inaugural Community Cares Thanksgiving for seniors at noon Thanksgiving Day.

"Some residents don't have anywhere to go on Thanksgiving," said Bonnie Leibowitz, Monroe Township Office of Senior Services Director. "So, we are opening the doors to the Senior Center on Thanksgiving to anyone over 55 who would like to spend Thanksgiving with their neighbors."

Tickets will be sold for the event through the Senior Center in the coming months.

"We are still working out the exact cost of the

event, but we do know that the tickets will not be more than \$10," Ms. Leibowitz said. "We are also accepting ticket sponsorships; residents can purchase tickets and donate them to other residents."

The Thanksgiving celebration will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving in the Irwin Nalitt Meeting Room at the new Senior Center, located at 12 Halsey Reed Road.

"We have a lot of great volunteers who have already helped with the planning process," Ms. Leibowitz said. "We are very happy to have the High School National Honor Society on hand to help with the event, and we are especially pleased

with all of the businesses that have agreed to sponsor our Community Cares Thanksgiving."

The Gardens at Monroe, Brookdale Assisted Living at Wynwood, Saint Peter's Hospital, Point of Care Pharmacy, Seaview Orthopedics, Senior Bridge, Hospice of New Jersey, Monroe Medical Supply and the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home are all sponsoring the event.

Anyone who is in need of a place to go for Thanksgiving, or anyone interested in helping with the event, either with time or money, should contact the Office of Senior Services at (609) 448-7140.

New Senior Center *Continued from page 1*

and, because of the space and design, allow us to hold several programs at one time," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "The new center will allow more people to utilize our services than ever before."

A major component of the Office of Senior Services is its outreach program, where the talented, trained and certified employees visit homebound, disabled and other residents in need, determine their

specific situation, and put them in touch with healthcare professionals, hospitals, assisted living facilities and homecare providers.

In addition, the Office of Senior Services employs a social worker, LPN and two certified SHIP counselors, who provide direct counseling and referral assistance, support for family caregivers, Medicare assistance, heating assistance and other vital assistance programs.

The Township Transportation Division is also located at the new Senior Center, complete with an indoor-waiting area and covered boarding area. The Division provides shuttle bus services to get Township seniors and disabled residents to medical and dental appointments, local grocery stores and the Library, and also runs four different regional bus routes.

Coming Attractions – 2013/2014 Season

There are wonderful upcoming series to be held at the Monroe Township Library: Opera lectures, chamber music, guitar concert, and Dennis Kobray's Meet the Musician.

Specific information will be available on our website: www.MonroeTownshipCulturalArts.com. Performances, dates, and times subject to change.

- ***September 17:** 1 pm, *Guitarist Claude Bourbon*, Library
- ***September 30:** 1 pm, *Meet the Musician: Mozart*, Library
- ***October 7:** 1 pm, *World's Greatest Arias - Lecture by Jerry Kalstein*, Library
- October 21- 28:** *Annual Juried Art Show*
- ***October 21:** 1 pm, *Brass Quintet, PSO Chamber Series*, Library
- ***November 4:** 1 pm, *Opera Lecture: Puccini-Lecture by Jerry Kalstein*, Library
- ***November 19:** 1 pm, *Meet the Musician: Stephen Foster*, Library
- November 24:** 5 pm, *The Official Blues Brothers Revue*, Marasco Performing Art Center
- ***December 9:** 1 pm, *Opera Lecture: Verdi - Lecture by Jerry Kalstein*, Library
- ***January 27:** 1 pm, *String Quartet, PSO Series*, Library
- ***March 10:** 1 pm, *9 Vocalists, PSO Chamber Series*, Library
- April 12:** 7 pm, *Atlantic City Ballet, Sleeping Beauty*, Marasco Performing Art Center
- * FREE EVENT



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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.

September 2013

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 LABOR DAY	3	4	5	6	7
8 SOCCER OPENING DAY CEREMONIES Soccer Complex, Prospect Plains Road	9 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	10 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	11 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	12 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	13	14 WOLVERINE PICTURES Community Center
15	16	17 MAYOR'S CUP PICKLEBALL Community Center, 9:00 AM	18 MONROE TWP. PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7:00 PM	19 MAYOR'S CUP SHUFFLEBOARD Rossmoor, 9:00 AM	20 MOTHER GOOSE TIME Library, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM, for ages 18-36 mos.	21
22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23	24 STARLIGHT EXPRESS NIGHTTIME STORYTIME Library, 7:00 PM, for ages 3-5 years	25	26 MAYOR'S CUP BOCCE Thompson Park, 9:00 AM	27	28 OLD TIME BASEBALL Dey Farm, Federal Road Noon
29	30 MEET THE MUSICIAN MOZART Library, 1:00 PM, Must Pre-Register		MONROE TWP. PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Annual Dues \$25 Open to All Ages			

October 2013

Monroe Township Department of Recreation
120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp. NJ, 08831
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 STARLIGHT EXPRESS NIGHTTIME STORYTIME Library, 7:00 PM, for ages 3-5 years	2 MONROE TWP. PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7:00 PM	3	4	5 GREEN FAIR, Oak Tree School, 10 AM - 3 PM MONROE 175th CELEBRATION, Dey Farm, 10 AM - 4 PM
6	7	8 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	9 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	10 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	11	12
13	14 COLUMBUS DAY	15 MUSIC WITH PAT McKINLEY Library, 11:45 AM, Infants - Pre-schoolers	16 MONROE TWP. PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7:00 PM	17	18 ARTS & CRAFTS Library, 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM, Space Limited, First Come - First Served	19 KIDS FOR KIDS HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL & BAKE SALE, Library, 1:30 - 3:00 PM, Free tickets at Youth Services Desk
20 OCTOBERFEST Community Center, 12:00 PM	21	22 STARLIGHT EXPRESS NIGHTTIME STORYTIME Library, 7:00 PM, for ages 3-5 years	23 BOO BINGO Library, 7:00 PM, for ages 5-8 years, Registration Required	24	25	26 HALLOWEEN PARADE Community Center, 10:30 AM
27	28 HALLOWEEN CRAFT Library, 10:00 AM	29 MUSIC WITH PAT McKINLEY Library, 11:45 AM, Infants - Pre-schoolers	30	31 HALLOWEEN		

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.

Recreation Calendar of Events

November 2013

Monroe Township Department of Recreation
120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp. NJ, 08831
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Veterans Day
November 11th

Thanksgiving
November 28th



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 OPEN LECTURE: PUCCINI by Jerry Kalstein Library, 1:00 PM, Registration Required	5 ELECTION DAY	6 MONROE TWP. PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7:00 PM	7	8	9
10	11 VETERANS DAY	12 MONROE TWP. BASEBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	13 MONROE TWP. SOFTBALL ASSOC. MTG Community Center, 7:30 PM	14 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING Community Center, 7:30 PM	15	16
17	18	19 MEET THE MUSICIAN STEPHEN FOSTER Library, FREE, Registration Required	20 MONROE TWP. PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7:00 PM	21	22	23
24 OFFICIAL BLUES BROTHERS REVUE Marasco Performing Arts Center, 5:00 PM, Tickets for sale at tinyurl.com/mtwpcac	25	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING	29	30

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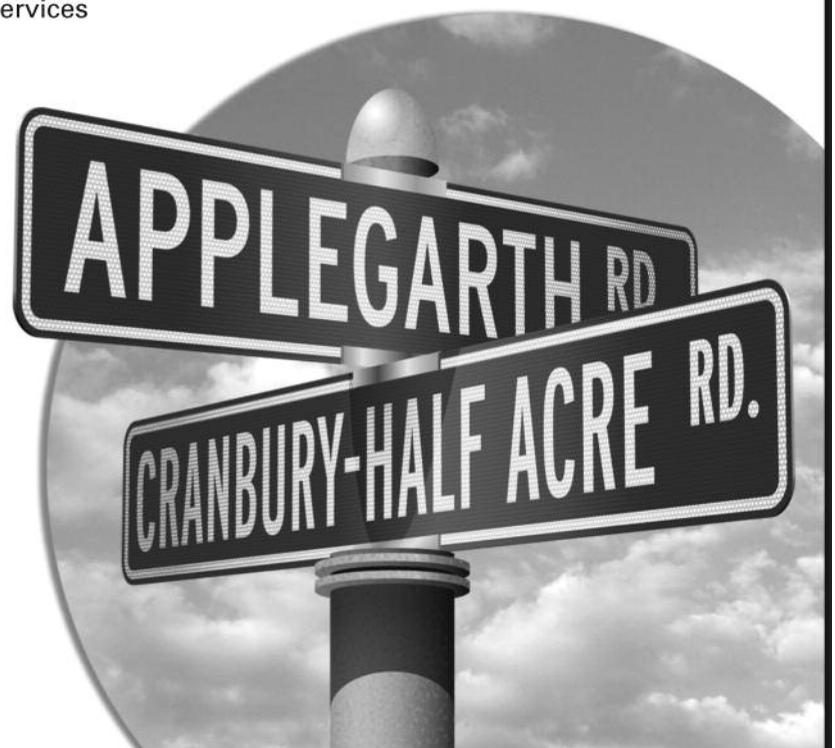
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- Sports Medicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Internal Medicine
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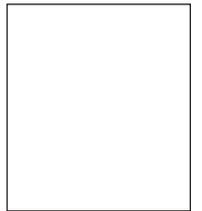
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Monroe Moves Forward with Green Team

Continued from page 8

- **Karen Polidoro**
Environmental Commission
- **Henry Sloan**
Zoning Board of Adjustment
- **Helaine Evans**
Zoning Board of Adjustment/
Friends of the Library
- **Phil Levy**
Shade Tree Commission
- **John Katerba**
MTUD
- **Joe Slomian**
DPW
- **Joseph Harvie**
Communications Coordinator

- **Ken Chiarella**
Board of Education
 - **Lou Caron**
Clearbrook Resident
- “The Environmental Commission has already worked to fulfill some of the criteria outlined by Sustainable Jersey,” Mr. Riggs said. “The Green Team will bolster these efforts and work on new initiatives to ensure Monroe’s certification as a sustainable community.”

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