

# the **Monroe** news

TOWN HALL | Municipal Plaza | Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831 | [www.monroetwp.com](http://www.monroetwp.com)



## For the 25th Issue of the *Monroe News*, a Sad Farewell to a Friend

This issue of the *Monroe News* is being dedicated to the memory of Joseph Harvie, 36, Township Public Information Officer, who lost his life on August 6 in a bike riding accident in East Windsor.

At that time, Joe was putting the finishing touches on this issue of the *Monroe News* and had noted with pride just days earlier that this is the 25th issue of the newspaper he has written over his nine years and five months of service to Monroe.

Joe, a Monroe resident, was the author of every article appearing in this edition of the newspaper.

Word of Joe's passing has devastated the staff of Town Hall, as he was well-liked, diligent, respected, hard-working and tremendously talented. Joe took pride in the video work he did for Monroe, broadcasted on Channel 28, the dedicated Governmental and Educational channel for Comcast subscribers. He also developed each and every issue of the *Monroe News*, and served as the Township's official photographer.

Moreover, Joe created, wrote, edited, and designed three Township publications — the Green Tips Book, Emergency Preparedness Guide, and the Township Resource Guide — all of which are available at [www.monroetwp.com](http://www.monroetwp.com).

Joe began his work in Monroe on April 2, 2007, after working as a reporter with the Princeton Packet. He wrote for both the Cranbury Press and the South Brunswick Post since joining the newspaper group in 2003. Joe

earned his journalism degree from Rowan University in 2002, after graduating from Monroe Township High School in 1998.

He is the winner of the 2005 Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award for his news coverage, as well as the first place winner in "Interpretive Writing Weekly" for the New Jersey Press Association in 2006.

In 2007, as the Township's Public Information Officer, Joe won a special recognition in the Municipal Public Information Contest Center from the Government Services at Rutgers University for the *Monroe News*. The following year, he received an honorable mention from Rutgers for his communications work.

"I remember when we hired Joe as this young, green reporter nine years ago," Business Administrator Wayne Hamilton said. "He had so many talents as both a writer and videographer, capable of editing and downloading video to the Channel 28 server, writing press releases, and so much more. It will be difficult to find one individual with all those skills."

"Joe really loved his job and was honored to work for his hometown," Hamilton added. "That was reflected in the enthusiasm he brought to Town Hall every day. We will miss him terribly. Joe was a one-of-a-kind person who brought such commitment, pride and professionalism to his work, and his interaction with others. Monroe extends its deepest sympathies to Joe's family and friends."



**Joseph Harvie**, Township Public Information Officer, was an avid dog lover and a Devils fan.

One of Joe's great sources of pride was to serve as producer of the "Mayor Pucci Show" and the "Mayor Tamburro Show," with the help of the students and faculty at Monroe Township High School, where the Township's television studio is located.

"The sudden and unexpected death of Joe Harvie is a tremendous loss to the administration and the Township at-large," said Mayor Gerald Tamburro. "He was instrumental in the start of our Council Meeting and event videotaping and production

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**Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro** speaks with Environmental Commissioner Lorraine Sarhage at the 2015 Green Fair.

## TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831  
[www.monroetwp.com](http://www.monroetwp.com)

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Mayor:

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### Council President:

Leslie Koppel .....[lkoppel@monroetwp.com](mailto:lkoppel@monroetwp.com)

### Council Vice President:

Stephen Dalina .....[sdalina@monroetwp.com](mailto:sdalina@monroetwp.com)

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Township Main Number** .....(732) 521-4400

**Animal Control** .....(732) 521-0222

**Construction Office** .....(732) 656-4585

**Court Administrator** .....(732) 521-4020

**Township Engineer** .....(732) 605-9440

**EMS 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

**Utilities Department** .....(609) 655-1050

**Office of Senior Services** .....(609) 448-7140

**Parks Department** .....(732) 723-5000

**Police (non-emergency)** .....(732) 521-0222

**Public Works** .....(732) 656-4575

**Recreation** .....(732) 723-5000

**Recycling** .....(732) 656-4575

**Tax Collector** .....(732) 521-4405

**Township Clerk** .....(732) 656-4573

**Traffic Safety** .....(732) 521-0222 ext. 126

**Transportation** .....(609) 443-0511

## Monroe Police Establish Safe Exchange Zone

Selling, purchasing or exchanging merchandise online just got safer in Monroe.

The Township established a Safe Exchange Zone location in the front of the Monroe Township Police Department.

"Often times when you buy items online through sites like Craigslist, you are making the purchase from a stranger, which may cause some unease from the buyer or the seller," Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro said. "The Police are offering a well-lit location that is constantly monitored by cameras for residents to purchase or exchange goods."

If you are facing the front of headquarters, the first two spots to the left of the flag pole are reserved for the Safe Exchange Zone. Signs have been installed indicating the Safe Exchange Zone parking spots.

"Not only are the spaces being monitored by camera, but the Police Department is staffed 24-hours a day," Mayor Tamburro said. "Our Police work hard every day to ensure the safety of all of our residents."

The Monroe Township Police Department is located at 3 Municipal Plaza. For more information about the Safe Exchange Zone, please call the Police non-emergency number (732) 521-0222.

## Juried Art Show to Begin Sept. 19

Calling all artists! The Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission wants to showcase your work at its annual Juried Art Show.

"Works in all mediums will be considered for the show," Arts Commission Chairwoman Maria Naumik said. "We want to share your work with the rest of the Township, and show-off all of the creativity Monroe has to offer."

The show will run from September 19-28 during regular hours at the Monroe Township Public Library. All work must be submitted at the Library from 3-7 p.m. on

September 12. Entry forms are available on the Cultural Arts Commission's website, [www.monroetownship-culturalarts.com](http://www.monroetownship-culturalarts.com). Artists can submit up to two pieces along with a \$10 submission fee.

"The exhibit is open to living artists of all ages," Ms. Naumik said. "Work must be original and not from kits, and only one submission is allowed per person."

Two-dimensional work must be framed and ready for wired hanging and sculptures will be displayed on pedestals.

The works will be judged by Michael

Schwigart, an award-winning landscape artist who specializes in expressive and detailed paintings of the natural world. His work has been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania and is currently on view at the "Gallery in Lambertville."

"Each year we get to meet more and more residents with some incredible talents," Council President Leslie Koppel said. "I'm already excited to see what our talented artists have in store for this year's show."

For more information, visit [www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com](http://www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com).

## the Monroe news

Published by Jaffe Communications, Inc.  
for the Township of Monroe



45 Academy Street, Suite 501 • Newark, NJ 07102

Tel. 973-315-0300 • Fax 908-292-1177

email: [info@jaffecom.com](mailto:info@jaffecom.com) • web: [www.jaffecom.com](http://www.jaffecom.com)

**EDITOR & PUBLISHER:** Jonathan Jaffe

**COPY EDITING:** Lisa Strug and Jasmine Walden

**ADVERTISING:** Jill Levey

**PRODUCTION:** Jama Bowman

All stories and photos by Joseph Harvie unless otherwise noted



**Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro**

## Protecting Your Identity

By Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

Every day our home phones ring, and more and more often the calls are from odd numbers with folks on the other end asking for personal information. More often than not, those calls are scams.

Monroe Township Police Department and I want to remind residents to be cautious when giving out personal information over the phone, through the mail or via the internet.

A good rule of thumb

when it comes to avoiding these scams is "if it seems too good to be true, it probably is." These scammers are predators and unfortunately they are preying more and more often on senior citizens.

The most common scam is done by e-mail or the mail, where a resident will receive notice that he or she won a contest, but need to send a percentage of the prize money to the organization running the contest to cover the taxes.

If you didn't enter a contest, and receive notification that you won a contest, more than likely it's a scam. Also, you never have to send money to claim a prize. Taxes are paid after the winnings are in your

possession.

Another common e-mail scam is known as the "Nigerian Scam," where an alleged lawyer in another country sends an e-mail stating that the resident's long-lost relative passed away in another country and in order to claim their "inheritance," the resident needs to send "the lawyer" a certain amount of money.

Again, you will never need to send money to receive a legitimate inheritance. The predators go through a lot of trouble to make these e-mails look official, but they aren't. I want to reiterate that we want our residents to be aware of these types of scams and to protect themselves.

In addition, a more recent common scam has the predators using auto-dialers to send robotic calls to residents telling them they are in violation and owe the IRS money and direct the resident to call a specific number. The IRS will not make phone calls before sending official mailings if you are indeed in violation. Also, the IRS will never demand immediate payment, and will never ask for credit card or prepaid card information.

In another common scam, predators will call or e-mail residents and say they will be sent free items, but need to prove their identity by providing a credit card number. Take a minute and discuss any offer you are unsure of with someone you trust. A common tactic of these predators is to rush residents to make a decision. I would recommend reaching out to a trusted friend or family member even if you are just a little suspicious about an offer. And remember that simple rule of thumb, "if it seems too good to be true, it probably isn't."

Furthermore, another scam, known as the "Grandparent Scam," has predators contacting residents by phone or e-mail stating "your grandchild is in trouble

and needs money immediately." Often times the predator pretends to be the grandchild and more often calls late at night to prey on the "emergent need," of the situation and will then say they need money immediately for things such as "bail," "auto repair" or another fake emergency. They often know the names of your relatives and will sound like they legitimately need help.

Remember to contact another family member before giving any money to anyone. Nothing is so urgent that you do not have the time to make a quick phone call to a relative or family friend to verify the information you were given. Scammers try to use time and urgency as a tactic.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has compiled a list of ways residents can protect themselves, which can be read here - <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-ways-avoid-fraud>. Visit their main site at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) for more resources related to identity theft and scam alerts.

The US Postal Inspection Service website, [www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov), is a great information source for fraud, theft, scams via

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## Mayor's Cup



**The Women of Regency** won the Mayor's Cup in Tennis, the men of Clearbrook won the Mayor's Cup in Golf, and the Ponds took home the cup in Basketball Spot Shooting. During the Mayor's Cup, players from various active adult communities in the Township compete against one another for the Mayor's Cup in various sports. The tournament starts in April with bowling and ends with bocce in September.



## Monroe Again Named One of Safest Cities in America

Citing Monroe's low crime rate and the preventative measures taken by the police to educate residents, Monroe was named the 61st safest city in America and the 15th Safest City in New Jersey by the private security company SafeWise.

"We are honored to be named among the safest cities in America," Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro said. "For many years, Monroe has maintained a low crime rate, which is a testament to our proactive Police Department and the good work they do, as well as the many services and programs we provide to all members of the community."

SafeWise, a communi-

ty-focused safety organization committed to increasing home and community safety, education, awareness, and preparedness, released its annual 100 Safest Cities in America Report on April 18. According to the company, SafeWise analysts studied the most recent FBI crime data from 2014 to rank these cities, which all have a minimum population of 10,000 people.

The report praised the Police Department's Special Senior Citizen Crime Prevention Initiative, which keeps older adults safe from crime through education and advocacy.

"We feel it is important to protect all of our citizens, including who

need it the most, and that is not just our seniors," Mayor Tamburro said. "We just held our L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) graduations at the Middle School. Our officers have been teaching in the schools for many years, and the long-running cooperative effort with the school district is aimed at keeping our children educated about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and reducing crime."

The police just held its annual National Night Out event in Thompson Park, where residents got to meet one-on-one with police and other first responders.

"This year, National

Night Out had the theme of 'Thank Your Local Police Officers'," Mayor Tamburro said. "With the recent increase in shootings of police officers across the country, we wanted to make sure the men and women in our Police Department know that we appreciate all that they do to keep us safe in Monroe Township."

The annual event provides a fun environment with games and presentations that engage children in a fun way, while educating them about the dangers of drugs, drinking and driving, safe bicycle riding practices and so much more. Representatives from the Department of Public Works, EMS, local Fire

Departments, Office of Senior Services and the Public Library were also on hand to meet and talk to residents.

"It's always nice to be honored for hard work, especially when the honors come unsolicited by a private company," Mayor Tamburro said. "Chief Michael Lloyd and the Monroe Township Police Department should be commended for their continuous efforts to keep Monroe among the safest towns in the state. Through their efforts, the police will continue to forge relationships with our residents and help keep Monroe a great place to live, raise a family and retire."

## Veterans Park Renovations Completed

The water is flowing and the grass is growing as Phase Two of the Veterans Park expansion comes to a close.

The 37-acre park located on Avenue K between Old Forge Road and 12th Street reopened for Memorial Day weekend with kids filling the popular Spray Park, as families enjoyed the new permanent picnic shelter for snacks in the shade.

When Phase One of the park opened in 2008,

the Spray Park quickly became a big hit for residents with young children and grandparents with grandchildren seeking a nice place to keep cool during the hot summer months. Phase One also included a large state-of-the-art playground area and an expansive walking trail around the site.

"The recent expansion also brought much-needed multipurpose playing fields to the north end of town,"

Council Vice President Stephen Dalina said. "And we also have a designated cricket pitch for one of the fastest growing sports in Monroe."

The fields are currently in a state of rest to give the turf enough time to properly mature and should not be played on a regular basis.

Phase Two construction includes two lighted multipurpose fields, a cricket pitch, the permanent picnic shelter



**The Veterans Memorial** at Veterans Park on Avenue K.

and an expanded parking area. The multipurpose fields will bring

much-needed game and practice fields for soccer,

*Continued on page 8*

## 2016 Green Fair Bigger Than Ever

By Council President Leslie Koppel



**Council President  
Leslie Koppel**

It is no surprise that the seventh-annual Monroe Township Green Fair has grown so big it had to re-locate to its new home – Monroe Township High School.

Slated to run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 8 at the Monroe Township High School on Schoolhouse Road, this year's Green Fair will offer residents more ways to learn how to "green up" their homes, community and lives.

Each year, the Fair, co-sponsored by the Monroe Township Public Library and the Environmental Commission, welcomes more than 1,000 visitors looking for the latest information, products and innovations to learn how to live a more sustainable life.

Join with others to help green our community. The Green Fair Committee, co-chaired by Township Environmental Commissioners Rajani Karuturi and Karen Toth, is looking for volunteers to help

with planning, running and cleaning up after the Green Fair.

Just as in previous years, local organizations like the Friends of the Monroe Township Community Garden, Township Water and Sewer Utility & Public Works Departments and Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions, will be at the fair to promote what they are doing to keep Monroe a green, clean community. Also, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste and the Middlesex County Improvement Authority annually participate in the fair and will be back this October.

Children's activities abound at the Fair. The Monroe Township Public Library will once again host environmentally-themed story times, puppet shows and arts and crafts for kids. In addition, the Monroe Township High School Environmental Club will host games for children. New for 2016, Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant will bring a special guest for the children to meet.

Connect with neighbors who enjoy similar indoor and outdoor healthy activities. This



**Green Fair Chairwomen** Karen Toth and Rajani Karuturi with the "Bag Man" showing how many plastic bags the average household uses annually.

year the Fair will also feature healthy lifestyle activities: including cooking demonstrations by Theresa Agostinelli, Zumba by Kim Vasta and Debbie Eddleman, Yoga by Allen and more. Contact the Green Fair Committee to share your healthy interests to meet and engage with those who attend the Fair.

In addition, the Green Fair has become known for its many green vendors selling everything from healthy and organic foods, energy efficient lights and bulbs, indoor plants, jewelry made from recycled materials, and so much more.

Also, Farmer Al's will return with a farmers market featuring locally grown produce and plants available for purchase.

chase.

Furthermore, Saint Peter's University Hospital and CentraState Hospital will both be offering free health screenings at the fair and the Green Fair Committee is working to secure a vendor to once again offer flu shots.

The very popular shredding truck will be available for residents to have their important personal documents shredded and recycled in a secure manner. The truck will only stay until it is full, so it is recommended to come early if you want to use this service.



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## Protecting Your Identity Continued from page 3

the mail and several alerts and prevention resources including informative videos.

The FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, [www.ic3.gov/default.aspx](http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx), is also an excellent resource for common online/e-mail scams and also has a section where

residents can file a complaint.

Also, visit the Township Police website, [www.monroetwp-police.org](http://www.monroetwp-police.org), for the latest from your local law enforcement.

Unfortunately, these predators target senior citizens. I would like to

commend Police Chief Michael J. Lloyd and all of our Township Police. All are here to help keep our residents safe from these types of scams. Residents with concerns about this or any police matter should call the Police non-emergency number - (732) 521-0222.

## Online Registration for Community Center

Registering for the Monroe Township Community Center, and all of its activities, classes, camps, and more, just got a lot easier.

"Residents can now register for nearly everything we offer through the Recreation Department online," Assistant Recreation Superintendent Jeanne Crawley said. "Payment can even be done using a credit or debit card making it a lot easier for our residents."

To register, residents must visit <https://register.communitypass.net/monroetownship>, and follow the simple instructions on how to register for an account.

"Residents who had already registered with the Community Center were sent a letter with a temporary user id and password," Ms. Crawley said. "Once they use the temporary ID, they will be prompted to change both the username and password and to complete the registration process."

There is a \$10 annual registration fee to join the Community Center. Registration gives resi-

dents access to the fitness center and open gym activities such as pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and more at the facility, located at 120 Monmouth Road. New registrants will still have to visit the Community Center and show proof of residency in order to obtain a swipe card to gain access to the building.

In addition, once registered, residents can log into their Community Pass account and register for camps, classes, trips and special events, such as the annual Fishing Derby. Some of the classes and events are offered at additional costs.

"Our Recreation Department offers so many amazing programs, fitness classes and opportunities for residents of all ages," Council Vice President Stephen Dalina said.

For more information residents are encouraged to visit [www.monroerec.com](http://www.monroerec.com).

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## Monroe Celebrates Re-Opening of Dey Farm

By Councilman Blaise Dipierro



**Councilman  
Blaise Dipierro**

The schoolhouse and barn were rebuilt, the England House has a new roof and we were happy to officially re-open the Dey Farm Historic Site after its year-long renovations were completed in June.

After more than a year of meticulously, historically accurate renovations, we cut the ribbon at the recently-rebuilt, one-room schoolhouse on Prospect Plains Road, dedicated to a long-time Councilman and Liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission, Henry L. Miller.

It was a treat to share the dedication with Councilman Miller and his family with the nearly 100 residents who came to see what I consider to be one of the most peaceful spots in Monroe.

Located on Federal Road, between Applegarth and Perrineville roads, the 40-acre Dey Farm historic site received a much needed make-over with a \$1 million grant from Middlesex County. Renovations included the reconstruction of the schoolhouse, renovating the timber-framed Dey Barn and roof and gutter replacements to the historical England House.

The Prospect Plains Schoolhouse was built around 1850 as one of the original one-room schools in Monroe. Over the years, it has served as



*The Dey Farm and barn along with the Henry L. Miller Schoolhouse.*

the Municipal Building, Courthouse and the Recreation Department until moved to its current location on Monmouth Road. It was carefully dismantled and put into storage prior to the construction of the Encore development on Prospect Plains Road.

It was interesting to be back inside the schoolhouse at the dedication. I was there with my family when my father, former Mayor Michael J. Dipierro, was once sworn into office in that very

building.

After being re-constructed on the Dey Farm site, it was painted using colors that would have been used when it was originally built. Also, the slate roof, paned windows, working shutters and siding are all period-authentic.

I am especially proud of the hard work of the MTHS Art Club students who hand-lettered the signs outside of the school, which give it a truly authentic look and feel. Their work connects the students of today with those who attended one of the first schools in Monroe.

In addition, renovations to the Dey Barn were a major part of the project. The barn was numbered and dismantled and many of the original timber frames and siding were re-used during the reconstruction.

The workers from the New Jersey Barn Company used tools and methods from the 19th century, along with mod-

ern tools, to completely rebuild the barn to make it better than ever. There are also some great little details in the barn, like the working hay track and trolley, which were built using parts Township Historian John Katerba found in old barns throughout Monroe.

The farm is open for free tours from 1-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month from April to October. Upkeep on the farm is done primarily by the Township Department of Public Works and volunteers from the Historic Preservation Commission, but over the years many local volunteers and Scouts have done work at the farmhouse.

The Dey Farm is more than just a Township Museum. It is a symbol of agricultural roots and a great way for residents to see and relive Monroe History. I would like to encourage all of our residents to visit the site and get a glimpse of what life was like in Monroe in the 1800s.



**Marilyn Rosenthal**, Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, Councilman Blaise Dipierro, Township Historian John Katerba, Marcia Falk, Barry Falk, former Councilman Henry L. Miller, his wife Jean, grandson Paul, great-granddaughter Emily Miller, Councilman Stephen Dalina, Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider, and Mayor Emeritus Richard Pucci at the dedication of the Henry L. Miller Schoolhouse.

## Veterans Park *Continued from page 4*

lacrosse and other field sports to the north end of the Township. The lights will allow for night-time practices and games.

A key highlight to Veterans Park is the

Veterans Memorial near the entrance, which was completed as the Eagle Scout Project of current U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Sean Evans. The memorial is the site of the Township's

annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, and was recently enhanced with flagpoles flying the American and New Jersey State Flags along with the flags for each

branch of the armed forces: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines, along with the POW MIA flag.

"We hope that parents and grandparents will discuss the memorial with their children and grandchildren at the park," Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro said. "It is because of the service of the men and women in the armed forces that we are able to enjoy all of the fun activities available at Veterans Park."

The Veterans Park Phase Two expansion

was fully funded by the Township Open Space Trust Fund, which was authorized by township voters. The Trust is also used to purchase land in the Township that can be used for parks, preserved farmland and green undeveloped woodlands.

For directions to the park visit [www.monroerec.com/Veterans-Park/](http://www.monroerec.com/Veterans-Park/).

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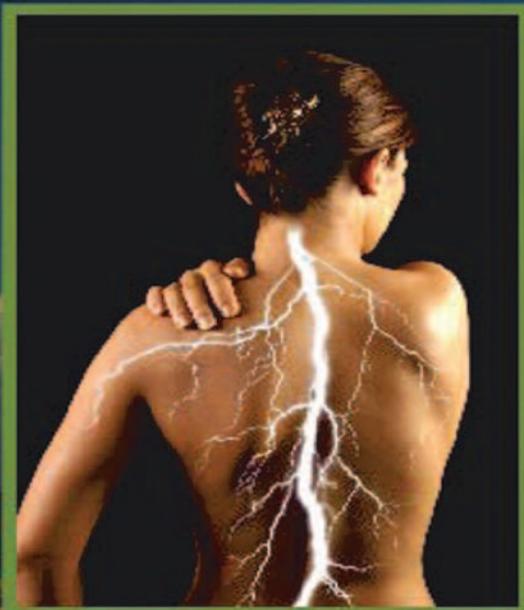
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# Recreation Calendar of Events

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).

## September 2016

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



## Spray Park | Pickle-Ball & Table Tennis

Closes for the season at 8:00pm on September 5th.  
Will open again Memorial Day Weekend



Open gym begins first week of September 8:00am—1:00pm Monday—Friday



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 FREE RABIES CLINIC Community Center 9 AM - 2 PM
4	5 LABOR DAY Spray Ground at Veterans Park closes for the season at 8 PM Community Center closed for the day	6	7 MAYOR'S CUP PICKLEBALL Community Ctr; 6 PM PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr; 7 PM	8	9	10
11	12 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MTG, Comm Ctr; 7 PM MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Mtg, Comm Ctr; 7:30 PM SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr; 11 AM	13 MTBA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	14 MTGSA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7 PM	15 MAYOR'S CUP SHUFFLEBOARD Rossmoor; 9 AM	16	17
18	19	20	21 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr; 7 PM	22 AUTUMN BEGINS MAYOR'S CUP BOCCIE Thompson Park; 9 AM	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## October 2016

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



### OCTOBERFEST

October 16, 2016  
Begins 12noon  
at the Community Center

### HALLOWEEN PARADE

Saturday, October 29, 2016  
10:30am REGISTRATION  
Free Admission at the  
Monroe Twp. Community Center  
120 Monmouth Road

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7 PM	4	5 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center 7 PM	6	7	8
9	10 COLUMBUS DAY	11 MTBA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	12 MTGSA Monthly Meeting Community Ctr; 7 PM	13	14	15
16 OCTOBERFEST Opening Ceremony Community Center 12 Noon	17 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr; 7 PM SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr; 11 AM	18	19 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center 7:00 PM	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 HALLOWEEN PARADE Community Center Registration begins at 10:30 AM
30	31					

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# Recreation Calendar of Events

## November 2016

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center 7 PM	3	4	5
6	7 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7 PM	8 ELECTION DAY MTBA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	9 MTGSA Monthly Meeting Community Center 7 PM	10	11 VETERANS DAY	12
13	14 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr; 7 PM SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr; 11 AM	15	16 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center 7 PM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING Community Center closed for the day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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## Monroe Works Toward Fair Affordable Housing Obligations

The Township of Monroe has been appearing before Middlesex County Superior Court Judge Doug Wolfson seeking certification of its Affordable Housing Plan and protection against Builder's lawsuits and is nearing a settlement.

The Affordable Housing Plan nearing settlement fully addresses the existing components of our obligation for the period of 1999 to 2025.

When the process began, Monroe was facing an enormous obligation of 2,325 affordable housing units with a market rate offset of 9,300 units for a total of 11,625 units (per the report from Dr. Kinsey). This was being pushed strongly by the Fair Share Housing group. Monroe would not accept these numbers.

Our planning and legal experts were arguing that our obligation was closer to 1,000 units

for the years of 2015 to 2025. There was also a potential obligation for an additional 399 units for the prior round (when COAH was no longer functioning and known as the "gap" period). However, a recent Ocean County Superior Court decision which questioned the need to fill the gap period obligation may reduce the need for those additional units.

Our legal, planning & engineering profession-

als have worked hard and have used all applicable options to minimize the impact on our school system, using available bonus credits to reduce our obligation by 1,415 housing units to a new total of 850 affordable housing units. This result compares favorably with Judge Wolfson's recent determination that South Brunswick's prospective need for the period 2015 to 2025 is 1,533 affordable housing units.

The tentative settlement numbers still subject to finalization call for 850 affordable housing units, of which 283 are age-restricted. The market rate offset calls for 3,529 housing units, of which 468 are age-restricted/targeted.

This housing is estimated to have a build out of approximately 25 years due to State, County & local approvals and overall market absorption.

### ADVERTISEMENT



## A Good Neighbor

On July 15th, New Jersey Business and Industry Association presented the **2016 New Good Neighbor Award** to Parker at Monroe. Accepting the award attended (from left to right) Leanne Fiet, Honorable Gerald W. Tamburro, Roberto Muñiz, Honorable Bob Smith and Bonnie Leibowitz.

## Sad Farewell

*Continued from page 1*

which airs locally on Channel 28-PEG Central. He also used his journalism experience by writing and producing the Monroe News. His insight, dedication and love of the Township was apparent in every project he worked on."

"Joe grew up in Monroe and has many friends and family in our community," the mayor added. "His smile will be sorely missed here in Town Hall and across our municipality. Our thoughts and prayers are with his parents, Eric and Jean, and his fiancé, Eileen."

Besides his work for Monroe, Joe was a partner of a small production company with his uncle and father. They had a project titled, "Strange Conversations with a Time Traveling Idiot." Joe was proud to

note that "Part 1" received 300 hits in three weeks with only online marketing via Facebook and Patch.

The trio then completed a series of short films called "Who's Johnny Awesome?" Both can be found online at [www.youtube.com/giordanoworks](http://www.youtube.com/giordanoworks).

Joe loved dogs and riding his bike. In 2014, he did a 110-mile ride in support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. At the time, Joe said, he "did it for family," noting his cousin, Susan, suffers from MS.

Joe was predeceased by his aunt, Andrea Giordano; paternal grandparents, John and Margaret Harvie; maternal grandparents, Susan and Anthony Giordano; and his friend for life, Roscoe the Wonder Mutt.



**Joe Harvie** records a "Read Across America" event at the Oak Tree School on March 4.

He is survived by his parents, Eric and Jean Harvie; brother, John Harvie; niece, Bryanna Harvie; uncles, Bruce Harvie, Ralph Giordano, John Giordano and Anthony Giordano, Jr.; aunts, Lillian Giordano and Suzanne Giordano Ferris; and beloved furry babies, Chewy and Patch.

Joe was to be married to Eileen Oldfield on December 17. The couple had recently bought a house in Monroe.

## Chorus Leader Recognized with Presidential Award

The Monroe Township Chorus, founded by resident Sheila Werfel, has spent the last few years giving back to our residents, especially our veterans, through song.

The hard work did not go unnoticed, and the chorus nominated Ms. Werfel for the Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award, which she earned for her more than 500 hours of volunteer hours over 12 months.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by President (Barack) Obama for doing something I love," Ms. Werfel said. "We started the chorus as a way to bring together residents of all ages who enjoy singing, and it has grown into something special, in which we are able to regularly thank our veterans through song."



**Monroe Township Chorus Director** Sheila Werfel was honored by President Barack Obama for her years of voluntary service to her community.

Along with the official Gold Service Pin, Ms. Werfel received an official certificate and a letter from President Obama.

"While government can open more opportunities for us to serve our communities, it is up to each of us to seize those opportunities," President Obama wrote in the letter. "Thank you for your devotion to

service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great nation."

The chorus holds several performances throughout the year, including shows around Veterans Day and Memorial Day, when it salutes those who served in the military, including those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



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## Princeton Symphony Orchestra Presents "The Four Seasons"

The Princeton Symphony Orchestra will go for baroque, when they perform The Four Seasons, highlighting Antonio Vivaldi's masterpiece, "The Four Seasons," at the Richard P. Marasco Center for the Performing Arts at 4 p.m. on September 18.

The Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission presents the Princeton Symphony Orchestra with world-renowned violin soloist Daniel Rowland, for this special performance that will also include the "Four Seasons of Buenos Aires," which is a Latin-American homage to Vivaldi, composed by Argentinean tango-master, Astor Piazzolla.

"Mr. Rowland will perform with equal parts vigor and grace alongside the symphony, journeying through the sounds and moods Vivaldi vividly depicted in his landmark composition," Cultural Arts Commission Chairwoman Maria Naumic said.

Tickets for the performance are: General Admission - \$28, Patrons - \$25, and students are free. Tickets could be purchased online by visiting the Cultural Arts Commission's website [www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com](http://www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com) or by calling 1-877-77CLICK, or at the Municipal Building – weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tickets will also be available one hour prior to the show.

"We are very excited to have the Princeton Symphony Orchestra back in Monroe with such a vibrant show," Council President Leslie Koppel said. "This is a performance not to be missed."

Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of State.

## Monroe Begins Commitment to Thank Vietnam Vets

Nearly 900 residents came out to pay tribute to all service men and woman at the Monroe Township Chorus' Annual Salute to the Armed Forces at the Richard P. Marasco Center for the Performing Arts on May 16.

"Chorus Director Sheila Werfel and her chorus led an amazing tribute to our veterans," Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro said. "The concert was especially

endearing as we paid tribute to Vietnam Veterans to mark the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War."

The concert is the first of six events the Township will hold to honor Vietnam War Era Veterans over the next three years as part of the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program.

"I would like to thank

Township resident Erick Kasner, who served in Vietnam, for doing a lot of the 'grunt work' to get Monroe involved in the DOD program," Mayor Tamburro said. "This is our way to give thanks to all Vietnam Era Veterans, many of whom were not given the hero's welcome they rightfully deserved when returning from service. The concert was just the start of something special that we will be doing in Monroe over the next few years."

At the concert, the 60-person Monroe Township Chorus performed a variety of songs, dedicating the entire performance to all Veterans. The program included renditions of John Denver's "Take Me Home Country Roads," Louis Armstrong's

"What a Wonderful World," the classic standard "The Beer Barrel Polka," among many others, along with patriotic songs including "The Star Spangled Banner," and "God Bless the USA."

Retired U.S. Army Brigadier General John P. Rose from the DOD addressed the capacity performing arts center, thanking all of the veterans for their service, and promising to honor all of the Vietnam Veterans in Monroe Township.

"I am here to say that what I am most proud of is that you Vietnam War Veterans did not quit," Brig. Gen. Rose said. "You did not quit on your country, you did not quit on your military, and as a result of your work and your

efforts over the past 50 years, we have developed, and we have evolved into the greatest country in the world."

The next event honoring the Vietnam War Veterans will be the Township's annual Veterans Day Ceremonies, scheduled at the Municipal Building and Veterans Park on Avenue K on November 11.

"We are still working on the details, but we felt it was appropriate to honor the men and women that bravely served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War on Veterans Day when they are surrounded by those that have also served prior to and after the war," Mayor Tamburro said.



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**The Korean War Veterans** of Monroe Township presented the colors as the Monroe Township Chorus sang the National Anthem at a special Memorial Day concert.

Photo credit: Resident Volunteer and Veteran Ed Hornichter

## Celebrate Octoberfest at the Community Center

On October 16, a stretch of Monmouth Road between Sheffield and Cornell avenues will turn into a block party celebrating the Community Center's 23rd birthday at the annual Octoberfest celebration.

"As always, Octoberfest will kick off with the annual Community Volunteer Awards in the Community Center gym at noon," Recreation

Superintendent Mary Lange said. "Is there a better way to start a celebration than honoring dedicated residents for all of the hard work they do for Monroe?"

Following the awards ceremony, the free event will continue in and around the Community Center parking lot, located at 120 Monmouth Road, with a free dance party, inflatable rides, food vendors and more.

"Local dance and martial arts schools will hold demonstrations outside," Ms. Lange said. "And we will once again have a magic show for kids inside the gym."

Representatives from various Township Departments and Commissions, EMS and Fire Departments, the DPW's Enviromobile, local Scouting organizations, and vendors of all kind will be set up along

Monmouth Road for residents to visit.

Built 23 years ago and expanded seven years ago, the Community Center features a fitness center, outdoor inline hockey rink, two gymnasiums that are used for both youth and men's basketball leagues, various fitness classes, both youth and adult programs, Recreation Summer Camp, M.T.S.E.P.A.

Camp and so much more.

"The Community Center is open seven days a week with regular programming for people of all ages," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "Octoberfest is a great showcase for the Community Center, and just a fun day for residents to gather and celebrate all that Monroe has to offer."

## Halloween Parade Set for October 29

Be Warned! On October 29, the Community Center will be taken over by a host of ghosts and goblins, as the Recreation Department hosts its annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest.

The free event, held at the Hockey Rink at the Community Center, is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m., rain or shine. All entrants must be registered before 10:45 a.m.

"We have some amazingly creative folks in Monroe," Recreation Superintendent Mary Lange said. "The costumes are always fantastic, and since the parade is just a few days before

Halloween, it is a great way to get extra-use out of the costumes."

Once registered, the children will be divided by division: baby buggy (carriages/strollers), toddlers (walking to two years old), pre-school (three to four years old), kindergarten, first and second grade, third and fourth grade, fifth grade and older. Ten trophies will be given out to each division with one grand prize trophy for best overall costume.

"We also have the 'floats' category, where things get real interesting," Ms. Lange said. "Families have decorated everything from wagons to wheelbar-

rows, trying to win one of the three trophies for this division."

Along with the costume contest, the parade is a highlight for the children, as they are led by Monroe Township Fire District 1 on a parade from the Community Center through the Mill Lake School parking lot and back in time for free doughnuts, cider and candy.

"Everybody is a winner at the Halloween Parade," Councilman Stephen Dalina said. "Each child gets a goodie bag. But more importantly, the parade is just a fun day for families and friends in Monroe."



Zombies, witches, hockey fans and rockers enjoying the Halloween Parade and Costume Contest.



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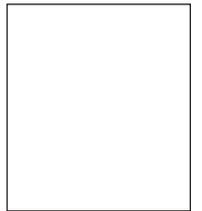
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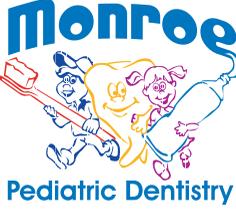
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