



Monroe Honored as Environmental Steward with Sustainable Jersey Certification

Township officials have received word that Monroe passed the rigorous requirements needed to qualify for Sustainable Jersey's silver certification.

Sustainable Jersey named Monroe as one of only 48 towns in the State that have met the criteria for silver certification, recognizing the Township's efforts at its 2017 luncheon in Atlantic City on Nov. 15.

With the Township's recent upgrade from a bronze to a silver-level certification, Monroe joins the ranks of only two other municipalities in Middlesex County: Highland Park and Woodbridge.

"This speaks volumes about the environmentally sound and eco-friendly measures that our community has taken," said

Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "This is truly an honor for Monroe, our employees and our residents. Achieving this status has been a group effort and one that I'm proud to be a part of."

In order to qualify, the Township had to create a Green Team and submit documentation outlining municipal actions focused on environmental sustainability, such as emergency communication planning, energy efficiency, a community forestry plan and a bicycle and pedestrian plan.

Renee Haider, a member of the Township's Environmental Commission and chairwoman of the Monroe Green Team's Advisory Committee, helped lead efforts that secured the Township's latest certification.



Throughout the information-gathering process, Haider had as many as 15 volunteers assisting

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Check out the local calendars of events on pages 9 and 13-14.

Mayor and Council Support State Efforts to Preserve Federal Tax Deductions

In response to sweeping federal tax reforms that limit certain itemized deductions, the Monroe Township Mayor and Council approved a meas-

ure at their Jan. 8 meeting supporting a plan by New Jersey officials that would allow residents to write-off a portion of their property taxes

as a charitable contribution.

Gov. Phil Murphy and other state lawmakers are advancing efforts to ensure constituents receive the full deduction for state and local taxes, which were undercut by recently adopted federal tax legislation.

Under one proposal, New Jersey taxpayers could be permitted to file portions of their property tax bills as charitable contributions to public service entities, such as municipalities,

counties and school boards.

"New Jersey and Monroe residents are under siege by the new federal government tax plan that unfairly increases the tax burden on our residents," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "I applaud the State's efforts to fight back and I will step forward to make sure our residents get a fair shake. While we have kept municipal taxes flat for four years, I worry

Continued on page 4

"I applaud the state's efforts to fight back and I will step forward to make sure our residents get a fair shake."

- Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

Municipal News

TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor:

Gerald W. Tamburro gtamburro@monroetwp.com

Council President:

Stephen Dalina sdalina@monroetwp.com

Council Vice President:

Elizabeth Schneider eschneider@monroetwp.com

Council Members:

Leonard Baskin lbaskin@monroetwp.com

Miriam Cohen mcohen@monroetwp.com

Charlie Dipierro cdipierro@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

Utilities Department(732) 521-1700

Office of Senior Services(609) 448-7140

Parks Department(732) 723-5000

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

Public Works(732) 656-4575

Recreation(732) 723-5000

Recycling(732) 656-4575

Tax Collector(732) 521-4405

Township Clerk(732) 656-4573

Traffic Safety(732) 521-0222 ext. 126

Transportation(609) 443-0511

Monroe Township: Looking Forward to the Year Ahead

By Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

Recent elections in New Jersey and across the country have proven to be emotional and dramatic, and this one was no different.

During my time as Councilman and Mayor, I have subscribed to this guiding principle: Once the election is over, it's time to govern. There are no more party lines, just a group of dedicated leaders working together to unite our community and act in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Together, we unite as civic leaders.

Together, we will be working to keep our taxes among the very lowest in Middlesex County.

Together, we will be working to grow our open spaces and expand

our recreation opportunities.

Together, we will be working to keep our community safe and secure.

Together, we will be working to encourage residents to volunteer and take an active role in the community.

Together, we will be working to recoup our fair share of state school funding.

Together, we will be working to bring new business opportunities to Monroe Township.

Together, we will be working to ensure that Monroe residents have the highest quality services.

Together, we will be working to encourage our residents to practice



Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

kindness and acceptance in the community.

Together, we will be working for all of Monroe Township's residents.

Congratulations to each of the newly elected Council members; I look forward to working together. Wishing each of you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2018!



In January, Monroe Township's Emergency Medical Services added a 2017 Ford F-450 ambulance to its fleet. The new ambulance is equipped with four-wheel drive, a 360-degree exterior camera view and is the first in the Township to include an electronic stretcher. It is also one of 13 ambulances that enable Monroe EMS responders to assist with approximately 10,000 calls annually.

the Monroe news

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Township Achieves Second Lowest Tax Rate in County



Stephen Dalina,
Council President

Monroe now has the second lowest overall effective tax rate among Middlesex County's 25 municipalities.

Officials from the Middlesex County Board of Taxation recently released the 2017 Abstract of Ratables, which lists Monroe as having the second lowest tax rate.

An "effective" property tax rate is a calcula-

tion that offers a method of comparing residents' property tax burdens across municipalities. As a result of towns having different valuations, this allows one to compare tax rates on a level playing field.

"The Township has worked hard to hold the line on taxes with four straight years of no municipal increases," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "We achieved this result through strong management decisions, careful planning and putting our residents first. I also want to thank the leadership of the Board of Education for their efforts. We appreciate working with them as partners to benefit our residents and school children."

Monroe's Overall Effective Municipal Tax Ranking in Middlesex County

Taxing District	Overall Effective Tax Rate	Taxing District	Overall Effective Tax Rate
Cranbury	2.000	Milltown	2.786
Monroe	2.072	East Brunswick	2.787
South Brunswick	2.087	South Amboy	2.834
Old Bridge	2.171	Carteret	2.923
South Plainfield	2.203	Perth Amboy	2.934
Edison	2.292	Middlesex Boro	2.937
New Brunswick	2.307	Woodbridge	2.970
Plainsboro	2.312	North Brunswick	2.986
South River	2.352	Spotswood	2.995
Piscataway	2.398	Dunellen	3.115
Sayreville	2.457	Jamesburg	3.229
Metuchen	2.537	Highland Park	3.468
Helmetta	2.661		

*Source: Middlesex County's 2017 Abstract of Ratables.

"Our commitment to strong fiscal management on behalf of our taxpayers has led to our AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's," said Council President Stephen Dalina. "We've

worked incredibly hard to balance the budget and meet the priorities of our residents. We have grown our reserves for the past five years to ensure a flat tax rate both now and in the future."

In 2017, the Township marked 26 years of operation of the Water and Sewer Utility with no rate increase. Monroe currently has the lowest utility rates in Middlesex County.

Sustainable Jersey Certification *Continued from page 1*

her. There was plenty of cooperation among the municipal departments, including the administration, department of public works, the library, the office of public infor-

mation, the police division, planning and zoning, the clerk's office and the department of engineering.

"I want to thank the Green Team for all of

their support and enthusiasm," Haider said. "It's a great group to work with and we hope to encourage more people in the Township, who are passionate about the environment and sustainability issues, to join our team."

The Township's silver certification through Sustainable Jersey, an organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to municipalities pursuing sustainable programs, is valid for three years.

"Now, more than ever, the onus for making environmentally-conscious decisions has shifted to the states, communities and even individuals," said Monroe Councilwoman Miriam Cohen, a Green Team member. "For the sake of humanity, it's our responsibility to make the choices that will put us in a positive trajectory and safeguard our environment. Future generations are counting on us."

Meetings for the Monroe Township Green



Councilwoman Miriam Cohen, Green Team liaison

Team are held every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe Township Library, 4 Municipal Plaza.

For more information on the Monroe Township Green Team, please contact Haider at rohaider@verizon.net



Sustainable Jersey awarded the Monroe Green Team a bronze certification in November, just prior to the Township's silver-status upgrade.

Council Swears-In New and Returning Members

At the Jan. 3 Township Council reorganization meeting, officials swore in several returning members, along with one Council newcomer.

"I'd like to welcome everyone and I look forward to building on a cohesive relationship with all of our members, both new and familiar," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "This is a group of dedicated leaders, who will

be working together for a common purpose and in the best interest of the taxpayers over the next few years."

During the meeting, Elizabeth Schneider entered into her second term as Councilwoman. On task with the evening's agenda, members also unanimously selected Schneider to serve as Council vice-president and her fellow Councilman Stephen Dalina as president, each taking on their respective roles for a second term.

Following her successful bid in November, Councilwoman Miriam Cohen, who was selected in March to replace Freeholder Leslie Koppel after her appointment to the Middlesex County board, will serve out the unexpired two-year term.



Introducing Monroe's 2018 Mayor and Council (Left to Right): Councilman Leonard Baskin, Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider, Council President Stephen Dalina, Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, Councilman Charles Dipierro and Councilwoman Miriam Cohen.

Councilman Leonard Baskin, appointed to his seat in July, was also sworn-in to his first four-year term with the Township.

New to Council, Charles Dipierro took his oath alongside his wife, mother, children and extended family members at the Jan. 3 meeting.

Dipierro is a lifelong resident of Monroe and

a product of the Township's school system. He went on to attend Richard Stockton College in Galloway, earning a bachelor's degree in business and accounting with a minor in computer science.

Professionally, he has owned several local businesses that included landscaping, contracting and paving companies. Dipierro opened his own real estate company

in Monroe in 1999.

In 2004, Dipierro was elected as a Commissioner to Fire District No. 1, where he's served as chairman for the past eight years.

"I want to do what's right for the people," Dipierro said subsequent to taking his oath of office. "Moving forward, we need to work together."



New to the dais, Councilman Charles Dipierro took his oath of office Jan. 3.

TUNE IN ON FIOS:

Verizon Fios Customers Can Now Watch Municipal and School Programming on Channel 32 and Channel 40.

For Comcast Customers, the Public Access Programming will Continue to Air on Channel 28.

Federal Tax Deductions *Continued from page 1*

that without the State legislature acting to reinstate these deductions, it may harm our home values and impact our municipal services. I support Governor Murphy's efforts and encourage the State legislature to address this unreasonable federal action."

"This previous deduction has been in place for more than a century,"

added Monroe Council President Stephen Dalina, following the Jan. 8 vote. "Our state taxpayers already subsidize other states by paying more into the federal treasury than the federal government reimburses back to New Jersey in spending. Federal lawmakers have essentially implemented a double taxation policy here with New Jersey residents paying federal

income taxes on state and local taxes. Governor Murphy's proposal should provide some relief."

Monroe's resolution has been delivered to Trenton with copies forwarded to Murphy, as well as Senate President Steven Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and other State legislators representing the Township.

Monroe Moves Forward to Preserve 17-Acre Horse Farm

The Monroe Township Council is moving forward toward preserving a 17-acre Spotswood-Gravel Hill Road property through Middlesex County's Farmland Preservation Program.

In the final stages of preservation, Council members approved a resolution in October, allowing an existing conservation easement to have farming and horses on a four-acre section of the tract.

"New Jersey has a proud and lengthy history in the equine field," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "It's because we've taken great measures to preserve horse farms like these that we maintain that reputation in Monroe to this day. We are pleased to be working with the County and

the State and leveraging their resources to benefit our residents."

For the Township's part, Monroe has agreed to pay 20 percent of the total \$400,000 cost to preserve the property, with the State and Middlesex County contributing the remaining amount.

"Middlesex County is committed to preserving our agricultural history and saving our precious open lands from commercial development," said Middlesex County Freeholder Director Ronald G. Rios. "We are happy to be partnering once again with Monroe Township and the State to make this the 55th farm to enter our Farmland Preservation Program."

"Our Farmland Preservation Program

could not be successful as it is without the dedication of our farmers," said Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Charles E. Tomaro, liaison to the Open Space and Recreation Public Advisory Committee. "We greatly appreciate what you do to keep this strong tradition alive."

The addition of this latest parcel will move Monroe closer to 8,000 acres of preserved property in the Township.

"We're making great strides in our efforts to preserve 50 percent of our community and this is another step forward," said Monroe Councilwoman Miriam Cohen. "Our hope is that our efforts today will serve the future generations."



An aerial map and outline of the preserved 17-acre horse farm on Spotswood-Gravel Hill Road.

ADVERTORIAL

Have you seen the new Parker at Monroe bus?



Parker rebranded in May, changing their logo and brand colors. Their new look is eye-catching and definitely makes a statement.

Pictured on the driver's side of the bus are Parker at Monroe residents Frances Kirschner and Norman Phillips.

The passengers' side of the bus depicts Parker employees Tina Ferris, Virgil Fajardo and Marian Cato, all Certified Nursing Assistants.





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Putting the “Grand” in Grandparent’s Day

It wasn’t the holiday season in Monroe without the annual Grandparent’s Day festivities.

This Township tradition, bringing grandparents and grandchildren together for more than 15 years for an unforgettable day of food, fun

and celebration, was held on Dec. 27.

“This year was wonderful; we had around 600 attendees,” said Mary Lange, superintendent of the Monroe Township Recreation Department, which coordinates the event. “It was open to Monroe

residents, meaning that either a grandchild or a grandparent who resides in the Township was eligible to register.”

The free event kicked off at the Recreation Center, 120 Monmouth Road, at 10:30 a.m. with a complimentary photo shoot for all arrivals.

Sticking to this year’s Boardwalk theme, attendees were greeted with a luncheon, provided by a co-sponsor, The Gardens at Monroe, that included food typically found at any one of the great seaside destination points at the Jersey Shore.

After representatives of The Gardens at Monroe raffled off two prizes, event-goers boarded a Township bus headed to the movies, Regal Commerce Center Stadium 18 in North Brunswick.

“You bring your



A couple with their grandchildren posing for a complimentary photo at Monroe Township’s Grandparents Day.

grandchildren, and the Township provides the tickets,” said Recreation Department Assistant Superintendent Jeanne Crawley. “There’s a reason why this event grows every year – because we make it so easy and everyone has an absolute blast.”

All attendees returned from the movies by 4:30 p.m.

“This is an event that bridges generations, bringing our seniors and

the youth together for one great afternoon” said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. “We take great pride in offering municipal services that cater to our full range of residents and this is one of our more popular ones.”

For more details of the Monroe Township Recreation Department’s many programs, please call 732-723-5000.



Michael Leibowitz, along with Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider and Leibowitz’s wife, Judy, and granddaughter, Lauren, joined the Grandparent’s Day festivities at the Recreation Center on Dec. 27.



Mayor Tamburro’s granddaughter, Olivia Lombardi, and wife, Carole Tamburro, were on hand for the celebration.



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- Digital x-rays with board certified radiologist review available
- Laser Therapy for pain management
- Birds, rabbits, ferrets, pocket pets and reptiles
- Echocardiogram and abdominal ultrasound
- General dentistry and dental x-rays
- Pharmacy and prescription diets
- Acute and chronic pain management
- Cat boarding in cozy condos
- Orthopedic surgery with mobile specialist available
- Online Pharmacy



Steven E. Hornstein, DVM

- Past President New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
- Previous Recipient NJVMA Veterinarian of the Year





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WE ARE MONROE: Celebrating 40 Years of Pop Warner Pride

The night was decades in the making.

Scores of parents, fans, organizers, board members, coaches and athletes, both past and present, packed the Daniel Ryan Field to ring in the 40th anniversary of the Monroe Wolverines Pop Warner cheer and football programs.

Not even in his wildest dreams would Wolverines founder Anthony "Tony" DeVivo have imagined the vast number of youths, donning the teams' signature black and gold, pouring out onto the turf during that celebratory evening.

"I played football in my younger years for the Long Island Wolverines and the name just stuck with me," said 83-year-old DeVivo, revealing the origin of the program's

mascot. "But as far as the people go here, they've always been really proud of their teams."

As hundreds looked on at the Sept. 15 event, squads of Wolverine cheerleaders, many with national titles under their belt, swarmed into Monroe's stadium to mark the occasion – chanting, tumbling and raising the bar with each passing routine.

Under the heavy glare of lights, they were joined by Monroe's youngest crop of football players, another source of deep-seeded hometown Wolverine pride.

This season's lengthy roster is a far cry from the few dozen scrappy players that made up DeVivo's inaugural season back in 1977, when Central Jersey Pee Wee football programs

were scant and a rural and sparsely populated Monroe scaled the rankings in underdog fashion.

"We only had one team at the time and we tried to find teams to play us," DeVivo recalled of those early years. "We went into a league with five or six teams, and that's how we started that first year. But make no mistake, we became a powerhouse."

Fast forward to present day and hundreds of Pee Wee, Junior Pee Wee, Junior Varsity and Varsity football players suit up each fall with their sights set on a storied season.

"The football side has been highly successful, winning various Central Jersey championships throughout the years," said Monroe Township Recreation Department Superintendent Mary Lange. "The program continues to grow, leading a team in every level that's available through Pop Warner."

The inception of the Wolverine cheer program, currently consisting of Minis, Junior Pee Wee, Pee Wee Gold and Black and Junior Varsity, only trailed the original football team by a year or two, according to organizers.



In a carefully choreographed display, participants in the Monroe Wolverines Pop Warner Cheer and Football formed the number 40 across the Danny Ryan Field to help celebrate the program's 40th anniversary on Sept. 15.



In January, the Monroe Pop Warner Cheer and Football programs received a \$1,450 donation from QuickChek. Between Aug. 29 and Sept. 10, the food market corporation dedicated 25 cents from every sandwich sold at its new Route 33 location to the Wolverines programs.

But the cheer teams have since earned their place in the sporting world's spotlight, regularly delivering up trophies and titles from the Pop Warner National Cheer and Dance Championship in Orlando, Florida.

"These are programs that are engaging our youth and churning out good kids, some of whom will make a name or career for themselves in their respective sports and others who are creating lasting memories and soaking up lifelong

lessons," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "The program's mantra 'We Are Monroe' couldn't sum it up any better. We say it loudly and with immeasurable pride because of the generations of Wolverine athletes, who have represented our community with grit, determination and dignity."

More information regarding the Monroe Wolverines Pop Warner football and cheer programs can be found at www.monroerec.com or by calling 732-723-5000.



Monroe Wolverine Cheer again dominated at the Pop Warner Cheer and Dance Championship in Orlando, Fla. this year. In early December, the Pee Wee Black and Pee Wee Gold teams clinched the title of undefeated national champions and Junior Varsity and Junior Pee Wee respectively ranked second and third in the nation. Congratulations to all the Wolverine cheerleaders on a phenomenal season!

Soldiering through D-Day & Battle of the Bulge

Monroe Veteran's Personal Account of Historic Conflicts

At 94 years old, Nat Helfand's life has all the makings of a best-selling novel.

"My lifelong dream was to become a writer," said the highly decorated World War II veteran, whose military accolades, including the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre Avec Palm, adorn the wall of his modest Monroe home – a small clue to a weathered war hero's fascinating past.

During his enlistment with the U.S. Army's 980 Signal Service Company in the early 1940s, Helfand traipsed through the D-Day battlefields at Normandy and stood witness to the Battle of the Bulge, two bloody conflicts that ultimately tipped the scales in favor of the Allied Forces, crippling the Nazi campaign.

Not only did Helfand live to tell the harrowing tales, he keenly documented his experiences in his self-published memoir, "Reflections and Introspection."

Traces of Helfand's nail-biting, overseas wartime saga are also strategically encrypted within daily letters he penned as a newlywed to his wife, Gloria.

"Throughout the war, writing and receiving letters was the lifeline that kept my spirits up,"

Helfand said. "My letters were carefully scrutinized by the censor officer, who cut and shredded completely and ruthlessly because I wrote very long letters in very small handwriting to try to discourage him from reading. Mostly, I wrote of my feelings – love letters – and my hopes for the future."

Hundreds of those correspondences, thoughtfully squirreled away by Helfand's better half, have since amassed into volumes of bound books that sit in the couple's Greenbriar at Whittingham residence.

In his autobiographical accounts, Helfand recalls his rocky and nauseating nautical voyage to Normandy's beaches on the heels of D-Day's initial 1944 invasion, and the stench of bodies from fallen soldiers that littered the landscape as he made his way to the small village of Rancroi in northern France.

There, his six-man communications team, acting as one leg of a 100-mile radio relay, hunkered down for several months, which included one of the most blistering winters in modern-day memory.

"The Signal Corps had come up with a

creative and innovative way of communicating, which was very important for the Army, called line-of-sight," he said. "Radar was a way for them to communicate from two points 25 miles apart, which could not be intercepted due to the ultra-high frequency. We were the forerunners of this form of communication."

Rancroi, straddling the mountains that separate France from Belgium, was a pivotal gateway to securing victory in nearly every major conflict seen by the region. It largely played a role in the German's plans to advance from the Meuse River in Belgium to its next major staging point in Namur, France.

Inadvertently, Helfand's outfit had also landed themselves square in the crosshairs of the Battle of the Bulge.

For a time, dwindling rations, overhead flybys, the constant howl of nearby rockets and routine transmissions warnings of approaching danger became the norm for Helfand's unit.

Between that winter's unforgiving weather and the raging combat, both sides were dealt a blow of nearly 200,000 casualties, a fate Helfand was fortunate enough to escape.



The Helfand's wedding photo, enshrined by the former soldier's many military decorations, now hangs on the wall at the couple's Greenbriar at Whittingham home.

Soon thereafter, he received orders to join an attachment with the Army's Germany-bound Third Division.

After being rerouted to the Pacific Theater by way of the Panama Canal, the war drew to a close and Helfand was sent packing back to Brooklyn and to his beloved Gloria with whom he would raise two children.

Over the years, he made a name for himself in the international fur trade, finally retiring to

Monroe around two decades ago. Only recently did he abandon his intermittent work-related trips into New York City, his wife said.

Today, Helfand busies himself with his family, which has since blossomed into a brood of four grandchildren and six great grandchildren, as well as weekly breakfasts with members of Monroe's American Legion Post 522.

A longtime member of the local Post,

Continued on page 9

Community Transportation

Medical Transport: By appointment only and at specific days and times, seniors (55+) and physically-challenged residents can access free specialized vehicles to and from medical appointments in Monroe, Jamesburg, Princeton, Plainsboro and Hightstown.

Out-of-Town Shuttles: Free weekday transport for residents at specific locations to and from Princeton and Freehold.

In-Town Shuttles: By reservation, vehicles transport riders at no-cost to and from local destinations on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Call Monroe's Department of Transportation at 609-443-0511 for more information.

Monroe Hero *Continued from page 8*

Helfand is warmly welcomed by fellow veterans, eager for the opportunity to hear his extraordinary anecdotes over toast and coffee.

"They share old stories and new, talk about the current issues and keep each other up to date," Gloria Helfand said. "It's a nice group that enjoys each other's company."

For more information on the local arm of the American Legion, including eligibility requirements, visit www.alpost522.com or email alpost522@comcast.net.

Mark Your Calendar

Activities and Special Events are featured in the monthly newsletter as per its scheduled date and are available to all members of the Monroe Township Office of Senior Services.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

"Double Down" Day - Take Your Chances!

Friday, April 6th

"Only a Number" Documentary on the Holocaust, Thursday, April 12th

Spring Cooking Class

Starting on Friday, April 13th thru May 11th

The 1950's: Rise of Rock & Roll

Wednesday, April 18th

Weight Loss Made Simply Workshop

Thursdays, May 17th and 24th

Spring Fling with Fiesta Zing

Friday, May 18th

Knocking on Heavens Door

with Leslie Lagani, Medium

Monday, May 21st

MONROE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY

MARCH

LEGEND: (IP) In Progress (\$) Fee/In-Person Registration (SR) Fee/Listed Date to Register (LD) Last Day

LEGEND: (IP) In Progress (\$) Fee/In-Person Registration (SR) Fee/Listed Date to Register (LD) Last Day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Did You Know??</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Office Registration is Required Before Signing Up for Activities? > Calendar Programs that are BOLD & <u>Underlined</u> in this section are described in the newsletter? > Registration is Appreciated for <u>ALL</u> Special Programs? > In-Person Registration is Necessary for Programs with a Fee. <p><i>No? Well, Now You Know! See You at the Senior Center!</i></p>				
<p>5 9 Bodies in Motion (IP) Income Tax - By Appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10 Move & Groove (IP) NEW Beginners Tai Chi (\$) 1 Yarn It 1 Games & T. Tennis 2 Karaoke with Rich</p>	<p>6 9 Games// 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus 9:30 Body Works TU (IP) 10:30 Triple 15 (IP) 10:30 Paper Trails (\$) 12 ChessMates 1:30 Salem Witch Trials</p>	<p>7 9 H. Bones Pros (IP) Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (IP) 10 Exp. Watercolor (LD) NEW Line Dancing (\$) 1 Intro to H2Ocolor (LD) 1 Gems // 1 Games 1 Parkinson's Support Movie at 1 p.m./ Crucible</p>	<p>8 9 Beg. Healthy Bones 9 Chair Yoga (IP) 10 Ceramics 10:30 Body Works TH (IP) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:15 Mixed Watercolor (FLEX?) 1:30 Twin Obsessions</p>	<p>9 9 Canasta// 1 T. Tennis 9 ZUMBA GOLD (IP) 10 Boot Camp (IP) 10:30 Harmonica UP TO BARRE (FLEX?) Noon Pizza Plus (\$) Watercolor Exp. (FLEX?)</p>
<p>12 9 Bodies in Motion (IP) Income Tax - By Appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10 Move & Groove (IP) 11:15 Beginners Tai Chi (IP) 1 Yarn It / Games & T. Tennis 2 Meet the Author: Arlene Maybloom and her <i>Sunshine on a Cloudy Day</i></p>	<p>13 9 Games// 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus 9:30 Body Works TU (IP) 10:30 Triple 15 (IP) 11 Green Thumbs 12 ChessMates 2 Honest Look at Abe (snow date: 2/20/17)</p>	<p>14 9 Healthy Bones Pros Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (IP) 10:15 Line Dancing (IP) Exp. Watercolor (FLEX?) Intro to Watercolor (FLEX?) 1 Gems//Games// 2 Cribbage Movie at 1 p.m./ Birdcage</p>	<p>15 9 Beg. Healthy Bones 9 Chair Yoga (IP) 10 Ceramics 10:30 Body Works TH (IP) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:15 Mixed Watercolor (FLEX?) 1:30 Twin Obsessions (LD) 1 Friends BINGO (\$)</p>	<p>16 9 Canasta// 1 T. Tennis 9 Zumba Gold (IP) 10 Boot Camp (IP) 10:30 Harmonica Up to Barre (FLEX?) Watercolor Exp. (FLEX?) 1 Friends BINGO (\$)</p>
<p>19 OFFICE CLOSED  Presidents' Day</p>	<p>20 9 Games// 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus 9:30 Body Works TU (IP) 10:30 Paper Trails (IP) 10:30 Triple 15 (IP) 12 ChessMates 1:30 Amazing Shadows 1:30 Cancer Support</p>	<p>21 9 Healthy Bones Pros Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (LD) 10:15 Line Dancing (IP) 1 Gems // 1 Games Intro to Watercolor (FLEX?) 1:30 Your Salty Ways 2:30 Diabetes Support</p>	<p>22 9 Beg. Healthy Bones 9 Chair Yoga (IP) 10 Ceramics 10:30 Body Works TH (IP) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge NEW: Mixed Watercolor (\$) 1:30 Diabetes Risk</p>	<p>23 9 Canasta// 1 T. Tennis 9 Zumba Gold (IP) 10 Boot Camp (IP) 10:30 Harmonica NEW: Up to Barre (\$) NEW: Watercolor Exp. (\$) 1:30 Jerry's Travels</p>
<p>26 Income Tax - By Appt. 9 Bodies in Motion (IP) 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10 Move & Groove (IP) 11:15 Beg. Tai Chi (IP) 1 Yarn It/ Games/ T. Tennis 1:30 Dealing with Loss</p>	<p>27 9 Games // 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus 9:30 Body Works TU (IP) 10:30 Paper Trails (LD) 10:30 Triple 15 (IP) 12 ChessMates 1:30 Science Today 1:30 Memory & Diet</p>	<p>28 9 Healthy Bones Pros Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (FLEX?) 10:15 Line Dancing (IP) 1 Gems/ Games/ 2 Cribbage 2 Caregivers Support 2 Acoustic Café</p>	<p>Happy Valentine's Day  <i>from Secret Admirer</i></p> <p>Register for Programs in Advance to Get These Perks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed Seat • Easier Admission into a class/lecture. • Courtesy Call for Program Updates, Cancellations, etc. 	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Register for Programs in Advance to Get These Perks:</p> <p>Easier Admission! Guaranteed Seat! Program Courtesy Calls!</p>				
<p>Collage of Color</p> <p><i>Please stop by the Senior Center to view Karen's Collage Students' creative works during their very first Collage of Color Expo, from March 13 through March 20.</i></p>				
<p>5 9 Bodies in Motion (LD) Income Tax - By Appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge NEW: Fun with Yiddish (\$) 10 Move & Groove (IP) 11:15 Beginners Tai Chi (IP) 1 Yarn It / Games / T. Tennis 2 Live Irish Music!</p>	<p>6 9 Games// 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus 9:30 Body Works TU (IP) 10 Acrylics for All (\$) 10:30 Triple 15 (IP) 12 ChessMates 1:30 Aboard the Catalpa 2:30 Meet & Greet Scott</p>	<p>7 9 H. Bones Pros (IP) Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (IP) 10:15 Line Dancing (IP) 1 Gems // 1 Games 1 Parkinson's Support 1 Celtic Women</p>	<p>8 9 Beg. Healthy Bones 9 Chair Yoga (IP) 10 Ceramics 10:30 Body Works TH (IP) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:30 Mixed Watercolor (IP) 1:30 Falls Prevention</p>	<p>9 9 Canasta// 1 T. Tennis 9 ZUMBA GOLD (FLEX?) 10 Boot Camp (IP) 10 Empty Bowls Kickoff \$ 10:30 Harmonica 11:15 UP TO BARRE (IP) 12:30 Watercolor Exp. (IP) 1:30 Mixing Meds</p>
<p>12 Bodies in Motion(FLEX?) Income Tax - By Appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10 Fun with Yiddish (IP) 10 Move & Groove (IP) 11:15 Beginners Tai Chi (IP) 1 Yarn It / Games & T. Tennis 1:30 About Modern Art</p>	<p>13 9 Games// 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus 9:30 Body Works TU (LD) 10:30 Triple 15 (LD) 11 Green Thumbs 12 ChessMates 1 Free Blood Pressure Scr. 2 Michael & Ted Present 2 Collage with Karen (\$)</p>	<p>14 9 Healthy Bones Pros Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (LD) 10 Exp. Watercolor (IP) 10:15 Line Dancing (IP) NEW Intro to Watercolor (\$) 1 Gems//Games// 2 Cribbage Movie at 1:30 p.m./ ONCE</p>	<p>15 9 Beg. Healthy Bones 9 Chair Yoga (IP) 10 Ceramics 10:30 Body Works TH (LD) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:30 Mixed Watercolor (IP) 1:30 Broken Glass, Pt. 2</p>	<p>16 9 Canasta// 1 T. Tennis 9 Zumba Gold (FLEX?) 10 Boot Camp (IP) 10:30 Harmonica 11:15 Up to Barre (IP) 12 Go Green. Plus (\$) 12:30 Watercolor Exp. (IP)</p>
<p>19 Income Tax - By Appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10 Move & Groove (IP) 10 Fun with Yiddish (IP) 11:15 Beginners Tai Chi (LD) 1 Yarn It / Games & T. Tennis 1 Van Gogh's Sunflowers</p>	<p>20 9 Games// 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus Body Works TU (FLEX?) 10 Acrylics (IP) 10:30 Triple 15 (FLEX?) 12 ChessMates 1:30 Cancer Support 2 Collage w. Karen (LD)</p>	<p>21 9 Healthy Bones Pros Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (LD) 10 Exp. Watercolor (IP) 10:15 Line Dancing (IP) 1 Gems // 1 Games 1 Intro to Watercolor (IP) 2 Jerusalem's Significance 2:30 Diabetes Support</p>	<p>22 9 Beg. Healthy Bones 9 Chair Yoga (LD) 10 Ceramics Body Works TH (FLEX?) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge 12:30 Mixed Watercolor (LD) 1:30 Healthy Sleeping</p>	<p>23 9 Canasta// 1 T. Tennis NEW: Zumba Gold (\$R) 10 Boot Camp (IP) 10:30 Harmonica 11:15 Up to Barre (IP) 12:30 Watercolor Exp. (LD) 1 Friends' St. Patrick's Day Celebration (\$)</p>
<p>26 Income Tax - By Appt. 9:30 Drop-In Bridge 10 Move & Groove (IP) 10 Fun with Yiddish (IP) Beg. Tai Chi (FLEX?) 1 Yarn It/ Games/ T. Tennis 1:30 Music BINGO (\$)</p>	<p>27 9 Games // 1 T. Tennis 9 M.T. Chorus Body Works TU (FLEX?) 10 Acrylics (LD) 10:30 - 12:30 Screenings 10:30 Triple 15 (FLEX?) 12 ChessMates 1:30 Science Today 1:30 Thomas Elephant</p>	<p>28 9 Healthy Bones Pros Income Tax - By Appt. 9:15 Total Toning (FLEX?) 10 Exp. Watercolor (IP) 10:15 Line Dancing (LD) 1 Intro to Watercolor (IP) 1 Gems/Games / 2 Cribbage 2 Caregivers Support 1:30 Thomas Elephant</p>	<p>29 Beg. Healthy Bones Chair Yoga (FLEX?) 10 Ceramics 10:30 Self Massage Tech Body Works TH (FLEX?) 12:15 Duplicate Bridge Mixed Watercolor (FLEX?)</p>	<p>30 Office Closed  HAPPY EASTER AND PASSOVER TO YOU GOOD FRIDAY</p>

In Memoriam



Claire (Alzheimer) Juraska passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 8 while in Florida to celebrate her daughter's wedding. Born in New Brunswick, Claire was a lifelong resident of Monroe Township and beloved by her husband, daughter and grandchildren and almost anyone who knew her. She was employed by the Monroe Township Recreation Department for 32 years during which time she held several positions, including secretary for the Recreation Department, secretary for Youth and Recreation Advisory Board, secretary for Affordable Housing, secretary for Human Relations, special events coordinator and secretary for the ADA Committee. She will forever be remembered for her unparalleled work ethic, her love of conversation and as a good soul who was taken far too soon.



Carol (Durso) Merwin passed away peacefully at her home on Dec. 30. Carol was born and raised in Cliffwood Beach and lived in South Amboy for several years before moving to Monroe in 1986. She has been a cherished wife for the past 39 years. She was a licensed professional nurse and worked for Roosevelt Hospital in Edison before transitioning to private duty nursing. For 12 years, she had worked as an outreach professional for Monroe's Senior Center, where both residents and staff will fondly remember her for her uncanny sense of humor, her infectious smile and her boundless compassion.



Former **Councilman Henry "Hank" Miller** passed away on January 19, 2018. Hank served the Township of Monroe as the First Ward Councilman for 24 years, retiring in 2013. He was a lifelong educator as a teacher, guidance counselor and high school principal until 1989. Hank was a resident of Clearbrook and Rossmoor for 40 years and loved to play golf, coach baseball. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus, and Nativity of Our Lord R.C. Church in Monroe. Hank had a special interest in history and worked tirelessly with the Monroe Twp Historic Preservation Commission to preserve and restore the Dey Farm where the Henry L. Miller One Room School House was dedicated in his honor in 2016. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Jean, and a large family of grandchildren and great grandchildren. His tenacity, smile and happy-go-lucky demeanor will be missed by all who knew him in Monroe.

Seasonal DPW Roundup

Monroe Township's Department of Public Works covers some 156 miles of municipal roadways. This includes, but is not limited to, plowing, salting, maintenance, pothole patching and road and catch basin repair. Additionally, the staff oversees the salting and plowing of all municipal sites, such as the senior center, the library and even the parks and the park and rides.

In anticipation of winter snowstorms, Monroe's Public Works Department has a few helpful hints:

- **Residents should stay off the roads** whenever possible during and directly after snow storms. Should traveling be unavoidable, officials ask that drivers take extra precautions.
- **Be patient.** Typically, staff strive to complete an initial plowing of streets within 24 hours after precipitation has ended. Please remember that main roads will be plowed first and kept clear for the safe passage of emergency vehicles; secondary and neighbor-

hood roads will be plowed following this. Depending on the severity of the storm, a secondary and curb-to-curb sweep of roads and neighborhoods will follow.

- **Try to delay shoveling at home.** The plow trucks will unavoidably push some snow back onto residential properties as they attempt to clear the roadways.
- **Remove all vehicles, trailers and basketball hoops** prior to a storm from Township roadways. This will better enable the DPW to thoroughly plow your road.
- **Remember to be a good neighbor** by removing snow and ice from the sidewalks bordering one's home, clearing around fire hydrants to assist firefighters and checking in on neighbors who may require assistance clearing their walks.
- **Follow normal protocol during times of emergency** by calling 911.

White Goods

White goods, meaning large electronic

items like refrigerators and washing machines, should be left at the curb and will be picked by appointment only. Contact the DPW in advance before any curbside drop-off.

Springing Forward

A few important dates to remember as residents look forward:

- The Recycling Department will be taking Bulk pick up request beginning mid-March.
- Leaf and grass collections kick off on April 2. Yard waste bags may be picked up from the recycling center, free of charge, at any time.
- Paper shredding dates are scheduled for April 13 and Sept. 7. Residents are encouraged to contact the DPW or check back on the Township website for details on location.

Contact Information

Recycling Center
Address: 76 Spotswood-Gravel Hill Road
Monroe, NJ

DPW Phone Number:
732-656-4575

DPW Web Page:
www.monroetwp.com

**To advertise in The Monroe News,
call (908) 789-0700.**

Plenty of Improvements in Monroe Township

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

Completed Monroe Township Road Improvements include new pavement on portions of Wyckoff Mills Road, Halsey Reed Road, Mounts Mills Road and Union Valley Road, as well as Avenue I, Edward Avenue, Eleventh Avenue, Redwood Court and Sequoia Court.

Middlesex County completed paving on portions of Perrineville Road and Union Valley Half Acre Road.

Construction has been completed at the Monroe Township Library for LED parking lot lighting, ADA parking improvements and an electric car-charging station.

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

The artificial turf field at the Soccer Complex on Prospect Plains Road

is near completion. Construction of the concession stand and restroom is the next phase of this project.

The Spotswood Englishtown and Mounts Mills traffic signal is expected to go into activation mode over the next few weeks. The developer funded signal is nearing completion. Please be aware of changing traffic patterns.

Daniel Ryan Field concession and restrooms are expected to go out to public bid, which should be awarded in the next 60 days. Construction will begin late spring.

The Spotswood and Ellingham Avenue road paving, drainage and pedestrian improvement project is scheduled to go to public bid in late spring with construction to begin this summer.



A view of the newly improved turf soccer fields on Perrineville Road.

County Road Improvement Alert

The County of Middlesex has scheduled the replacement of Bridge 5-B-131 on County Road 625/Perrineville Road located between Mills Road and Monroe Self Storage. The construction was set to begin on or about Feb. 1 and will continue through December 2018.

The project requires a full road closure of Perrineville Road from Federal Road to Route 33 with a posted detour to Applegarth Road. Local access to residents and businesses will be maintained throughout the project.

ANT Landscaping and Falcon Lake Day Camp, from the Perrineville & Federal Roads intersection, will follow the local access route.

Monroe Self Storage, J. Gatarz & Sons, Make-A-Wish, Monroe 33 Sports Center and Baker's American Bar & Grill will all be accessible from Route 33.

Any questions regarding this project should be directed to James Buczek, P.E., Project Manager at 732-671-6400, ext 9441 or Middlesex County Office of Engineering at 732-745-3283.



In the National Spotlight

Mary Lange, president of the Monroe Wolverine Program, was nationally honored at the Pop Warner Cheer and Dance Championship in Orlando, Florida for her 30 years of volunteer service to the Pop Warner community.



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Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider was joined by Clearbrook management and Monroe's DPW workers to close out the 2017 Fall Harvest Food Drive for the Middlesex County food pantry. Along with Clearbrook, residents in Concordia, Rossmoor, Encore, Greenbriar, Ponds, Regency and Renaissance donated some 7.5 tons of nonperishable items.



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Cultural Arts Juried Art Show



Here's peek of the Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission's Annual Juried Art Show during an Oct. 22 reception at the library. The exhibit ran through Oct. 30 and showcased dozens of talented local artists.

Photos courtesy of Alessandro Graziano.



90 Years Young



Guests and members of Monroe's Roaring 90s group, a small circle of Township residents, who are 90 years of age and older, gathered at the Monroe Township Senior Center in late October. One member said it best when she described this extraordinary collection of individuals as "90 years young." Anyone interested in joining, may contact the Senior Center at 609-448-7140.

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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.

February 2018

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



OPEN GYM TIMES: Men's Basketball, Sundays 8am-10am
Adult Volleyball, Monday Nights 7pm-9pm • Badminton, Mondays 6pm-9pm
Pickleball, Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm - September-June
Table Tennis, Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm - September-June
Other times are available throughout the week. Monday-Friday after school open gym runs 2pm-5pm. Call for additional availability during the week and on weekends at (732) 723-5000. Hoops Basketball season will limit these hours.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 GROUNDHOG DAY 	3
4	5	6	7 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	8	9	10
11	12 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr, 11 AM RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	13 MTBA General Membership Mtg., Comm. Ctr, 7 PM	14 MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING, Community Center, 7 PM	15	16	17
18	19  MTGSA Board Meeting Community Ctr, 7 PM	20	21 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

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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

March 2018

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



EGG HUNT BONNET & TOP HAT CONTEST

Family fun starts at Noon on
Saturday, March 24th at the
Community Center Hockey Rink



FREE RABIES CLINIC

Bring your dogs and cats to
the Community Center on
Saturday, March 3rd,
9:00am-2:00pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 First Day to submit a Summer Camp Employment Applic. for Summer Rec Camp & MTSEPA	2	3 FREE RABIES CLINIC, Community Center, 9 AM-2 PM
4	5	6	7 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	8	9	10
11 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	12 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr, 11 AM RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	13 MTBA General Membership Meeting, Community Ctr, 7 PM	14 MONROE WOLVERINE FOOTBALL & CHEER-LEADING REGISTRATION, Community Ctr, 7 PM	15	16	17
18	19 MTGSA Board Meeting Community Ctr, 7 PM	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	22	23	24 EGG HUNT, TOP HAT & BONNET CONTEST, Community Ctr Hockey Rink, 12 Noon
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Last Day to submit a Summer Camp Employment Applic. for Summer Rec Camp

April 2018

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



YOUTH PROGRAMS
Apprentice Engineering—Ages 8—12
Bricks 4 Kidz—Grades K—3 or 4—5
Childrens Theater Workshop—Ages 8—14
Hip-Hop Gymnastics—Ages 5—16
Junior Engineering—Ages 5—7
Karate—Age 6—17
Mini Ninjas—Ages 3—5
Twirling—Ages 5+

PROGRAM INFORMATION

More information, including schedules, fees, and class descriptions for our programs can be found at www.monroerec.com. Participants must be registered in advance for 6-8 week sessions. Online registration available at register.communitypass.net/monroetownship. Classes with low enrollment numbers prior to the beginning of the program, may be cancelled. Please do not wait until the start date of the class to register. The Fitness Center is open 7 days a week 8am-9pm. This is included in the \$10 annual Recreation Membership but an orientation is required before use.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED	2	3	4 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	5	6	7 Opening Day of MTSC Soccer, Soccer Complex on Prospect Plains Rd
8	9 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr, 11 AM RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM	10 MTBA General Membership Meeting, Community Ctr, 7 PM	11 MAYOR'S CUP BOWLING, County Lanes, 9 AM MONROE WOLVERINES MONTHLY MEETING, Community Ctr, 7 PM	12	13	14 BASEBALL OPENING DAY, James Monroe Park SOFTBALL OPENING DAY, Thomas L. Allen Softball Complex
15	16 MTGSA Board Meeting Community Ctr, 7 PM	17	18 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Last Day to submit a Summer Camp Employment Applic. for MTSEPA Camp	ADULT FITNESS A.M. CLASSES Core Conditioning—Saturdays 8:30-9:30am Cardio Tone—Saturdays 9:30-10:30am Seize the Day Fitness—Mondays and Thursdays 9:30-10:30am Yoga—Sundays 10-11am, Tuesdays or Thursdays 9:30-10:30am Zumba Toning—Fridays 9:30-10:30am		ADULT FITNESS P.M. CLASSES Fitness 50/50—Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00pm Kickbox & Tone—Tuesdays 7:15-8:15pm Low Impact Aerobics—Mondays and/or Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm Ultimate Fitness—Mondays and/or Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm		

School Happenings



Dr. Michael Kozak
Superintendent, Monroe
Township School District

Dear Falcon Community:

During the past two years, I have noted the issue of our growing student enrollment in the *Falcon Flyer*, at Board of Education meetings and during back-to-school presentations. As I have previously stated, our student enrollment has grown by over 1,781 students in the past eight years, which has caused our aggregate school enrollment to exceed the functional capacity of our schools by 1,500 students. We are expecting another 1,500 students in the next five years, which will result in over 3,000 unhoused students.

In a series of presentations at school board meetings over the last two years, and in a participatory and public process with the Student Growth Advisory Committee, we have reviewed the enrollments, the facilities, available sites and the curriculum, explored alternate solutions and developed a best solution to meet our immediate needs. That solution is a new middle school.

The board of education approved a resolution to hold a special election on March 13, 2018 for the purpose of placing a referendum question before voters. This Referendum, if approved, authorizes the district to raise funds through the sale of bonds to finance the construction of a new middle school. The Referendum proposes a new 152,315-square-foot, 1,000-student middle school, which would alleviate the overcrowded conditions in our current middle school and provide equity in programs offered to students.

The board of education and the school district administration understand the financial implications of a Referendum on the taxpayers in Monroe Township. That is why we have continued to pursue our fair share of state aid, which resulted in an additional \$458,000 in state aid this year. And, we are still working to increase that amount.

The Monroe Township School District is a leading academic institution in Middlesex County. This reputation is created by hard working students, great teachers and supportive families. Whatever our students choose to do, they not only succeed, but they succeed at the highest level. Wonderful musicals, brilliant stage performances, elite level STEM and business programs and championship athletic programs are all annual achievements that, while lauded, are never taken for granted. It has been my pleasure to witness to all of the great things that our children accomplish every day.

In spite of seven consecutive years of 2-percent budget increase limits, the Monroe Township School District maintains one of the lowest per-pupil costs in all of Middlesex County, while continuing to rank among the best school districts. The average tax impact for a homeowner, for every \$100,000 of assessed value, is \$3.45 a month.

Please review the referendum information on the district website. Familiarize yourself with the wealth of data there, save the date on your calendars and come out and vote on March 13, 2018.

The Board of Education is aware of the difficult economy with which everyone is learning to live and we are aware that it has an impact on education. The positives in New Jersey's slowly improving economic climate are that construction costs and interest rates are near historic lows and we can take advantage of that now by supporting the Strong Schools Equals Strong Community referendum.

For more information on the March 13 School Bond Referendum, log onto the website www.monroe.k12.nj.us/Page/12811.



Photos courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

Mill Lake Elementary School Library

The library at Mill Lake Elementary School has taken on a transformation this past school year welcoming a MakerSpace. MakerSpace, by which students can collaborate, tinker and work together, promotes problem-solving skills and provides the core tenants of STEAM for the next generation.

Full STEAM Ahead at Barclay Brook School

It is full STEAM ahead for pre-kindergarten through second-grade students at Barclay Brook Elementary School.

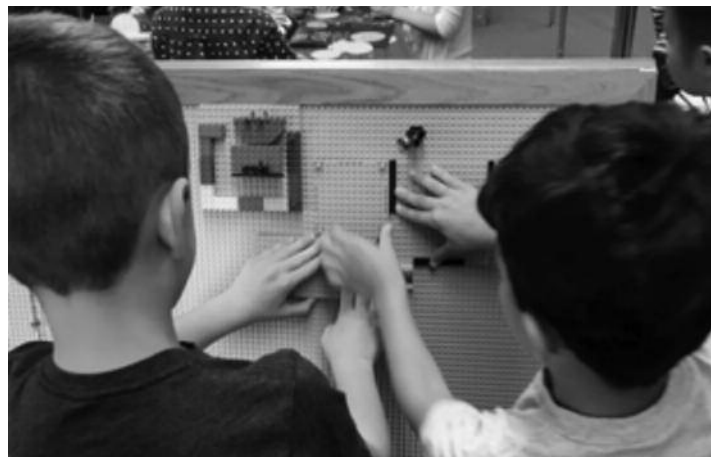
This year, Barclay Brook created a “STEAMaker” lab, which affords each student the opportunity to become a thinker and a maker by integrating all aspects of STEAM – an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math – into relevant learning experiences.

While in the STEAMaker lab, students work cooperative-

ly to use the engineering design process to problem-solve and create innovative solutions. Students also learn the basics of computer coding through various technologies like Ozobot, Code-a-pillar, Code.org, Tynker and Lego WeDo.

With employment in STEAM-related jobs projected to increase by over 12 percent in the coming decade, and a projected 2.4 million jobs in STEAM-related fields going unfilled this year alone, some anticipate that this is the future of industry and even the world.

At present, only 16 percent of students graduating high school are dually proficient in these areas of study and also interested in a STEAM-related career. To produce future-ready students, the district plans to address this dichotomy now. By introducing Monroe’s youngest learners to STEAM and the maker mindset, educators and administrators hope to pave the way for the 21st century’s adult thinkers and for the learners of the future.



Photos courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

Student Peace Ambassadors Serve MTHS

While they look like everyday students, Monroe Township High School has peace ambassadors roaming its halls.

The mission of the Monroe Township High School Peace Ambassadors Club is to help foster a school environment that honors diversity, peace and respect for all students.

Every year at MTHS, the Peace Ambassadors sponsor events and programs that encourage students to create a school culture premised on peace and kindness.

On the first day of school this year, the club organized and imple-

mented the Day One project, an initiative to spread anti-discriminatory messages around the school.

Club members hung posters in every classroom on campus to remind students that the high school is a place of positivity and acceptance.

They also gifted each MTHS student and staff member with a wristband that reads “Kindness Matters.”

On Oct. 20, the club hosted a visit from Mykee Fowlin, a psychologist who spreads his peaceful message through a series of pow-

erful skits.

Fowlin performed for the freshmen class, leaving a lasting impression on the MTHS underclassmen, who should benefit from his visit and insights for years to come.

The Peace Ambassadors also have a variety of other projects.

On Dec. 12, the club participated in challenge day: a full day activity that allows students to learn more about one another and show compassion to their peers.

This activity promotes a positive school atmosphere that follows



the students for months and sometimes years afterwards.

The Peace Ambassadors will also be rolling out an anti-bullying curriculum to the elementary schools, specifically, to second- and fifth-grade students.



Photos courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

Haunted High School Scares Up Donations for Breast Cancer Foundation

October is not only the month of Halloween, it's also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On October 25, Monroe Township High School's co-curricular business program, Future Business Leaders of America, hosted its fourth annual Haunted High School charity event, benefitting the Mama Mare Breast Cancer Foundation.

The FBLA Haunted High School was designed so that elementary school children and other younger members of the community would be able to enjoy a fun, safe and wonderful Halloween experience, while also supporting a great

cause.

Members of the community traveled to various classrooms where they participated in Halloween-themed activities coordinated by FBLA and other high school and district clubs and organizations. Activities included games that incorporated seasonal themes like Candy Corn Bowling, Pin the Spider on the Web, Halloween Karaoke, Haunted Hospital, Haunted Art Museum, Superheroes, Alice in Wonderland and so much more.

As the children traveled from classroom to classroom, they received candy and other treats. The event saw more

than 1,500 people in attendance with the donated proceeds surpassing the amount raised last year.

"The design and execution of the Haunted High School epitomizes the work and efforts of our FBLA (and business education students) here in Monroe Township," said Zach Morolda, Monroe's district supervisor for the Applied Arts and Careers Technology. "Our department is always exploring ways to leverage our instruction in a way that connects and supports the community. The Haunted High School is a prime example of our students making meaningful connections. We



Photo courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

could not be more proud of the leadership demonstrated by Monroe's FBLA."

A great deal of time and effort goes into the planning, organizing, and overall implementation of the event. In preparation, the FBLA Executive Board and Advisor Deanna Dale

oversees and leads all meetings. FBLA Haunted High School Committee Chair Pranay Narang, along with Executive Board members and the group's general membership, volunteered time and effort in the planning, executing and seeing to the success of this event.

Preparing for STEM Careers



Monroe Township High School's STEM Program is actively preparing students for college in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Photos courtesy of the Monroe Township School District



A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD: On Nov. 3, at the invitation of Ms. Walton's second grade class at Oak Tree Elementary School, Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro discussed the role of Township government with students.

Banner Seasons and High Hopes for the Fall and Winter Sports Teams at Monroe Township High School

The girls soccer, volleyball and boys soccer teams all advanced to the Greater Middlesex Conference semi-finals with the boys soccer team advancing and winning the Conference championship game against South Brunswick. The boys soccer team also advanced to the Central Jersey sectional semi-final but fell short to eventual state finalist, Princeton, in a 2-1 defeat. The boys also captured the GMC Red Division title.

The girls tennis team finished fourth out of 27 teams in the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament.

Monroe's football, field hockey and cross-country programs continue to progress in the challenging GMC Red Division.

The winter season got off to a successful start with the ice hockey team playing two teams ranked in the State's top 20. The Falcons lost by one goal in a hard-fought game to No. 14 Wall and then rebounded with an exciting 4-2 win over No. 19 Southern Regional. The Falcons look to be a force in the GMC and win their first conference title after last season's loss to St. Joe's in the finals.

Boys and girls bowling teams look to build

on a phenomenal 2016-17 campaign. The Lady Falcons went undefeated in dual matches and won the Red Division and Conference Championships. The boys also won the Central New Jersey and State Group 3 Championships.

After clinching first in last year's Red Division, the boys and girls basketball teams have high hopes for the future. The girls kicked off their season against rival JP Stevens on Dec. 15, while the boys hosted a Holiday Tournament on Dec. 27 and Dec. 29.

Winter track started its season at the New York City Armory, competing at the AT&T Coaches Invitational on Dec. 16.

After last year's upset to Hunterdon Central in the State sectional final, the wrestling team appears optimistic. After all, the Falcons finished third in the Conference Championships and sent two wrestlers to States last year.

FALL SPORTS

Boys Cross Country

- Finished 5th in GMC Red Division meet.

Boys Soccer

- (20-2-2) lost to Princeton 2-1 in Sectional Semifinals as a #2 seed.



The girls volleyball team continues to be a driving force in Middlesex County, winning their second consecutive division and advancing to the County semi-finals.



2017 Monroe Township boys soccer team: County and division champions.

Photos courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

- #1 seed in GMC Tournament beat South Brunswick in County Final 2-1.
- Matt Hoyt set school assist record.
- Division Champions
- Conference Champions.

Girls Soccer

- (11-10) lost to East Brunswick 4-1 in GMC semi-final as #4 seed.
- Lost to Manalapan 2-1 in shootout as #7 seed in 1st round of states.

Girls Tennis

- (11-8) Lost to #1 Montgomery in State Qtr.-finals. #9 seed in the state.
- Finished 4th in County Tournament.

Field Hockey

- (5-14) lost to Old Bridge in the 1st round of GMC tournament as a 6th seed.
- #7 in state tournament. Lost to #2 Freehold in state Qtr. Finals 7-1.

Girls Volleyball

- (19-3) Lost to Colonia as #3 seed in county semi-finals.
- Lost to #5 seed Princeton Twp. 2-1 as a #12 seed in 2nd round of states.
- Won White Division Championship.

Girls Cross Country

- Finished 4th in GMC Red Division meet.

Football

- (2-8) beat Notre Dame 41-19 & East Brunswick 21-19.

Serving and Protecting

Honoring the Thin Blue Line



Girl Scout and resident Kayla Strych has brought the "Thin Blue Line" to Monroe's Municipal Plaza. On Sept. 6, the Mayor and Township Council, with support of Monroe Township Police officers, recognized Kayla, whose Gold Award Project aimed to honor those who serve and protect her community.



PBA Toy Drive



On Dec. 11, members of the local PBA dropped off a windfall of toys, collected through a community drive, to the young patients at Bristol-Meyers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. Pictured from left to right: Sgt. Jabazz Spence, Officer Wesley Panckeri, Detective Sgt. Keith Saloom, Officer Robert Bennett, Detective Ron Breuer, Officer Mark Salemi, Director of Life Program Barbara Romito Director, Detective Joseph Silvestri, Officer Steve Menhart.

Monroe Police Department Helps Make-A-Wish



At the invitation of Make-A-Wish New Jersey, Monroe's local police met with and escorted a group of "Wish Kids" from the Samuel and Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place in Monroe to the Macy's in Freehold Nov. 3. The officers and the children helped kick-off Macy's National Believe Campaign, in which \$1 is donated to Make-A-Wish for every holiday letter the department store receives before Dec. 24, up to \$1 million. Members of the force were an important component of the day as their presence paid tribute to Chris Greicius, a child in Arizona who was granted his wish to become a police officer back in 1980. From that single wish, the nonprofit was born and has since flourished.

Monroe Library Patrons Have Close Encounter with Star Wars Characters

Darth Vader, Obi-Wan Kenobi and even R2-D2 could be seen orbiting around the Monroe Township Library during the "Star Wars Reads" literacy initiative.

Costumed characters from this sci-fi cult classic, who hail from the nonprofit Northeast Remnant, made an afternoon visit to the library on Oct. 22, drawing out a force of fanfare while at the same time spurring an interest in reading.

The New Jersey-based Northeast Remnant, a garrison of

the 501st Legion, don realistic costumes from the Star Wars saga and make any number of appearances throughout the region, mainly in the name of charity.

"This is a pretty big deal," said Monroe Librarian Steve Hrubes. "This organization has officially been endorsed by Star Wars director George Lucas. They have movie-quality costumes on and were given access to the schematics of the film's droids. It's so realistic, you feel as if you've stepped into a Star Wars movie."

The Monroe Township Library also held a Star Wars-related book raffle and activities and even hosted a "Q & A" session for the robust crowd that gathered at the facility's program room.

"It was standing room only; the group got to ask questions about this organization and learn more about how it supports charities," said Monroe Library Director Irene Goldberg. "The kids were making construction-paper Yoda ears and it was all around just a lot of fun for all ages. This is the second time we've held this event, and it's wildly popular; so, it's something we're considering resurrecting again in the future."

For more information on the Monroe Township Library, call 732-521-4400 or visit www.monroetwp.org.



R2-D2, seen here, visited the Monroe Township Library Oct. 22, along with a number of other costumed characters from a local nonprofit.

Sign Up for Housing Rehab

Applications for Monroe Township's Affordable Housing Rehab Program are available at 1 Municipal Plaza during town hall's hours of operation. Primarily, this program financially assists income-eligible homeowners with addressing code violations or other health and safety issues, such as heating or roofing repairs, at their place of residence. For further details, contact program coordinator, Tanya Pannucci, at 732-521-4400 ext. 167.

Chorus Continues to Shine



It was a great day to be at the Oscars, when the Monroe Township Chorus shared Academy Award Winning Songs with a large assembly of fans at the Marasco Center November 12. The group sang inspiring renditions of such fan favorites as "Que Sera Sera," "Moon River" and "Zip-a-Dee-Do-Dah."

For more information on the Chorus, contact Director Sheila Werfel through the Senior Center at 609-448-7140.

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Halloween Parade

Creativity was on display at the Oct. 29 Halloween Parade. The annual event was sponsored by the Monroe Township Recreation Center, with hundreds of children dressed in their Halloween best in attendance.



Senior Center Luncheon Gives Residents Reason to Say Thanks

For so many around the nation, Thanksgiving is a hallmark of family, friends and feasting.

But when family and friends are at a minimum, the holiday can often be a morose and solitary occasion.

That's not the case in Monroe Township, where senior center Director Bonnie Leibowitz has made it her personal mission to see that no resident eats alone on Thanksgiving.

On Nov. 23, the Township's senior center hosted its annual Community Cares Thanksgiving luncheon, where the public was invited for an afternoon of food and fun with neighbors and friends, both old and new.

"Although everyone is welcome, this event is really geared toward the seniors in our community who find themselves alone on Thanksgiving – maybe because they don't have anyone or because their loved ones live too far away or maybe they don't have the means to get to their own dinner," Leibowitz said. "Whatever the case may be, they'll find a warm plate of food, welcoming faces and a reason to celebrate here."

For a nominal fee of \$10, this year's luncheon featured all the holiday



staples and trimmings, including turkey, stuffing, mashed and sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and, of course, dessert.

"This is such a noble cause and the community spirit surrounding this gathering is nothing short of heartwarming," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "You can see that a good meal and a good conversation can truly change the outcome of someone's day. We're happy to host this and so grateful to the organizers who have touched so many lives over the course of the years."

Additionally, several local Boy Scout troops served as the acting honor guard, a high school choral ensemble performed for guests and visitors were able to take home a goodie bag and a personal keepsake photo from the event.

"We have so many people to thank ourselves, including our sponsors and our volun-

teers," Leibowitz added. "They set up the day prior, served food the day of, greeted our guests and made for some lively conversation. It's such a fulfilling way to spend your holiday."

As an added twist, organizers asked attendees to either legibly pen or print their favorite recipes, as well as a reason why they're thankful, the culmination of which will be printed into a customized book at a later date.

"For several years, I've attended the luncheon," said Monroe Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider. "To put a smile on the face of a senior who might otherwise be sitting at home alone – well, it's one of those rare gratifying moments in life."

For more information on Senior Center programming, please call 609-448-7140.



Honoring Survivors

Oct. 14 was a day to celebrate, remember and fight back as the community honored cancer survivors and those who lost their battle at the 2017 Relay for Life of Monroe Township in Veteran's Park. Led by Co-Chairs Maria and Christina Primavera, the park was filled with laughter, tears, music and memories as young and old walked to bring awareness and much needed funding to fight cancer. Sponsored by the American Cancer Society and the Township of Monroe, the families lit up the night with a special luminaria ceremony, shared heartfelt poems and organized a slideshow featuring some very special Monroe residents.

Upcoming Dey Farm Events

Dey Farm Open House: The first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. between May and October.

ICAM Holi Celebration: March 18 with time to be determined..

League of Women Voters 30th Anniversary Celebration: July 8 from noon to 4 p.m. A rain date has been scheduled for July 15.

Old-Time Baseball: Begins at noon on Sept. 29.

Civil War and Living History Event: Oct. 27 at a time to be determined.

*All times, dates and events are considered tentative and scheduled through the MONROE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, which holds regular meetings at 7 p.m. at 1 Municipal Plaza the second Monday of each month. Like the organization's Facebook page, "Monroe Twp History," to learn more information.



It was a beautiful day for "Old Time Baseball" at the historic Dey Farm on Sept. 23. Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission organized this annual event, which mimics the games' earliest years, complete with mit-less, vintage-style uniforms, 19th century rules and even a top hat-wearing umpire.



When It Snows

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS TO SHOVEL THEIR SIDEWALKS:

The owners, occupants or tenants of a premises abutting or bordering upon any street in the Township of Monroe shall remove all snow and ice from the abutting sidewalks of such streets and from any fire hydrant located on the property within twelve (12) hours of daylight after the snow has fallen.

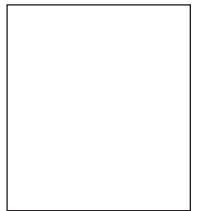


Monroe Township
Ordinance § 105-29

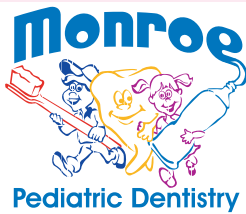
GREEN FAIR



The 2017 Monroe Township Green Fair was an absolute blast! Entertainment, education, good eats — it had it all. More than 100 exhibitors, thousands of people, tons of vendors and a community gathering that rivals just about any other. Kudos to the organizers on an event well done!



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