

the Monroe news



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

Township to Salute Fallen Soldiers

Monroe is coordinating three opportunities to pay tribute to those who died preserving our freedoms, including a concert on May 18 and two wreath laying ceremonies on May 25.

On Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m., the Monroe Township Chorus will salute all veterans with a free concert at the Township Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road. The musical tribute will feature songs from the Revolutionary War to present day and will include sing-alongs for audience participation.

"If you're a veteran, show your pride by wearing your military decorations, uniform, cap or jacket of your veteran's

organizations," Chorus Director Sheila Werfel said.

The event is open to all and light refreshments will be served after the performance.

On Monday, May 25, Mayor Richard Pucci, the Township Council, and the Veterans Council of Monroe and Jamesburg will hold two Memorial Day Ceremonies.

"It is always a privilege to honor and preserve the memories of the men and women who

Continued on page 2



Mayor Richard Pucci paid his respects to all of the soldiers that died preserving the American ideals at the 2014 Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park on Avenue K. L-R: Council President Gerald Tamburro, Mayor Richard Pucci, Councilman Stephen Dalina, Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider, Councilman Michael Leibowitz and a veteran.

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Veterans Park Ready for Expansion

One of the Township's busiest parks is about to get bigger.

Because of its popularity, Veterans Park on Avenue K is always bustling with residents bringing kids to beat the heat at the Spray Park. Also, Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies are held annually at the Veterans Memorial near the entrance to the Park.

"The current park is only a small part of what the 37-acre facility will be," said Township Business Administrator Wayne Hamilton. "The plan includes two much-needed multipurpose fields, a cricket field, picnic shelter and play area for kids."

The two multipurpose fields will bring much needed game

and practice fields for soccer, lacrosse and other field sports to the north end of the Township.

"In recent years, interest in having a designated cricket pitch in Monroe has increased," Council President Gerald Tamburro said. "Now, we will have a brand new cricket field for our residents to enjoy."

The park and its expansion are fully funded by the Township Open Space Trust Fund, which was authorized by the voters and established through a 2.5-cent (per \$100 of assessed valuation) Open Space Tax. The Trust is also used to purchase land in the Township that can be used for parks, preserved farmland and green

undeveloped woodlands.

"Our Open Space Trust Fund has helped us on our way to our goal of keeping 50 percent of the

Continued on page 10

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



Mayor Richard Pucci interviewed Township Business Administrator Wayne Hamilton in the return of the "Mayor Pucci Show" in February. The show airs Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays at 6 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Channel 28 for Comcast subscribers. All residents can watch the program online under the Township Videos Tab at the Township's website www.monroetwp.com.

Creators Descend on the Library for “Makerfest”

Makers, inventors and hobbyists displayed their creations and ideas at the Monroe Township Public Library’s Makerfest on Saturday, March 21.

The five-hour event was a celebration of crafting, electronics, 3D printing, creativity and more.

“Our goal was to give our community the opportunity to meet local makers, see what they make, and hopefully be inspired to start making something,” Studio M Coordinator and Librarian Steve Hrubes said. “For our makers, we wanted them to promote themselves and get exposure for their businesses and projects.”

The maker exhibitors were professionals with local businesses and hobbyists showing off their crafts and

creations. Some exhibitors were Home Depot, FUBAR Labs, Soldering Sunday, Princeton Chapter of the Embroidery Guild, F&M Upholstery, and a jewelry/small sculpture maker.

The Library’s own Studio M displayed its 3D printers, 3D modeling software, and button maker. Studio M is the Library’s digital media room where residents can edit video and music, film on a green screen, design and print their designs using the 3D printer and so much more.

“Makerfest was a great way for people to share creativity with one another,” Councilman Stephen Dalina said. “It was a place where folks shared ideas, creations and designs with one another right in our Library.”

Studio M Coordinator and Librarian Steve Hrubes shows a family how a 3-D printer works at the Green Fair. This and more will be on display at Library Makerfest.



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Senior Center Events

For a complete listing of activities and programs, please view the calendar on www.monroetwp.com, under “Office of Senior Services.”

April Programs:

Sunday, April 12 - RETRO WEEKEND
Enjoy The Corvettes: Doo Wop Revue with Antique Cars on display at 2:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$5.

Monday, April 13: HAPPINESS TRAINING (Laughter Yoga) 8 sessions, Dr. Aruna Bhargava. Fee: \$10.

Monday, April 13: MUSIC SERIES, with Thomas Elefant, Orchestra Conductor

May Programs:

Tuesday, May 12 - AFTERNOON TEA with the Friends of the Senior Center

Friday, May 29 - SPRING FLING with 1950's ZING

Salute to Fallen Soldiers *Continued from page 1*

perished fighting for our great nation,” Mayor Richard Pucci said.

The first ceremony will be held at on May 25 at 8:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial at the Municipal Building. The second ceremony will be held at Veterans Park on Avenue K at 9 a.m.

“The memorial at Veterans Park was an Eagle Scout project for Sean Evans, a Monroe Township High School graduate, who has since enlisted in the Marines,” Mayor Pucci said. “This beautiful tribute is dedicated

to all local veterans, including those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedoms.”

Bus transportation will be available from the Municipal Building to Veterans Park, with return service.

Of note: the Jamesburg Memorial Day Parade is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. on May 25. The parade starts at Veteran Park in Jamesburg and travels down Gatzmer Avenue and up Railroad Avenue.

For more information visit www.monroetwp.com.

No Municipal Tax Increase Proposed for Monroe

By Mayor Richard Pucci

In accordance with my responsibilities under the Faulkner Act, I am submitting my budget recommendations for the municipal government in 2015. I would like to thank the Business Administrator and all department heads for their outstanding efforts in formulating the budget.

The national economy is slowly improving. However, the state economy is lagging. For the sixth year in a row, municipal state aid is at a continuing reduced level. Also, the property revaluation has stabilized the negative tax appeal impact. Local real estate sales are again strong.

Our tax collection rate was an excellent 98.81 percent in 2014. We are achieving our goal of reducing our reliance on utility surplus revenues by anticipating \$1 million less than what was used in 2014. For the sixth consecutive year, we were at or under the state-mandated 2 percent tax levy cap.

I am submitting a budget for municipal purposes that totals \$52,309,996.07 (up 1.73 percent); which translates to **no increase** in the municipal purposes tax

rate of \$.449 per \$100. assessed value. For a home with the average assessed value of \$309,993, the annual municipal purposes taxes will total \$1,391.60 (not including the Local Open Space Tax, Library Tax, Fire District, School or Middlesex County taxes).

Later this year, the Township Council will consider putting a question on the November ballot that would lower the local open space tax by \$.01, if approved by the voters. This action is related to the ratable adjustment as a result of the townwide property revaluation last year. If the voters approve the reduction from 2.5 cents to 1.5 cents, it is important to note that the actual dollars raised for open space will remain essentially the same.

For the 24th consecutive year, there will be no increase in water and sewer rates, which remain among the lowest in Central New Jersey.

The 2015 Municipal Purpose Tax, which is the only portion of property taxes that the Mayor & Township Council are responsible for, is estimated at 21 percent of your total property taxes. The Board of Education



Mayor Richard Pucci

makes up the largest portion of the property tax bill at 57 percent; the County at 16 percent; and the Fire Districts at 6 percent.

The spending plan includes two large capital improvement projects: to upgrade our radio communications system and to widen and construct a traffic signal at Perrineville and Federal roads.

I am proud that Monroe Township remains one of the premier residential communities in Middlesex County with a beautiful and green landscape. We have quality municipal services and schools. Monroe Township was recently ranked as the 14th safest town in New Jersey among the 565 municipalities.

Also, *New Jersey Monthly* magazine recognized Monroe Township as the best empty nester community in New Jersey. Furthermore, Monroe Township remains one of only two communities in Middlesex County with a population density of

Continued on page 11

TOWN HALL

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor:

Richard Puccirpucci@monroetwp.com

Council President:

Gerald Tamburrogtamburro@monroetwp.com

Council Vice President:

Leslie Koppellkoppel@monroetwp.com

Council Members:

Stephen Dalinasdalina@monroetwp.com

Michael Leibowitzmleibowitz@monroetwp.com

Elizabeth Schneidereschneider@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**(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

the Monroe news

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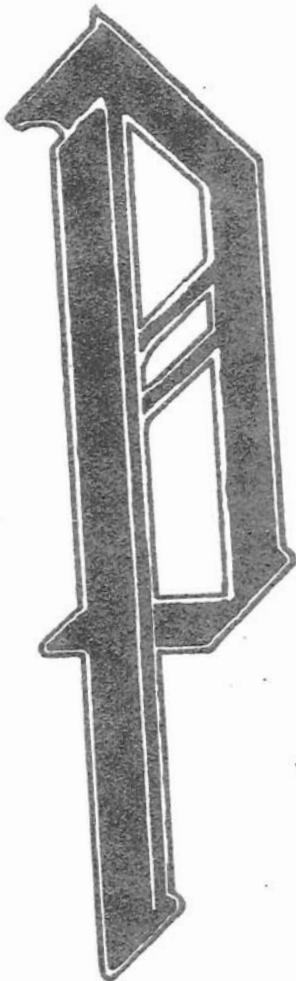
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Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE
April 19, 2015 – April 26, 2015

“Lost Lives, Lost Art and The Monument Men”

WHEREAS, 70 years ago, the Holocaust...the state sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators finally came to an end. In its wake, six million Jews including one and a half million children were murdered. Gypsies, Poles, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, political dissidents, the physically handicapped and Righteous Christians who tried to stop these murders, were also marked for elimination. In addition, the Nazi regime stole the possessions, the art, the very culture and heritage of the peoples of Europe; and

WHEREAS, we honor all the victims of the Holocaust, both those who perished and those who survived. And today, we specifically recognize the members of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives section (MFAA), better known as “The Monuments Men.” Their single-minded focus on locating and rescuing the stolen art that the Nazis has hidden in warehouses or buried in mines speak volumes about their dedication. **Their pursuit in restoring the culture and heritage of Europe during a time of war is a testament to their courage and their faith in a future based on acceptance and understanding;** and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust requires that we, the people of Monroe Township, reflect on the moral responsibilities of both individuals and society; and

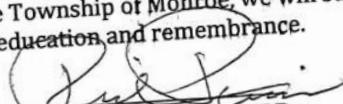
WHEREAS, we the people of Monroe Township must always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, we the people of Monroe Township will actively dedicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980) the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday April 19, 2015 through Sunday April 26, 2015;

NOW THEREFORE, I, RICHARD PUCCI, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim the week of **Sunday April 19, 2015 through Sunday April 26, 2015 as Days of Remembrance in memory of the victims and in honor of the survivors** who help us remember the history of the Holocaust so that this nightmare will never be repeated, and further proclaim that as citizens of the Township of Monroe, we will strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through education and remembrance.

Dated: March 16, 2015


RICHARD PUCCI, MAYOR

Monroe Cheerleaders Sweep Pop Warner Nationals

“Three teams, one dream,” was the mantra of the Monroe Township Wolverines Cheerleaders as they prepped for the National Tournament at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

It was a dream that was realized, when all three teams — the Junior Pee Wees, Pee Wees and Midgets — were crowned 2014 Pop Warner National Champions at the December competition.

“For the first time ever, we sent all three of our competition teams to nationals,” Recreation

Superintendent Mary Kelly Lange said. “It took a tremendous amount of work and preparation, and we couldn’t be more proud of all of our girls!”

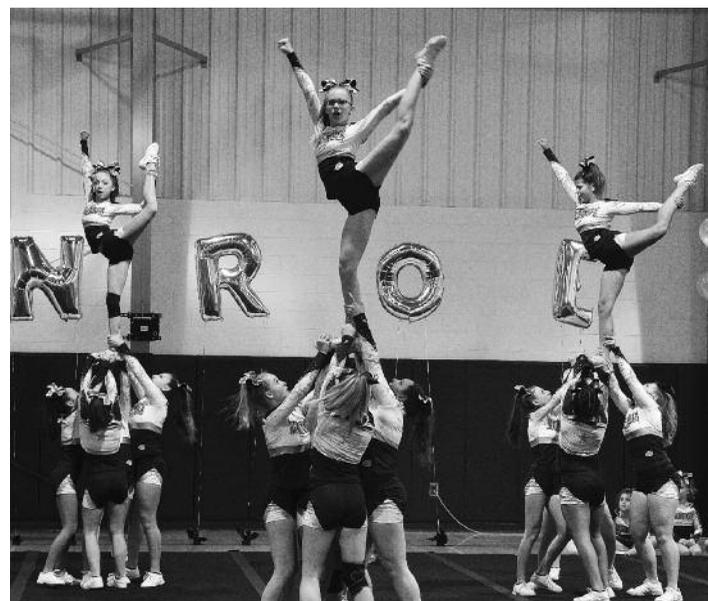
The Wolverines first competed at the state competition in Trenton and the regional competition in Albany, with all three teams moving on to the National Championship.

“Our season starts in August and the girls work really hard through the fall to get ready for the Pop Warner competitions,” Wolverines’ President

Kelly Lange said. “I want to congratulate and thank the girls, the coaches and their parents for all of their dedication to making this season so successful.”

At Nationals, all three teams faced tough competition from around the country, and all three succeeded in winning national titles.

“When I was first elected mayor, the Pop Warner program was in its beginnings, so we built it from the ground up,” Mayor Richard Pucci said. “We’ve come a long way since then, have brought home



The Monroe Township Wolverines Cheerleaders maintain their winning tradition by sweeping the 2014 Pop Warner National Championships in December.

many National Championships, and have turned Monroe into a cheerleading powerhouse. I would like to

congratulate the girls, coaches and the parents for their dedication and spirit, which led to such a successful season.”

Opening Day Set for Monroe Baseball

Baseball-themed amusements, raffles, a parade of 500 youth baseball players and much more are at the plate for the opening day ceremonies of the Monroe Township Baseball Association, as the Township celebrates James Monroe Park’s 30th anniversary.

“We welcome all of our baseball family, both past and present, to share in this event as we celebrate 30 years of youth recreation baseball for the children in our community at beautiful James Monroe Park,” said Monroe Township

Baseball Association (MTBA) President Michael Maiolo.

The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 157-acre park on Dey Grove Road. The facility has five baseball fields, a play area and a walking trail around its perimeter.

“James Monroe Park has come a long way in 30 years,” Mayor Richard Pucci said. “What started as just a couple of baseball diamonds is now one of the premier baseball facilities with some of the best manicured fields in

the state.”

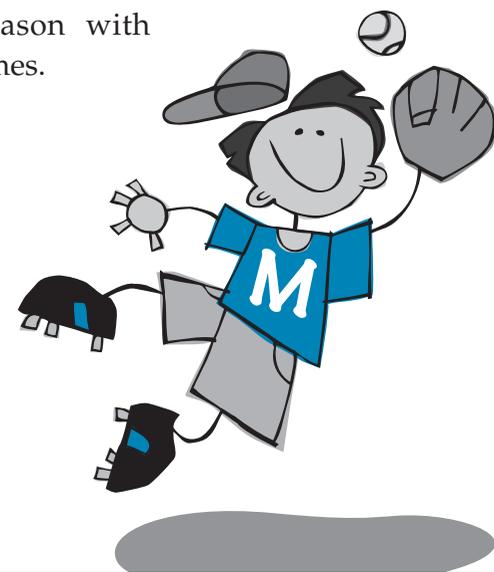
Opening Day will start with the annual parade. Players and coaches from the 45 teams in the MTBA Recreation League and the Buddy Ball Program will parade through the park. The parade will be followed by Opening Day ceremonies, including the ceremonial first pitch of the season.

“Then, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be baseball themed amusements as well as the iPlay mascot and special guests to entertain all in attendance,” said MTBA Secretary Kara Judge.

“We will have giveaways, vendors, food and, of course, baseball games, to watch on our five fields. There will also be 50/50 raffles and surprises for the kids.”

Following the ceremonies, the teams will open the season with their first games.

“Baseball season marks the start of spring, as the weather turns warmer and we can all spend more time outside with our families in our wonderful township parks,” Mayor Pucci said.



The Township Clerk is Your “One Stop Shop”

By Council President Gerald W. Tamburro

Over the years, municipal clerks have become the direct link between residents and their local government.

Professor William Bennett Munro, an eminent political scientist, writing in one of the first textbooks on municipal administration in 1934, stated:

“No other office in municipal service has so many contacts. It serves the Mayor, the City Council, the City Manager, and all administrative departments without exception. All of them call upon it, almost daily, for some service or information. Its work is

not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy, and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of the city administration this office pulls together.”

The Municipal Clerk is responsible for acting as secretary of the municipal corporation, being the custodian of the municipal seal, minutes, books, deeds, bonds, contracts and archival records of the municipal corporation.

The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the only municipal department that works directly for the Township

Council. The office acts as secretary to the governing body, preparing meeting agendas, attending and recording minutes of all meetings of Council, retaining original copies of all ordinances and resolutions, administering and recording oaths of office and acting as liaison to the public and respondent on behalf of the governing body.

In addition, the Municipal Clerk serves as Chief Administrative Officer / Chief Registrar of Voters in the municipality, certifying vacancies at the local level, maintaining receipt of

nominating petitions and certifying to the Middlesex County Clerk the local candidates nominated by petition, suggesting polling places and maintaining receipt of election results.

The Clerk’s Office is now preparing for upcoming elections. Tuesday, May 12 is the last day to register to vote in the Tuesday, June 2 primary election. The Clerk’s Office will remain open until 7:30 p.m. for late night voter registration to ensure all residents have an opportunity to register to vote.

The Party Affiliation Declaration Forms (fil-



**Council President
Gerald W. Tamburro**

ing deadline Wednesday, April 8 for Primary Election) and Applications for Mail-In Ballot (deadline Tuesday, May 26 for Primary Election) are available in the Municipal Clerk’s Office, Room 108 in the Municipal Building. Voter Registration forms can also be obtained on the Township website, www.monroetwp.com.

Even More from the Clerk’s Office

State law requires that all dogs and cats must be licensed. In order to obtain a dog or cat license the rabies vaccination must be in effect through October 31 of the current licensing year. Licenses must be renewed by January 31 every year and can

be purchased at the Municipal Clerk’s office. The cost is \$13 for a non-spayed/non-neutered dog or cat and \$10 for a spayed/neutered dog or cat. There is a \$10 late fee for each license renewed after March 31.

The Clerk’s Office

holds a free rabies clinic at the public works facility on Gravel Hill-Spotswood Road on the first Saturday in March of every year for residents to get their animals vaccinated for free. Unfortunately, because of the severe weather conditions experienced this year, the Department of Public Works was unable to host the Rabies Clinic. The Clerk’s office reached out to the Board of Education and they were gracious enough to offer the use of the Brookside Elementary School gym on Bucklelew Avenue.

At the free rabies clinic, residents are able to have their dogs or cats inoculated against rabies and then may submit their paperwork, with a check in the appropriate amount, to have their dog or cat license mailed to them.

Additionally, the Township Clerk and staff are state certified registrars, making it convenient for residents to apply for marriage licenses, civil unions, domestic partnerships and remarriage/reaffirmation of civil unions. Certified copies of these events can be obtained

at the Clerk’s Office, as well as births and deaths that occurred in Monroe.

With all that said, it becomes apparent that the Municipal Clerk’s Office is very nearly a “one stop shop” and should be commended for all the work the staff does and for all the services they provide to the residents of Monroe Township.

Many of the forms and applications are available online at the Township’s website, www.monroetwp.com under the Forms, Permits and Applications link.

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Monroe Looks Forward to Opening of the Community Garden in June

Get your green thumbs ready! The Monroe Township Community Garden has plots available.

The inaugural season of the Monroe Township Community Garden is expected to open in June, with 176 plots that are 10-foot by 10-foot and only available to Township residents.

“The Community Garden is a great addition to our Township Parks system,” Council Vice President Leslie Koppel said. “Now residents with small yards, and others in gated communities who cannot have gardens, can rent a plot each year and grow some vegetables.”

There is a \$30 annual rental fee per plot at the 12-acre Community Garden Park, on the west side of Applegarth Road between Old Church and Bentley roads.

“This is a gorgeous park,” Koppel said. “It sits right along the Millstone River and will be one of the great com-

munity meeting places in Monroe.”

The plots will be administered by the Friends of the Monroe Township Community Gardens, a non-profit organization that will collect the rental fees and have a system in place for renting the plots to residents.

“We have some dedicated volunteers that have worked over the past few years to get the word out about the Community Garden, and now they are excited to get the garden started,” Koppel said.

The Community Garden plans also call for a large garden that will be tended by members of the Friends of the Monroe Township Community Garden. Food grown from this garden will be distributed to the Township Food Pantry and also used for a future Farmers Market to help raise money for the community gardens.

“We also wanted to

get the kids involved, so there will be a children’s garden at the park,” Township Director of Planning and Environmental Protection John Riggs said. “And there will be fruit trees and a cut flower garden on the site.”

The parking lot will be made of gravel, so the only impervious surface on the site will be two pavilions: one for arts and the other for environmental purposes.

“Eventually we want to have outdoor art classes and have a place for artists to come for inspiration,” Koppel said.

At the environmental pavilion, the Township hopes to have Master Gardner presentations and rain barrel classes.

Site preparation for the park has started and is expected to be done by April. The park is tentatively scheduled to open in the early summer.

“I have my garden gloves and shovel ready and I can’t wait to start planting with my friends and neighbors,” Koppel said.

For more information about the Community Garden, please e-mail FriendsofMonroeGarden@gmail.com.

Surrogate Sets Up Shop in Senior Center

On Thursday mornings, a portion of the Senior Center becomes one of the 11 Middlesex County Surrogate’s satellite offices.

In 2014, 245 clients were served at the Monroe location, most of whom had their wills probated, the primary service of the satellite office.

“We authenticate the will,” explained County Surrogate Kevin Hoagland. “We make sure the executor is who they say they are, and once we determine everything is in order, we transfer the assets from the deceased person’s estate.”

The Monroe office, located in the Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road, was one of the first satellite offices the County opened.

“We started the service to save people from having to go to our office in New Brunswick,” Hoagland explained. “Monroe is one of our 11 satellite offices in Middlesex County that served 1,600 clients in 2014, and more than 25,500 since 1993.”

Since opening the satellite office in Monroe, Hoagland and his office staff have helped more than 4,500 clients.

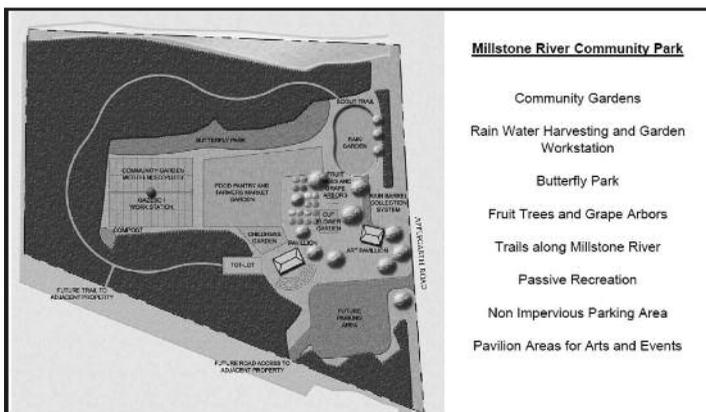
“People bring all the forms they would bring to New Brunswick, only a lot of times they are only going around the corner, and they are usually in and out in 15 minutes” Hoagland said. “Parking is always easier in the satellite offices and usually free, so that’s an incentive.”

Hoagland said that probate fees are generally between \$100 and \$150.

To set up an appointment with the surrogate in the Monroe Township Satellite Office, residents must call the county office at (732) 745-3055.

Hoagland noted his office runs a speaking program on wills and estates that is free to any group in the county. Those interested in such a program should also call (732) 745-3055.

“A local attorney and I will come and speak to different community groups, as well as organizations in the senior communities, about wills and power of attorney and other such things,” Hoagland said. “We’ve been to pretty much each of the retirement communities at least once, and we would be more than willing to meet with any community group that will have us.”



Blue and Gold Banquet



Tiger Cubs earn their stripes at the banquet.

Webelos make promises to their pack and community at the Blue and Gold.



Webelos pin the proud parent pin on their parents. Webelos earned the Arrow of Light at the ceremony.

Arts Commission Rocks into Spring

The Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission has three exciting events lined up for this spring.

Tom Paxton and Janis Ian started things off on the afternoon of Sunday, March 8. The two singer-songwriters teamed up to bring a fun night of 1960s, Greenwich Village-style folk music to the Richard P. Marasco Performing Arts Center.

"Tom Paxton and Janis Ian are two of the most well-regarded folk musicians of their generation," Arts Commission Chairwoman Marian

Naumik said. "After years of performing around one another, they are finally touring together and they put on an excellent show."

The Commission will go from Greenwich Village to the London Underground when the Glimmer Twins take the stage on Saturday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

"The Glimmer Twins are the premier tribute to the Rolling Stones," Ms. Naumik said. "We are sure that those who attend will get some 'Satisfaction' from this performance."

For the final spring

performance, the arts commission is proud to offer "Time Traveler – A Tribute to the Moody Blues.

"The Moody Blues were among the first bands to successfully combine classical and rock and roll music," Naumik said. "Time Traveler comes highly regarded and we can't wait to see the performance.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for patrons and free for students. Tickets are available online at www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com.

It's okay to go

TOPLESS

even in the middle of winter.

Schedule your SmartMamm.

Don't let busy get in the way of taking care of yourself. Going topless once a year could save your life if it's for your annual mammogram—or, even better, your annual SmartMamm at Princeton Radiology. SmartMamm is a more proactive, personalized approach to your breast health.

- * SmartMamm goes a step further in assessing your lifetime breast cancer risk using the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Risk Assessment
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- * Results available the same day as your appointment

So be smart. Go topless once a year at Princeton Radiology for your SmartMamm—a mammogram and more, at no extra cost.

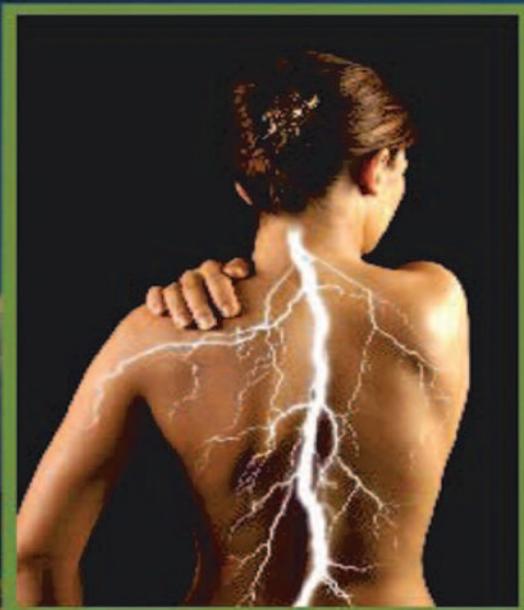
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Municipal Utilities Department Receives NJWA Malcolm Fraser Award

The Monroe Township Utilities Department (MTUD) has received the New Jersey Water Association's Malcolm P. Fraser award for its outstanding service to the water industry.

"Over the past few years, the MTUD has

generously and graciously made its prime Central New Jersey Meeting Facilities available to multiple statewide organizations and to committees and subcommittees that are subdivisions of the state government," New Jersey Water Association

(NJWA) Executive Director Richard Howlett said. "Additionally, representatives of the MTUD regularly provide leadership and professional insight that benefits the utility industry, our customers, and the health of New Jersey's environment."

The MTUD regularly holds training classes and seminars for its employees and water and waste-water staff from across the state, including NJWA professional education seminars. Municipal utility officials also participate in New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness' Water Sector Utility Working Group to enhance the security and resiliency of the state's water conducted by the state Department of Environ-



MTUD Director Mike Barnes, and Township Business Administrator Wayne Hamilton receive award.

mental Protection.

"The importance of these events and the value of the MTUD's contributions both as host and as participant would be difficult to overstate," Howlett said.

For many years, Monroe has regularly held in-house training sessions for its staff and regularly invites neighboring community representatives to attend.

"When MTUD

Director Mike Barnes got here nearly two years ago, one of things he wanted to do was take the old MTMUA meeting room, tear it apart, and turn it into a training room, which he did," Township Business Administrator Wayne Hamilton said. "As a result, we have opened that room up to training our staff in-house as well as inviting other water and waste-water entities to send their staff there."

Veterans Park Ready for Expansion

Continued from page 1

Township undeveloped," Mayor Richard Pucci said. "We are an active community and the expansion of Veterans Park will add much needed space for practices and games."

The construction plan will also feature additional parking spaces

and the expansion of the hiking trail around the park.

Once completed, the Township will consider another phase to the project, which will include two baseball fields, a refreshment stand and restrooms.

"Veterans Park is already a busy park in a prime location in Outcalt," Mayor Pucci said. "The expansion will give people more options on how to spend the day outside in a beautiful Township park."

Friends of the Library Annual Booksale

April 25—April 30

11 a.m.—4 p.m. Saturday

1 p.m.—4 p.m. Sunday

10 a.m.—8 p.m. Monday—Thursday

A large selection of fiction, non-fiction, children's books, cookbooks, art books, hard covers and paperbacks, as well as DVDs and CDs will be available at unbeatable prices.

Millstone River Clean-up

Saturday April 11

9 a.m.—11 a.m.

Meet at the Monroe Township Community Garden

124 Applegarth Road

Parking at Applegarth Fire Department

Help us collect trash and recyclables along the stream basin.

Bring gloves and wear your boots.

Refreshments will be provided.



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Monroe Police Install “Project Medicine Drop” Box

Monroe Township has joined the New Jersey Attorney General’s “Project Medicine Drop” initiative, installing a Project Medicine Drop box in the police department’s lobby.

This dropbox makes it easier and more convenient for Monroe Township residents to take an active role in the fight against the nationwide epidemic of opiate and heroin abuse often fueled by the abuse of prescription painkillers.

“Project Medicine Drop is part of our commitment to continue improvement of the quality of life and public safety in Monroe Township,” said Police Chief Michael Lloyd. “Medicines that languish in home cabinets are susceptible to misuse and abuse. The Project Medicine Drop box will give our residents the opportunity to help pre-

vent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of expired, unused and unwanted prescription medication in a safe and healthy manner.”

The Project Medicine Drop box is located at police headquarters, 3 Municipal Plaza. Residents may visit any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year to dispose of their unused or expired medications.

Project Medicine Drop is an important component of the New Jersey Attorney General’s effort to stop the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, including highly addictive opiate painkillers.

Through this initiative, the State Division of Consumer Affairs installs secure “prescription drug drop boxes” at police departments, sheriff’s offices, and

State Police barracks across New Jersey, allowing citizens to safely dispose of their unused, excess, or expired prescription medications.

Members of the public are invited to visit the Project Medicine Drop sites and drop off any unused prescription medications anonymously and with no questions asked. Most Project Medicine Drop sites are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

This initiative also protects New Jersey’s environment by keeping these drugs out of landfills and out of the water supply. More information about Project Medicine Drop, including the full list of Project Medicine Drop locations, can be found at www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop.

No Municipal Tax Increase Proposed for Monroe *Continued from page 3*

less than 1,000 people per square mile. With continuing open space acquisitions, Monroe Township continues to work towards its goal of 50 percent undeveloped land in our community.

Our positive record

of achievement is primarily due to a continued effort of everyone working together for the betterment of the Township.

Special appreciation must be extended to our Township employees,

our volunteers who serve on the numerous boards and agencies and our emergency services personnel, who continue year after year performing such dedicated services for all of our residents.

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Parker at Monroe Celebrates Grand Opening

Residents and staff of Parker at Monroe, along with Parker leadership, state and local officials, celebrated the long-awaited grand opening on March 11.

Parker is a leader in the transformation of long-term care to person-directed living, where residents have choice, dignity, self-determination and purposeful lives. Parker at Monroe takes this philosophy a step further. It is a uniquely designed long-term living community that blends an environment similar to assisted living with the best practices of skilled nursing care.

“Parker at Monroe benefits from decades of insights, innovation, and forward thinking,” said Roberto Muñiz, president & CEO of Parker. “Our new Monroe community is guided by our long lasting Parker’s philosophy of person-directed care, which is designed to enhance our residents’ quality of life.”

Parker at Monroe, located at 395 Schoolhouse Road, will be home to 96 residents. The campus consists of three two-story buildings connected to a community center with a formal dining room, a café, a health and wellness center, enclosed gardens, roof-top terrace and a great room for activities and socializing.

Each building contains two Small Homes, one on each floor, where sixteen residents with similar needs will live together. Every Small Home includes a living room, sun-room, a kitchen and dining area. Each comfortable private and semi-private bedroom suite has a fully-accessible bathroom with a large shower.

The ceremony included a reading by Monroe Council President Gerald W. Tamburro of a proclamation.

Continued on page 16



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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.

April 2015

Monroe Township Department of Recreation
120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp., NJ 08831
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RESIDENTS, GUESTS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
MEET WEEKLY AT CLEARBROOK GOLF COURSE.
REGISTER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, TODAY.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 First day to apply for SUMMER CAMP EMPLOYMENT at the Recreation Dept.	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 SOFTBALL Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	9 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	10	11
12	13 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr., 11:00 AM RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MTG., Community Ctr., 7:00 PM	14 BASEBALL Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	15 MAYOR'S CUP BOWLING TOURN. Country Lanes 9:00 AM	16	17	18 MTSC ANNUAL SPRING TOURNAMENT SOFTBALL & BASEBALL OPENING DAY
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2015

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



Veterans Park
spray ground

OPENING DAY OF THE
SPRAY GROUND IS
FRIDAY, MAY 22ND

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13					1	2
3	4 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Center 11:00 AM	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 BASEBALL Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	13 SOFTBALL Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	14 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	15	16
17	18 MAYOR'S CUP WOMEN'S GOLF Concordia 8:00 AM	19	20	21	22 VETERANS PARK SPRAY GROUND Opens for the Season 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM	23
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

June 2015

Monroe Township Department of Recreation
120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp., NJ 08831
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Fishing Derby

At Thompson Park
Friday June 26th
9:00AM—12:00PM
Fishing, Food, and Prizes



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr., 11:00 AM RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MTG., Community Ctr., 7:00 PM	9 BASEBALL Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	10 SOFTBALL Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:00 PM	11 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center 7:30 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER	22 MAYOR'S CUP MEN'S GOLF Concordia 8:00 AM	23	24	25	26 FISHING DERBY Thompson Park 9:00AM	27
28	29 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER REC CAMP And M.T.S.E.P.A.	30	MAYOR'S CUP MEN'S TENNIS –TBA MAYOR'S CUP WOMEN'S TENNIS –TBA			

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Monroe Named A Sustainable Community

By Council Vice President Leslie Koppel

For years, Monroe has been on the forefront of “going green.”

For more than 20 years we have been at the forefront of Farmland and Open Space Preservation. Our Environmental Commission has been working tirelessly on stream clean-ups and its annual Green Fair to help protect the local ecosystem.

All of this hard work has paid off as Monroe

Township has achieved bronze certification and become one of the 177 New Jersey towns that are Sustainable Jersey Certified.

Sustainable Jersey is a voluntary, non-profit, non-partisan program sponsored by the College of New Jersey, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the state Board of Public

Utilities. The program, which requires no fees for certification, encourages towns to develop sustainability programs and initiatives to ensure a greener, cleaner future for NJ residents.

To become Sustainable Jersey certified, Monroe had to complete the rigorous program of sustainability actions. Municipalities must complete “actions” to earn points. Monroe earned points for its many community outreach programs, holding its Green Fair, performing an energy audit on its buildings, farmland preservation, the school district’s garden program, floodplain management, potable water conservation, the Manalapan Lake restoration and trout stocking program, bicycle and pedestrian planning study, and many more.

In addition, Monroe created a Green Team and did two priority actions by completing a Natural Resource Inventory and Prescription Drug Safety Disposal combining for 20 of

225 total points the Township earned for certification.

The Township’s Shade Tree Commission played an important role in the certification process, as its annual tree planting and maintenance program for trees along municipal roadways, the Township’s Community Forestry Plan, Tree Cover Goal and Tree Protection Ordinance were all instrumental actions in the Township’s certification process.

The Township is working with a group of citizen volunteers to open a Community Garden on Applegarth Road. This project will also benefit our Sustainable Jersey efforts.

By gaining certification, the Township now has access to grants to help implement new programs that will help us achieve silver certification.

Across New Jersey, hundreds of towns are now working on sustainability programs to help the environment and their bottom lines. Efforts to curb carbon



**Council Vice President
Leslie Koppel**

emissions, protect natural resources and reduce waste are happening at the local level. Through the program, communities are implementing solar power and wind turbine projects, rain capture and reuse efforts, new walking and biking programs, building and operating community food gardens, launching community outreach programs on recycling and energy, and dozens of other initiatives.

To get involved with Monroe’s Green Team and sustainability initiatives, contact John Riggs at jriggs@monroetwp.com. To participate in Sustainable Jersey free workshops and events held across the state, visit www.SustainableJersey.com.



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Clearbrook Clubs Raise \$1,000 for Charity

The Active Adults Club of Clearbrook, joined by the Boomers Club, raised more than \$1,000 and collected more than three carloads of food for the Monroe Township Food Pantry at its Third-Annual Walk-A-Thon.

The Food Pantry, run jointly by the Rossmoor Kiwanis and the Monroe Township Office of Senior Services, supplies food to residents, regardless of age, who qualify for assistance.

"The Food Pantry is an important local charity to us in Clearbrook," Clearbrook Community Association (CCA) Director Lou Caron said. "For 18 years Sid Hollander has stood up at the CCA meetings talking about the importance of the food pantry. The people of Clearbrook have listened and we are happy to make regular donations, and this substantial donation."

The money was raised by residents paying to participate in the walk-a-thon and by other residents making donations to the cause.

"We had tremendous preparation and support for the walk-a-thon," Caron said. "We had children, grandchildren and pets join in on the fun, which was for a great cause."

The pantry helps those in need by supplying a portion of their grocery needs in an effort to lessen the burden of regular food expenses. Director of the Office of Senior Services Bonnie Leibowitz meets with those seeking help from the pantry so she can determine their needs.

"Throughout the years, Clearbrook has been a generous donor to the food pantry," Leibowitz said. "I would like to thank the Boomers Club and the active adult clubs for their help and support, and a special thanks to Sid Hollander for his help over the past 18 years spearheading drives and fundraisers to get food to those in need."

For more information about the pantry or to make a donation, call the Office of Senior Services at (609) 448-7140.



The Active Adults Club of Clearbrook and the Boomers Club support the Monroe Food Township Food Pantry.



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~ John W., Resident

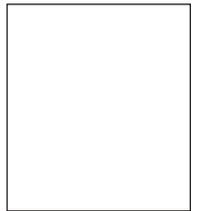


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Parker Grand Opening *Continued from page 11*

"Let me thank each of you for taking the time to celebrate the arrival of an exemplar of long-term care. This is the type of residence that colleagues will be discussing, researching and writing about in the years ahead," said William Tibbitt, board member and chairman of the Parker at Monroe Task Force.

For more information, visit our website at www.FrancisEParker.com, or call 732.992.5205.



Seated in the front row, from left to right: Sister Ann Casserly, Donna Lazartic, Katie Smith Sloan. Standing in back row, left to right: Clifford Holland, Gerald Tamburro, Roberto Muñiz, William Conroy, and William Tibbitt.

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