

the **Monroe** news



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

Fiscal Responsibility Leads to No Increase in Municipal Tax Rate

By Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

Thanks to careful fiscal management, I am pleased to report that the Township is moving forward with a zero increase in the municipal portion of your 2017 tax bill. Our Township Council introduced a \$56.15 million municipal budget with a flat tax rate April 3.



Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro

Our positive record of achievement is primarily due to a concerted and ongoing effort by residents, employees, volunteers and members of our boards and commissions, who work together for the betterment of the community.

Monroe continues to offer unrivaled services, superior schools and one of the safest communities in the state, all while securing one of the lowest tax rates in the County.

The budget maintains the previous year's tax rate of 45.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value. For a homeowner with a residence assessed at the Township average of \$312,219, that translates to an annual municipal tax bill of \$1,428.

In addition to ensuring a stable tax rate, we have facilitated no increase for residential water and sewer services for the 26th consecutive year. We've also reduced our reliance on the Township utility surplus revenue by approximately \$1 million in 2017.

After factoring in the fire districts, the library, the school district and Middlesex County, the municipal tax rate in Monroe accounts for 20 percent of your total property tax bill.

One of the largest capital expenses in our 2017 budget includes a \$2.5 million purchase of land in the southern portion of Monroe, which will be turned over to the school district in the coming months. The parcel is being considered as a future home of an additional freestanding Township middle school.

Other major capital improvements in the budget include pedestrian and road enhancements along Monmouth Road, park and ride improvements, design of a public safety complex, equipment for police, EMS and Public Works, as well as series of new paving projects.

We here in Monroe understand the importance of capital improvements. In recent years, we've budgeted for traffic signals at Perrineville and Federal roads and at Matchatponix and Spotswood Gravel Hill roads and lighting upgrades at our library's parking lot. These are important facets when considering our residents' safety and quality of life.

Despite our careful planning, Monroe has faced declining municipal and school state aid for eight years now, not to mention a statewide homestead rebate program that passed along dramatic cuts and shrinking reimbursement checks to a broad base of our residents. The state's annual reduction over the

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School Board President Kathy Kolupanowich rallies the crowd on the Statehouse steps on May 2. A coalition of BOE, Township officials and residents attended the Assembly & Senate budget hearings to demand fair school-aid funding for Monroe. See page 4 for more information.

TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Township Main Number(732) 521-4400

Animal Control(732) 521-0222

Construction Office(732) 656-4585

Court Administrator(732) 521-4020

Township Engineer(732) 605-9440

EMS and First Aid (non-emergency) .(732) 521-1880

Health Department(732) 521-4400 ext. 192

Environmental Protection .(732) 521-4400 ext. 118

Monroe Township Library(732) 521-5000

Utilities Department(609) 655-1050

Office of Senior Services(609) 448-7140

Parks Department(732) 723-5000

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

Public Works(732) 656-4575

Recreation(732) 723-5000

Recycling(732) 656-4575

Tax Collector(732) 521-4405

Township Clerk(732) 656-4573

Traffic Safety(732) 521-0222 ext. 126

Transportation(609) 443-0511

Library Makerfest Celebrates Creative Community

In today's ever-expanding frontier of hobbies and interests, inventors, crafters, artists and the like have taken on a more universal label: makers.

The Monroe Township Public Library celebrated this creative community during its third annual "Makerfest" March 25.

Library staff invited the public to the Saturday event, which catered to a myriad of pursuits from woodshop to 3D printing to sewing and even an outdoor catapulting demonstration.

"Our engineering challenge table is always popular and a way for us to promote science, technology, engineering and math, also known as STEM education," said Steve Hrubes, a Monroe librarian and Makerfest organizer. "In the past, we've challenged visitors to build the tallest tower possible out of drinking straws... (We) also have a retro-technology table where we show off items like rotary phones, typewriters and record players."



The Monroe Township Library Makerfest drew hundreds of residents and visitors to the 4 Municipal Plaza site March 25 by extending free demonstrations, activities and other nuances to the general public.

In all, 20 exhibitors peppered the library's sprawling layout during the five-hour fest.

Vendors like The Grape Escape, Varsity Summer Academy, Home Depot, Wine & Design and Color Me Mine were on hand selling goods and collectibles.

Local groups, including students from South Brunswick and Monroe Township high schools, debuted some of the latest innovations in the robotics fields. They were joined by the Stonebridge Photography Club and many talented rug-hookers and woodworkers from the Rossmoor adult

community.

"This is such a cherished event in our town," said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "There truly is a little something for everyone here."

Monroe Township Library is part of a statewide initiative recognizing makers' contributions to industry, society and quality of life.

"This just goes to show you that libraries are more than just books these days," said Monroe Township Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider. "Our library has become as much of a social hub as it is a place for learning."

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Monroe Continues Cost-Saving Energy Aggregation Program

Program Saved Residents \$9M Since 2013

A third round of Monroe's energy aggregation program – which has already saved Monroe residents \$9 million – is ready to begin.

Since 2013, the program has reduced participating residents' energy bills by locking in lower electric rates through the power of bulk purchasing.

At the May 1 Township Council meeting, the Township took the first step by reautho-

rizing the program, as required by State law.

"Monroe was one of the first municipalities in the state to establish an energy aggregation program," said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "In its first four years of operation, Monroe residents have saved approximately \$9 million."

Currently, the Township has a contract with TriEagle Energy, a company that provides electricity at a fixed price of

\$.08992 kilowatt hours. That rate represents a 12 percent savings when compared to the tariff price of the local competitor, JCP&L. Their contract expires December 1, 2017.

"During my time on the Council, residents have each saved hundreds of dollars through this program," said Councilman Michael Leibowitz. "In a world where costs seem to exponentially rise, it's a rare case when you can

tell a constituent that their expenses are decreasing."

In fact, Monroe's average residential customer saved approximately \$600 since the program's inception.

"Nearly half of Monroe's population is seniors, many of whom are living on fixed incomes," said Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider. "The savings are even greater for individuals living in all-electric houses, a

setup that's incredibly common in some of our active adult communities – Clearbrook, Concordia and Rossmoor."

The Township will seek bids from qualified firms this summer and share more information with residents in early fall.

For more information on this cost-savings program, please contact Harold Klein at 732-521-4400 or by emailing hklein@monroetwp.com.

Fiscal Responsibility

Continued from page 1

past seven years has cut the average homestead rebate from approximately \$1,200 to \$500 per qualified household.

The homestead benefit program, which our legislators introduced almost four decades ago, was intended to provide a measure of tax relief for the State's homeowners. Unfortunately, many of us depended on this program to offset our yearly property taxes and it's become a safety net we can no longer depend on.

In response, municipal officials are seeking grant programs to further reduce the burden on our taxpayers.

But again, I am pleased to report that we will not be increasing the municipal portion of your tax bill. I am very proud of and would like to thank our officials and municipal staff, who worked tirelessly on crafting a budget that serves the best interest of our great community.



Members of the Township Senior Center, Friends of the Senior Center and the Department of Transportation joined Mayor Tamburro and the Township Council March 27 to highlight an incredibly generous donation. The Friends purchased this 14-passenger 2017 Ford mini-bus for the Department of Transportation, primarily to be used to transport residents with medical issues. The Township's free curb-to-curb medical appointments are available on a first-call, first-scheduled basis. For further information, contact a Monroe Department of Transportation representative at 609-443-0511.

Monroe Fights for Fair State School Funding

By Kathy Kolupanowich, President, Monroe Township Board of Education

It has been my honor to serve the community as a member of the Board for the past 18 years. During that time, our school district has gone from being a “good enough” district to an excellent school district. At the same time, we have grown approximately 250 students per year.

Why are we adding so many students to our district? It’s because of the reputation Monroe

has for giving ALL students the educational opportunities needed to succeed. While we excel in many areas, it is our special education programs that attracts many families. Eighteen percent of our student population is classified, which affects 30 percent of our operating budget. We have won awards for district technology and this past December, our Monroe Township High School Marching Band

represented the State of New Jersey at the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. What an honor for our students and school district.

At 43 square miles, we bus approximately 95 percent of our students because the majority of our schools are located on main roads with no sidewalk access. We need to maintain the safety and security for all our children.

Sixty percent of our residents live in planned retirement communities. Our senior citizens have worked hard their whole lives to be able to enjoy the fruits of their retirement years.

We need help, and we need it now. As our Mayor recently stated, \$39 million goes to Trenton from Monroe and we receive back only \$3M from the State. That means that \$36 million, coming out of the pockets of Monroe residents, goes to other districts. Again, how is that



The Ad Hoc Committee led a petition drive to gather some 8,000 signatures from residents in support of fair school-aid funding for Monroe. (Mayor Tamburro, School Board President Kolupanowich and Council Vice President Schneider pictured here)



Mayor Tamburro and Council President Dalina joined School Board President Kathy Kolupanowich and member Patty Lang, as well as residents at a fair funding signature drive at the Recreation Center April 17.

fair? The “hold harmless” provision of the School Funding Reform Act of 2008 is hurting school districts like ours with growing student

populations while benefiting those who have shrinking enrollments. It is now time for less talk and more action.



It was a First! Monroe Township Library staff members, Lynette Fucci and Rebecca Osowski, brought their show on the road April 7, for the first-ever “First Friday.” The program brings story time and an activity to residents and families at the First Aid Building, 47 Monmouth Road, the first Friday of the month.

The Monroe News is now accepting ads for the Next Issue...

Call (973) 315-0300

Fair Funding Highlights for the School District

By Dr. Michael Kozak, Superintendent, Monroe Township School District

The Monroe Township Board of Education, under the direction of board President Kathy Kolupanowich, formed an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of securing fair funding for the Monroe Township School District (MTSD). This committee, chaired by board member Ken Chiarella, is comprised of members of our adult communities, Township Council, Board of Education, Parent-Teacher Organizations, Monroe Township Education Association, parents and community members and school district administrators. The Ad Hoc Committee is exploring various strategies to secure the funding due to the taxpayers of Monroe Township. Actions taken so far include:

1. Supporting the Board of Education resolution passed at its March 29, 2017 meeting:

a. In its continuing fight for fundamental fairness in State Aid School Funding, I hereby move that the Monroe Township Board of Education support and endorse the legislative initiatives of Sen. Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo and Assemblyman Daniel Benson, as set forth in their letter to the Governor, Speaker and Senate President dated

March 22, 2017 (“Letter”), to:

i. Eliminate growth limitations and hold harmless provisions in the school funding formula in the current budget cycle to provide additional state aid to the Monroe Township School District;

ii. Reform the school-funding formula in the current budget cycle to provide additional state aid to the Monroe Township School District; and

iii. Design and legislate a new funding formula, which will create more equitable state aid school funding for the Monroe Township School District.

2. Attending the Assembly Education Committee hearing with Acting Commissioner Kimberly Harrington on April 24 and May 2, 2017 at the Statehouse in Trenton.

3. Securing thousands of signatures from

Monroe Township community members on a petition to demand Fair Funding for Monroe Township. This petition is being delivered to Governor Christie and NJ Legislators to demonstrate that Monroe Township residents demand action NOW!

4. Collaborating with school districts from South, Central and North Jersey to coordinate our efforts and share ideas on how to secure funding for underfunded school districts throughout New Jersey.

5. Exploring the possibility of filing a lawsuit against the State of New Jersey to guarantee that the Monroe Township School District is awarded its proper amount of state funding.

The fight for Fair Funding will continue until the taxpayers of Monroe Township receive their fair share of funding from the State of New Jersey.



Busloads of Monroe supporters calling for fair school-aid funding took to Trenton’s Statehouse during April 24 and May 2 Assembly and Senate Budget Committee hearings.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Monroe Township is the 25th LEAST FUNDED district in the State
- Monroe Students are not receiving their share of fair funding
- Fully Funding the Formula as intended will reduce the tax burden to Monroe residents

ADVERTORIAL

Parker Celebrates 110 Years



(From left) Monroe Township Mayor Gerald Tamburro and Council Vice President Elizabeth “Betty” Schneider join Roberto Muñiz, President and CEO of Parker, at the VIP cocktail party at Parker Cottage in Highland Park. The cocktail party was part of Parker’s 110th Anniversary celebration where Mr. Muñiz unveiled the non-profit’s new brand and intention to “make aging part of life.”

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District Approves School Budget

Lowest Increase in More Than a Decade

The Monroe Township Board of Education approved the school district budget for the 2017-18 school year at its April 26 meeting.

This budget includes provisions for the addition of 500 new students, addressing aging facilities, securing curricular resources to ensure students continue to receive a high-quality education and adding new staff members to keep student-teacher ratios at acceptable levels.

“The bottom line, the cost to the average homeowner will only be \$37.43 for the year,” said school board President Kathy Kolupanowich.

The 2017-18 school budget provides for the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, programs/resources for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Advanced Placement, AVID, Special Education and athletic and co-curricular programs.

In addition, four new passenger buses, as required by law, partial roof replacement and asphalt replacement at Oak Tree and Barclay Brook Schools are included in this budget.

“All of these provisions were secured while keeping the tax impact

on residents to one of the lowest rates in nine years,” said School Superintendent Dr. Michael Kozak. “Through smart negotiations with our health care provider by Michael Gorski, business administrator, excellent oversight of curricular programs by Dr. Dori Alvich, assistant superintendent of schools, excellent management of facilities by Gerald Tague, director of facilities, and the cooperation of all administrators, teachers and staff, the tax impact is being kept to a minimum.”

Parent-Teacher organizations and associations provided valuable financial resources through their fundraising efforts.

This budget also continues the many shared service agreements between Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro and the Township Council, as well as other agencies and school districts.

The addition of new homes in Monroe Township also adds new revenue through the collection of property taxes.

“The support and oversight of the Monroe Township Board of Education makes all of this possible,” Kozak said.

Senior Breaks Goal Record in Girls Lacrosse

By Kendall Lomauro, MTHS Junior

Four-year varsity player Kara Turco broke the record for most goals in the Monroe Girls Lacrosse Program on April 4, 2017.

With 163 goals, Turco surpassed the 161 record set by Jen Garavente in 2010.

During her freshman season, Turco recorded 37 goals and 32 assists for a total of 69 points in her first year of high school lacrosse. In her second season, she added 54 goals and 46

assists to her statistics.

Turco also has two other records under her belt. This season, she scored her 300th point – a combination of goals and assists – with the help of her 65 goals and 62 assists at the end of the third season.

As of May 8, Turco had 400 total points recorded.

She holds a third record for highest total career assists.

In that same time-frame, Turco totaled 166

assists and with half the season remaining and that number was expected to grow.

This season, Turco has done big things for the team.

In a 19-5 victory over Edison High School, Turco scored nine goals, which ties with her career-high in a prior win over South Plainfield.

Along with those nine goals, she had five assists, calling it a day with 14 points.

In the 10 games already played in the 2017 season, Turco has never left empty-handed. She's recorded at least one goal in each of those game.

The starting athlete's teammates described her performance on the field in three words: hardworking, motivating and reliable.

Off the field, those words consisted of: caring, energetic and bubbly.

As of press time, Turco and teammates



Kara Turco

Photo is courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

were fresh off a GMC Conference Championship win and prepping for State finals.

A Successful Bowling Season

By Max Simon, MTHS Freshman

Girls' Team

With a record of 14-0, the girls' bowling team stood in second place this season, just before Brick, which had played four more games. The talented girls on the team were also able to win the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMCs).

The tournament was held at the Woodbridge Bowling Center on Feb. 7. The team had to beat South Plainfield in the semifinals and then Edison in the finals. This tournament was held in the Red Division, where the most skilled teams in Middlesex play against each other.

The top scorers of

the match were junior Victoria Stasicky with 607 pins, senior Sara Wysokowski with 585 pins and sophomore Bridget Bolan with 571 pins.

The girls' team credits much of its success to a highly-developed skillset.

To top off the season, players forged close-knit bonds over the course of several months as they celebrated victories and rose to many challenges in harmonious fashion.

"I'm just extremely proud of our team this year," said senior Ashley Borsuk. "My favorite part of every game was when we would cheer on our teammates; and

no matter what happened in that frame, we would stay positive. The Monroe girls bowling team has never been undefeated, or division champions, and I feel like our entire team became such close friends."

Boys' Team

The Monroe Township High School boys' bowling team ended their season in seventh place out of 20 schools.

Boys from all grades traveled all around central New Jersey to represent Monroe with the final record of 9-5.

High school teams were separated into four groups at the Central



Photo is courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

Jersey Sectional Tournament. Monroe won their group by knocking down a total of 3,039 pins, earning the team a spot in the Tournament of Champions.

Two students from the team, sophomores Louie Folgore and Ryley McKiernan, performed exceptionally well and were invited to the indi-

vidual Tournament of Champions. This exclusive competition is only for the top 15 bowlers at the Central Jersey Sectional.

Folgore and McKiernan had both totaled 668 pins by the end of the tournament. These two students played against 67 other

Continued on page 8

In Its Third Year, Monroe Community Garden Flourishes

It's on every gardener's wish list: a sun-soaked plot of ground to sow their seed and one day reap the fruits of their labor.

The Monroe Township Community Garden, now in its third season, is again granting green thumb wishes.

Between March and November, the preserved 12-acre Apple-garth Road park gives residents the option to rent a 10-by-10 foot or 10-by-20 foot garden for a nominal fee and on an annual basis.

"I was one of the happy gardeners in 2015," said Middlesex

County Freeholder Leslie Koppel, former Monroe councilwoman and a current resident. "It was a lot of fun and a lot of work as I would head to the garden before work early in the morning to water and weed my plot, making sure my veggies were doing well. Last year marked the first time I was able to successfully grow an eggplant, which was delicious, I might add."

Koppel is one of more than 100 gardeners who cultivate a corner, according to Joel Greenberg, vice-president of the Friends of the Monroe Township Community Garden, the

organization charged with the operation.

Plot usage has sprung up from 96 in the first year to 176 last year. It is expected to once again peak in 2017, Greenberg said.

Flowers, vine plants, tomatoes and basil are just a fraction of the vegetation produced on the property, some of which is distributed to local emergency-food providers, Koppel added.

Presently, the Friends, the nonprofit charitable arm of the organization, is exploring the installation of a greenhouse on the property, Greenberg said. The property



Margaret and Richard DelPriore tend their bountiful, green space in the Monroe Community Garden.

Photo provided by Joel Greenberg.

already boasts a small rest area, handicap accessibility and a paved parking lot to make it easier for gardeners and visitors.

Other long-range plans involve a butterfly

garden, a children's park and an environmental pavilion.

More information regarding the Monroe Township Community Garden may be found at www.monroetwpccommunitygarden.com.

A Successful Bowling Season

Continued from page 7

bowlers across New Jersey on Feb. 15. To get this far in the championship, the boys worked hard all season to improve form, as well as control of the ball.

Since the beginning of the season, practices were held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Knob Hill Lanes in Manalapan. Before each game, bowlers were given 10 minutes to practice on the lane.

At the games, six bowlers from each school were split among numerous lanes and played three games. The top five scores for Monroe are compared to the opposing team's and a point is awarded to the team with the highest total score by the end. Points are also received by winning a game on a lane. There are four points available to earn in a single match.



TUSK

The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute at the Richard P. Marasco Center for Performing Arts on April 3.

Be on the lookout for the summer concert series in the park.



Visit www.monroetownshipculturalarts.com for upcoming events.

Monroe Marching Band Performs at Pearl Harbor

For most Monroe High School students, it was a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Sixty members of the band travelled to Honolulu, Hawaii in December to play and march in a parade honoring the men and women who died at Pearl Harbor.

Martin Griffin, the band director and coordinator of Arts and Careers Technology, described the whirlwind trip that began on Dec. 5 and ended on Dec. 9.

The trip came during the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Pearl Harbor, where just before 8 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombed the America naval base, killing more than 2,000 American soldiers and sailors. The attack led directly to the U.S. entry into World War II.

Monroe students were joined by groups from all over the U.S., who paid tribute to the fallen servicemen and women. Monroe represented the sole New Jersey band at the event.

About 60 of Monroe's students went on the voluntary trip. Over a year and a half, program participants helped raise \$1,925 for each student who attended. Funds raised covered the round-trip airfare, hotel, meals, transportation and admission costs. About 30 parents accompanied the troop as well.

Aside from marching in the parade, students performed with the Marine Corps Pacific Band and received an up-close look at both the USS Arizona and USS Missouri.



Photo is courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

"The biggest benefit was the students heard from surviving veterans," said Griffin.

The annual and official Pearl Harbor commemoration featured more than 3,000 parade participants, including marching bands, junior and active duty military units, along with cultural

and civic organizations.

This year's theme was one of reconciliation, which aimed to "remember the events of the past while celebrating the future" and that "once bitter enemies can become friends and allies."

After riding in the parade with his fellow

veterans, one Pearl Harbor survivor commented, "It was remarkable to witness both American and Japanese people waiving and applauding for us...I will never forget this night," according to a release from the Memorial Parade administration.

We Must Never Forget...

The Henry Ricklis Holocaust Memorial Committee hosted its annual Yom HaShoah Observances May 7 at 1 p.m. at the Richard P. Marasco Performing Arts Center. The event was a moving experience with this year's programming topic, "Where the Jews Found Refuge." At a May 1 meeting, the Monroe Township Council, including Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider, honored members of the organizing Committee and survivors (pictured here), who shared their accounts of the Holocaust with the public.



Holocaust survivors played an integral part in the May 7 observance, with programming that included songs, prayer, poetry, ceremony and keynote speaker and author AJ Sidransky.



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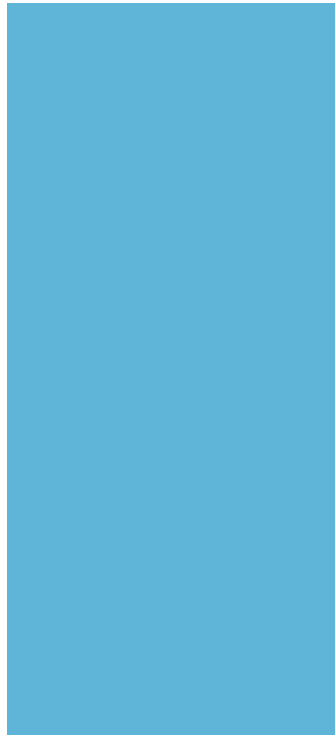
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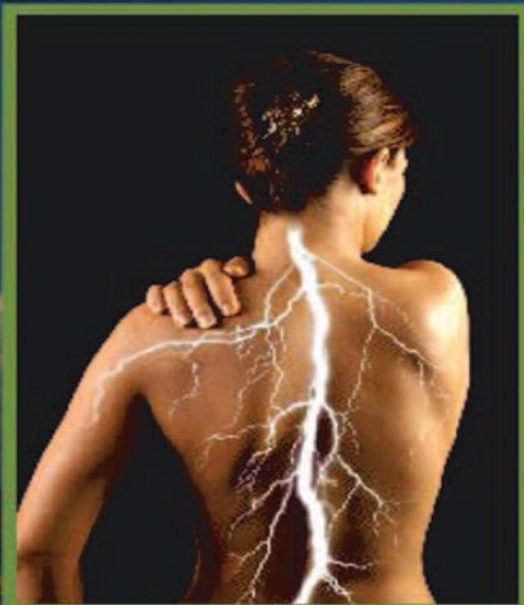
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Recreation Calendar of Events

The Recreation Events Calendar will no longer be mailed out separately at the beginning of each year and will now be included in The Monroe News. It will also be available online at www.monroetwp.com.

June 2017

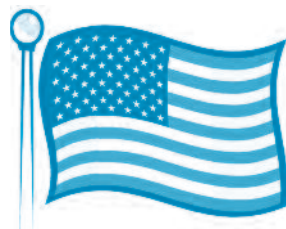
Monroe Township Department of Recreation
120 Monmouth Road • Monroe Twp., NJ 08831
732-723-5000 • monroerec.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Summer Rec Camp and MTSEPA Camp June 26-July 27				1	2	3 MAYOR'S CUP WOMEN'S TENNIS, Concordia, 8 AM WRESTLING TOURN. Community Center
4	5 MONROE WOLVERINES Monthly Meeting Community Center, 7 PM	6	7 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	8	9	10
11	12 RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Community Ctr, 7 PM SENIOR LUNCH & LEARN Community Ctr, 11 AM	13 MTBA General Membership Meeting Community Center, 7 PM	14	15	16	17 MAYOR'S CUP MEN'S TENNIS, Concordia, 8 AM
18	19 MTGSA Board Meeting Community Center, 7 PM	20	21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	22 JR. FALCON FOOTBALL CAMP	23 JR. FALCON FOOTBALL CAMP	24
25	26 MAYOR'S CUP WOMEN'S GOLF, Concordia, 8 AM FIRST DAY OF SUMMER REC CAMP & MTSEPA CAMP Future Falcon Soccer Camp Lady Falcon Softball Camp	27 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON SOFTBALL CAMP	28 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON SOFTBALL CAMP	29 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON SOFTBALL CAMP	30	

July 2017

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



**CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY
AT THOMPSON PARK
JULY 4, 2017
FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 5:00PM
FIREWORKS AT DUSK**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
TENNIS LESSONS 8 Classes: Days & Times Vary Time: Mornings Who: Students Grade 4-12, Adults 55+ Where: MTHS Tennis Courts Fee: \$25, \$30 or \$15 based on Class						1
2	3	4 JULY 4TH CELEBRATION Thompson Park, 5 PM with fireworks at dusk	5 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Center, 7 PM	6	7	8
9	10 MAYOR'S CUP MEN'S GOLF, Concordia, 8 AM Lady Falcon Volleyball Camp Boys Lacrosse Camp	11 Lady Falcon Volleyball Camp Boys Lacrosse Camp	12 MAYOR'S CUP BASKETBALL, Comm. Ctr, 6 PM Lady Falcon Volleyball Camp Boys Lacrosse Camp	13 Lady Falcon Volleyball Camp Boys Lacrosse Camp	14	15
16	17 Beginner Golf Camp Farm Camp Girls Lacrosse Camp	18 MAYOR'S CUP TABLE TENNIS, Comm. Ctr, 6 PM Beginner Golf Camp Farm Camp Boys Lacrosse Camp	19 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Comm. Center, 7 PM Beginner Golf Camp Farm Camp Boys Lacrosse Camp	20 Beginner Golf Camp Farm Camp Girls Lacrosse Camp	21 Beginner Golf Camp Farm Camp	22
23	24 Lil' Squirts Sports Camp Lady Falcon Field Hockey Camp	25 Lil' Squirts Sports Camp Lady Falcon Field Hockey Camp	26 Lil' Squirts Sports Camp Lady Falcon Field Hockey Camp	27 Last Day of Summer Rec Camp & MTSEPA Camp Lil' Squirts Sports Camp Lady Falcon Field Hockey Camp	28 Lil' Squirts Sports Camp	29
30	31 Falcon & Jr. Falcon BBall Camp, Intro Karate, Mini Ninja & Jr. Golf Camp					

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

August 2017

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



Annual Fishing Derby
at Thompson Park
9:00AM, August 15th
FREE FUN FAMILY EVENT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Check Out Our Camp Calendar!		1 NAT'L NIGHT OUT Thompson Park, 6 PM FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, INTRO KARATE, MINI NINJAS, JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS	2 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB Community Ctr, 7 PM FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, INTRO KARATE, MINI NINJAS, JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS	3 YOUTH GOLF CLINIC Applegarth Range, 9 AM FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, INTRO KARATE, MINI NINJAS, JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS	4 FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, INTRO KARATE, MINI NINJAS, JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS	5
6	7 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP	8 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP	9 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP	10 FUTURE FALCON SOCCER CAMP LADY FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP	11 LADY FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP	12
13	14 FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, HIP-HOP GYM, TWIRLING, JR. ENG FOR KIDS, APPRENTICE ENG, CHILDREN'S THEATRE, CREATIVE WRTG, FUTURE FALCON BASEBALL	15 ANNUAL FISHING DERBY, Thompson Park, 9 AM FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, HIP-HOP GYM, TWIRLING, JR. ENG FOR KIDS, APPRENTICE ENG, CHILD'S THEATRE, CREATIVE WRTG, FUTURE FALCON BASEBALL	16 PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, Community Ctr, 7 PM FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, HIP-HOP GYM, TWIRLING, JR. ENG FOR KIDS, APPRENTICE ENG, CHILD'S THEATRE, CREATIVE WRTG, FUTURE FALCON BASEBALL	17 FALCON BBALL, JR. FALCON BBALL, JR. ENG FOR KIDS, APPRENTICE ENG, CHILDREN'S THEATRE, CREATIVE WRTG, FUTURE FALCON BASEBALL CAMPS	18 FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP JR. FALCON BASKETBALL CAMP JR. ENGINEERING FOR KIDS CAMP APPRENTICE ENGINEERING CAMP	19
20	21 BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CAMP HEALTHY LIFESTYLES CAMP SUMMER ART CAMP	22 BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CAMP HEALTHY LIFESTYLES CAMP SUMMER ART CAMP	23 BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CAMP HEALTHY LIFESTYLES CAMP SUMMER ART CAMP	24 BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CAMP HEALTHY LIFESTYLES CAMP	25 BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CAMP HEALTHY LIFESTYLES CAMP SUMMER ART CAMP	26
27	28 FILM CAMP	29 FILM CAMP	30 MAYOR'S CUP DUP. BRIDGE, Senior Ctr, 11 AM FILM CAMP	31 FILM CAMP	PRE-K MAD SCIENCE CAMP DATES: August 7-11TH, Mon-Fri AGES: Pre-K Boys & Girls 3-5 yrs PACKAGE A: 9:30-10:15AM • PACKAGE B: 10:30-11:15AM WHERE: Monroe Community Center • FEE: \$58 per Package TOPICS: Water Works, Bug Buddies, Stellar Space, Mad Mixtures, Playing with Polymers	

A

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CentraState
Medical Center

A Meet and Greet with Monroe Staff



Danielle Racioppi, CHRM
Certified Human Resource Manager

Q: Give us some details about your background.

A: As far as my background, I worked for Marlboro Township for 18 years. I kind of worked my way up through the ranks, ultimately being named their human resources director. But I started as a part-time receptionist.

Q: What are some of your duties?

A: We're improving our policies and procedures. I do have an open-door policy for any HR issues. Employees can come to me for guidance on any issues. I also handle new hires, recruiting and grievance issues.

Q: Any new initiatives in store for your department?

A: Right now, we're streamlining all aspects

of human resources, including training and education.

Q: What sort of challenges do you encounter with your job?

A: The balancing act between employees and management: getting both parties to understand one another's views, trying to be fair while finding that happy medium between the two.

Q: What's usually the most gratifying moment of your day?

A: When I'm ensuring that all of our employees – no matter how small their task – perform their jobs professionally, efficiently and courteously. This way they can see to it that our residents are walking away satisfied.



Patricia Reid, CMR, RMC
Certified Municipal Registrar, Registered Municipal Clerk

Q: Can you tell us a little about your background?

A: I started with the Township in January of 1997.

Q: What are some of your everyday responsibilities?

A: The office handles the agendas for the council meetings. We create and process all

the ordinances and resolutions.

Also, we're responsible for the local election – the set-up at the 43 polling districts, the hiring of 170 poll workers and the processing and tallying of results.

We handle more than 4,000 animal licenses in a year, in addition to food licenses, liquor licenses, towing permits

and marriage and death certificates.

Q: Moving forward, do you have goals for the office in mind?

A: Going paperless. We've purchased laptops for the council. It's a cost-saving measure for the Township.

Q: What's the hardest part about your job?

A: You need to be

able to go from one thing to another in a minute. It's about being able to multitask.

Q: What part of this job do you find most gratifying?

A: A lot of times, we're the first stop for anyone that moves into the town...It feels good when they leave here looking satisfied.



Robert Hudak, PP, AICP
Professional Planner American Institute of Certified Planners

Q: What were you doing prior to signing on with Monroe?

A: I'm a licensed professional planner. Prior to coming to Monroe, I was Director of planning and zoning in Cranford for nine years.

Q: What are some of your day-to-day duties?

A: I oversee the planning activities, like the boards, open space and

other land-use matters.

Q: What's the most difficult part about your job?

A: I think the most difficult part of the job is creating a vision for the Township, and marrying that vision to the reality.

Q: What would you say is the most gratifying part of your work?

A: When the vision

becomes a reality and the public benefits from that.

Q: Anything you'd like to share with residents?

A: If they have questions about development in the community, they should feel free to contact my office. I want people to know we are open and accessible.

Municipal Complex's Hours of Operation:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

1 Municipal Plaza,
Monroe, NJ 08831

Phone: 732-521-4400

Students Central to Township Arbor Day Celebration

The Township marked this year's Arbor Day with a tree planting at Oak Tree Elementary School April 28 with students at the center of the annual ceremony.

Groups of enthusiastic children entertained crowds with an eco-themed song, a poem and even a rap.

But more importantly, as a welcoming gesture, they took up a small shovel and pails to bury and water a newly planted silk lilac, donated by Shade Tree Commission Member Sean Hluchy, owner of Tidbury Creek.

"It's great for students to watch it grow and know they had a piece in Arbor Day," said Assistant School Super-

intendent Dr. Dori Alvich from the podium to onlooking parents, residents, officials and children.

Weaved into the programming were speeches by Township officials, school administrators, as well as members of the Shade Tree Commission, a nonprofit assisting individuals with the selection, planting and care of trees since 1926.

Several speakers noted the many benefits of trees, placing particular emphasis on the role that they play in lessening the carbon footprint.

"A tree is a living thing," said Councilwoman Elizabeth Schneider. "It breathes. It comforts. It shades."

Oak Tree is one of many district host sites for Monroe's Arbor Day tree-planting tradition, which dates back more than a decade and typically rotates between the Township's various schools each year.

"It will be enjoyed by students and teachers for many years to come," said School Board President Kathy Kolupanowich of the most recent arbor addition.

At the close of the ceremony, attendees not only walked away with a greater appreciation for trees, but with a complimentary seedling of their own to plant.

"We want to do more than just educate, we



Monroe Shade Tree Commission Forester Gary Lovallo, schools Oak Tree Elementary students on tree upkeep and care during the April 28 Arbor Day celebration.

want to give our students the tools in which to apply that education," said School Superintendent Dr. Michael Kozak. "The detailed planning

and collaboration between all these various parties is what makes this event so successful each year – a streak we hope to continue in 2018."

In Recognition of Recognition

EMS Tapped for NJDOH's "Most Outstanding Call" Award

The New Jersey State Department of Health named the Monroe Township Emergency Medical Services among its recipients of a "most outstanding calls of 2016" award at a Nov. 19 ceremony in Atlantic City.

The state agency bestowed the honor, following a New Jersey Turnpike traffic accident that left several armed forces members seriously injured on April 14, 2016.

In conjunction with other local emergency responders, Monroe's personnel rendered aid to four soldiers involved in a Humvee accident, caused by a tire blow-out, just south of New Brunswick.

Personnel arrived on the scene to find members of the Army Reserve Unit 533rd Brigade Support Battalion, based out of Queens, NY, ejected and pinned under the vehicle.

Monroe's EMS received recognition for employing techniques

that were responsible for saving the lives of two of the individuals involved in that crash.

Monroe Ranks Nationally Among Safest Communities

Monroe Township ranked among the nation's safest cities this year, according to two surveys released this spring.

Using data from a recent FBI Uniform Crime Report, as well as lodging their own comprehensive internal investigations, SafeWise

and the National Council for Home Safety and Security, two independent security strategy companies, respectively named Monroe Township the 46th safest city in the U.S. and the 10th in New Jersey.

Of the Township's approximate population of 43,000, only 3.8 property crimes occur per 1,000 residents, according to www.safewise.com/safest-cities-america.

In its report, Safewise describes Monroe as a "safe respite" and applauds police for their

crime-fighting tactics, as well as the Township's offerings of disaster-preparedness and CPR training.

"Safety on all fronts, makes for a thriving city," Safewise states.

In order to meet prerequisites, eligible cities must have a population of 15,000 or more for Safewise or a minimum of 5,000 for the National Council for Home Safety, according the companies' websites.



Monroe Leads the Way in Recycling

Monroe Receives \$136,000 for Recycling Drop-Off Center

The State Department of Environmental Protection awarded Monroe Township an approximately \$136,000 Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant in October. Municipal recycling coordinators say the funds will be used to make improvements and expand services at Monroe's Recycling Center.

The Township is also the recipient of the New Jersey Clean Communities Grant, funds that stem from a state litter tax. The approximately \$105,000 grant, awarded by the DEP in May, must be used toward litter abatement and education.

RESIDENT SERVICES

Monroe's Recycling Drop-Off Center: 76 Gravel Hill-Spotswood Road/Open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Monroe Department of Public Works' Number: 732-656-4575

MCIA Recycling Hotline: 1-800-488-6242

Paint Recycling

Monroe's Recycling Center accepts paint every third Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

E-cycling

Monroe is one of the few municipalities in Middlesex County that hosts an electronics recycling program. As such, electronic recyclables must be brought to the recycling drop-off center. CED covered electronic devices, like TVs,

monitors, computer processing units and laptops are banned from regular trash pick up.

Curbside Recycling

(Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, depending on zone) Newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, glass bottles, aluminum/steel/tin cans, #1 PETE and #2 HDPE plastic containers, motor oil, antifreeze, auto batteries, scrap metal and broken outdated consumer electronics, limited to televisions, computers and monitors.

Yard Waste

Brown bags can be picked up at the Recycling Drop-Off Center during operating hours.

LEAVES: placed in brown recycling bags are collected curbside April 4 - Dec. 9.

BRUSH: collected

curbside April 4 to Nov. 4. Tree parts must be no more than 5 inches in diameter and must be cut and tied into lengths of 4 feet or less.

GRASS: MUST be placed in brown recycling bags, which are collected from April 4 to Nov. 4.

Bulk Waste

Items like appliances and furniture, (barbeque-type) propane tanks, freezers and refrigerators (doors must be removed per state law), may be brought to the Department of Public Works' yard during normal operating hours. These items cannot be mixed with garbage and can be no larger than a large pickup truckload. Lumber must be cut, tied and nails removed. Mattresses must be wrapped in plastic bags prior to collection. Bulk



pick-ups are scheduled by appointment Wednesdays and Thursdays and not scheduled further than the next collection date. Items not accepted: hazardous materials, chemicals, paint, paint-related materials, driveway sealers, pesticides, tires, utility poles, railroad ties, construction materials, tree stumps, sod, dirt, stones, food, concrete, asphalt, bricks, pallets, asbestos, cardboard or computers.

Tire Recycling

Residents may use the East Brunswick Reclamation Center, 357 Dunhams Corner Road, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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• Previous Recipient NJVMA Veterinarian of the Year



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Seeking Election Poll Workers in Monroe

The Monroe Township Clerk's Office is currently taking application for volunteer poll workers in the upcoming primary election on June 6 and the General Elections on Nov. 7. Applicants must be:

- At least 16 years old
- Live in Middlesex County

Applications are available on the Monroe Township's website, www.monroetwp.com, or by contacting a clerk's office staff member at 732-656-4573 or in-person at 1 Municipal Plaza, Room 108.

Townshipwide Effort Teaches Teens Consequences of Drunk Driving

Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Advances Successful Mock Crash

More than a thousand juniors and seniors gathered at the Monroe Township High School's football field April 24 to learn "The Sobering Truth," this year's theme for the Mayor Youth Advisory Committee's mock crash, a drinking-and-driving deterrent geared toward local youth.

The scene on the field, a fictitious narrative involving local emergency service workers, includes student actors and an extensive amount of planning, depicting an after-prom drinking-and-driving crash.

"This isn't an experi-

ence that these high schoolers will forget anytime soon," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "I think that it's very safe to assume that our Youth Advisory Council's efforts likely saved lives. I want to personally thank Council President Steve Dalina for his leadership with the Committee."

Presenting a real-life scenario, wreckage was brought in. It included a hearse, a police car to haul away the alleged drunk driver and even a medical evacuation helicopter to transport the wounded.

"The common misnomer is that, 'It's never

going to happen to me,'" said Councilman Steve Dalina, liaison to YAC. "I hope this resonated with our students. There are very real consequences to getting behind the wheel intoxicated."

To drive home the lesson, a mock trial followed the outdoor scene, where the actor was found guilty, sentenced to 10 years in prison and led away in handcuffs.

"The feedback I received was very sobering," said Monroe School Superintendent Dr. Michael Kozak. "It's frightening how often you hear stories just like this, where a young life



This event was made possible by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, Monroe Police Department, firefighters and EMS workers, NJ State Police, Judge George Boyd, Michael Rowe, Esq., Patrick Bradshaw, Esq., Boyce's Towing, and DeMarco Funeral Home.



Photos courtesy of the Monroe Township School District

was lost because of just one wrong decision. Our hope is that the experience gave some of our students pause and they'll reflect back on the mock crash when they are faced with similar choices."

Township officials hope that future collabo-

rative efforts will prove just as successful.

"I just want to thank all of our emergency personnel – the police, the fire department, our EMS and even the State Police for all their cooperation," Mayor Tamburro said.

Free Senior Lunch and Learn:

AARP Benefits

Monday, June 5

from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monroe Township Recreation Center, 120 Monmouth Road

Preregistration required by June 1 with Jay Brown at 732-723-5000

Open Space Updates

In partnership with Middlesex County, Monroe has again added to its open space inventory, preserving upwards of 100 acres since the start of 2017.

In January, the Township closed on Story Farm, a 106-acre parcel located off Hoffman and Federal Roads. The property reportedly has historical significance, boasting ties to the Revolutionary War era, and specifically, the Battle of Monmouth.

More recently, local officials successfully preserved a 26.1-acre tract on Gravel Hill-Spotswood Road, edging the Township well over the 7,500-acre mark for open space and farmland preservation.

In securing these most recent purchases, Monroe has further protected its semi-rural landscape, prevented potential development and come one step closer to reaching its goal of preserving 50 percent of the Township.

Introducing Councilwoman Miriam Cohen

Introductions may be in order for Monroe's newest Township Council member, Miriam Cohen, who was appointed to an open At-Large seat in March 2017.

Cohen is best known as a respected nurse and as a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Being an esteemed professional in the healthcare field, Cohen's insights are expected to be highly effective in improving services for residents – from the senior centers' operation and the social services programming to disaster management planning.

"To be selected to serve my community is such an honor," Cohen said. "We are a community that strives for excellence in our programming and our services."

Cohen earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Adelphi University and went on to complete a master's degree in community health nursing from Rutgers University.

She retired in 2006, but is currently a registered nurse and an adjunct professor at The College of New Jersey.

As the current president of the Whittingham Homeowner's Association and with her active role in the larger community, she is a familiar face to some.

The Councilwoman, an individual renowned for both her balanced nature and intelligence, is also the former head of the East Brunswick League of Women Voters, a nearby chapter of a national bipartisan group.

Cohen has a broad and remarkable list of titles, to include senior consultant for MIIX Healthcare Group, director of referrals at the Essex Valley Visiting Nurses Association, public health nursing supervisor at the Middlesex County Public Health Department and most recently, director of disaster planning for the New Jersey Primary Care Association.

She's also served



**Council Member
Miriam Cohen**

on Monroe's Affordable Housing Board for the past five years.

"It is very likely you will have a chance at one of the Township's many upcoming events to meet Ms. Cohen, who has long been a staple at our community functions," said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "If you have the opportunity to strike up a conversation, I am certain you will quickly discover a sharp and engaging personality, as well as a civic-minded resident, much as I have. We count ourselves fortunate to have her onboard here in Monroe."

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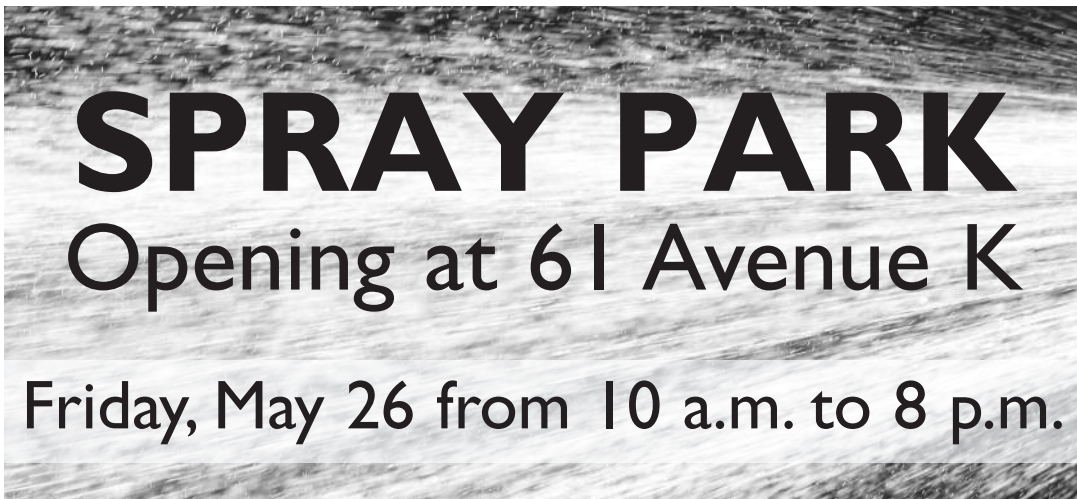
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SPRAY PARK

Opening at 61 Avenue K

Friday, May 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Monroe Mayor Tamburro and Middlesex County Freeholder Leslie Koppel along with family of the Township's late Public Information Officer, Joseph "Joe" Harvie, gathered at Half Acre Road March 25 to dedicate a five-mile bicycle route to the avid cyclist and fundraiser. In all, 31 inscribed markers will run the length of the route, which begins at the intersection of Forsgate Drive and Half Acre Road and ends on Half Acre and Applegarth roads.

MAD SCIENCE CAMP For Kids

AGES: Boys & Girls 6-12 yrs • WHERE: Monroe Community Center

MAD MACHINES JR. ENGINEERS

Session A or B: July 31-August 4, Mon-Fri 9AM - NOON or

Session C or D: July 31-August 4, Mon-Fri 1PM - 4PM

EUREKA FLIGHT TO THE FUTURE

Session E or F: August 7-11, Mon-Fri 9AM - NOON

Session G or H: August 7-11, Mon-Fri 1PM - 4PM

FEE: \$134 per session Mon-Fri (applies to all sessions)



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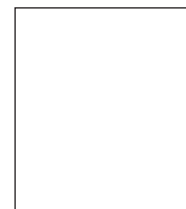
Neel Shah

AT THIS WORKSHOP, WE WILL DISCUSS:

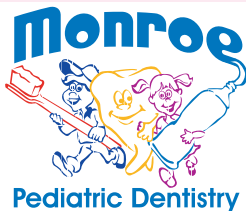
- THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF WILLS VS. TRUSTS
- HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ASSETS FROM CREDITORS, LAWSUITS, DIVORCE ETC
- HOW TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR ESTATE PLAN IF YOU BECOME INCAPACITATED
- THE RIGHT WAY AND THE WRONG WAY TO LEAVE PROPERTY TO YOUR CHILDREN
- WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOUR MINOR CHILDREN IN THE EVENT OF AN UNEXPECTED TRAGEDY
- AND MUCH MORE

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Hundreds of children joined in for the Egg Hunt hijinks, a fiercely competitive spoon race, as well as the coveted bonnet parade and contest.



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 - > Modern sterilization procedures, equipment, and materials
 - > Highly trained orthodontic team
 - > Evening and weekend appointments
- We participate in most major PPO dental plans
- Financing available, Care Credit accepted



Susan Leiva, DMD
Orthodontist
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