



FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

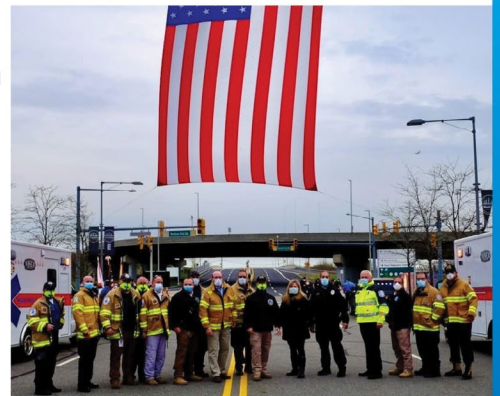
MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Sheriff Golden and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office thank all for their dedication and hard work in the fight against Covid-19.



It's been one year since the COVID-19 pandemic brought life as we knew it to a standstill. We were faced with unprecedented events and dealt with tremendous loss. However, we learned a lot and there was always something to be grateful for, such as those heroes, who made a difference in the lives of many, as a deeper meaning of their work shined through.

As we reflect on the past year, it's important to continue to appreciate and thank our essential workers throughout Monmouth County for all they did and continue to do in the fight against COVID-19. Our healthcare professionals and first responders risked their lives every day as they responded to critical incidents to protect the residents of Monmouth County. The role of our

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- **MCSO NEW VETS INITIATIVES**
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Public Safety Telecommunicators was even more demanding during the pandemic. However they did an exceptional job serving Monmouth County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition, postal, sanitation, transportation and custodial workers, grocery store clerks and journalists all worked tirelessly during the crisis. Lastly, it's important to not forget our volunteer first responders from fire companies and first aid squads, who continued to respond to the calls for emergency services despite the risk from COVID-19.

We still have a way to go in this fight, but Monmouth County has made great strides with testing, vaccines and maintaining overall health and safety. We are appreciative to all for such exceptional work.

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## MONMOUTH COUNTY VACCINATION INITIATIVES

Sheriff Golden commends the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners for the significant work on the progression of vaccination scheduling, new initiatives and partnerships. On March 5, Monmouth County announced the launch of a vaccine scheduling system for residents and a partnership with Second Baptist Church of Asbury Park where vaccines are being provided. Monmouth County's main vaccination site at Brookdale Community College has been running smoothly thanks to the dedicated health care workers and county employees.

For more information visit: [www.visitmonmouth.com/health](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/health).



### DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is Apr 11 – Apr 17?

VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



[WWW.MCSONJ.ORG](http://WWW.MCSONJ.ORG)

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## CONGRATS MIKE O

A well deserved recognition for Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Oppegaard, who assisted in guiding Monmouth County throughout the pandemic and made huge strides in the distribution of PPE to first responders and nursing homes which ensured the health and safety of many.

Mike was re-appointed to a serve a fourth term by Monmouth County Board of Commissioners on March 11. Sheriff Golden was proud to support Mike, whose dedication to the job has resulted in Monmouth County leading the way in emergency management services. Mike was instrumental in the formation of the MCSO's EMS Task Force, and, his expertise in planning and preparing for disasters and emergencies resulted in the exceptional countywide response before, during and after Superstorm Sandy.

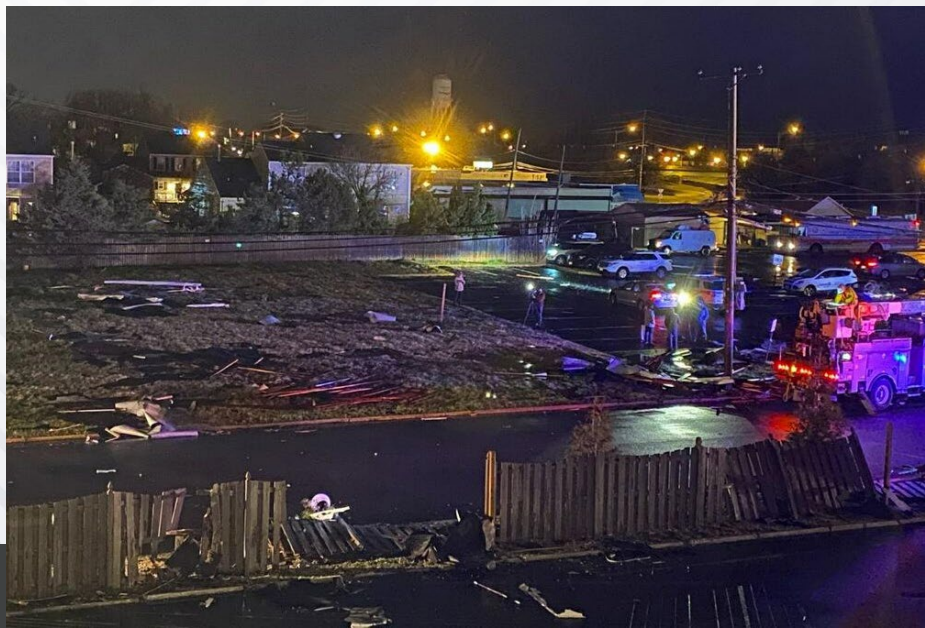
Mike has proven that he can meet any challenge from natural disasters to a health crisis.

Congrats Mike on a job well done!!!



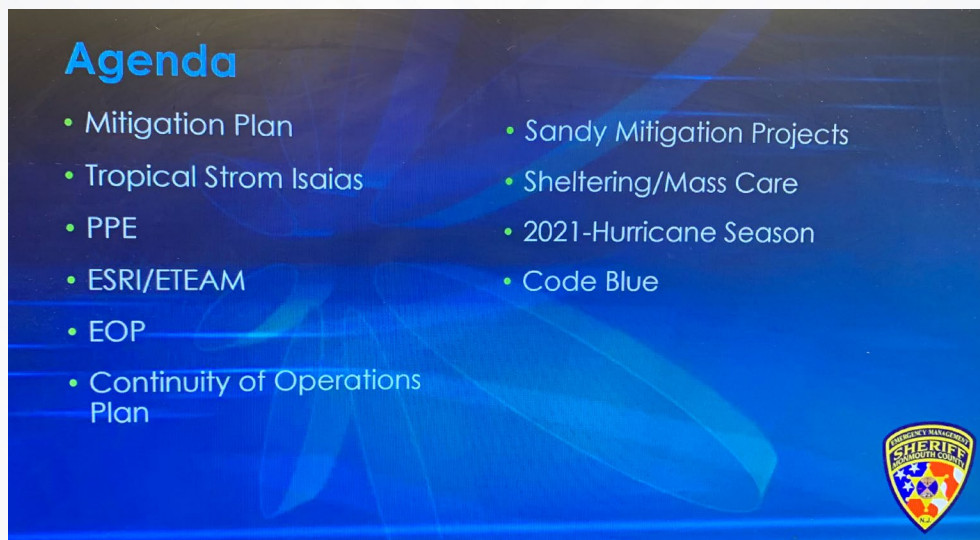
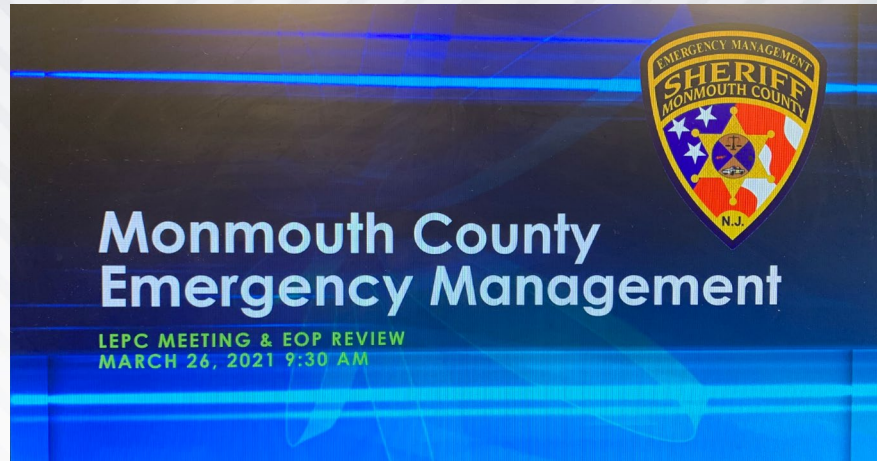
## NEPTUNE TWP STORM DAMAGE

The severe weather event which caused major damage in Neptune Township on March 28 appears to be a result of straight lined winds. Sheriff Golden commends the great response and work of all emergency crews who responded to America's Best Value Inn Motel, which sustained major structure damage and had to be evacuated. The Neptune Office of Emergency Management led the response along with its police, fire and EMS. The MCSO OEM, Monmouth County Fire Marshal and Monmouth County EMS Coordinators also assisted.



## OEM CONDUCTS MEETING WITH EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Speaking of our OEM Coordinator, he conducted the first meeting of the year on March 26 with county and local partners throughout Monmouth County who deliver emergency services to residents. During the virtual meeting, topics included updating the Monmouth County Emergency Operations Plan, PPE stockpile for COVID-19 response, FEMA reimbursement for tropical storm Isaias and planning for the 2021 hurricane season.



## SHERIFF GOLDEN CRACKS DOWN ON DISTRACTED DRIVERS THROUGH UDrive. UText. UPay

The MCSO, along with its partners in law enforcement, will be cracking down on distracted drivers during the month of April as part of New Jersey's UDrive. UText. UPay. enforcement campaign.

Beginning April 1, which marks the start of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and running through the end of the month, the high visibility law enforcement initiative will target motorists who engage in dangerous distracted driving behaviors, such as talking on hand-held cell phones and sending text messages while driving.

We have seen too many crashes on our roadways as a result of distracted driving and this campaign will hopefully raise awareness of the dangers. Texting and talking on a cell phone while driving, is irresponsible and illegal. It takes the focus off of the roads and may have deadly consequences that otherwise could be avoided.



**APRIL 1 – APRIL 30, 2021**

## SHERIFF GOLDEN SPEAKS WITH JERSEY MATTERS ON NEW MARIJUANA LAWS



Sheriff Golden spoke with Larry Mendte host of Jersey Matters, WJLP New Jersey/New York about New Jersey's new marijuana laws which prohibits police from making any arrests of underage individuals who are in possession and first time offenders. The law only allows members of law enforcement to issue a warning for those who are caught in possession of marijuana and also alcohol, on the first offense, and officers are not permitted to notify parents.

Sheriff Golden opposes the law since it challenges members of law enforcement and places limitations on how far they can go with an investigation, since it appears underage drinking laws do not apply. This is a major concern when it comes to the public safety of our youth and it robs parents of their right to know if their underage child is using or in possession of marijuana and/or consuming alcohol.

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## RECRUITS HALF WAY MARK

Recruits of 100th Basic Course for Police Officers and the 51st Special Law Enforcement Officers Class II are half way through training at the Monmouth County Police Academy.

Below is how they begin each day at 6am with physical training.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO wish these dedicated men and women the best of luck.



## BE SMART WHENEVER YOU GO OUTDOORS



**USE CAUTION**  
Before lighting any fire



**NEVER LEAVE A FIRE**  
Unattended for any reason



**PROPERLY EXTINGUISH**  
All fires before moving on



**BE CAREFUL**  
When using equipment  
that creates sparks



**DO NOT PARK ON GRASS**  
The hot undercarriage could  
cause dry grass to catch fire



**CALL 911**  
If you see a new wildfire



Courtesy NJ Advanced Media

## FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE MAJOR BLAZE

A tremendous effort by firefighters, EMS crews and police as they responded to the major forest fire in Ocean County on March 14 which affected Lakewood and Brick Township causing parkway closures, evacuations and destruction to homes and businesses.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO commend all for their tireless efforts and dedication to the job.

The response from firefighters throughout Ocean County was exceptional. The Monmouth County Strike Force was also called in to assist which included firefighters from Wall, Howell, Manalapan, Marlboro, Freehold Twp, Neptune Twp, Ocean Twp, Colts Neck, Brielle and the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's office.

We are grateful for all the volunteers who helped maintain safety at the scene.

Although the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office said the fire was intentional, it is always a good reminder to use common sense and be extremely cautious when extinguishing flammable objects.

## MCCI's NEW METAL DETECTOR

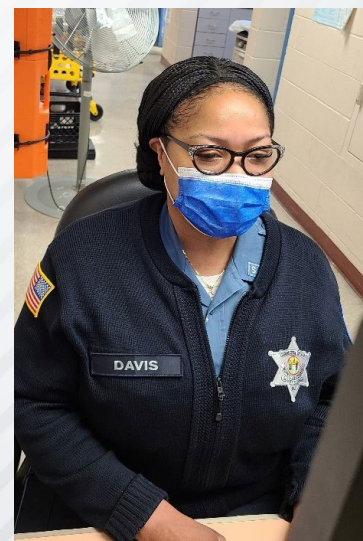
The Monmouth County Correctional Institution has a new state of the art X- ray luggage/ belongings screening machine which assists in increasing the safety and security at the facility and provides for a greater inspection of outside belongings and packages delivered. The contactless inspection is another great safety strategy as we move forward in these times.



# MCSO CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO was proud to celebrate Women's History Month throughout March and recognize the achievements and strides women have made.

A special thank you to all the women from the MCSO. Our sworn staff is dedicated to maintaining the utmost of safety and our civilians are committed to ensuring that day to day operations of the agency are run in the most professional manner. The MCSO has an exceptional group of women from all of the divisions and we appreciate all you do.



## MCSO NEW VETS INITIATIVES

Sheriff Golden is a tremendous supporter of our veterans and through the MCSO's Veterans Service Council offers services and programs that benefit them.

On March 3, the latest initiative was launched through the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Veterans Honors Program. Each month we will feature veterans who reside in Monmouth County that have fought for our freedom and selflessly served our country. If you know a veteran of the Armed Forces please nominate them, it provides us all with a chance to thank them for their sacrifice and service.

To nominate a veteran click on the link below.

<https://www.mcsonj.org/veteransform>



**MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VETERANS HONORS PROGRAM**

★★★

Do you Know a Veteran of the Armed Forces?

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, Veterans Service Council would like to recognize honorably discharged military Veterans from all branches of service, that reside in Monmouth County. Each month we will feature veterans that have honorably and selflessly served our country. Featured Veterans will be highlighted on the MCSO website and social media pages.

To nominate a Veteran, click below:  
<https://www.mcsonj.org/veteransform>



## SHERIFF ADVOCATE AND LEADER IN SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY

Sheriff Golden, a strong advocate and leader in the special needs community, couldn't be more proud of the MCSO's efforts to educate first responders on how to respond to and approach a situation involving an individual with special needs.

The MCSO was the first agency in the state to implement this type of training, and, has instructed thousands of first responders to help ensure the safety of special needs individuals. Autism and Special Needs Outreach Coordinator Fran Hines who retired from the MCSO in March was a big contributor of these efforts through training, our Project Lifesaver Program and the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry

We thank him for his years of service, commitment and dedication.





## K-9 TRAINING



A great morning at the STARS building on March 22, as the MCSO's K-9 teams trained in explosive/narcotics detection and suspect apprehension. Sheriff Golden's K-9 unit is made up of eight handlers and nine K-9s which includes one explosive team, three explosive/patrol teams, three narcotics/patrol teams, one tracking team and one narcotics tracking team.

Check out Gunner and his handler S/O Kurt Kroeper. This narcotics tracking team located the drugs that were planted in impressive time.

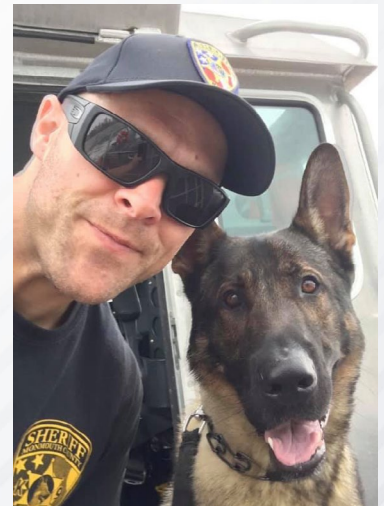
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## HBD LEO

A very Happy Birthday to K-9 Leo who turned 5 on March 10 and leads a life fighting crime along with his partner S/O Mike DeLuca.

The highly trained K-9 team specializes in explosive detection and patrol.

Sheriff Golden along with partners in law enforcement are grateful to have such a huge asset when it comes to reinforcing homeland security capabilities by playing a vital role in protecting our county against criminal and terroristic threats and assisting in the apprehension of suspects.



## READ ACROSS AMERICA

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO supported Read Across America on March 2. This day motivates children to read by promoting awareness. Usually members of the MCSO visit schools and read to children. Our hope is next year we will get back to that. For now we share pictures from years past.



## FIRST DAY OF SPRING

The first day of Spring was March 20. Let's enjoy the season and hopefully have beautiful weather so we can spend plenty of time outdoors.



FIRST DAY OF  
**SPRING**