



FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

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MCSO COMMEMORATES NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

April was National Autism Awareness Month and although the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office's annual Autism, Project Lifesaver and Special Needs Registry Forum could not be held, our efforts in assisting the special needs community remain just as strong. The MCSO continues to train all first responders in Monmouth County on how to respond to those with special needs and ensures that individuals are a part of our Project Lifesaver Program and the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry. We are a leader in the special needs community and make every effort to ensure safety.



On April 18, the Monmouth/Ocean Foundation For Children held its first annual 5K run/2 mile walk event which raised money for the development and opening of the Achieve Academy, aimed at providing education for individuals with Autism over 21 years old. As a trustee of MOFFC, I couldn't be more proud to participate during Autism Awareness Month and thank all for their support of this great cause.

- **SHERIFF GOLDEN IS GUEST ON WOR WITH LARRY MENDTE**
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- **GREAT JOB TO WALL HS JROTC**
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DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW May is Law Enforcement Appreciation Month? Please take the time out to thank an officer and show your appreciation.

During the month of April, a huge acknowledgement also goes out to Sheriff's Officers Randi Rodriguez and Justin Foley, who work at Allentown High School to ensure safety of students and staff. They always take additional time out to spend with special needs students who happen to like learning about law enforcement and are always interested in seeing what's inside a police vehicle.



Although April was National Autism Awareness Month, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office along with partners in law enforcement are committed to acknowledging this disorder all year, through such useful programs, in an effort to maintain the safety of individuals and spare families a lot of anxiety when locating or responding to a loved one's needs.

As a strong advocate of the special needs community, I take great pride in our agency's huge effort in promoting awareness and assisting the special needs community, along with our partners in law enforcement.

MCSO PARTICIPATES IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK

Thanks to all who supported the MCSO fight against drugs by participating in National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on April 24. The Drug Enforcement Administration collected 32 pounds of unwanted and expired medication that was dropped off at the at the Public Safety Center by residents in Monmouth County.

The public can continue to dispose of medications all year through the MCSO's Project Medicine Drop Box, the agency's permanent collection site, which can be utilized daily at 2500 Kozloski Rd, Freehold.



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MCSO CELEBRATES PST WEEK

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is always celebrated the second week of April and the MCSO was proud to honor and support these unsung heroes who are the first point of contact during an emergency.

The highly trained PSTs are rarely seen and mostly heard, but what they say in those few minutes during an emergency call makes a world of difference to those on the other end of the line. In 2020, the Communications Division processed a total of 742,211 calls.

Sheriff Golden is grateful for their work in ensuring the public safety and health of residents in Monmouth County 24 hours a day 7 days a week.



MCSO KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF DONATE A LIFE MONTH

The MCSO knows first hand about the importance of organ donation. As part of National Donate a Life Month Blue and Green Day on April 16, Sheriff Golden along with the MCSO Public Safety Telecommunicators wore blue to honor all the courageous people who made the lifesaving decision to become an organ and tissue donor. PST Daniel Mellaci donated his organs to provide the most precious gift of life to those in need. We will forever be grateful for his brave and heroic efforts.



U DRIVE U TEXT U PAY COMES TO AN END

Sheriff Golden thanks all who participated in the U DRIVE U TEXT U PAY campaign throughout April as the MCSO, along with its partners in law enforcement, cracked down on distracted drivers.

April 1 marked the start of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and the high visibility law enforcement initiative targeted motorists who engaged in dangerous distracted driving behaviors, such as talking on hand-held cell phones and sending text messages while driving.



There have been too many crashes on our roadways as a result of distracted driving and this campaign hopefully raised awareness of its dangers.



RECRUITS RECEIVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT COVID

Brett Nance of the Freehold Area Health Department spoke to recruits of 100th Basic Course for Police Officers and the 51st Special Law Enforcement Officers Class about COVID-19, quarantining and vaccinations on April 19.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO thank Ms. Nance for sharing her knowledge about COVID-19 and addressing questions and concerns of the recruits.



MCSO MERT KEEPS BUSY THROUGHOUT APRIL



Members of the Maritime Emergency Response Team are keeping busy. They assisted the Manasquan PD in a missing person search of Watson Creek and the Manasquan beachfront on April. 17. They also held several training sessions. In the above photo the team conducted small boat operations and shallow water low visible diving on April 9.

SHERIFF GOLDEN IS GUEST ON WOR WITH LARRY MENDTE

Sheriff Golden was a guest speaker on WOR Radio 710am with host Larry Mendte on April 22 where he discussed policing, training and the challenges members of law enforcement are faced with.



SHERIFF GOLDEN'S VETERANS SERVICE COUNCIL FEATURED ON MONMOUTH IN FOCUS

It was great to be back at Brookdale Community College on April 27 to tape a segment of Monmouth in Focus where Sheriff Golden, a strong supporter of our veterans, and host Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone, discussed the MCSO's Veterans Service Council. The council offers programs and services that assist and benefit our vets and is a great resource. The segment will air on local cable channels in May.



For more information on the MCSO Veterans Service Council please visit: <https://www.mcsonj.org/veterans-services-council/veterans-initiatives/>

GREAT JOB TO WALL HS JROTC

The MCSO was proud to assist in coordinating Wall High School's JROTC to present the colors at the 1st Annual Golf Outing by Chef Lou's Army which provides meals to those in need from Monmouth and Ocean County. The event was held at the Manasquan River Country Club on April 26.



A GREAT SENDOFF FOR S/O STEVENSON

A great sendoff to S/O William Butch Stevenson who is retiring after a long career in law enforcement. Butch became a police officer in 1993 and through the years worked primarily in Englishtown, Interlaken, the NJ State Park Police and the MCSO. He began as a sheriff's officer at the MCSO in 2014 and worked in courthouse security, training and accreditation. Butch will continue on as an instructor for various agencies and focus on resiliency and suicide prevention.

Sheriff Golden thanks Butch for his commitment to protecting and serving the public. Congrats and best of luck.



BEST OF LUCK TO BOB SWANNACK

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO wish Bob Swannack, a dedicated member of the Office of Emergency Management, the best of luck as he retires after 15 years of serving as the Homeland Security Grant Program Manager.

Bob, started at OEM after retiring as chief from the Ocean Township Police Department, during a time when Homeland Security Grants were being rolled out and required the establishment of a multi-disciplinary working group.

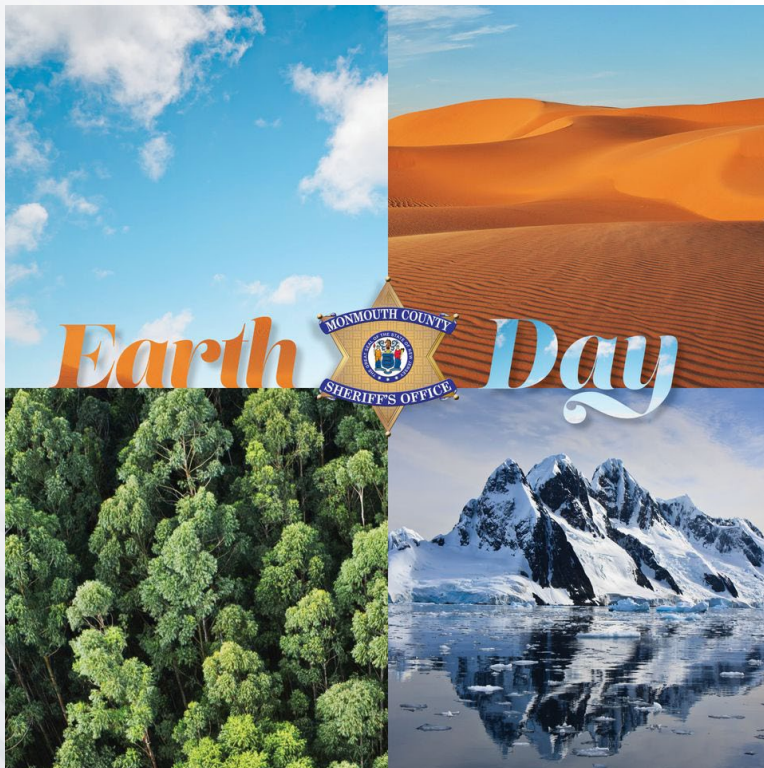
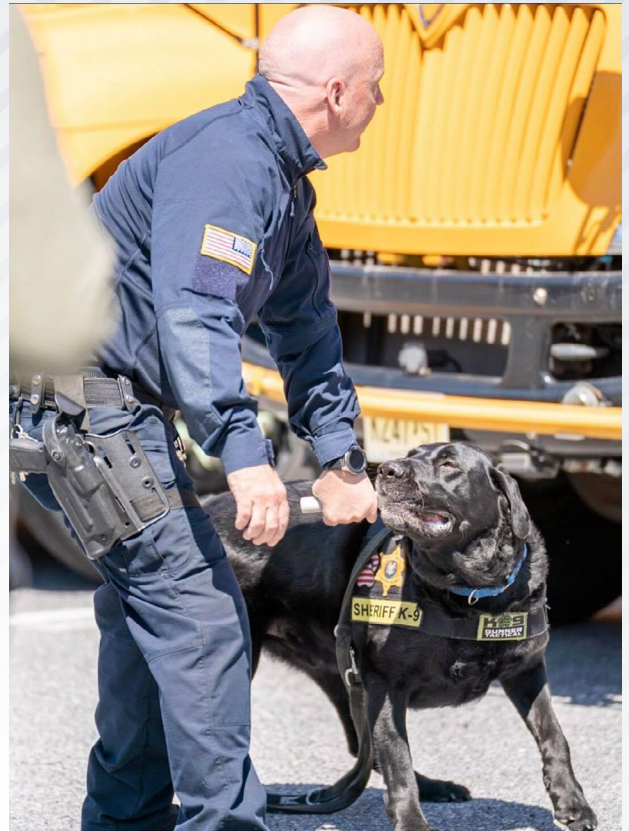
Bob did an exceptional job and diligently worked to secure funding with federal partners. That funding led to expanding the capabilities of first responders in Monmouth County and assist in our ability to prevent, prepare, respond, recover and mitigate the threats and potential acts of terrorism and hazard events.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

WAY TO GO K-9 GUNNER

Fantastic job to MCSO's K-9 Gunner and handler S/O Kurt Kroeper. Gunner who specializes in narcotics detection recently took first place in the US Police Canine Association Region 15 scent trials on April 7. K-9 Edge and Sgt. David Lasko came in fourth overall. Next stop will be the national trials in May where the top five teams will compete.

Sheriff Golden is proud of the MCSO's highly trained canines who continue to assist in combatting the proliferation of drugs in Monmouth County.



MCSO CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22 where we encouraged all to take the time to appreciate our beautiful natural surroundings and be grateful for all nature has to offer. Let's always enjoy all the beauty of the earth.