



FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECOGNIZES NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

April is always a very important month at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office as we proudly recognize National Autism Awareness Month. To start, the staff kicks off the month by lighting it up and wearing blue to recognize the significance. Throughout Monmouth County, decals for Autism Awareness are proudly displayed on police cruisers.



At the helm of our efforts to promote awareness was the 4th Annual Autism Forum & Resource Fair held at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office on April 5. This well attended forum was geared to members of law enforcement, parents/caregivers of special-needs individuals and organizations. Insightful topics of discussion on services and programs special-needs individuals and their family members can benefit from were discussed, as well as demonstrations. Some highlights included

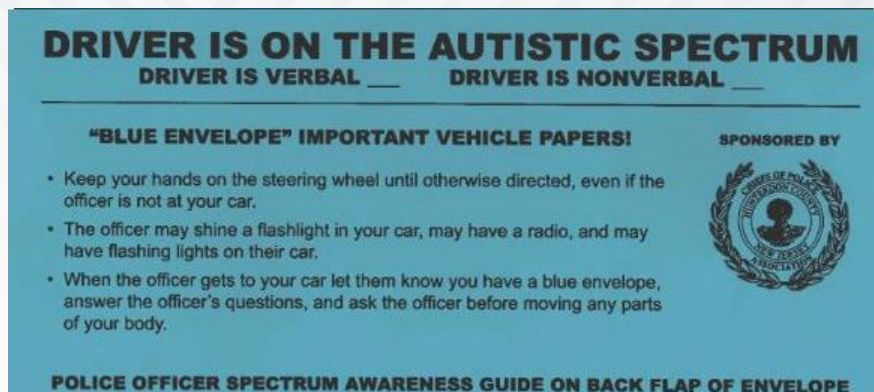


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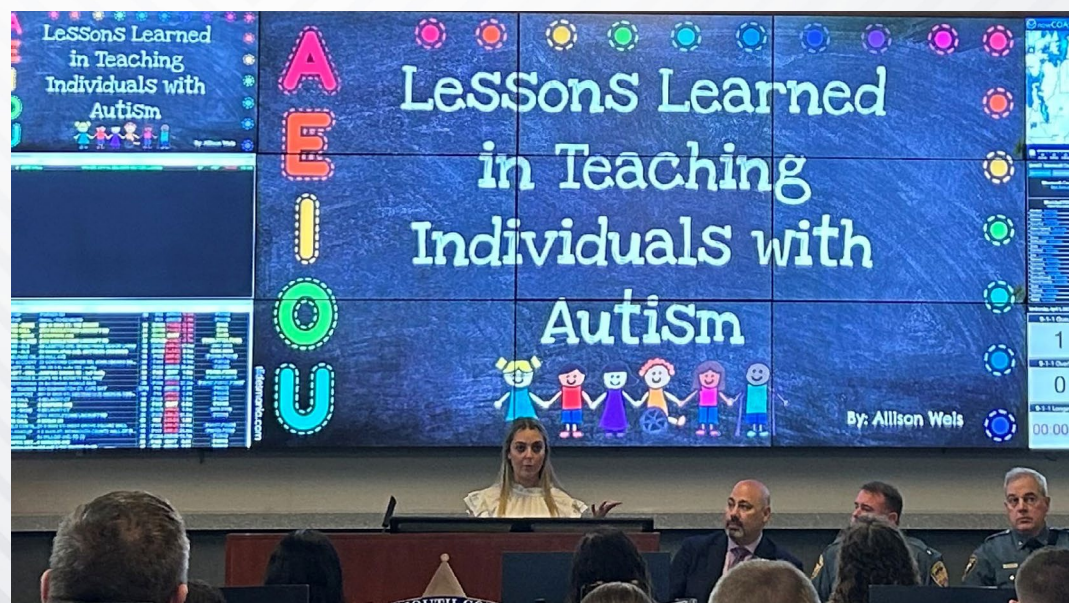
our Project Lifesaver Program, which involves wristlets using radio signals to track people with autism and Alzheimer's disease when they wander and become missing, and the Special Needs Registry, which provides vital information to first responders of an individual's special needs in the event of an emergency.

A new and important initiative was unveiled by Spring Lake Heights Police Chief Ed Gunnell called the Blue Envelope Program, that safeguards special needs individuals while driving. The envelope is documentation for special needs individuals to provide during a motor vehicle stop, which enables police officers



to become aware that a driver has ASD, so both parties can communicate with each other effectively and successfully. Participants must be registered with the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry.

We thank all for their participation in this notable event, including Monmouth County Prosecutor Raymond Santiago, Chief Edward Gunnell – Spring Lake Heights, S/O Patrick Luke - MCSO Special Needs Liaison, Chief Michael Kelly – President Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association, Michele O'Shaughnessy and Colleen Smith - Office on Aging, Disabilities and Veteran's Services, Allison Weis - Applegate Elementary School and Samir Popal – New Horizons in Autism. As the Monmouth County Sheriff, and a board member of the Monmouth/Ocean Foundation for Children, we should all be proud of the strides we make in keeping Autism Awareness in the forefront, and, it is because of those efforts that the MCSO leads the way. Thank you all for the continued support.



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S/O PAT LUKE MAKES GREAT FIND WITH PROJECT LIFESAVER

Several days after S/O Pat Luke presented Project Lifesaver at the Autism Forum and Resource Fair it was put to the test and once again reaffirmed that it's a great tool when special needs individuals wander away. On April 11, S/O Luke located a missing man in his twenties after he was alerted that a participant on the Project Lifesaver program was missing in Neptune. Within ten minutes of the Project Lifesaver activation, he located the man.



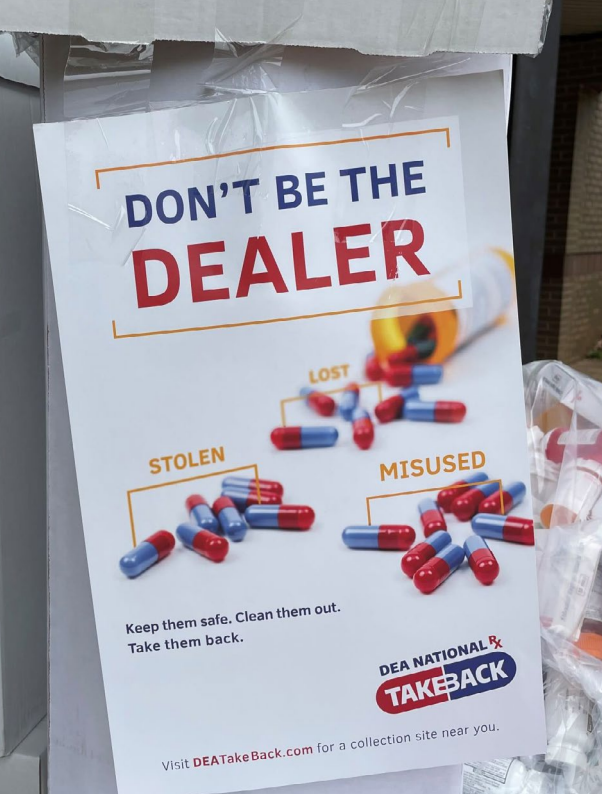
Sheriff Golden commends S/O Luke for his quick actions which helped maintain the safety of our Project Lifesaver participant. The MCSO has the largest Project Lifesaver program in NJ.



TORNADOES TOUCH DOWN IN MONMOUTH COUNTY

It was no April Fools joke on April 1 when seven tornadoes touched down in New Jersey with three striking Monmouth County. That was the most tornadoes NJ has ever experienced in one day. This severe weather event prompted a great response in Monmouth County from first responders, public works crews, MCSO OEM, line workers and JCP&L. Howell Township was particularly affected with damage, downed trees and power lines. Sheriff Golden thanks all for the hard work to ensure the safety of residents and the community.





MCSO PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK DAY

Thanks to all who supported the MCSO fight against drugs by participating in National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on April 22. The Drug Enforcement Administration collected 76 pounds of unwanted and expired medication that was dropped off 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.



MCSO PROUD TO BE A PART OF HOPE ONE SYMPOSIUM

A huge thank you to the Morris County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff James Gannon for holding the 2023 Hope One Symposium on April 4. Law Enforcement agencies from eight counties who participate in the HOPE One program attended with their mobile units. More than 200 participants shared approaches, partnerships with communities, success stories and creative ways to address the opioid epidemic.

Sheriff Golden is proud to be a part of this huge endeavor in the fight against drug abuse. HOPE One travels into communities to offer help and HOPE to individuals with substance use disorder and their families. This summer the MCSO will celebrate HOPE One's fifth anniversary.



SHERIFF GOLDEN FEATURED ON FOX NEWS STORY

Sheriff Golden spoke with Reporter Douglas Kennedy and was recently featured on Fox News Channel about the importance of keeping AM radios in cars after some vehicles makers are doing away with AM broadcasting.

When an emergency or disaster strikes with massive power outages it may be the only tool for the public to access important information.

See below link news story:



https://www.foxnews.com/video/6325035839112?fbclid=IwAR1buboiCgYWJ535Rl6Ukxt3XrRIHh5yE8rlac4yd2tGkA7AenMS_Zu6TU



MCSO URGES ALL TO NOT DRIVE DISTRACTED AS PART OF NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

April was National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Sheriff Golden reminded all to not engage in dangerous distracted driving behaviors, such as talking on hand held cell phones or sending text messages. Distracted driving places you and those on the roads in danger. It's a primary offense in NJ for motorists to talk or text on a cell phone while driving. Please obey the law and stay safe.

MC SO CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

Sheriff Golden was extremely proud to acknowledge National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week from April 9- 16. The MC SO commends all public safety telecommunicators from the Monmouth County 9-1-1 Communications Center for a job well done and thanks them for their hard work in maintaining public safety. Our dedicated staff of PSTs, are the unsung heroes in emergency services and have a critical role in saving lives 24/7. In 2022, a total of 783,905 calls were processed. The center answers calls for 48 municipalities, provides dispatch services for 26 police departments, 83 fire companies and 40 first aid squads.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

April 9th - 15th, 2023



Thank You
DISPATCHERS



PSTs PROMOTED

Speaking of our PSTs four of them were promoted to Senior PSTs. Sheriff Golden swore in Daniel O'Connell, Edward Schroeder, Craig Schwarz and Thomas Aumack III on April 4.

All will oversee the day to day operations of the 9-1-1 Communications Center. We thank them and wish all the best of luck.

MOBILE COUNTY CONNECTION



Sheriff Golden, Clerk Christine Hanlon and Surrogate Maureen Raisch are once again pleased to deliver county services and



programs directly into communities through the return of the Mobile County Connection. Its first stop was at the Monmouth County Library's Holmdel Branch at Bell Works on April 26. The Mobile County Connection enhances continuing efforts to make government services and public safety initiatives more accessible to the residents. Connecting government services directly with residents make it easier to fulfill needs from the Clerk, Sheriff's and Surrogate's offices.

MCSO PARTICIPATES IN BLUE MASS



Sheriff Golden thanks all for their support of the 21st Annual Blue Mass which was held in Monmouth County for the first time on April 13. The Catholic Diocese of Trenton organized this most memorable event and are commended for their dedication.

We honor and will never forget our fallen members of law enforcement, and recognize all active and retired men and women.



A PROPER TRIBUTE

Members of the MCSO Law Enforcement Division were proud to attend A Proper Tribute. The ceremony was held at the Epic Church International in Sayreville on April 26 to remember and honor first responders who died in the line of duty during or as a result of COVID-19, and were unable to be provided with a proper service due to the pandemic.

The event was coordinated by numerous law enforcement agencies and associations throughout NJ.

The MCSO remembers and thanks all.



MCCI GED GRADUATION

The Correctional Division continues to strive in assisting inmates with a brighter future, by having them utilize their time most productively, by going back to school. For the past 16 weeks, 11 inmates from MCCI have been studying for their GED (high school equivalency diplomas) online through a program run by the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission.



On April 28, they officially became graduates of the program and received their high school diploma from the State of New Jersey during a special ceremony at MCCI. The hope is these graduates will use this experience, as they move forward and transition back into society, for positive change. A total of 222 individuals have graduated from the program.



INMATE LABOR

MCSO's Inmate Labor crew was busy during the month of April. They prepared the grounds at St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral in Freehold for the 21st Annual Blue Mass, assisted with clean up at the Grover Burial Ground in Middletown, and maintained the garden and farm at the Historic Oakley Farm in Freehold.

Sheriff Golden is pleased to have the Inmate Labor program, a valuable service and cost savings to municipalities.



ASAP 8 CALLED TO ASSIST

MCSO's EMS Task Force Shark River Hills ASAP 8 was deployed to West Milford on April 13 to assist with medical needs in response to the major wildfire which burned hundreds of acres. ASAP 8 is utilized during emergency and rescue situations.

Sheriff Golden commends all for their tireless work and dedication in the response to the fire.



FIRE RECRUITS SHOWCASE

A great job to our firefighters in training at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. On April 23, Firefighter 1 Recruits showcased their training from the past few months, staged in real life scenarios, during the Putting It All Together Day. Best of luck to all and thank you for your courage and commitment.



MCSO SUPPORTS BLUE CLAWS EFFORTS

Sheriff Golden was proud to support the Jersey Shore Blue Claws and their message to promote Anti Bullying and Anti Drugs on April 26. While students are on a field trip at the stadium, game days also turn into education days. The MCSO was pleased to provide important information on both topics and assist in prevention.

UNDERSHERIFF FREEMAN LEADS METHODS OF INSTRUCTION CLASS

The Methods of Instruction class led by Undersheriff Ted Freeman was held April 19 through April 26 at the MCSO Public Safety Center. Participants in the six day course were from the MCSO's Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions, Brielle Police PD, Wall Township PD, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey State Police and NJ DOC. MOI is an intense course approved by the NJ Police Training Commission for those who plan to teach at police academies or their law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Golden was extremely proud to have five S/Os who are military veterans participate in MOI from the US Marine Corps, US Army, US Air Force and Army National Guard. We thank you for your service.



MCSO TOURS

Sheriff Golden is always proud to welcome and mentor students. During the month of April, college and high school students throughout Monmouth County were presented with an overview of operations, toured the Public Safety Center, the 9-1-1 Communications Center and the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. These visits provide students with a firsthand look into law enforcement and potential careers they can explore.



TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Great job to our sheriff's officers and K9's who held a K9 demo at the Monmouth Beach Police Department and the Monmouth County Courthouse as part of Take Your Child to Work Day on April 27.



MCSO CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Earth Day was April 22 and Sheriff Golden and the MCSO asked all to support and protect the environment on Earth Day, April 22 and always.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE RESTORE REPLENISH.