



# FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### MEDSTAR MARKS TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office celebrated quite the milestone in February as our Emergency Medical Services Operation, MedStar, marked its two-year anniversary on February 5.

During that time our dedicated EMTs have worked tirelessly to support local municipalities, delivering lifesaving emergency medical services to residents throughout Monmouth County. Since the launch, MedStar responded to 16,000 calls for service in under 5 minutes and 30 seconds and transported 10,000 patients to area hospitals. The MedStar team consists of 150 EMTs and 34 ambulances who provide services to Wall Twp, Sea Girt, Manasquan, Neptune City, Ocean Twp, Tinton Falls, Holmdel, Matawan and Aberdeen. We are deeply grateful to all MedStar EMTs for their unwavering commitment and professionalism which have made the operation a resounding success. Ensuring the health and safety of our residents is always a top priority, and the collaboration between the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office EMS Operation, MedStar, and the towns we service enhances the ability to respond swiftly to emergencies and deliver prompt and professional medical care to residents.

We look forward to expanding MedStar services to continue to assist towns as well as expand EMS training and education as we work towards establishing a County EMS Academy. Many thanks to EMS Director Tim Sidley and his team who have worked hard to achieve MedStar's success, the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners for their continued support, and all EMTs, career and volunteer, for their unwavering commitment to ensure that residents and visitors in Monmouth County received the highest level of care.

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## STATE OF THE COUNTY

During the annual State of the County address, Feb. 5, Commissioner Director Tom Arnone proudly recognized Sheriff Golden and the MedStar team for their exceptional work and dedication, also marking the two-year anniversary. Director Arnone highlighted the significant strides and ongoing efforts MedStar has made to enhance public safety throughout Monmouth County as it protects the health and well-being of our residents and continues building for the future. Prior to MedStar Monmouth County ranked 19th out of the 21 NJ Counties in EMS response times, today it ranks 16th.



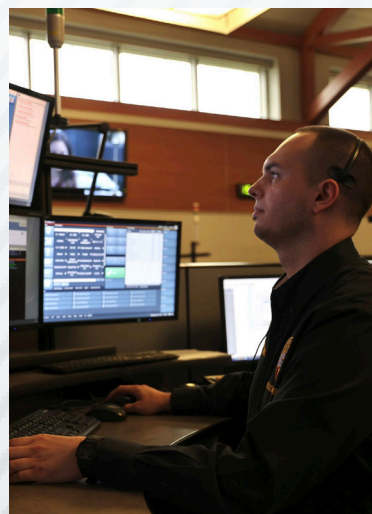
## MONMOUTH COUNTY SNOWED IN

Old Man Winter will certainly not let up. On Feb. 22 and 23 a blizzard hit the state dumping more than 26 inches of snow in parts of Monmouth County. As the storm approached, Sheriff Golden sent out messages of preparedness, asking all to stay off the roads, plan and prioritize safety. During the storm the MCSO and public safety partners worked nonstop, committed to keeping residents and roads safe.

From public works crews and utility workers to police, fire EMS – MedStar and public safety telecommunicators, every role was crucial when dealing with the storm of this magnitude.

The 911 Communications Center processed more than 2000 calls during the storm and the MCSO MedStar responded to 146 calls for service and transported 99 patients to area hospitals.

That type of dedication does not go unnoticed, and, what keeps Monmouth County strong, safe, and moving, even in the most extreme weather.



VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



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## SPECIAL SHOUTOUT TO FIREFIGHTERS

This winter, firefighters have faced some of the toughest conditions head-on. From battling blazes in arctic temperatures to responding during major snowstorms, these dedicated men and women continue to answer the call without hesitation and are true heroes.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO are proud to recognize and thank fire service partners for their courage and unwavering commitment to protecting residents and communities.

A simple way to support our firefighters is by keeping fire hydrants accessible. After major snowfalls, take a few minutes to shovel out hydrants near your home. Clearing the snow can save valuable time during an emergency.



**KEEP THEM CLEAR!**  
If there's a fire hydrant near your house, help keep it accessible this winter:  
**DO YOUR PART SO THEY CAN DO THEIRS**

**3 FT**

**CLEAR AWAY ZONE**  
Remove any snow and ice  
Clear a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for firefighters to work (about 3 feet)  
Clear a path from hydrant to street



**MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN



## GROUNDHOG DAY

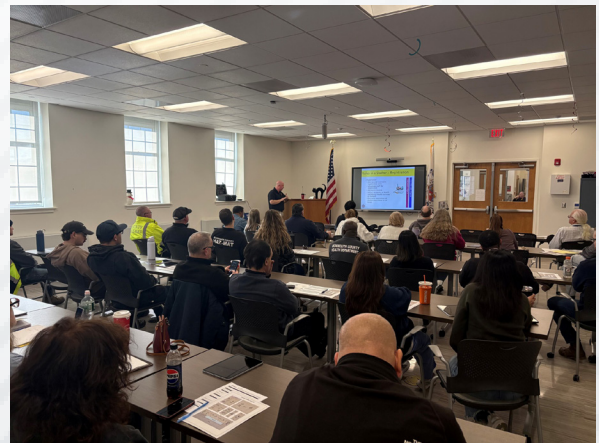
It looks like the MCSO's own Deputy Monmouth Max has so far proven to be right this winter, when, on Feb. 2, he saw his shadow, and concurred with his buddy Punxsutawney Phil, that there will be six more weeks of winter. Bring on Spring.



## OEM PRESENTS OVERVIEW OF SHELTER OPS

Planning and preparedness is key when it comes to major weather related events. On Feb. 13, MCSO OEM provided an overview of shelter operations to partners at the Monmouth County Health Department, ensuring everyone is prepared to support residents who may need to evacuate during an emergency. Preparedness starts with sharing information, strengthening partnerships, and training together.

Sheriff Golden is proud of OEM's continued commitment to keeping Monmouth County residents safe.



## MCSO OEM HOSTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

The MCSO OEM proudly hosted the NJ Emergency Management Basic Workshop in partnership with the New Jersey State Police, Feb. 16.

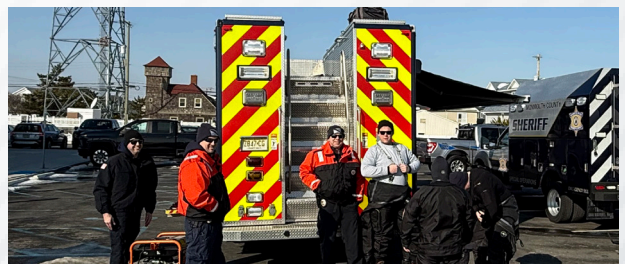
This important training brought together emergency management professionals and partners from across the region to strengthen coordination, enhance preparedness capabilities, and reinforce the shared commitment to protecting our communities. Opportunities like this ensure our teams remain ready, resilient, and unified in the face of any incident.



## MERT TRAINING

MCSO Maritime Emergency Response Team (MERT) conducted training in Manasquan, Feb. 11, sharpening critical skills. During the exercise, team members practiced cold water recovery in rough surf and rapid diver training, an essential component that prepares divers to respond swiftly and effectively during emergencies. MERT is comprised of highly trained professionals from multiple law enforcement agencies who stand ready to handle incidents on our waterways.

Sheriff Golden thanks this dedicated team for their commitment and reminds the public to always take precautions while in or near the water.





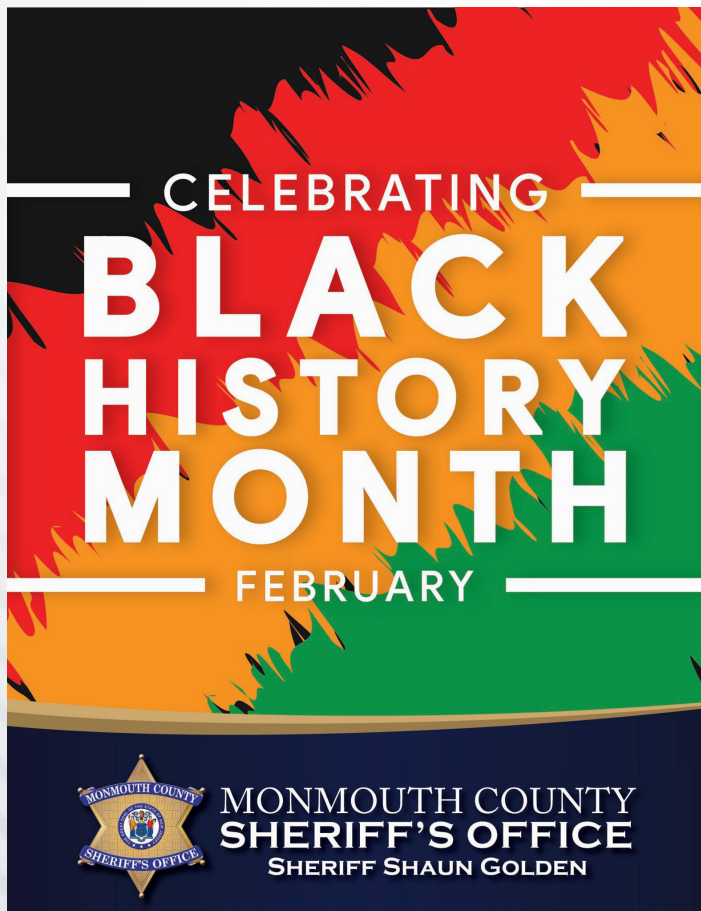
## CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS OF LE

Sheriff Golden proudly administered the oath of office to Lt. Tina Valle and Sgt. Frank Attanasio, Feb. 4, recognizing their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving the residents of Monmouth County,

These well earned promotions reflect their leadership, experience, and unwavering commitment to public safety. The MCSO commends both for their continued service and wishes them the best of luck.

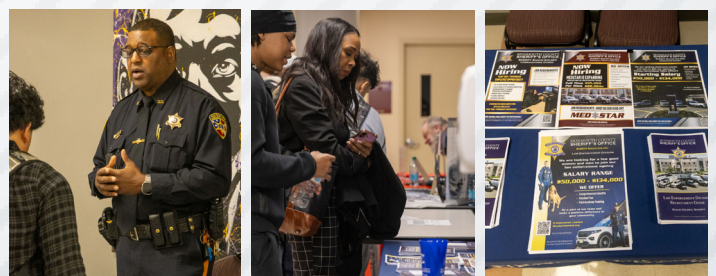
## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February was Black History Month which proudly celebrates and recognizes the achievements, history, and contributions of African Americans. The MCSO recognizes and honors this annual observance by acknowledging the commitment, dedication, and outstanding work of staff members, community leaders, and notable figures whose impact continues to strengthen communities and inspire future generations.



## MCSO PARTICIPATES IN EMPOWERMENT CAREER INITIATIVE CONFERENCE

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office participated in the Empowerment Career Initiative Conference at Brookdale Community College, Feb. 27. Sheriff Officers had the opportunity to connect with participants, share insights about careers in law enforcement, and discuss the many ways to serve and protect communities. Events like these are key to engaging with aspiring public safety professionals and fostering diversity in public safety careers.



## COUNTY EMS LINE OFFICERS MEETING

More than 85 EMS professionals attended the Monmouth County OEM EMS Line Officers meeting held at the MCSO, Feb. 3, where Sheriff Golden, a dedicated leader in emergency services, discussed key advancements in emerging technology and EMS operations, to ensure the highest level of care for residents. Thanks to all EMS partners in attendance who are committed to strengthening coordination and utilizing the latest tools to serve communities.



**ON THIS DAY IN TELEPHONE HISTORY**  
**FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 1968**  
**THE FIRST EVER 9-1-1 CALL WAS PLACED**

Alabama speaker of the house Rankin Fite placed the first-ever 9-1-1 call from Haleyville City Hall, to congressman Tom Bevill, at the city's police station. Bevill was accompanied by Gallagher and Alabama public service commission director Eugene "Bull" Connor.



*The telephone pictured on the left was used to answer the first 9-1-1 call. A bright red Western Electric Model 500. It is on display in a museum in Haleyville.*

THE TELEPHONE MUSEUM

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY 9 1 1

911 celebrated a birthday on Feb. 16 as the emergency service operation turned 58 years old. The first 911 call to ever be placed was Feb. 16, 1968, from Haleyville, Alabama.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO commend the amazing strides made in emergency services throughout the years, and the exceptional dedication of all public safety telecommunicators who work to keep our residents and communities safe.

## MCSO MENTORS STUDENTS

Sheriff Golden is always pleased to welcome and mentor our youth, encouraging the next generation to learn more about public safety. In February students from Middletown HS North and Ocean Township HS toured and learned about agency operations and met members of the K-9 Unit during a demo. Students saw the skills, training, and teamwork that make the K-9 Unit an important part of the MCSO.

## MCSO SEEING RED

The MCSO was seeing red in February to recognize American Heart Month and stood together in the fight against heart disease, the leading cause of death in the US.

Wearing red helped raise awareness, promote heart health, and support life-saving prevention efforts. Together, we can make a difference.



FEBRUARY IS  
**AMERICAN  
 HEART  
 MONTH**



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 SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
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