



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

# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

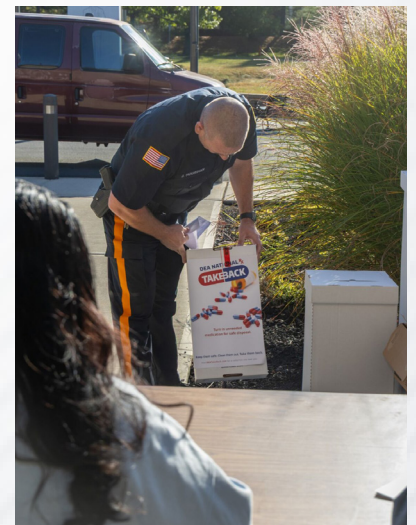
### SHERIFF CONTINUES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

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As the Monmouth County Sheriff, it has been a commitment of mine to stand strong and remain a steadfast leader in the fight against drug abuse and addiction. Through this effort, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, and partners in law enforcement have championed impactful initiatives that make a difference. Opiates and heroin abuse are often fueled by prescription drugs. That's why twice a year we participate in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Takeback Program, ensuring that unused or expired medications are safely disposed of to keep them out of the wrong hands.

The most recent statistics in 2024 show that there were 91 overdose deaths in Monmouth County, all related to heroin and opiate use. By making it convenient for residents to dispose of prescription drugs safely, we actively reduce the risk of drug abuse and overdose within the county. This year's takeback initiative was held at the MCSO on Oct. 25. A total of 45 pounds of unwanted and expired medication was dropped off at the Public Safety Center by residents in Monmouth County and collected by the DEA to dispose. In the ongoing fight against drugs 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. in Freehold.



Another invaluable initiative at the MCSO is HOPE ONE, a mobile outreach program that connects individuals with essential recovery resources, mental health services, and support groups. By bringing services directly to neighborhoods, we meet people where they are, offering hope and pathways to recovery.



- CONGRATS TO SHERIFF GANNON
- RIP CLIFFORD DANIELS
- MONMOUTH 250
- MOBILE COUNTY CONNECTION
- CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
- MCSO PROMOTIONAL & RECOGNITION CEREMONY
- MCSO HOPES ALL HAD A GREAT HALLOWEEN

Thank you to all who work tirelessly in the ongoing battle against addiction. The programs that the MCSO participates in remain vital tools in addressing drug abuse and addiction in Monmouth County. The dedication and innovative approaches continue to build safer, healthier communities for everyone.



## MILITARY HONORS FOR FORGOTTEN VETERANS

A well deserved and proper sendoff was held Oct. 16 at the MCSO as 18 veterans and three spouses from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam War eras were honored in a Salute to Arms, during the Military Honors for Forgotten Veterans event. The cremains of these forgotten veterans and spouses were carried out of the MCSO before they began the journey to their final resting place, during a procession to Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO are tremendous supporters of veterans and take pride in honoring and saluting them for their sacrifice and service.

We appreciate the Vietnam Veterans NJ Shore Area Chapter 12 for their hard work in providing veterans, whose cremains were left on the shelves of funeral homes, with a proper burial. Thanks to all participants for their support of this great event to ensure no veteran shall be left behind.

VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



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

## CONTACT US

Cynthia Scott

Phone: 732-431-6400 x1113

Email: [cscott@mcsonj.org](mailto:cscott@mcsonj.org)





## MONMOUTH COUNTY OEM STORM PREPS TO ENSURE RESIDENTS SAFETY

Monmouth County was spared from any major damage, flooding or storm surge, from the Nor'easter, Oct. 13. Prior to the storm, in an effort to ensure the safety of residents, Sheriff Golden announced that the MCSO OEM, along with the Borough of Sea Bright set up a Fill your Own Sandbag Station on Ocean Ave, available to Monmouth County residents. Hurricane season ends Nov. 30 but its important to plan and prepare year-round.



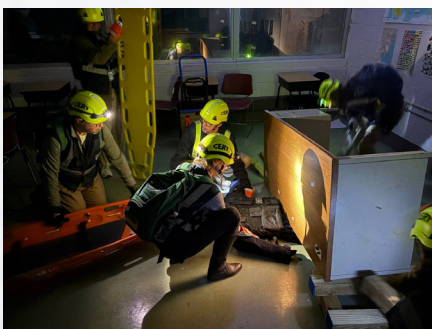
## THANK YOU CERT

The MCSO OEM Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Class 5 successfully completed their Basic Training.

Throughout October these dedicated volunteers gained essential skills in disaster preparedness, fire safety, first aid, search and rescue, and more, preparing them to assist communities when it matters most. With 74 active members, the Monmouth County CERT program already logged more than over 3,000 volunteer hours this year supporting training, exercises, and emergency responses across the county.

The MCSO is pleased to recognize the dedication and hard work of these outstanding members and congratulates all.

Thanks to all the instructors, partners, and all who supported this class.



## THOUGHTS FOR JAMAICA

Thoughts remained with the people across Jamaica as we reflected the 13th Anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, Oct. 28. Heartfelt support goes to all affected. Stay Strong Jamaica.





## MERT TRAINING

The MCSO's Maritime Emergency Response Team, MERT, was out on the Shark River in October conducting vital training exercises. This highly skilled team, made up of members from various Monmouth County law enforcement agencies, is a valuable shared service, trained to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies on our waterways.

Sheriff Golden commends the team for their dedication and professionalism in protecting our residents and visitors. He reminds all to prioritize safety on the water, always follow posted regulations and take proper precautions before heading out.



## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

The MCSO conducted Active Shooter Training at the Monmouth County Vocational School District's High Technology High School, Oct. 13.

This vital training helps ensure that law enforcement and school officials are always prepared to respond swiftly and effectively in the event of an emergency. Preparation, coordination, and communication are key components in keeping schools and communities safe.

Sheriff Golden thanks the staff at Hi Tech for their cooperation and commitment to safety.



## NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER'S DAY

Throughout the year, first responders give so much by going above and beyond the call of duty. As part of National First Responders Day, celebrated Oct 28, the MCSO recognized all first responders for their efforts, dedication and commitment to saving lives and maintaining the safety and health of our residents and visitors in Monmouth County.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO honors these everyday heroes. Their service is the backbone of our safety, and we are forever grateful for all they do.





## BEST OF LUCK TO TWO OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF LE

The MCSO said goodbye to two of our very best in October, Captain Randy Morgan and Captain Scott Robinson, as they retired after many years of dedicated service.

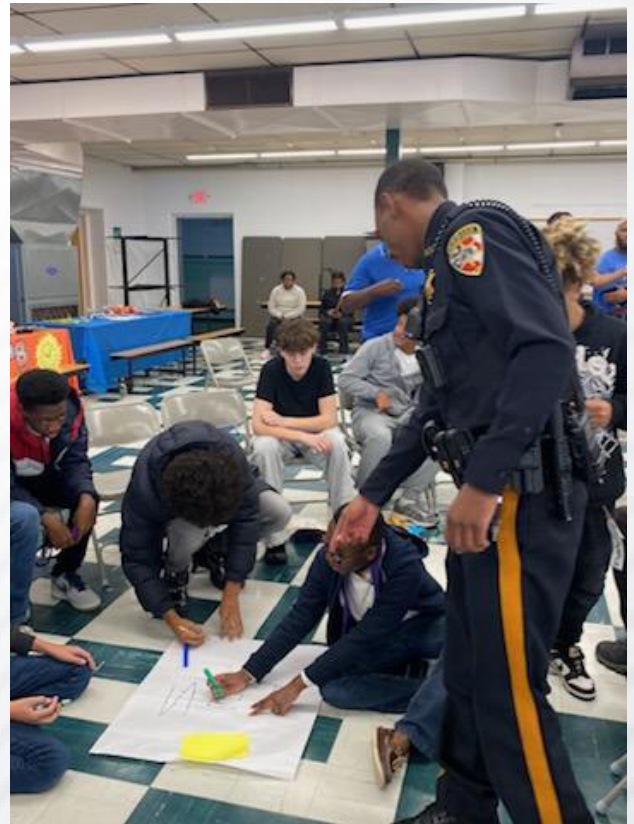
Captain Morgan was with the agency since 2000, and Captain Robinson began his career with the MCSO in 2002. Both are exceptional members of law enforcement, risen through the ranks and exemplify true leadership, professionalism, and a commitment to public safety.

The entire MCSO staff thank them for their outstanding service and wish



## MEMBERS OF LE MENTOR YOUTH

Members of the MCSO Law Enforcement Division proudly served as mentors at the Young Men Employment Network Career Expo in Neptune, Oct. 25. U/S Darryl Breckenridge and sheriff's officers spoke with teenagers about future opportunities in law enforcement and the value of exploring career interests at a young age, to stay focused on the future and their goals.





## MEDSTAR WORKS TO ESTABLISH COUNTY EMS ACADEMY

The MCSO EMS MedStar Unit held its first in-house CORE Refresher program, Oct. 5. The first of many to come as the MedStar Training Division headed by Deputy EMS Director for Clinical Care Joshua Wilkins and Lead Instructor Stephanie Durao work towards establishing a County EMS Academy, a major accomplishment of the training division.

Thanks to the Monmouth County Commissioners for their continued investment in EMS training and education. Their support helps expand opportunities for EMS and other professional training for volunteers and career providers.



MedStar remains committed to delivering the highest quality classes for its providers, ensuring teams are always ready to protect the health and safety of residents during emergencies.



## MEDSTAR EMTS EDUCATE PUBLIC ABOUT EMS

The MCSO's EMS Operation MedStar makes time to educate the public about the vital role of emergency services. EMTs met with students at the Ocean Township Fire District 1, Oct. 16, to share insight into what it takes to respond to emergencies and help save lives.

Thanks to the Ocean Township Fire District for the invitation and their continued interest in public safety education.





## NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week was Oct. 5-11, and this year's theme focused on an important and timely topic, lithium-ion battery safety in the home. These batteries power many everyday devices, and it's crucial to handle and charge them safely to prevent fires and injuries.

As awareness about safety and prevention was raised, the MCSO also took this time to recognize the brave firefighters who risk their lives to protect others and work under the most dangerous conditions. Thanks to all for the courage, commitment, and service.



## MCSONJ COMMEMORATES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Sheriff Golden and the MCSONJ are big supporters of promoting awareness and providing hope. We always stand behind this effort for all the courageous people who are battling the disease, have lost their lives or lost loved ones.



## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month which began Sept. 15 and ended Oct. 15, Sheriff Golden and the MCSO proudly highlighted two of our bilingual Sheriff's Officers who represent the law enforcement division and exemplify commitment to serving communities.

S/O Iliana Santos has served as the lead presenter of the MCSO's public safety programs for children and adults, before passing the torch to S/O Jasmin Colon, who now carries that mission forward.

Both officers exemplify dedication, leadership, and cultural contributions that enrich our team and inspire all who serve alongside them. Thanks to S/Os Santos and Colon for their commitment to public safety.





## SHERIFF HOSTS 180 TURNING LIVES AROUND

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and on Oct. 15, Sheriff Golden was honored to welcome all attending the 180 Turning Lives Around Symposium held at the MCSO.

This extremely important and informative event brought together survivors, advocates to end domestic violence, and law enforcement professionals. The symposium promoted awareness, shared resources, and strengthened collaboration with law enforcement, all with the shared goal of addressing this violent crime and ensuring the safety and support of victims.

A huge thank you to CEO Liz Graham of 180 Turning Lives Around, the panel of experts, and the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, who works diligently through its Domestic Violence Unit to assist victims and hold those accountable for this heinous crime.



## CONGRATS TO SHERIFF GANNON

The MCSO congratulates Morris County Sheriff James Gannon on being named President of the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey (COANJ).

Sheriff Golden, who is a past president of COANJ, is proud and honored to see Sheriff Gannon take the helm of such a great association and wishes him all the best. The MCSO thanks him for the leadership and dedication to public safety.





## RIP CLIFFORD DANIELS

The MCSO is deeply saddened over the passing of former Undersheriff Clifford J. Daniels.

Cliff was a dedicated and committed public servant who began his career at the MCSO in 1970 as a Corrections Officer and rose through the ranks to become Warden of the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. After retiring as Warden, he was appointed to Undersheriff of the MCSO and served in that role until 2009.

Cliff will always be remembered as a kind and respected leader who devoted his life to public service and to the residents of Monmouth County. Sheriff Golden and the MCSO extend heartfelt condolences to the Daniels family during this difficult time.



## MONMOUTH 250

Sheriff Golden was honored to lead the Pledge of Allegiance on Oct. 27 and proud to take part in marking 250 days until July 4, 2026, when our nation will commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Outside the Hall of Records in Freehold, the Monmouth County 250 Committee, Co-Chaired by Commissioner Director Tom Arnone and Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon, together with members of the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, held a special flag-raising ceremony counting down to this historic celebration. And what a celebration Monmouth County is planning to mark this momentous milestone in our nation's history.





## MOBILE COUNTY CONNECTION

A great Mobile County Connection event at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan on Oct. 15, where Sheriff Golden, Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon and Surrogate Maureen Raisch were pleased to deliver county services and programs directly into communities.

The Mobile County Connection enhances continuing efforts to make government services and public safety initiatives more accessible and available to residents and fulfill needs.



## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Congratulations to participants of the 26th Annual Citizen Police Academy/Law Enforcement Mini Academy who completed the four-week course on Oct. 23.

Sheriff Golden commended all for participating in this unique opportunity, where they became familiar with the complex roles of modern-day law enforcement agencies.

During the course, participants learned about various topics including the EMS operation MedStar, and how to become a volunteer with the MCSO. They also toured the Monmouth County Correctional Facility, the Public Safety Center and were presented with a history of the sheriff's office.





## MCSO PROMOTIONAL & RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Sheriff Golden was proud to recognize and honor staff from the MCSO on all their achievements that help maintain the safety and security in Monmouth County, during the Promotional & Recognition Ceremony, Oct. 14.





MCSO HOPES ALL HAD A GREAT HALLOWEEN

