



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

# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### A SALUTE TO K-9 LEO



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The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit is outstanding and one of the most successful in the state when it comes to tracking, patrols and narcotics/explosive detection. However, the unit has suffered loss in the past month, with the most recent passing being K-9 Leo, and for that we are deeply saddened. Leo, beloved partner of Sgt. Michael DeLuca, was a seven-year-old German Shepherd, who specialized in explosive detection and patrols. He passed away on December 26, after a brief battle from cancer.

Sgt. DeLuca and K-9 Leo were extremely essential in bolstering homeland security capabilities by playing a vital role in protecting Monmouth County against criminal and terroristic threats, as well as assisting in the apprehension of suspects.

Leo came to the sheriff's office upon graduating from the Bergen County K-9 Training Academy. He began service in 2017 with Sgt. DeLuca and throughout the course of their work, the team was called to 391 bomb calls, assisted with numerous patrols and seized two handguns. Sgt. DeLuca and Leo also conducted K-9 demos at schools and community events throughout Monmouth County.

In remembrance of K-9 Leo, a special tribute was held at the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Jan 11, 2024, a day that will forever be remembered as K-9 Leo Day.

Leo is missed and will never be forgotten for his loyalty and service.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit presently consists of 7 sheriff's officers/K-9 handlers, which include one narcotics detection team, two explosive detection teams, one patrol/explosive and three tracking teams.

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## ORGANIZATION DAY

The annual Organization Day 2024 for the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, which kicks off the beginning of the new year, was held Jan. 4 at Biotechnology High School. The MCSO's Honor Guard presented the colors as Sheriff Golden proudly led the Pledge of Allegiance. Best of luck to the Board of Commissioners on a successful year. They are all exceptional leaders, hardworking and will continue to serve the public well.



## MCSO GEARS UP AND MAINTAINS SAFETY DURING WINTER WEATHER

As we dug deeper into January, rough weather began to creep up on us, but overall, old man winter has been kind.

On Jan. 9, the MCSO Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Nielsen and staff, stayed ahead of the storm that packed a punch with heavy wind gusts and rain, as they discussed preparations and planning in the Sheriff's Operations Center. Meanwhile, Sheriff Golden spoke with News 12 NJ's Jim Murdoch to discuss the impact of the storm. The inmate labor crew also helped at Neptune Public Works filling more than 700 sandbags to deter flooding around Ocean Grove.



**VISIT MCSO ONLINE:**



**[WWW.MCSO.NJ.ORG](http://WWW.MCSO.NJ.ORG)**

## **CONTACT US**

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During the week of Jan. 15, we experienced a cold snap and the first significant snow of the season on Jan. 19, with accumulations in Monmouth County up to four inches. Crews from the Monmouth County Department of Public Works did a great job keeping up with the storm clearing the roads, while Sheriff Golden's message to residents was to stay home, stay safe and stay clear of the plows. However, the weather couldn't keep MCSO's K-9s Blue and Harley inside as they walked the beat to sniff out crime.

Safety works when we all work together.



## CONGRATS CAPTAINS

Sheriff Golden was proud to appoint two new captains to the MCSO's Law Enforcement Division as Randy Morgan and John Esposito took the oath of office on Jan. 16.

Captain Morgan, a military veteran, began his career in 2000 at the Youth Detention Center and transitioned to the law enforcement division as a sheriff's officer in 2002. He rose through the ranks and worked in all areas of the division, spending many years in the warrant/fugitive unit and five years with the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

Captain Esposito began his career at the MCSO Law Enforcement Division in 2000. He spent several years in criminal investigations, warrants and court security. Captain Esposito is a certified drone pilot.

Congratulations to both captains who are dedicated and committed public servants.



## WELCOME RECRUITS

Sheriff Golden was proud to welcome new recruits to the Monmouth County Police Academy on Jan. 8 as the first day of training for members of the 106th Basic Course for Police Officers and the 57th Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) II classes got underway.

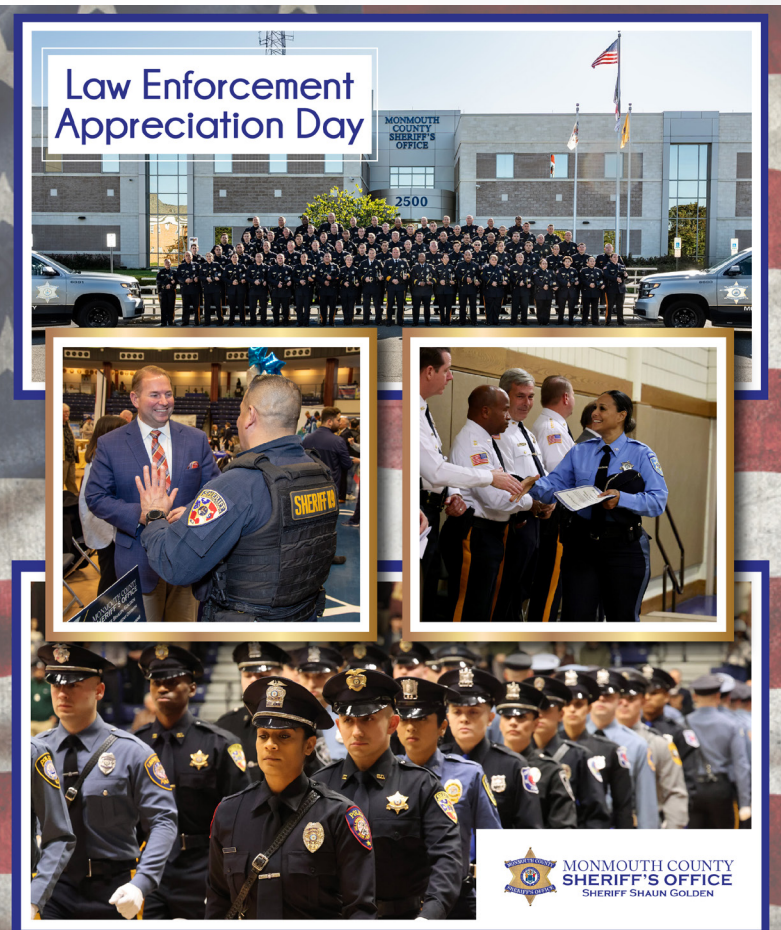
There are three members of the MCSO's Law Enforcement Division who are training to become sheriff's officers. Best of luck to all as they work hard to become public safety professionals and our future leaders in law enforcement.



## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) is held every Jan. 9 and it's a most well-deserved day for all to show support of our police officers. Sheriff Golden and the MCSO recognize the important efforts members of law enforcement make throughout the year. They sacrifice their safety to protect the public each and every day.

Thank you for your service and we will never forget all who died in the line of duty.



## SCAM ALERT

The MCSO issued a warning against a telephone scam in January after several residents reported they received calls from subjects stating they were representatives from the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, and, claiming that individuals failed to report to jury duty.

Please be advised that NO member of the MCSO will call to inform individuals about failure to appear for jury duty or if they have an arrest warrant.

In regard to any SCAM, always use your best judgement. If it doesn't seem right, it's probably not.

Complaints to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office can be directed to (732) 431-6400.



## FIREFIGHTERS GRADUATE FROM ACADEMY

Sheriff Golden celebrated the graduation of the recruits from Firefighter 1 Class 137 at Brookdale Community College on Jan. 24. Their dedication and hard work at the Monmouth County Fire Academy has paved the way for them to serve our communities as skilled firefighters. Best of luck to all of our next generation of first responders in keeping our communities and county safe.



## A TRIBUTE AND DEDICATION TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE THORNTON

A remarkable woman who earned the respect and admiration of all who knew her is being remembered for the indelible mark she left behind during her tenure as Monmouth County Assignment Judge. On Jan. 26, the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, in partnership with the Monmouth Vicinage and the Monmouth Bar Association, announced that the west entrance security vestibule of the Monmouth County Courthouse will be dedicated and named, the Honorable Lisa P. Thornton Memorial Hall.

Judge Thornton was an exceptional judicial administrator. Her passing was a tremendous loss throughout Monmouth County and there is no better way to honor and celebrate her life and legacy.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO are most grateful for all of Judge Thornton's assistance and support of the Law Enforcement Division's Court Security Unit and beyond, and thanks the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, the Monmouth Vicinage and the Monmouth Bar Association for this great dedication of a beloved woman.

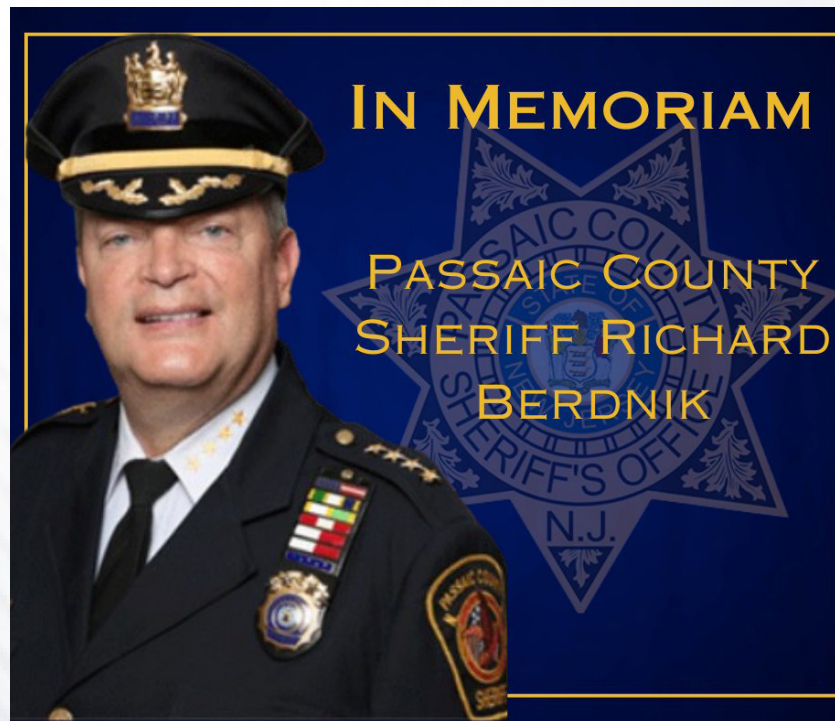


## RIP SHERIFF BERDNIK

The MCSO is deeply saddened over the loss of Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik, a well-respected and extremely dedicated public servant.

Sheriff Berdnik was a kind and caring man whom Sheriff Golden had the pleasure of knowing and always looked forward to spending time with at the Sheriffs' Association of NJ, (SANJ) meetings. Sheriff Berdnik made a lasting mark on law enforcement through his hard work and contributions to the community and county in which he served, the Clifton Police Department and the Passaic County Sheriff Office respectively. We extend our thoughts and prayers to Sheriff Berdnik's family, and the entire law enforcement community, in Passaic County."

For those suffering with mental health issues please call 988 the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.



## CORRECTIONS DIVISION PARTNERS WITH WELLPATH TO PROVIDE QUALITY CARE

The MCSO's Correctional Division entered into a partnership with Wellpath in January to provide quality healthcare to individuals housed at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. The agreement with Wellpath, which provides specialized care for patients in a correctional or residential health environment is a collaborative effort to maintain the health and safety during an individual's stay at MCCI and upon release.



## A HEARTWARMING DONATION BY MCSO STAFF

The MCSO Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions warmed the hearts of staff at the AstraZeneca Hope Lodge in Philadelphia on Jan. 25 by presenting them with a check for \$3700. AstraZeneca Hope Lodge provides a comforting home away from home for cancer patients and their families during treatment. The money was raised through the MCSO participation in No Shave November and donated to this worthy cause. The MCSO Communications Division also participated in No Shave November and raised money for cancer research and prevention.



## JOB WELL DONE

### COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Sheriff Golden reports that in 2023, the Communications Division processed 768,739 calls. The Monmouth County 911 Communications Center is the largest shared service in Monmouth County. It answers calls for 48 municipalities, and provides dispatch services for 28 police departments, 88 fire companies and 42 first aid squads. Our highly trained Public Safety Telecommunicators do an exceptional job serving Monmouth County 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and deserve much credit for their work in helping to ensure the public safety and health of residents in Monmouth County.



## WANT TO BE A PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR?

Want to join a dynamic group of public safety professionals? Apply to become a Public Safety Telecommunicator at the MCSO. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Sheriff Golden has a highly trained staff who work at the 9-1-1 Communications Center and is seeking additional professionals to join the team. Become a part of the nationally accredited Communications Division.



# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

### COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

# NOW Hiring

**Starting Salary \$50,622**

- FULL-TIME POSITIONS
- COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS PACKAGE
- BILINGUAL APPLICANTS ENCOURAGED

### JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Certifications Available through MCSO - Emergency Medical Dispatch/Basic Telecommunicator/ C.P.R
- Pass psychological/medical evaluation and criminal background check
- 18yrs. or older/proof of U.S. Citizenship
- Resident of the State of NJ
- High school Diploma or equivalent

[WWW.MCSO.NJ.ORG/ABOUT-US/EMPLOYMENT/](http://WWW.MCSO.NJ.ORG/ABOUT-US/EMPLOYMENT/)  
for more information contact: [RecruitmentComms@mcsnj.org](mailto:RecruitmentComms@mcsnj.org)  
The COUNTY OF MONMOUTH is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Scan for more information





## CERT TRAINING & READY TO EXPAND WITH NEW CLASS

The MCSO Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, has been keeping busy at OEM. In January, team members took part in first responder re-hab joint training hosted by Oceanport OEM, learned about Project Lifesaver and search operations conducted by S/O Pat Luke, attended a K-9 demo presented by S/O Matt Lavin and his partner Mack, and assisted at a Register Ready event in Ocean Township.

MCSO OEM is seeking volunteers to join the next CERT class. It is a great opportunity for participants and provides them with valuable experience, as they learn how to deal with disasters and be at the ready to assist residents and communities if one strikes. Please sign up to become a part of your own county disaster response team at: [www.mcsonj.org/cert](http://www.mcsonj.org/cert).

**MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**JOIN NOW!**

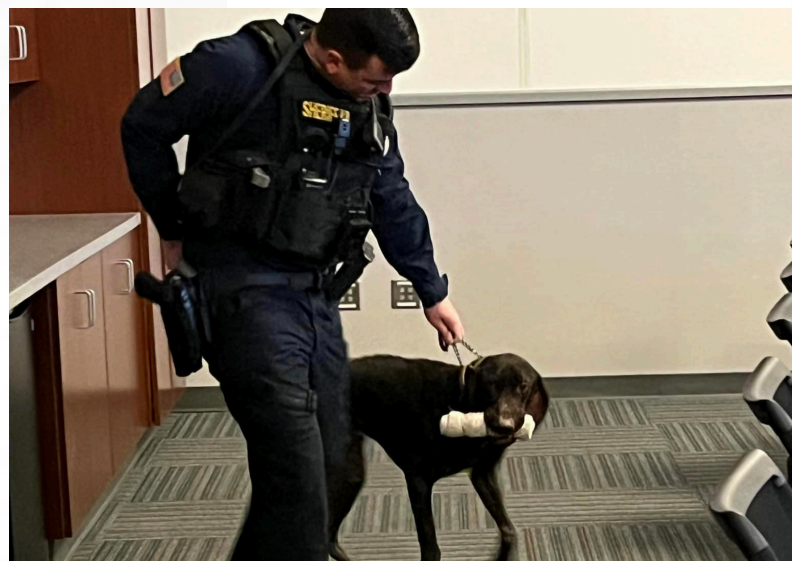
**CERT**  
**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

Be ready to help after disaster strikes. Learn basic emergency preparedness and response skills and become part of your own county disaster response team. The 24-hour series of classes are valuable, **FREE** and fun! Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. All CERT members will receive **FREE** training in the following areas:

Following the initial training sessions team members will meet once a month to maintain and advance their training.

CLASSES	Tentative Date
SESSION 1 INTRO/ DISASTER AWARENESS	03/13/2024
SESSION 2 ICS, DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY, & EOC OPERATIONS	03/20/2024
SESSION 3 MED OPS PART 1 BASIC FIRST AID	03/27/2024
SESSION 4 MED OPS PART 2 MCI AWARENESS	04/03/2024
SESSION 5 FIRE SAFETY	04/10/2024
SESSION 6 LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE	04/17/2024
SESSION 7 TERRORISM & HAZMAT	04/24/2024

To register visit: [www.mcsonj.org/CERT](http://www.mcsonj.org/CERT)  
 For more information email: [OEM@mcsonj.org](mailto:OEM@mcsonj.org)



## SHERIFF PROUD TO HELP SEND OFF NATIONAL GUARD

Sheriff Golden was honored to attend and speak at the Freehold Armory during a special send off on Jan. 24 for members of the NJ Army National Guard who were deployed to the Middle East.

During the event the sheriff offered support and encouragement and thanked the brave members of the military for their sacrifice and service as they embarked on a one year mission.



## S/O ASSIST VETS

The MCSO leads the way in assisting veterans. To spread hope for the new year, sheriff's officers helped serve breakfast to veterans at the Gordon H. Mansfield Veterans Community in Tinton Falls, Soldier On. The catering was provided by Quality Plus Caterers and hosted by Immanuel Bible Church out of Howell.

Sheriff Golden commends the officers for their efforts and particularly thanks S/O John Lee, who is a veteran and supporter of giving back to those from Soldier On, by coordinating community outreach programs.



## VETERANS SERVICE COUNCIL MEETS

The Veterans Service Council held its first meeting of the year at the MCSO on Jan. 17. During the meeting key topics were discussed including an overview of the Allaire Community Farm Veterans prgs, the Sea Girt 5K Habitat for Humanity Veterans Home Remodeling prg, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 Cremains project and the Wreaths Across America Blueclaws Baseball Tribute to Gold Star families.

Sheriff Golden thanks the council, led by Veterans Service Officer Mike Ferraro, for the exceptional work they do for our Monmouth County Veterans.



## MCSO REFLECTS AND REMEMBERS MLK

Sheriff Golden was proud to reflect on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 35th Annual YMCA commemorative breakfast which honored the courageous leader of the civil rights movement. The annual event brings people together to celebrate Dr. King's mission, a man whose words continue to provide inspiration.



## S/O SANTOS PRESENTS SAFETY PROGRAMS

S/O Iliana Santos presents public safety programs to students at schools throughout Monmouth County. In January, one of the important programs she presented was Bullying, Cyberbullying and the After Affects.



## WELCOME INTERNS

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO welcomed eight students to the MCSO spring internship program on Jan. 28. The interns were presented with an overview of the agency and toured MCSO facilities where they will assist in the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions, the Office of Emergency Management, Information Technology and Special Operations. Many interns from the MCSO have moved on to become law enforcement professionals. We are pleased to have all on board and provide them with a great experience. The interns are from Monmouth University, TCNJ, Red Bank Catholic HS and the Academy of Law and Public Safety.

