



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

# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LAUNCHES MEDSTAR AMID VOLUNTEER SHORTAGE



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February was an exciting month at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office as we officially launched our county run emergency medical services operation, MedStar. This great initiative, which was held on Feb. 7, comes in response to the critical shortage of volunteer EMTs which results in a lack of EMS services. The strategic initiative led by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office along with the support of the Board of County Commissioners, assists local agencies in need with emergency medical calls and aims to ensure the most timely and effective emergency medical responses for the residents of Monmouth County.

Volunteer EMS units play a crucial role in serving communities, but challenges have resulted in staffing shortages that are impacting response time and safety, so we are here to help. This launch of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office EMS Operation, MedStar, is a testament to our dedication to public safety and resolve to address the shortage of EMS volunteers head-on. It bridges the gap and enhances emergency response capabilities in struggling towns that have entered into an agreement with Monmouth County.

In 2023, there were more than sixty thousand calls for service in Monmouth County that required an ambulance. Furthermore, out of the 21 counties in New Jersey, Monmouth County ranked 19th in response times. Amid the decreasing number of volunteers, keeping up with that demand is extremely challenging. The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office EMS Operation will assist by helping to fill that need and supplement the efforts of existing volunteer EMS squads.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office presently has four ambulances and two quick response vehicles that will be stationed at EMS Central, located at Fort Monmouth. The county EMS unit consists of highly trained, dedicated full and

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part time EMS professionals who assist and work collaboratively with existing volunteer EMS squads in Tinton Falls and surrounding areas in the central region of Monmouth County.

The process begins in the Monmouth County 9-1-1 Communications Center when an emergency call comes in and an ambulance is requested from the town with which the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office has entered into an agreement.

If that town needs assistance, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office EMS Unit will respond, ensuring that emergency medical services are efficient and accessible. The services will be subsidized through insurance.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office thanks the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners, as well as paid and volunteer EMS professionals, for their unwavering support and dedication to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office EMS Operation, MedStar. In addition, the sheriff's office looks forward to working with healthcare partners including Hackensack Meridian Health, Robert Wood Johnson and Atlantic Health System.

We should all be proud of this new endeavor as it will enhance emergency medical services, strengthen community resilience, and contribute to the overall safety and well-being of Monmouth County residents.



## MCSO HOSTS EMS LINE OFFICERS MEETING

Prior to the unveiling of MedStar, Sheriff Golden was proud to host the annual 2024 County EMS Line Officers meeting attended by more than 110 EMS professionals throughout Monmouth County on Feb. 6. OEM coordinated the informative event to provide annual updates and discuss EMS initiatives, planning and procedures.

Thanks to Monmouth County EMS Coordinator Mike Bascom for presenting insightful emergency preparedness information.



VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



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

## CONTACT US

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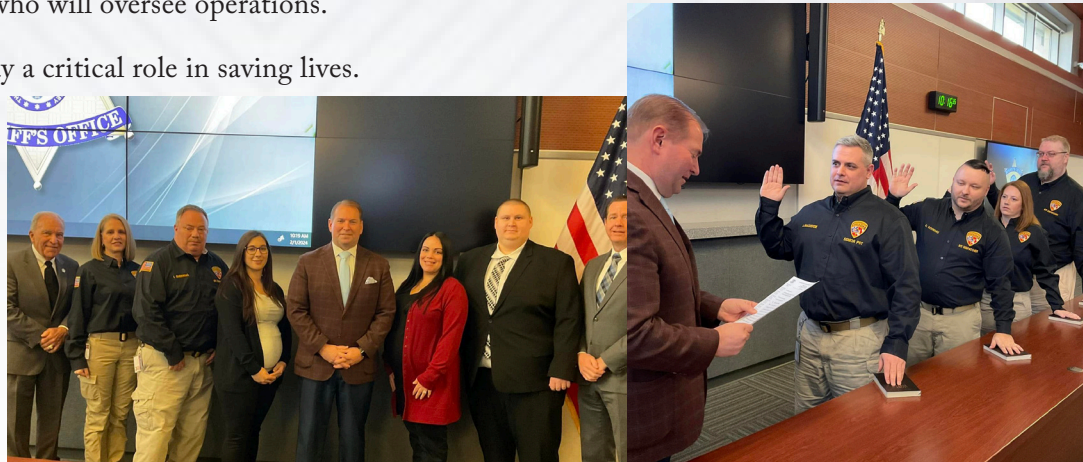
**Email: [cscott@mcsnj.org](mailto:cscott@mcsnj.org)**

## CONGRATS PSTS & SUPERVISORS

The MCSO is proud of the five Senior Public Safety Telecommunicators and five supervisors of the Communications Division, who were all promoted and sworn in by Sheriff Golden during a ceremony at the MCSO on Feb. 1.

Congrats to Senior Public Safety Telecommunicators Joseph Higgins, Deanna Toscano, Rachael Dougherty, Ian Guerrino and Heidi Miller, and Communications Division Supervisors Jason Mackenzie, Craig Schwarz, Tierney Park and Daniel O'Connell who will oversee operations.

Best of luck and thanks to all who play a critical role in saving lives.



## SANJ MEETS

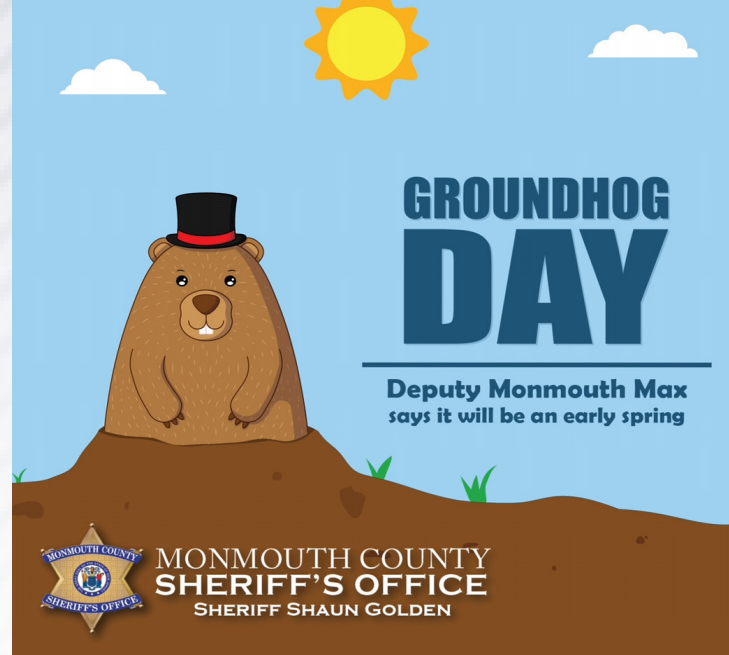
The Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey, SANJ, held its monthly meeting hosted by the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office on Feb. 15.

Sheriff Golden, the Secretary of SANJ, collaborated with fellow sheriffs and undersheriffs throughout the state to share law enforcement efforts, initiatives, ideas and programs that enhance safety, better serve the public and keep issues in the forefront that impact counties.



## GROUNDHOG DAY

Groundhog Day was Feb. 2 and MCSO's Deputy Monmouth Max concurred with Punxsutawny Phil for an early spring. Both did not see their shadows.



## SNOW SAFETY TIPS

Let's not get too excited for an early spring yet. Although February was relatively free from snow with the exception of a coating that covered sidewalks and driveways on February 13, Old Man Winter can still rear its head in the next month. During winter weather it's important to follow safety tips.



## SHOVELING TIPS

- Take it slow and stretch before you begin.
- Bend your knees and keep your back straight.
- Don't shovel more than you can handle.
- Push the snow rather than lift it. If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Take breaks and don't overdo it. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately. A clear driveway is not worth your safety or health.



MONMOUTH COUNTY  
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## 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**

# 3FT

### 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  
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## NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN

On Feb. 22, we were exactly 100 days out from Hurricane season which begins June 1, and Sheriff Golden says it's always good to plan ahead. Keep a disaster supply kit stocked and ready to go. Also, download the MCSO's App for emergency alerts and real time notifications at [www.mcsonj.org/app](http://www.mcsonj.org/app).

- FIRST AID KIT
- 1 GALLON OF WATER PER PERSON, PER DAY FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS
- MEDICATION
- SPECIAL ITEMS (DIAPERS, FORMULA GLASSES)
- NON-PERISHABLE FOOD/SPECIAL DIETARY ITEMS
- BATTERY OPERATED RADIO
- CELL PHONE CHARGERS
- EMERGENCY CASH
- CHANGE OF CLOTHES, FOOTWEAR
- DUST MASK
- FACE COVERINGS
- RUBBER GLOVES
- HAND SANITIZER



## STORM PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCY KIT

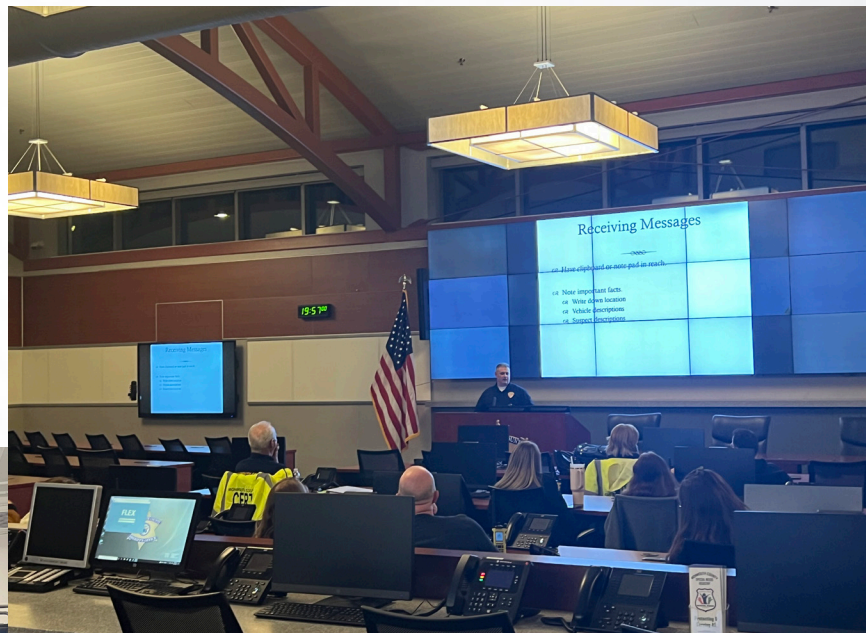


## CERT TEAM TRAINING

The MCSO OEM Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, held training on Feb. 20 in which they learned about emergency communications.

CERT trains monthly to ensure members will be at the ready to assist should an emergency or disaster occur.

Sheriff Golden commends all for their great efforts.



## REGISTER READY LEADS THE WAY IN MONMOUTH COUNTY

The MCSONJ continues to be in the forefront of preparedness and proud to announce that the Office of Emergency Management has reached a milestone for New Jersey's Register Ready program, with 3500 registered participants.

“Register Ready – New Jersey’s Special Needs Registry for Disasters” is a partnership with the Monmouth County Office on Aging. It allows NJ residents with disabilities or access and functional needs and their families, friends and caregivers an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies, so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency. Registrants are also provided with a Ready Go Bag to utilize during a disaster.

Sheriff Golden is proud to be a statewide leader and thanks OEM staff for their commitment to helping the senior population. For more information or to sign up for Register Ready visit [www.mcsonj.org/registerready](http://www.mcsonj.org/registerready) or call NJ 2-1-1.



## DIVE TEAM ASSISTS AS MANY TAKE THE PLUNGE

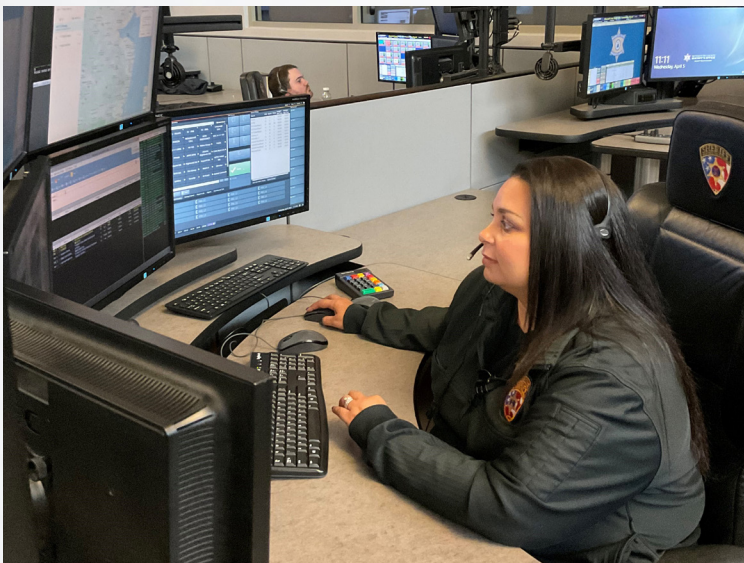
Sheriff Golden thanks the MCSO's Maritime Emergency Response Team, MERT, for assisting partners in law enforcement and EMS in Ocean County during the Polar Bear Plunge in Seaside Heights on Feb. 24, which benefits the Special Olympics. MERT is made up of officers from the MCSO and members of various Monmouth County law enforcement agencies. Great job to all the plungers who braved the cold water for a good cause.



## MCSO CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sheriff Golden is always proud to commemorate Black History Month throughout February and recognize the accomplishments of staff members who are making, and have made, a tremendous difference professionally and in their communities.

The month long celebration is a great time to reflect on the achievements and contributions of African Americans in our agencies, communities and nationwide.



## FEBRUARY MARKS TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FLAG DROP BOX

February marks the two year anniversary of the MCSO's Flag Dropbox where residents can dispose tattered or damaged American flags. It's important to honor our stars and stripes by ensuring that worn out flags, which are no longer able to be displayed, are discarded properly. Once the flags are collected, they are retired during an American Flag Retirement ceremony at the Monmouth County Fire Academy.

Five ceremonies have been held and coordinated by the Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO are proud of this effort since retiring flags in a dignified way shows great respect for our nation, and, those who sacrificed and fought for our freedom. Approximately 8000 flags have been retired.



## SHERIFF ATTENDS GRAND OPENING OF SURROGATE'S SATELLITE OFFICE

Sheriff Golden attended the grand opening of the new satellite office for the Monmouth County Surrogate's Office located at the Monmouth County Library System's Eastern Branch in Shrewsbury on Feb. 14. This location is set to provide and enhance more accessible and efficient services to serve residents in the area.





## CONGRATS TO MCPO STAFF

Sheriff Golden was proud to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and support the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, our great partners in law enforcement, during a ceremony to administer the oath of office to two new assistant prosecutors and five MCPO Law Enforcement Officers who were promoted on Feb. 15.

The MCSO congratulates all and wishes them the best of luck as they serve the residents of Monmouth County.



## MCSO TO HOST BLUE MASS

Attention to all members of law enforcement and the public. Sheriff Golden is honored to announce that this year's 22nd Annual Blue Mass will once again be held in Monmouth County at St. Bellarmine Co-Cathedral in Freehold on April 4. Together, we will honor the sacrifice and service of law enforcement personnel and remember those who died in the line of duty. Law enforcement throughout Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington and Mercer Counties along with family, friends and loved ones of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and members of the public are invited to attend. In addition to sending agency representatives, the participation of bagpipes, color/honor guard and motorcycle units are welcome. Please see the information below and join us in the Annual Celebration of the Law Enforcement Blue Mass.

THE MOST REVEREND  
**DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.**  
*The Bishop of Trenton*

**22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
BLUE MASS**

THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON'S  
**CELEBRATION of  
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral**  
61 GEORGIA ROAD, FREEHOLD

**Thursday, April 4, 2024 | 10:30 am**

All Law Enforcement Officers  
and their families, as well as the  
public, are invited to share in this  
celebration of Law Enforcement

For further information email,  
dotcomm@dioceseoftrenton.org  
or visit  
[www.bluemass.org](http://www.bluemass.org)

Luncheon ticket: \$20 per person

## A DONATION FOR SPCA IN MEMORY OF K9S

A great gesture from our Public Safety Telecommunicators Riley Behnken and Kayla Fenton who presented the Monmouth County SPCA with more than \$4000 along with supplies, in memory of MCSO's K-9s Gunner and Leo, who passed away at the end of 2023. This generous donation came from local PBAs and the public.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO appreciate the support. It is money that will be well spent on animals in need.



## SHERIFF WELCOMES BROOKDALE STUDENTS

Sheriff Golden welcomed Prof. Jacquelyann Seely's Brookdale Community College Intro to Criminal Justice class to the MCSO where he provided them with an overview of the agency and various career paths offered in the law enforcement profession on Feb. 20. It's always important to take students, many who are aspiring leaders in law enforcement, out of the classroom so they can see and learn about law enforcement firsthand.

The sheriff is proud to mentor our youth and wishes all the best of luck.



## NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

They were seeing red at the MCSO for National Wear Red Day on Feb. 2 in support of the fight against heart disease throughout February, which is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women.

Together we can promote awareness.



## HBD STONE PONY

Sheriff Golden along with Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon and members of the Board of County Commissioners were proud to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Stone Pony. The Pony is filled with incredible memories from legendary artists. This staple at the Jersey Shore has made music history and it's still going strong. The celebration is a momentous occasion.

