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FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

NEWEST MEMBER OF THE MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HAS A SHARP SENSE FOR SNIFFING OUT CRIME

Along with the new year, comes our newest member of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Division, who has one credential for the job, his sense of smell. Moose, the 10-month-old bloodhound, was certified by the Cape May County Sheriff's Office K-9 Training Academy, along with his handler S/O Joseph Szotak during a ceremony on Jan. 24.

Moose will be a significant asset to our K-9 Unit since his sole purpose is to locate individuals. Through tracking and trailing, this highly trained K-9, with a stronger sense of smell than any other breed, will assist sheriff's officers and local police departments in apprehending criminals, locating missing persons and those with special needs.

The Cape May County Sheriff's Office K-9 training program has a rigorous curriculum and hands-on approach, ensuring that K-9s and their handlers are prepared for real-world scenarios.

K-9's Moose and S/O Joseph Szotak worked closely during 13 weeks of training to build a strong, cohesive partnership, which will be pivotal in the field.

The team tracked scent in rural, urban and residential areas and through bodies of water, the woods, fields, creeks and garbage, as well as parking lots and busy roadways. Bloodhounds are trained to track skin cells. It's estimated that a bloodhound's nose has 230 million olfactory cells, or "scent receptors"- 40 times the number in humans.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office presently consists of nine K-9s and eight sheriff's officers, which include four explosive detections teams, two narcotics detections teams and three blood hound tracking teams.



MCSO

- SHERIFF GOLDEN HONORED TO BE A PART OF MIDDLETOWN EVENT
- SHERIFF PROUD TO BE A PART OF SANJ BOARD
- MCSO PARTICIPATES IN MLK EVENTS
- MONMOUTH NJ 250 COMMITTEE MEETS AT MCSO
- K-9 DEMOS

ORGANIZATION DAY

Organization Day 2025 was held by the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners on Jan. 7. 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 new year. They are all exceptional leaders, hardworking and will continue to serve the public well.



MCSO WARNS AGAINST LATEST SCAM

Sheriff Golden issued a warning against a SCAM at the end of January, that is being sent via text message, which are leading individuals to believe they are coming from the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.

These fraudulent texts, claim that the recipient failed to appear in court and shows documents with the MCSO logo on them. The messages instruct individuals to make payments at a convenience store kiosk for the charges to be dropped.

The MCSO will NEVER text or call anyone to ask for money or to make a payment through a kiosk, apple pay, a QR code or Bitcoin.

If you receive one of these messages:

- ✓ DO NOT respond to the text.
- ✓ DO NOT click on any links or provide personal information.
- ✓ DO NOT make any payments.

Please be vigilant and report any suspicious messages to MCSO Detective Bureau at: (732) 431-6400 ext.1119.

VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



WWW.MCSO.NJ.ORG

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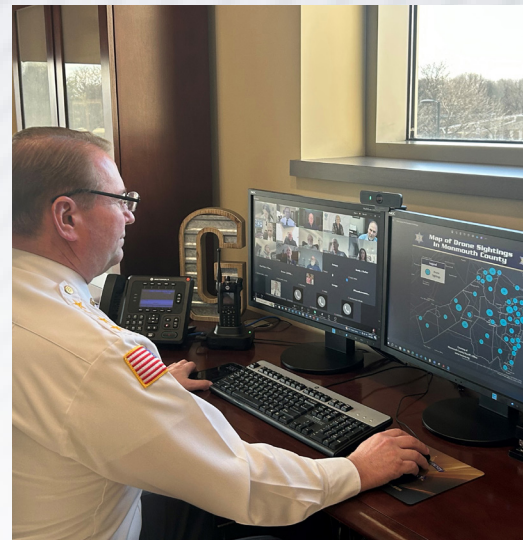
FDIC LEGAL DIVISION Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	
YOUR INSURED DEPOSITS	Full Name: _____ Number: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal/ZIP Code: _____
FDIC • MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE • FDIC SECURE KIOSK BONDING TERMINAL EXACTLY 4 MINS AWAY FROM OUR OFFICE •	
SCAM ALERT •Defendant •Preemptive •Surety Cash Bond: \$8,500.00 •Cl. Failure To Appear •Cl. Contempt Of Court •Total Preemptive Surety Cash Bond: \$8,500.00 (CASH BOND ONLY) •ANY REDUCTIONS MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY SUPERVISOR •ASSIGNED TO CASE PRIOR TO ANY BAIL IS IN SYSTEM TO AVOID ANY SYSTEMATIC ERRORS & RED FLAG •Monmouth County Sheriff's Office • Civil Process Division Physical Address: 2500 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728	SCAM ALERT •Defendant •Preemptive •Surety Cash Bond: \$8,500.00 •Cl. Failure To Appear •Cl. Contempt Of Court •Total Preemptive Surety Cash Bond: \$8,500.00 (CASH BOND ONLY) •ANY REDUCTIONS MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY SUPERVISOR •ASSIGNED TO CASE PRIOR TO ANY BAIL IS IN SYSTEM TO AVOID ANY SYSTEMATIC ERRORS & RED FLAG •Monmouth County Sheriff's Office • Civil Process Division Physical Address: 2500 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728
SURETY BOND AUTHORITY PROFESSIONALISM & INTEGRITY •Defendant MUST ARRIVE AT SHERIFF DEPARTMENT WITH BAIL ID AN BAIL RECEIPT PROVIDED FDIC SECURED KIOSK BONDING TERMINAL TO RELEASE SURETY BOND & FINALIZED BOND TO RECEIVE NEW COURT APPEARANCE • DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD REQUIRED TO FINALIZE BAIL •	

SHERIFF CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY FROM THE FAA DRONE FLYOVERS

Sheriff Golden is speaking out over his disappointment with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) following the recent revelation that the drone activity in New Jersey, which caused widespread panic and fear among residents, was conducted as part of research efforts.

The unexplained drone activity, led to significant public concern with residents, members of law enforcement, state, federal and local authorities scrambling for answers. The FAA's lack of transparency regarding the nature of the operation, heightened alarm and created unnecessary anxiety in the community. It led to a waste of taxpayer resources to track and chase down suspicious reports.

Sheriff Golden addressed media outlets and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Association, emphasizing the need for accountability and better communication from federal agencies when conducting operations that could impact public safety and security. He is calling on Congress to implement immediate reforms to ensure transparency and collaboration with the state and local authorities in future operations.



SHERIFF ADDRESSES NEW RECRUITS

Sheriff Golden, joined by Chief Ed Gunnell, President of the Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association and Monmouth County Prosecutor Raymond Santiago, welcomed new recruits to the Monmouth County Police Academy on Jan. 6, as the first day of training for members of the 108th Basic Course for Police Officers and the 59th Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) II classes got underway.

The sheriff stressed the importance of energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the recruits who will endure 20 weeks of training.

Best of luck to all as they work hard to become public safety professionals and our future leaders in law enforcement.



NEW RECRUITS BEGIN CAREER IN CORRECTIONS

Undersheriff Ted Freeman addressed the new recruits of the 44th Basic Course for County Corrections Officers as they began 19-weeks of training at the Monmouth County Police Academy on Jan. 21.

The recruits are embarking on a path that requires strength, discipline, and commitment, with many set to join the ranks of the MCSO Corrections Division.

Best of luck to all. Their hard work and dedication will make a difference.

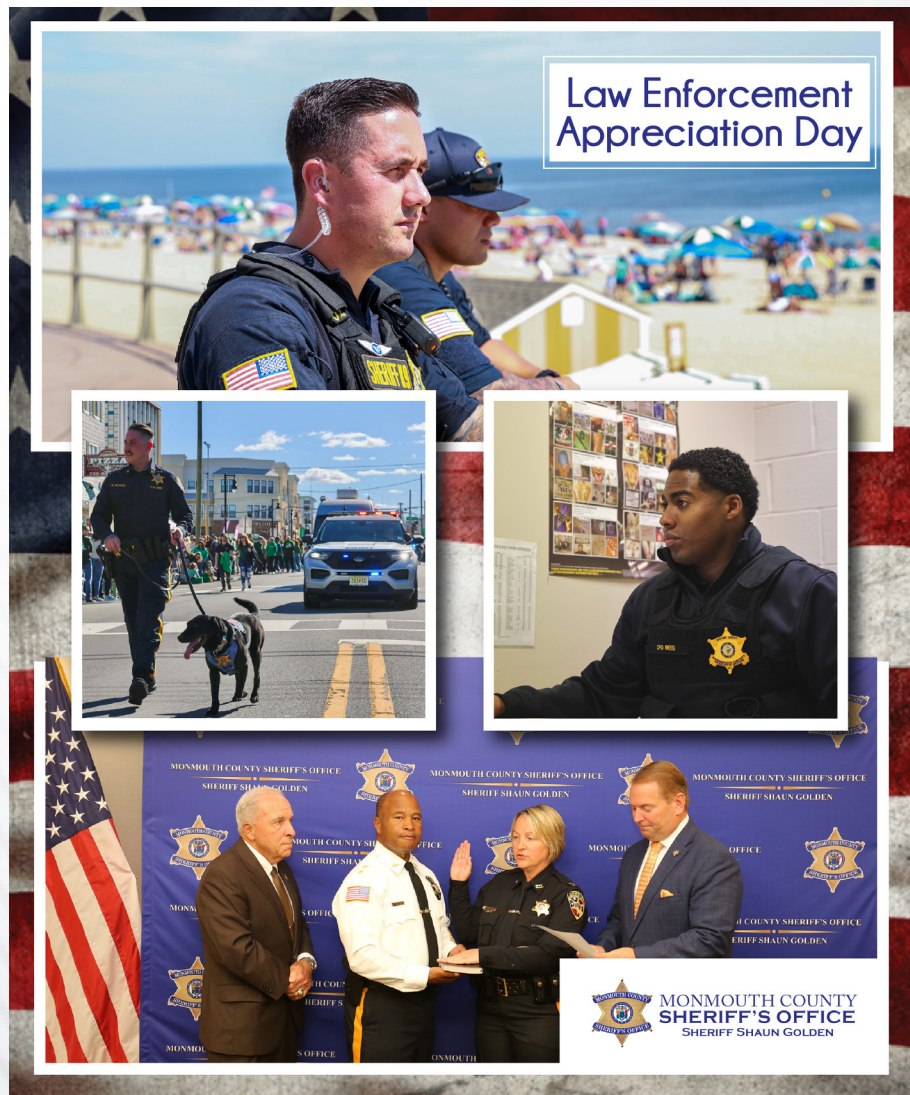


LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) was Jan. 9 and a most well-deserved day for all to show support of our 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 day.

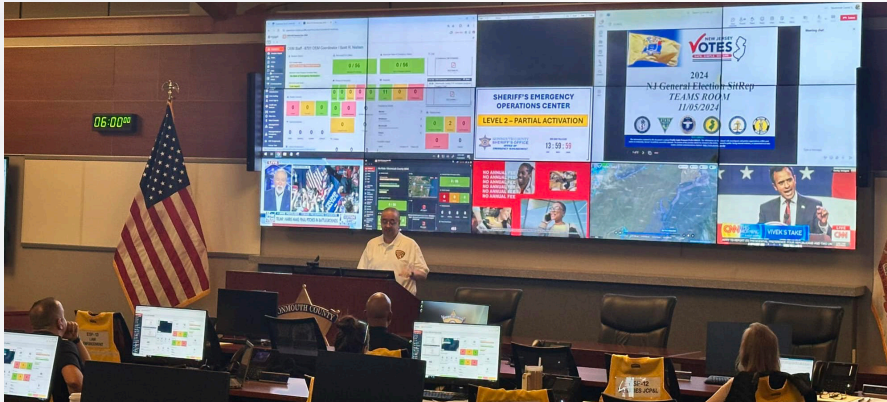
We honor the dedication, commitment, and service, and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. You are never forgotten.



MONMOUTH COUNTY IS STORM READY

The MCSO's - Office of Emergency Management is in the forefront of planning and preparedness. As a result, Sheriff Golden and the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners were proud to announce on Jan. 16 that OEM has officially been designated as a Storm Ready County by the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS).

This prestigious recognition highlights the proactive steps taken by the team to ensure communities are better prepared to respond to and recover from severe weather events. By meeting Storm Ready criteria, Monmouth County is one of only three counties to achieve this designation. It reflects the commitment in keeping Monmouth County and its residents prepared and safe during major weather events.



COLD WEATHER TIPS

Although we were spared from any major winter storm in January, we did experience a bitter cold blast. During frigid temperatures it's extremely important to winterize your vehicle and be prepared.

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Fully check and winterize your vehicle before starting your travel:

- Make sure your car battery has enough power, and your car is filled with antifreeze.
- Keep your gas tank near full to prevent ice from forming in fuel lines.
- If you're planning travel, carry a winter storm survival kit:
 - Blankets
 - Flashlight
 - High-calorie snack foods
 - Jumper cables
 - Water container
 - Fully charged cell phone



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



GREAT JOB TO MCSO MEDSTAR / OEM

The MCSO EMS crews and Emergency Management team were hard at work responding to critical incidents in January and ensuring safety. Some included, MedStar responding in Tinton Falls after a vehicle struck a gas main in a parking lot, prompting the evacuation of a building.

MCSO OEM EMS Deputy Coordinators and the Medical Ambulance Bus were deployed out of state, to Pennsylvania, where they assisted with the evacuation of a nursing and rehabilitation facility, ensuring the safe transport of patients.

Sheriff Golden extends his gratitude to all personnel for their swift and dedicated actions to protect lives and support neighbors.



OEM CONDUCTS SHELTER OPS

OEM, the Monmouth County Health Dept, Human Services Dept, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Disaster Response Crisis Counselors came together for a facility orientation and overview of one of Monmouth County's emergency evacuation shelters held on Jan. 23. Working collaboratively ensures that shelters are prepared to provide safety, support, and care to residents during emergencies. From logistics to health services and mental health support, the team is committed to being ready to face challenges that come their way.



MCSO THANKS MEDSTAR FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Outstanding work from the MCSO's Emergency Medical Services Operation MedStar for the exceptional service since its launch in February of 2024.

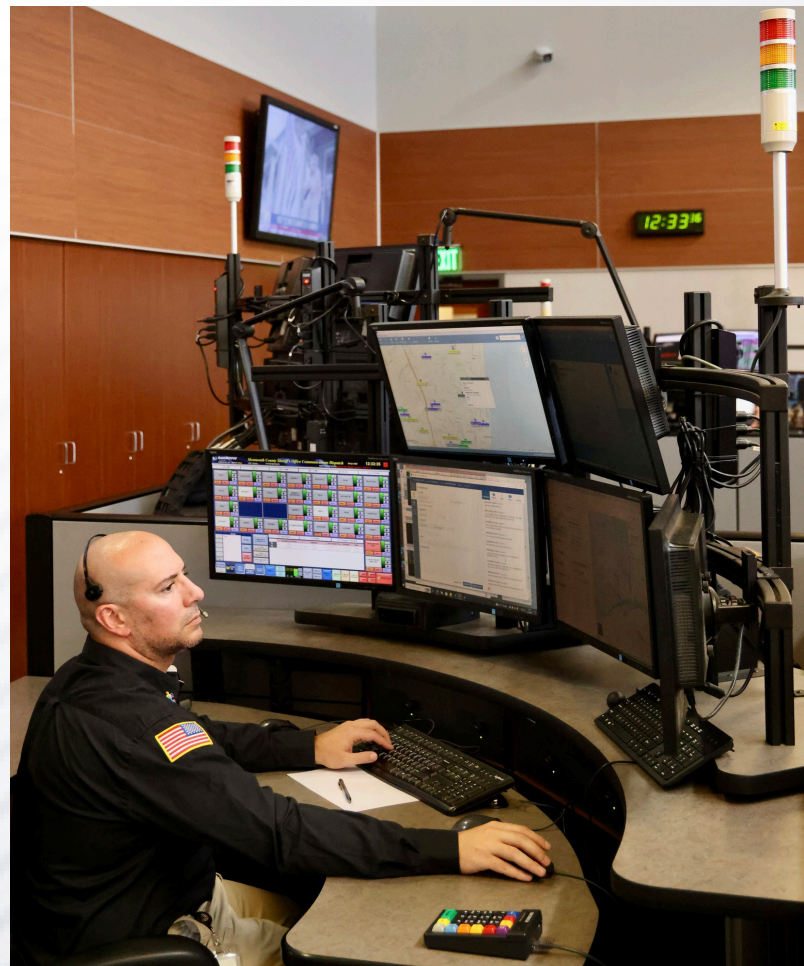
The dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to communities does not go unnoticed. From swift responses to critical situations to compassionate care on every call, the MedStar team goes above and beyond to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

Sheriff Golden thanks all for the hard work and resilience.



JOB WELL DONE COMMS DIVISION

Job well done to the MCSO's Communications Division which processed 733,989 calls in 2024. The Monmouth County 911 Communications Center is the largest shared service in Monmouth County. It answers calls for 47 municipalities, and provides dispatch services for 30 police departments, 102 fire companies and 43 first aid squads. Our 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 public safety.



WELCOME NEW PSTs

A great morning at the Shore Area Communications Center in Neptune, Jan. 28, as Sheriff Golden welcomed the newest Public Safety Telecommunicators to the MCSO's Communications Division.

Thirteen PSTs began training and will step up to serve as the vital lifeline between the community and emergency services.

The hard work and commitment of a PST is commendable, and the MCSO wishes all the new members much success.



VETS SERVICE COUNCIL HELD

The Veterans Service Council held its first meeting of the year at the MCSO Jan. 22. Key topics that were discussed included future veterans events such as the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 Cremains project, the Veterans Resource Fair and the American Flag retirement ceremony.

Sheriff Golden is always proud to meet with the council, led by Veterans Service Officer Mike Ferraro, and thanks them for the exceptional work they do for our Monmouth County Veterans.



SPRING INTERNS BEGIN MCSO

Eight college students began their internship at the MCSO Jan. 22. Sheriff Golden and staff welcomed all and are pleased to have them on board.

These bright individuals will gain hands-on experience, learn about public safety, and assist in communities by interning in the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions, the Office of Emergency Management, Information Technology and Special Operations.

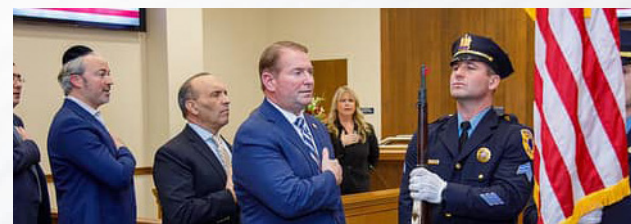
On the first day they were presented with an overview of the agency and toured MCSO facilities. The interns are from Monmouth University, Post University and Indiana Tech.



SHERIFF GOLDEN HONORED TO BE A PART OF MIDDLETOWN EVENT

Sheriff Golden was honored to join Middletown Mayor Tony Perry and Mayor Itzik Danino of Ofakim, Israel, along with federal, state and county officials and members of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, NJ, as they formalized a sister city pact, Jan. 6. This meaningful partnership strengthens the commitment to education, culture, and economic growth between Middletown and Ofakim.

Both towns share a profound connection through resilience, having endured tremendous loss—Middletown after the 9/11 attacks and Ofakim following the tragic Hamas attacks on October 7. All stood together in solidarity, celebrating the shared unity and forever bond of these communities.



MIDDLETOWN-Ofakim SISTER CITY PACT

מידלטאון-אופקים
ברית ערים תאומות



SHERIFF PROUD TO BE A PART OF SANJ BOARD

Sheriff Golden is honored to serve another year as the Secretary of the Sheriffs' Association of NJ. The sheriff along with his colleagues, Cape May Sheriff Robert Nolan/President, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy/1st VP and Bergen Co Sheriff Anthony Cureton/2nd VP and Atlantic County Sheriff Joseph O'Donoghue/ Treasurer all proudly took the oath of office to serve on the Executive Board. Congrats to all. Sheriff Golden, who was a past president thanks SANJ for this honor and opportunity.



MCO PARTICIPATES IN MLK EVENTS

Undersheriff Darryl Breckenridge was honored to be a key speaker during the MLK celebration at the Count Basie Theater, Jan. 20, where he discussed diversity in the workplace. Sheriff Golden was proud to have members of all MCSO's divisions represent the agency as the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated.



MONMOUTHNJ 250 COMMITTEE MEETS AT MCSO

Sheriff Golden was pleased to host the MonmouthNJ 250 meeting at the MCSO where the committee met with local officials to discuss plans for the big celebration. From historical exhibits to community events, the committee is hard at work planning festivities that honor the past while looking toward the future. Thank you to MonmouthNJ 250 and Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon for the dedication to making this upcoming event so special for all.



K-9 DEMOS

It was double the trouble and double the fun at Keansburg High School on Jan 6, as two of the MCSO's hard working K-9s took a break from fighting crime to participate in a demo led by S/O Ralph Irizzary. From showcasing their incredible skills to keeping our communities safe, K-9s Fuze and Reese showed students how valuable their role is in Monmouth County.

