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

## MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### MCSO CELEBRATES NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

April was National Autism Awareness Month and always an important time at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, as we proudly recognize and promote the cause. The main focal point of our efforts was held on April 10th, when we kicked off the 6th Annual Autism Forum & Resource Fair at the MCSO. This educational platform continues to be one of the most informative and impactful ways to spread awareness about innovative approaches to supporting individuals with autism and their families. As a tremendous supporter of the special needs community and a board member of the New Jersey Monmouth Ocean Foundation for Children, I was proud to host this well-attended and heartfelt event.

The forum brought together a diverse panel of passionate speakers and experts. Among them were Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone, who also serves as Vice Chairman of the Monmouth Ocean Foundation For Children, and Monmouth County Prosecutor Raymond Santiago, who provided valuable insight into the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry, a tool designed to ensure first responders have the critical information they need during emergency situations involving individuals with special needs. Michele O'Shaughnessy, Director of the Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services, spoke on the wide range of resources available to the special needs community. Tom Porter, Project Lifesaver Technician, gave a detailed overview of the lifesaving technology used to help locate individuals who may wander due to cognitive conditions like autism. Ed Sidley, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with the SEARCH DAY Program, shared expertise on behavior intervention strategies, while psychologist Lindsey Schmeding of Midtown Community Elementary School offered educational and emotional insight into working with students on the spectrum. Legal perspectives were provided by John Ross, Esq., who addressed the legal rights and advocacy strategies for families.





## • EARTH DAY

The event was not only educational but also engaging. Participants had the opportunity to interact with representatives from various organizations, ask questions, and access important resources. Demonstrations added an interactive element to the day, including a K-9 tracking demonstration, as well as a Project Lifesaver and drone presentations.

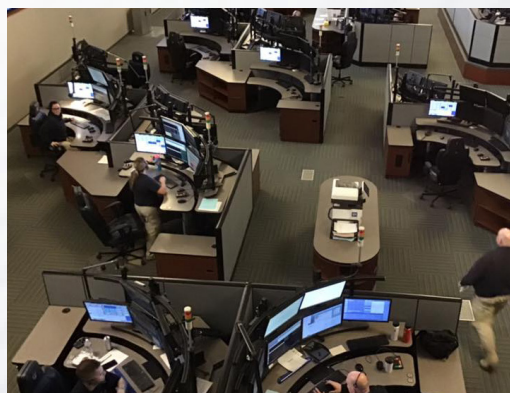
The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is proud to host events like these that make a difference and I commend all who participated and contributed to its success. Special thanks to the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners for recognizing those efforts during the board meeting on April 15, a true testament to our dedication. Let's look forward to continuing our work in making Monmouth County a place where all individuals feel seen, supported, and safe.



## NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

The MCSO proudly celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 13 – 19, and honored the dedicated professionals who are the first point of contact during an emergency. PSTs are the calm voices in crises, the unseen heroes who work tirelessly 24/7 to keep our residents and communities safe. From dispatching emergency services to providing life-saving instructions, they are the heartbeat of public safety. The MCSO thanks these incredible men and women for their unwavering commitment, professionalism, and compassion.

A special congratulations to PSTs Robert Donatelli and Gwen Nierenberg for celebrating 25 Years of Service during PST Week.



VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



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

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## OCEAN COUNTY FIRE ASSISTANCE

All of the brave firefighters, EMTs, and emergency crews who battled the massive wildfire in Ocean County, the week of April 21, deserve a lot of gratitude. Despite the intense conditions and fast-moving flames, their swift action helped protect lives, homes, and communities.

These heroes handled evacuations quickly and safely. Sheriff Golden thanks all for the teamwork, dedication, and courage. Assistance from Monmouth County included the Monmouth County Tanker Task Force and Strike Team, from various municipalities who were deployed, as well as the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office. EMS resources from Monmouth County included MCSO's MedStar, Howell Police EMS, Colts Neck EMS, Freehold EMS and Neptune EMS.



## MCSO PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK

Sheriff Golden thanks all who supported the MCSO's fight against drugs by participating in National Prescription Drug Takeback Day on April 26. As a result the Drug Enforcement Administration collected 39 pounds of unwanted and expired medication that was dropped off at the Public Safety Center by residents in Monmouth County.

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, Freehold.





## MCSO RECEIVES PSA AWARD FOR HOPE ONE

The MCSO was honored to be the recipient of the Home Grown PSA Award from the Garden State Film Festival for the HOPE One initiative.

HOPE One provides critical resources and support for those battling addiction, connecting individuals with life-saving services and hope for a better future. This award is a testament to the MCSO commitment to raising awareness and making a difference in our community.

Sheriff Golden thanks the Garden State Film Festival for this incredible recognition and to everyone who supports the MCSO mission. Together, we can make a change.



## SHERIFF SPEAKS AT HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM

Sheriff Golden was honored to take part in the fight against human trafficking as he was a guest speaker at the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Conference April 1. The sheriff highlighted the critical role of law enforcement in identifying, preventing, and combating one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world.

Many thanks to the Coalition for its commitment in drawing so much attention to this heinous crime. Working together with advocates, survivors, community leaders and partners in law enforcement, we continue to strengthen efforts to protect the vulnerable and bring traffickers to justice.





## DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

April was Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Sheriff Golden, who is committed to keeping drivers safe, wants all to take the proper precautions while behind the wheel.

Texting and talking on a cell phone, eating, and putting on makeup while driving are all irresponsible actions. They take the focus off the roads and may have deadly consequences that otherwise could be avoided.

Please don't engage in dangerous distracted driving behaviors and keep our roads safe.



## SHERIFF ADDRESS JERSEY SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sheriff Golden joined county officials at the Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce luncheon, April 28, where all met to share ideas and discuss initiatives and opportunities. The sheriff spoke about the MCSO and highlighted the innovative MedStar program. The MCSO is proud to partner with our community leaders to make Monmouth County safer and stronger and the best place to live, work and raise a family.





## BLUE MASS

A meaningful ceremony in honor of fallen officers during the Catholic Diocese of Trenton's 23rd Annual Blue Mass held at St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral in Freehold, April 1.

Sheriff Golden, who serves as chairman of the Blue Mass committee, and the MCSO were proud to support the most memorable occasion and thank the Diocese for its commitment to law enforcement. We salute and will never forget our fallen members of law enforcement and recognize all active and retired men and women.



## MCSO PARTICIPATES IN CAREER FAIR

Staff from the MCSO met with potential recruits interested in a career in Law Enforcement at Brookdale Community College's career fair on April 8, hosted by the Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development. Members of the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions as well as EMS were on hand to speak to interested candidates about a career in public safety.

The MCSO is always looking for dedicated individuals ready to serve and protect our community. For more information visit [www.mcsonj.org](http://www.mcsonj.org) and click on Career Info.





## REGISTER READY

It was a crowded house during the MCSO Register Ready Program presented in Ocean Township, April 9.

Register Ready is a partnership between the Department of Aging and MCSO/OEM. It gives residents with disabilities/functional needs and their families/caregivers an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies so first responders are properly prepared to meet their needs in a disaster or other emergency. The program also equips seniors with a Ready Go bag designed to use in an evacuation.

Sheriff Golden thanks the MCSO OEM staff and members of the Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, for assisting with this very important program that helps maintain the health and safety of our seniors.



## CERT TRAINING

MCSO OEM Community Emergency response Team, CERT, participated in "Disasterville," hosted by Middlesex County OEM, April 26. CERT members navigated through a series of simulated emergencies, practiced rapid assessments, and strengthened their disaster response skills alongside teams from across the region. Events like "Disasterville" help keep volunteers sharp, connected, and ready to serve communities when it matters most. Thank you to Middlesex County OEM for an outstanding day.



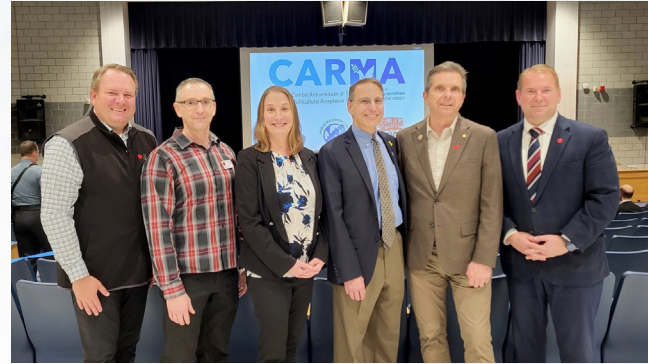


## SHERIFF PARTICIPATES IN IMPORTANT PRESENTATION

Sheriff Golden attended the Hate Ends Now Holocaust Cattle Car presentation on April 3. A powerful educational initiative through the Center to Combat antisemitism and Reinforce Multicultural Acceptance, led by the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey.

The Holocaust education exhibit was held at Marlboro Township Middle Schools, reaching 8th-grade students, and Colts Neck High School, where Law and Public Service students engaged with this important history.

This initiative, emphasizes the need to educate future generations about the dangers of hate and the enduring values of tolerance, understanding and acceptance.



## U/S FREEMAN ALWAYS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The MCSO's very own Undersheriff Ted Freeman wears many hats. When he's not overseeing the Corrections Division, working on special projects/ programs, teaching recruits about morals and ethics, or preparing for his next 5k, you may find him practicing the trombone. U/S Freeman performed with the Atlantic Wind Ensemble at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution for minimum risk inmates on April 14. Such involvement helps connect inmates with activity and entertainment prior to reintegrating back into society.

The Atlantic Wind Ensemble is a 40-piece concert band established in 1990 by retired Manasquan High School Band Director Harry D. Eichhorn and is under the direction of Eliot Prowse and Assistant Conductor, U/S Freeman. Job well done.

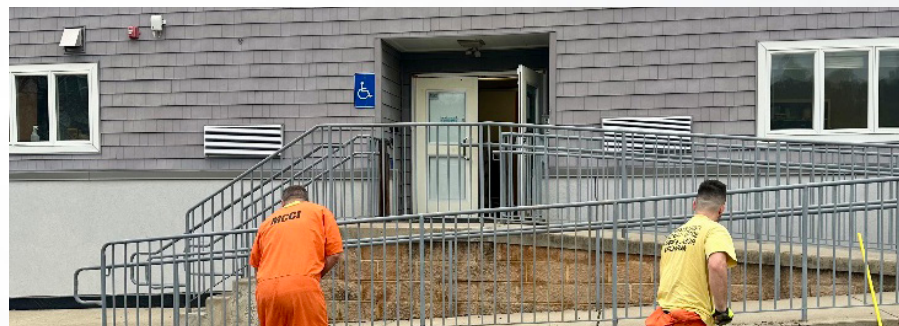
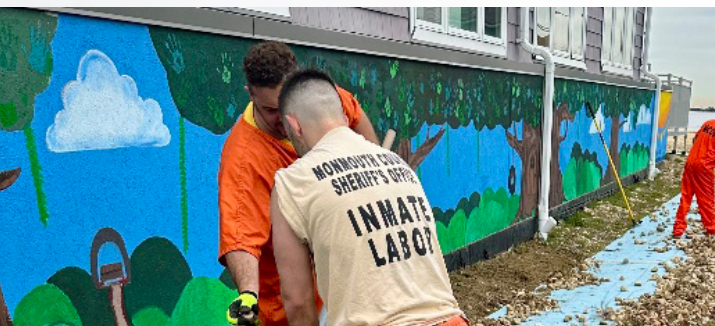




## INMATE LABOR

The MCSO Inmate Labor crew from the Monmouth County Correctional Institution kicked off the season at the historic Oakley Farmhouse in Freehold the first week of April. Each year inmates visit the farmhouse to work on maintenance and upkeep to the grounds and house. They then partnered with Union beach Clean Communities Program where the detail worked at Fireman's Memorial Park and the Jack Pinto Memorial Park, "Where Angels Play" dedicated to one of the 26 children who died during the Sandy Hook School tragedy. Towards the end of April, the crew was in the Highlands where they worked at the Robert D. Wilson Memorial Community Center preparing the property for the upcoming season.

Sheriff Golden is proud of this collaborative effort of Monmouth County resources which help ensure that our communities, roadways, beaches, and historic landmarks are maintained at no expense to taxpayers. This shared service is a cost savings to towns and helps re-integrate individuals back into society.



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO are incredibly grateful for the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers especially during National Volunteer Week, held April 20-26.

From our VISCOMP (Volunteers in Sheriff's Community Programs) members to the remarkable Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, their commitment to service and selflessness truly makes a difference in our communities.

Whether it's assisting during emergencies, providing vital support at events, or working to enhance public safety initiatives, each one of the MCSO volunteers help make Monmouth County a safer and more resilient place. Those efforts do not go unnoticed.

## National Volunteer Week





## EARTH DAY

Earth Day was April 22. Sheriff Golden and the MCSO encouraged all to celebrate by taking the time to appreciate the beautiful surroundings and be grateful for all nature has to offer.



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