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FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER KICKOFF

Summer is almost here and Monmouth County's annual tourism kickoff to the season was held in Sea Bright at Donovan's Reef on May 20. It's always an exciting event and I was pleased to join the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, the Monmouth County Clerk, state, county, local officials, and business owners along the shore. Here at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, safety is our top priority. As the number of residents and visitors increase tremendously, particularly at the shore, law enforcement will be out patrolling areas on foot, by bike and in vehicles and looks forward to working with the public to ensure a great summer. In addition, the MCSO EMS Operation MedStar will be responding to emergency calls and be present at large scale events to help to maintain the health and safety of all.

We also continuously stress to not drink and drive. Before going out, designate a driver who won't consume any alcohol. If you are impaired, call an Uber, a cab, a sober friend, or family member. If you don't have a ride, stay where you are. If you see someone about to get behind the wheel, or on a motorcycle after they have been drinking, offer to find them a ride or alert your nearest law enforcement agency.



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- POSTER JUDGING CONTEST
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VISIT MCSO ONLINE:



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National Safe Boating Week

Safe Boating Tips:

- Have a checklist and follow it prior to departure.
- Always wear a life jacket.
- Operate at a safe speed, be aware of your surroundings, and stay clear of large vessels.
- Make sure there is more than one person who can handle operations of the boat.
- Be sure that all know how to swim.
- Wear a life jacket properly.
- Do not consume alcohol prior to or while out on a vessel. It is illegal to operate a boat with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher which could result in mandatory loss of boating and driving privileges.

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

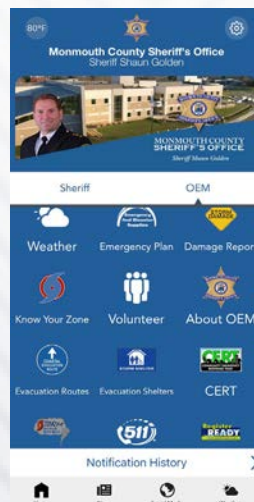
For the many beachgoers, following the proper precautions when swimming is of the utmost importance, as we unfortunately deal with drownings each year and must make rescues due to dangerous rip currents. That's why it is vital that we stress all summer to only swim when lifeguards are on duty. Also, be sure that children and adults know how to swim before entering the water, and never swim alone. Avoid rip currents, and if you get caught in one, swim parallel to the shore. In addition, know the weather forecast when swimming in the ocean and be aware of rough surf and signs telling you not to swim.

Recently we recognized Safe Boating Week. To reiterate once again, if you are boating out on the waterways, it's important to practice safe boating tips. The MCSO Marine 1 and 2 Units, along with partners in law enforcement will be patrolling the shore areas throughout the season to ensure safety and respond to critical water related incidents.

Summer at the shore is one of the best times of year in Monmouth County, so let's all enjoy it and think safety first.

NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Along with the summer also comes the threat of hurricanes. As part of Hurricane Preparedness Week held May 5- May 11, Sheriff Golden and OEM staff featured the importance of planning, preparing, and staying informed. Topics included the MCSO App, KNOW YOUR ZONE, Register Ready, the STORM Program and CERT. This information is particularly vital as we approach Hurricane Season which began June 1 and ends November 30.

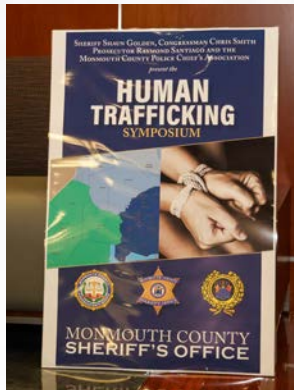


SHERIFF GOLDEN HOSTS HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM

Sheriff Golden was proud to host the MCSO's Human Trafficking Symposium, May 12 with Congressman Chris Smith, a leading voice in the fight against this heinous crime, and Monmouth County Prosecutor Raymond Santiago. The panel of experts on this extremely critical topic, included Special Agent Brian Salamone, FBI, Rachel Hertzberg, Tactical Specialist-FBI, Keyla Munoz, FBI Victim Specialist, Gina Cavallo, NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking, who provided a compelling victim account, and Det. Sgt. Mark Wettengels, New Jersey State Police.

Human Trafficking is one of the most under reported and largest criminal enterprises in the nation. Topics at the symposium included federal laws passed to combat human trafficking, law enforcement efforts in preventing and prosecuting, resources for victims, protection, and emergency services.

Thanks to all participants who provided vital information. Bringing together stakeholders from law enforcement, government and nonprofit organizations work towards developing comprehensive strategies to combat this reprehensible crime.



RECRUITS GRADUATE FROM THE POLICE ACADEMY

The graduation of 90 newly sworn law enforcement officers from the Monmouth County Police Academy was held at Brookdale Community College on May 28. Nine recruits of the 108th Basic Course for Police Officers, 57 recruits from the 59th Basic Course for Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers and 24 recruits from the 44th Basic Course for County Correctional Police Officers received their Police Training Commission certifications during a ceremony held at Brookdale Community College.

These fine men and women have demonstrated their commitment by persevering and successfully completing intense training.

There is no higher responsibility than maintaining public safety and therefore becoming a member of law enforcement is both a great challenge and privilege.



MCSO PARTICIPATES IN UNITY TOUR FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

What a kickoff to the Police Unity Tour in Spring Lake on May 9 where hundreds of men and women in blue from New Jersey to California gathered to ride for those who died.

Twenty members of the MCSO from the Law Enforcement and Corrections Divisions peddled down to DC. Sheriff Golden is grateful for the tremendous effort from law enforcement nationwide, for their commitment to remember our fallen officers and to raise money for National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.



NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MCSO commemorated National Police Week, May 11-17, as we recognized and thanked all members of law enforcement and honored and remembered the brave men and women who died in the line of duty. Sheriff Golden and the MCSO will never forget the sacrifices they made and what their families have had to endure. Thank you for your service. We salute you.



National Police Week



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

MCSO HOLDS CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN OFFICERS

A moving ceremony was held outside of the Monmouth County Police Academy, May 23, in remembrance of seventeen officers of the MCSO who passed away over the years. Members of the law enforcement and corrections divisions as well as family of the officers, gathered by the flagpole, where a wreath was placed in a tribute to all. Sheriff Golden and the MCSO are grateful to those dedicated servants who have gone before us.



MCSO Hosts PBA RUN

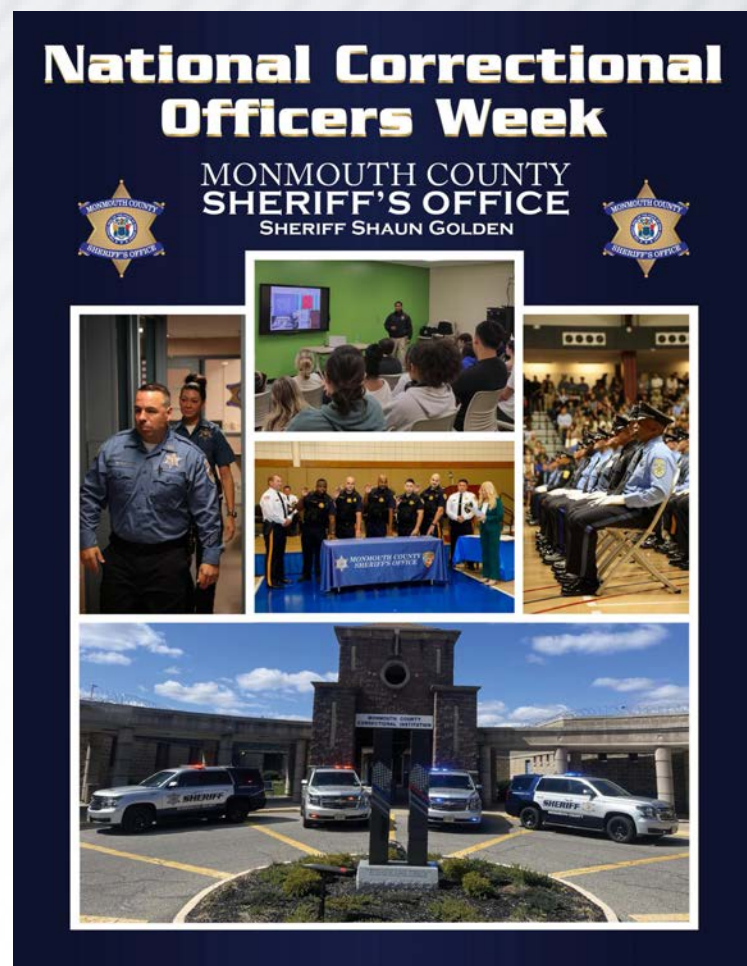
Great turnout at the MCSO NJ State PBA 5k run on May 4. Sheriff Golden thanks all for the support of law enforcement, recognition of mental health awareness month and the continued dedication to public safety.



NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL POLICE OFFICERS WEEK

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO were proud to recognize the fine correctional police officers of the Monmouth County Correctional Institution, during National Correctional Police Officers Week, May 4 - 10. These corrections professionals are owed a tremendous debt of gratitude for their exceptional work in safeguarding lives and preserving peace in a correctional environment. We thank all for their service, dedication and courage.

President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first full week in May as National Correctional Officers Week on May 5, 1984. The Monmouth County Correctional Institution is nationally accredited in corrections and correctional healthcare.



RIP CPO CLAY

Members of the MCSO's Corrections and Law Enforcement Divisions, along with public safety partners gathered to pay tribute and their final respects to Correctional Police Officer Kevin Clay on May 16. CPO Clay served at the MCSO Corrections Division from October 15, 2001 until his untimely passing on April 26, 2025. He exemplified the high calling of a CPO through his dedication and commitment to the profession. The MCSO's thoughts remain with CPO Clay's family and all at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. He will be missed.



MCSO RECOGNIZES EMS WEEK

The MCSO proudly celebrated National EMS Week, May 18-24, a time to recognize the incredible dedication, skill, and compassion of Emergency Medical Services professionals.

The MCSO is especially proud of its county run emergency medical services operation, MedStar. Since the launch in Feb. 2024, MedStar has responded to more than 8200 calls for services with an average response time in under 6 minutes.

Sheriff Golden thanks every paramedic, EMT, and the MedStar team. Their commitment to serving communities, 24/7, is nothing short of heroic.

The MCSO also thanks the Board of County Commissioners and the National Chaplains Association for their recognitions, which serves as a powerful reminder of the service and sacrifice of EMTs.



**EMS
WEEK**
May 18 - 24



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

MEDSTAR SUPPORTS LIFEGUARDS

In an effort to enhance partnerships, the MedStar team, which provides primary EMS support in Sea Girt, met with lifeguards during their refresher training course to present them with an overview of the MCSO's emergency services operations.

Whether it's on the beach or in the communities this summer season, Sheriff Golden looks forward to working with EMS partners and lifeguards, as all are committed to providing top-tier emergency medical care.



BEST OF LUCK MIKE BASCOM

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO extend sincere congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Michael Bascom on his well-deserved retirement.

Mike has been the cornerstone of EMS in NJ, specifically Monmouth County, serving with exceptional leadership and dedication as the Monmouth County OEM EMS Coordinator, founder and leader of the NJ EMS Task Force, and as the CFO and OEM Coordinator for the Neptune Township Office of Emergency Management. His unwavering commitment to emergency management and public service has had a lasting impact across the county and beyond.

Sheriff Golden and our entire team valued the strong partnership we shared with Mike throughout the years. Whether it was coordinating major events, emergency responses, or improving EMS operations, Mike could always be counted on for his professionalism, insight, and steady leadership.



CERT CONTINUES TRAINING

The MCSO's Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, continues training so they are fully prepared to assist with emergencies. During the month of May, CERT was a part of many events, exercises, and drills. The MCSO dedicated volunteers were at the STARS facility where a light search and rescue drill was conducted, they participated in hazmat training led by the Neptune Township Office of Emergency Management, gained valuable skills in medical operations, and even assisted at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws game, where emergency vehicles were showcased for the community.

The MCSO commends these incredible CERT members for their commitment and service. They are a crucial part of emergency response efforts.



SHERIFF AWARDED SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

The MSCO is proud to share that Sheriff Golden was recognized as 'Sheriff of the Year' by the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association (NJNEOA), May 22.

The prestigious honor was awarded during the NJNEOA's annual training conference held in Atlantic City, and highlighted Sheriff Golden's outstanding leadership, dedication to public safety, and unwavering commitment to fighting crime.

The sheriff thanks NJNEOA for this honor and commends the association for their hard work in the fight against drug abuse.



BEST OF LUCK TO COMMS STAFF

Congratulations to the most recent staff members who retired from the MCSO Communications Division. Best of luck to Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator Denise Dixon who retired after 32 years of service, Public Safety Telecommunicator David O'Brien who retired after 27 years of service and Supervisor Gretchen Bennett who retired after 28 years. Thank you all for the dedication and commitment to public safety.



MCSO PROMOTIONAL & RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Sheriff Golden was proud to recognize and honor staff from the MCSO, May 6, on all of their achievements that help maintain the safety and security in Monmouth County, during the MCSO Promotional & Recognition Ceremony.



WELCOME INTERNS

Sheriff Golden welcomed 11 interns to the MCSO's summer program on May 22 and is happy to have them on board. The interns were presented with an overview of the agency and toured facilities where they will assist in the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions, the Office of Emergency Management, Information Technology and Special Operations. The MCSO wishes all a great experience.

Many of the MCSO interns have become law enforcement professionals.



REMEMBERING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Sheriff Golden, along with Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone and Commissioner Dominick "Nick" DiRocco, were proud to honor and remember fallen firefighters from 1881 to present from Monmouth County who died in the line of duty, during the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service and Medal Day on May 4 at the Monmouth County Fire Academy.

The somber service, in recognition of these heroes, reinforces how their sacrifice, service, courage and dedication will never be forgotten. The MCSO salutes all.



MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

May was Military Appreciation Month, and the MCSO was honored to pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve and have served our country. The sacrifices they have made do not go unnoticed.

Sheriff Golden and staff express gratitude and support for military members and their families and honor their service and commitment to protecting our freedom.



VETERANS SERVICE COUNCIL MEETS AT STARS

The MCSO Veteran Service Council spent the morning at the STARS facility on May 21, where they were presented with a cell extraction drill from the Corrections Emergency Response Team and watched a simulated training exercise in action through the Virta Simulator. The Veteran Service Council, run through the MCSO, consists of staff members and representatives from various veterans' service organizations.



TUNNEL TO TOWERS GROUNDBREAKING TO BENEFIT VETERANS

The MCSO Veteran Service Council proudly attended the Tunnel to Towers Foundation's groundbreaking ceremony for Veterans Village in Bayville, a future home for nearly 100 veterans in need on May 7.

The event in Ocean County, marked a major step in combating veteran homelessness. The village will not only offer housing, but on-site social services, helping our heroes rebuild their lives with dignity.

Sheriff Golden thanks Tunnel to Towers Foundation for the extreme generosity and for honoring the sacrifice and service of our nation's veterans.

This is the first Veterans Village of its kind in New Jersey, and just the beginning.



CPO'S HELP MAKE LITTLE BOYS DREAM COM TRUE

Members of the MCSO's Corrections Division helped make a boy's tenth birthday extra special. Jaxon "Jax" Fuge a brave young boy, diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis, aspires to have a career in Law Enforcement. For his 10th birthday, first responders across the state, including our own Correctional Police Officers Alexander Nagy and Christopher Brumett, joined Jax, who is from Bayville, for a heartwarming celebration, May 19. They participated in a parade of local first responder in honor of Jax and donated to his police patch collection.

It was quite the celebration with smiles, sirens, and support. Sheriff Golden and the MCSO wish Jaxson a very Happy Birthday, and a great future.



BLUE CLAWS EDUCATION DAY

Sheriff Golden was proud to support the Jersey Shore BlueClaws in May with a message of safety. During the summer while students are on a field trip at the stadium, game days also turn into education days. The MCSO is pleased to be providing important information on safety programs for our youth and looks forward to cheering on those BlueClaws this season.



INMATE LABOR

During the month of May, the MCSO Inmate Labor detail partnered with the Middletown Township Landmarks Commission at the historic Old First Johnson Family Cemetery and Monmouth County Clean Communities along with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency to help spruce up the Old First Cemetery in West Long Branch.

At both sites the crews removed fallen trees, trimmed bushes, weeded areas, uncovered grave markers, and piled debris for removal.

Sheriff Golden's Inmate Labor program is a cost savings to towns and helps re-integrate individuals back into society.



POSTER JUDGING CONTEST

It was a tough task for Sheriff Golden, Clerk Christine Hanlon and Surrogate Maureen Raisch as they judged and chose among the top posters of the My County Poster Contest on May 15, sponsored by the Constitutional Officers Association of NJ each year. The beautiful posters highlight how fourth grade students view Monmouth County. The top three winners out of the hundreds of entries will be announced in June at the Board of County Commissioners meeting. Thanks to all the students who participated. It's a great and fun way to learn about Monmouth County.



SHERIFF YOUTH WEEK

Are you ready for an unforgettable experience this summer?

Sheriff Golden announces that the MCSO is accepting applications for Sheriff Youth Week 2025. This unique program offers high school students a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at law enforcement. Many of our Sheriff Youth Week participants have become law enforcement professionals.

Come spend a week with our dedicated team, from July 7-11, and learn about MCSO operations, and gain valuable insight into the world of public safety.

For more information visit www.mcsonj.org go to Community Outreach and click on Sheriff Youth Week.

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



SHAUN GOLDEN, SHERIFF

Sheriff Youth Week | July 7-11, 2025

**MONMOUTH COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY
2000 KOZLOSKI RD. FREEHOLD, NJ**

The Sheriff Youth Week program offers a unique opportunity for young people to explore interests in law enforcement through police academy-style training, drill and exercise programs and instructional sessions at the Monmouth County Police Academy, 2000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ.

Application MUST be received by May 15, 2025

The 32nd Annual Sheriff Youth Week is being held July 7 through July 11, 2025, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Each day's session begins with drill instruction and ends with one hour of physical training. Each recruit will receive a certificate from Monmouth County Sheriff's Office upon completion of the academy.

Recruits are taught by municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff's Youth Week is free of charge and open to all Monmouth County residents of high school age - which means - just graduated 8th grade and going into high school in September, already in high school. Students will only be asked to provide a completed physical form once their application is approved, and background check successfully completed.



Successful applicants will be sent a letter of acceptance.

For more information, please contact Undersheriff Ted Freeman at (732) 431-6400 x1110.

NOTE: All participants are responsible for their transportation to and from Sheriff Youth Week. Students must also bring their own lunch each day.

PLEASE ATTACH - Application form and info sheet for Sheriff Youth Week 2025