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

# MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### SHERIFF RE ELECTED TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF MONMOUTH COUNTY



On November 4, I was honored to have been re-elected as Monmouth County Sheriff for a sixth term, and grateful to our residents for their continued support. I'm proud to lead more than 600 dedicated professionals who serve our county through the Law Enforcement, Communications, Corrections and Special Operations Divisions as well as the administration of the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management, the Monmouth County EMS Operation-MedStar, the Monmouth County Police and Fire Academies, and the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office.

My focus remains on protecting our communities and maintaining the highest standards of public safety. Under my leadership, our agency has become a state-wide model. One of the most significant accomplishments this past term was the creation of MedStar, our countywide EMS operation. The coordinated effort 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 residents. Since its 2024 launch, we've answered more than 13,000 calls with an average response time under six minutes, all at no cost to municipalities.

Our 9-1-1 Communications Center continues to set the standard for emergency services through cutting-edge technology, rigorous training, and strong interagency co-operation. OEM and our CERT volunteers remain leaders in preparedness, response, and recovery across every type of emergency.

The fight against drug abuse remains a top priority, with the HOPE One Mobile Unit and supporting the Drug Takeback Program. I've also worked to strengthen homeland security through initiatives, expand active-shooter and school safety training, and combat gang activity. I continue to push for reforms to address auto theft and failed catch-and-release policies.

- **SHERIFF SUPPORTS COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE**
- **NO SHAVE NOVEMBER**
- **CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK**
- **GIS DAY**
- **MCSO TOUR**

Under my direction, our K-9 Unit has become one of the largest in New Jersey, and our STARS virtual training facility remains a premier resource for public safety partners. The Monmouth County Correctional Institution continues to achieve 100% compliance with state standards.

Community outreach is central to my mission. I'm committed to supporting veterans through our Veteran Service Council, assisting the special needs community with programs and training, and combating human trafficking with our federal, state, and local partners. I'm also proud of our extensive senior and youth safety programs.



Our agency is the only law enforcement agency in New Jersey accredited in all five operational areas, law enforcement, communications, corrections, correctional healthcare, and public safety training, reflecting a commitment to excellence.

These achievements are possible because of the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Office and the strong support of the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners. I'm grateful for that commitment and look forward to continuing our work together on vital initiatives that keep Monmouth County safe, ensuring that it remains the best place to live, work and raise a family.



## **MCSO WANTS ALL TO ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON SAFELY DON'T DRINK & DRIVE**

Hope all enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday which marks the beginning of the most joyous season.

Here at the MCSO, safety is always of the utmost importance, and this time of year is no exception. While people gather to celebrate throughout the season, there will be an increase of travelers on the roads. As a result, the MCSO and partners in law enforcement, will be putting the brakes on drunk drivers, to keep roadways safe, so, if you are going to drink, don't drive. Patrols will be increased with sobriety checks set up throughout Monmouth County and motorists will be stopped to maintain safety. To avoid presenting a danger to oneself or others, it's important to follow these safety tips:

**VISIT MCSO ONLINE:**



**WWW.MCSO.NJ.ORG**

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- Before going out, designate a driver who will not consume any alcohol the entire night.
- DO NOT DRIVE 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, take their keys and find them a ride with someone who is sober.
- Under no circumstances should adults provide alcohol to a minor or allow anyone under 21 to consume alcohol while at their home.

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

There is a tremendous increase of shoppers this time of year and it's important to not be careless or look vulnerable while shopping. The best way for shoppers to stay safe and not become a victim of theft, is by using a common sense and a cautious approach. Also, if you are going to shop online, be aware of porch pirates. By applying these important initiatives, we can all help ensure a safe, secure, and happy holiday season in Monmouth County.

## TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE

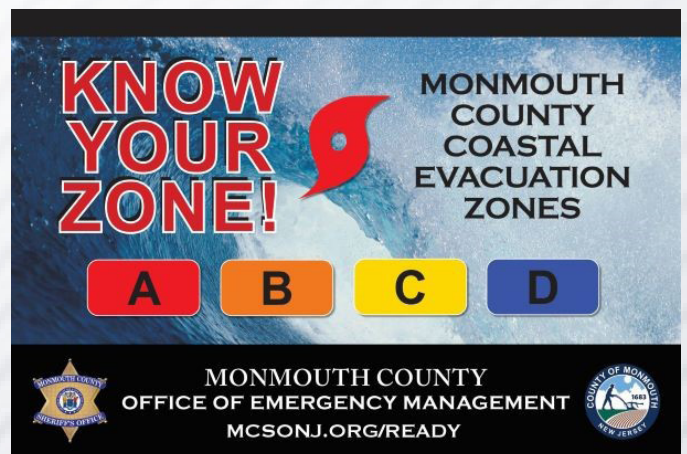
Monmouth County Police Academy recruits may be in intense training, but they haven't forgotten that this season is all about giving, as they made a generous donation to the Freehold Area Open Door Food Pantry on Nov. 24. The 109th Basic Class for Police Officers, the 60th Basic Class for Special Law Enforcement Officers and the 45th Basic Course for County Correctional Police Officers collected more than 800 pounds of food to assist those in need.

And in the spirit of giving this holiday season, please keep in mind that some children aren't fortunate enough to have presents to unwrap. A Toys for Tots box is in the front lobby of the MCSO to help out local families. You can donate an unwrapped gift during this drive led by the MCSO PBA 314 from 8:30am to 4:30pm Mon-Fri at 2500 Kozloski Rd in Freehold, now through December 16.

Sheriff Golden thanks all for the support.

## HURRICANE SEASON COMES TO AN END

The last day of hurricane season was Nov. 30. There were 19 named storms, and none that made landfall in the U.S. The MCSO's thoughts remain with those who dealt with, and continue to deal with, the devastation from damaging hurricanes of 2025. Even though the season is over, it's always important to have a plan, be prepared, stay informed and Know Your Zone. Visit [www.mcsonj.org/ready](http://www.mcsonj.org/ready) and download the MCSO App for the latest emergency weather related information.





## CERT TRAINING CONTINUES

MCSO's OEM Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, held its monthly training session Nov. 19 as volunteers focused on several critical skills, including how to load wheelchair-bound patients safely onto the Medical Ambulance Bus (MAB), first responder incident rehab operations, and effective two-way radio communications. A special thanks to Keyport First Aid for providing the MAB and to Keyport OEM CERT for supporting this valuable training. This commitment strengthens community preparedness and response capability. With 74 active members, the CERT program has logged more than 3,000 volunteer hours this year supporting training, exercises, and emergency responses across the county.



## MCSO RECOGNIZES NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness month and Sheriff Golden and the MCSO work hard to provide programs and initiatives that assist in maintaining the safety and wellbeing of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease.

An important program is Project Lifesaver which helps locate individuals through radio signals that track people with Alzheimer's disease and autism when they wander and become missing. Project Lifesaver is a critical lifesaving tool.



There are currently 198 individuals on the program in Monmouth County, with 34 adults and 164 juveniles. From January 2021 to date the MCSO has had 63 Project Lifesaver activations.

The MCSO also works closely with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry, where families register loved ones with special needs, for first responders to respond in the safest and most efficient way.

## VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION FOR OUR HEROES

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, Sheriff Golden was proud to honor and celebrate all veterans who served in the armed forces for their service, bravery, and commitment. The MCSO is particularly proud to have veterans from the agency dedicated to serving.



## MCSO GIVES THANKS TO A VETERANS WITH THE HELP OF A LOCAL CHEF

Through the MCSO Veteran Service Council, 97-year-old U.S. Marine and WWII veteran Leo "Uncle Leo" Rosenzweig received an incredible surprise right before Thanksgiving, two weeks of home-cooked meals prepared just for him by Executive Chef James Rosciano of Chefs for Seniors.

Chef James recently launched a heartfelt initiative to honor one veteran each month, providing free, freshly prepared meals to give thanks for their service and sacrifice.

Leo, who lives alone in Manalapan, is truly thrilled to have been selected, and Sheriff Golden is grateful the MCSO could assist to help make this special connection possible.

The kind gesture truly captures the spirit of the season and is a wonderful reminder of the power of gratitude, by letting Leo know how appreciated he is for his service and sacrifice.





## VETERAN SERVICE COUNCIL MEETS IN NOVEMBER

Lots of meaningful information was exchanged during the MCSO Veteran Service Council meeting at the American Legion in Wall on Nov. 12. Discussions included the Military Women's Memorial in Washington, DC, as well as an upcoming documentary highlighting the experiences of our veterans.

Sheriff Golden extends his gratitude to all participants from the various veterans' service organizations for sharing valuable resources and advancing community outreach efforts that support and enhance the much needed services our veterans deserve.



## RE-DEDICATION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL

The MCSO Honor Guard and Veteran Service Council were proud to take part in the Veterans Memorial Rededication on Nov. 14 at Fort Monmouth, a meaningful ceremony honoring our heroes and preserving Monmouth County's rich military history. Events like this ensure that the service and sacrifice of our veterans are remembered for generations to come.

A special thank you to Netflix for hosting the ceremony and for their continued partnership, support, and investment in Fort Monmouth.





## MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH

As Veterans Day was celebrated, the MCSO also recognized Military Family Appreciation Month in November.

Let's not forget the sacrifices made by our military families. The loved ones who stand behind brave service members, offering unwavering support and strength.

They are truly appreciated.

## CONGRATS SGT



Sgt. Jason Simeone was honored with the prestigious Gold Medal of Valor Award from the NJ State PBA on Nov. 22, for his exceptional service while assigned to the U.S. Marshals Task Force.

This distinguished award recognizes Sgt. Simeone's unwavering commitment, courageous and brave actions, and exemplary performance. His dedication to protecting our communities and upholding the highest standards of law enforcement is truly commendable.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO thank Sgt. Simeone along with fellow recipients, for a job exceptionally well done, and we are proud of their outstanding efforts and continued service to Monmouth County and New Jersey.

## MCSO SUPPORTS A WALK IN THEIR SHOES

Team Sheriff Golden walked the Asbury Park Boardwalk, Nov. 2, during Ocean's Harbor House's Annual A Walk in Their Shoes event, which spreads awareness on youth homelessness and raises money to help provide shelter, programs and services to young adults and teenagers in need. We thank all for the tremendous support and commend Donna Carlson of Ocean's Harbor House and staff for their dedication to a great cause.





## SHERIFF SUPPORTS COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE

Sheriff Golden is proud of Monmouth County's strong commitment to preserving open space and joined the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners for the groundbreaking of The Crossroads of Monmouth County at Routes 34 & 537 in Colts Neck, Nov. 6.

This project beautifies the intersection with new landscaping and reflects the County's dedication to maintaining open space and enhancing our natural beauty.

Great work to the Board of Commissioners and partners for keeping Monmouth County one of the most beautiful places to live.



## NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

Things are always a bit hairy at the MCSO in November as members of the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions take a break from shaving to participate in No Shave November. This is a great charitable effort where more than 6700 dollars was raised for the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Sheriff Golden thanks all for their dedication to such a worthy cause.



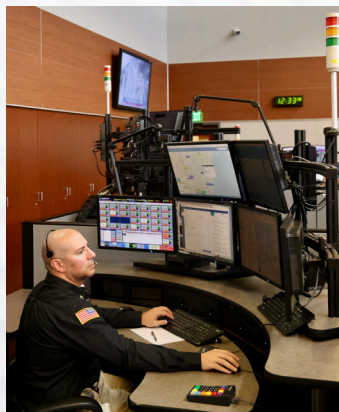
## CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK

Crash Responder Safety Week was Nov. 17–21, a time to recognize the brave first responders who risk their lives every day to keep roadways safe.

Sheriff Golden acknowledged the vital work of EMTs, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and public safety telecommunicators who respond to crashes and protect the public during some of the most dangerous situations on the roads. Their service deserves our appreciation and commitment to keeping them safe.

Remember:

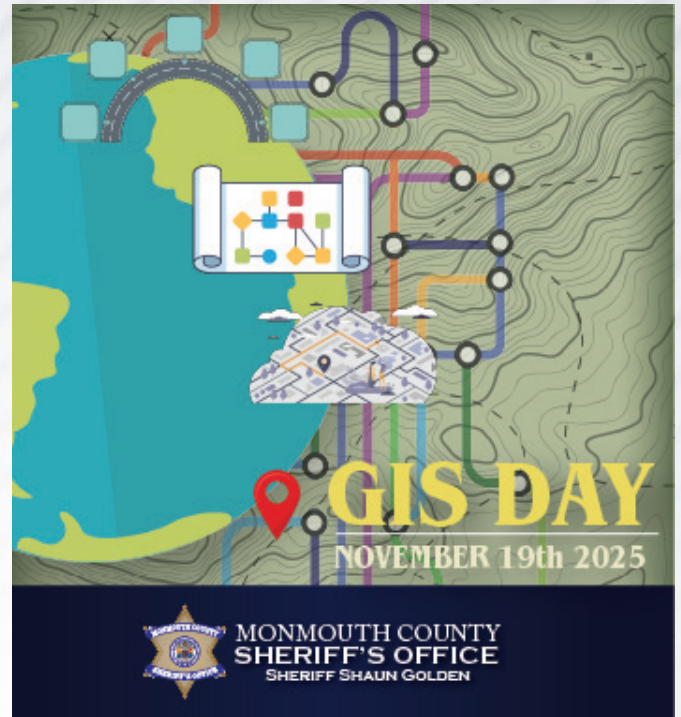
- Slow down when you see flashing lights.
- Move over to give responders room to work.
- Stay alert and avoid distractions.





## GIS DAY

Sheriff Golden recognized GIS Day, Nov. 19, which celebrated technology of Geographic Information Systems. The MCSO has a GIS Department under IT which works with 9-1-1 Communications & Emergency Management to create maps and products that enhance its mission. GIS Day is held the third Wednesday in November.



## MCSO TOUR

Sheriff Golden, a mentor to our youth, welcomed students from Brookdale Community College's Criminal Justice class where he shared insight about the MCSO and career opportunities in law enforcement, Nov. 12. The students also toured the facilities and saw firsthand what it takes to serve and protect communities.

Best of luck to these future leaders in law enforcement and emergency services.

