



- SHERIFF TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF MONMOUTH COUNTY
- LET IT SNOW
- COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS
- OUTSTANDING JOB FROM EMS MEDSTAR
- WELCOME LE & CORRECTIONS RECRUITS
- LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY
- SHERIFF ADDRESSES PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERS
- PSTs BEGIN TRAINING
- CONGRATS TO FIREFIGHTERS
- THANK YOU FIRE MARSHAL
- GANG UNIT PRESENTATION
- OEM STATEWIDE MEETING HELD AT MCSO
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH
- MLK CELEBRATION
- MONMOUTH 250

FROM THE DESK OF.... SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

SHERIFF TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

January 2026 marked the start of a new year here at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and I was honored and to have been sworn in as the Monmouth County Sheriff, for a sixth three-year term, during the Board of County Commissioners meeting, on January 6, at Biotechnology High School. It is my privilege to lead more than 800 civilian and sworn officers dedicated to serving the county's public safety needs. I thank the residents of Monmouth County for their support and remain committed to serving all who live, work or visit this great county.



The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office provides essential services through its Law Enforcement, Communications, Corrections, and Special Operations Divisions, while also overseeing the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management, EMS Operation MedStar, the Monmouth County Police and Fire Academies, and the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office. Under my leadership, the agency has become a statewide model for innovation and collaboration. A notable and recent achievement is the launch of the EMS Operation MedStar, a countywide shared service that has responded to more than 16,000 calls since 2024 with average response times under five minutes and thirty seconds, at no cost to municipalities.

Our state-of-the-art 9-1-1 Communications Center, the largest shared service in Monmouth County, continues to serve as a blueprint for emergency services through cutting-edge technology and the dedication of highly trained public safety telecommunicators. The Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management is an industry leader in emergency and disaster response, focusing on preparedness, response, and recovery.

Through the Law Enforcement Division, we lead initiatives addressing drug abuse, auto theft, homeland security and school safety, while expanding the K-9 Unit, and advancing training through the STARS facility. I'm proud to boast that the Monmouth County Correctional Institution continues to uphold the highest standards, achieving 100 per-



- VETERAN SERVICE COUNCIL MEETS
- WELCOME INTERNS
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY K-9 MAVERICK

cent compliance with the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office remains the only law enforcement agency in New Jersey accredited in all five operational areas, underscoring its continued excellence and leadership in public safety.



We are proud of our public safety outreach programs for seniors, children, veterans, and the special needs community, and also remain committed to combating human trafficking alongside our local, state, and federal partners. The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is the only law enforcement agency in New Jersey accredited in all five operational areas, underscoring our continued excellence and leadership in public safety.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this agency. It is very much appreciated, and I look forward to working with all as we move ahead the next three years.

LET IT SNOW

The snow came down on Jan. 24 and it was the most significant snowstorm our region has experienced in years. The MCSO and partners in public safety worked tirelessly during the major winter storm, committed to keeping residents and roads safe.



As the storm approached and conditions rapidly worsened, Sheriff Golden sent out timely safety messages and preparedness information, encouraging all to stay off the roads when possible, plan ahead, and prioritize safety.

From public works crews to police, fire, OEM, EMS- MedStar and public safety telecommunicators, every role was critical and every challenge was met. First responders had it covered, and that dedication to keeping Monmouth County safe and moving does not go unnoticed.



It is this collective effort that continues to keep Monmouth County strong, even in the face of extreme weather.



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COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Even though the storm ended, the bitter cold did not, as an arctic blast moved in and stayed for days. Frigid temperatures combined with blustery winds in some areas created dangerous wind chills.

It's important to take precautions during the extreme cold: limit time outdoors, dress in layers, check on elderly neighbors, and ensure pets are safely indoors.



OUTSTANDING JOB FROM EMS MEDSTAR

Outstanding work from the MCSO's Emergency Medical Services Operation - MedStar, for the exceptional work in 2025. The team processed more than ten thousand calls for service, with an average response time in under five minutes and thirty seconds.

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.



COLD WEATHER Preparedness Tips



CLOTHING

- Wear loose-fitting, layered clothing.
- Wear a hat, scarf, and insulated gloves.
- Dress in wool or synthetic fabrics rather than cotton.
- Wear warm, waterproof boots.



IN THE CAR

- Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent the fuel line from freezing:
- Pack a winter emergency kit:
 - Blankets
 - Flashlight & extra batteries
 - High-calorie, non-perishable food
 - Jumper cables
 - First-aid kit
 - Cell phone charger
 - Water bottle



AT HOME

- Allow faucets to drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Insulate pipes and let warm air circulate by opening cabinet doors.
- Have flashlights & extra batteries ready in case of a power outage.
- Test smoke alarms and check that fire extinguishers are in working order.
- Safely use space heaters; keep anything flammable at least 3 feet away.
- Bring pets indoors during extreme cold.



CHECK ON ELDERLY NEIGHBORS AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

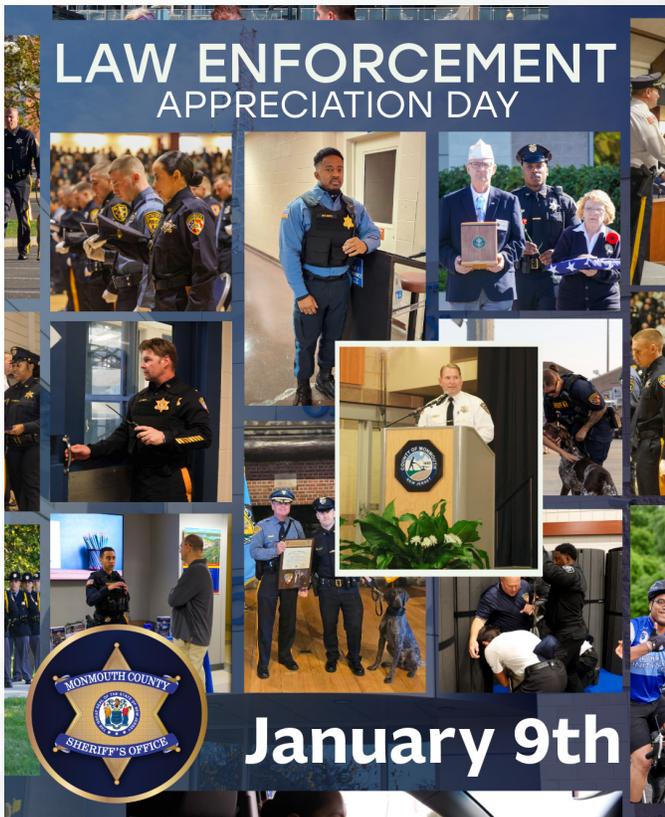


WELCOME LE & CORRECTIONS RECRUITS

Along with the new year comes new recruits at the Monmouth County Police Academy. On Jan. 5, Sheriff Golden proudly welcomed 68 recruits from the 110th BCPO Class and the 61st Sleo II Class as they began to prepare for a career in law enforcement. These future officers will undergo 22 weeks of intense training which will enable them to serve and protect residents and communities with integrity, honor, and commitment. On Jan. 21 the sheriff addressed 27 new recruits from the 46th Basic Course for County Correctional Police Officers who are embarking on 18 weeks of training.

The sheriff emphasized how engagement, enthusiasm, and energy are key to becoming the finest correctional police officers.

Best of luck to all.



LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.) was Jan. 9 and a well-deserved opportunity to show all members of law enforcement how much they are valued and supported.

Sheriff Golden and the MCSO recognize and appreciate the unwavering efforts law enforcement professionals make throughout the year. Every day, they put their safety on the line to protect the public. 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.

SHERIFF GOLDEN ADDRESSES PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERS

Sheriff Golden hosted a presentation with our public safety and 9-1-1 communication partners, highlighting enhancements and upgrades to law enforcement, 9-1-1, and emergency operations on Jan. 29.

Monmouth County continues to lead the way in shared services, ensuring our agencies have the tools, technology, and coordination needed to best serve our residents. We are proud to work alongside our partners and remain committed to collaboration and communication to strengthen public safety countywide. Thanks to all who attended.



PSTs BEGIN TRAINING

Sheriff Golden welcomed the newest Public Safety Telecommunicators to the MCSO's Communications Division on Jan. 6, as twenty four PSTs began training and will have an essential role in ensuring timely, effective emergency response to residents throughout Monmouth County.

The hard work and commitment of a PST is commendable, and the MCSO wish all great success.



CONGRATS TO FIREFIGHTERS

A proud graduation celebration for recruits from Firefighter 1 Class 143 and Firefighter 2 Class 229 held at Brookdale Community College, Jan 21. Their dedication and hard work at the Monmouth County Fire Academy has paved the way for them to serve communities as skilled firefighters.

Sheriff Golden wishes this next generation of first responders the best of luck as they keep our communities and county safe.



THANK YOU FIRE MARSHAL

The MCSO congratulates Monmouth County Fire Marshal Fred Migliaccio on his well-deserved retirement after working 51 years in the fire service, including six as Fire Marshal.

Throughout Fred's distinguished career, Fire Marshal Migliaccio demonstrated unwavering dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to fire prevention and public safety. His leadership and expertise helped protect countless lives and properties across Monmouth County, leaving a lasting impact on the communities he served.

Sheriff Golden thanks Fred, for the many decades of hard work and wishes him all the best.



GANG UNIT PRESENTATION

Correctional Police Officers who are part of the Monmouth County Correctional Institution's Gang Intelligence Unit do fantastic work in and outside of the facility regarding gang prevention and awareness. On Jan. 23, CPO Gilbert Reed held a gang presentation at the Academy of Law and Public Safety. During the program, he provided a realistic look into a gang member's life and discussed signs that gang members use. CPO Reed also stressed why becoming a part of a gang is an error in judgement that can lead to jail time or even death.

The Gang Intelligence Unit travel to schools throughout Monmouth County to present, as Sheriff Golden wants youth to be aware of the dangers and negative impacts that come along with joining a gang.



OEM STATEWIDE MEETING HELD AT MCSO

Sheriff Golden, a leader in emergency management services, hosted the statewide OEM County Access and Functional Needs Coordinators meeting, January 8.

The MCSO highlighted its Register Ready Program and is proud to lead the state in participants, reinforcing the commitment to inclusive emergency preparedness, by ensuring that everyone has equal access to care before, during and after an emergency.

Other topics included,

- A guide dog demonstration and vision loss presentation.
- A discussion on the Waretown flooding incident from last October.
- An overview of the Hunterdon County LINK, transportation system.
- An update on Emergency Medical Services for Children.

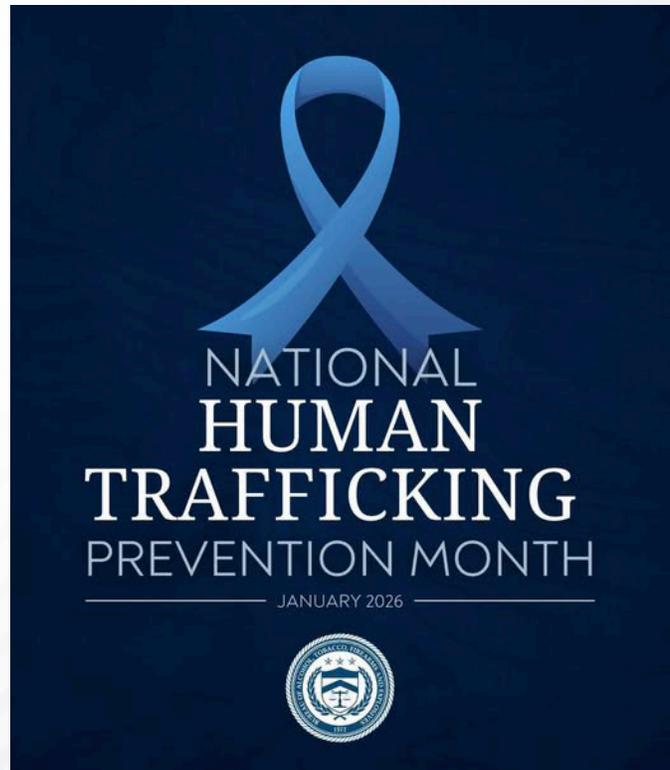
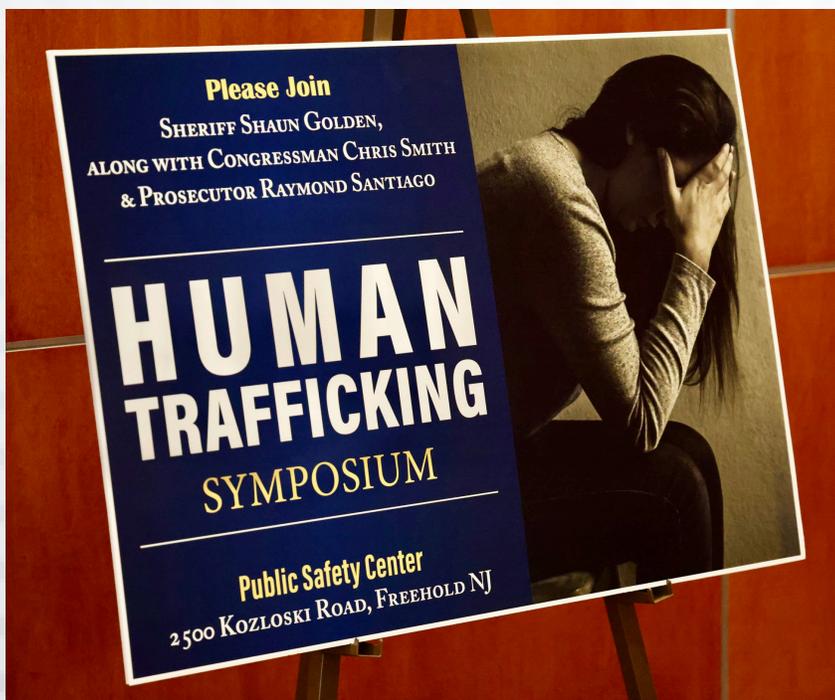
Many thanks to all presenters and partners for a productive and collaborative discussion.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

January was Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and Sheriff Golden along with partners in law enforcement remain steadfast in the fight against this heinous crime through education, awareness and enforcement.

The MCSO works closely with the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking throughout the year, and, along with Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and Congressman Chris Smith holds an important symposium annually in May. The symposium brings together law enforcement, service providers, educators, and community members to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and enhance prevention and response efforts.

Through awareness, training, and action, we can help stop this crime and protect the most vulnerable. During Human Trafficking Prevention Month and always: If you see something, say something.



MLK CELEBRATION

Sheriff Golden was proud to attend the YMCA of the Jersey Shore's Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Breakfast, Jan. 16 along with Commissioner Director Tom Arnone, to honor the life and legacy of MLK. The meaningful event served as a powerful reminder of what Dr. King stood for; unity, service, justice, and equality for all. Thank you to the YMCA of the Jersey Shore for providing this great opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's work.



MONMOUTH 250

Monmouth County is proudly looking ahead to an historic milestone, America's 250th birthday. Sheriff Golden was pleased to host the Monmouth 250 Summit at the MCSO, Jan. 27, bringing together county and local officials as they continue to plan meaningful and memorable celebrations, showcasing all that makes Monmouth County special. Thanks to Commissioner Director Tom Arnone, Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon and Monmouth 250 for their dedication to this upcoming momentous event.



VETERAN SERVICE COUNCIL MEETS

Great turnout and lots of information exchanged and shared during MCSO's Veteran Service Council meeting held Jan. 21 at the InfoAge Science & History Museums in Wall Twp.

Discussions focused on veterans' quality-of-life programs, Monmouth County services, and ways to expand outreach to better serve those who have served. Attendees also heard a presentation from the NJ Veterans Affairs History Curator, who is preserving veterans' oral histories to share their stories for future generations.

Sheriff Golden's Veteran Service Council, led by Veteran Service Officer Mike Ferraro, continues to assist, advise, and promote initiatives dedicated to enhancing the lives of our veterans.



WELCOME INTERNS

Nine college and high school students began their internship at the MCSO in January.

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 our communities by interning in the Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications Divisions, the Office of Emergency Management, Information Technology and Special Operations.

During the first week they were presented with an overview of the agency and toured MCSO facilities.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY K-9 MAVERICK

The MCSO wishes a very Happy Birthday to K-9 Maverick who turned 3 years old on Jan. 28th. S/O Chris Paletto and Maverick are a great team, specializing in explosive detection as they enhance the ability to prevent and respond to potential threats, ensuring the safety of residents in Monmouth County.

