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# monmouth In Focus

*The Place You Want to Be*

FALL 2007

## BREEDER'S CUP A WINNER FOR MONMOUTH'S ECONOMY

Despite the wet weather, the Breeder's Cup in Monmouth Park proved to be an economic boon for Monmouth County.

Horse owners reaped more than \$23 million in purses, and fans bet a record \$143 million on the races themselves. With over 68,000 spectators at Monmouth Park for the 24th annual Breeder's Cup race, it was predicted that the economic impact for the region would surpass \$60 million, including \$6.1 million in total tax revenues.

"County residents and businesses alike rolled out the red carpet for visitors from around the world. The Monmouth Park staff and event volunteers made the venue shine with their warmth and enthusiasm and lived the credo: Monmouth County – The Place You Want to Be."

Those who attended couldn't help but notice the \$30 million in renovations to the track. In return for that investment, visitors from outside New Jersey were

*"Many of the people I spoke with were impressed with the restaurants, accommodations and attractions they found nestled in Monmouth County."*

JEANNE DE YOUNG  
MONMOUTH COUNTY TOURISM REPRESENTATIVE

"All eyes in the horseracing world were on Monmouth County for the 2007 Breeder's Cup," said Freeholder Deputy Director Lillian G. Burry, county liaison to the Breeder's Cup Host Committee.



expected to spend about \$15.9 million on food, lodging and other items of interest to out-of-state tourists. Plus, it was anticipated they would spend another \$7.8 million at Monmouth Park itself.



County projects include roundabout at Brookdale Community College.

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Adoption gives children love and hope that their dreams can come true.

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Find out what you can do to remove reusable items from the waste stream.

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F&F Nurseries is latest entry into the Farmland Preservation Program.

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## WINTER GREEN

Monmouth County's Highway Department is going green this winter. Instead of using rock salt with calcium chloride, a switch is being made to use rock salt treated with magnesium chloride combined with an agricultural byproduct. Why? Magnesium chloride is biodegradable and non-corrosive. It is safe for concrete and steel and does not burn the grass. It's so effective that applications are reduced by 20 to 30 percent, and it has a working temperature of -35 degrees, compared with salt, which is ineffective below 18 degrees.



## Web News

The Monmouth County Web site just got a lot better. See Page 4 for details.





## ROUNDAABOUT KEEPS TRAFFIC MOVING.

Monmouth County built this roundabout (left) at the entrance to Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, to improve traffic flow along Newman Springs Road. Built over the summer, this smaller cousin of the traffic circle opened just in time for the fall semester, and early reports are it is working well.



ROUNDAABOUT OPEN-



STONE ROAD BRIDGE



UNION AVENUE

## A NUMBER OF COUNTY PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED, INCLUDING TWO BRIDGES

**Residents in a number of Bayshore communities welcomed the August opening of the Stone Road Bridge, spanning Chingarora Creek between Union Beach and Keyport, and the Union Avenue bridge over Flat Creek in Union Beach.**

The Union Avenue bridge and the Stone Road bridge, both previously listed as structurally deficient and functionally obsolete by the state Department of Transportation, have been rebuilt in accordance with current design standards.

The cost of rebuilding the Union Avenue and the Stone Road bridges were \$2 million and \$2.75 million, respectively, and were paid for with funds provided through the 1999 Bridge Bond Act.

The new Union Avenue bridge, constructed with a pre-stressed concrete deck on new concrete abutments and a curb-to-curb

roadway width of 35 feet, replaces the old concrete encased steel stringer deck bridge.

It include 5-foot-8-inch-wide sidewalks on both sides of the bridge, concrete parapets with ornamental pedestrian hand rails and upgraded safety features including new guide rail with upgraded end treatments. Also, a new storm drainage system will help limit solids in storm water runoff from discharging into Flat Creek.

The Stone Road bridge project included changes to the approach road in Hazlet. The original configuration had a three-point intersection convergent at the westerly bridge approach, a steel grid deck on a slightly skewed alignment and single approach road to the east. The new bridge was built with a concrete pre-stressed deck on new concrete abutments. It is 36 feet wide between curbs, with a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the north side.

Instead of the three-point intersection, there is now a T-intersection of Second Street with

Stone Road. In addition, the intersection of Stone Road and Walnut Street was improved and a vacated portion of Second Street is used in conjunction with other property obtained by the county to create a wetlands mitigation/enhancement area, compensating for wetland areas impacted by this project.

The county is actively pursuing replacement of its older bridges. The term structurally deficient does not mean the bridge is dangerous, but could mean that it no longer meets today's load standards. Functionally obsolete is another broad term that could mean that the lanes are not wide enough by modern-day standards.

## MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

### James Gleason, Principal Communications High School

James Gleason was shocked, surprised and speechless following news that he was being awarded the prestigious Milken Educator Award. He later expressed his gratitude for the support of his peers. Gleason was given a check for \$25,000 and will participate in the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference in Los Angeles next spring.



## ADOPTION DAY: A REASON TO CELEBRATE



**Adoption Day was Nov. 15, and more than 20 children discovered the magic of belonging to a family. We celebrate those parents who have transformed the life of a child and hope others will be inspired to do the same. The Monmouth County Surrogate's Office accepts applications for adoptions and helps the families and their attorneys through the judicial process.**

Hundreds of children found homes as a result of the first National Adoption Day in 2000. By 2006, the day had grown into a national celebration with 3,300 adoptions finalized at 250 events in 50 states.

According to Monmouth County Surrogate Rosemarie D. Peters, 23 children were adopted on Adoption Day this year in Freehold. In all of last year, the Surrogate's Office handled the adoption of 197 children, up from 175 in the year before. "I commend the families whose decision to adopt will help to change the world, but especially the worlds of these beautiful and special children," Peters said.

"I am proud of our accomplishments in promoting adoptions, and grateful for our collaboration with the families, community members and agencies involved," Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson said.

You can join other adoptive parents who proudly have made a difference in the life of a child. Included in this group are: Al Roker, Barbara Walters, Bob Hope, Harry Belafonte, Lou Gossett, President Reagan, Stephen Spielberg and Walt Disney, who may have been referring to the magic of adoption when he said, 'All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.'

To learn how you can become an adoptive parent, please call Bonnie Petrua at (732) 409-4808 or visit the Surrogate's Web site at [www.visitmonmouth.com/surrogate](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/surrogate)

## AWARD WINNERS

### Monmouth is an award winning county

Monmouth County Clerk M. Claire French went to an awards ceremony in Trenton recently and brought home the big prize.

The award, a trophy of etched glass from the state Division of Archives and Records Management, cites French's



work in developing a shared service that can be used by every county. Two years ago, French launched an e-recording Web portal that allows banks, title companies and lawyers to file real estate and other transactions electronically over the Internet.

So far, Monmouth County has been awarded more than \$3 million in state Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) grants to expand and operate the system.

In addition, the county's Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Interment Affairs was the recipient of the Dystonia Patnership Award from the National Dystonia Medical Research Foundation for its education and outreach on Dystonia within the agency's Lasting Lifestyles program.



Senior Park Gardener Julie Soleil watches as Master Composters Jim Farmer and John Bauer load composted material into a wheel barrow at Deep Cut Gardens in Middletown.

## RECYCLING SAVES LANDFILL SPACE WHAT GETS RECYCLED AND WHAT DOESN'T

Acquisition of the old Shrewsbury Landfill, next to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center, Tinton Falls, secures the county's waste disposal needs for the next 25 years. We can extend that life evenmore if we recycle.

- 1. At the curb.** Items mandated for recycling are newspapers, aluminum cans, glass bottles and tin cans. Other recyclables include mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, water bottles and those big laundry detergent bottles. Check with your town to see if they recycle them.
- 2. In the home.** Old computers, cell phones and televisions make up a large and growing segment of waste stream. You can drop these items off at the Monmouth County Reclamation Center, Tinton Falls.
- 3. In the yard.** You can substantially reduce your waste by composting, which turns backyard and some kitchen waste into a productive resource. The county offers composting workshops. Find out more by visiting [www.visitmonmouth.com/recycling](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/recycling)
- 4. In the garage.** Pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, thinners, paints, motor oil, anti-freeze, gasoline, batteries and BBQ propane tanks can be dropped off at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Reclamation Center.

For a complete guide to recycling in Monmouth County, please visit [www.visitmonmouth.com/recycling](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/recycling)



## PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNMENT: WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY

In an effort to stimulate interest in local government and expand local news coverage in Monmouth County, Freeholder Barbara J. McMorrow has launched a student journalism program with area high school students.

*"As a former principal and teacher of English, I think it's important for high school students to have an opportunity to sharpen their journalism skills and provide a public service by reporting on issues that impact their communities."*

**Freeholder Barbara J. McMorrow**

The first meeting was held Oct. 18 in the Freeholder Meeting Room, and 25 students were enrolled. All expressed a strong interest in writing and government. Experts in the field, including the Monmouth County Department of Public Information, will guide the students.

Students will be meeting monthly with their advisers, but they also will have the opportunity to attend public meetings and events to develop their own newsgathering skills. Students are expected to write one article each month on topics related to county government. These articles will be edited by county staff and may be submitted for publication to local and student newspapers. The articles also may be published on the county Web site.

# PRESERVING: WHY NOW IS THE TIME

In October, Monmouth County welcomed the 60-acre F&F Nursery in Holmdel into the Farmland Preservation Program. To date, Monmouth County has 132 preserved farms totaling 10,740 acres spread across nine municipalities: Upper Freehold, Millstone, Roosevelt, Manalapan, Marlboro, Colts Neck, Holmdel, Howell and Freehold Township.

Freeholder Lillian G. Burry at F&F Nursery with John H. Flemer, the owner.

F&F Nurseries is the latest entry into the Farmland Preservation Program through a partnership effort among Holmdel Township, Monmouth County and the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC).

F&F Nurseries' property was purchased by Holmdel 2005. Last month, the township sold the development rights to Monmouth County to preserve 60 acres under the Farmland Preservation Program. The SADC provided cost-sharing assistance under its Planning Incentive Grant program.

"Municipalities have much at stake in the race to preserve farmland, not only in protecting their agricultural land base, but by preventing further development and the negative tax impacts that go along with it," said Susan E. Craft, executive director of the SADC, which administers the state Farmland Preservation Program.

"F&F Nurseries is a wonderful addition to our farmland preservation program," Holmdel Mayor Serena DiMaso said. "Its central location will ensure that future generations will forever enjoy the



history of Holmdel."

F&F Nurseries is a wholesale grower of flowering trees, shade trees, evergreens and shrubs.

"Our father would have been pleased to know that the farmland he purchased more than 50 years ago will remain a farm forever," Flemer said.

*"Each piece of land we preserve now helps protect the quality of life in Monmouth County now and in the future."*

**FREEHOLDER LILLIAN G. BURRY**

## New county Web site makes surfing fun!

With better graphics, drop-down menus and the addition of "Quick Picks" on the home page, the Monmouth County Web site is better and more fun to use.

The changes are largely the result of information gleaned recently from a national seminar on government Web sites. Although the original site got rave reviews from other counties at the seminar, it has since been tweaked to streamline the navigation and bring it in compliance with national standards.

"Quick Picks" was added to give visitors one-click navigation to the most popular pages.

In addition, the banner at the top changes according to the time of day, reflecting sunrise, day time, late afternoon and night time views.

Work continues of bringing individual departments over to the new design.

## COUNTY TO CLEAN, REUSE OLD LANDFILL



### Waste disposal needs secured for next 25 years

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved acquiring the former Shrewsbury Disposal Landfill, next to the county's existing 900-acre Reclamation Center in Tinton Falls.

The county's plan is to convert an existing environmental liability into a state-of-the-art sanitary landfill and, in doing so, extend the life of the Reclamation Center by 25 years.

The county will mine the trash at the unlined, 60-acre Shrewsbury Disposal Landfill and place it in the County's existing landfill at the Reclamation Center. Once emptied, the county will prepare the Shrewsbury Landfill site for reuse by properly installing a sand layer base, double composite liners, a leak

detection system and a recovery system for landfill gases.

The acquisition alone will provide a guarantee for waste disposal in Monmouth County for 10 to 12 years. The Reclamation Center has about 18 years of usable space left now.

"This acquisition will allow us to clean and properly close the Shrewsbury landfill, protecting the Shark River watershed from hazards posed by an unlined landfill," Freeholder Director William C. Barham said. "Furthermore, it will extend the life of the Reclamation Center, giving Monmouth County taxpayers predictability with regard to the cost of waste disposal for the next 25 years."

Read the full story at [www.visitmonmouth.com/landfill](http://www.visitmonmouth.com/landfill)



## monmouth In Focus

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