

news.
community.
services.

SEE THE LIGHT

It seems like everyone is going green these days. Now you can join them.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders, with the National Association of Counties (NACo), is urging residents to pledge to reduce energy consumption in their homes.

It's easy to do. The next time you are on the county's Web site look for the link for NACo or go directly to www.greencounties.org/changetheworld.

You will be asked to review a number of ways in which you can reduce energy in your home. Click on the ones you think will make a difference. In return for your pledge, NACo will send you a 10 percent coupon which you can apply toward the purchase of a new fluorescent light bulb.



difference. In your pledge, NACo via an e-mail discount you can apply toward the purchase of a new fluorescent light bulb.

Monmouth County will be competing with other counties nationally to win 1,000 free light bulbs. Do it today!

How prepared are you to evacuate in a storm?

The 2008 hurricane season has so far been active.

If you, a family member or anyone you know will need help evacuating during a storm, registering today with the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will help emergency workers attend to you more easily during a crisis.

"If you know of someone who may have difficulty getting themselves to safety with family or friends, or to a public shelter, be sure they have registered with this free, confidential registry," Freeholder William C. Barham said. "Help those you love by contacting the county emergency management staff today."

Anyone with physical or cognitive limitations, language barriers or lack of transportation should register with the New Jersey Special Needs Registry. The registry was designed to help emergency responders locate and safely evacuate people who could find it difficult to help themselves in the event of a major disaster.



Registration can be made by contacting:

- Monmouth County OEM at 732-431-7400
- the toll free 2-1-1 service (TTY/TDD translation services available).
- downloading and mailing the registration form from the county's Web site at www.visitmonmouth.com



Monmouth County's surplus auction is going high-tech this year with all items being sold exclusively online. Page 2



Need help finding a job? Visit the county's One-stop Career Center in Eatontown for free assistance. Page 3



The Planning Board issues a series of user-friendly how-to guides to help municipal planners. Page 3

The Place You Want to Be



Board of Chosen Freeholders

Lillian G. Burry, Director
Robert D. Clifton, Deputy Director
William C. Barham
Barbara J. McMorrow
John D'Amico Jr.

On the cover: Monmouth County's 9/11 memorial located at Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook in Atlantic Highlands.

MONMOUTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
PHONE 732-431-7310 WWW.VISITMONMOUTH.COM

Monmouth In Focus



SEATED: Lillian G. Burry. STANDING (from left): John D'Amico Jr., Barbara J. McMorrow, William C. Barham and Robert D. Clifton.



Monmouth County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Hall of Records
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(732) 431-7387

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County aims to create efficiencies, identify savings and improve services

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MONMOUTH COUNTY HAS BEGUN, AND THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS WILL BE RELYING ON INPUT FROM RESIDENTS TO HELP DEVELOP A WORKABLE PLAN.

The development of a strategic plan was called for in a 2007 report by the county's bipartisan Budget Review Committee. Monmouth County will be the first county in New Jersey to have a strategic plan.

Residents will be asked to participate in a series of community forums Nov. 6 and Nov. 17 to measure their views on services offered by the county. These forums will be augmented by a scientific public opinion poll representative of a cross section of county residents. Respondents also will be asked to share their thoughts on how they envision the county in the years ahead.

"The county is a large business, employer and service provider, and we need a plan that shows us where we are and where we are going," said Freeholder Barbara J. McMorrow, who served on the Budget Review Committee. "This will help us focus on our goals."

Freeholder Director Lillian G. Burry said, "Even though we did not raise taxes this year, having a strategic plan will help identify efficiencies in government, which could ultimately translate into savings for taxpayers. Monmouth County is once again taking a leadership role in New Jersey by becoming involved in strategic planning."

Janus Solutions of Hopewell was the low bidder for a 12-month contract.

"Strategic planning is a strategy for positive

Freeholder Deputy Director Robert D. Clifton, who oversees the county's Finance Department and the annual budgeting process. "It's important that we think for the long-term health and welfare of the county."

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Freeholders bring 2 attorneys in-house

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has hired two staff attorneys.

A study in 2006 led to a reduction in hourly rates for counsel, partners and paralegals, but did not recommend bringing anyone in-house. A recent analysis at the request of Freeholders Lillian G. Burry and John D'Amico Jr. projects an annual savings of \$130,000 by making two attorneys and one paralegal full-time employees.

Savings are anticipated in the areas of contracts, procurement, labor and employment, which require legal work on a daily basis. The move reduces the number of outside assistant county counsels by two.

The county's annual auction of surplus property is going high-tech in September, holding the entire auction online. More than 130 cars, trucks and vans are for sale. For the date of the auction and a full list of items to be sold, check the county's Web site at www.visitmonmouth.com

The county wants to delay FEMA's adoption of the expanded Monmouth County flood zone maps to ensure they are accurate. Freeholder Director Lillian G. Burry, on behalf of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, has directed county counsel to seek relief in federal court on behalf of Bayshore-area homeowners who now need additional insurance as a result of the new flood maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). At issue is a 30-year-old levee system built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect homes from flooding.

Monmouth In Focus TV, a monthly program about government services in



Monmouth County, has expanded to include customers of Comcast Cable. The half-hour show, produced at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, kicked off in April on Cablevision and several local access channels. September's show highlights the County Clerk's office, electronic documents recording and voter registration, and also the soon-to-be-completed Child Advocacy Center. Contact your cable provider for channels and schedules.

For the second year in a row, the National Arbor Day Foundation has designated Monmouth County as a Tree City USA in recognition of the county's ongoing community forestry program. The county also received the Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the areas of education and public relations, tree-worker safety, continuing education for tree managers, and tree care workshop.



James Heath of Weights & Measures inspects a gasoline pump.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: county monitors prices at the pumps

As gasoline prices hit record highs this year, motorists may be feeling like they're getting gouged every time they fill up. Monmouth County conducts annual inspections for accurate measurement at all gasoline pumps, and the survey in June turned up very few violations.

As required by state law, all fuel dispensers the public has access to must be inspected, tested and sealed each year, which are performed annually by the Monmouth County Department of Weights & Measures. This inspection includes, but is not limited to, testing every pump for accuracy of volume and price. Monmouth County inspectors visited all 215 service stations in the county and inspected 5,000 fuel pumps.

The county is responsible for assuring the accuracy of every consumer product sold by weight, measure, count or volume. In addition to checking the accuracy of gasoline pumps, Weight & Measures inspects grocery store scales and oil delivery trucks.

NOTE: The Monmouth County Department of Consumer Affairs has a new home. Now located in the Hall of Records Annex on East Main Street, department staff can assist with any consumer-related problem. Since January, the department has recovered \$305,000 for Monmouth County consumers.

One-stop careers

Need help with your job search? The One-Stop Career Center, part of the county's Division of Employment and Training, wants you to know its office is located at 145 Wyckoff Rd., Suite 201, Eatontown.

"The Career Center is a valuable resource for people of all skill sets and wage brackets who are in need of jobs," Freeholder Barbara J. McMorrow said. "Whether it's information on job postings, retraining or simply to get help with a resume, these dedicated staff members are there to help Monmouth County residents find a job to support themselves and their families."

Since January 2007, the county has enabled 1,672 unemployed adults and 250 young people to complete vocational training to improve their employability. Another 612 people improved their math, reading or basic computer skills at the Learning Link, located at the Career Center.

The Division also conducts a Home-Based Distance Learning Program, which helps employed former welfare clients improve their skills by taking online classes at home. Students are supplied with a computer and Internet access for one year, during which time they can take computer classes without worrying about child care or transportation issues. Since 2002, 218 people have graduated and participants enjoy a 93 percent employment rate.



The Career Center also offers a Resource Room for residents looking for employment who are in need of a computer, fax machine or telephone.

AS GOVERNMENT ON ALL LEVELS LOOKS FOR WAYS TO TRIM EXPENSES, SHARED SERVICES HAS BECOME THE BUZZ WORD ON EVERYONE'S LIPS.

County offers shared services to municipalities

To help Monmouth County towns cut costs, the Board of Chosen Freeholders is continuing to extend more goods and services through the county's Cooperative Purchasing Program. Towns also will be able to utilize additional services of the Department of Public Works and Engineering, and can save money by requesting services or buying road salt and gasoline directly from the county.

"We have numerous resources that a lot of towns may not have," said John W. Tobia, Public Works and Engineering director. "We are here to assist them."

Tobia and Gerri C. Popkin, director of the county's Purchasing Department, addressed about 50 municipal officials at a recent summit on shared services hosted by Marlboro Mayor Jonathan Hornik. Meetings with every governing body, administrator, DPW supervisor and police chief in the county are planned.

Gypsy moth spraying, guide rail installation and culvert repair are services Public Works already provides to municipalities. Towns can also check with the emergency operations center to help plan for snow plowing, and, soon, use the new truck wash stations.

To buy equipment or a service, towns can go through the county's Cooperative Purchasing Program, in which the county's awarded low-bid prices can be extended to municipalities. For these and other cost-saving opportunities, please see www.visitmonmouth.com.

Strategic planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

change. It promotes strategic thought and improves decision-making and performance," said Tom Blatner of Janus Solutions.

Community forums will be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Monmouth County Library's Eastern Branch, Shrewsbury, and 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17 at library's headquarters in Manalapan.

Once the information is gathered, the Strategic Planning Committee will evaluate the county's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities so a plan can be formulated.

A final plan could be adopted by the freeholders next spring.

"It is an indication that the county is actively responding to the need to improve how it delivers county services," County Administrator Robert M. Czech said.

Information about the strategic plan is available on the county's Web site at www.visitmonmouth.com.



HOW-TO FOR PLANNING BOARDS

To make planning at the local level less complex, the Monmouth County Planning Board has launched a series of user-friendly, how-to guides for municipal planning.

This first volume, Master Plan Re-examination Report Procedures, includes a step-by-step procedural checklist, reference guide, fast facts on essential information and additional resources.

"Many local decisions on development, growth, preservation and conservation are governed by various types of laws and procedures," Freeholder John D'Amico Jr. said. "These technical assistance brochures on municipal planning are a must-have for citizens interested in learning how all the pieces in local planning fit together."

See www.visitmonmouth.com to get your how-to guide online, or call 732-431-7460.