

SUMMER HAPPENS HERE: Monmouth County offers a world of activities. Whether you like to hit the beach, fish, shop or eat, Monmouth County is definitely the place you want to be!



The Monmouth County Park System welcomes its 100 millionth visitor, Valerie Yannuzzi.

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The surrogate opens a third satellite office to better serve residents in the Middletown area.

~ page 4



Volunteers build a playground in a single day for Monmouth County's homeless children.

~ page 6



Lou Papanozzi retires after serving Monmouth County residents for more than 20 years

~ page 7



MONMOUTH IN FOCUS

The Place You Want to Be

www.visitmonmouth.com

Testing the waters

Weekly checks ensure beaches are safe for swimmers

LONG BEFORE MOST BEACHGOERS CLIMB OUT OF THEIR BEDS AND INTO THEIR BATHING SUITS, TEAMS FROM THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HIT THE BEACHES GATHERING WATER SAMPLES.

Every Monday morning, water samples from 61 locations from Keyport to Manasquan are collected and taken back to the Health Department's laboratory where they are tested for enterococcus bacteria to make sure the water is clean and safe for swimmers.

"It's so important to our health and the economy to keep that water clean," says Freeholder Robert D. Clifton, liaison to the county's Health Department. "It's a great natural resource and we want to keep it clean and pristine so people can continue to enjoy one of our county's greatest assets."

That wasn't always the case. In the 1980s, longtime Monmouth County residents will remember a spate of beach closings up and down the coast

because medical waste and "grease balls" had been washing ashore on a regular basis. Public outcry resulted in better sewage treatment and more diligence with regard to discharges in the New York metropolitan area.

"We intensively search for sources of pollution," says Michael Meddis, the county's Public Health Coordinator. "Generally, we find it's a non-point source situation where heavy rains wash pollutants and animal waste into the storm drains and into our waterways. We've had an excellent record over the past year. I believe the ocean water



Audrey Miller, a Monmouth County environmental health specialist, collects water samples for testing.

quality has improved dramatically since the county's beach sampling program began

See **Water**, Page 2

3 EASY CLICKS TO COUNTY SERVICES



1. All of the county's many services can be found at www.visitmonmouth.com

Whether you're looking for voter registration forms, recycling tips or tax records, it's all at your fingertips. Click for a list of Departments.

2. When you find the Department you are looking for, simply click and go.



Most county Departments have Web sites, and most of the those Web sites have a full listing of services to choose from.



3. Services are listed on the left-hand side of the page. Just point and click.

That's all there is to it. Happy surfing!

WILLIAM C. BARHAM

from the desk of the director



WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRINTED EDITION OF THE COUNTY'S NEWSLETTER, "MONMOUTH IN FOCUS." IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO BRING YOU NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH MONMOUTH COUNTY PROVIDES SERVICES TO YOU, THE TAXPAYER.

While maintaining a flat level of taxation each year is certainly our goal, you'll be happy to know that the Board of Chosen Freeholders has successfully limited the increase in the county portion of your tax bill to less than the rate of inflation. We have done this two years in a row!

Monmouth County is one of just a handful of counties in the country to maintain AAA ratings from the three major bond rating companies – Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. How does that help you? One way is through the Monmouth County Improvement Authority (MCIA), which helps towns buy such things as police cars and fire trucks. If your town

borrow through the MCIA, you get the advantage of the lowest interest rate possible. The MCIA, together with the AAA bond rating, has saved taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.

The county continuously maintains and improves its extensive transportation infrastructure, which comprises more than 380 miles of roads, 980 bridges and 220 traffic signals. The condition of Monmouth County's highways remain among the best in the state due largely to annual maintenance

programs. On average, the county resurfaces 20 miles of roadway per year, restripes all 380 miles of highway and spends more than \$500,000 a year on highway and bridge maintenance.

This year, the county is undertaking 24 transportation projects that include various intersection improvements and bridge replacement or reconstruction. This is an addition to 16 ongoing construction projects.

These are just a few examples of how hard the county is working for you. In this edition you will read about Tree City USA, meet the 100 millionth park visitor, learn how the county's aggressive gypsy moth program has kept the caterpillars at bay again this year and see how

300 volunteers built a playground for homeless children in one day.

Remember to visit your county government on the Web at www.visitmonmouth.com. Find out what's going on in your county – and don't forget to sign up for the e-mail subscription service for periodic notifications, on-line newsletters, press releases and other announcements. Find out why Monmouth County is the place you want to be!

Monmouth County Health Department

Michael Meddis



Meet the new public health coordinator

Michael Meddis has been selected to serve as Monmouth County's new public health coordinator and health officer. He succeeds Lester W. Jargowsky, who retired in May.

Meddis, who was Jargowsky's assistant for many years, joined the Monmouth County Health Department in 1986. He has 31 years of experience in public health administration.

Meddis grew up in Nutley and received his bachelor's degree from Monmouth University, West Long Branch. He earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He is a state-licensed health officer.

"My original aspiration was to become a doctor, but I did not pursue it," Meddis says. "This is the next best thing as far as I'm concerned. I really feel like I'm contributing to people's health and disease prevention. It is a very rewarding field."

Before moving to Monmouth

County, Meddis worked in the health department of his hometown of Nutley, and also served as health officer in North Plainfield.

In taking on his new responsibilities, Meddis will continue to work with communities, health care providers and other stakeholders to strengthen the infrastructure needed to coordinate public health emergencies. He also will monitor environmental issues and enforce all applicable laws and regulations that affect public health causes.

Meddis also wants to improve access to health care for the



Meddis

underinsured and uninsured.

With preventive health care as one of his priorities, Meddis encourages people to tackle what he considers the biggest health issues today: smoking, poor diet and too little physical activity.

Water at beaches tested

from Page 1

more than 20 years ago."

The single sample maximum allowable density of enterococci in marine waters is 104 per 100 milliliters of sample. Any sample that exceeds 104 is resampled to confirm the original result. The sampling day and locations remain constant to provide continuity and validity to the assessment process.

"This method allows the Department to respond to any abnormality very quickly," Meddis says.

In the event of a nonconforming measurement, the Department will work with local government officials to close the beach to swimming until the water returns to normal range.

Health officials post their findings on the county's Web site at www.visitmonmouth.com/health under "Beach Reports."



Freeholder Robert D. Clifton examines a water sample.



is your town building a park?

COUNTY GRANT MONEY MAY BE AVAILABLE

If your town is considering purchasing open space or creating a park, county grant money may be available.

The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders has committed \$2 million annually from

the Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund to assist with acquisition and development projects for park, recreation, and open space purposes.

The program will match up to \$250,000 per project – generally 50 percent

of eligible project costs. Urban Aid Communities are eligible for a 75 percent share of the costs.

The application must be made by the municipality and only one application may be submitted in each funding cycle. The 2007

deadline for applications is Sept. 19.

For more information about this competitive matching grant program, please visit www.monmouthcountyparks.com or call Faith Hahn at (732) 842-4000, ext. 4472.

MORE OPEN SPACE

Preserving our farmland: County tops 10,000 acres

THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS WELCOMED NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURE SECRETARY CHARLES M. KUPERUS TO MONMOUTH COUNTY IN MAY TO ANNOUNCE THE PRESERVATION OF THE 10,000TH ACRE OF FARMLAND AND MARK A MILESTONE FOR UPPER FREEHOLD: MORE THAN 7,000 ACRES PRESERVED.

The milestones were announced at the Ernst Farm in Upper Freehold, the leading municipality for preserved farmland in the state with 7,054 acres permanently protected.

"The county is thrilled to reach the 10,000-acre milestone," Freeholder Deputy Director Lillian G. Burry said. "It is the culmination of more than 20 years of effort on the part of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board, our government and nonprofit partners and, of course, our local farmers."

"With every farm we preserve, we are helping to protect our rural, working landscapes, maintain the character of a community and keep agriculture

strong," said Secretary Kuperus, who chairs the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) that administers the state Farmland Preservation Program. "The preservation of 10,000 acres is a major step toward guaranteeing that future generations will be able to continue to enjoy all that Monmouth County's farmland has to offer."

The 131-acre farm was preserved under the Planning Incentive Grant Program through a partnership among Monmouth County, the SADC and Upper Freehold. The PIG program is intended to preserve areas of reasonably contiguous farmland by

providing grants to eligible counties and towns to purchase agricultural easements on farms in project areas they have designated.

Monmouth County is the seventh county in the state to preserve 10,000 acres. It has received \$75 million in state farmland preservation funding since the inception of the Farmland Preservation Program, the second-highest total

of all 21 counties.

To date, 120 farms covering 10,140 acres have been preserved in Monmouth County.



Freeholder Lillian G. Burry and NJ Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus at the Ernst Farm in Upper Freehold.

PARK SYSTEM MILESTONE

“The playground is terrific; it’s shaded, clean and safe. The big and small play areas make it perfect for my children and I can see them both no matter where they are on the playground.”

~ VALERIE YANNUZZI, HOLMDEL PARK VISITOR



More than 100 million people have visited Monmouth County's award-winning county parks. In June, Valerie Yannuzzi of Sayreville became the 100 millionth person to enjoy the county's parks when she and her two children, Danielle and Joey, visited Holmdel Park.

"I've never won anything before. This is a great honor considering we just discovered how fantastic Holmdel Park is!" Mrs. Yannuzzi said.

The Monmouth County Park System is the only nationally accredited public park and recreation agency in New Jersey with 38 parks covering more than 13,000 acres. Over the last five years, Monmouth County has added more than 2,000 acres to the Park System.

The Yannuzzi family was welcomed to the park by Freeholder Deputy Director Lillian G. Burry, liaison to the county Park System, and Recreation Commission Chairman Edward J. Loud.



not just a golf course:

CHARLESTON SPRINGS OFFERS WALKING TRAILS, TOO

Now you can hit the trail where others hit a golf ball! Charleston Springs Golf Course in Millstone offers more than just golf. There is now a two-mile, multiple-use trail just off of Stagecoach Road/Route 524. Along the Stone Bridge Trail you will see the Manalapan Brook and, for birding enthusiasts, maybe even a Carolina Wren, a Golden Crowned Kinglet, a

White-breasted Nuthatch or a Cedar Waxwing. Native grasses and flowers help define the course fairways, encouraging wildlife to take up residence. In addition to the dual courses at Charleston Springs, there's a driving range, putting green, short game area, and golf center with a snack bar. So, pick up your clubs or head for the trail at this popular 770-acre park.



Back to school



WHAT IS A FREEHOLDER?

It is a question members of the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders get asked all the time.

To answer, Freeholder Barbara J. McMorrow is going back to school to teach a civics class. Using a PowerPoint presentation, she highlights who the freeholders are, their responsibilities and the many services county government provides.

"People ask me all the time, 'What is a freeholder?'" said Freeholder McMorrow, a former teacher and principal of Howell High School. "They are amazed to learn that we are an elected body that oversees the delivery of a whole range of services that towns couldn't afford to do on their own.

"When I was asked to speak with a fourth-grade class, I thought it would be a perfect opportunity to teach them about their county government," she continued. "We have developed a slide show that we want to distribute to all grade schools as a teaching aid."

The presentation begins with some basic facts about Monmouth County: population (655,000), square miles (472), and shows how the county government provides parks, schools, transportation for senior citizens, libraries, police and firefighter training, snow plowing, bridge repair and maintenance, housing assistance and treatment for drugs and alcohol.

"It's another way in which we are trying to get people more involved in their county government," Freeholder McMorrow said.

Surrogate opens new satellite office in Middletown Library

Apply to probate a will or administer an estate, obtain affidavits of surviving spouse or next of kin, or apply for guardianship of a minor or incapacitated person.

Doing business with Monmouth County got a little easier for residents who live in the Middletown area.

The Monmouth County Surrogate's Office opened another satellite office to better serve residents in the northern part of the county. The office is located in the Middletown Public Library, 55 New Monmouth Rd.

"This new satellite office offers residents a more convenient location to access many of our services," Monmouth County Surrogate Rosemarie D. Peters said. "This is our third satellite office, which will save residents the need to travel too far to probate a

will or administer an estate."

"This is what government service is all about," Freeholder Deputy Director Lillian G. Burry added.

The new office is open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and staffed by a representative of the Surrogate's office.

The new location is being provided at no additional cost to taxpayers, and the satellite office will require no added personnel since a member of the probate staff will be assigned to work at the new location for the day.

Other Surrogate offices are located at the Wall Township Library, Allaire and Bailey's Corner roads, on Wednesdays, and at the Ocean Township Library, 701 Deal Rd., on Thursdays. These offices are also open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The main office of the Monmouth County Surrogate is located in the Hall of Records, 1 East Main Street, Freehold. That office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Surrogate's Office



Monmouth County Surrogate Rosemarie D. Peters, Freeholder Deputy Director Lillian G. Burry and others open the new office.

GYPSY MOTHS:

How Monmouth County is battling these caterpillars

AS TREES WERE BEING DEFOLIATED BY GYPSY MOTH CATERPILLARS ELSEWHERE, MONMOUTH COUNTY TOWNS WERE DOING MUCH BETTER, THANKS TO AN AGGRESSIVE SPRAY PROGRAM.

Make no mistake, trees in Monmouth County fell victim to these pesky little critters, too, but not nearly to the extent trees were being destroyed elsewhere, where residents complained of caterpillar feces “dropping like rain,” forcing them to stay indoors.

“We estimate we have moderate controls, or about 50 percent,” said Gary Lovallo, Monmouth County’s Shade Tree superintendent. “Monmouth County has done a superior job in the suppression of gypsy moths, and we’re keeping it at a tolerable level.”

More than 4,400 acres of parks and woodlands were targeted in Millstone, Freehold, Freehold Township, Howell, Neptune, Tinton Falls and Wall. The county sprayed 3,202 acres using its helicopter, and the state sprayed 1,251 acres by plane. Because of its hovering ability, the helicopter can get into smaller areas to apply the spray.

The gypsy moth is native to Europe and Asia. Its caterpillars, or larvae, defoliate and kill deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs at a rapid pace. After feeding, the gypsy moth lays its eggs on the trunks of trees, usually in July. The eggs, in masses of up to 1,000 or more, hatch in April or early May into tiny black, hairy caterpillars. They do most of their damage in June.

There is a narrow window in

which to spray and kill the larvae as they hatch. The county sprays a naturally occurring bacterium called Bt, which does not harm people or their pets.

Newly hatched caterpillars climb high into the tree canopies and begin feeding. The caterpillars continue feeding throughout the spring, undergoing five to six molts.

The caterpillar first began defoliating New Jersey forests in 1966, and three major population cycles have occurred: one in 1972 when 256,000 acres were defoliated, another in 1981 when 798,000 acres were defoliated, and another in 1990 when 431,000 acres were defoliated.

The gypsy moth caterpillar population is cyclical. The county began preparing to combat gypsy moth caterpillars in 2005, when they were spotted in concentrated pockets in Wall, Howell and Freehold townships. Spraying for this cycle began in spring 2006.



FIRST IN STATE, 17TH IN COUNTRY TO EARN DESIGNATION

Monmouth County named Tree City USA!

The National Arbor Day Foundation has designated Monmouth County as a Tree City USA in recognition of the county’s ongoing community forestry program. Monmouth is the first county in the state and only the 17th in the country to be awarded this designation.

The county’s community forestry program is rooted in the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission, which is responsible for overseeing care and maintenance of the county’s many trees. The commission comprises five appointed members and employs 33 staff, including a superintendent, an assistant superintendent, a general supervisor and three tree crews.

The announcement was made in April at New Jersey’s official Arbor Day celebration in Asbury Park.

“This is a very special honor for Monmouth County,” Freeholder Robert D. Clifton said. “Anyone who has visited our county parks, public gardens or arboretum knows how beautiful Monmouth County is. We share this award with residents in all

53 municipalities, because they also pride themselves in their well-manicured gardens and tree-lined streets.”

The Tree City USA program, sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities across America.



LOVALLO

Gaining Tree City USA recognition is an award to the tree workers, managers, volunteers, tree board members and others who work on behalf of better care of a community’s trees.

“Residents can take pride in the fact that their county is a Tree City USA,” said Gary Lovallo, superintendent of the Monmouth County Shade Tree

Commission. “Being a Tree City USA helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place where they live.”

Being a Tree City USA also could help Monmouth County financially when it applies for grants for its forestry programs because officials evaluating the grant requests tend to have more confidence in communities that have a Tree City USA designation.

The Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission plants more than 500 trees, plants or shrubs per year, many of which improve the visual aesthetics of the county’s roadways. Workers also survey and remove hazardous trees and prune thousands of others.

When the Feb. 14 ice storm struck, county tree crews were clearing downed trees from the roads. “We call that the Valentine’s Day massacre of trees,” Lovallo said.

To mark Arbor Day, 100 cherry trees were planted in Asbury Park. At a separate celebration in Sea Girt, the county donated four trees to help the borough begin growing an arboretum.

dock & roll shuttle: the coolest commute

GETTING TO THE BELFORD FERRY JUST GOT EASIER. WITH THE ROLLOUT OF THE NEW DOCK & ROLL SHUTTLE BUS, COMMUTERS CAN TAKE A FREE BUS RIDE FROM THE MIDDLETOWN TRAIN STATION TO THE BAYSHORE FERRY TERMINAL. NON-COMMUTERS CAN USE IT, TOO!

The new service provides an important link between these destinations, allowing commuters as far south as Bay Head who ride the North Jersey Coast Line an opportunity to exit the train and board a bus that will take them to the ferry in Belford.

For non-commuters, the shuttle will serve restaurants, shopping and employment opportunities in Middletown and Holmdel.

Serving most ferry departures and arrivals, the 15-minute shuttle bus will connect with selected NJ Transit North Jersey Coast Line trains for a seamless ride from Monmouth County's coastal towns to Manhattan weekdays between 5:25 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

For non-commuters, a second Dock & Roll Shuttle Bus

connection will serve restaurants, shopping and employment opportunities along Route 35 in Middletown and Holmdel between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m., freeing riders from their cars and congested roadways.

Information including shuttle schedules can be found at www.dockandrollshuttle.com.

"This unique service allows for increased ridership without increasing parking needs," Freeholder Anna C. Little said.



LITTLE

"The best part is it is free."

The Dock & Roll Shuttle Bus was developed and funded through a unique partnership between the Monmouth County Planning Board and Middletown Township. It was developed by the county Planning Board as part of a federally sponsored transportation study to evaluate the potential for feeder bus shuttles to train stations in Monmouth County.

The project was brought to fruition through efforts by the county Planning Board to successfully secure a competitive federal Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant; by the township using funds already allocated to its current train station shuttle, and by the

Monmouth County Division of Transportation, which will manage the county portion of the service. The township's commuter shuttle only ran between the Middletown Train Station and a satellite parking lot at Sears on Route 35.



300 volunteers build playground in one day

MONMOUTH COUNTY CHILDREN WHO ARE IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, MANY OF WHOM HAVE NEVER BEEN TO A PLAYGROUND, NOW HAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN.

Recently, more than 300 employees from Home Depot, Six Flags' Great Adventure, KaBOOM! and Monmouth County government visited the Monmouth County Linkages Transitional Housing

program, on Route 66 in Tinton Falls, to build a state-of-the-art playground. Linkages provides a therapeutic housing program for homeless mothers and their children.

The 2,600-square-foot playground is funded through a \$47,200 grant from KaBOOM! and paid for by The Home Depot and Six Flags' Great Adventure, along with \$10,000 contributed by Easter

Seals of New Jersey. The project is part of the KaBOOM! effort to create or refurbish 1,000 play spaces in 1,000 days.

The Monmouth County Department of Human Services identified and pursued the grant.

KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit organization that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. In the last 10 years, KaBOOM! has used its community-build model to construct more than 1,100 playgrounds, skate parks, sports fields and ice rinks across North America.

The Monmouth County Linkages Transitional Housing program is county owned and funded. The county, in cooperation with the Easter Seals of New Jersey, established the Linkages Program 17 years ago to serve homeless female-headed families.

The program is designed to help these families address the problems contributing to their homelessness, and to provide homeless mothers with the tools necessary to cope with the demands of motherhood, find employment, finish their education, and provide a stable home life for themselves and their children.

The program has served more than 700 families in a safe environment, moving families toward self-sufficiency.

The Monmouth County Department of Human Services collaborates with many non-profit and business organizations in order to deliver services to more than 124,000 county residents a year, or one in every five county residents.



CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN

Monmouth County employees have donated nearly \$46,000 this year to support the work of 1,300 charitable organizations throughout the United States.

The Public Employees Charitable Campaign, begun last September with bi-weekly payroll deductions administered by the United Way of Monmouth County, raised \$45,766, said Luis A. Navarro, the county's Charitable Campaign chairman.

"Through voluntary payroll deductions, Monmouth County employees have demonstrated their generosity by raising more money for charity than ever before," Navarro said. "I am very pleased by their generosity."

In addition to county employees, public employees from Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, the Monmouth County Vocational School system, and employees of Middletown Township participated in this year's fund drive.

awards, accolades and appreciation: MONMOUTH COUNTY EARNS STATE, NATIONAL HONORS



We live in an award-winning county.

A number of county departments have been recognized at the national or state level by their peers and national standards commissions for a variety of achievements. Notable licensing and accreditations currently held by county divisions include:

- Monmouth County Care Center's Alzheimer's program and Young Adult Nursing Home program.
- Monmouth County Sheriff's Office with five accreditations: 911 communications, law enforcement, correctional institution, youth detention center and the correctional health care facility.
- Monmouth County Park System's open spaces, parks, and programs, including the horseback riding program for individuals with disabilities.

• Brookdale Community College's classes, programs, facilities, and Communiversitiy.

Also, the Monmouth County Clerk's Office received a \$1.6 million grant to continue enhancements on the county's e-recording Web portal, the highest award among all applicants.

In addition, in the past 12 months, these county offices were recognized for accomplishments and superiority: emergency management, finance, human services, shade tree and parks.

These recognitions are for excellence and in various areas of expertise that provide unparalleled services to residents. Additional information about these recognitions and many others may be found at www.visitmonmouth.com under the appropriate Department's Web pages.

ADMINISTRATOR RETIRES FROM COUNTY SERVICE

THE LIFE OF A PUBLIC SERVANT IS RARELY GLAMOROUS, BUT WITH THE RIGHT MIX OF INTEGRITY, COMPASSION AND DEDICATION, SOME REALLY DO SHINE.

Add a strong work ethic, an ability to motivate, a knack for problem solving and a genuine concern for others and you have an accurate description of Lou Paparozzi.

"He is an extraordinarily intelligent man with outstanding organizational skills who spent his life making sure other people have a better quality of life," said Lynn Miller, director of the Monmouth County Department of Human Services.

Paparozzi, Monmouth County's administrator since 2002, retires in August after a distinguished public service career. Prior to his elevation to the county's top post, he served for 15 years as director of the county Department of Human Services.

Paparozzi was the county's first Human Services director, and built the department into a well-respected organization that is recognized as being responsive and effective in addressing the needs of the county's most vulnerable residents.

"To the human services community in the state of New Jersey, Lou Paparozzi is a legend," Mrs. Miller said. "Regardless of where I go, when people realize I am from Monmouth County, they speak with absolute respect and fondness for Lou. He's made an incredible mark in progressing the visibility of human

services in the state and county."

Paparozzi began his public service career in 1971 as a social worker. He worked in Monmouth County for a time, but soon was promoted to the central office at the state Division of Youth & Family Services.

When the state established county coordinators overseeing all of the state Department of Human Services' programs, "I became actively involved in human services in Monmouth County," he said.

In 1984, Paparozzi left the public sector to serve as executive director of the ARC of Monmouth Inc., a private, nonprofit agency that provides services and support for individuals with mental retardation and for their families. Paparozzi's son, David, has a disability.

"It was an opportunity for me to get more involved in that particular area," he said. "I was also chairman of the Monmouth County Human Services Advisory Council, which kept me involved with the county."

In 1987, the Board of Chosen Freeholders created the county Department of Human Services and was looking for someone to head up the new agency. Naturally, they asked Paparozzi, and he resumed his government service.

Joe Marmora, executive director of Interfaith Neighbors Inc., Asbury Park, recalled Paparozzi helped his agency get started.

"I remember one time early on having difficulty funding a big project," said Marmora, whose agency today

helps people with rent subsidies, builds affordable housing and serves 65,000 hot meals a year to some 1,400 homebound senior citizens. "We didn't have cash reserves in those days. I told Lou my struggles and he came down right away. I went over the math with him and we worked it out with the county to get the necessary funding.

"Whenever I had a problem, he was the go-to guy," he continued. "He has a knack for solving problems and has been very helpful to us. He cares about the people we serve."

That sentiment was echoed by Bill Wood, an assistant county administrator who also has a background in social work. Paparozzi's concern for people isn't just for those outside the Hall of Records; it's a part of his leadership style and a way he motivates workers.

"He made you want to work for him," Wood said. "He made the job something of interest and something where you look forward to coming to work every day. His style is to let you develop your own style – not stand over you and breathe down your neck."

As county administrator, Paparozzi applied the organizational principles that resulted in a successfully streamlined, coordinated and responsive Department of Human Services to broader county operations. With goals of increased accountability, uniform approaches to oversight and supervision and improved public access to programs and services, he reorganized county government. Under his direction, 39 of 54 operational units were consolidated under four administrative department directors, creating opportunities for departments to eliminate redundancies, share resources and increase efficiencies.

Lou Paparozzi



I AM A CHILD OF THE '60S, A GENERATION THAT BELIEVED WE CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. I WAS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DO MY PART AND I FELT HUMAN SERVICES WAS A WAY TO DO THAT.



~ LOU PAPAROZZI

When he's not in the office, Paparozzi spends his time exploring his other passion – music. Paparozzi comes from a musical family where everyone played an instrument. His brother, Rob, is a professional harmonica player and his son, Erik, just finished a European tour.

Paparozzi is fond of New Orleans jazz and blues. He and his wife, Susan, enjoy visiting New Orleans.

"Once we took a trip deep into the Cajun country of Louisiana and heard some authentic zydeco and Cajun music being played at a very local level," he said. "Some of that was more interesting than seeing someone as big as Dr. John."

The Paparozzis also visit family in Italy once a year. They expect to be spending their retirement visiting Italy and seeing more of America.

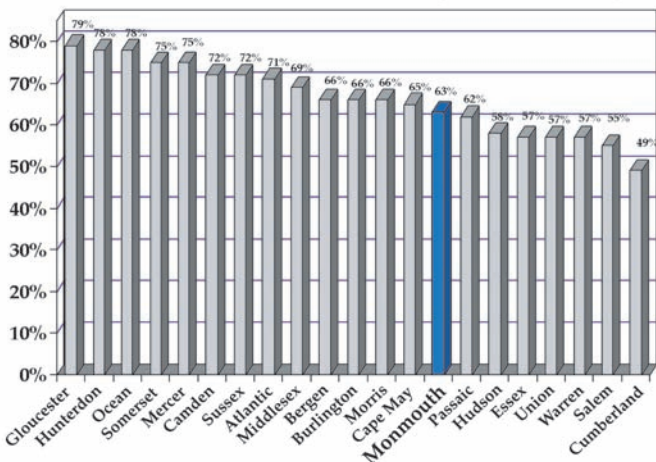


Monmouth County
 Board of Chosen Freeholders
 Hall of Records
 Main Street
 Freehold, New Jersey 07728
 (732) 431-7387

COUNTY NEWSLETTER!



County Comparisons
 Amount to be Raised as Percentage of Total Budget



Monmouth County's budget

Did you know?

GOOD FISCAL PLANNING YIELDS REWARDS

Compared with the rest of New Jersey, Monmouth fares pretty well when it comes to budgeting wisely.

Even though health insurance and other fixed costs constantly rise, the Board of Chosen Freeholders have limited this year's tax increase to just 2.9 percent – below the rate of inflation two years in a row and without impacting services!

The county tax rate has been on a downward trend since 2001. Monmouth County ranks the eighth-lowest of all New Jersey counties with 63 percent of the budget being supported by taxes. The county's tax rate is even better – fourth-lowest.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MONMOUTH COUNTY?
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WWW.VISITMONMOUTH.COM**

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