

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Week in Review

America 250th Anniversary Issue

July 12, 2026

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250
Celebration



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HIRING NOW:

- * Contracted Custodian
- * Band Director
— Monroe Middle School



Superintendent's Corner

ANDREW SHAW

SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to another edition of **MPS Week in Review**! Please forward this to your family and friends. Anyone can sign up with the Subscribe button at the left.

CELEBRATING COUNTRY & COMMUNITY

On Wednesday, our community held a spectacular celebration commemorating the United States Semiquincentennial and the 250th Anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. The City Market featured local business booths, and the night was capped off with a beautiful patriotic drone show. Thanks are extended to the City of Monroe, and all of the partners and event sponsors, for creating a memorable evening.

The past week also brought community members together, as city, county, and school crews, along with utility workers, put in long hours for recovery efforts, following damaging storms.

On Thursday, our food service partners at Sodexo distributed 7-day meal bundles for 1,632 children and teens.

This weekend, the MHS Trojans Boys Soccer Team volunteered to assist the Monroe Exchange Club in taking down and storing 500 flags.



Our nation's anniversary celebrates 250 years of freedom; this week's newsletter also celebrates this incredible community. We are blessed to have the BEST! Take care, and keep taking care of each other!



www.monroe.k12.mi.us



Facebook



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Open Houses

Thursday, August 27



Monroe High School
Orchard Center High School
Monroe Virtual
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Monroe Middle, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Cantrick, 5:00-7:00 pm

All MPS Elementary Schools
5:30 - 7:30 pm

2026

2026-2027 SUPPLY LISTS



Supply lists for
MPS schools are
available online!



View School Supply Lists online [here](#).

COMING UP:

JULY

28

Summer Graduation

At MPS Board Meeting
Admin. Bldg., 5:30 p.m.

AUGUST

2

Monroe County Fair

Fair runs August 2-8
Band in Parade on Aug. 2

AUGUST

27

Open Houses

See schedule above

AUGUST

31

First Day of Classes

Classes begin (K-12)
Full Day of School

News Highlights

In the News — Recent Articles

(Articles below appeared in the Monroe News between June 25 and July 8.)

Monroe Public Schools' Board of Education approved a \$70 million budget for 2026-2027 at its June 23rd meeting (6-26). Obituaries were published for **Beatrice (Bach) Lajiness**, 93, who attend Monroe High School (6-26); **Gary McNeil**, 83, a 1961 MHS graduate and track athlete (6-29); **Gerald Dyson**, 95, an MHS graduate (7-1); **Earl Reaume**, 91, a 1953 MHS graduate (7-1); **Helen Cotter**, 71, who attended MPS (7-2); and **Gary Doubler**, 84, a 1960 MHS graduate and past president of the Monroe Band Boosters (7-8).

Sports Highlights

Sports coverage included top performances in regional track and field (7-1), and sports memories.

Monroe Living: Kindness Walk

The MPS Kindness Walk is featured in the July issue of *Monroe Living* magazine.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence



Loranger Square Pavilion





Hometown Heritage: Monroe's America 250 Celebration

Monroe celebrated the United States Semiquincentennial with a special community event downtown on July 8, 2026. The City of Monroe joined communities across the country in commemorating the historic moment with a reading of our nation's Declaration of Independence, held on the 250th anniversary of its first public reading in 1776.

The Opening Ceremony included Posting of the Colors by an Honor Guard dressed in historical garb.





Bell Ringing

Mayor Robert Clark stood in front of a large crowd gathered at Loranger Square and rang a bell prior to the commemorative reading of the Declaration of Independence, symbolically summoning the townspeople.

On July 8, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was publicly read aloud for the first time.

250 years later, communities throughout the country were invited to recreate that moment with public readings hosted in town squares and community gathering spaces. Using a common start time enabled citizens across the United States to read the historic document 'together.'





Readers

Selected youth participants joined veterans and community members at Loranger Square in downtown Monroe to read portions of the Declaration of Independence. **Toby Gibson**, a fifth grade student at Cantrick, was one of the readers. He is pictured with his mother, **Meghan Gibson**, a School Improvement Coach at Orchard Center High School.



Readers

CJ Chlebowski, a rising senior at Monroe High School, was one of the student readers.

After the reading of the Declaration of Independence, **Mayor Robert Clark** presented each of the readers with a commemorative coin featuring Monroe's America 250 logo.



COMMUNITY LEADERS

Tino Amaya, owner of Amaya's Fresh Mexican Grill and one of the organizers of the Monroe City Market and the Drone Show;

Director Chad Tolstedt, Monroe Public Safety Department;

Andrew Shaw, MPS Superintendent.



FACE PAINTING: One of the children's activities offered by the City of Monroe was face painting. Pictured above is **Eleanor Bilyea**, a student at Hollywood Elementary.

RIGHT: **Reese**, a student at Raisinville Elementary, attended the celebration with her father, **Stephen Reau**, a science teacher at Monroe Middle School.





Patriotic Display

Monroe City Hall was proudly dressed with American flag bunting and a giant U.S. flag. Downtown light poles featured patriotic banners.

At the July 8th Hometown Heritage celebration, flags lined green spaces, and a large copy of the Declaration of Independence was displayed on the lawn, flanked by two banners bearing America 250 and National Exchange Club logos.

Trojan Boys Soccer Team Volunteers To Take Down Flags at Field of Honor



Inakie Hernandez, Kyler Schlicklin, Layton Sackyt-Swiney, Rooney Scoles, Aiden Gray, Colin Gray, Coach Ian Cooke, Jimmy Maylen, Graden Dushane, Brody Smith, Evan Ortiz.

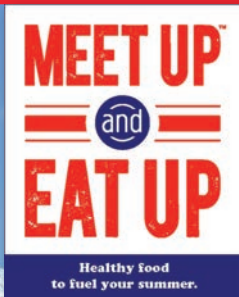


Photos provided by Ian Cooke

Thanks are extended to the members of the Monroe High School Boys Soccer Team, and Head Coach **Ian Cooke**, for volunteering their time to assist the Monroe Exchange Club take down and store the 500 U.S. flags from the tribute at River Raisin Battlefield Park. The Field of Honor was in celebration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, recognizing the sacrifice of those who have served in the U.S. military.



Aiden Gray, Brody Smith, Colin Gray, Coach Ian Cooke, Larry Smith, Layton Sackyt-Swiney, Kyler Schlicklin, Superintendent Andrew Shaw.



MEAL CREW: The crew that distributed meal bundles on July 2nd is pictured above. Thanks to all for this hot, but important work!

Families Express Thanks For Summer Meal Programs

Distribution of 7-Day Summer Meal Bundles Appreciated by Community Families

Sodexo Food Services and Monroe Public Schools have again partnered with Meet Up and Eat Up to provide summer meals at the MCOP Tot Lots/City of Monroe Parks, Monroe County Community College camps, and MPS Summer School program. The 7-Day Summer Meal Bundles, which are distributed weekly on Thursdays (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) at Raisinville, are available for anyone 18 years and under, and have been very appreciated by community families. Many expressed that they were especially thankful for the meal bundles after extended power outages resulted in significant loss of food stored in fridges and freezers.

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS and SODEXO are partnering with MEET UP & EAT UP

GRAB and GO **SUMMER MEALS 26** for KIDS and TEENS ages 18 and under

JUNE 25 - AUGUST 6
THURSDAYS
10 AM - 12 PM
RAISINVILLE
 2300 N. Raisinville Rd.

7-DAY MEAL BAGS
PICK UP MEALS for MULTIPLE DAYS
 Up to 7 days worth of meals (breakfast & lunch) at once

2026 DATES
 Thurs., July 16
 Thurs., July 23
 Thurs., July 30
 Thurs., August 6

Seeking volunteers to help with distribution. Call (734) 265-3130. Parents & guardians can pick up meals. Must be in line by 10:00 AM to receive service. First come, first serve basis.

sodexo QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES

No enrollment required for meals. **FREE** & available to ALL households.

MEET UP and EAT UP

Please use PICK-UP LOOP and ASSIST STAFF
 To minimize traffic and wait time, please use the Pick-up Loop (see attached map). Pop your car trunk and/or unlock car doors to make the loading process quicker. **THANK YOU!**

SUN MEALS



MPS Sodexo Staff Serve Up Smiles

The distribution of 7-Day Meal Bundles has been hugely successful! **Sodexo distributed 1,500 meal bundles – 10,5000 breakfasts and 10,500 lunches – in Week 1.** They passed out 1,597 meal bundles on July 2nd, and that grew to 1,632 on July 9th. That is the equivalent of 66,206 meals to date, not counting the summer meals they are preparing for Tot Lots, MCCC camps, and summer school.

Traffic reminder:

Families picking up meals should drive down N. Raisinville, approaching from Stewart, and exit turning right toward Blue Bush.



CPR / First Aid Training



Staff participated in First Aid/CPR Training led by **Jerry Lawson** from Lawson's Lifesavers on June 23 & 24. Upcoming training is scheduled for **July 14, 15, 28, and 29; August 18, 19, and 20.**

The training is open to all Monroe Public Schools staff and contracted employees. The certification is valid for two years.

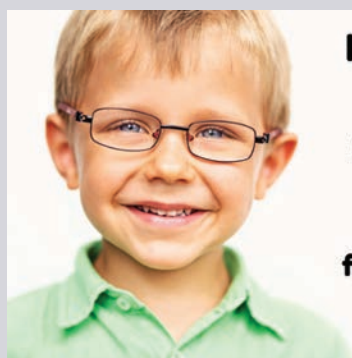


CPR photos provided by Jerry Lawson



Classes Begin Aug. 31 Is Your Child Registered?

If you still need to register your child to start Kindergarten (or Young Fives), or if you have moved and need to transfer your students from another district, the enrollment process begins with uploading documents online. Please visit our Registration page [here](#).



MCHD Hearing & Vision Program

Serving preschool & school-age youth

Call 734-240-7856 for more information!



Hearing & Vision Screening Requirements

Did you know that all children are required to have a hearing and vision screening prior to entering kindergarten? The Monroe County Health Department offers free screenings to all children in preschool through grade 9. Call them at 734-240-7856 for more information or to make an appointment.

Healthy MONROE
COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Back to School Health Fair

Saturday, August 1, 2026 9 AM - 1 PM

Monroe County Health Department
2353 S. Custer Rd., Monroe, MI 48161

Free Services for Children ages 5-19:

- *Sports Physicals
- *Immunizations
- *Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Medication Take Back
- *Car Seat Safety Checks
- Nutrition Education
- Family Fun & Games
- And much more!

Making Waves for Wellness

* Call 734-240-7800 to schedule an appointment.

Back to School Health Fair Saturday, August 1, 9 am - 1 pm

The Monroe County Health Department will hold its 2026 Back to School Health Fair on Saturday, August 1, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm., at 2353 S. Custer Rd.

*There are limited appointments available. They encourage scheduling appointments for services; call 734-240-7800. The following services will be provided: Immunizations, Hearing and Vision Screenings, Sports Physicals, Car Seat Safety Checks, Medication Take Back, nutrition education, and family fun. **Waivers will not be available on this date.***



SUMMER SAVINGS

Museums for All

Through the Museums for All program, those who receive food assistance (SNAP benefits) can gain free or reduced admission to 1,600+ museums throughout the United States.



Visit a Museum through Museums for All

Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can gain free or reduced admission to more than 1,300 museums throughout the United States simply by presenting their EBT card and a photo ID. Find a participating museum near you! <https://museums4all.org/>

MUSEUMS for ALL
an initiative of the
Institute of Museum and Library Services

Participating museums provide reduced admission, ranging from free to \$5.00, to visitors presenting their SNAP EBT card and a photo ID. This reduced rate is available during all normal operating hours to up to four individuals per EBT card. This is a great resource for student families not just during the summer but throughout the year. With a year-round open door policy, Museums for All invites low-income visitors to feel welcome at cultural institutions.

To find a participating museum near you, or for more info, visit: <https://museums4all.org/>

ATTENTION: ATHLETES Low-Cost Sports Physicals — July 17



SPORTS PHYSICALS

FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY CENTER
650 STEWART ROAD
MONROE, MI 48162
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026
1 PM - 5 PM

Physicians from the Family Medicine Residency Center will be available for walk-in physicals for all sports for the 2026 - 2027 season.

PHYSICALS WILL BE \$20.
PAYMENT WILL BE COLLECTED AT TIME OF SERVICE.

Family Medicine Residency Center, 650 Stewart Road, will be offering low-cost physicals on **Friday, July 17, 1-5 p.m.**

Physicians from the Family Medicine Residency Center will be available for walk-in physicals for all sports for the 2026-2027 season.

Physicals will be \$20; payment will be collected at the time of service.

Michigan State University Extension: FREE Parenting Workshops

MSU Extension is offering a wide range of **FREE** online workshops for parents of young children. Upcoming workshops include:

Class Dates:

July 14, 2026: *Positive Discipline*

July 21, 2026: *How Children Develop*

July 28, 2026: *Together We Can: Co-Parenting*

Aug. 4, 2026: *What Children Need to Know to Start School*

Aug. 11, 2026: *Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Neurodiversity*

Aug. 18, 2026: *Mealtime Minefields: Picky Eating to Food Aversions*

Class Times: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Registration required: [Register here](#)





DISTRICT CALENDAR / UPCOMING EVENTS

July 12 – September 8, 2026

1275 N. Macomb St., Monroe, MI 48162 · (734) 265.3000

Continuing...

THURSDAYS	FREE Summer Meals: 7-Day Meal Bundles, Raisinville, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Every THURSDAY, June 25-August 6, first come, first serve Contact Sodexo (734-265-3120) to volunteer
6/22 – 7/23	FREE onsite Summer Meals for Kids begin at Tot Lots/City of Monroe Parks, June 22 – July 23, Monday-Thursday, Breakfast 10-11 am, Lunch 12-1 pm;
6/22 – 8/14	FREE onsite Summer Meals for Kids begin at MCCC Bldgs C,F,H,T,Z June 22 – Aug. 14, Mon. - Fri., Breakfast 8:45-9:45 a.m., Lunch 11 – 12 No meals August 3-7

Coming Up...

Thurs., July 17	First 7-on-7 Varsity Football Game – Home (MHS), 6 p.m.
Fri., July 17	Walk-In Sports Physicals, Family Medicine Residency Center, \$20, 1-5 p.m.
Sun., July 19	Monroe First Downers Football Program Golf Outing 7 a.m. registration 8 a.m. shotgun start - \$400/team, \$100/individual
July 20 – 25	Marching Band – Away Camp, Bowling Green State University Concert at BGSU on Saturday, July 25, 11 a.m.
July 27 – 31	Marching Band – Home Camp, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monroe High School
Sat., July 28	Spaghetti Dinner in support of Teresa Knox, at Waterloo, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Adults \$10 / Children \$5 / Beverages \$1
Sat., Aug. 1	Monroe County Health Dept. Back to School Health Fair, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 2353 S. Custer Rd., schedule appointments: 734-240-7800
Sun., Aug. 2	Trojan Marching Band in Monroe County Fair Parade
Aug. 2 – Aug. 8	Monroe County Fair Visit MPS Booth in Expo Center: Sunday, 1-9 pm; Mon-Sat, 10 am – 9 pm MPS hosts Little Red Schoolhouse on Thursday, 11 am – 8 pm

Sat., Aug. 8	40 th Annual Monroe Soccer Alumni Games, MHS Bunkelman Field Legends Game (35+), 6-7 p.m. Graduates (34 & under), 7:15-8:30 p.m.
Thurs., Aug. 13	Waterloo - Playdates with Principals, 1-2 p.m.
August 18-19	Class of 2027 Senior Parking Spots, Aug. 18, 8 am-3 pm Aug. 19, 9 -3 Designs must be pre-approved and paid for (\$35 spots & \$30 parking pass) Approval form: https://forms.gle/qnXYSk7ZzKjdfp9E8
Tues., Aug. 19	Raisinville – Playdates with Principals, 1-2 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 19	Custer – Playdates with Principals, 1-2 p.m.
Aug. 25-27	Professional Development Days for Staff – No School
Thurs., Aug. 27	Open Houses – Fall 2026 Monroe High School, Orchard Center H.S., Monroe Virtual – 4-6 p.m Monroe Middle School, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cantrick, 5-7 p.m. All MPS Elementary Schools, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mon., Aug. 31	First Day of Classes (grades Y5-12)
Sept. 4-7	Labor Day Weekend – No School Friday, Sept. 4 and Mon., Sept. 7
Tues., Sept. 8	Classes Resume