



# OCTOBER

- 17th: Safe Monroe Healing Vigil
- 19th: NCC Pocono Community Day
- 20th: Barrett Township Halloween Parade
- 24th: NEAL & ERICA - OUT OF OFFICE
- 26th: PSFC Cornhole Benefit Tournament
- 29th: Share Your Career Day at ESHS - South
- 31st: Trick-or-Treat at RSVP

## NOVEMBER

- 3rd: Veteran’s Day Parade
- 5th: Election Day
- 9th: VALOR’s Patriots Ball
- 11th: RSVP OFFICE CLOSED - Veteran’s Day



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RSVP of Monroe County  
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## Volunteer Spotlight

Every month, we introduce one of our valuable Monroe County RSVP volunteers. If you’d like to recommend someone you’ve seen make a difference representing RSVP, let us know. This month, we’re spotlighting **EMMA CAMPOS-JURADO**.

*“A different language is a different vision of life.”*

— Federico Fellini



Emma volunteers and manages the SPECTACULAR (Spanish for Early Childhood Training and Cultural Language Arts) Program, which teaches Spanish to preschool-aged children 3-5 years old.

*(continued on page 3)*



### Director's Corner

Hello to all of our wonderful volunteers. RSVP submitted our new proposed 3-year grant and will find out in January of 2025 if we will be celebrating our 35th year and beyond. We are confident that this will happen, so RSVP is also planning on attending new events to help with recruitment and name recognition. Please make sure we are aware of your community happenings so we can advertise for them, and we just may show up. We appreciate what our volunteers are doing to make our communities better. You are a blessing, and we appreciate you.

On a sad note, I wanted to let all of the volunteers know that my big brother, Ed, who had been on hospice for the past 3 weeks, has passed away. While this is a very difficult and stressful time, we have seen God’s hand move throughout our lives and during this time. We rest in his assurance and look forward to greater things to come. Thank you for your prayers and concerns.

Blessings,

*Neal*

## New Section Coming Soon!



## Fun Facts About ... *October*

### Famous Historical October Dates:

- 1886 - The Statue of Liberty is dedicated on October 28th
- 1890 - Yosemite National Park is established on October 1st
- 1903 - Major League Baseball's first World Series is played on October 1st
- 1945 - The United Nations is founded on October 24th



### Fun Holidays to Celebrate this Month:

- 4th: Taco Day & Cinnamon Roll Day
  - 7th: World Smile Day
  - 8th: I Love Yarn Day
  - 21st: National Apple Day
  - 26th: National Pumpkin Day
  - 29th: World Cat Day
  - 30th National Candy Corn Day
- October is also National Pizza Month and National Popcorn Month!



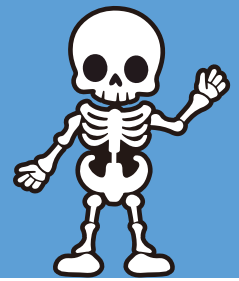
Babies born in the fall months, September, October, and November, are more likely to live to see 100 than babies born in any other month.

With more than 50% of the country purchasing pumpkins during the month of October, the pumpkin industry booms, netting over \$700 million in sales.

Six presidents have been born in October, more than any other month.



Out of his 38 plays and 154 sonnets, Shakespeare never mentioned October .



## Volunteer Spotlight (cont'd)

SPECTACULAR is an 8-to-9-week program held in the local library’s Eisemann Room and is attended by 20 to 25 students annually. Volunteers lead the hour-long classes and teach children through hands-on crafts, games, and a new 3D Storytime, which brings the story's visuals to life in an interactive way. The program has been a big success for RSVP and our community. Emma says, “Children and parents love the class, and this motivated all the volunteers in the program to give their best and contribute their professional experience and knowledge to make this a quality program for children to learn Spanish in a creative environment.”

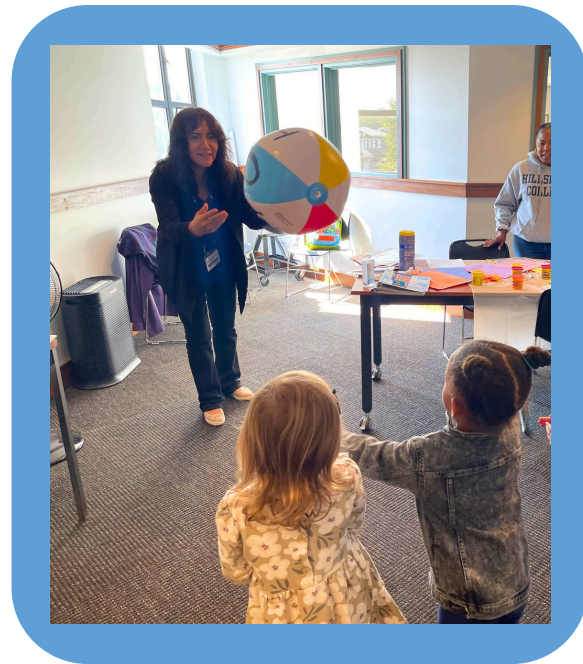
According to Emma, "This program teaches preschoolers the Spanish language through music, songs, crafts, and hands-on activities, making learning a joyful experience, which is our main goal. This fall, we are introducing our new and unique Aesop's Fables 3D Storytime, where children can immerse themselves in the story and its characters, helping them develop a love of reading from an early age. So far, a fantastic SPECTACULAR team is working diligently to make this language program a reality in our community."

Emma started with RSVP over 10 years ago. She wanted to explore what she could do in the community, get to know and meet people, and learn about our local culture. Before retiring, she was raising her kids and running a small business with her husband.

When asked what does she say to others to encourage them to join rsvp? She tells them that RSVP is a place where you are welcome in a fun and great environment. Emma adds, “Older adults should volunteer to share their experience and knowledge, especially in intergenerational community programs. Today, children and young people need good role models and guidance.”

In her spare time, Emma loves spending time with her family, walking her dogs in the park, reading biographies and philosophy, listening to music, hiking, dancing, and writing.

If you would like to join Emma with Spectacular or help in other ways in your local community, RSVP has many great volunteer opportunities. Whether you’re new or want to start up again, give Neal or Erica a call at the office, 570-420-3747. We need your time and talent.



*Dina Gallagher*  
RSVP Volunteer





AmeriCorps  
Seniors

**RSVP**

with East Stroudsburg High  
School South presents



# SHARE YOUR CAREER DAY

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

We are looking for **fun** and **engaging** speakers from a wide variety of fields and industries, like **Science, Social Work, Real Estate, Hospitality, TV and Music, Sports and Coaching, Computer Programing, Law Enforcement and more**, willing to share their knowledge and experience with the next generation.



Breakfast/Registration for Presenters begins at 8:15am  
Presentations start promptly at 8:45am  
Day consists of 3 25-minute presentations (including Q&A) with small, rotating groups of students.

For more information please call RSVP at 570-420-3747 or  
send an email to Erica at [emacleod@monroecountypa.gov](mailto:emacleod@monroecountypa.gov)



## Community Partner Profile: More Than Just a Meal - Meals on Wheels Delivers So Much More

*by Dina Gallagher, RSVP Volunteer*



According to recent health assessments, food insecurity is a growing issue in Monroe County, particularly impacting "younger seniors" aged 60–69. The county's food insecurity rate has reached 11.1%, and limited access to nutritious foods often forces residents to turn to unhealthy options such as highly processed foods or fast food. This dietary pattern has led to various health concerns.

To address these needs, AmeriCorps Seniors/RSVP of Monroe County collaborates with Monroe County Meals on Wheels to support home bound individuals, helping them stay safe and independent in their homes. Meals on Wheels goes beyond meal delivery, providing vital nutritional support, daily human interaction, and additional services that enhance clients' overall well-being. While meal delivery remains their primary focus, they also offer various other programs to further assist their clients, including a Pet Program designed to support the furry companions of those they serve.



Meals on Wheels has been a pillar of support in Monroe County for over 50 years. Since its inception in 1972 with just 11 clients, the organization with the help of volunteers like RSVP, has grown to serve over 300 individuals today. RSVP joins in supporting their mission to “provide nutritious meals and daily human connection to homebound residents, seniors, and adults with disabilities throughout Monroe County.”



According to Executive Director Alyssa Koeck, “As many Meals on Wheels clients are homebound, loneliness can be a significant concern. Pets often provide much-needed companionship, but caring for them can be challenging for those who are unable to leave their homes. That’s where the Pet Program comes in. This initiative supplies clients with pet food, treats, and litter, helping them care for their furry friends.”



## Feature Article: More Than Just A Meal (cont'd)

In addition to meals, Monroe County Meals on Wheels recognizes that many clients need other essential items. The Pantry Program helps fill those gaps by providing shelf-stable foods, household items, cleaning supplies, and personal care products through donations.

Meals on Wheels is always looking for ways to expand its services. They recently began partnering with another RSVP Community Partner, PVEN, to deliver food pantry boxes to home bound clients, increasing their reach and providing further support to those in need. However, these new programs require more volunteer assistance.

If you are interested in driving a delivery route, distributing food boxes, or simply making phone calls to chat with clients, we encourage you to join us at RSVP! Contact the RSVP office at 570-420-3747. Your support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of Monroe County residents!



### CLIENT PANTRY NEEDS:

- toilet paper (4-pack preferred)
- laundry detergent
- women's deodorant

### PET PANTRY NEEDS:

- canned wet dog food

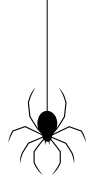
Donations can be dropped off at the Monroe County Meals on Wheels location at 901 Polk Valley Road in Stroudsburg. Thank you!

## Community Partner Updates

- RSVP will be hosting another **Share Your Career Day Event** at East Stroudsburg High School on **October 29th** from 8am to 10:30am. Engaging and passionate speakers interested in sharing career information with students are needed. Please call the office for more information.
- Are you signed up for the **Monroe County Seniors' Express Times Newsletter**? If you'd like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter in the mail each month, please call the Area Agency on Aging at 570-420-3735 and ask to be signed up.



## Community Calendar



\*RSVP Station

# October

- 4th: *Safe Monroe's\** Hops for Hope Kick-Off, 7pm at ShawneeCraft Brewing  
(see page 9 for more details)
- 17th: *Safe Monroe\** Shine a Light on Healing Vigil, 5:30pm at Courthouse Square  
Stroudsburg
- 19th: Pocono Community Day, 10am at *Northampton Community College - Pocono\**
- 20th: Barrett Township Halloween Parade, 2pm
- 24th: Neal and Erica Out of the Office for MCAAA Staff Training
- 26th: *PSFC\** Cornhole Benefit Tournament, 11am at East Stroudsburg PSFC
- 29th: **SHARE YOUR CAREER DAY**, 8am at East Stroudsburg High School - South
- 31st: **Trick or Treat at RSVP** -- come visit us at the office for a treat, bring your timesheet for a bonus treat!

# November



- 3rd: **Veteran's Day Parade**, 1pm from Stroudsburg HS to Dansbury Park  
***Any volunteers interested in attending, please call the office!***
- 5th: Election Day, polls open from 7am to 8pm
- 9th: *VALOR's\** Patriot's Ball (***Volunteers Needed***)
- 10th: *Pocono Family YMCA\** Senior Prom, 1pm at YMCA in Stroudsburg (***Volunteers Needed***)  
*VALOR\** Stand Down, 10am at Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg
- 11th: **RSVP OFFICE CLOSED** - Veteran's Day
- 28th: **RSVP OFFICE CLOSED** - Thanksgiving Day
- 29th: **RSVP OFFICE CLOSED**





## Community Calendar

### Other Notable Events

\*RSVP Station

**2nd Sunday of every month VALOR\*** holds a Stand Down at the Dansbury Park in East Stroudsburg to assist individuals, families, and veterans facing homelessness.

**Volunteers are always needed to assist.**

**Eastern Monroe Public Library\*** holds adult programs every week, schedule as follows:

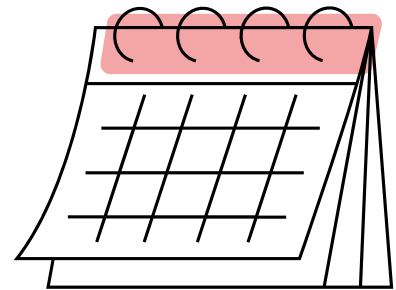
Monday at 2pm: Chair Yoga

Tuesday at 6pm: ESL Classes

Wednesday 12:30 - 3pm: Adult Coloring Program

Thursdays 2pm - 3pm: Tech Thursday \*registration required\*

Friday at 2pm: Chair Cardio/Movement Exercise Class



**Any events we are missing? Please let us know!**



### NEED TO TALK?

The **WARMLINE** is a confidential, non-crisis, one-to-one telephone service that gives support by offering hope and encouragement to a person who has a mental illness, who may be experiencing loneliness, have a problem they need to talk about, and/or just want to hear a friendly voice. It is staffed by trained individuals who have mental illness, who are in recovery, and who understand.

The **WARMLINE** is for persons who have a mental illness and who live in Carbon, Monroe and Pike Counties.

**Toll free, 1-866-654-8114.**

7 days a week, 365 days a year, 6pm -10pm. The Advocacy Alliance.



**If you have a crisis**, please do not call the warm line. **Please call New Perspectives crisis line at 570-992-0879** for all crisis issues and concerns.





## Hops for Hope

October is **Domestic Violence Awareness month**. To raise awareness and funds to support their program, RSVP's Community Partner Safe Monroe, has come up with a unique initiative that pairs local breweries and community engagement: **Hops for Hope**.

During this month long campaign, four local breweries will feature a special beer. **A portion of sale from that brew will directly support Safe Monroe's mission**. Visit any of the local participating breweries during the month of October to support our community partner. For more information, please visit [www.safemonroe.org/hopsforhope](http://www.safemonroe.org/hopsforhope).

### Participating Breweries:



## VALOR Patriot's Ball

VALOR Clinic Foundation will be hosting their **Annual Patriot's Ball on Saturday, November 9th** to raise awareness and funds for their mission. They are in **need of volunteers to assist at this event**. Volunteers would be asked to act as ushers, assisting Ball guests as needed. This is a black tie event so volunteers will need to dress accordingly.

Please contact the RSVP office if you would like to assist VALOR with this event. Thank you!

## VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

RSVP is proud to announce that we will be honoring our country's Veterans by taking part in the Veteran's Day Parade. We are looking for volunteers willing to join us in walking from the Stroudsburg High School to Dansbury Park. We will have a vehicle in the parade for those unable to walk, however seats are limited.

Please call the RSVP Office if you are interested!

REMEMBER AND HONOR



## Updates from the Office

### WELCOME TO RSVP to our new volunteers!

We look forward to working with you!

Our numbers are keeping steady. Please be patient with the onboarding process. It can take some time, but please know that RSVP will make this a priority, but

sometimes things are beyond our own control. Please call or email us to stay in touch. We appreciate the new help with serving our community the best way we know.

We are proud, we are strong, and RSVP leads the way in serving our neighbors in need. Please help us out by staying in touch with the office. We are here to answer any questions or concerns. Thank you again. Plus, please continue to spread the word, RSVP needs volunteers.

WELCOME

### Timesheets:

**Please remember to turn in your timesheet every month, especially if you are a grocery shopper, friendly visitor, or phone pal. *EVERYONE COUNTS!!***

Our grant is based upon the number of people we serve AND the number of active volunteers in our program. Your timesheet is *crucial* to our program's continued success. Include any volunteer hours on your timesheet as well as your travel time. Please contact the office if you have any questions or need copies of timesheets. We appreciate your diligence!

### Volunteer Spotlight:

Great article Dina! RSVP is very blessed to have Emma advocating for our program. Emma, and her SPECTACULAR team, work very hard to come up with creative ways to engage our preschool aged students in learning Spanish. It is a wonderful program that has grown since it's reintroduction in 2022 and has helped RSVP reached new members of our community. Emma, we appreciate your dedication to RSVP and our community. Thank you again for doing what you do. Our community is better because of you.

Please send in the names of volunteers that deserve to be spotlighted. Please call or send in names so we can get them interviewed. Thank you for your help.

### Abuse or neglect?

If you ever have a question about how to follow up with issues, concerns, abuse or neglect, please call the RSVP office directly at 570-420-3747 or Monroe County Area Agency on Aging at 570-420-3735 with more immediate concerns. We will guide you through the process to make sure all seniors stay safe and sound in Monroe County. Monroe County Area Agency on Aging has 24/7 on-call services. If in doubt, please call and report your concern.



## RSVP Seen & Heard Around the County



RSVP volunteers have been out and about in the community, representing our program at fairs and expos and helping out our community partners. Thank you for all the amazing work you do.

Interested in helping out? Give us a call at the office. Helped out in community? Send us a picture to be featured here! We love to see our volunteers in action!

**Left:** RSVP Volunteers **Barbara Schlegel** and **Debra Kennelly** representing RSVP at **Representative Madden’s Senior Expo**.



**Below:** RSVP Volunteers **Linda Taubert**, **Barbara Schlegel**, **Vivette Giangrande**, and **Emma Campos-Jurado** (not pictured) representing RSVP and promoting SPECTACULAR at the **Pocono Latin Fest**

**Above:** RSVP volunteers **Barbara Schlegel** and **Linda Taubert** heading out for a day on the golf course, helping at the **Pocono Mountains United Way Golf Tournament**.





# The Comedy Corner

*with Barbara Schlegel*



What's it like to be  
kissed by a Vampire?

It's a pain in the neck!



What do you call a witch's  
garage?

A broom closet



Know why skeletons  
are so calm?

Because nothing gets  
under their skin!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR VOLUNTEERS BORN IN OCTOBER!

Wishing you a wonderful day full of good times  
and happy memories! Please know that we  
deeply appreciate you. You are a valuable  
volunteer we are honored to work with.

*Neal*

*Erica*

... and all your friends at RSVP



## DONATIONS NEEDED!

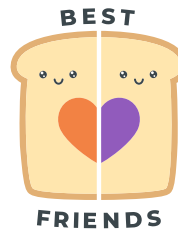
- Clean yarn and cotton fabric
- Greeting cards
- Old prescription eyeglasses
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Gently used backpacks
- Hats, gloves, socks, scarves, blankets



## For Our Veterans

Local Veteran's organization is seeking volunteer help with:

- sorting clothing donations
- garden maintenance
- meal preparation for 12 to 13 individuals
- office help (answer phones, light clerical work)
- assist at Stand Downs



## Seeking Friends

Volunteers are needed as **Friendly Visitors** in all areas of the county. Multiple male requests waiting for a new friend.

## Road Ready

Drivers are needed to assist with medical transportation requests. Must be willing to drive Aging car and pass driver's license check.



## The Best from the Rest

Clothing Closet looking for assistance in sorting clothing donations. Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays from 9am - 12pm.



## Restored

Local humanitarian organization is seeking volunteer help at retail store. Volunteer opportunities include customer service, stocking, unloading items, and sorting donations.

Wednesday - Saturday, 9am to 6pm



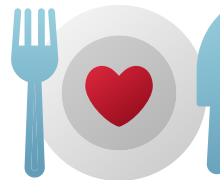
## Plenty of Rummy

Personal Care Homes seeking volunteers to perform for residents, assist with activities, and interact with seniors by playing games or cards.



## Food On the GO

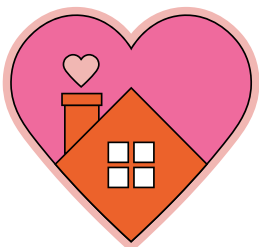
Local organization looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to homebound clients. Routes available throughout Monroe County.



## Helping Hand

Local transitional housing organization needs help with reception duties and client intake (training provided).

Monday - Friday, 4 hour shifts available from 9am - 5pm.



## BINGO!

Senior Center is looking for volunteers to call Bingo and keep track of the numbers board. Monday through Friday from 12pm to 1pm.

