

Community, Staff Top Monroe's Agenda

AMANDA MONROE says that her work for her staff and the communities she has served in her 12 years in the Coast Guard is more important than any of the initials behind her name, no matter how hard she has worked for them, or how many glass ceilings she's broken on the way.

That work and those initials - CPO, BMC, OIC - have brought her here to Wachapreague, where, at 31, she has become the officer in charge of the Wachapreague Coast Guard station, and the first female OIC here ever.

She loves the work of the Coast Guard, the excitement, the service - but the people she has worked with have been her priority.

She is determined to provide them with resources and understanding, and says "I want to make sure their personal well-being and their home life is taken care of."

This can mean scheduling people differently, initiating activities that include staff and family, or filling in herself when home-based issues arise.

MONROE HAS HAD PRACTICE leading and molding her vision. Her first posting in July of 2011 was in Oxford, MD, where she was a seaman in the deck division. From there, she was transferred to Florida and then to Puerto Rico before becoming the executive petty officer of the Coast Guard cutter Dolphin in Portsmouth, VA.

Two additional units - as executive petty officer, a cutter in Atlantic Beach, NC; and a small boat station



in Destin, FL - brought her to her posting as the officer in charge here in Wachapreague.

When Wachapreague is at full staff, there are 16 staffers - it is one of the smallest stations the Coast Guard has. These days, with staffing shortages hitting the Coast Guard as they have hit all other businesses and enterprises, there are 10.

MONROE, continued on back

A Push for Life-Saving Devices

Beth and Arthur Mendez, who live on Brooklyn Avenue when they're not at their home near Richmond, are proposing that the town buy two or three Automated External Defibrillators and make them available for anyone's emergency use.

According to the Federal Drug Administration, AEDs are designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, a condition in which your heart suddenly stops beating. The combination of cardio-

pulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation is effective in saving lives, when used quickly following a collapse.

The Mendezes began the discussion in the June council meeting and have continued it, at the council's request, through an open letter to the council and the community.

Beth writes that "every year in the U.S., approximately 1,700 lives are saved by use of

AEDs, continued on back

Around Town

RICHIE AND SANDIE Puchalski, who provide the wonderful fireworks at Powell Park every year, say they feel that this year's display was a big success.

It was a bit shorter than in years past, but still involved hundreds of fireworks. The price of fireworks has gone way up, Richie says, and in addition, it's become harder to get them.

TOWN, continued on back

TOWN

People have contributed money to help defray the costs of the event, and the Puchalskis are grateful for those contributions. But they'd welcome any contributions from anyone who would like to give, or give more.

The town doesn't have anything to do with the display, Sandie says. It is all up to them, and they do it out of love for the community - and love of fireworks!

Want to contribute? Drop contributions at Town Hall or find Sandie at the

harbormaster building.

There's lots of new stuff at the gift shop of the

Wachapreague

Inn, including fun T-shirts, eco-friendly hoodies and art



and craft by local artists and artisans!

Nikki Wardius says the hotel has been "crazy busy," and adds that it's now women-owned and staffed. ***

The Wachapreague

General Store now has a freezer! This means frozen pizza, quick dinners, and in the future, Mt. Nebo meats. ***

Debbie Shrieves at **Trident Tackle** says the fishing has been great this summer, with lots of flounder catches, as well as tile fish, farther off shore. She's looking for help, so stop in!



MONROE

Right now, the station has two boats, Monroe said. They've lent their 45-foot vessel to Cape Charles to help facilitate their off-shore operations. The smaller boats here in Wachapreague, Monroe says, are better for the shallow water of our bays.

HERE, THE WORK is mostly rescuing people who are stuck or in other sorts of trouble. This is quiet work, compared to many of her past postings.

In Puerto Rico and in Portsmouth, VA, she pursued bad guys, tracked illegal immigrants and more.

Her face lights up a little when she talks about these more exciting adventures, and she admits that what drew her to the Coast Guard (in addition to her father's service) was the chance to drive boats, and drive them fast, on search and rescue missions.

MONROE IS NOT an officer, in the formal sense. She did not attend the Coast Guard Academy, choosing instead to work her way up through the ranks. Her specialty is boatswain's mate, and they are the only ones who can run stations, she says.

In addition, she is certified as a coxswain, a pursuit



coxswain (chasing the bad guys) and a tactical coxswain, which she explains as performing protection duties, mainly keeping people away from "high-value assets," like presidents, submarines, and cruise ships.

AT 31, SHE IS single, and lives in Melfa with her two beagles. Her parents live in Baltimore, where her father still works for the Coast Guard. Her sister also works for the Coast Guard, but not in an enlisted job.

Monroe hopes to get the station staffers more involved in Wachapreague, and would be delighted to hear from any community members who have needs, thoughts or ideas.

"We love doing community outreach," she says.

AEDs

AEDs in cardiac emergencies.

An AED automatically analyzes the heart rhythm of a person experiencing cardiac arrest and delivers an electric shock to the heart to bring it back to its normal rhythm.

The Mendezes are proposing that the AEDs be put at the boat ramp, the firehouse and possibly at Powell Park. Waterproof cases are necessary if the units are outdoors

Each unit, plus a waterproof case, costs about \$1,500. A training unit costs \$500, and a

training video, \$165, for a total of \$5,165.

Beth Mendez says she would renew her CPR/AED instructor certification, and would be happy to train townspeople, at her cost.

The Mendezes have asked the council for funding, and also are asking the community for contributions. No amount is too small. Checks may be made payable to the Town of Wachapreague and brought to Town Hall or to Beth and Arthur at 20 Brooklyn Ave.

Her phone is 804-543-2653.

CLASSIFIEDS!

4BR furnished vacation home in Wachapreague for rent. Day - week - month. frankoj75@gmail.com for info

1997 Catalina Sport camper for sale. Low mileage, excellent condition, sleeps six. V-10, dual rear wheels, generator, A/C \$13,000. 860-442-0246, or 18 Bayview Ave.