

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

