

Deep Cut Gardens  
Photo courtesy of Walter Johnson



# MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

## Message from Mayor Tony Perry



I want to begin this update with a heartfelt thank you to the more than 66 percent of voters who supported November's ballot referendum to raise the annual collection rate of our Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protections, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund from three cents to four cents per \$100 in equalized property value. Your overwhelming support is a testament to Middletown's unwavering commitment to preserving our town's beauty, history, and quality of life. Because of you, we can continue acquiring and protecting open spaces, revitalizing our parks, and restoring cherished landmarks that connect us to our past while shaping a brighter future. Before the 2020 open space tax referendum, Middletown generated about \$3.68 million on two cents per \$100 of equalized valuation. By increasing it by a penny, it added about \$1.841 million, generating approximately \$5 million per year. With the increase to four cents, we are projected to generate nearly \$7.4 million annually, guaranteeing our ability to make long-term investments in conservation, recreation, and preservation.

### Why Contributing to Open Space is Important

Since the Open Space Trust Fund was established in 1998, Middletown has preserved an incredible 275 acres of land with a total investment of more than \$30 million. This commitment has protected our environment, prevented overdevelopment, and enabled our community to remain where families can thrive, neighbors can get together, and future generations can enjoy the same scenic beauty we cherish today. Most recently, the Township took a bold step forward by securing the 25-acre former Mater Dei property for \$11.75 million. Without the additional funding from this referendum, this significant acquisition and other vital preservation projects would not have been possible. Your support is more than just a vote – it's a legacy. It means safeguarding the spaces where our children will play, our history will be honored, and Middletown's unique character will continue to shine.

### Middletown Township Puts Open Space Dollars to Work to Save Mater Dei Property

Mater Dei has been more than just a building for decades – it has been a pillar of our community and a place where generations have gathered, learned, and celebrated. To honor it properly, we plan to preserve its name by designating the site as Mater Dei Park. Before the final acquisition is complete, the existing building is set to be demolished this summer as it no longer meets modern standards. However, this transition marks the beginning of something new and exciting for our community. By the end of May, all existing recreational facilities – including Middletown's first and only outdoor track – will be open to the public. The site will also feature a football field and four baseball fields so this space can remain a hub for youth sports, fitness, church services, and community and school events. Additionally, the parking lot will be shared between the Township and St. Mary's Church, ensuring convenient access for park visitors and parishioners. Significantly, this agreement will not impact the beloved fairs and traditions that unite our community each summer and fall. On behalf of the Township Committee, I want to thank Father Jeff Kegley, Bishop David O'Connell, the Board of Trustees, and the parishioners of St. Mary's for helping us preserve a deeply historic and rich part of Middletown's long history.

Middletown must define its legacy by honoring our past, protecting our future, and standing together as a community. Thanks to your vision and dedication, we are building something truly special – a town that values its roots while embracing the opportunities ahead. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Perry".

### Middletown Signs First Sister City Pact with Ofakim, Israel

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Tony Perry and Ofakim, Israel Mayor Itzik Danino signed a sister city pact to symbolically unite the two cities they govern. This is Middletown's first sister city agreement in its 361 years of history.

Mayor Perry's bond with Mayor Danino first began in January 2024 when he visited Ofakim following the aftermath of October 7, 2023 when 48 residents perished. Middletown lost 37 residents on September 11, 2001 and continues to feel the impact from that fateful day. As a result of their communities' experiences with terrorism and grief, Mayor Perry and Mayor Danino quickly built a friendship rooted in resilience and remembrance.

As part of the sister city pact, Middletown and Ofakim will form a committee of representatives from both cities to uphold the principles of their agreement. The committee will meet on an annual basis to review their progress and discuss technology, agriculture, and sustainable development practices, encourage business partnerships, share first responder training tips, and promote research opportunities and educational innovations throughout the year. Visit [middletownnj.org/sistercitypact](https://middletownnj.org/sistercitypact) for more information.



Mayor Tony Perry and Mayor Itzik Danino displayed their signed sister city pact.  
(Photo courtesy of Patrick Olivero)

### Project Updates Around Town

- **Basketball Courts:** The Township invested close to \$1 million to resurface basketball courts at 11 park locations.
- **Normandy Park Roller Hockey Rink (Nut Swamp Road, Middletown):** The project was awarded and should be ready for some hockey action by late spring/early summer.
- **Tennis Courts:** The Township is planning to resurface the tennis courts across town and install new fencing.
- **Waloo Park (Main Street, Port Monmouth):** Thanks to everyone who participated in the playground design survey in February. The playground you voted for is expected to be ready to use in the fall!



TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE



Front row from left:  
**Mayor Tony Perry, Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell**  
Back row from left:  
**Committee members Kevin M Settembrino, Ryan M. Clarke, and Kimberly Kratz**  
*(Photo courtesy of Brian Anderson Photography)*

Email [mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org) to contact the Township Committee.

**Anthony Mercantante, P.P., AICP,**  
Township Administrator  
**Heidi R. Pieluc, RMC/MMC, CPM,** Township Clerk  
**Colleen Lapp, Chief Financial Officer**  
**Ted Maloney, Township Engineer**

MIDDLETOWN MATTERS CREDITS

**Tara Berson,** Editor  
**Raven Rentas,** Graphic Designer & Assistant Editor  
**Gianna Piroso,** Assistant Graphic Designer  
**Grossi Consulting,** Printer

Sends comments and suggestions to [middletownmatters@middletownnj.org](mailto:middletownmatters@middletownnj.org).

STAY IN TOUCH

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[middletown.township](#)

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[Middletown Township NJ](#)

[Township of Middletown](#)

[Middletown, NJ](#)

[Middletown, NJ](#)

[middletownnj.org/minutes](#)

**Tune in to Middletown NJ TV (Verizon FiOS Channel 26, Comcast Cable Channel 20, livestreamed on [middletownnj.org/tv](http://middletownnj.org/tv), or the Middletown Township NJ YouTube Channel) to stay on top of what's going on in Middletown. The Township has launched several programs, such as *Minute with the Mayor*, *Middletown Memo*, and *Talk of the Town*, to help keep you informed about events and initiatives.**

Middletown Hosts 2025 Reorganization Meeting

Middletown Township held its annual reorganization meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Tony Perry, who was elected in November, was sworn into the Township Committee to serve his three-year term.

The Township Committee selected Tony Perry to serve his seventh consecutive year as mayor, making him the longest serving mayor in over 75 years. Rick Hibell was also chosen to serve as deputy mayor for his fifth consecutive year. This duo is the longest-serving mayor and deputy mayor leadership team in Middletown's history.

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Father Jeff Kegley of Saint Mary, Mother of God Church performed the Invocation.

The 2025 Middletown Township Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services chiefs were also sworn in by Mayor Perry. The meeting ended with our dedicated volunteers from various boards, commissions, and committees reciting their Oaths of Office.



Mayor Tony Perry proudly posed with his wife Alannah, their three children Reagan, Grant, and Kennedy, and former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli who swore him into his mayoral seat. (Photo courtesy of Patrick Olivero)

Upcoming Primary Election Information

Early voting for the 2025 Primary Election is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Hours will be 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM from Tuesday through Saturday and 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Sunday. It will take place at the Croydon Hall Senior Center (900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo).

The Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM. The two mail-in ballot drop box locations are the Croydon Hall Municipal Building (900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo) and the Middletown Township Public Library (55 New Monmouth Road).

Please visit [middletownnj.org/pollinglocations](http://middletownnj.org/pollinglocations) to find out where you vote. Please note: District 47 previously voted at the Tonya Keller Community Center and will now vote at The Church of Saint Catherine Laboure (9 Shore Acres Avenue) in the Parish Hall.

Any questions should be referred to the Township Clerk's Office: 732-615-2015 or [townclerk@middletownnj.org](mailto:townclerk@middletownnj.org).

Updates from Tax Collection

By Debra Kachinsky, Tax Collector

Happy Spring! In case you missed it, Middletown Township and the New Jersey Division of Taxation recently co-hosted a free event for senior residents to provide updated information about the ANCHOR, Senior Freeze, and Stay NJ tax relief programs. You can get information by calling 1-888-238-1233 or by visiting [propertytaxrelief.nj.gov](http://propertytaxrelief.nj.gov).

If you're tired of waiting in line to pay your taxes in person at Town Hall, we encourage you to pay online at [middletownnj.org/taxpayment](http://middletownnj.org/taxpayment) (some restrictions and fees may apply). Another convenient way to pay is to use your bank's online bill pay.

The Township of Middletown has automated the receipt and posting of payments made through a bank's online bill pay service. Please keep in mind that for the Township to receive your online check correctly you must list your ACCOUNT ID ONLY ex. 00001234 (located on your tax bill). Any other information used will result in a physical check being mailed to the Township of Middletown which can take at least two weeks to receive. Some banks may not be set up for automation, even with the correct information, so please check your bank's policy on delivery times to avoid late interest charges. Most banks recommend scheduling payments on or before the due date, so please allow 7-14 days for delivery.

There is also a night drop box located to the right of the Town Hall main entrance. Please utilize this for any payment made after 3:45 PM. Call 732-615-2086 with any questions. The next quarterly tax payment is Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [middletownnj.org/taxcollection](http://middletownnj.org/taxcollection) for updates.



GET PASSPORT READY

Are you planning to travel abroad this year? Don't wait until the last minute to apply for or renew your passport!

The Middletown Town Hall Passport Acceptance Agency is accepting applications by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 AM and 2:45 PM. Walk-ins are also welcome, if scheduling permits. Photo service available for \$10.

For more information and/or to book your appointment, please call 732-615-2014, visit [middletownnj.org/passports](http://middletownnj.org/passports), or head to the Middletown Town Hall Passport Acceptance Agency at the Clerk's Office located at 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748.

FEES & PROCESSING TIMES

Passport application fees are set by the U.S. Department of State and can be found at [middletownnj.org/njpassports](http://middletownnj.org/njpassports). Fees should be the same for every official passport acceptance agency.

Before you agree to have a third-party passport service assist in expediting your passport, please call Middletown first to make sure you are not paying extra for a service you do not need.

- Acceptance Facility Execution Fee: \$35.00
- Routine Service (4-6 Weeks): \$130.00 Adult, \$100.00 Minors 15 Years and Under
- Expedited Service (2-3 Weeks): \$60.00 in addition to Routine Service Fee

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

**Police, Fire & Rescue Emergencies** 911

**ALL NUMBERS BEGIN WITH THE 732 AREA CODE.**

**Police Department (Non-Emergency)** 615-2100

**Municipal Offices**

Main Number 615-2000

Animal Control (Monday-Friday, 8a-4p) 615-2097

Animal Control (holidays, nights & weekends) 615-2100

Building & Inspection 615-2106

Code Enforcement 615-2098

Communications 615-3226

Community Development 615-2281

Court Administrator 615-2036

Emergency Management 615-2129

EMS (First Aid) 615-2252

Fire Prevention 615-2270

Health 615-2095

Human Resources 615-2042

Library 671-3700

Mayor's Office 615-2024

Middletown Arts Center 706-4110

Parks & Recreation 615-2260

Planning 615-2098

Public Works & Engineering/Recycling 615-2090

Senior Center 615-2265

Tax Assessor 615-2089

Tax Collector 615-2086

Township Administrator 615-2013

Township Engineer 615-2110

Township Clerk (elections, permits, marriage/ birth/death records, parking permits, passport services, voter registration, Township Committee agenda) 615-2015

Zoning 615-2278

**Other Important Numbers**  
Board of Education 671-3850  
Sewerage Authority 495-1010  
**Comcast Cable 20**  
**VerizonFiOS Channel 26**  
**Emergency Radio 1620 AM**

OFFICIAL TOWN HALL HOURS

1 Kings Highway  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM





## Middletown Township Leases Historic Train Station to Middletown Township Historical Society to Use as Museum

In September, the Township entered into a formal agreement to lease the town's historic train station to the Middletown Township Historical Society (MTHS), a nonprofit organization.

The historic train station, which dates to 1876, sits in the daily commuter lot across the street from the current Middletown Train Station and the Middletown Arts Center. After serving as an active train station for 110 years, it became home to community organizations, most recently the Middletown Police Auxiliary. The MTHS plans to use the station as an exhibit space.



Photo courtesy of the MTHS

The Middletown History Museum is set to officially open in 2026 to coincide with the building's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and the nation's 250<sup>th</sup>. The Township recently received a \$9,600 grant from the Monmouth County Historical Commission to support roof and gutter repairs to help restore the building as the MTHS prepares to use it to showcase our township's rich heritage.

Visit [middletownnj.org/america250](http://middletownnj.org/america250) for future updates.

## A MIDDLETOWN MOMENT IN HISTORY

Presented by the Middletown Township Historical Society



The earliest known engraving of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse from 1790 (Courtesy of National Parks Service)

At the onset of the Revolution, Patriots feared that Sandy Hook (then, and still, a part of Middletown) would come under British control. To make it a less desirable location, on March 8, 1776 men from the Monmouth Militia (with help from other troops) disabled the Sandy Hook Lighthouse by removing lamps and oil and breaking the light's glass. Nevertheless, by the end of April, the lighthouse and Sandy Hook had become occupied by the British. Over the next couple of years, Sandy Hook and its lighthouse would be the scene for a number of skirmishes, raids, and ambushes, but did not come under Patriot control until after the war ended.

This information was collected from the U.S. Lighthouse Society, *The Keeper's Log*, Spring 1995 issue.



## Test Your Knowledge with Township Trivia Thursdays!



In March, Middletown Township launched *Township Trivia Thursdays* in partnership with the Middletown Township Historical Society.

Every other Thursday a new question about our township's history will appear on our TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26, Comcast Channel 20, or livestreaming on [middletownnj.org/middletowntv](http://middletownnj.org/middletowntv)), social media accounts, and on [middletownnj.org/trivia](http://middletownnj.org/trivia). Look for the answer the following day in our weekly e-newsletter *Middletown Minutes* ([middletownnj.org/minutes](http://middletownnj.org/minutes)).

The upcoming trivia questions will be posted on the following Thursdays: 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/19, (Wednesday, 7/2 due to the holiday), 7/17, and 7/31.

Make sure to subscribe and be on the lookout!

## GRAND OPENINGS

**Falcone**  
623 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft  
**Haus of Nails**  
1872 NJ-35  
**Indigo Shore Art Studio**  
290 East Road, Belford  
**Middletown Township Public Library Reference Area and History Room**  
55 New Monmouth Road  
**New Moon Aesthetics**  
631 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft  
**Nothing Bundt Cakes**  
1379 NJ-35  
**Renaissance Salon**  
1275 NJ-35  
**Rustic Roots**  
336 Everett Road, Lincroft  
**Tile Loft**  
1876 NJ-35  
**Wolf Fine Jewelers**  
1580 NJ-35  
**Wonder**  
1405 NJ-35

## HOSTING A RIBBON CUTTING?

Invite the Township Committee by either emailing [mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org) or calling 732-615-2024.



Mayor Tony Perry and members of the Township Committee were thrilled to join the owner and employees of Nothing Bundt Cakes, members of the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce, local business owners, and customers at the ribbon cutting!

Mayor Tony Perry and County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone kindly invite local business owners to the

## SMALL-BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-10:00 AM  
**WHERE:** Training Room at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway)  
**RSVP:** Email [mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org) or call 732-615-2024

## Check Out the Mayor's Locally Sourced Podcast!

Mayor Tony Perry is proud to host *Locally Sourced*, a podcast where he interviews local business owners and community leaders as well as discovers the stories behind your favorite spots. The podcast is currently available to listen to on Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Podbean, Spotify, YouTube, and [middletownnj.org/locallysourced](http://middletownnj.org/locallysourced).



The Communications Department occasionally hosts giveaways and offers subscribers the chance to win an exclusive *Locally Sourced* cap! Make sure to follow the Township on Instagram and subscribe to the podcast on your preferred platform to participate.

## LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS INVITED TO JOIN THE THANK A VETERAN PROGRAM

Looking for a way to give back to those who served our country? Show your appreciation to veterans by joining the Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee's

## Thank a Veteran Program

The program provides businesses with the opportunity to offer special discounts to veterans.

**VISIT** [MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/THANKAVETERAN](http://MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/THANKAVETERAN)



# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Scout Troops Learn About Local Government



Mayor Tony Perry and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz posed with Brownie Troop 60308 and Daisy Troop 60703 from Saint Leo the Great School!

Mayor Tony Perry and Township Committee members welcomed several scout troops to Town Hall over the last several months to discuss how government works and the importance of community leadership. We thank the following troops for visiting and for their wonderful ideas of how to make Middletown even better!

- **Brownie Troop 60308:** 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Saint Leo the Great School
- **Cub Scout Pack 242:** 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Bayview, Harmony, Leonardo, and Village elementary schools
- **Daisy Troop 60703:** 1<sup>st</sup> graders from Saint Leo the Great School
- **Lincroft Brownie Troop 60135:** 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Lincroft Elementary School

In February, Committeeman Ryan Clarke also celebrated Scout Sunday with Troop 110 of Lincroft. He attended mass at the Church of Saint Leo the Great, where the service was dedicated to scouting. Following the mass, he shared his personal journey to becoming an Eagle Scout and spoke about the lasting impact scouting has had on his life.



Photo courtesy of Troop 110

## Community Comes Together for Different Causes



**Be the Difference Suicide Prevention Community Walk to Take Place on Sunday, 5/18:** The third annual walk will be starting at the Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street) at 10:00 AM and ending at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). Proceeds will be donated to the New Jersey chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Please visit [middletownnj.org/bethedifference](http://middletownnj.org/bethedifference) for more information and to register.

**Locals Unite to Help Communities Impacted by Hurricanes:** In the fall, members of the Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) assisted with the aftermath of hurricanes Helene and Milton. MTFD chiefs Daniel Kelly and Kevin Morrissey, Fire Marshal Edward "Buddy" Skelly, and FF/Paramedic Marcelo Aguirre went on behalf of the FEMA USAR New Jersey Task Force. EMS Chief Marco Fernandes was deployed to North Carolina as a member of NJ-AHIMT. Additionally, Port Monmouth Fire Company and local business Whirl Construction co-hosted a relief drive for Hurricane Helene. Middletown High School South student Hannah Gorsegrner also led one.



Hannah accepted donations from Mayor Tony Perry. (Photo courtesy of Andrea Verdone Gorsegrner)

**Middletown High School North Community Supports Middletown WTC Memorial Gardens with Donation:** Members of the Middletown High School North Touchdown Club presented Mayor Tony Perry with a donation to the Middletown World Trade Center (WTC) Memorial Gardens Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization. The Touchdown Club is a parent-run organization that supports the high school's cheerleading and football programs. The organization raised the money by working with North Nation, the school's student section, to design and sell shirts for their USA-themed football game in September. Half of the proceeds went directly to the Gardens.

**Nut Swamp Elementary School Students Provide "Boxes of Hope" to Local Veterans:** Over the holiday season, Nut Swamp Elementary School Special Education Teacher Amy Jennings and her students in the Language and Learning Disabilities (LLD) program spearheaded a "Boxes of Hope" drive to benefit local veterans. Students from kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade filled 25 boxes of collected items, such as warm socks, winter hats, and more, and donated cases of water. The students were proud to present their donations, especially their letters of hope and patriotic ornaments, to thank veterans for their service.



## MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT WINS MONMOUTH COUNTY SNOWPLOW NAMING CONTEST

In January, Middletown Village Elementary School student Jackson Felegy found out that he won the second annual Monmouth County Snowplow Naming Contest with a surprise visit from Mayor Tony Perry, Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone, Monmouth County Commissioner Erik Anderson, and Middletown Board of Education President Frank Capone!

Jackson and Jackson Mattioli of Laura Donovan Elementary School in Freehold Township submitted the name "Born to Plow". As a result of their creativity, two snowplows now bear their winning tagline and respective schools!



Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone and Commissioner Erik Anderson stopped by Middletown Village to present Jackson with a Certificate of Recognition next to the snowplow he named. (Photo courtesy of Monmouth County Government)

## Middletown Girl Scouts Earn Girl Scout Silver Award



Mayor Tony Perry presented certificates to the Silver Award winners who were able to attend the Township Committee Meeting (pictured from left Mina Lee, Anisa Dietz, and Lucy Warner).

The Township Committee recently recognized Middletown Cadette Girl Scouts Mina Lee, Anisa Dietz, Lucy Warner, and Annabelle Warner who received the Girl Scout Silver Award for their project that addressed the need for more pollinators and butterflies in Middletown. They built a community butterfly garden at the Middletown Arts Center, hosted a virtual event to raise awareness about the issue, and created a garden of perennial flowers. The Silver Award is the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can earn.

Girl Scout Mary McGee-D'Alessio earned her Silver Award for dedicating her project to enhancing accessibility at Shorecrest

Mini Park in the Fairview section of town. She researched the Americans with Disabilities Act, reached out to a local business about playground equipment, and attended the grand opening of our all-inclusive playground at McMahon Park. She also contacted several employees to get the Township involved. The Township hopes to implement some of her suggestions, such as featuring inspirational quotes and sidewalk games and art, in the future.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOWNSHIP CHAMPS

**Middletown Elks Lodge 2179:** First place in 2025 State Ritual Competition

**Middletown High School North Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams:** 2025 Shore B Coastal Division Championship

**Middletown High School North Ice Hockey Team:** 2025 Mayor's Cup

**Middletown High School North Varsity Football Team:** 2024 Shore Conference Class B North Championship

**Middletown High School North Wrestling Program:** 2025 Shore Conference B-Division Championship

**Middletown High School South Wrestling Program:** 2025 Shore Conference E-Division Championship

**Middletown Makos 8U Softball Team:** 2024 USABL Championship

**Middletown Soccer Club Spirit Red:** 2024 New Jersey President's Cup

**Monmouth United Soccer Club (MUSC) 2013 Boys Premier I Team:** 2024 New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS) State Cup National Championship Series

**MUSC 2014 Boys Premier II Team:** 2024 NJYS State Cup Presidents Cup

*Note: These athletes and teams were recognized at recent Township Committee meetings. Contact [mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@middletownnj.org) if you would like your team to be considered for a presentation.*





## 2025 EMS Chiefs



Middletown Emergency Medical Services (EMS) chiefs pictured from left: Assistant Chief Craig James, Chief Marco Fernandes, and Deputy Chief Floyd Goldstein

Thank you to 2024 EMS Chief Brian McKittrick for his volunteerism and efforts.

*Photo courtesy of EMS*

## Township Committee Recognizes EMS Volunteer Mike Riordan for 50 Years of Service

At a Township Committee Meeting in December, EMS volunteer Mike Riordan received a Key to the Township for his dedicated service to Fairview First Aid Squad. Early in his membership, Mike was recognized for answering over 500 calls in one year. Mike has served, and continues to serve, on many squad and EMS Department committees including delegate for Fairview to the EMS Department and its Steering Committee. Mike is also a volunteer of the MTFD's Station #8 and the Field Communications Unit.



## HELP SAVE LIVES BY VOLUNTEERING WITH EMS

The Middletown EMS Department is comprised of five all-volunteer first aid squads. These dedicated teams provide 24/7 coverage, ensuring the health and safety of our community around the clock. In 2024, the EMS Department responded to approximately 7,000 emergency medical calls, with an average of 20 per day.

### Reasons to Volunteer:

- **Comprehensive Training:** No prior experience is necessary. They provide all the training you need, including CPR and basic first aid certifications.
- **Community Impact:** Your contribution directly affects the wellbeing of your neighbors and friends, offering a fulfilling way to give back.
- **Skill Development:** Gain valuable life-saving skills, leadership experience, and the satisfaction of personal growth.
- **Youth Opportunities:** For individuals ages 14-18, the EMS Explorers program (Scouts America) offers hands-on experience and training in emergency medical services. Those who are 16 years old can gain ride time on calls.

For an overview of the first aid squads and information about how to join, please visit [middletownnj.org/ems](http://middletownnj.org/ems).

## JOIN THE WORLD'S LARGEST ALL-VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



The MTFD is made up of eleven individual fire companies and together they:

- Serve and protect the township's 42 square miles, 12 zip codes, 19 miles of coastline, 68,000 residents, 21 schools, and 1,100+ businesses
- Respond to calls for chemical/environmental hazards and trapped or injured persons in buildings, trenches, floods, trees, oceans, bays, lakes, and more

Visit [mtfdnj.org](http://mtfdnj.org) for more information.

## 2025 MTFD Chiefs



Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) chiefs pictured from left: Third Assistant Chief James Abbes, Second Assistant Chief Jacob Lawrence III, First Assistant Chief Kevin Morrissey, Deputy Chief Daniel P. Kelly, and Chief Anthony Fulciniti

Thank you to 2024 MTFD Chief William Kane Jr. for his leadership!

*Photo courtesy of MTFD Public Information Officer Laurie Kegley*

## Middletown Township Fire Company #1 Turns 100

Middletown Township Fire Company #1 recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Mayor Tony Perry, Deputy Mayor and Ex Chief Rick Hibell, Committeeman and Ex Chief Ryan Clarke, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz were proud to join the MTFD chiefs and fire company's volunteers for this special occasion.

*Photo courtesy of Tina DeAngelis from Visual Xpressions*



## Former Fire Chief George Richdale Honored for 70 Years of Service to Lincroft Fire Company

In December, Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell, Committeeman Ryan Clarke, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz attended a celebration commemorating 70 years of service for MTFD Ex Chief George Richdale.

As MTFD's first distinguished 70-year member, and one of the founders of the highly regarded Middletown Township Fire Academy, the Township Committee presented him with a certificate commending him for his decades of respected leadership and tireless service to our community. To honor his commitment to Lincroft Fire Company and his role as Fire Chief in 1974, Rose Street at the corner of CR 520 in Lincroft will be ceremonially named George Richdale Way. George was also one of the founding members of Lincroft First Aid and Rescue Squad and has dedicated his life to protecting our residents.



*Pictured from left: Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger, Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn, Senator Declan O'Scanlon, honoree George Richdale, Deputy Mayor and Ex Chief Rick Hibell, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, and Committeeman and Ex Chief Ryan Clarke*

## MTFD Volunteers Recognized for 50 Years of Service



In the fall, Lincroft Fire Company held an event to honor firefighter Frank W. Verange (pictured on the left) for his 50 years of active service. Over the past five decades, Frank has served as captain and company president. He is also currently a trustee, department delegate, and the MTFD Planning and Advisory Delegate which he has been since 1998.

In February, Belford Engine Fire Company recognized volunteer Edward Sefcik (pictured on the right, courtesy of MTFD) for 50 years of service. Mayor Tony Perry and Deputy Mayor and Ex Chief Rick Hibell were honored to present Edward with a Key to the Township on behalf of the Township Committee, as well as personally thank him for his decades of volunteerism.





# 411 ON THE 911

## MTPD Celebrates Police Promotion and Welcomes Two New Officers

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Tony Perry conducted the swearings-in for Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) officers Ric Cruz, Nicholas Massaro, and Robert Poss.

Officer Ric Cruz was promoted to Sergeant after working as a detective since 2020. After serving in the United States Coast Guard, he was hired by the MTPD as a patrolman in 2012. A true staple in our community, Sergeant Cruz oversaw the Community Relations Unit and ran programs for both our youth and elderly.

Officer Nicholas Massaro worked for the Keyport Police Department before beginning his career with the MTPD. Officer Robert Poss previously worked in the Long Branch Police Department. Both officers bring excellent experience that will benefit both the department and community.



Pictured from left: Deputy Chief John Werner, Sergeant Ric Cruz, Officer Robert Poss, Officer Nicholas Massaro, and Chief R. Craig Weber (Photo courtesy of MTPD)

## REGISTER FOR MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY ALERTS



Middletown Township utilizes Everbridge Nixle to distribute emergency alerts, road detours, and more. Text your zip code to 888-777 or scan the QR code on the left to visit [middletownnj.org/nixle](http://middletownnj.org/nixle) and sign up.

You can also download the Everbridge Nixle mobile app on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

## Become a Volunteer with the Middletown Auxiliary Police



If you are 18+ and would like to volunteer with the MTPD as an Auxiliary Police Officer, please call 732-615-2039 or email [pdeigert01@comcast.net](mailto:pdeigert01@comcast.net) regarding an application.

Visit [middletownnj.org/auxiliarypolice](http://middletownnj.org/auxiliarypolice) for more information and to complete an application.

## MTPD and Middletown VAC Offer Tours and Presentations to Youth

The MTPD and Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) do a lot of community outreach, especially with our youth.



In the fall, the VAC conducted a class about the Vietnam War to a group of homeschooled children. (Photo courtesy of Belinda Rooney)



In February, the MTPD Community Relations Unit gave homeschooled students a tour of police headquarters. (Photo courtesy of MTPD)



At the end of last year, VAC members taught flag etiquette to Cub Scout Pack 242. (Photo courtesy of VAC)

## Veterans Housing Building Expected to be Ready by Late Summer

The veterans housing site located on Leonardville Road in Campbell's Junction in Belford is rising to completion! "Veterans Village" is expected to be done by late summer. The Township will be making a formal announcement when the building is ready for occupancy. Please visit [middletownnj.org/ourveterans](http://middletownnj.org/ourveterans) to review the criteria and fill out an application.



## Congratulations to Newest Monmouth County Police Academy Graduates

Four of Middletown Township's newest Special Law Enforcement Class II Officers recently graduated from the Monmouth County Police Academy:

- Patrick Smit
- Wilson Cartagena, Jr.
- Michelle Quinonez-Sanchez
- Shaun Sullivan



Photo courtesy of Monmouth County Police Academy

The officers completed an intense program which consisted of 22 weeks with more than 800 hours of training that has prepared them to serve and protect our community.

## Community Comes Together to Discuss Newman Springs Road/County Road 520 Traffic Improvements

In March, Middletown and Monmouth County hosted a public input session to discuss traffic improvements on Newman Springs Road/County Road 520 in Lincroft.

The ongoing project will be divided into two phases: the Acme Access Road and lane restriping/various traffic calming measures.

Lieutenant Antonio Ciccone provided statistics on behalf of the MTPD and reminded residents that our police officers are committed to making our roadways safer. The Township and County will be hosting another public input session on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 PM in the courtroom at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).



## SAVE THE DATE FOR MTPD'S ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships.

**DATE:** Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 5:00-8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Middletown High School North (63 Tindall Road)

## HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES AT MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



Middletown Township is partnering with American Legion Post 338 to host our annual Memorial Day Parade to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and served our country.

**DATE:** Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

**START TIME:** 10:00 AM

**STARTING LOCATION:** Bayshore Middle School (834 Leonardville Road, Leonardo)

Be on the lookout for our parade route signs!

## VFW Post 2179 Hosts Annual Four Chaplains Service

In February, VFW Post 2179 hosted its annual Four Chaplains Service to commemorate the selfless acts of valor of the four chaplains who perished on the U.S.A.T. Dorchester in 1943. The four chaplains, who represented different denominations, sacrificed their lives and gave their life preservers to others after the ship was hit by a German torpedo and began sinking. They prayed together and were among the nearly 700 people who died.



Mayor Tony Perry, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Committeeman Kevin Settembrino, and Chief Craig Weber were proud to join Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger and members of the VAC at the event. (Photo courtesy of VFW Post 2179)



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program: A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Nonpoint source pollution is a contamination of our groundwater, waterways, bays, and oceans that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil, washing cars, and littering. With each rainfall, pollutants generated by these activities are washed into storm drains that flow into our waterways and oceans. They can also soak into the ground and contaminate the groundwater below. The collective impact of nonpoint source pollution threatens aquatic and marine life, recreational water activities, the fishing industry, tourism, and our precious drinking water resources.

**Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey’s greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that’s why we are asking for your help to do something about it.** By sharing a portion of the responsibility and making small changes in our daily lives, we can keep these common pollutants out of stormwater. All our efforts add up to cleaner water and save us from the high costs of cleanup once it becomes polluted.

As part of New Jersey’s initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful, and to comply with federal requirements, the Township of Middletown has adopted ordinances to prohibit various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. These include ordinances regarding Pet Waste, Wildlife Feeding, Litter Control, Improper Disposal of Waste, Containerized Waste/Yard Waste Collection, Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting, and Illicit Connection.

### Here are some ways you can help reduce nonpoint source pollution:

- Place litter in trash receptacles.** Place litter, including cigarette butts and fast food containers, in trash receptacles. Recycle, recycle, recycle!
- Avoid overuse of fertilizers.** Do a soil test to see if you need to add fertilizer. Avoid the overuse of fertilizers and do not apply them before a heavy rainfall. If you use fertilizers, follow the label directions carefully.
- Use alternatives to pesticides.** Many household products made to exterminate pests are toxic to humans, animals, aquatic organisms, and plants. Follow the label directions carefully and use alternatives whenever possible.
- Clean up after your pet.** Animal waste contains bacteria and viruses that can contaminate shellfish and cause bathing beaches to close. Pet owners or their keepers must pick up and properly dispose of pet waste dropped on public or other people's property. Dispose of wastes in the garbage or toilet.
- Don't feed wildlife.** Do not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese, in public areas.
- Dispose of yard waste properly.** Keep leaves and grass out of storm drains. Use leaves and grass clippings as a resource for compost. Please refer to [middletownnj.org/collection](http://middletownnj.org/collection) for the rules, guidelines, and schedules for leaf and brush collections. You can also find the brush collection schedule on Page 12.
- Properly use and dispose of hazardous products.** Many common household products contain toxic ingredients. Use natural and less toxic alternatives whenever possible. Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local water bodies.
- Recycle used motor oil.** Used motor oil contains toxic chemicals that are harmful to humans and animals, especially fish. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a local, public, or private recycling center.
- Wash your car only when necessary.** Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles its wash water. If you wash your car at home, use a non-phosphate detergent.
- Inspect your septic systems annually.** An improperly working septic system can contaminate groundwater and create public health problems. Inspect your tank annually and pump it out every three to five years, depending on its use.
- Keep pollution out of storm drains.** The Township has labeled and marked all storm drain inlets. Labels remind residents that these storm drains are connected to local waterways. Do not let sewerage or other wastes flow into a stormwater system.
- Don't dump boat sewerage overboard.** Dumping boat sewerage overboard introduces bacteria and viruses to our water. It may also be illegal. Boat owners should always use marine sanitation devices and pump-out facilities at marinas.

Visit [middletownnj.org/stormwaterpollutionprevention](http://middletownnj.org/stormwaterpollutionprevention) for additional information. It is important to remember these easy things you can do to assist with restoring the health of our streams and environment. Refer to Chapters 423 and 540 for Middletown’s adopted stormwater pollution ordinances, which can be found at [middletownnj.org/ordinances](http://middletownnj.org/ordinances). Recently adopted ordinances include Stormwater Management regulations (2024-3440) and Tree Removal and Replacement requirements (2024-3446) per new NJDEP regulations and mandates. Township Ordinance 2024-3439 includes NJDEP-mandated regulations concerning Storage of Salt and other Solid De-icing Materials on Private Property, including Residences. More stormwater-related topics can be found at [cleanwaternj.org](http://cleanwaternj.org).

## Resident Resources

**Additional Daily Parking at Main Train Station Parking Lot**  
To address the need for more daily parking for commuters, the Township has added new parking spaces (numbered 300-519) to the large train station lot located off Middletown-Lincroft Road near the satellite recycling center. These new spaces feature yellow striping. The zone, cost, and instructions on how to start a parking session remain the same.

**Connect with the Township to Correct Concerns**  
Middletown Township is now utilizing the *Connect & Correct* platform so you can easily contact the Township to report any concerns, such as a lost pet, pothole, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc., and track their progress through completion. To share your feedback, visit [middletownnj.org/connectcorrectcategories](http://middletownnj.org/connectcorrectcategories). For on-the-go access, download the *Connect & Correct* app on the Apple App Store and Google Play.



**Know Your Property's Flood Risk**  
Throughout Middletown there are areas with a high risk for floods from both bay and riverine flooding. To see your flood zone and base flood elevation, please visit [middletowntownshipnj.withforerunner.com/properties](http://middletowntownshipnj.withforerunner.com/properties) and search your address.

If you are a homeowner in Middletown and interested in purchasing or renewing flood insurance policies, you may be eligible for a discount on your policy since the Township participates in FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS). FEMA’s CRS provides discounts for flood insurance premiums within and outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), commonly known as the 100-year floodplain. Please contact a licensed insurance agent for more information.

Residents can contact Stacy Krause, CRS Coordinator, at 732-615-2000 ext. 2167 or visit [middletownnj.org/floodplainmanagement](http://middletownnj.org/floodplainmanagement) for additional information about CRS and floodplain management.

**Middletown Passes Anti-Idling Law**  
The Township Committee passed Resolution 24-250 to enact a townwide anti-idling campaign. When not in traffic, idling should be limited to 10 seconds. The vehicle should be turned off if idling will last longer than that.

**Township Announces Wellness Wheels Program**  
This new program, which will be funded through a portion of the Opioid Settlement Funds awarded by the state, will provide free local transportation for residents with substance use disorders, who are at risk of substance use disorders, or those who need access to mental health services. For more information, please visit [middletownnj.org/wellnesswheels](http://middletownnj.org/wellnesswheels).

## REHAB GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR HOMEOWNERS!



If you are a Middletown homeowner, you may be eligible for a home rehabilitation grant up to \$25,000 from the Township’s Home Rehabilitation Program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program is for low and moderate income households. Call 732-615-2281 for more information.

Si usted es un dueño de casa de Middletown, usted puede ser elegible para una beca de rehabilitación de la casa de hasta \$25.000 del programa de rehabilitación del hogar del municipio financiado por el Departamento de vivienda y desarrollo urbano de los Estados Unidos. Este programa es para hogares de bajos y moderados ingresos. Llame al 732-615-2281.

Visit [middletownnj.org/income](http://middletownnj.org/income) to check out the 2025 income limits.



## Community Supports Blood Drive with NJ Blood Services/NY Blood Center at Town Hall

In January, Middletown Township partnered with New Jersey Blood Services/New York Blood Center to host a blood drive at Town Hall. A total of 49 donors were registered and 62 units of blood were collected. Thanks to our community's generosity, 186 patients may benefit from the blood collected in this drive. Another one was held in April.

The Township plans to host future blood drives at Town Hall. Please visit [middletownnj.org/blooddrive](http://middletownnj.org/blooddrive) for more information.

Nurse Jacqueline from the New York Blood Center assisted Mayor Tony Perry while he donated blood.



## IF YOU CARE, LEAVE THEM THERE: A GUIDE ON HOW TO BEST PROTECT LOCAL WILDLIFE

By Alysha Kostyz, Animal Control Officer

In the spring, it is not unusual to see young wild animals alone. Please keep in mind that this does not mean they are abandoned or need human intervention. Most mothers leave their young alone during the day to keep them safe from predators as they forage for food. They eventually return to their babies at night.

While well-intended, humans getting involved and handling baby wildlife can cause them stress, transmit diseases, and may even lead to death. Please do not give the animals any food or water. Most young wildlife, such as birds, will aspirate. It is important to leave the animals alone and only allow their parents or local wildlife rehabbers to take care of them.

If you believe a baby or juvenile animal may be in distress, abandoned, sick, or injured, please contact Middletown Township Animal Control or the Middletown Township Police Department. For additional information about animals such as baby rabbits, snapping turtles, baby squirrels, and more, please visit [middletownnj.org/animalcontroltips](http://middletownnj.org/animalcontroltips).



## CONTACT INFORMATION & HOURS

<b>Middletown Township Animal Control:</b>	<b>Middletown Township Police Department:</b>
Monday - Friday   8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	After hours and on weekends
732-615-2097	732-615-2100

## How Raccoons Behave in Spring

By Alysha Kostyz, Animal Control Officer

During the spring months, raccoons are seeking a mate, reproducing, and searching for their new home. Most raccoons will look for hollow trees and abandoned fox dens, but some may find an empty space in your attic or crawlspace. They are looking for a safe, warm place for their babies. Please take the proper steps to ensure animals can't access any part of your home:

- Keep your garbage can sealed
- Don't leave pet food outside
- Inspect your roof and attic and seal any gaps or holes
- Install proper vents (including chimney caps)
- Remove any tree branches that may provide access to your roof
- Secure window wells (typically found near basement windows)

If raccoons are out during the day in the springtime, they are most likely foraging for food to feed their young. Regardless, it is always important to be cautious around wild animals in case they have rabies or other diseases. If you notice any signs or symptoms from the animal that may warrant a concern, such as neurological impairment, loss of balance and motor skills, extremely aggressive or docile behavior, or self-inflicted wounds, please keep your distance and contact Middletown Township Animal Control or the Middletown Township Police Department.

MIDDLETOWN  
ALLIANCE

The Middletown Alliance is a community-based volunteer organization that works to prevent substance use disorders, underage drinking, vaping, and other at-risk behaviors. Please visit [middletownnj.org/middletownalliance](http://middletownnj.org/middletownalliance) for more info.

The Alliance consists of stakeholders in our community, such as parents, educators, law enforcement, and more! The organization meets on the third Saturday of every other month from 8:30-9:30 AM in the Training Room at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). Help make a difference in our community by joining today!

Next meeting: May 17<sup>th</sup>

@middletownalliance

Middletown Alliance

Follow the Alliance on social media and consider getting involved!

## Middletown Alliance Spring Parent Presentation: Thurs., 5/22

The Middletown Alliance is excited to partner with the Wellspring Center for Prevention to offer a presentation for parents on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> about raising resilient kids. The presentation will be from 7:00-8:00 PM in the Training Room at Town Hall. Come to the event to receive up-to-date information and get all your questions answered!

To register, visit [middletownnj.org/presentation](http://middletownnj.org/presentation). If you have any questions, please email [middletownalliance@gmail.com](mailto:middletownalliance@gmail.com).



The Middletown Alliance wants to help you

## DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATION SAFELY

### DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATION FROM:

- Death of loved one
- Past surgeries or dental work
- Veterinary medication

### PLEASE NOTE:

- NO Needles
  - NO Syringes
  - NO Liquids
- Please remove prescription labels.

Anonymous drop-off available 24/7 in the box located in the Police Station Lobby (1 Kings Highway).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE MIDDLETOWN ALLIANCE AT 732-615-2277 OR VISIT [MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/MIDDLETOWNALLIANCE](http://MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/MIDDLETOWNALLIANCE).



2NDFLOOR

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.

2NDFLOOR (888-222-2228) is a confidential and anonymous helpline for New Jersey's youth and young adults between ages 10 to 24. The service is available 24/7.

2NDFLOOR's trained counselors help find solutions to problems such as substance use, mental health, school, family, dating, bullying, and LGBTQ+ support. Learn more about 2NDFLOOR's helpline at [2ndfloor.org](http://2ndfloor.org) or by downloading the free app on the Apple App Store or Google Play.



Download on the App Store

SCAN THE QR CODES TO DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP.



GET IT ON Google Play

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

988 is the nationwide 3-digit dialing code for crisis and suicide prevention.

It is available 24/7. When someone is experiencing a mental health crisis, they can dial or text 988 to be connected to a mental health professional. People can also visit [988lifeline.org/chat](http://988lifeline.org/chat).

Middletown Township encourages residents to reach out to 988 if they need assistance.





## STAY IN THE KNOW

There's something for everyone at the Middletown Arts Center (MAC)! Visit [middletownarts.org](http://middletownarts.org) to learn more about programs, events, new classes, and how to become a board member.

While you're on the website, sign up for the weekly e-blast to receive the latest news and follow the MAC's social media channels.

## JOIN THE MAC'S TEAM

The MAC is looking for individuals to join their team in several different capacities. They are seeking instructors and teaching artists in the visual arts and the performing arts, individuals to fill assorted part-time staff positions, volunteers, and new Board of Trustee members. Come be a part of the amazing things happening at the MAC! Letters of inquiry and resumes can be mailed to the MAC or e-mailed to [mobrien@middletownnj.org](mailto:mobrien@middletownnj.org).

## GET READY FOR A SUMMER OF FUN AND REGISTER FOR SUMMER ARTS CAMPS



The MAC's popular summer camps are back this year in two spacious locations! Whether it's performing, painting, sculpting, or dancing, the MAC's state-of-the-art facility and additional Annex Education Building (121 Kings Highway) have room for kids to flourish.

Camps are designed so that two half-day programs can be combined to make a full-day camp experience. A supervised lunch period is included, so please bring your own lunch. Before- and after-care is also available for working parents and guardians. You can sign up for just one week or for a whole summer of fun!

## Spring Arts & Crafts Festival: Sat., 5/10

Get into the spring spirit and join the MAC at its arts & crafts festival on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. This outdoor event is free to the public.

Interested in becoming a vendor? The MAC is looking for craftspeople and artists to sell homemade items. No commercial kits, toys, merchandise, flea market, or rummage sale items allowed.

Vendor spaces are each 10' x 10' and cost \$50. Checks should be made payable to the Middletown Arts Center, 36 Church Street, Middletown, NJ 07748. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call 732-706-4100. Vendors must provide their own table and/or tent. As the event is outdoors, no electricity will be available and generators are not permitted. Free parking will be available across the street.

The deadline for vendor applications is Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spaces will be assigned in the days prior to the event. Setup will be available at 8:00 AM the day of the event. Please call the MAC or email [tj.middletownartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:tj.middletownartscenter@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## MAC Hosts Art of Chili Cook-Off



In February, the MAC hosted its first annual Art of Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser! Attendees were able to sample chilis from amateur chefs and five local restaurants, as well as vote for the People's Choice Award.

The fundraiser grabbed the attention of media outlets while also raising money to support the MAC's diverse programming and important mission.

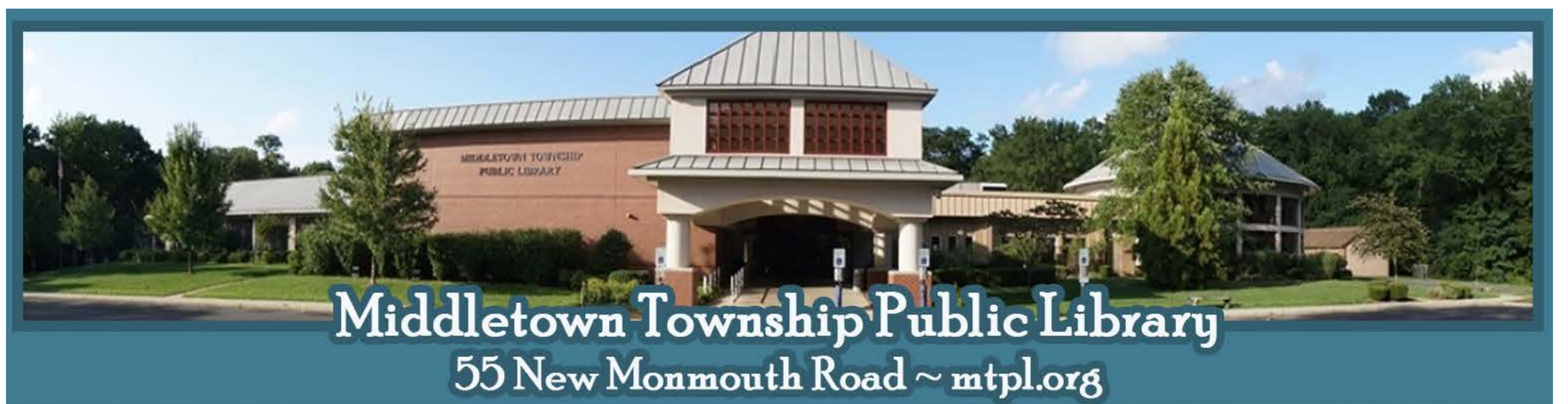
The MAC is already counting down the days until next year's event!

## The MAC Players Announces Summer Production



The MAC's community-based theater group, The MAC Players, will be performing *Hairspray* the weekends of 7/11 - 7/13 and 7/18 - 7/20.

Be on the lookout for more information!



## Save the Date: Programming for Adults

### A MUSICAL BIOGRAPHY PROGRAM CELEBRATING BOBBY DARIN

Wednesday, 5/7 at 1:00 PM

Dive into the range, talent, and work of Bobby Darin's musical career as Phil Bruschi talks about his influences as a singer/songwriter, the different styles of his music, his nightclub act, and the changes he underwent in the '60s. Phil will also perform many of Darin's biggest hits.

### NJ DAY TRIPS: A NEW JERSEY TRAVEL GUIDE

Wednesday, 5/7 at 7:00 PM

Explore what New Jersey has to offer with Kerri Sullivan and learn about interesting museums, historic sites, and parks to visit on a day trip.

### SHORE VOICES CONCERT

Tuesday, 5/20 at 7:00 PM

Enjoy a performance from this popular local a cappella group!

### HEART HEALTH TALK & SCREENINGS WITH HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH

Wednesday, 6/4 at 1:30 PM (talk) and from 2:30-4:30 PM (screenings)

Learn about the heart healthy Mediterranean and Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diets with Hackensack Meridian Health. Stick around after the talk for free health screenings for blood sugar, stroke, BMI, cholesterol, and blood pressure.

### RHYTHM N' SOUND CONCERT

Saturday, 6/21 at 2:00 PM

Listen to Rhythm N' Sound's "musical revue" performance, which will include songs from the '40s through the '80s in the classic standards, doo-wop, rock 'n' roll, Motown, disco, and classic rock genres.

### BAND OF THE TWO RIVERS PERFORMANCE

Saturday, 6/28 at 2:00 PM

Enjoy a patriotic performance from this local band!

### BROADWAY MAGIC: THEN AND NOW

Wednesday, 7/23 at 1:00 PM

Step into a world of exuberance and nostalgia with Francine and Joel as they take you on an unforgettable journey of more than 23 beloved Broadway gems in a vibrant celebration of live music.

## Save the Date: Programming for Children & Family

### "COLOR OUR WORLD" SUMMER READING 2025 PROGRAMS

June - August

Visit [mtpl.org](http://mtpl.org) for the most up-to-date program information.

### BRIGHT STAR THEATRE: WIZARD OF OZ

Thursday, 6/26 at 3:00 PM

Come see this two-person live adaptation of L. Frank Baum's classic children's novel performed by Bright Star Theatre! Take a trip down the yellow brick road with comic duo Lenny and Mabel as they make their way to the land of Oz and meet familiar characters along the way.

### SCIENCE HEROES SUMMER READING PROGRAM: COLOR OUR WORLD

Thursday, 7/10 at 11:00 AM

Celebrate this year's summer reading theme in this interactive learning adventure where science and stories collide through hands-on experiments.

### MINIATURE HORSES ROXXY AND ODYSSEY VISIT THE LIBRARY

Wednesday, 7/23 at 11:00 AM

Join miniature horses Roxxy and Odyssey, along with their handlers Ms. Ana and Ms. Terri, for a brief presentation about therapy horses followed by a meet and greet!

## Visit the MTPL's Renovated Spaces!

The MTPL has officially reopened its reimagined Reference Area! Explore the many wonderful new spaces, including the updated seating and study areas, private study rooms, and brand new Teen Room.

History buffs will want to check out the newly-expanded History Room, a place to learn about our township's history with books, guest speakers, and rotating displays. The new Makerspace will be the perfect place to craft and create with 3D printers, sewing machines, a laser cutting machine, and more. Come visit the library to learn about the many services offered!



Patrons were able to tour the History Room the day of the grand opening.





**MIDDLETOWN**  
Parks & Recreation



345 Oak Hill Road • 732-615-2260 • [recreation@middletownnj.org](mailto:recreation@middletownnj.org)

## Special Events

Pre-registration is required for all paid programs at [mtownrec.recdesk.com](http://mtownrec.recdesk.com).  
\*Denotes free event for residents.

### Fishing Derby

Sunday, 5/4 | 9:00a-12:00p | Garvey's Pond

### Town-Wide Garage Sale

Saturday, 5/17 & Sunday, 5/18 | 8:30a-4:00p

### Pitch, Hit & Run Competition\*

Tuesday, 5/20 | 5:00-7:00p | McMahon Park

### Mother-Son Wild West Hoedown

Thursday, 5/22 | 5:30-8:00p | Poricy Park



### Summer Concert Series\*

Tuesdays, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/26  
7:00-9:00p | Middletown Arts Center

### Middletown Night at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws

Friday, 7/18 | 7:00p | Lakewood



### Christmas in July Storytime

Thursday, 7/24 | 5:30-8:00p | Ideal Beach



### Summerween Beach Party & Movie Night

Thursday, 7/31 | 6:30-10:30p | Ideal Beach

### Tie Dye Party & Movie Night

Thursday, 8/21 | 7:00-10:00p | Poricy Park

### Skate Party

Friday, 9/12 | 6:00-8:30p | Kunkel Skate Park



## Middletown Senior Center

900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737 | 732-615-2265  
[middletownnj.org/seniors](http://middletownnj.org/seniors)

**Events at the Senior Center include daily exercise classes, weekly art classes, educational speakers, bingo, seasonal-themed parties, entertainment, and more! Come visit! Membership is free for residents 60+.**

Thursday, 5/1 - Kentucky Derby Day - 12:30p

Tuesday, 6/10 - Summer Luau - 11:00a

Tuesday, 7/1 - Patriotic BBQ Luncheon - 11:00a

Thursday, 9/4 - Ice Cream Social - 12:30p

Thursday, 10/23 - Pumpkin Carving - 12:30p

**Weekly transportation available!**

## VOLUNTEER!

Need volunteer hours or just looking to give back to our community? Check out Parks & Recreation's exciting volunteer opportunities online at [middletownnj.org/volunteer](http://middletownnj.org/volunteer). Volunteers must be 12 years or older.



SAVE  
THE DATE

## MIDDLETOWN DAY

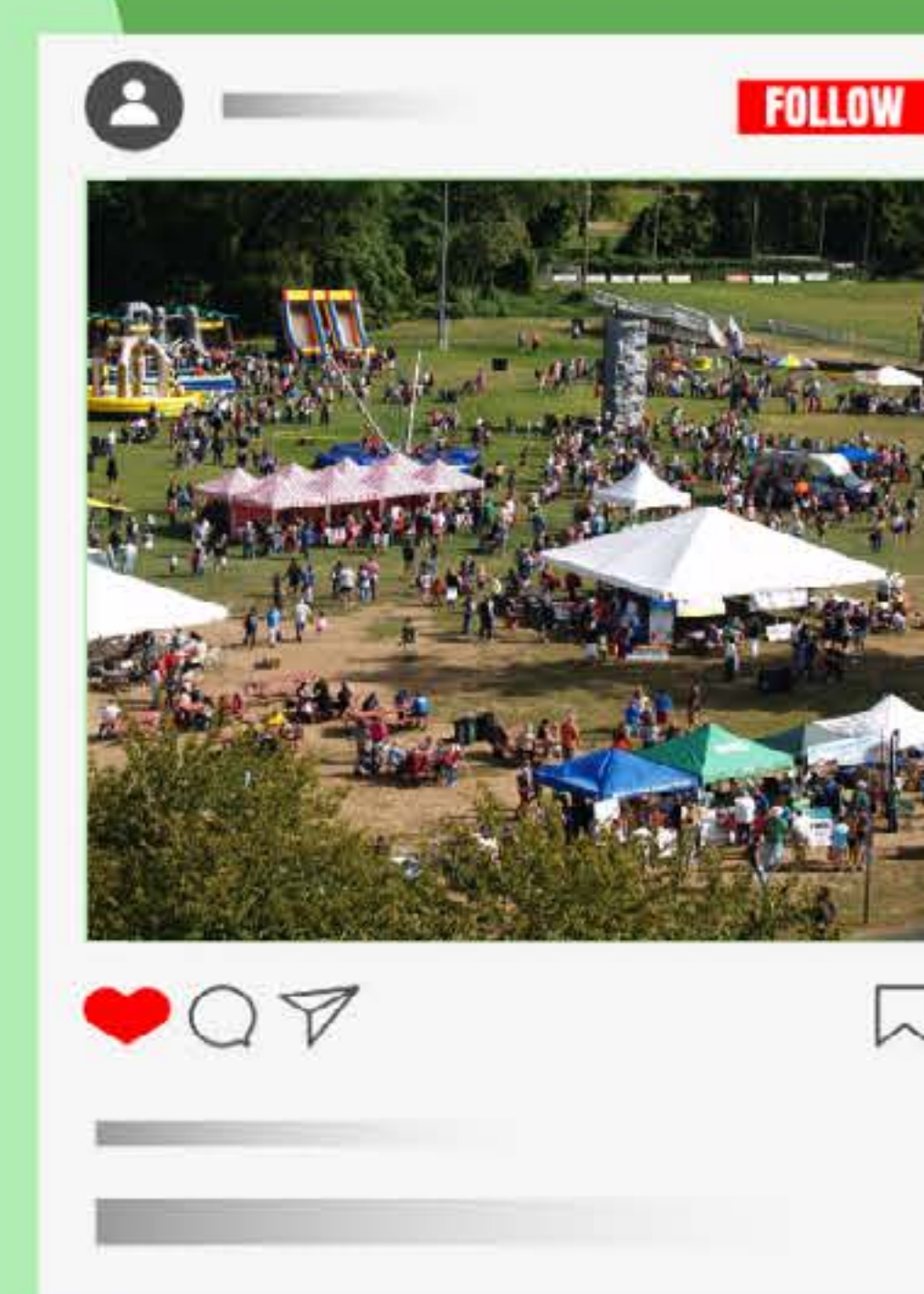
Sunday, 10/19

The 2025 festival returns to Croydon Hall with FIREWORKS this year and the traditional Business & Community Showcase, first responder touch-a-trucks, live music, children's activities, food court, craft vendors, and more! Exhibitor and sponsor information can be found at [middletownnj.org/middletownday](http://middletownnj.org/middletownday).

## MAYOR'S CHALLENGE 5K

Saturday, 10/25

Join Parks & Recreation for a trail run through the woods of Poricy Park! Choose between the 1 mile fun run, 5K walk, or 5K run. Early bird pricing registration: [middletownnj.org/5k](http://middletownnj.org/5k).



## FOLLOW PARKS & RECREATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@middletownrec



@middletownrecnj





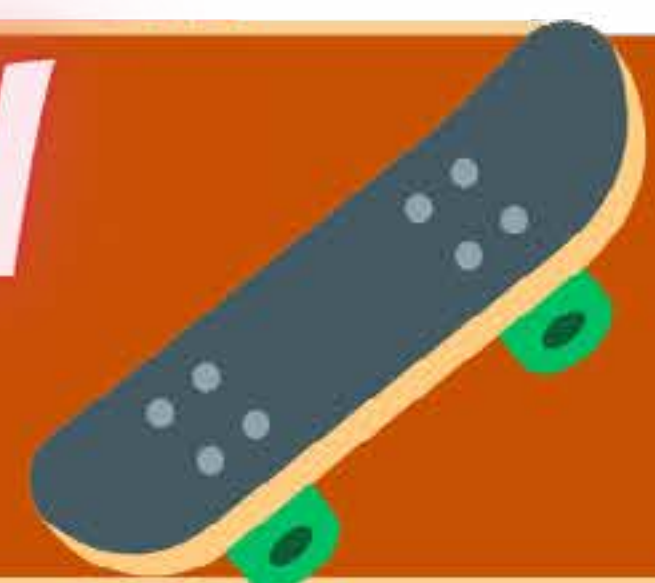
**MIDDLETOWN**  
*Parks & Recreation*



345 Oak Hill Road • 732-615-2260 • [recreation@middletownnj.org](mailto:recreation@middletownnj.org)



## ADULT & YOUTH PROGRAMS



Join Parks & Recreation for weekly youth, teen & adult program offerings. Register for the full session or pay weekly. Discount given to those who register for the full session. Find offerings based on seasons at [mtownrec.recdesk.com](http://mtownrec.recdesk.com). \*Denotes weekly drop-in available; pay at drop-in.

Adult Yoga*	Teen Volleyball*
Adult Volleyball*	Teen Basketball*
Adult Beach Volleyball*	Youth Basketball*
Adult Basketball*	Youth Dodgeball*
Youth Skateboarding	Youth Run Club

Looking to join a sports league? Visit [middletownnj.org/leagues](http://middletownnj.org/leagues).

## SUMMER CAMPS 2025

Traditional and Science Camps run weekly from Monday, 6/30 - Friday, 8/8 for kids in grades PreK-9. Check out Parks & Recreation's specialty camp offerings! Pricing, themes, and availability: [middletownnj.org/camp](http://middletownnj.org/camp)



## Middletown Preschool

Join in on the fun and love for learning in Middletown Preschool's small teacher-to-student ratios. Its certified Early Elementary Education teachers have 20+ years of combined classroom management.

Call Middletown Preschool at 732-615-3230.  
[middletownnj.org/preschool](http://middletownnj.org/preschool)



**2025-2026  
SCHOOL YEAR  
REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**

**PREK3 (3 YR) & PREK4 (4 YR)**

**FULL DAYS & HALF DAYS  
9AM-3PM 9AM-12PM**

## PORICY PARK PROGRAMS

Pre-registration is required for all paid programs at [middletownnj.org/signup](http://middletownnj.org/signup).



### Guided Fossil Hunts at the Fossil Beds

Great for all ages | \$5.00 per participant

Sunday, 4/27 | 11a-12p  
Sunday, 5/25 | 11a-12p  
Sunday, 6/29 | 11a-12p  
Tuesday, 7/8 | 2-3p  
Tuesday, 7/22 | 2-3p

Sunday, 7/27 | 11a-12p  
Tuesday, 8/5 | 2-3p  
Tuesday, 8/19 | 2-3p  
Sunday, 8/24 | 11a-12p  
Sunday, 9/28 | 11a-12p

Drop in Monday-Friday 9a-4p at the Nature Center to rent your fossil hunting kit for a DIY experience. \$5.00 rental includes equipment and field guide.

### Open Colonial Farmhouse Weekend

Part of "Weekend in Old Monmouth," visit this example of a middle class, Colonial-era farmhouse and barn. Staff will provide short tours. Free for all.

Saturday, 5/3 | 10a-5p & Sunday, 5/4 | 12-5p



### Pond Netting at the Murray Pond

Grades PreK-6 | \$5.00 per participant

Tuesday, 7/15 | 2-3p  
Tuesday, 7/29 | 2-3p

Tuesday, 8/12 | 2-3p  
Tuesday, 8/26 | 2-3p



### After-School Science Club

Grades K-2 | Award-Winning Program!

There's STEM activities to do, nature to explore, and fun to be had! Spring: 4/28 - 6/9 (off 5/26), \$90.00 | Fall: 9/15 - 10/27 (off 10/13), \$90.00



### SCOUT PROGRAMS & BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Poricy has unique outdoor adventures! Choose between themed science and nature parties for children ages 4-10. More information: [middletownnj.org/birthday](http://middletownnj.org/birthday). Whether you're a Brownie or a Bear (or any other level), Poricy has a badge-specific program for you! Visit [middletownnj.org/scouts](http://middletownnj.org/scouts) for bookings.



**NEW!**

## RECDESK REGISTRATION PORTAL

Parks & Recreation is using RecDesk for program and event registration. Create a new account, add all household members, and register today at [mtownrec.recdesk.com](http://mtownrec.recdesk.com). You can also scan the QR code.

Need assistance? Please call 732-615-2260 or email [recreation@middletownnj.org](mailto:recreation@middletownnj.org).



*Design credit: Sarah Finnerty (Middletown Parks & Recreation)*





## WAS YOUR TRASH, RECYCLING, OR BULK NOT COLLECTED? LET DPW KNOW!

Please complete an online form at [middletownnj.org/missedpickup](http://middletownnj.org/missedpickup).

### QUESTIONS?

Please call DPW at 732-615-2090.

**THANK YOU!**



## DOWNLOAD



## FOR :



- Bulk Registration Tool
- Emergency Collection Notifications
- Personalized Collection Calendars
- 'What Goes Where' Look-up Tool



VISIT [MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/RECYCLECOACH](http://MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/RECYCLECOACH) FOR MORE INFO.

## PORT MONMOUTH FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT UPDATE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' flood control project continues along Comptons Creek in Port Monmouth. The newly elevated Port Monmouth Road is open to traffic and a levee was recently constructed from the bay beach to a new stormwater pumping station on Main Street. A floodwall from the pumping station to Broadway will be finished by June and the new pumps will be fully operational later this year.



The construction of a new concrete floodwall continues along Main Street in Port Monmouth.

The final phase of the project, an additional levee/floodwall barrier from Broadway to Route 36 and road closure gates at Campbell Avenue and Broadway, is just starting with an expected completion by 2028. Noise and vibrations that invariably occur during a project of this magnitude are being addressed. Vibration monitors have been set up and the contractor is reaching out to residents living near the work areas to arrange home inspections as needed.

Previous phases of the project are already defending residents against significant flooding and property damage. These completed elements consist of a floodwall along Port Monmouth Road, a road closure gate at Old Port Monmouth Road, and a pumping station and floodgate in Pews Creek. The entire Port Monmouth Flood Control Project is expected to be completed by 2028.



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING  
52 KANES LANE  
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## SPRING 2025 BRUSH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

\*COLLECTION START DATES ARE APPROXIMATE AND WEATHER-DEPENDENT.

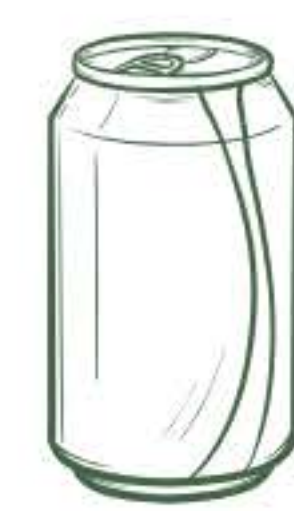
COLLECTION ZONE TO FIND YOUR BRUSH COLLECTION ZONE, VISIT <a href="http://WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/ZONEMAP">WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/ZONEMAP</a> .	START DATE PLEASE HAVE YOUR BRUSH AT THE CURB BY THIS DATE.	COLLECTION RANGE BRUSH MAY BE COLLECTED AT ANY POINT DURING THIS DATE RANGE. DO NOT PLACE BRUSH OUT AT THE CURB AFTER YOUR START DATE.
A,B,C,D	APRIL 1	APRIL 1-APRIL 6
E,G	APRIL 7	APRIL 7-APRIL 20
I,F,J,K	APRIL 21	APRIL 21-MAY 4
H,L	MAY 5	MAY 5-MAY 19

RESIDENTS MAY BRING BRUSH AND LEAVES TO THE MIDDLETOWN RECYCLING CENTER (52 KANES LANE) FREE OF CHARGE.  
BRUSH IS ACCEPTED YEAR-ROUND AND LEAVES CAN BE DROPPED OFF BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>.  
BRUSH AND LEAF DROPOFF BY LANDSCAPERS IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED.

VISIT [WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/COLLECTION](http://WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/COLLECTION) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## RECYCLE: STRIVE FOR FIVE CURBSIDE

### CANS



Aluminum,  
Tin, and  
Steel Cans  
(Empty  
and Rinse)

### GLASS



Bottles and  
Jars (Empty  
and Rinse)

### PAPER



Newspapers,  
Magazines,  
and Mail

### PLASTIC



Bottles and  
Containers  
(Empty and  
Rinse Numbers  
1, 2, 5)

### CARDBOARD



Cardboard,  
Cereal Boxes,  
and Paper Tubes  
(Flatten Boxes)

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- ✗ Recyclables in Plastic Bags
- ✗ Tanglers, Cords, Hoses, or Chains
- ✗ Yard Waste
- ✗ Plastic Bags\* or Plastic Wrap
- ✗ Food or Liquid (Empty All Containers)

\*Plastic bags are accepted at the Middletown Recycling Center.

For any questions about what is and isn't accepted, please visit [middletownnj.org/recycling](http://middletownnj.org/recycling) or download the Recycle Coach app. You can also call DPW at 732-615-2090.

## UPCOMING & COMPLETED



## PAVEMENT PROJECTS



Please visit [middletownnj.org/roads](http://middletownnj.org/roads) to see a complete list of road pavement projects in Middletown Township.