

# Middletown Minutes

Official Township E-Newsletter



## Former Mayor and Committeeman Gerry Scharfenberger Sworn in as Monmouth County Freeholder

Committeeman Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D., was elected and sworn in as a Monmouth County Freeholder on Saturday, February 3rd by Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon.

Freeholder Scharfenberger served thirteen years on the Township Committee, including six terms as Mayor and two terms as Deputy Mayor. He has also been a member of the Landmarks Commission, the Middletown Township Open Space Committee, the Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Monmouth County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

"Although we will miss him on the Committee, all of his years of dedicated service will be his legacy," said Mayor Steph Murray. "Gerry contributed so much to our Township, and we know that he will continue to do great things for Monmouth County."

We wish Freeholder Scharfenberger much success in his new role!



**Pictured from Left: Deputy Mayor Kevin Settembrino, Mayor Steph Murray, Freeholder Gerry Scharfenberger, Committeeman Tony Fiore, and Committeeman Tony Perry**

## Hayley Beekman Sworn in as First Female Fire Captain in Middletown's History

The Middletown Township Fire Department, Township Committee, and community supporters came together on Sunday, February 4th at the Port Monmouth Fire Company, Station 6 to swear in the 2018 Line Officers. Among those being sworn in was Hayley Beekman, the first female Fire Captain in the town's history. Mayor Murray administered the Oath of Office and congratulated Captain Beekman on this accomplishment with a certificate commemorating this historic occasion. As Mayor Murray stated, Captain Beekman will serve as a role model, "especially for young women in our community and beyond." We thank and congratulate all of our volunteers for their service!



**Mayor Steph Murray swears in the 2018 Line Officers at Port Monmouth Fire Company, Station 6 on Sunday, February 4th. Pictured from left: John Sanders, Lt. Rob Svenson, Lt. Matt Topoleski, Hayley Beekman, Bill Bennett, and Former Chief Bill Gilmartin.**



**Mayor Steph Murray 'pins' first female Fire Captain Hayley Beekman.**

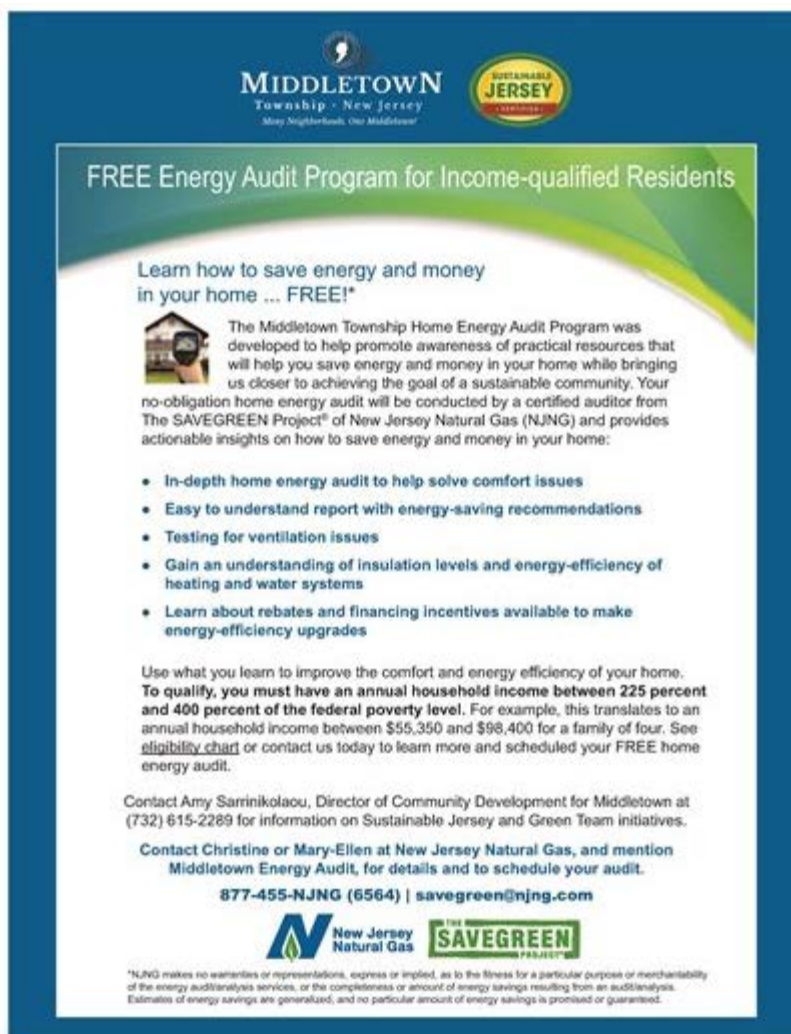


**The Township Committee, the 2018 Middletown Fire Chiefs, and Captain Hayley Beekman at Sunday's swearing in ceremony. From left: Deputy Mayor Kevin Settembrino, Committeeman Tony Fiore, Second Assistant Chief John Friedmann, First Assistant Chief Russ Mount III, Deputy Chief Steve Schweizer, Fire Chief Ryan Clarke, Captain Hayley Beekman, Mayor Steph Murray, Freeholder Gerry Scharfenberger, and Committeeman Tony Perry.**

## **Middletown Township and New Jersey Natural Gas to Provide Free Energy Audits to Income-Qualified Residents**

This week, Middletown Township and New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) announced a pilot program to provide free energy audits to income-eligible residents. The program is designed to help qualified NJNG customers in Middletown identify energy-efficiency opportunities to help lower their energy bills.

Click [HERE](#) to read the press release.




**MIDDLETOWN**  
Township · New Jersey  
Many Neighborhoods. One Middletown.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**  
PROJECT

### FREE Energy Audit Program for Income-qualified Residents

Learn how to save energy and money in your home ... FREE!\*

 The Middletown Township Home Energy Audit Program was developed to help promote awareness of practical resources that will help you save energy and money in your home while bringing us closer to achieving the goal of a sustainable community. Your no-obligation home energy audit will be conducted by a certified auditor from The SAVEGREEN Project™ of New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) and provides actionable insights on how to save energy and money in your home:



- In-depth home energy audit to help solve comfort issues
- Easy to understand report with energy-saving recommendations
- Testing for ventilation issues
- Gain an understanding of insulation levels and energy-efficiency of heating and water systems
- Learn about rebates and financing incentives available to make energy-efficiency upgrades

Use what you learn to improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home. **To qualify, you must have an annual household income between 225 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level.** For example, this translates to an annual household income between \$55,350 and \$98,400 for a family of four. See [eligibility chart](#) or contact us today to learn more and schedule your FREE home energy audit.

Contact Amy Sarrinikolaou, Director of Community Development for Middletown at (732) 615-2289 for information on Sustainable Jersey and Green Team initiatives.

Contact Christine or Mary-Ellen at New Jersey Natural Gas, and mention Middletown Energy Audit, for details and to schedule your audit.

877-455-NJNG (6564) | [savegreen@njng.com](mailto:savegreen@njng.com)

\*NJNG makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, as to the fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability of the energy audit/analysis services, or the completeness or amount of energy savings resulting from an audit/analysis. Estimates of energy savings are generalized, and no particular amount of energy savings is promised or guaranteed.

[Click the picture to learn more or to fill out an application!](#)



[Click the picture to watch the latest Minute with the Mayor on Youtube!](#)

## Check out our latest "Minute with the Mayor" Segment!

Watch the latest "Minute with the Mayor" video segment with Mayor Steph Murray, which highlights local happenings and events in Middletown Township. In this edition, Mayor Murray talks about the two Life Saving Awards that were recently given to members of Middletown's Police and Fire Departments at the

Township Committee Meeting on January 23rd.

The program is available on our Municipal TV station (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) as well as on our [Youtube Channel](#).

## Mayor Steph Murray attends Mayor's Cup on Tuesday, February 6th

Mayor Steph Murray and Committeeman Tony Perry attended the Mayor's Cup on Tuesday, February 6th at Middletown Ice World. High School North battled High School South Ice Hockey in what ultimately ended in a 4-4 tie. Great job to both teams!



Mayor Steph Murray drops the puck to start the game!

A graphic with a background of the American flag. The text reads: "\$3,000 Income Tax Exemption Available for Veterans". Below this, it says "Click [HERE](#) to view the qualifications/fill out an application". At the bottom, it says "Thank you for your service!".

**\$3,000 Income Tax Exemption Available**  
**for Veterans**

Click [HERE](#) to view the qualifications/fill out an application

Thank you for your service!

[VETERANS TAX BREAK: You are eligible for a \\$3,000 exemption on your 2017 Income Tax return if you are a military veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States on or any time before the last day of the tax year. Click the picture to view the qualifications/fill out an application.](#)



Committeemen Tony Perry and Tony Fiore, along with Freeholder Gerry Scharfenberger, attended the Middletown Lions Club Annual Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 4th.

## Middletown Lions Club Holds Annual Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Committeemen Tony Perry and Tony Fiore, and Freeholder Gerry Scharfenberger attended the Middletown Lions Club's annual Super Bowl Sunday Pancake Breakfast on February 4th. The [Middletown Lions Club](#) sponsors many wonderful programs including thousands of vision screenings across Monmouth County.

## South Zone One-Time Collection of Old Garbage and Recycling Cans



## Begins Monday, 2/12

*Excludes Carts Belonging to Private Haulers  
(Franklin, Midco, M&S, Republic, Solterra, etc.)*

Middletown Public Works will begin a **one-time only collection** of old plastic garbage and recycling cans in the South Zone on **Monday, February 12th**.

Place your old cans **upside down at the curb**, stacked if possible, **on Sunday night (February 11th)**. **Cans must be empty**. Cans with trash or recycling inside will not be collected. Cans will be collected throughout the week. Please leave them curbside until they are collected.

Old cans can also be brought to the Middletown Recycling Center (52 Kanans Lane) Thursdays through Mondays from 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

### Private Haulers' Carts

Private haulers are currently collecting their garbage cans. If your garbage cart has not been picked up yet, please remove it from the curb and place it in a clearly visible location on your property. **The Township is not able to recycle carts from private haulers since they are deemed private property**. Please contact your private hauler if you have additional questions regarding cart retrieval.

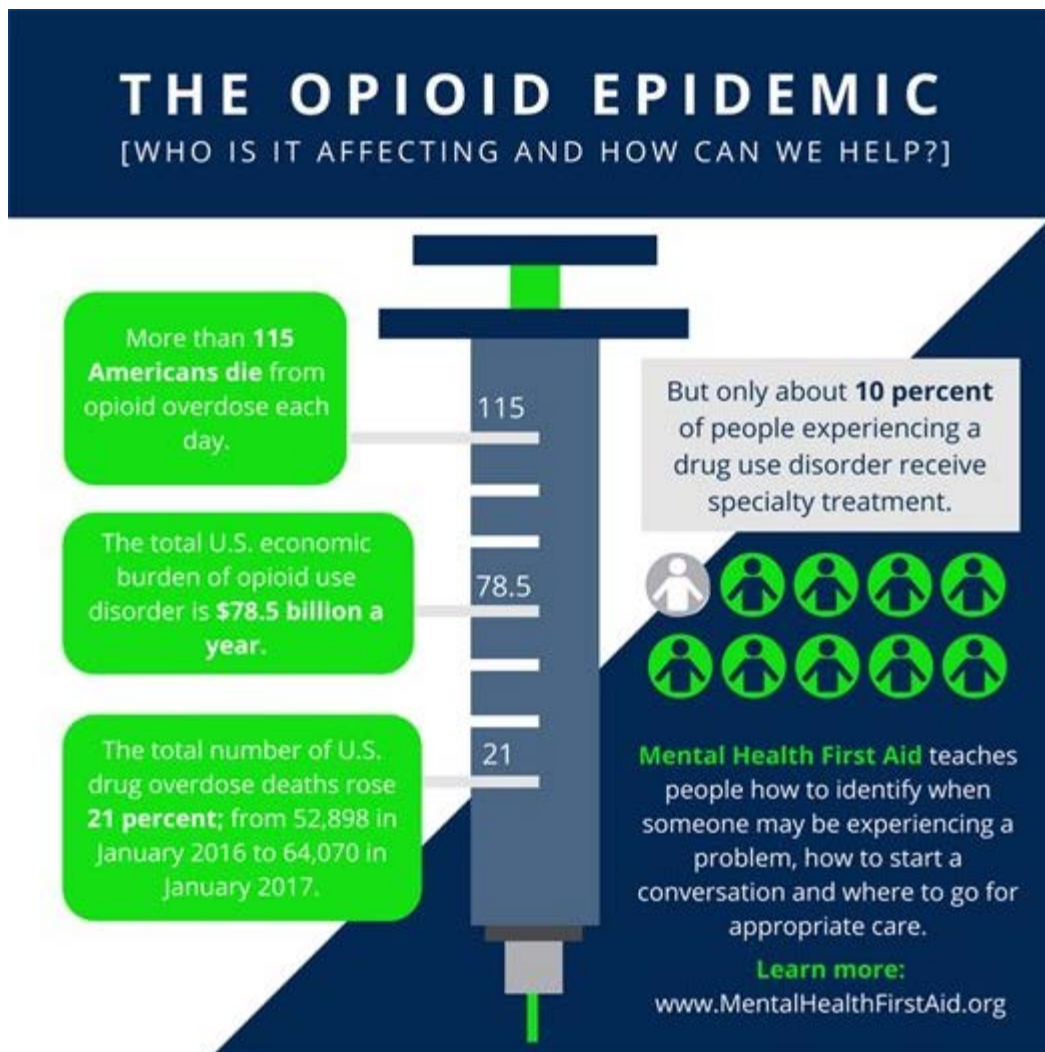
If you have any questions regarding the one-time collection, please call the Garbage & Recycling hotline at **732-615-3233** or email [recycling@middletownnj.org](mailto:recycling@middletownnj.org).

## Middletown Health Department Asks Residents to #BeTheDifference in February

The Middletown Township Health Department and Mental Health First Aid are asking residents around New Jersey to **#BeTheDifference** this February by taking steps to prevent opioid addiction. Tackling this tough issue begins with understanding the problem. By familiarizing yourself with the information below and spreading it to others, we can begin to understand the gravity of this issue and help prevent it.

If you have a friend or family member who you suspect may be abusing drugs and would like to contact a counselor or schedule a substance abuse evaluation, please reach out to [Crossroads](#) at 732-615-2277. You can also visit their website by clicking [HERE](#).

To watch the Township's video on the effects of drug and alcohol addiction, click [HERE](#).



Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Seasonal Influenza from the New Jersey Department of Health.



Share this Widget



**Middletown Township Public Library Presents: Mardi Gras Concert**  
**Date: Monday, February 12th**  
**Time: 7:00AM- 8:00PM**



**Middletown Recreation Presents: Community Science at Poricy Park**  
**Date: Saturday, February 17th**  
**Time: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**  
**Location: Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road)**  
**Cost: \$3.00 per child**  
[Click the picture for more information!](#)



**The Middletown Arts Center Seeks Sponsors and Donors for Upcoming Events!**  
 Please help support the mission of the Middletown Arts Center as it moves into the next decade. [Sponsorship is needed for upcoming community events such as the 2018 Free Summer Concert Series and the Achievement in the Arts Scholarship Program.](#)

**Location: MTPL  
Community Room (55 New  
Monmouth Road)**


[Click the image for more info!](#)


[Donations of merchandise are also needed for upcoming fundraising events including Bingo night. You can donate online, in person, or by calling the office at 732-706-4100. Please support the ARTS in our community!](#)


**Stay up-to-date on the latest news and events from  
Middletown Town Hall...  
Click the picture to go to the page and follow/ subscribe!**



**Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast  
Cable Channel 20**

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