

Many
Neighborhoods.
One
Middletown!



MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

Property Tax Update Municipal Tax Levy To Decrease

SPRING 2017

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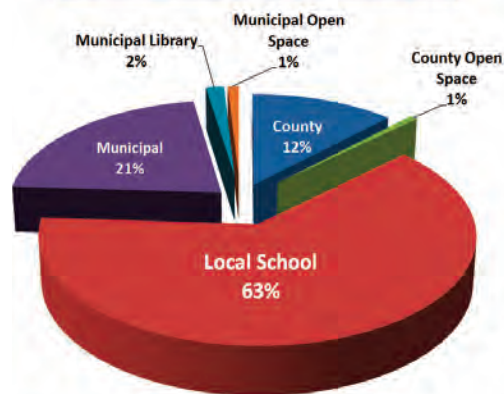
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Where Your Tax Dollars Go



The Township Committee's consistent commitment to keep a tight rein on spending has created a stable tax rate that continues to trend downward.

This year the municipal tax levy is slated to decrease by \$161,459 creating a slight tax decrease for the average homeowner.

"We've taken a fine tooth comb to this

budget in order to develop a spending plan that reduces costs without sacrificing core essential services," said Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D. "We consistently seek ways to further minimize costs, maximize revenues and stretch a dollar."

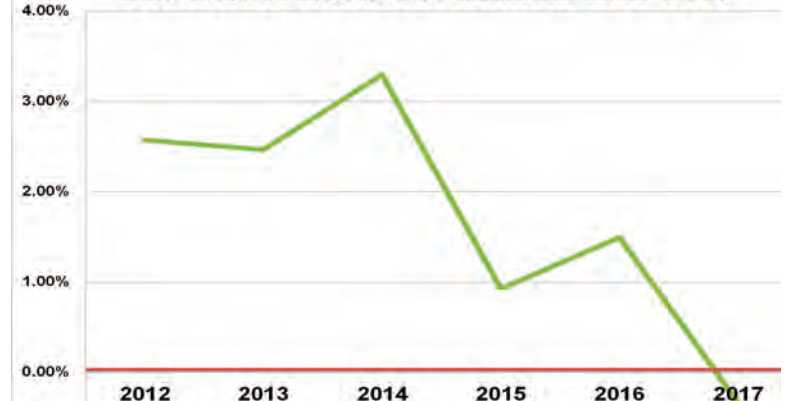
The municipal tax levy is the amount that needs to be raised by taxation to continue providing more than 21 municipal services. These include police, fire, snow removal, leaf and brush collection, road repairs and maintenance, animal control, and all other township services, while supporting over 40 parks and recreation facilities.

The amount of taxes to be collected from each property is dependent upon the tax rate and a property's assessed value. Assessed value is the value assigned by the municipality for the purpose of levying taxes.

Historically for every dollar paid in property taxes, approximately 63 percent is sent to the school district, 13 percent is sent to Monmouth County, and 21 percent stays here in Middletown to cover the cost of municipal operations. Another two percent goes to the municipal library and one percent to the open space fund.

Visit middletownnj.org/budget for more information.

The Cost of Local Government 2012-2017



CONGRATULATIONS

THE MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER AND SPUR (SPECIAL PEOPLE UNITED TO RIDE) RECEIVED SPINNAKER AWARDS FROM THE EASTERN MONMOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THIS YEAR. FROM LEFT ARE MAYOR GERRY SCHARFENBERGER, MAC DIRECTOR MAGGIE O'BRIEN AND JACKIE WEST AND LAURIE KELLY FROM SPUR DURING A PRESENTATION CONGRATULATING THE ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR WELL-DESERVED AWARDS.

Crime Decreases Seven Years In A Row

Crime has dropped for the seventh consecutive year in Middletown. Index crimes are down 13 percent over last year and 48 percent compared to 2010.

"It's no accident Middletown's crime rate continues to trend downward," said Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D. "Our officers work

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Tax Collector's Message

2014 Homestead Benefit Credits have been applied to the May 2017 tax quarter. Adjusted Homestead Benefit bills were mailed March 21, 2017. Homeowners should pay the reduced amount that is reflected for the May tax quarter. May quarter taxes are due May 1st. Questions regarding the Homestead Benefit Credit should be directed to the State at (888) 238-1233 weekdays between 8:30am and 5:30m. Visit state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninfo.shtml

2017 Final/2018 Preliminary Tax Bills will be mailed mid-July 2017.



2017 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

GERARD P. SCHARFENBERGER, Ph.D., MAYOR
732-615-2024

STEPHANIE C. MURRAY, DEPUTY MAYOR
732-615-2024

ANTHONY P. FIORE, COMMITTEEMAN
732-615-2015

STEPHEN G. MASSELL, COMMITTEEMAN
732-615-2015

KEVIN M. SETTEMBRINO, COMMITTEEMAN
732-615-2015

ANTHONY MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP,
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

HEIDI R. BRUNT, RMC, CMC, TOWNSHIP CLERK

SEND COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS TO:
PUBLICINFO@MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG

OR MIDDLETOWN MATTERS,

TOWN HALL, 1 KINGS HIGHWAY, MIDDLETOWN, NJ
07748

CINDY A. HERRSCHAFT, EDITOR
GRAPHICOLOR, PRINTER

Crime Decreases Seven Years In A Row CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

hard to maintain a strong, positive relationship with the community. Our crime rate continues to be one of the lowest in the nation thanks to their dedication to keeping the community safe."

The Middletown Police Department reports there were 453 index crimes in 2016 which equates to an index crime rate of 6.81 per 1,000 people. In 2015 there were 522 index crimes with a rate of 7.85. In 2010 there were 873 index crimes and the rate was 13.23.

"Our goal is to keep Middletown as safe as possible. We have a very dedicated and professional force and I'm proud of the department and what we have been able to accomplish," said Police Chief Craig Weber.

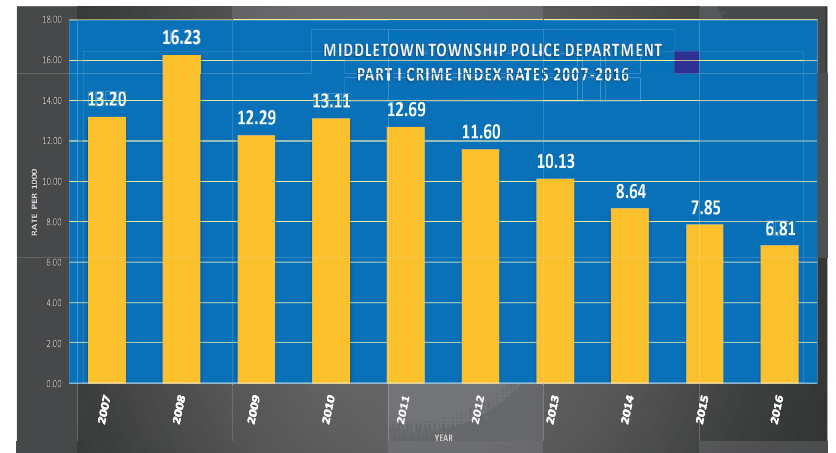


Cpl. Janine Kennedy visits with 3-year-old Middletown resident Patrick Gardner.

"We also enjoy a very good relationship with the community which contributes to our success."

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault – have decreased 63 percent from 42 in 2010 to 16 in 2016. Burglary has declined 59 percent from 151 in 2010 to 62 in 2016; larceny is down 45 percent from 656 in 2010 to 364 in 2016; auto theft declined by 57 percent from 23 in 2010 to 10 in 2016.

Chief Weber attributes the downward trend to a community oriented approach to



policing coupled with proactive policing strategies that target crime. Community programs include bicycle patrols, child safety seat installations, police youth week camps, Project Plus, Rude Awakening, and the Law Enforcement Against Drugs program which utilizes *The Too Good for Drugs* curriculum in the township's elementary schools. In addition, the department focuses resources on preventing and solving crimes, including a designated anti-crime unit to address and respond more quickly to illegal activity.

The department also makes training a priority. This year the agency has been recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for being one of only 36 agencies nationwide to complete the Missing Kids Readiness Project. NCMEC developed the program to promote best practices for responding to calls of missing, abducted and sexually exploited children. The distinction comes on the heels of Middletown being named one of the five safest places in America to raise a child last year.

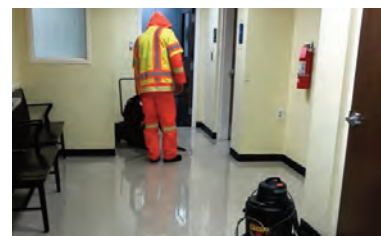
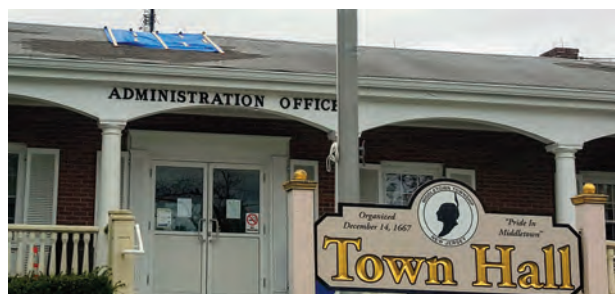


LEADERS OF TOMORROW – Project PLUS is a free after-school leadership program offered to 5th grade students by the Middletown Municipal Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse. Shown here are fifth graders from Village Elementary School with Principal Karen Zupancic, Police Chief Craig Weber, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Olympian Thomas Wilkens and Health Director Richard DeBenedetto during a recent program graduation. Thousands of students have graduated from the program since its inception in 2001.



Why A New Town Hall Makes Good Sense

One of the most important capital projects that the Middletown Township Committee will undertake is the construction of a new town hall. This decision was the culmination of years of research, discussion and fiscal analysis. Since the importance of this project cannot be overstated, I will devote this column to providing information on every aspect of the new town hall and the many factors that went into the decision to move forward at this time.



Routine flooding in the lower level and frequent roof leaks plague our current administrative offices.

The present town hall, built in 1961, has been a maintenance nightmare for more than ten years. Some of the problems with the building of which several are recurring repair issues include: frequent roof leaks due in large part to a poorly built cupola, routine flooding in the lower levels of the building where the Detectives, Police Records and Traffic Divisions are situated, and antiquated HVAC systems. These have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in repair costs over the years, with future costs expected to increase exponentially. We also must pay for off-site storage to meet mandatory records retention requirements.

Another factor is the obsolescence of the building design and the internal features of the various departments. For example, the accommodations for female police officers are barely adequate in the present building. When it was first built, there were no female police officers on the Middletown police force. Today, we have 10 and that number will very likely increase in the future. They are entitled to a quality facility, equivalent to what the male officers have, and the new town hall will satisfy all of the requirements for them and all of our employees.

Further, State and Federal mandates continue to burden the township as we struggle to retrofit an obsolete building with technology and standards that are required of us by law, but are difficult to comply with in the present structure. The cost to update an older building into compliance thus becomes prohibitively high and almost impossible to engineer. For example, Town Hall was built long before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Then there's the directive from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) which orders all courts to install and staff metal detectors and other costly safety measures, including bulletproof walls in certain locations. Such building modifications are often not feasible due to extreme cost and design limitations.

One of the most immediate benefits of a new town hall will be the consolidation of departments and services into one building. Currently, departments such as Health, Animal Licensing, Social Services, and Recreation are located miles from the administration building located on Kings Highway. As a result, residents now have to make multiple stops in various locations to tend to business they have with the township. Consolidation would allow the township to sell or lease surplus properties, which will be used to pay for the new town hall and possibly even generate revenue. We will also realize savings by having adequate space to store all required records onsite.

When it became evident that repairs and upgrades to bring

the current building up to modern day standards would not be financially prudent, the township committee began examining all possible options. The first thing we did was to look around for other existing facilities to see if there was one suitable for the needs of a town hall complex. An exhaustive search showed no vacant properties of the requisite size or design that would be within the financial limits we had set for the project. As such it was decided to construct the new town hall within the boundaries of the existing property along Kings Highway. The proposed location would be in the northern parking lot just south and west of the Johnson Gill building.

The timetable for the project has been developing for several years. We have wisely prepared for this well in advance by setting aside funds in our capital budget, and exploring creative financing that will minimize the impact to the budget, while cutting the outlay of money needed to try and maintain the current building.

In summary, maintaining the status quo of constantly repairing and upgrading the current town hall building will cost way more in the long run than building an energy efficient, compliant building in the near future. Moreover, the relocation of all township departments and services to one complex will increase efficiency and convenience markedly. The savings on repairs and costly upgrades will also offset the cost of the new facility. Most importantly, the sound, well-thought out plan for financing has ensured a seamless transition with minimal impact to the budget. This is further evidenced by the fact that the municipal budget for 2017 actually included a slight tax decrease. Upon completion, the township will have accomplished an end to paying for growing repairs and repeated upgrades, consolidated services into one location, generated revenue through leasing or selling surplus properties and eliminated many other ongoing costs.



MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D. generally holds open office hours the first and third Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to noon at Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway. Visitors are seen on a first-come basis. Mayor Scharfenberger is also available by appointment. Please call 732-615-2024 for more information.



Shown left is an artist's rendering of the proposed town hall. The new building as currently designed would be just under 60,000 square feet. It would replace the current 26,000-square-foot administrative building and 12,000-square-foot Johnson Gill Annex. Another 13,000 square feet worth of office space at Penelope Lane and the Bayshore Annex in Port Monmouth would be vacated as well.



Navesink River Water Quality Investigation

Middletown officials are working with the state and other riverine municipalities as part of the Navesink River Municipalities Committee. The committee is investigating factors that could affect the waterway's quality. Visit middletownnj.org/cleanwater for ways each of us can help improve water quality.

Free Pump Outs for Boaters

The Monmouth County Health Department's pump out boat, the Royal Flush, provides free waste pump out services for recreational boats on the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers during the boating season from mid-May until October. What's more, they are increasing the number of days the boat will be in operation! Visit <https://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?ID=4686> or call 732-431-7456 x3628 for details.

Reduce Non-Point Pollution

Non-point source pollution is a contamination of our ground water, waterways, and ocean that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil and littering. The good news is we can make simple changes to keep our environment clean.

Litter: Place litter, including cigarette butts and fast food containers, in trash receptacles

Fertilizers: Avoid the overuse of fertilizers and do not apply them before a heavy rainfall.

Pesticides: Many household products made to exterminate pests are toxic to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. Follow the label directions carefully. Use alternatives whenever possible.

Household Hazardous Products: Many common household products contain toxic ingredients. Use natural and less toxic alternatives whenever possible.

Motor Oil: Used motor oil contains toxic chemicals that are harmful to animals, humans and fish. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a local public or private recycling center.

Car Washing: 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.

Pet Waste: Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that can contaminate shellfish and cause the closing of bathing beaches. Dispose of wastes in the garbage or toilet.

Septic Systems: An improperly working septic system can contaminate ground water and create public health problems. Inspect your tank annually and pump it out every three to five years depending on its use.

Boat Discharges: Dumping boat sewage overboard introduces bacteria and viruses into the water. It may also be illegal. Boat owners should always use marine sanitation devices and pump-out facilities at marinas. Visit njboating.org.

Please refer to Middletown Township Ordinance Chapter 423 & Chapter 540 for the adopted stormwater/pollution ordinances.



Honor & Respect – A blue line stretches along Kings Highway past Town Hall to Red Hill Road to symbolize the Middletown's continuous support and respect for the township's police officers and all law enforcement. From left are Sheriff Shaun Golden, Committeeman Kevin Settembrino, Committeeman Anthony Fiore, Congressman Chris Smith, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray, Police Officers Nicholas Fenezia and Gregory Buhowski, Sgt. James Prosinski, Police Officer Ricardo Cruz, DFC William Strohkirsch, Sgt. Patricia Colangelo and Police Chief R. Craig Weber.



Dynamic Duo

Two Port Monmouth Fire Company firefighters were both given a "Key to the Township" in appreciation of their 50 years of dedicated service. From left are Committeemen Kevin Settembrino and Anthony Fiore, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Charles W. Rogers III, Arthur N. Mallett and Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray during the presentation. Rogers is a former fire chief and the township's emergency management coordinator. Mallett is fondly remembered as the "company's administrative backbone." He served in many capacities including that of secretary for more than 30 years.

IDEAL BEACH IMPROVEMENTS

The township is moving forward with the first phase of improvements along Ideal Beach this year. The project includes the installation of stairs at the Hudson Avenue entrance, an eight-foot wide ramp complete with a plaza and benches that crosses over the top of the dune, and the planting of 11,400 native species of dune grass. In addition, the parking lot will be refurbished with new pavement, light fixtures and a new sidewalk along the Bray Avenue side of the lot. The project is funded with a grant from Monmouth County and federal community block grant monies.





Distinguished Citizen Award

The Middletown Township Committee has bestowed the Distinguished Citizen Award to Catherine Rogers for her exemplary service to the community. She has volunteered her time to serve on many boards including the Bayshore Village Senior Citizens Housing Corporation and the Local Assistance Board. She's also the township's shelter coordinator and a member of the Port Monmouth Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. From left are Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray, Catherine Rogers and Committeemen Stephen Massell and Kevin Settembrino.

Township Briefs

EMS Volunteers Wanted

Are you interested in helping people in times of need? The five volunteer first aid squads in Middletown would love to hear from you! They provide the training and uniforms; all you need is the desire to want to help. Contact the Emergency Medical Services Department at 732-615-2252, and the appropriate squad (based on where you live) will call you with the details of what is involved in providing EMS to our town.

Get Traffic Advisories On Your Phone

The Police Department issues advisories regarding road work through the Nixle notification system. User can opt to receive messages via text and/or email. Visit middletownnj.org/traffic to view current traffic advisories and register for the free service.

Locals Join Management Team

Recent additions to the township's management team include Management Information Systems Director Joseph Fagliarone and Court Administrator Kate Chieffo. Fagliarone, who lives in Port Monmouth, was previously in charge of the Information Technology Department for Red Bank. Chieffo, also a township resident, previously served as the court administrator for Union Beach.

Rehab Grants Available For Homeowners

If you are a Middletown homeowner, you may be eligible for a home rehabilitation grant/loan of 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.

Route 36 Design Standards

The township is working on a new set of design standards to revitalize the Route 36 corridor. The goal is to create standards that respect the character of the neighborhoods along the corridor and encourage business and property owners to reinvest in the area. The new standards will reflect input gathered during recent community workshops. Once complete, these standards would be considered for adoption by the Township Committee. Funding for this project comes from a Sandy Planning Assistance Grant. Call the Planning Department at 732-615-2098 for details.

Working For Middletown

Employment with Middletown is governed by the rules and regulations of Civil Service. If Middletown is hiring for a position that is deemed a competitive title, it will be announced through Civil Service at state.nj.us. If the township is looking to fill an entry level, unclassified or non-competitive position, we may post positions on our website at middletownnj.org or review applications and resumes that have been previously submitted within the year. Middletown is an equal opportunity employer.

Port Monmouth Flood Control Becoming A Reality

Drive along Port Monmouth Road and you are sure to see a lot of construction activity from the Seabrook-Wilson House to Pews Creek. Contractors working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are in the early stages of building a floodwall, flood gate and pump station that will ultimately become a part of the full flood protection system shielding Port Monmouth from major storm surges. A combination of levees and floodwalls will run along the perimeter of the area from Pews Creek to the beach dunes and along Comptons Creek at Main Street to Route 36 where it intersects with Wilson Avenue.



Portions of the system will be concrete floodwalls while other segments will be earthen levees like the ones surrounding North Middletown. The next phases will include construction of the earthen levees and road-crossing flood gates on Campbell Avenue, Broadway and old Port Monmouth Road. Two large pump stations will be constructed, one at Pews Creek near the bridge and another along Main Street near Compton's Creek. Other components of this \$110 million effort include the recently completed beach replenishment and fishing pier, creation of new wetlands in Belford, Port Monmouth and North Middletown and roadway elevation for a portion of Port Monmouth Road. This entire system is slated to be completed in 2020.

Contact US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager Dave Gentile at 917-790-8483 for more information. You can also view a fact sheet about the project at www.nan.usace.army.mil/Media/Fact-Sheets/Fact-Sheet-Article-View/Article/487398/fact-sheet-raritan-and-sandy-hook-bay-port-monmouth/

Port Monmouth Drainage Improvements

The township is gearing up to make drainage improvements in the Port Monmouth area thanks to a \$170,000 federal hazard mitigation grant. The project, scheduled for completion by 2018, includes installing an elliptical drainage pipe to provide underground storage of rainwater to eliminate street flooding caused by the combination of tidally induced flooding and heavy rain falls.

Connecting With Historic Middletown



Historic Preservation Award

Middletown's first Historic Preservation Award goes to Elaine Lent, a devoted volunteer dedicated to preserving our community's heritage for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Elaine serves as historian for Old First Church and on the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission. From left are Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray, Elaine Lent and Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger.



The award includes a print of a digitally restored section of a mural of Middletown Village's history. The mural painted by noted Middletown artist Glenore "Gay" Coblenz was located on a wall of the Middletown Public Library when it was located at the former telephone switching station at 78 Kings Highway. Shown here is a section of the mural with Old First Church and other iconic places.

New! Village Historic District Walking Tours

Guided walking tours of Middletown's Historic Village, one of the oldest permanent English settlements in the State. Tours will take place on the second Saturday of the month between May and October 2017 during Middletown's Farmers and Makers Market held at the Middletown Arts Center, 36 Church Street. Tours meet at the market and begin at 10:00am. Wear comfortable shoes. For more information, send an email to townclerk@middletownnj.org. This program is funded in part by the Discover NJ History, License Plate Fund Heritage Tourism Grant.



ONCE UPON A TIME

THE NAVESINK HISTORIC DISTRICT WAS ONCE A 19TH CENTURY VILLAGE. ONE OF THE LARGEST TOWNS IN THE AREA, IT INCLUDED A POST OFFICE, THREE GENERAL STORES, TWO MILLS, A BARBERSHOP, TAVERNS, HOTELS, BLACKSMITHS, A WHEEL WRIGHT, A SHOE

STORE AND A STAGE COACH PROPRIETOR. TODAY IT MAINLY HOUSES PRIVATE RESIDENCES AS WELL AS A FEW CHURCHES, A SCHOOL AND THE TOWNSHIP'S FIRST FIRE COMPANY.



Reining In Clothing Bins

The number of clothing bins seen around town seem to grow almost weekly. They are often eyesores and seem to be a magnet for people just dumping anything they want in them, on them and near them. They are also often placed in parking lots taking up valuable and even mandatory parking spaces. In other cases they are placed in areas intended originally for landscaping. In addition to the aesthetic and safety issues that arise the bins are often "sponsored" by questionable charities. While it is tempting to suggest banning them altogether, the law currently does not permit that. Therefore, in an effort to improve the situation, the Township Committee recently passed a new ordinance intended to better regulate them. Among the key provisions, the ordinance specifies that:

- No more than three bins on any one property.
- None are permitted on vacant lots or properties with unoccupied buildings.
- They cannot be placed on parking spaces or in loading zones or in any way that will interfere with traffic.
- The bins and the area around them must be maintained in good neat order. Graffiti must be removed.

This may not fully solve the eyesore problems that these bins create, but it should go a long way towards improving conditions.

Call Code Enforcement at 732-615-2106 for more information or to report a bin.



Giving Thanks – Representatives from Middletown's volunteer community were invited to Town Hall recently to thank them for their extraordinary service. From left are Volunteer Corps Advisory Chairman Anthony Panzica, Emergency Management Coordinator Charles W. Rogers III, Emergency Medical Services Deputy Chief Kim Kraynock and Chief Floyd Goldstein, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger, Fire Chief Anthony Citarella, Deputy Chief Ryan Clarke, 2nd Assistant Chief Russell Mount and 3rd Assistant Chief John Friedmann.

Switch To County Dispatch A Success

It's been about six months since Middletown transitioned dispatching operations to Monmouth County's state-of-the-art communications center. Callers will see no difference in service due to increased technology and should expect a better response. What's more, the switch continues to be a money-saver because the township is no longer required to spend millions upgrading the local dispatch system to meet ever-changing federal mandates. Shown here are (left) Committeeman Anthony Fiore, Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray and Sheriff Shaun Golden and (right) Monmouth County Undersheriff Robert Dawson and Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger and during recent inspections of the facility.



Practice Makes Perfect

First Aiders practice using the Jaws of Life to extricate victims from a vehicle after a car accident. This drill was held in March at the Lincroft First Aid Squad.



Middletown veteran Marge Kempson waves to the crowd during the annual Veterans Day Parade.

Military Matters

Three more roads have been dedicated to Middletown veterans killed in action. Crane Court has been dedicated to William W. Crane who was killed in World War I. Walling Avenue has been named for Clarence C. Walling who was killed in World War I. Owens Avenue has been dedicated to Calvin Owens who died during World War II.

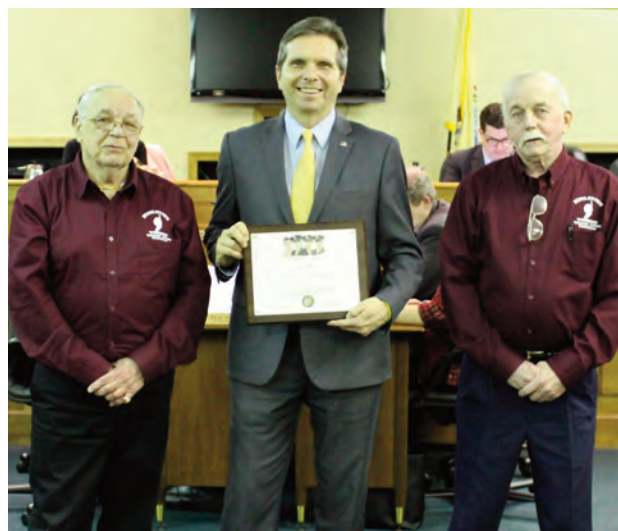
More than 50 signs have been added township-wide to honor Middletown veterans killed in action. Commemorative signs includes the soldier's full name, an American flag, branch of service, campaign served and a gold star representing the gold star mother and family.

Are you a veteran? The township has reserved a parking space for veterans at Town Hall, the Library and Poricy Park. Look for a sign marking the space for veterans like you!

Do you know a Middletown resident actively serving the armed forces? Nominate him or her for the Hometown Heroes tribute wall at Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway. Applications available at Town Hall & middletownnj.org/hero.

The Middletown Library has added a new page to its website that includes interviews with local veterans and other resources. Visit <http://mtpl.org/?q=middletown-veterans>

Legion of Honor – The Four Chaplains Foundation has bestowed the prestigious Legion of Honor Award upon Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger for his ardent support of all things veteran. From left are Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman and Four Chaplains Bronze Medallion Member Dennis Beauregard, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger and Veterans Affairs Committee Vice Chairman and Legion of Honor Award recipient Tom Garretson.



New Businesses

Sloan Kettering and TJ Maxx are among the latest companies to find a home in Middletown thanks to focused efforts to attract new businesses that benefit the community. Sloan Kettering opened in November 2016 on Red Hill Road. TJ Maxx set up shop earlier this year on Route 35 where Pathmark used to be located. Shown here are Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger and Committeeman Stephen Massell at the grand opening of the Sloan Kettering Outpatient Facility.



Congratulations –

The Recreation Department has brought home two awards from the New Jersey Recreation and Park Association this year. The first is an Excellence in Therapeutic & Wellness Programming Award for the Career Specialist and Surrey Bike Project. The project was designed to help campers with special needs decide who they want to be when they grow up. The other is an Agency Showcase Award for Farmers and Makers Market advertising. From left are Recreation Director Janet Dellett, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger and graphic designer Jen Watson.

WHY YOU NEED FLOOD INSURANCE

The truth is you can live miles away from the water and still be a victim of flooding. It doesn't always take a major body of water or even a major storm to cause a flood. Anything from a broken sewer line to a slow moving rainstorm can cause flooding. Bottom line, your home has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

Currently there are about 100 private insurance companies that offer flood insurance backed by the federal government. Policies are available to homeowners, condo owners, renters and business owners.

Many people think they don't need flood insurance because they believe federal assistance will come to their aid. But floods are not always declared a federal disaster. And even when they are, aid is usually in the form of a loan which must be paid back with interest. Flood insurance on the other hand will pay for all covered losses.

Don't count on others to protect your home. Take the initiative to protect your home and business yourself. Visit floodsmart.gov or call your insurance provider for more information.



Read Across America

Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray visited River Plaza Elementary School during Read Across America, a nationwide reading celebration that takes place on Dr. Seuss's birthday in March.

Health Department Message Mosquitoes – Fight The Bite!



Now that spring has sprung, we can count on a few things -- longer, warmer days, spring showers, May flowers, baseball games and, mosquitoes! Now is the time to attack those pesky insects before they start attacking us. We need to focus our attention on controlling the mosquito larvae before they become biting adults. Mosquito bites are more than just an itchy nuisance since many diseases can be spread from these insects.

Everyone needs to pitch in to help break the mosquito breeding cycle. After only 7 days, adult mosquitoes emerge from the larvae that grow in the stagnant water. By eliminating standing water, less effort will need to be placed eliminating them when they become flying adults. We can fight mosquitos with a little elbow grease instead of relying on pesticides.

Take a survey of your property and look for anything that can hold water. Even tiny items that don't allow water to drain away have the potential to allow mosquitoes to lay eggs and allow the larvae to grow. Remove or knock over any containers such as buckets, wheelbarrows, old toys, or planters that don't drain. Backed up gutters and flexible downspouts should be addressed to allow water to completely drain away. Don't forget the old boat/car, unused kiddie pools and bird baths. All pool covers need to be kept drained, and if pools are not being used and properly filtered/sanitized, they should be kept drained or covered.

by Rich DeBenedetto, Health Department Director



JCP&L Reliability Project –

The state Board of Public Utilities has held two public hearing in regards to the proposed JCP&L reliability project. Shown here is Deputy Mayor Stephanie Murray making a township statement at the hearing held at High School North. The township remains opposed to the project and has taken formal legal action to prevent it.



Visit
www.mtpl.org
for details

Join the Middletown Library's Teen & Children's Summer Reading programs

this summer to beat the heat & earn prizes while completing your summer reading assignments!

Online signup and reading log.

Complete challenges to earn additional prizes.

Summer reading program also available for adults.

Let's join forces and together

"Build a Better World" of readers.

PARK RENTALS

Need a facility for a large celebration? Indoor and outdoor township facilities are available for events such as weddings, corporate functions, family reunions and more. For more information call 732-615-2260.

CROYDON HALL SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD NEARS COMPLETION

The new synthetic turf field at Croydon Hall is nearing completion with a grand opening expected later this spring. A project to convert the existing football field into synthetic multi-sport version where football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and other sports can be played began in the fall. The new field will be similar to one constructed at Nut Swamp School in 2013 as part of a shared-services agreement struck between Middletown Township and the Public School District, said Township Administrator Anthony Mercantante.

Once the upgrade is complete, the school district will be able to utilize the new multi-purpose field for other sports such as soccer, and field hockey. The field is also the home field for the Middletown Athletic Club Eagles football program. The township will continue to handle permitting for the field, he said.

The \$1.8 million field upgrade at Croydon Hall will be offset by a \$201,000 Monmouth County Open Space Grant awarded to the township. The project is funded through recreation user fees.



RECREATION FACILITY UPGRADES

Accessibility upgrades and a new entrance have been installed at the Tonya Keller Community Center. Improvements to the bathrooms have also been scheduled.

A new scoreboard, backboards that include safety glass and a new curtain for the stage have been added to the Croydon Hall Gymnasium.

The basketball court is getting an upgrade at Bodman Park. The project will include regrading the area to ensure proper drainage, adding a more durable surface, making accessibility improvements, and repaving of the parking lot.



Stork Awards — A pair of "Stork Awards" were issued by the Township Committee to two police officers who helped resident Kristen Erickson deliver her newborn son in the Comfort Inn parking lot in January. Shown here are the Erickson family with Police Chief R. Craig Weber, Corporal Ryan Riffert, Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger and Patrolman Nicholas Manochio during the presentation.



It's a Celebration!

The Middletown Arts Center is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2017! We are excited to reach this milestone and thank everyone who has helped make it happen. Mark your calendars for our Tenth Anniversary Gala on October 14, 2017 and celebrate with us. You can also get involved in the celebration by becoming a sponsor or a volunteer.

TEEN ARTS COUNCIL FORMING

The Middletown Arts Center is creating a new Teen Arts Council. We are seeking high school students who are interested in the arts to work with the Middletown Township Cultural & Arts Council to create and present arts programming that will engage the youth of our community. Students should have an interest in dance, music, theater, and/or the visual arts and be willing to make a commitment of volunteer hours on a monthly basis to attend meetings and events. Leadership opportunities are available as well as Community Service hours and awards. Students do not need to be Middletown residents. Please send an email to mobrien@middletownnj.org for more information.

Summer Arts Camp

Registration has begun for our popular Summer Arts Camp for children in pre-school to high school with half and full day programs with before and after care available. Join the Doodle Dude, Doodle Dawn, Miss Deena, Miss Maria, Miss Joy, Miss Kathy, Black Rocket and more for creative summer fun. Camp offerings include a theater intensive program culminating in the production of *Madagascar Jr.*, a new set design camp, fine art, robotics, computer animation, video game design, music camps, dance camps, weaving, cooking, a counselor-in-training program and lots more. Camps start in June and run through September 1st. Visit middletownarts.org for the complete brochure.

We're Looking For You!

Do you work in the Arts? Are you associated with an arts business or organization? Do you have a special arts-related talent? We are looking for you! The Middletown Arts Center seeks individuals to get involved at the MAC on a multitude of levels as advisors, volunteers, instructors, and committee members. Come visit us and become a part of this community gem!

NEW! Teachers as Artists and Performers Series

The Middletown Township Cultural & Arts Council is partnering with the Office of the Superintendent of Schools to present an exciting new series that will highlight the many talents of Middletown teachers. The series will begin with an art exhibit featuring the work of Carin Kuzmin and Amy Skibinski, both art teachers at Middletown High School North. The exhibit will run in the MAC Gallery from June 1 through June 24 with a reception on June 9. This will be an ongoing series with more exhibits and performances to come.

VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS WANTED

We are seeking musicians interested in sharing their talents with our community by volunteering at our Farmers Markets. The markets, held on the Arts Center's lawn, will run on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month between May and September and at Middletown Day, September 23. Please contact mobrien@middletownnj.org for more information.

JUST LOOK AT ALL THE FUN WE HAVE COMING UP!

Visit middletownarts.org for more information.

- Nick Jupinka's All Star Chorus Performance – May 17
- Impact Oasis Art Exhibit – Month of May with Reception on May 19
- Sal Catapano's Band Students Concerts – May 21
- Students of Alexis Kozak "Hysteria" Jukebox Musical – May 31
- ARC of Monmouth Art Show and Reception – June 1
- Miss Deena's Dance Recitals – June 3
- Concordia Youth Chorale Performance – June 4
- Danny Rongo's "The Phone Call" – June 16
- Musical Theater Performances – "They Call it GRAVY, We call it SAUCE" June 23-25
- Bill Anania & Friends Singer/Songwriters Showcase – July 9
- First Free Summer Concert – Chailo – July 11
- An Evening with New Jersey's Straight-Talking Medium, Jennifer Davino – July 21
- Legends of Oldies with Sally G – July 22
- Summer Camp Production of *Madagascar Jr.* – July 28 & 29

36 Church Street middletownarts.org
732-706-4100



Spring 2017

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION

Middletown Recreation

345 Oak Hill Road, Middletown
732-615-2260
recreation@middletownnj.org

Seasonal Brochures

The Recreation Department publishes seasonal brochures to showcase the various programs and events offered throughout the year. Pick one up at the Recreation Office or visit www.middletownnj.org/recreation.

Registration

Register for programs and classes online at register.communitypass.net/Middletown. No telephone registrations accepted. Fees listed are for residents. Non-residents may register for a higher fee if space permits.

Tonya Keller Community Center

50 Bray Avenue (732) 615-3250

Just for Toddlers Preschool Registration Underway!

Classes are available for children 18 months thru Pre Kindergarten. During these classes, children will learn valuable skills, such as alphabet and number recognition, counting, coloring, reading stories, arts and crafts, music and much more! The Pre-K program is a structured program that teaches kindergarten readiness skills. The 3 Year Old program is designed to enhance social skills and the Young Toddlers is a parent/child program used to introduce a positive and happy learning environment to children ages 18-35 months. Please call or visit us for more information!

Preschool Playdates!

Preschool Playdates is a program offered for children who are 3 or 4 years of age by October 1st, 2017. The program is from 12:00-2:00pm, Monday-Thursday and runs parallel to the Just For Toddlers preschool schedule. Held at the Tonya Keller Community Center, the program is focused completely on social skills rather than the kindergarten readiness skills that are offered in our Pre-K program. This program does not run throughout the summer.

Youth and Adult Classes

Middletown Recreation offers a variety of classes for kids and adults through the year.

Youth Classes

Karate Sport classes coming soon

Adult Classes Offered

Adult Fitness Cardio Sculpt Circuit Training Group Personal Training Pilates Volleyball Yoga Yoga Stretch

Open Recreation

Open Recreation is an after school program operating at the Tonya Keller Community Center from 3-5p, Monday through Thursday of each week. The Open Recreation Programs gives Middletown children a safe place to spend time, socialize, complete homework and expel energy. The program is offered for children grades 1-5. A monthly schedule can be found online at www.middletownnj.org/tkcc. Registration is free.

Teen Night

Teen Night is a twice monthly program operating at the Tonya Keller Community Center, 5:00-7:00pm, two nights each month. It is offered to adolescents grades 6-12. It provides a place to spend time, relax, socialize and make/eat dinner in a safe environment with peers. Teens are also welcome to attend Open Recreation on Wednesdays from 3-5pm. Registration is free.

Garden Raising/Garden Club

Help us prepare and grow our community garden! Located at the Tonya Keller Community Center, the Garden Club works to weed, plant and harvest various crops. Registration is free.

**MIDDLETOWN
DAY 2017**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD
CROYDON HALL 11AM-5PM
900 LEONARDVILLE ROAD IN LEONARDO
RAIN OR SHINE!
PETTING ZOO FOOD MUSIC NEW RIDES
FARMERS MARKET TOUCH A TRUCK DISPLAYS
GAMES PONY RIDES PLAY ZONE ROCK WALL
CRAFT VENDORS FREE Health Screenings
BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE INFLATABLES
GRANNY'S TAG SALE EMERGENCY SERVICE DISPLAYS
FREE ENTERTAINMENT!
Community Demonstrations
BMX Demonstrations
NEW! Interactive PARKOUR Activities
► **FREE SHOPPING BAGS FOR FIRST 1000 ATTENDEES**
Presented by the Township of Middletown and the Middletown Township Cultural and Arts Council. Visit www.middletownnj.org/middletownday for more information.

Middletown Senior Center

900 Leonardville Road
(732) 615-2265

**NEW! Non-residents may now join the Middletown Senior Center for an annual fee of \$54. Be sure to tell your friends in surrounding towns they can now take part in all our great activities.*

*NEW! PICKLEBALL

A paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. It combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

Wednesdays & Fridays
1:00-3:00pm
Indoor at the Croydon Hall Gym

MEDICARE PATROL
Thursday, June 8 – 1:00pm

SALUTE TO
SUMMER
PROGRAM
Thursday, June 15 – 10:00am

ANNUAL SUMMER
PICNIC
Friday, July 14
11:30 – 2:30pm



Lifeguards Wanted!

Must already have Lifeguard certification. Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00am-4:00pm; starting rate is \$12.00 per hour.



Volunteers

Looking for something fun to do? Do you need community service hours? If so, come help us out! At all our special events, adult and youth volunteers are always needed! For more information, send an email to: MtownVolunteer@middletownnj.org

Poricy Park

345 Oak Hill Rd, Red Bank
(732) 615-2260

Community Fossil Hunts

Sundays: May 28 ▪ Jun 25
11:00am-1:00p, Poricy Park Nature Center
Fee: Ages 5-12, \$5.00 (R) \$6.00 (NR)
Ages 13+, \$8.00 (R) \$10.00 (NR)
Pre-Registration Required

Calling all amateur paleontologists! Come dig up some Middletown history at the Poricy Brook Fossil Beds. Expect to find marine fossils from the Cretaceous period, 65-72 million years ago. Meet at the Poricy Park Nature Center for a short orientation before travelling to the fossil beds. An experienced guide will provide you with a trowel and sifter, as well as help you identify your treasures. Please wear rubber boots or old sneakers, as your feet will get wet. Sandals, flip-flops, and other slip-on footwear are prohibited. Ages 5+, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Community Science at Poricy Park

Saturdays ▪ 3:00pm-4:00pm
Poricy Park Nature Center
Fee: Ages 3 -12, \$3.00(R) \$4.00 (NR)
Ages 13+, \$5.00 (R) \$6.00 (NR)
Pre-Registration Recommended

May 20: Pond Netting

Find what's at the bottom of the Murray Pond. Look for frogs, turtles, and snakes. Use our nets to catch tadpoles, fish, insect larvae, snails, and other critters. Dress to get muddy!

June 17: Wildflowers and Butterflies

Walk the trails with our guide to identify some of the many wildflowers in the Poricy fields. Learn about host plants for native NJ butterflies, too. Bring your camera!

Special Events

middletownnj.org/events



Mother-Daughter Colonial Tea

Saturday, June 3, 10:00am-12:00pm
Poricy Park Farmhouse
Grades K thru 5. Fee: \$12.00 per person
Pre-Registration Required. Limited space.

Movie in the Park

Thursdays, June 29, July 27, & August 31
June, "Despicable Me 2" - Middletown Art Center
July, "Moana" - Ideal Beach (after the beach party)
August, "Beauty and the Beast (2017)" - Normandy Park

Beach Parties

Thursday, July 27 - 5:00pm, Ideal Beach
Friday, August 18 - 5:00pm, Leonardo Beach



**Town Wide
Garage Sale
Saturday
June 3, 2017
8:30am- 2:30pm**

Middletown Township
Pre-registration required. \$5.00 per household

Summer Camps

Your child's ticket to a fun-filled summer starts with us! Mix and match more than a dozen activities, programs and trips to create a personalized camp experience that can last from 1 up to 9 weeks. Camp options begin July 5 and end September 1.

Camp such as the **Pioneers** (ages 3 – 5), **Buccaneers** (Grades Kindergarten – 2), **Explorers** (grades 3 – 5), **Trail Blazers** programs (grades 6 - 8), **Counselor In Training** (grade 9), and Poricy Park camps.

Specialty camp themes include, Marine Science camp, DROBOTS, and Legos.

Middletown Recreation is proud to continue Poricy Park's legacy of excellent educational summer camps. Campers have the option of a weekly camp focused on fun science and nature topics or a one-week program focused on a single topic. Camps are available for children as young as 3 years old through 8th grade. Specialty camps include Revolutionary Kids, Surviving Outdoors and Civil Kids. Be sure to check out our camp brochure for a full listing of themed weeks.

For a complete listing of all camp options with specific descriptions and pricing, visit the Recreation Office or download our camp brochure from the www.middletownnj.org/camp.

NaviGators Camp

For the fourth summer, the Recreation Department will offer an Inclusion Camp for students who qualify. This program is designed to allow children with special needs to participate alongside typically developing peers during summer camp. The inclusion program will be specifically targeted to children who struggle with disorders such as ADHD, disruptive behavior disorders, anxiety disorders, Asperger's Disorder, and associated behaviors; however children with other needs are also welcome to apply.





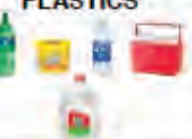





RECYCLING



Recycling Is Mandatory!

Recyclables must be separated from garbage. Garbage that includes recyclables will not be collected. Violators may be fined. Recyclable items may NOT be placed in plastic bags! Visit www.middlestownnj.org/recycling for information.

	Recyclable Material	ACCEPTED:			
		Curbside (Single Stream) Collection <i>Per zone, see schedule</i>	Kanes Lane Recycling Center <i>Thurs. – Mon. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM</i>	Train Station Recycling <i>Open 24 Hours</i>	Curbside Garbage Pick up
APPLIANCES 	A/C Units	✓ (\$25)*	✓ (\$10)	NO	NO
	Refrigerators	✓ (\$25)*	✓ (\$10)	NO	NO
	Stoves	✓ (\$20)*	✓	NO	NO
	Washer/Dryer	✓ (\$20)*	✓	NO	NO
CARDBOARD 	Cardboard (broken down)	✓	✓	NO	NO
	Food-contaminated cardboard	NO	NO	NO	✓
ELECTRONICS 	Computers/monitors/laptop	NO	✓	NO	NO
	DVD Players/Stereos/VCRs	NO	✓	NO	NO
	Printers/Tel/Fax/Copiers	NO	✓	NO	NO
	TVs	✓ (\$20)*	✓ (limit of 2)	NO	NO
GLASS 	Bottles/Jars	✓	✓	✓	NO
	Ceramics/Dishware**	NO	NO	NO	NO
	Lightbulbs/Windows**	NO	NO	NO	NO
PLASTICS 	Containers (#1, 2, 5 symbol)	✓	✓	✓	NO
	Containers (#3, 4, 6 symbol)	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Buckets/Storage Bins	NO	✓	NO	NO
	Kid's Toys/Play Equipment	NO	✓	NO	NO
	Coolers/Trash Receptacles	NO	✓	NO	NO
METALS 	Aluminum/Tin/Steel Cans	✓	✓	✓	NO
	Aluminum Foil/Trays/Pie Tin	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Metal Hangers/Scrap Metal	NO	✓	NO	NO
ALL PAPER 	Ads/Catalogs/Magazines	✓	✓	NO	NO
	Cereal Box/Br Paper Bags	✓	✓	NO	NO
	Copy/Fax/Office Paper	✓	✓	NO	NO
	Envelopes /Soft Cover Books	✓	✓	NO	NO
	Hardcover Books	✓ (no cover/binder)	✓ (no cover/binder)	NO	NO
	Non-Metallic Wrapping Paper	✓	✓	NO	NO
	Cups/Plates/Food Wrappers	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Newspaper	✓ (tied in bundles)	✓ (tied in bundles)	NO	NO
	Newspaper used for Pet Waste/Household Projects	NO	NO	NO	✓
MISCELLANEOUS 	Aerosol Cans	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Batteries – household & car	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Batteries – rechargeable**	NO	NO	NO	NO
	Bowling & Golf Balls	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Construction Material***	NO	NO	NO	NO
	Metal Fence Posts (w/o concrete)	NO	✓	NO	NO
	Grass Clipping/Tree Stump**	NO	NO	NO	NO
	Latex Paint, lid off (dried)	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Plastic Hangers/PVC piping	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Rubber Products (Hoses)	NO	NO	NO	✓
	Tires – Automobile (< 17" Rim)	NO	✓ (\$2 off rim/\$3 rim on)	NO	NO
	Tires – Pick-up Trucks/SUV	NO	✓ (\$7, off rim only)	NO	NO
	Propane Tanks/Motor Oil	NO	✓	NO	NO
	Vinyl Products (manageable size)	NO	NO	NO	✓

*Must be scheduled and paid for prior to pick up.

**Accepted at home improvement and electronic stores. Visit www.Call2Recycle.org for more information.

***Contact the Monmouth County Landfill at 732-683-8686 for disposal.

3/30/2017

Township Directory

**Police, Fire & Rescue
Emergencies** Dial 9-1-1

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

Municipal Offices

(All numbers have a 732 area code)

Main Number 615-2000

Animal Control 615-2097

(Monday - Friday, 8am- 5pm)

Animal Control 615-2100

(holidays, nights & weekends)

Building & Inspections 615-2106

Community Development 615-2281

Court Administrator 615-2036

Code Enforcement 615-2106

Crossroads 615-2269

(substance abuse services)

Emergency Management 615-2129

EMS (First Aid) 615-2252

Fire Prevention 615-2270

Health 615-2095

Library 671-3700

Mayor's Office 615-2024

Middletown Arts Center 706-4100

Planning 615-2098

Public Works 615-2109

Public Information 615-2287

Recreation 615-2260

Recycling 615-2008

Senior Center 615-2265

Tax Assessor 615-2089

Tax Collector 615-2086

Township Administrator 615-2013

Township Engineer 615-2110

Township Clerk 615-2015

(elections, marriage/birth/death records,
parking permits, voter registration,
Twp. Committee agenda)

Social Services 615-2085

Zoning 615-2278

Other Important Numbers

Board of Education 671-3850

Sewerage Authority 495-1010

Comcast Cable 20

Verizon FIOS Channel 26

Emergency Radio 1620 AM

 middlestownnjtownhall

 middlestownnj

Phone App: Middletown NJ