



Middletown Minutes

Official Township E-Newsletter

Get into the Holiday Spirit by Attending Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting This Sunday from 5-7 PM!



Catch Middletown Recreation and the Middletown Arts Center's (MAC) annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 3rd from 5-7 PM at the MAC (36 Church Street). Bring the whole family — get your photo with Santa and enjoy some crafts, bonfires with classic Christmas cartoons, a horse-drawn wagon, a human

snow globe inflatable, and more! New this year, stop by the No Limits Cafe food truck during the event for tasty grilled cheeses!

This event is free, but registration via CommunityPass is recommended.

Click [HERE](#) to register via CommunityPass.

**Attend Our Annual Chanukah Party and Menorah Lighting
at the MAC on Sunday, 12/10 at 4:30 PM**



Please join us next weekend at our annual Chanukah Party and Menorah Lighting at the Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street)! There will be crafts, goodies, and more at this free event.

Calling All Holiday Helpers! Township Collecting Gifts for Local Children in Need through Friday, 12/8

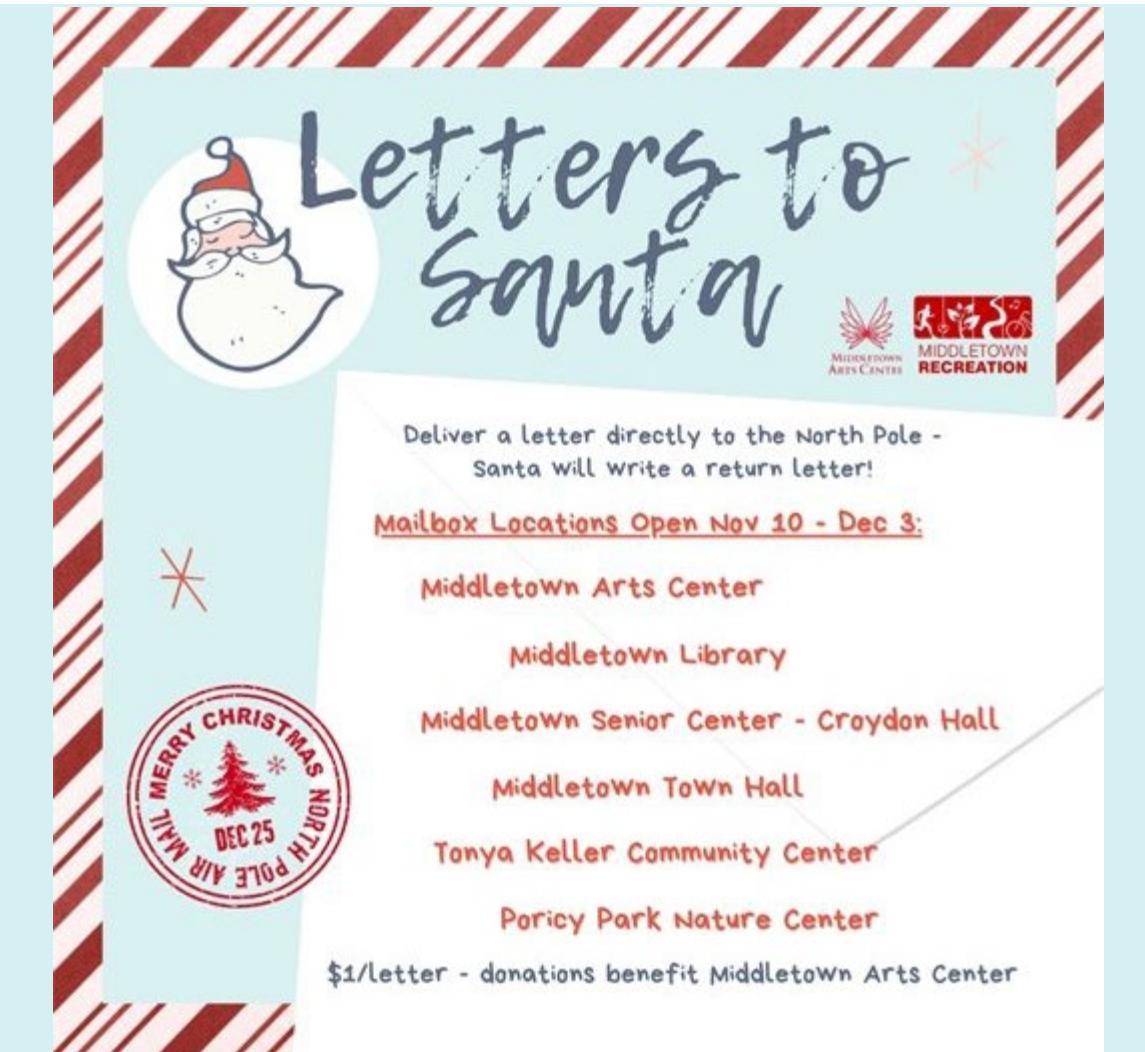


Looking to spread some holiday cheer? Middletown Township is pleased to present the Holiday Helpers Gift Drive to support our local public students in need this season. We are looking for individuals, groups, and/or businesses to help make the holidays a little brighter by “adopting” a family to purchase toys and clothing for them. Please use this [Google Form link](#) to sign up and be matched with a family in need.

Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Croydon Hall Annex at 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo through Friday, December 8th. Staff will be onsite to collect gifts Monday through Wednesday from 8:00-11:00 AM and Thursday through Friday from 12:00-2:30 PM. Please do not leave any gifts outside of the building.

If you have any questions, please call the Middletown Township Health Department at 732-615-2085.

Write a Letter to Santa by Sunday, 12/3!



A flyer titled "Letters to Santa" with a red and white striped border. The title is in large, stylized letters. To the left is a circular illustration of Santa Claus. Below the title are logos for "MIDDLETON ARTS CENTER" and "MIDDLETON RECREATION". The text "Deliver a letter directly to the North Pole - Santa will write a return letter!" is followed by a list of "Mailbox Locations Open Nov 10 - Dec 3:" which includes the Middletown Arts Center, Middletown Library, Middletown Senior Center - Croydon Hall, Middletown Town Hall, Tonya Keller Community Center, and Poricy Park Nature Center. A "MERRY CHRISTMAS" postmark stamp is on the left. A red star is in the top right corner. A small red star is also on the left side of the page.

Letters to Santa

MIDDLETON ARTS CENTER MIDDLETON RECREATION

Deliver a letter directly to the North Pole -
Santa will write a return letter!

Mailbox Locations Open Nov 10 - Dec 3:

Middletown Arts Center

Middletown Library

Middletown Senior Center - Croydon Hall

Middletown Town Hall

Tonya Keller Community Center

Poricy Park Nature Center

\$1/letter - donations benefit Middletown Arts Center

Our Middletown elves will once again be collecting letters and delivering them directly to the North Pole! Santa will write a personalized return letter to your child through Middletown Recreation's and the Middletown Arts Center's (MAC) Letters to Santa program. Please include \$1 with your letter. Donations will benefit the MAC.

Click [HERE](#) for the letter template and drop-off locations.

Leonardo Girl Scout Troop #14 Hosts Holiday Tree Lighting & Collects Donations for Local Veterans



Committeewoman Kratz joins the troop for a group photo in front of their tree that is decorated with ornaments the scouts made from birdseed! (Photo courtesy of Brandi Grooms Photography)

Last weekend, members of Leonardo Girl Scout Troop #14 braved the weather and continued their annual Holiday Tree Lighting tradition with special guest Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz in attendance. The scouts and their leaders, Kyle Christine Darnell, Jenn Park, and Brandi Johnson, hold a tree lighting each year at the Leonardo State Marina and collect clothes and toys for veterans and their families.

Troop Leader Kyle Christine Darnell partners with James Giving Tree, an organization in Atlantic Highlands run by her aunt, Debby Daily, in honor of Debby's late son James Veth, a marine who left us too soon. Debby coordinates delivery of these items as well as others that she gathers from local stores, shops, and families, and donates them to the James J. Howard Veterans' Outpatient Clinic where they are distributed to local veterans and their families during the holidays.

"Mav's Top Buns" in Middletown Gets Ready for Takeoff!



Mayor Tony Perry and Mav's Top Buns co-owner Nikki Ashkar show off her boxes of cinnamon buns!

Prior to Thanksgiving, Mayor Tony Perry met with Nikki Ashkar, the co-owner of incoming business Mav's Top Buns. The name of the business was inspired by her son's name, Maverick, and the movie "Top Gun". Although this is currently a pop-up bakery throughout Monmouth County, Mav's Top Buns will be moving into a permanent location (1092 NJ-35) in Middletown soon.

During the pandemic, Nikki Ashkar started recreating her late grandmother's cinnamon bun recipe. She and her husband Mike opened Mav's Top Buns and turned this tried and true recipe into a family business, which has been growing ever since!

Welcome to Middletown, Mav's Top Buns! For more information, visit www.mavstopbuns.com.

Mayor Perry Continues Coin Toss Tradition at Annual

Middletown North vs. South Thanksgiving Football Game



Mayor Perry, Middletown Board of Education President Frank Capone, football players, and the game's referee anticipate how the coin will fall to determine which team will get the ball first.

(Photo courtesy of JerseyPics)

Many Middletown residents and high school alumni came together Thanksgiving morning for the annual High School North vs. South football game! Mayor Tony Perry was honored to begin the game with the annual coin toss. Congratulations to High School South on its 45-21 victory!



Township Committee to Host Meeting on Monday, 12/4 at 7 PM

The Middletown Township Committee Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, December 4th at 7:00 PM in the courtroom at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).

The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will also be made available to watch or listen to by visiting www.middletownnj.org/tcmeeting. If prompted, please enter your name and email address to join. To call in to the meeting, dial 1-408-418-9388. The event access code is 2339 574 4518 followed by #. Enter 2023 if a passcode is required.

Prior to the Township Committee Meeting, the event link will be published on the Township's [Facebook page](#). The recording of the meeting will be aired on the Township's TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) and [YouTube channel](#).

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to see the agenda.

Register Your Home for Middletown Recreation's Holiday Lights Map by Noon on Wednesday, 12/20

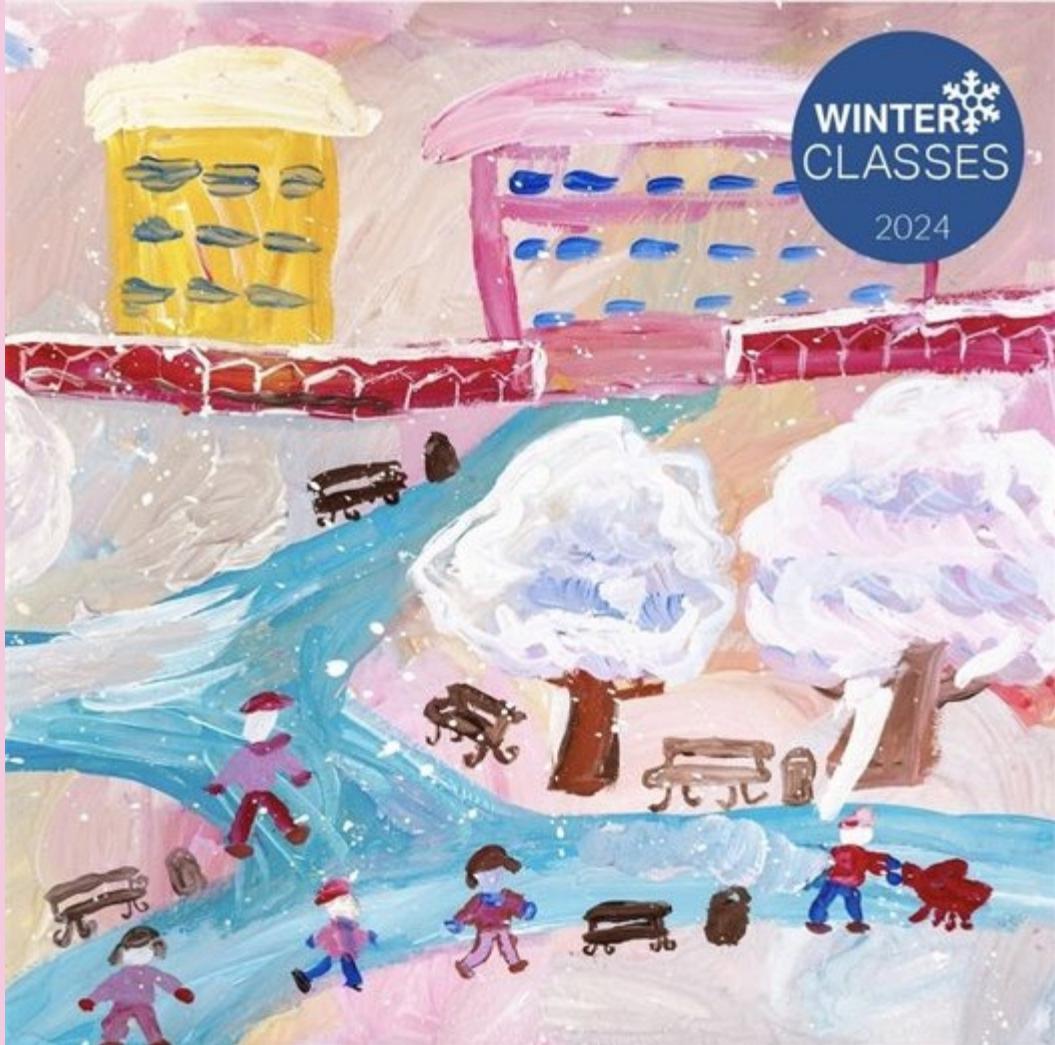


Let Middletown residents know your house is lit! Sign up for Middletown Recreation's free holiday lights map by noon on Wednesday, December 20th.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register your home.

Registration for MAC's Winter Classes Opens on Tuesday,

12/12 at 9 AM



Registration for the Middletown Arts Center's (MAC) Winter 2024 classes opens on Tuesday, December 12th at 9 AM. Get a head start by checking out all the wonderful programs they're offering! As a special way to thank everyone for their support, the MAC is offering an entire session of the Relax into Writing class for FREE!

Click [HERE](#) to view the youth classes and click [HERE](#) to view the adult ones.

FIND OUT IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR FLOOD ELEVATION ASSISTANCE



If your primary residence was "substantially damaged" by Superstorm Sandy and has yet to be elevated, or you're in a regulated floodzone that is not yet elevated, you may be eligible for elevation assistance through a new federal grant.

For more information and to fill out an interest form, please visit www.middletownnj.org/elevationassistance. Forms are due by Friday, 12/15. Thank you!



If you are interested in this program, please complete THIS FORM by Friday, December 15th. You can either mail it to the Health Department at 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748 ATTN: Stacy Krause or email it to skrause@middletownnj.org with the subject line "FEMA Grant Letter of Interest".

Fall 2023 Leaf Collection Schedule

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RED BANK, NJ
PERMIT NO. 652

ECRWSS

FALL 2023 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

COLLECTION ZONE	START DATE
A,B,C,D,E,G,I,J,K	MONDAY, 11/27
F,H,L	THURSDAY, 12/7

VISIT WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/COLLECTION FOR ZONE UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION.

COLLECTION START DATE IS WEATHER DEPENDENT. PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE COLLECTION IN EACH ZONE.

LEAF COLLECTION ONLY - NO BRUSH UNTIL SPRING!

DO NOT SET OUT LEAVES AFTER YOUR STREET HAS BEEN COLLECTED - Violators will be charged up to \$1,250 for an individual collection. Do not place material at the curb earlier than 7 days before start date. Brush, tree stumps, lumber, plywood, fence posts, railroad ties, or garbage will not be collected. Residents can bring leaves to the Middletown Recycling Center (52 Kanes Lane) from November 1st until June 1st. Brush is accepted year-round for residents.

Visit www.middletownnj.org/collection for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.

Middletown Teens: Participate in the MTPL's Cards for a Cause on Wednesday, 12/6 from 4-7 PM

Cards for a Cause
Wednesday, 12/6 from 4-7PM

*Drop in and create winter greeting cards for Middletown seniors!
Volunteer Hours will be offered for each card. Limit 5 cards.*

visit the MTPL.org Calendar for more information

 MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
55 New Monmouth Road Middletown, NJ 07748
Phone: 732-671-3700 • www.mtpl.org

Calling all 6th through 12th graders in need of volunteer hours! Stop by the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) on Wednesday, December 6th between 4 and 7 PM to make winter greeting cards for Middletown seniors! This event will take place in the MTPL's Teen Room (55 New Monmouth Road).

Volunteer hours will be offered for each card. Limit of 5 cards.

Learn about Fun Ways to Have a Healthy Holiday at the MTPL on Wednesday, 12/6 at 7 PM

Fun Ways to Add Healthy to the Holidays

Featuring Valaree Williams,
Dietician,  Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

**Wednesday,
December 6 | 7pm
Computer Lab & **

 Please register for a virtual or in-person seat at mtpl.org.



Join the MTPL on Wednesday, December 6th at 7 PM as Memorial Sloan Kettering dietitian Valaree Williams shares "fun ways to add healthy to the holidays"!

Please note this is a virtual program, but attendees can opt to join the Zoom program from the MTPL's Computer Lab.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Middletown Green Team Invites You to Learn How to Use IRA Savings and Clean Energy to Benefit Your Home on Thursday, 12/7 at 6 PM

ELECTRIFY YOUR HOME WITH IRA SAVINGS



Presented by the Middletown Green Team
and featuring Middletown Mayor Tony Perry



DATE & TIME

Thursday, December 7th
from 6:00-7:15 PM



LOCATION

Middletown Township
Public Library
(55 New Monmouth Rd.)

COMMUNITY EVENT DETAILS

We encourage our community to join Middletown Green Team members Pat and Steve Miller as they discuss how home and car owners can use the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and clean energy to increase home energy efficiency, value, and savings!

BONUS: Residents Diane and John Burke will showcase Middletown's first all-electric **new passive house featuring ZERO energy bills!**

There will be a Q&A at the end of the presentation.

Middletown Township and the Middletown Green Team strongly encourage residents to attend the free "Electrify Your Home with IRA Savings" program at the MTPL (55 New Monmouth Road) on Thursday, December 7th!

RESOURCES



Report Your Missed Trash, Recycling, or Bulk Collection to DPW

WAS YOUR TRASH, RECYCLING, OR BULK NOT COLLECTED?

LET DPW KNOW!



Please complete an online form at
www.middletownnj.org/missedpickup.

QUESTIONS?

Please call DPW at
732-615-2090.



THANK YOU!

We encourage you to complete a form at www.middletownnj.org/missedpickup if
your trash, recycling, or bulk was not collected.

Please call DPW at 732-615-2090 if you have any questions.

Click [HERE](#) to complete DPW's form.

Apply for 2020 ANCHOR Benefits by Friday, 12/29



The 2020 ANCHOR Benefit Filing Deadline for new applicants is December 29, 2023. If you qualified for a rebate last year, you should have already received a letter confirming you are eligible.

If you have any questions, please call the State at 609-826-4282 or 1-888-238-1233. Visit www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor for more information.

[Click on the graphic to visit the NJ Division of Taxation's website.](#)

Click HERE to access hi-res photos from this e-newsletter.



@Middletown NJ Town Hall



@middletownnj



@middletown.township



@Middletown Township NJ

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Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20



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