

# Middletown Minutes

## Official Township E-Newsletter



**Run for a Great Cause at Annual Mayor's Challenge at  
Poricy Park This Sunday, 11/10**

The poster for the Mayor's Challenge 5K + 1 Mile Fun Run features a white background with a large, stylized sunburst graphic in the center. At the top left is the Middletown Township seal. The text "Mayor's CHALLENGE" is written in a purple script font, with "CHALLENGE" in large, bold, purple-outlined capital letters. Below this, "5K + 1 MILE" is in white text on a purple rectangular background, and "FUN RUN" is in white text on a teal rectangular background. The location "PORICY PARK, 345 OAK HILL RD RED BANK" is written in black text on a white background. Below that, "SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH" is in white text on a purple background. A teal banner reads "JOIN US FOR A TRAIL RUN WITH AWESOME PRIZES!". At the bottom, "ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:" is in white text on a teal background, followed by "180" in large purple numbers and "Turning Lives Around" in smaller black text. Silhouettes of three runners in purple, teal, and purple are at the bottom.

 Mayor's  
**CHALLENGE**

**5K + 1 MILE**

**FUN RUN**

PORICY PARK, 345 OAK HILL RD RED BANK

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**

JOIN US FOR A TRAIL RUN WITH AWESOME PRIZES!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

**180** Turning  
Lives  
Around

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Challenge will be taking place this Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> on the trails of Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road). Choose between the 5K run, 5K walk, or 1 mile fun run with awesome prizes for runners! Medals and long sleeve shirts for everyone.

All proceeds benefit **180 Turning Lives Around**, a local charity dedicated to ending domestic and sexual abuse in our community.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to sign up today!

## Middletown Township Honors Veterans with 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade



*Pictured from left: Grand Marshall Anita Thorne Rochelle-Keyser, Middletown resident and veteran John Alonso, and Middletown VAC*

On Sunday, Middletown Recreation hosted the Township's 67<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Day Parade, which stepped off at Bayview Elementary School and ended at the St. Mary's Church parking lot.

The Middletown Township Police Department Honor Guard, 3<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Infantry 6<sup>th</sup> Corps Army of the Potomac - Civil War Reenactors, Middletown High School North Orange Wave



*member and 2023 Veteran of  
the Year Bob Siemer*

Marching Band, and the Grand Marshall began the parade. This year's Grand Marshall was Anita Thorne Rochelle-Keyser, the sister of Corporal Horace "Buddy" Thorne who is Middletown's only Medal of Honor recipient. Thorne Middle School is named in his honor. In addition to being our Grand Marshall, Anita also turned 100 years old last month!

Distinguished guests joined the Middletown Township Committee along the route. Local businesses, veterans organizations, social groups, and scout troops marched in the lineup. Antique cars and the Middletown High School South Screaming Eagle Marching Band also participated. Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) Chairman Dennis Beauregard announced all the participants from the showmobile. Emergency personnel vehicles, including our First Aid and Rescue, Fire Department, Police Department and Explorers, and Office of Emergency Management followed the parade participants.

Hundreds of community members gathered along the route to cheer on our veterans! Some businesses in Campbell's Junction also decorated their storefronts to show off their patriotism. New this year, there was a post parade party at the St. Mary's Church parking lot. Attendees were able to enjoy free hot dogs, hamburgers, and cookies, buy food from food trucks, listen to live music, enjoy children's inflatables, and more! Thank you to everyone who participated in our parade and, most importantly, thank you to our veterans for their service.

## **Nominate a Middletown Veteran for the 2024 Veteran of the Year Award by Friday, 12/20**



Visit [middletownnj.org/voty](https://middletownnj.org/voty) for more information.

## Westminster Presbyterian Church Hosts Annual Field of Flags Dedication Ceremony

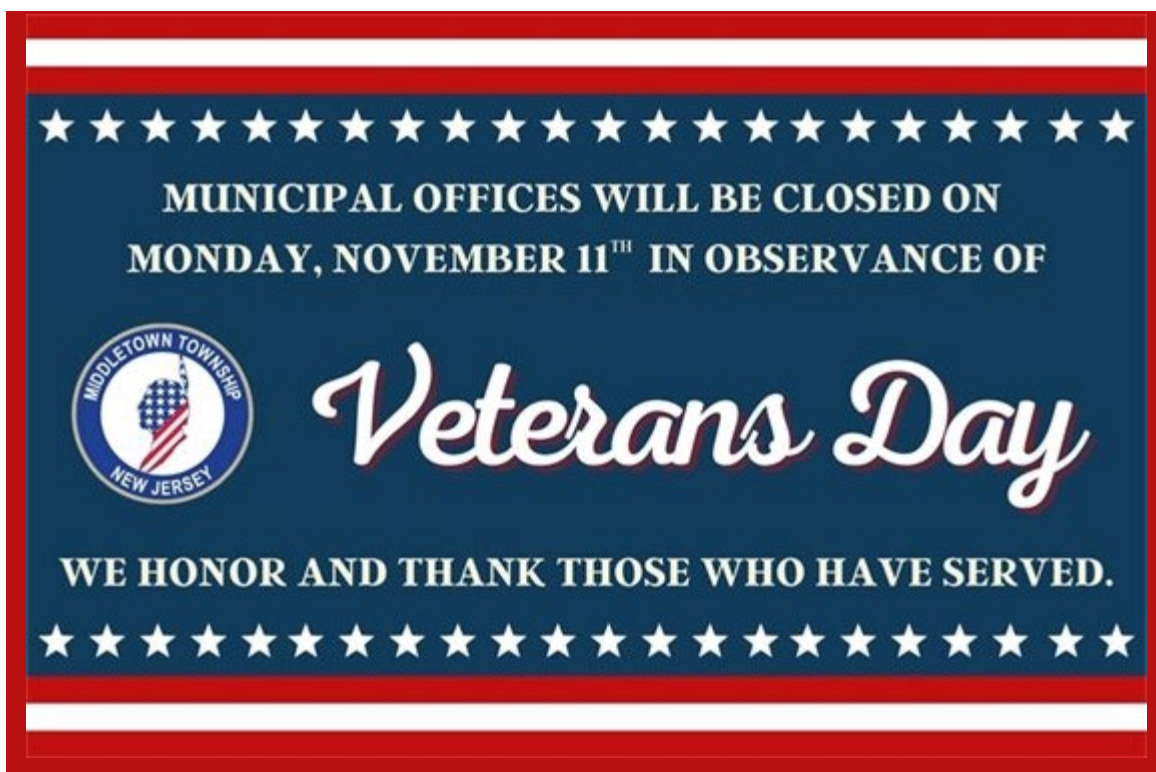


*Pictured from left: Deputy Police Chief Paul Bailey, Monmouth County Surrogate Maureen Raisch, Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger, Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle Commanding Officer Captain Kent Smith, Mayor Tony Perry, Field of Flags host WPC Elder Dave D'Arcy, and Committeeman Ryan Clarke*

On Saturday, Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) held its annual Field of Flags dedication ceremony. There were thousands of flags on display to honor veterans from every branch who served in every war and conflict throughout U.S. military history. The flags were originally planted on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.



U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle Commanding Officer Captain Kent Smith was the keynote speaker. Mayor Tony Perry was also humbled to give a speech and address the crowd. The Middletown Township Police Department Honor Guard also participated in the event with a rifle volley.



## Middletown Voters Approve Open Space Referendum



In the November 2024 General Election, more than 66 percent of Middletown residents voted to pass the open space referendum. This will allow the Township to amend the dedicated open space trust annual collection rate from three cents to four cents per \$100 in equalized valuation.

On Monday, we published our most recent episode of *Talk of the Town* where Communications Director Tara Berson sat with Township Administrator Tony Mercantante to answer your questions about open space preservation.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the episode on YouTube.

## Sign Up for Middletown Recreation's Turkey Soccer Shootout Happening Saturday, 11/16 from 10-11 AM

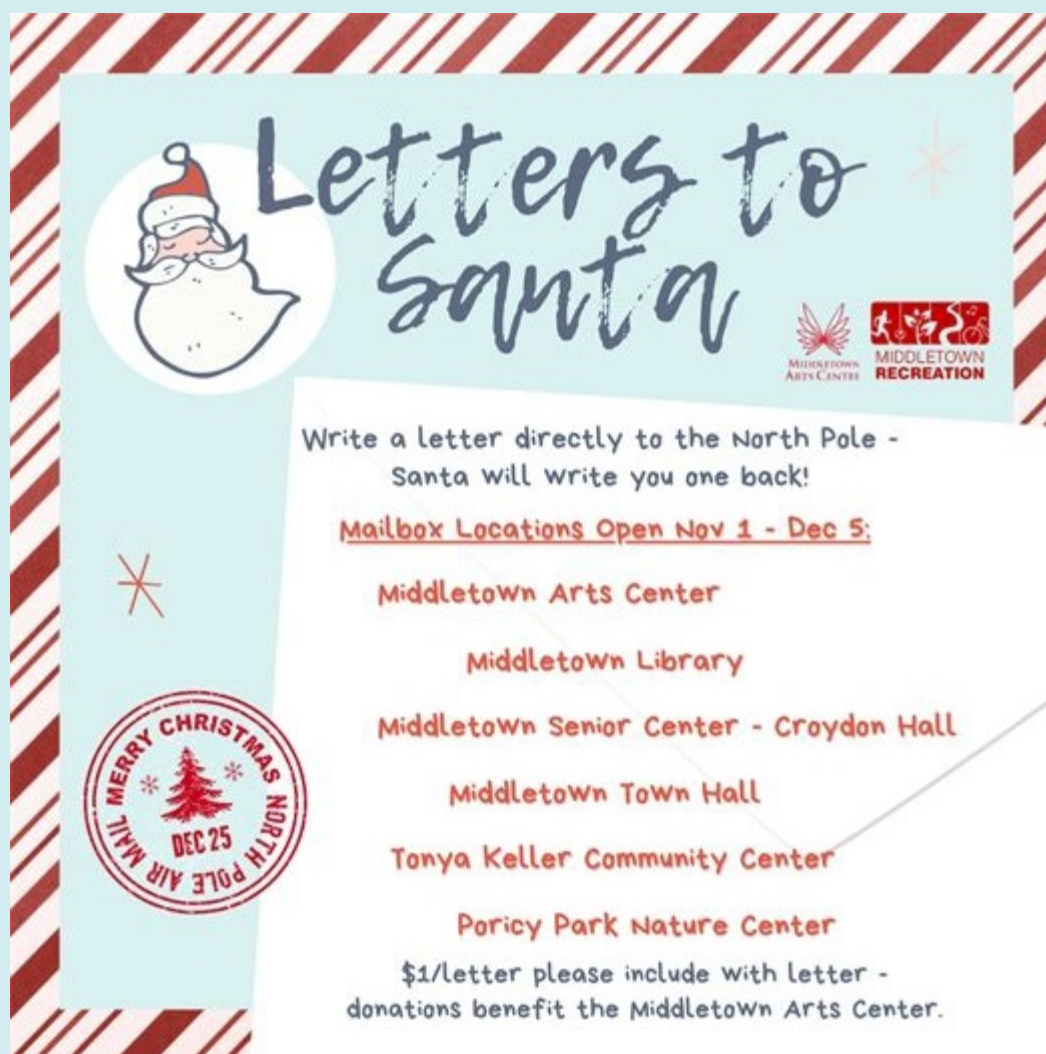


Think you've got the best penalty kick in town? Put it to the test at Middletown Recreation's Annual Turkey Soccer Shootout & Food Drive! Each player will line up and take five shots on goal to tally up the most points.

This fun event is open to participants between ages 6 through 99. Winners in each age range will receive a frozen turkey just in time for Thanksgiving, and all participants will get a free turkey stuffie!

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

## Write a Letter to Santa by Thursday, 12/5



Our Middletown elves are currently collecting letters to Santa in our special mailboxes and will be delivering them directly to the North Pole! Santa will write a personalized 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 to donate to the MAC. To help our elves, we encourage you to download our letter template.

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

**Give Back this Holiday Season with Middletown PBA Local 124's Toy Drive**



Looking for an incredible cause to be part of as the holiday season approaches? Please consider supporting Middletown PBA Local 124's toy drive! Police officers will be collecting unwrapped toys for donation at the Middletown Township Police Department's main lobby (1 Kings Highway) now through Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Toys collected will be distributed to local nonprofits 180 Turning Lives Around, Jason's Dreams for Kids, and Middletown Helps Its Own.

If you are a local business willing to assist by becoming a collection location for toys, please reach out to Ptl. Brian Macdonald or Ptl. Daniel Flannigan at [bmacdonald@middletownnj.org](mailto:bmacdonald@middletownnj.org) or [dflannigan@middletownnj.org](mailto:dflannigan@middletownnj.org).

**Give Back this Holiday Season by Donating Blood at  
Lincroft Fire Company on Monday, 11/25**





The poster features a red header with the New Jersey Blood Services logo and the text "Blood Drive". Below this, an orange section contains the text "It's giving gratitude" and "Show up to donate and receive a shirt that's the perfect fit." An illustration of a man and a woman wearing "I am a lifesaver" shirts is shown. The bottom section is white and contains the event details for Lincroft Fire Co., the date and time (Monday, November 25th, 12:30pm - 6:30pm), and the location (Bloodmobile, parked in the back of the building). It also includes a QR code for appointments, a list of preparation steps (eat well, bring ID, feel good, be 17+, meet weight requirements), and contact information (800-933.BLOOD, nybc.org).

**New Jersey Blood Services Blood Drive**

**It's giving gratitude**  
Show up to donate and receive a shirt that's the perfect fit.

**Lincroft Fire Co.**  
601 Newman Springs Rd.  
**Monday, November 25th**  
**12:30pm - 6:30pm**  
**Bloodmobile**  
(parked in the back of the building)

**Appointments Encouraged! Walk-ins welcome!**  
**For an appointment, scan the QR code**

**Or visit: [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org) Use Sponsor Code 70286**  
Please bring your nybc donor card or a photo ID.  
Eat well and drink plenty of fluid before donating blood!

Donors 76 and over need one-time doctor's note to donate unless one is already on file.  
For eligibility questions to donate blood call 1800-688-0900 or visit: [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org)  
800.933.BLOOD • [nybc.org](http://nybc.org)

**Prepare to donate**

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit [nybc.org/eligibility](http://nybc.org/eligibility).

[f](#) [i](#) [x](#) [v](#)

[Click on the graphic to view it in a larger PDF format.](#)

Help our community by stopping by Lincroft Fire Company (601 Newman Springs Road) on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-6:30 PM to donate a pint of blood!  
Donors will receive a free t-shirt.

Appointments are recommended and can be made by either calling 800-933-2566, visiting the [New York Blood Center's website](#), or scanning the QR code pictured above. If you register online, please search sponsor code "70286".

Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment.

**Middletown Township Health Department Provides  
Resources for Residents to Quit Smoking**



Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> is the Great American Smokeout, an annual event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. People are challenged to stop smoking for at least 24 hours assuming that their decision not to smoke will last longer, hopefully forever.

If you're having trouble quitting smoking or vaping, the Middletown Township Health Department encourages you to visit [tobaccofreenj.com/gaso](https://tobaccofreenj.com/gaso) for helpful resources. The department will also be handing out free Quit Kits at the entrance of Town Hall (1 Kings Highway) on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



**Learn How to Navigate Life After College at the MTPL on  
Thursday, 11/14 at 7 PM**



# Life After College: Finding the Path to Happiness

*with School Counselor and Life Coach Stefanie Garguilo*

**Thursday,  
November 14 | 7 pm  
Community Room**

**For ages 18+ Please register at [mtpl.org](https://mtpl.org).**



Graduating college and not sure what the next steps are? Attend the Middletown Township Public Library's (MTPL) Life After College workshop to navigate this next chapter of your life! This free program will be led by school counselor and life coach Stefanie Garguilo in the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road). Registration is recommended.

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

**Register for MTPL's Team Speed Puzzling Competition  
Happening on Saturday, 11/16 from 1-4 PM**



**Participate in MTPL's first Team Speed Puzzling Competition on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM in the Community Room! All teams will receive the same 500-piece puzzle. The first team to complete it wins!**

**This challenge is open to all, but at least one member of a team must be at least 18 years of age. Participants can register as either individuals or as a team.**

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

**Free Paper Shredding Event at Middletown High School North on Saturday, 11/16 from 9 AM - 1 PM**



# MONMOUTH COUNTY PAPER SHREDDING EVENT




**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Middletown High School North**  
**63 Tindall Road**



Monmouth County will be holding its annual paper shredding event in Middletown on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM - 1 PM at Middletown High School North (63 Tindall Road). County residents may shred up to 100 pounds, which is equivalent to four office paper boxes or four large-sized trash bags. All paper will be shredded on location in a mobile truck, and the event will end either once the mobile truck is full or at its scheduled end time. Large binder clips must be removed from documents, but staples and paper clips can remain.

## RESOURCES

**Apply Now for Township's Free Tutoring Program for  
Income-Eligible Households**



**MIDDLETOWN, NJ**

**ngsp**

**NEXT GENERATION SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Middletown Township is offering free tutoring services to 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from income-eligible households who have fallen behind academically due to the pandemic. Tutoring takes place on Saturdays from October 12<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Training Room at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). The program runs from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Visit [middletownnj.org/ngsp](https://middletownnj.org/ngsp) to see if your household qualifies and [middletownnj.org/apply](https://middletownnj.org/apply) to complete the application.

Middletown Township is offering free tutoring services through the Next Generation Support Program to students from income-eligible households who have fallen behind academically due to the pandemic. The program has begun, but the Township is still accepting applications.

Visit [middletownnj.org/ngsp](https://middletownnj.org/ngsp) for more information and to apply.

Poricy Park  
Photo by Danielle Adams

# MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

## FALL 2024



READ THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE TOWNSHIP'S OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION:  
[WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/MATTERS.](https://www.middletownnj.org/matters)





# CLEAR THE AIR

## Middletown Passes Anti-Idling Law



In September, Middletown passed Resolution 24-250 to enact a town-wide anti-idling campaign. Look for “No Idling” signs throughout town coming soon!

If not in traffic, remember the rule:  
“10 seconds, then shut off the engine!”

## Register for Middletown's Emergency Alerts & Updates

**REGISTER FOR ALERTS: BE IN THE KNOW WITH** 

Three ways to get emergency notifications, such as severe weather updates, from Middletown Township:

- Text your zip code to 888-777
- Visit [www.middletownnj.org/nixle](http://www.middletownnj.org/nixle) to register for/customize notifications
- Download the Everbridge Nixle mobile app on Apple Store or Google Play to receive/manage notifications and limit text messages



Less urgent messages will be delivered to your email address on file. If it isn't on file, text your email address to 888-777 or download the mobile app.

Visit [middletownnj.org/nixle](http://middletownnj.org/nixle) to register for Nixle.



## Know Someone with a Disability? Make Sure They Register with NJ Register Ready!

Middletown's Office of Emergency Management encourages residents with disabilities to register with NJ Register Ready. This free program is designed to assist first responders and emergency planners in identifying community members who may need assistance evacuating in advance of an emergency.

For more information about the program and the three ways you can register, visit [middletownnj.org/oem](http://middletownnj.org/oem).

## REPORT A CONCERN

Visit [www.middletownnj.org/reportaconcern](http://www.middletownnj.org/reportaconcern) to notify the Township about matters such as property and/or road conditions, traffic safety, and others.

**Citizen Request Tracker™**


Use Citizen Request Tracker™ to report your concerns.  
In the event of an emergency or urgent matter, please do not use this form. Call 911 for emergencies.

[Login to check on existing requests.](#)


<b>Building &amp; Code Enforcement</b> 5 Forms	
>> Animal Control & Pet Licenses	>> Permits and Inspections
>> Awnings Parked On Grass - Jurisdiction - Unregistered - Commercial	>> Property Conditions
>> Nuisance Lot/Lots	
<b>Police Department</b> 1 Form	
>> Police & Traffic	
<b>Public Works &amp; Engineering</b> 11 Forms	
>> Curbside Brush Collection (Road Maint. Division)	>> Road Conditions (Road Maint. Division)
>> Curbside Leaf Collection (Recycling Division)	>> Signs (Road Maint. Division)
>> Driveways (Road Maint. Division)	>> Snow Removal (Road Maint. Division)
>> Erosion/Grading	>> Township Buildings
>> Park & Grounds Maintenance	>> Trees (Road Maint. Division)
>> Potholes (Road Maint. Division)	
<b>Recreation</b> 1 Form	

*You will need an account to log in. If you don't have an account, it only takes a few minutes to create one.*

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




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