



Santa Brings Holiday Magic to Middletown



Mayor Tony Perry gets a bear hug from Santa after the official tree lighting!

Pictured from left: Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger with his granddaughter, Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell with his daughter, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Committeeman Ryan Clarke, and Mayor Perry with Santa

Middletown kicked off the holiday season by hosting two fun festivities on Sunday, December 1st! The day started with Middletown Recreation's Santa Paws event at the Tindall Park Dog Park where residents were able to take photos of their dogs with Santa and receive a free photo ornament.

Later that evening, Santa came to our annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Middletown Arts Center! After arriving in a decked-out sleigh with Belford Engine Fire Company, he helped the Mayor and Township Committee light the tree.

Residents were also able to make arts and crafts with Doodle Dude, mail a letter to the North Pole, take a photo with Santa, jump in an inflatable gingerbread house, and watch classic Christmas cartoons while being warmed up by the fire pits. We had a blast getting into the holiday spirit and ho-ho-hope you did too!

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and click [HERE](#) to view photos from the Santa Paws event.



Photo courtesy of Middletown Recreation

Middletown Recognizes Native American Heritage Day



There was a special presentation at the Monday, December 2nd Township Committee Meeting to recognize November 29, 2024 as Native American Heritage day in Middletown. Mayor Tony Perry presented Sand Hill Indian Historical Association Director Claire Garland with a sign that is a replica of the historic marker the Township will be installing next year to honor the site of the Chaquasitt Village Pow Wow Field in Ramezing.

Located near the Middletown Arts Center and Middletown Train Station, this was a Native American place for assembly, trading goods, celebrating, communication, and spirituality between the Lenape Navesink people and the early settlers who arrived in 1664. Claire advocated for the marker with the help of local historians Rick Geffken and Marc Gottwerth. All three are part of our Middletown America 250 Committee, which is working to promote our nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the meeting on the Township's YouTube channel or catch it on our TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) every day at 7:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 5:30 PM, and 8:00 PM through Sunday, December 15th.

Township Committee Commends Middletown Girl Scouts for Earning Girl Scout Silver Award



Pictured from left: Mayor Tony Perry, Mina Lee, Anisa Dietz, and Lucy Warner

At the meeting, Mayor Tony Perry presented certificates to local girl scouts who recently received the Girl Scout Silver Award, which is the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. To qualify for a Silver Award, girl scouts must complete a community project.

Girl scouts Mina Lee, Anisa Dietz, Lucy Warner, and Annabelle Warner (who was unable to attend) dedicated their project to addressing the need for more pollinators and butterflies in Middletown. They built a community butterfly garden at the Middletown Arts Center, hosted a virtual event to raise awareness about the issue, and created a garden of perennial flowers.

Girl scout Mary McGee-D'Alessio, who was also unable to attend the meeting, dedicated her project to enhancing accessibility at Shorecrest Mini Park in the Fairview section of town. She researched the Americans with Disabilities Act, reached out to a local business about playground equipment, and attended the grand opening of our all-inclusive playground at McMahan Park. She also contacted several Township employees to get the Township involved. The Township hopes to implement some of her suggestions, such as featuring inspirational quotes and sidewalk games and art, in the future.

Middletown Soccer Club Spirit Red Celebrates 2024

New Jersey President's Cup Championship



Mayor Tony Perry also recognized Middletown Soccer Club Spirit Red at the Township Committee Meeting for winning the 2024 New Jersey President's Cup! They are the first Middletown team to win this championship since 2015. They lost in the finals last year, but were determined to come out as champions this time. The Township Committee presented certificates to each of the athletes and coaches to help commemorate this accomplishment.

Check Out New Episode of *Minute with the Mayor*



Join Mayor Tony Perry as he provides a recap on Middletown's recent holiday events and the presentations that took place at the Monday, December 2nd Township Committee Meeting.

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

Local Nonprofit Holiday Express Brings Cheer to Middletown Students with Disabilities



Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz poses with Santa and her friends Tyler Marxen and Jake Mark from No Limits Cafe!

On Wednesday, Holiday Express came to Middletown High School South to host a fun and festive event for all Middletown students with disabilities. The nonprofit performed a one hour concert and students were able to enjoy entertainment such as face painters and characters and complimentary lunch from Jersey Mike's. Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz was honored to attend the event and join in on the fun!

Nut Swamp Elementary School Students Provide “Boxes of Hope” to Local Veterans



This holiday season, Nut Swamp Elementary School Special Education Teacher Amy Jennings and her students in the Language and Learning Disabilities (LLD) program spearheaded a “Boxes of Hope” drive to benefit local veterans.

Students from kindergarten through 5th grade collected items such as warm socks, winter hats, gloves and handwarmer packets, shampoo, toothpaste, granola bars, and candy. They filled 25 boxes and also donated cases of water.

Mayor Tony Perry and Middletown Township Public School District Superintendent Jessica Alfone stopped by the school on Tuesday, December 3rd to thank the students for their efforts.

The students were proud to present their donations, especially their letters of hope and patriotic ornaments to thank veterans for their service. Thank you to the Nut Swamp community for giving back to our veterans.

Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee Teaches Flag Etiquette to Cub Scout Pack 242



Photo courtesy of Middletown VAC

Dennis Beauregard and Bob Siemer, who are both members of the Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) and former Middletown Veteran of the Year Award recipients, recently held a flag etiquette presentation at Harmony Elementary School for Cub Scout Pack 242. The scouts were proud to host these veterans and are very appreciative of their knowledge and, most importantly, their service to our great country.

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

A poster with a dark background and a stylized American flag in the upper left corner. The text is enclosed in a gold-bordered box. The text reads: "The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2024 VETERAN OF THE YEAR. All nominations must be received no later than Friday, December 20th. Please visit middletownnj.org/voty for more information." The word "VETERAN" is in a larger, gold, serif font, and "OF THE YEAR" is in a smaller, gold, serif font. There is a gold circular icon with a white outline of a person's head between "VETERAN" and "OF".

The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee
is now accepting nominations for the

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middletownnj.org/voty for more information.

Visit middletownnj.org/voty for more information.

New *Locally Sourced* Podcast Episode with Comedian
Vinnie Brand Available Now

A promotional graphic for the "Locally Sourced" podcast. It features a green background with a white and black checkered border at the top and bottom. The text "CHECK OUT MAYOR TONY PERRY'S NEW PODCAST" is in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this is a white-outlined box containing the "Locally SOURCED" logo, where "Locally" is in a script font and "SOURCED" is in a bold, sans-serif font. Above the logo is a small white box with the text "EXIT 114". To the right of the logo is the text "LISTEN ON" in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by five podcast platform icons: Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Amazon Music, and Podbean.

CHECK OUT MAYOR TONY PERRY'S
NEW PODCAST

EXIT 114

Locally
SOURCED

LISTEN ON

Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Amazon Music, Podbean

In the latest episode of *Locally Sourced*, Mayor Tony Perry sits down with local comedian Vinnie Brand. Vinnie is the owner of the Stress Factory Comedy Club in New Brunswick and a Middletown resident. You can listen to the podcast on Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Podbean, and Spotify. You can also click [HERE](#) to watch it on YouTube.

Sign Up Now for Middletown's Holiday Helpers Program: Last Day to Donate Items is Friday, 12/13



Looking to spread some holiday cheer? Middletown Township is proud to announce the return of the Holiday Helpers Gift Drive to support local families in need!

We are looking for individuals, groups, and/or businesses to help make the holidays a little brighter by “adopting” a family to purchase new toys and clothing for them. Please use this [Google Form link](#) to sign up and be matched with a family in need.

All donations should be new, unwrapped, and dropped off to the Croydon Hall Annex at 900 Leonardville Road in Leonardo by Friday, December 13th. Staff will be onsite to collect gifts Monday-Wednesday from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM and Thursday-Friday from 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM. Staff will be there until 3:30 PM on Friday, December 13th to receive final gift drop-offs.

If you have any questions or are a family in need of assistance this holiday season, please call the Middletown Township Health Department at 732-615-2000 ext. 2164.

Thank you for your generosity!

Visit middletownnj.org/holidayhelpers for more information.

Donate to Middletown PBA Local 124's Toy Drive by Wednesday, 12/18



Looking for an incredible cause to be part of during the holiday season? 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 18th. 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 or dflannigan@middletownnj.org.

Register Now for MAC's Winter 2025 Classes



Registration for the Middletown Arts Center's (MAC) winter 2025 classes has officially opened! Pick up a hobby and sign up for a class in theater, dance, art, or music. Classes begin Thursday, January 2nd.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Veterans Affairs Committee Encourages Community to Attend Pearl Harbor Service on Sunday, 12/8 at 1 PM



REMEMBER



The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee invites the community to join them at VFW Post and Auxiliary 2179 for their Annual Pearl Harbor Service to remember, reflect, and revere all the lives lost that fateful day.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 1:00 PM
1 VETERANS LANE & NJ-36, PORT MONMOUTH



PEARL HARBOR



Attend Middletown Recreation's PJs & Storytime with Santa Free Event on Tuesday, 12/17 from 5-6 PM

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION **PORICY PARK**

PJS & STORYTIME WITH SANTA

HOT COCOA BAR - PHOTOS WITH SANTA
STORYTIME BY THE FIRE

Tuesday, December 17th
5pm-6pm
Poricy Park Nature Center
For ages 12 and under
Free for residents

Cozy up by the fire as Santa reads a Christmas classic at the Poricy Park Nature Center (345 Oak Hill Road). After, take photos with the "Big Guy" and enjoy a hot chocolate bar! This festive and fun event is free for residents.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Attend Our Annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting at the MAC on Thursday, 12/26 at 6 PM

A poster for the Chanukah Menorah Lighting event. It features a central illustration of a lit menorah with nine branches, each with a flame. The background is a dark blue night sky with white stars. Text is overlaid on the poster in yellow and white. In the top right corner, there is a small white logo that says "B'H".

Please Join Chabad Jewish Center
for the MIDDLETOWN public

CHANUKAH

Menorah Lighting

**DONUTS & DREIDELS
CHANUKAH CRAFTS
HOT LATKES
Special Fire Juggling Show**

**Thursday, Dec 26th
6:00 pm
Middletown Art Center
36 Church St.
Middletown, NJ**

For more info: 732-772-1998 Jewishholmdel.org/chanukah

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

Enjoy Middletown Recreation's Winter Solstice Hike on Saturday, 12/21 from 5-6 PM



Join Middletown Recreation for a hike on the longest night of the year! Bundle up and enjoy beautiful Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road) in the early evening. A headlamp or flashlight is recommended. Warm up after with hot cocoa by the fire!

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the event and how to register.

MTPL is Hosting Two Winter-Themed Teen Programs Next Week: Sign Up Today!



The Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) has lots of teen happenings taking place this month! There will be two fun programs next week:

Macrame Snowflakes Craft: On Monday, December 9th, learn how to make macrame snowflakes just in time for winter! Registration is required for this program, which will take place in the MTPL's Children's Program Room (55 New Monmouth Road) from 4:00-4:45 PM. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Murder Mystery Night: On Wednesday, December 11th, wear your ugliest sweater and try to solve the murder at the MTPL's ugly sweater party! Registration is required for this program, which will take place in the MTPL's Children's Program Room from 7:00-8:00 PM. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

**Enjoy a Holiday Show at the MTPL on Wednesday, 12/11
from 4-5 PM**



Holiday Show
featuring Richard Stillman



**Wednesday,
Dec. 11 | 4pm
Community Room**

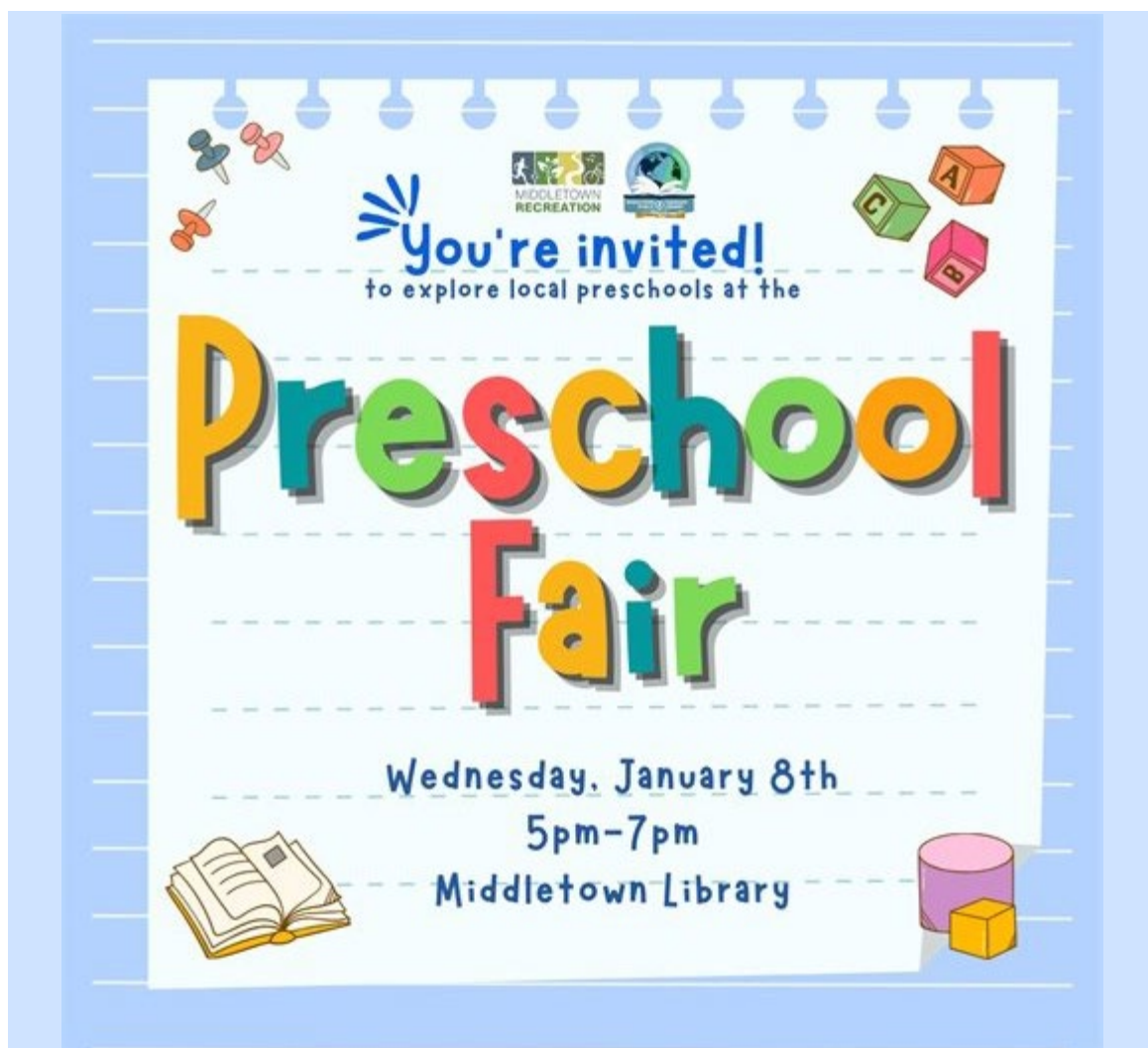


Registration is recommended,
not required at mtpl.org.

Celebrate the December holidays with a performance from Broadway actor, singer, tap dancer, and storyteller Richard Stillman in the MTPL's Community Room!
Registration is recommended, but not required.

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

**Attend the Middletown Preschool Fair on Wednesday, 1/8
from 5-7 PM**



Finding the perfect preschool for your child can be tough, so we're here to save the day! Middletown Recreation is bringing preschools throughout the town together in one place for your convenience. Representatives from various schools will be at the Middletown Township Public Library (55 New Monmouth Road) to speak about class options, program structure, and answer any questions you may have.

Click [HERE](#) to view a list of featured schools.



As part of the replacement of a bridge structure, Whipporwill Valley Road will be closed to traffic for a period of 90 consecutive calendar days. The project began on Monday, December 2nd and a detour will be in place during the closing period. The bridge area at Whipporwill Valley Road will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the allowed closing period. Vehicular and pedestrian access to all residences and businesses within the project limits will be maintained during construction.



Upper Navesink River Channel Dredging Project to Begin Soon

On November 21st, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials announced the upcoming Upper Navesink River Channel dredging project is scheduled to begin in early December in Middletown.

Dredging operations are expected to be completed in January 2025. Work will be conducted during daylight hours on a 7-days-a-week schedule. The area roads are expected to remain open through the duration of the project.

Click [HERE](#) to read NJDOT's press release for more information.

RESOURCES

Middletown Township Health Department Encourages Holiday Toy Safety



Play it Safe

— Shop Smart this Holiday Season!

Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than 8 years old. Discard broken balloons at once.

Avoid small balls and toys with small parts for children younger than age 3.

Get the right size helmets and safety gear for children using bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates. Ensure they are worn properly while riding or skating.

High powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children under 14. Building & play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.

NSN
NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
A DIVISION OF THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NSN 13-3

Photo courtesy of United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Prepare Your Home for Winter Weather

WINTERIZE Your Home



- Inspect your chimney
- Insulate your attic
- Clean out gutters
- Caulk and weather strip doors/windows
- Install & test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors (with battery backups)
- Insulate exposed pipes
- Gather supplies

Your home isn't the only one that can be winterized.
Your neighbors and those most vulnerable might need your help too!

weather.gov 

The Middletown Office of Emergency Management (OEM) encourages residents to winterize their home ahead of the winter season. Follow the tips above and visit [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) for additional information. Stay safe and warm!

Fall 2024 Leaf Collection Schedule



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

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

FALL 2024 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

COLLECTION ZONE	START DATE
A,B,C,D,E,G,I,J,K	MONDAY, 12/2
F,H,L	THURSDAY, 12/12

VISIT [WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/COLLECTION](https://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 Kanés Lane) from November 1st until June 1st. Brush is accepted year-round for residents.

Zones A, B, D, E, G, I, J, K are all in progress. Visit [middletownnj.org/collection](https://www.middletownnj.org/collection) for more information.

VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTY POLICIES IN MIDDLETOWN

Middletown Township has an ordinance that requires owners of a business or vacant and abandoned property to maintain liability insurance for negligent acts and omissions.

The ordinance holds property owners responsible for maintaining and securing the property since vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties can cause a cycle of neighborhood deterioration. The ordinance penalizes owners whose property remains vacant year after year.

HOW TO REGISTER OR REPORT VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTY

Please visit middletownnj.org/abandonedproperty to either register your vacant/abandoned property or report a vacant/abandoned property.

You can also contact Lisa Vena from the Planning & Community Development Department at 732-615-2000 ext. 2283 or lvena@middletownnj.org if you have any additional questions.



Prepare Your Home for Winter Storms with Flood Insurance and Precautionary Steps

Snowmelt can lead to floods. **Don't flake on insurance.**

GET FLOOD INSURANCE



FEMA



The snow will be here before you know it, so be prepared! Middletown Floodplain Management encourages residents to purchase flood insurance and winterize their homes by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

Remember to clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks, and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or neighboring structure during or following a storm. Keep pathways and driveways clear between storms to avoid buildup of snow piles and icing. Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

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 3rd through 8th grade students from income-eligible households who have fallen behind academically due to the pandemic. Tutoring takes place on Saturdays from October 12th through April 5th 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 to see if your household qualifies and 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 for more information and to apply.

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 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 to register for Nixle.



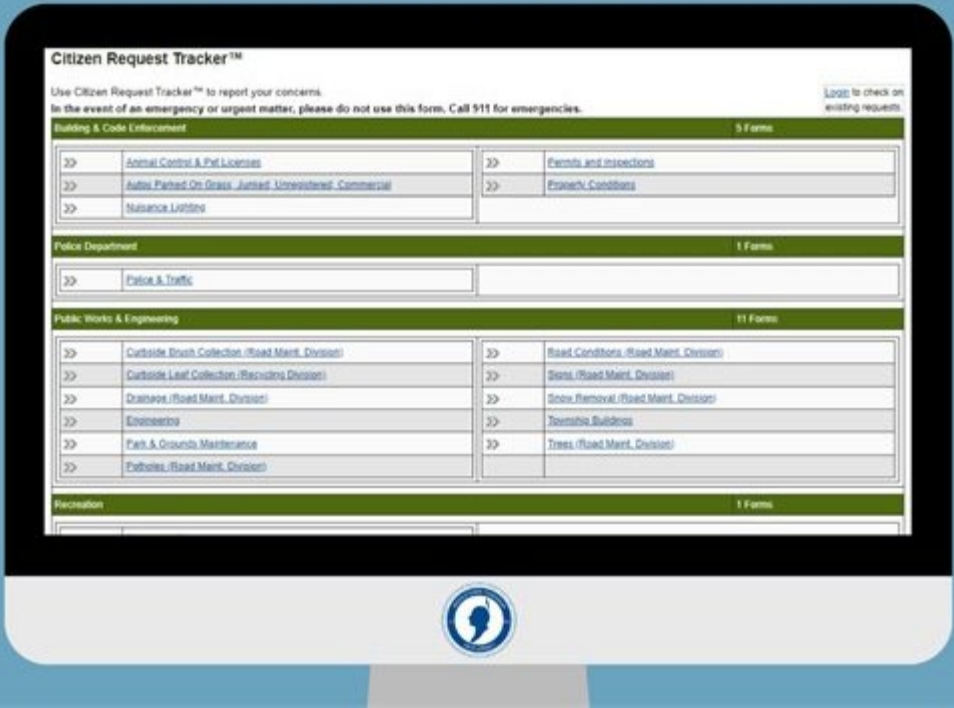
Know Someone with a Disability?
Make Sure They Register with NJ
Register Ready!

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.

REPORT A CONCERN

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



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.



@Middletown NJ Town Hall



@middletownnj



@middletown.township



@Middletown Township NJ

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20

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https://www.middletownnj.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/247392[12/9/2024 8:52:01 AM]