



## Middletown Hosts 2025 Reorganization Meeting



*Mayor Tony Perry proudly poses with his wife Alannah, their three children Reagan, Grant, and Kennedy, and former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli who swore him into his mayoral seat.*

Middletown Township held its annual reorganization meeting on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Tony Perry, who was elected in November, was sworn into the Township Committee to serve his three-year term.

The Township Committee selected Tony Perry to serve his seventh consecutive year as mayor, making him the longest serving mayor in over 75 years. Rick Hibell was also chosen to serve as deputy mayor for his fifth consecutive year. This duo is the longest-serving mayor and deputy mayor leadership team in Middletown's

history.

Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Father Jeff Kegley of Saint Mary, Mother of God Church performed the Invocation.

The 2025 Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) chiefs were also sworn in by Mayor Perry. The meeting ended with our dedicated volunteers from various boards, commissions, and committees reciting their Oaths of Office.

Congratulations to everyone who was sworn in and thank you for your commitment to our community!

***Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the meeting. 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 night at 5:00 PM and 8:30 PM through Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.***

*All photos courtesy of Patrick Olivero*



*Mayor Tony Perry swears in MTFD Chief Anthony Fulciniti. He also swore in Deputy Chief Daniel P. Kelly, First Assistant Chief Kevin Morrissey, Second Assistant Chief Jacob Lawrence III, and Third Assistant Chief James Abbes.*



*Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell poses with his family and Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden after being sworn in.*



*Mayor Tony Perry swears in EMS Chief Marco Fernandes. He also swore in Deputy Chief Floyd Goldstein and Assistant Chief Craig James.*

## Middletown Township Signs Sister City Pact with Ofakim, Israel



*Mayor Tony Perry and Mayor Itzik Danino proudly display their signed sister city pact. (Photo courtesy of Patrick Olivero)*

**On Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Tony Perry and Ofakim, Israel Mayor Itzik Danino signed a sister city pact to symbolically unite the two cities they govern. This is Middletown's first sister city agreement in its 361 years of history.**

**Mayor Perry's bond with Mayor Danino first began in January 2024 when he visited Ofakim following the aftermath of October 7, 2023 and its heartbreaking loss of 48 residents. Middletown lost 37 residents on September 11, 2001 and continues to feel the impacts from that fateful day. As a result of their communities' experiences with terrorism and grief, Mayor Perry and Mayor Danino quickly built a friendship rooted in resilience and remembrance.**

**As part of the sister city pact, Middletown and Ofakim will form a committee of representatives from both cities to uphold the principles of their agreement. The committee will meet on an annual basis to review their progress and discuss technology, agriculture, and sustainable development practices, encourage business partnerships, share first responder training tips, and promote research opportunities and educational innovations throughout the year.**

**Click [HERE](#) to read our press release for more details on the pact and ceremony.**

**Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the event.**

## Community Supports Blood Drive with NJ Blood Services/NY Blood Center at Town Hall



*Mayor Tony Perry donated blood with the help of nurse Jacqueline from the New York Blood Center.*

On Thursday, Middletown partnered with New Jersey Blood Services/New York Blood Center to host a blood drive at Town Hall. We are proud to report that 49 donors were registered and a total of 62 units of blood were collected. Thanks to our community's generosity, 186 patients may benefit from the blood collected.

Stay on the lookout for future blood drives!



*Photo courtesy of New Jersey Blood Services/New York Blood Center*

## Falcone Italian Restaurant Opens in Lincroft



On Friday, Falcone (623 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft) officially opened its doors! Mayor Tony Perry, Committeeman Ryan Clarke, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz were honored to attend the ribbon cutting. We encourage all our residents to check out the beautiful ambiance and menu this new BYOB Italian restaurant has to offer.

Visit [falconenj.com](http://falconenj.com) and follow the restaurant on social media for more information.

## Register for Middletown's Emergency Alerts & Updates

### STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT SNOW 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.

## Christmas Tree Collection Dates: South Zone TOMORROW (Sat., 1/11) & North Zone on Sat., 1/18



Middletown Township is proud to recycle all Christmas trees into wood mulch which will be available to residents for free in the spring. Please help make the recycling process easier by removing all ornaments, wires, and plastic bags from your old Christmas trees.

## TREE REMOVAL IN MIDDLETOWN

Due to a new state mandate, trees may not be removed from any private property without Township review and approval.

Before making any decisions, please call the Middletown Zoning Office at 732-615-2279 for guidance.

You can also visit [middletownnj.org/treeremoval](http://middletownnj.org/treeremoval) for additional information and the permit application.



## How to Purchase Your 2025 Parking Permit



## 2025 Parking Permit Applications

The Township Clerk's Office has begun accepting applications for the 2025 calendar year. Visit [middletownnj.org/parkingpermits](http://middletownnj.org/parkingpermits) for information about how to purchase a parking permit either online or in person.

### **Additional Daily Parking Now Available at Main Train Station Parking Lot**

 **TOWNSHIP OF  
MIDDLETOWN** 

**MIDDLETOWN TRAIN STATION PARKING LOT #1**

**ZONE #12501**   
**Spaces 300-519**

**PAY BY CELL VIA MPAY2PARK MOBILE APP**

**\$5.00 per day**  
Metered Parking in Effect 5 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday  
Free Parking on Weekends and Holidays

 [www.mPay2Park.com](http://www.mPay2Park.com) 

For further information call: 1-855-677-7275

**HOW TO START A PARKING SESSION:**

1. Open the mPay2Park app.
2. Register/log in to your account.
3. Click "Park" and choose your license plate.
4. Scan or enter your zone/space and duration.
5. Click on "Start Now".

Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748  
732-615-2045 or 732-615-2015  
[middletownnj.org/parkingpermit](http://middletownnj.org/parkingpermit) | [townclerk@middletownnj.org](mailto:townclerk@middletownnj.org)

*Pictured above is what one of the new signs will look like.*

To address the need for more daily parking for commuters, the Middletown Department of Public Works has added new parking spaces (numbered 300-519) to the large train station lot located off Middletown-Lincroft Road near the satellite recycling center. These new spaces feature yellow striping.

New signage will be installed soon, but the zone, cost, and instructions on how to start a parking session remain the same. The zone is "12501:Middletown" and parking costs \$5 per day via the mPay2Park app. After you open the app, you need to log in to your account, click "Park", and choose your license plate. Then, enter your zone/space and duration and click on "Start Now".

**Renew Your Dog License Through Friday, 1/31**

## **Attention All Dog Owners:**

# **2025 Dog License Renewals Beginning 1/1/2025**

Dog license renewal paperwork was recently mailed and will soon be emailed to you (if you have an email address on file).

Please review the paperwork for instructions on how to complete the process. Renewals should be submitted either online or via mail between January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>.

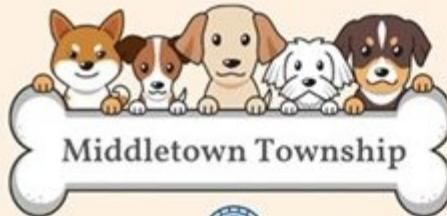
Late fees begin February 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Questions? Please call Animal Control at 732-615-2097  
or visit [middletownnj.org/petlicensing](http://middletownnj.org/petlicensing).**

*Visit [middletownnj.org/petlicensing](http://middletownnj.org/petlicensing) for more information.*

## **BENEFITS OF LICENSING YOUR DOG**



Animal Control  
732-615-2097  
[middletownnj.org/petlicensing](http://middletownnj.org/petlicensing)

**A dog license proves that your pet is vaccinated and promotes public health.**

Dog licenses are only provided to pets who have an updated rabies shot. A dog with a license tag gives good samaritans the confidence to approach a lost pet, since they know that they are not rabid.

**With dog license renewals currently taking place, Middletown Animal Control would like to remind residents about the benefits of licensing your dog! Throughout the month of January, we will be sharing these advantages via our communications channels. Be sure to follow Middletown Township on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#)!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun.

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thu.

Fri.

Sat.

Sun.

Mon.

Tue.

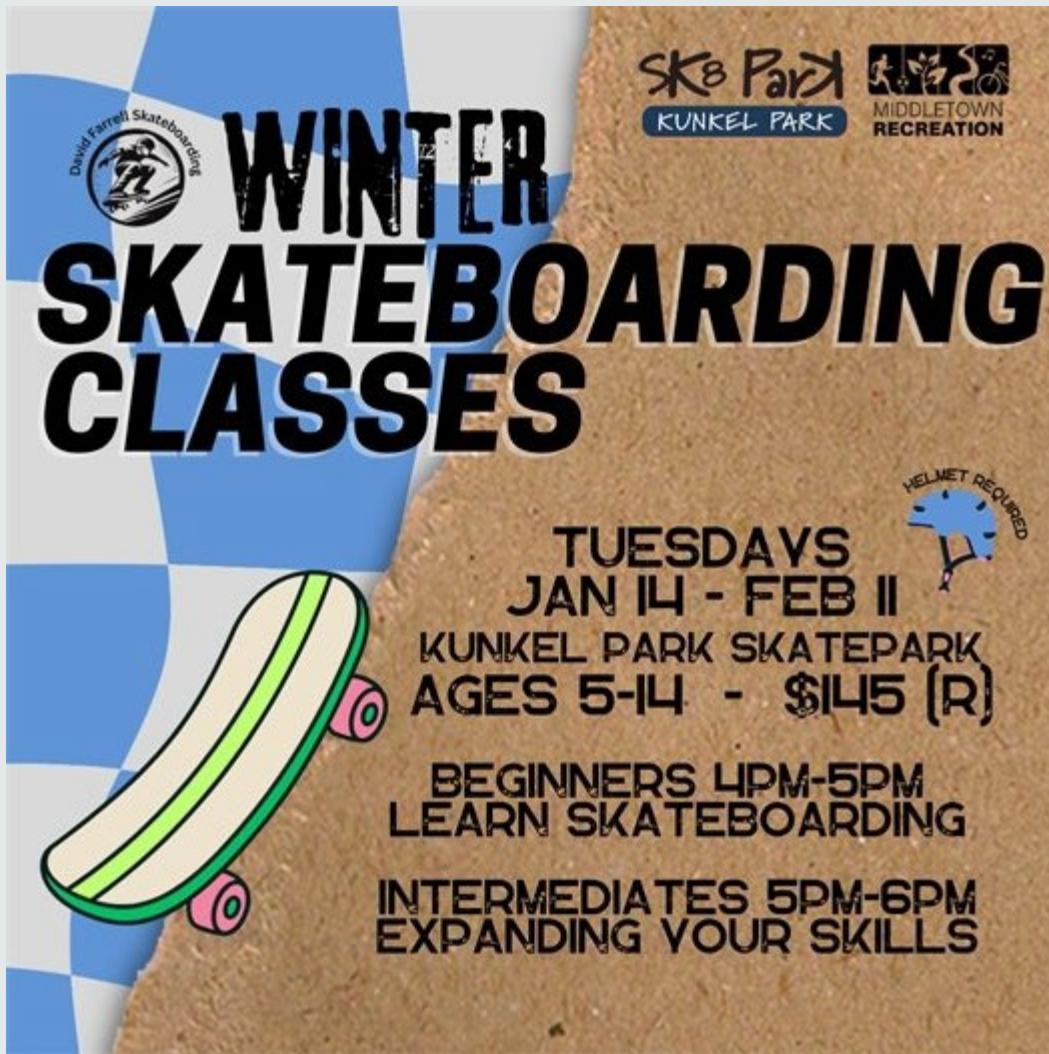
Wed.

Thu.

Fri.

Sat.

**Sign Up for Middletown Recreation's Winter  
Skateboarding Classes: Lessons Start Tuesday, 1/14!**



Shred with Middletown Recreation this winter! Learn skateboarding or expand your skateboarding skills with Coach Dave at the Kunkel Park Skatepark in Leonardo.

Beginners will learn pushing, riding, turning, going up and down smaller ramps, and more. Intermediates will tackle bigger ramps, ollies, learning to drop-in, freestyle tricks, and more. Remember to bring your own equipment! A helmet is

required and pads are recommended.

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

**Learn About Banking Basics at the MTPL on Tuesday, 1/14  
at 4:30 PM**



The poster features a large green title 'Banking Basics' with 'WITH RYAN HEITT OF M&T Bank' below it. To the right is a circular icon of a bank building. The text 'Tuesday, January 14 @ 4:30 pm Community Room' is in a box. A pink piggy bank on a treadmill with coins is the central image. The text 'Financial Fitness Winter Series' is on the left. The Middletown Township Public Library logo is at the bottom right.

**Banking Basics**  
WITH RYAN HEITT OF M&T Bank

Tuesday, January 14  
@ 4:30 pm  
Community Room

Financial Fitness Winter Series



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

Get a refresh on financial institutions, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and other banking basics with local banker Ryan Heitt in the first of a three-part winter "Financial Fitness" series. The seminar will take place in the Middletown Township Public Library's (MTPL) Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road).

**Registration is recommended.**

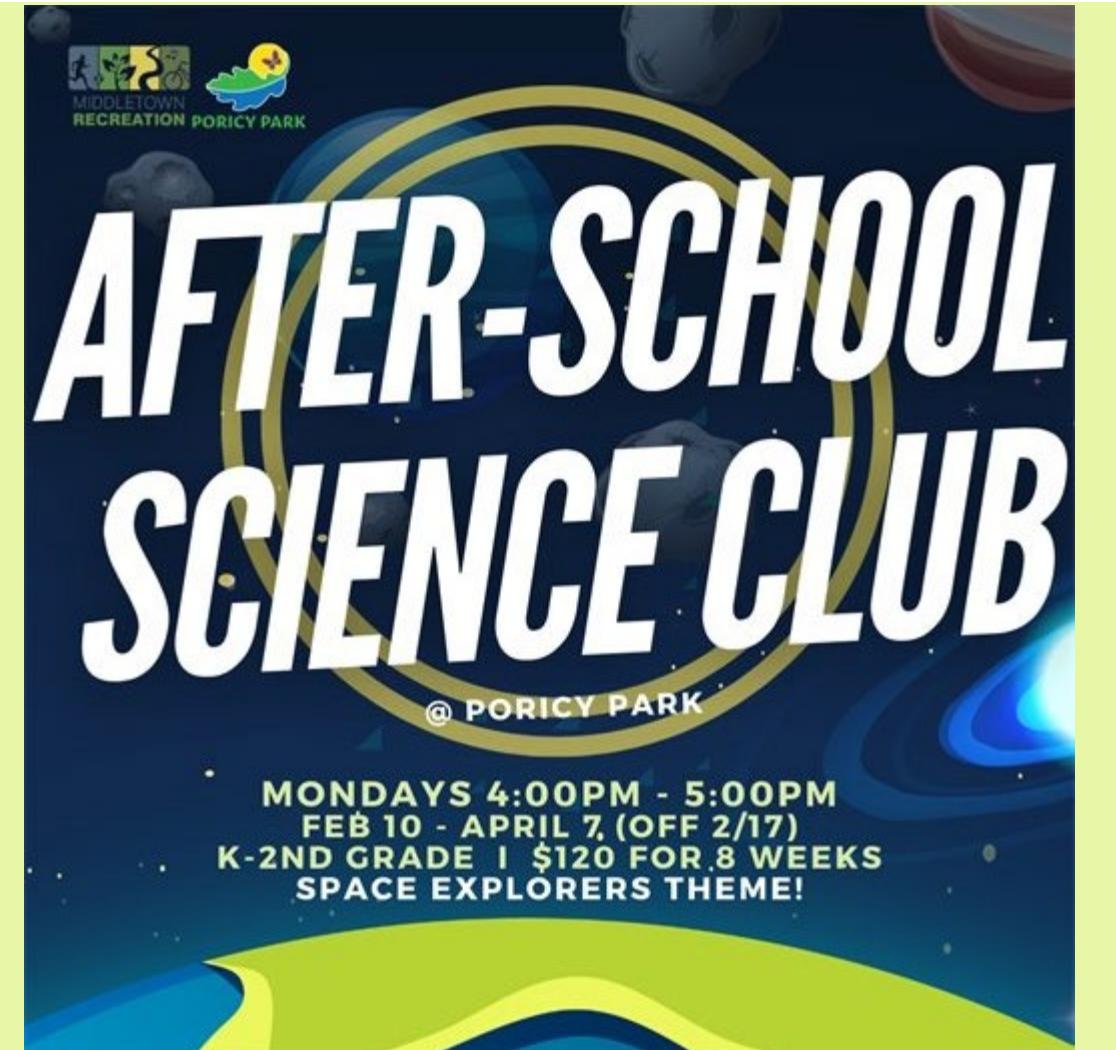
*Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.*

## Design Greeting Cards for Senior Citizens at the MTPL on Wednesday, 1/15 from 3-6 PM



Teens, stop by the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road) to make winter greeting cards for local senior citizens in Middletown! Volunteer hours will be offered for each card. There is a limit of five cards for a total of five hours, and volunteers must be between 12-18 years old.

**Middletown Recreation's After-School Science Club  
Begins in February: Register Now!**



Join Middletown Recreation for After-School Science Club - we've got STEM activities to do, nature to explore, and fun to be had! Each week has a different topic and will include an outdoor hike (weather permitting). This winter's theme is Space Explorers.

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

**Compete in MAC's Art of Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser: Sign Up Today!**



Put your culinary creativity on display as the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) presents The Art of Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser! Contestants must prepare in advance a minimum of eight quarts of chili (any style!), but no toppings or garnishes – your chili must stand on its own as you compete for the celebrity judges and the People's Choice Award!

Fifteen amateurs and five restaurants will battle it out as our celebrity judges determine 1<sup>st</sup> (\$100), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$75), and 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$50) places, as well as best restaurant chili.

All entrants will compete for the People's Choice Award (\$100). Cash prizes are courtesy of Brightview Senior Living in Holmdel.

To enter, please submit your contact info and the type of chili you are making to [tj.middletownartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:tj.middletownartscenter@gmail.com). The entry fee is \$25. Checks can be made out to the Middletown Arts Center and sent to 36 Church Street, Middletown, NJ 07748.

If you'd like to pay by credit card, please call 732-706-4100. Space is limited!

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$15, which include a tasting kit to sample all the chilis and a vote in the People's Choice Award. Tickets go on sale at 10 AM on <sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, January 15 .

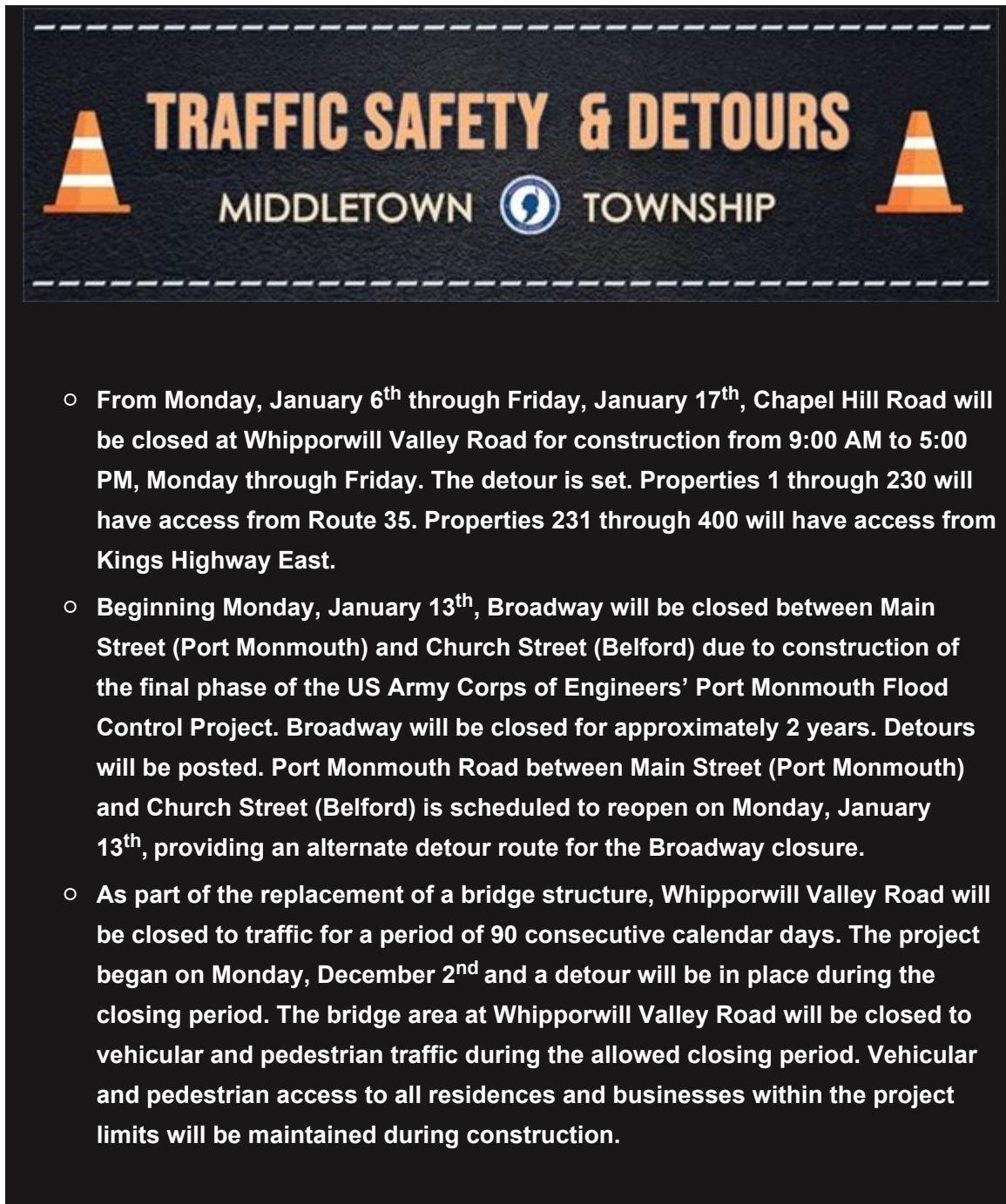
*Click [HERE](#) for more information.*

**Register for Middletown Recreation's Maple Tree Tapping  
Event Happening Wednesday, 1/29 from 4-5 PM**



**Join Middletown Recreation at Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road) to drill holes, hammer in tappers, and hang buckets - the first steps of making maple syrup!**

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



**TRAFFIC SAFETY & DETOURS**  
MIDDLETOWN  TOWNSHIP

- From Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Chapel Hill Road will be closed at Whipporwill Valley Road for construction from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. The detour is set. Properties 1 through 230 will have access from Route 35. Properties 231 through 400 will have access from Kings Highway East.
- Beginning Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, Broadway will be closed between Main Street (Port Monmouth) and Church Street (Belford) due to construction of the final phase of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Port Monmouth Flood Control Project. Broadway will be closed for approximately 2 years. Detours will be posted. Port Monmouth Road between Main Street (Port Monmouth) and Church Street (Belford) is scheduled to reopen on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, providing an alternate detour route for the Broadway closure.
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Continues

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) officials announced the Upper Navesink River Channel dredging project that began in early December in Middletown.

Dredging operations are expected to be completed in January 2025. Work is being 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



## How to Protect Your Pipes During the Colder Months

### AVOID FROZEN PIPES THIS WINTER

Before the cold sets in, locate your main water shut-off valve and hang an I.D. tag on it so you can find it quickly in an emergency. In many homes, it is located near the water meter or close to where the water pipe enters the home. Note: If your pipes do freeze, you will need to be able to turn off your water immediately. Do NOT attempt to thaw the pipes without doing so.

**We recommend that you locate and test your main water shut-off valve.**



**Ball Valve Shut-Off**



**Gate Valve Shut-Off**

It's a good idea to test your main water shut-off valve to be sure it works properly. To test, slowly close it. If you have a ball valve, it generally only requires a quarter turn to close. Gate valves are generally closed by turning the handle clockwise and should turn easily. You may need to have it serviced if it does not close easily.

Once the shut-off valve is completely closed, check sinks and other water fixtures to make sure you found the main water valve and that it is working properly. If no water comes out of any faucets, CONGRATULATIONS, you found your shut-off valve! See more tips to the right.



When temperatures stay below freezing, keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.



Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines and fix drafts around windows and doors.



Check sprinkler or irrigation systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained.



Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation or heat tape before cold weather sets in.



If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.



**DO YOU KNOW HOW TO REPORT A WATER EMERGENCY?**

To report a water emergency to us, visit [amwater.com](http://amwater.com). Select your state from the drop down, and click on the **Report Emergency** button in the upper right hand corner.

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

Now that it is officially winter, we encourage you to take some preventative measures to avoid frozen pipes! In the graphic above, New Jersey American Water provides some helpful tips.

In addition to avoiding frozen pipes, it is also important to keep in mind that you should not pour fats, oils, or grease down the drain. You should dispose of them in the trash instead. This tip should be practiced year-round, but is especially relevant during the holiday season when family and friends tend to be gathering together for meals more often.

*Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about unwelcome holiday guests – fats, oils, and grease!*

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



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.

## **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.

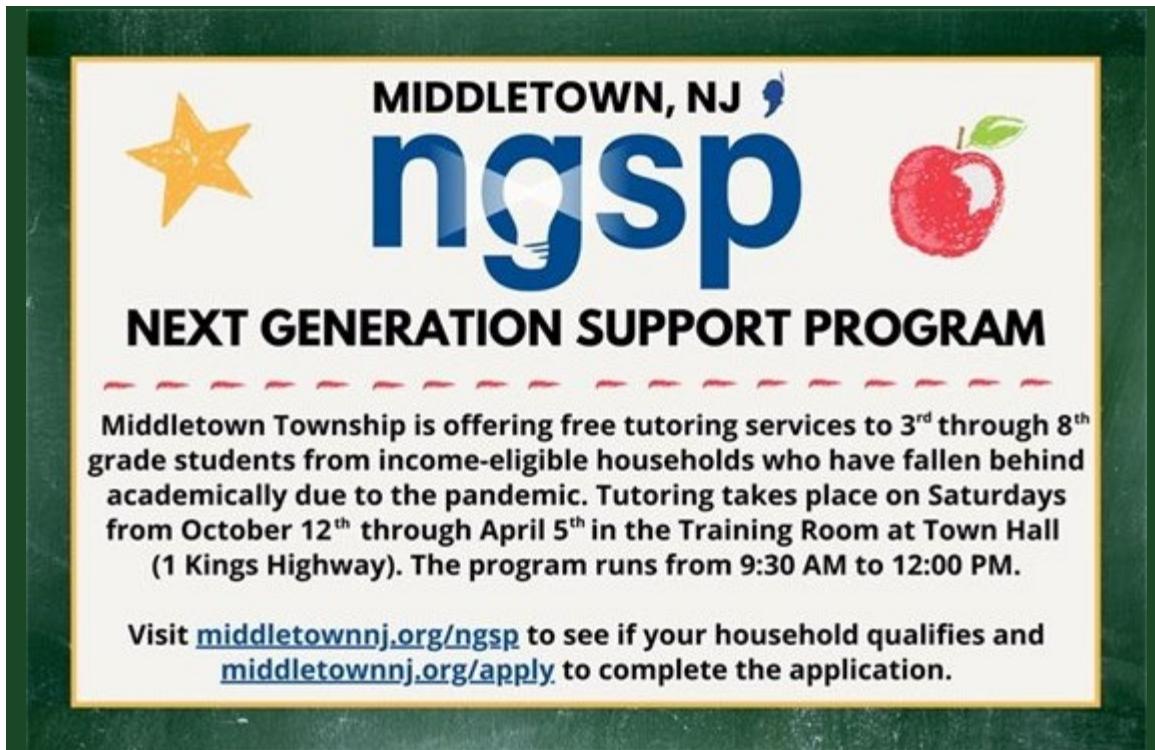
## **HOW TO REGISTER OR REPORT VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTY**

Please visit [middletownnj.org/abandonedproperty](http://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](mailto:lvena@middletownnj.org) if you have any additional questions.



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



MIDDLETOWN, NJ   

## 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](http://middletownnj.org/ngsp) to see if your household qualifies and [middletownnj.org/apply](http://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](http://middletownnj.org/ngsp) for more information and to apply.



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).

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



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## Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20

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