



Bayshore Middle School Participates in Annual Great Kindness Challenge



Pictured from left: Eighth Grade Peer Leader Keira Muench, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Mayor Tony Perry, and Eighth Grade Peer Leader Grace Wahl

Mayor Tony Perry and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz started their week on a positive note by helping kick off The Great Kindness Challenge at Bayshore Middle

School in Leonardo! The Great Kindness Challenge is a week long, global campaign that is dedicated to students performing as many kind deeds as possible based on a provided checklist. Some items on the checklist included dressing up for spirit days, "reporting your affection" by giving a friend a kind note (spearheaded by the school's newspaper club), and reducing single use plastic by bringing your own silverware or water bottle (spearheaded by the school's environmental club).

As leadership guests, Mayor Perry and Committeewoman Kratz spoke to the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students about the importance of spreading kindness. They were both paired with student peer leaders who explained the campaign and showed them the program's different initiatives. Both Mayor Perry and Committeewoman Kratz were also proud to sign the school's "pledge to kindness" banner.

We applaud Bayshore Middle School for emphasizing the importance of kindness!

Middletown High School North Ice Hockey Team Wins Annual Mayor's Cup!



Photo courtesy of Kevin Prefer from JerseyPics.com

On Thursday night, Middletown Sports Complex was filled with community spirit as high schools North and South hockey teams competed for the annual Mayor's Cup. It was a tied game that went into overtime, but Middletown High School North ended

up clinching the title for the fourth year in a row!

Cub Scout Pack 242 Learns About Voting and Community Involvement at Town Hall



On Tuesday evening, Cub Scout Pack 242 came to Town Hall to meet with Mayor Tony Perry! The fourth graders discussed majority and plurality voting as well as the importance of community leadership. In addition to learning from Mayor Perry, they also had the chance to present some of their own ideas, like creating a trail in Middletown. Mayor Perry was so happy to hear from these young leaders and can't wait to see all the good they will do!

New Episode of *Minute with the Mayor* Available Now



MINUTE WITH **THE MAYOR**

Episode 16



Watch Mayor Tony Perry's first *Minute with the Mayor* of the year as he congratulates two Monmouth United Soccer Club teams on their accomplishments, explains the benefits of our Volunteer Incentive Program, and discusses Normandy Park Rink and Waloo Park updates.

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

Normandy Park Hockey Rink Renovation Expected to Begin Soon



NORMANDY PARK HOCKEY RINK UPDATE

The Middletown Township Committee unanimously awarded the contract for the renovation of the Normandy Park Hockey Rink, located in the Nut Swamp section of town, at the Tuesday, 1/21 Township Committee Meeting. Be on the lookout for construction work over the next few months, as the renovation is expected to be complete by this spring!

HELP MIDDLETOWN CHOOSE THE NEW PLAYGROUND FOR WALOO PARK

We've selected four fantastic playground designs, and now
it's your turn to tell us which one you prefer!

Visit middletownnj.org/waloo for more information and to
complete our survey. The last day to submit it is Friday, 2/7.

WALOO PARK PLAYGROUND

OPTION 1



OPTION 2



OPTION 3



OPTION 4



We're thrilled to invite the Middletown community to participate in shaping the future of Waloo Park, which is located on Main Street in Port Monmouth! We've selected four fantastic playground designs, and now it's your turn to tell us which one you prefer.

As part of this exciting project, the playground's location within the park is changing. The new playground will be placed slightly closer to Main Street than the former playground, and the old asphalt area will be removed. This change will leave the back part of the park as open green space — perfect for pick-up games, relaxation, and enjoying the outdoors!

Once the survey is complete, we'll share the results. Our goal is to purchase the selected playground equipment by the end of March. If everything stays on track, construction could begin as early as July, with the new playground ready for use by this fall!

The last day to complete the survey is Friday, February 7th, so don't miss the chance to share your input!

Visit middletownnj.org/waloo for more information and to complete the survey.

Online Parking Permit System to Reopen TOMORROW (Saturday, 2/1)



Our online parking permit system is currently inaccessible due to an update. The site will reopen tomorrow, Saturday, February 1st. Going forward, the Township Clerk's Office kindly asks you to continue to purchase your permits as a new permit (not a renewal).

You can also visit middletownnj.org/parkingpermits to download a paper form.

Thank you for your patience!

**Renew Your Dog License TODAY (Friday, 1/31): Late Fees
Begin TOMORROW (Saturday, 2/1)**

🐾 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 1st and January 31st.

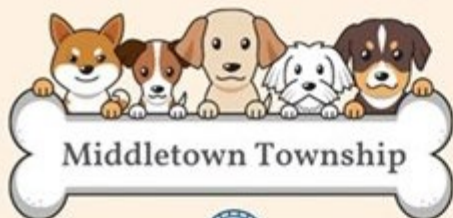
Late fees begin February 1st.



**Questions? Please call Animal Control at 732-615-2097
or visit middletownnj.org/petlicensing.**

Visit middletownnj.org/petlicensing for more information.

BENEFITS OF LICENSING YOUR DOG



Animal Control
732-615-2097
middletownnj.org/petlicensing

Licensing a pet in your name
establishes legal ownership.

Having a pet with a current
license helps prove ownership in
case you are ever in a situation
where it is needed.

With dog license renewals currently taking place, Middletown Animal Control would like to remind residents about the benefits of licensing your dog!

Visit middletownnj.org/petlicensing for more information. Late fees begin on Saturday, February 1st, so renew your dog license today!

**Township Committee to Host Meeting
on Monday, 2/3 at 7 PM**



The Middletown Township Committee Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, February 3rd at 7:00 PM in the courtroom at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).

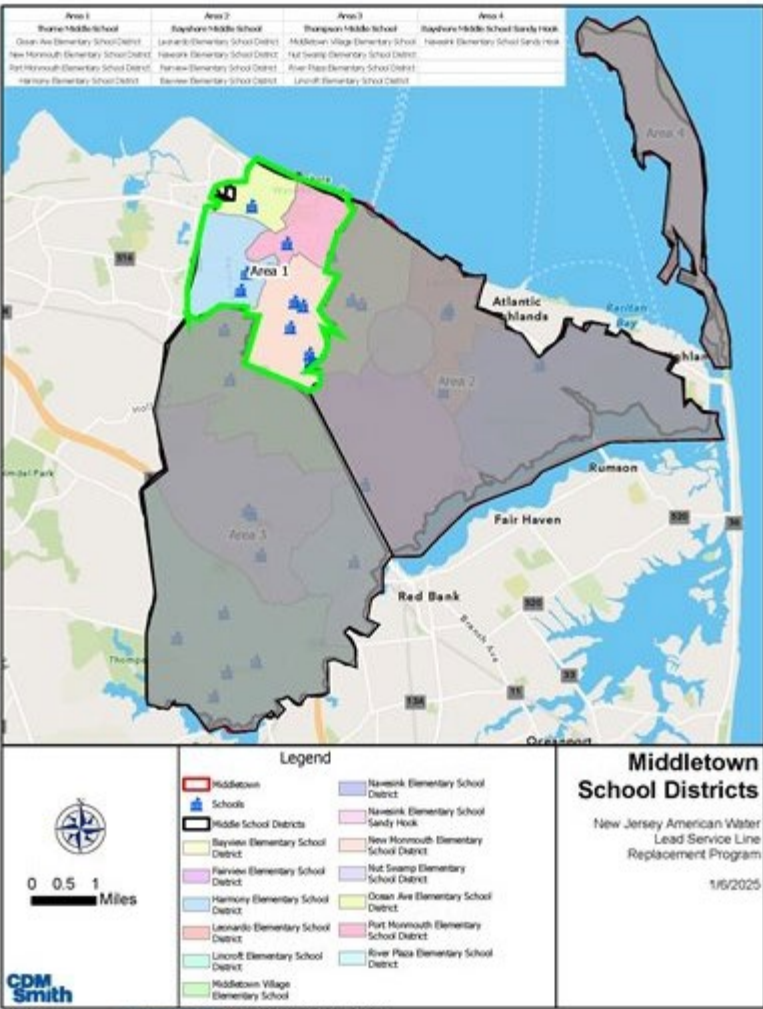
The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will also be made available to watch or listen to by visiting middletownnj.portal.civicclerk.com. Once you visit the link, please scroll to the information for the Monday, February 3rd meeting. Once the meeting begins, the event will say "LIVE" and a camera icon will appear. You can click on the camera icon to stream the meeting. After the meeting ends, a recording of it will be available.

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 access the meeting agenda.

Lead Service Line Replacement Program Canvassing to Begin in Middletown on Monday, 2/3



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

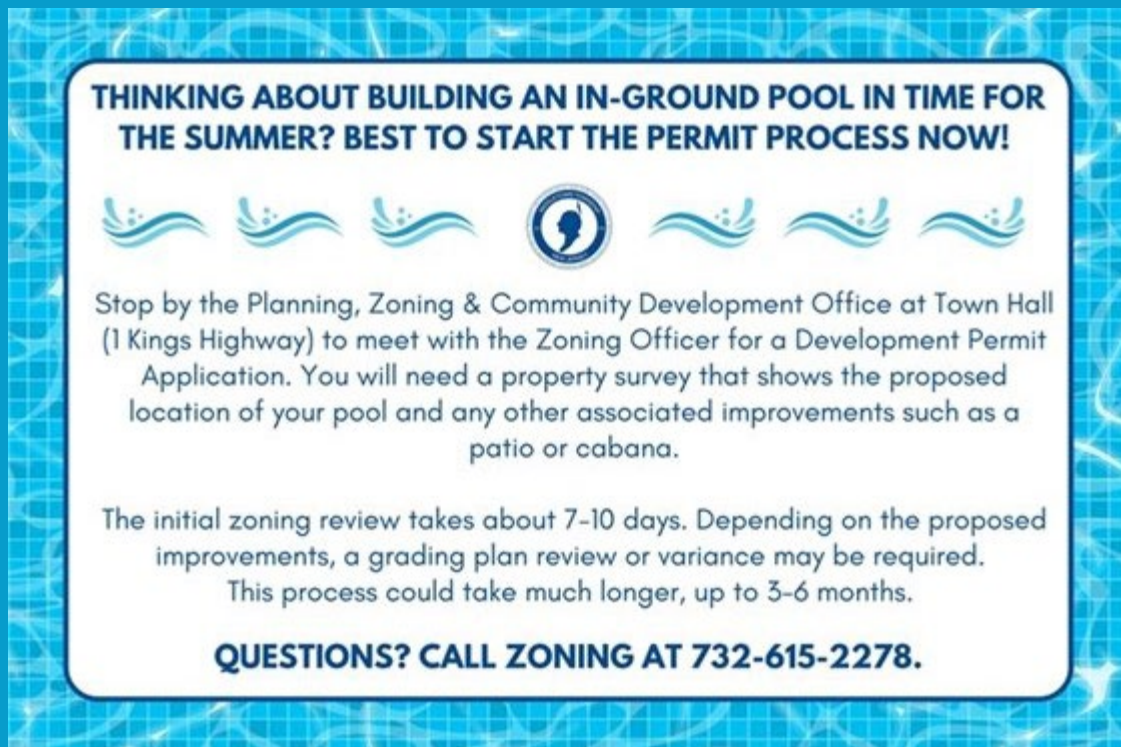
CDM Smith, on behalf of New Jersey American Water (NJAW), will be starting a door-to-door canvassing effort related to the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) in Middletown on Monday, February 3rd. The canvassing and internal inspections will begin in Area 1 on the map above. The entire canvassing is expected to take place over the next few months.

All CDM Smith inspectors will wear co-branded (NJAW and CDM Smith) high visibility logo vests and will have NJAW-issued Contractor ID badges. Inspectors will introduce themselves and the program to property owners and will then ask to enter the home to inspect the water service where it enters into the home (typically in a basement or crawl space).


The inspector will take exterior photos of the property and interior photographs of the service material and record the pipe material identified. Inspections generally take 15 minutes or less. At no time will residents be asked for money. Any customer that prefers not to have an internal inspection completed will be directed to

alternatives to the inspections including self-reporting.

The Middletown Township Police Department is aware of the canvassing. If you have any questions about LSLRP, please email njawlead@cdmsmith.com and LeadFreeNJ@amwater.com.



THINKING ABOUT BUILDING AN IN-GROUND POOL IN TIME FOR THE SUMMER? BEST TO START THE PERMIT PROCESS NOW!



Stop by the Planning, Zoning & Community Development Office at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway) to meet with the Zoning Officer for a Development Permit Application. You will need a property survey that shows the proposed location of your pool and any other associated improvements such as a patio or cabana.

The initial zoning review takes about 7-10 days. Depending on the proposed improvements, a grading plan review or variance may be required. This process could take much longer, up to 3-6 months.

QUESTIONS? CALL ZONING AT 732-615-2278.

It may be winter, but summer will be here before you know it! If you're thinking about building an in-ground pool in time for this summer, the best time to start the permit process is NOW!

Stop by the Planning, Zoning & Community Development Office at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway) to meet with the Zoning Officer for a Development Permit Application. You will need a property survey that shows the proposed location of your pool and any other associated improvements such as a patio or cabana.

The initial zoning review takes about 7-10 days. Depending on the proposed improvements, a grading plan review or variance may be required. This process could take much longer, up to 3-6 months.

Please call Zoning at 732-615-2278 if you have any questions.

Connect with the Township to Help Correct Concerns



Middletown Township is now utilizing the “See-Click-Fix” platform so residents can easily contact the Township to report any concerns. The Township is branding this reporting tool as *Connect & Correct* since you can submit your request via the website and track its progress through completion.

Visit [middletownnj.org](https://www.middletownnj.org) and click on the *Connect & Correct* button. This link will direct you to a page of categories you can choose from to report your concern.

Simply choose the relevant category from the list such as lost pet, pothole, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc. and add a brief description of the issue. You will be able to enter an address or pinpoint the location of the issue on the map. You will also have the option to attach a photo if you would like, and then you can click to submit the report.

You will then be able to track the status of the issue through updates on the platform or via email notifications.

In February, the Township will be launching the *Connect & Correct* app which should make it even easier to report your concerns on-the-go as well as streamline

communications regarding any concerns you may have.

Middletown Health Department Encourages You to Celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month!



**Last Day to Pay Quarterly Taxes Without Interest is
Monday, 2/10 by 4 PM**

THE NEXT QUARTERLY TAXES ARE DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2025.

THE LAST DAY TO PAY THE FEBRUARY QUARTER WITHOUT INTEREST IS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH BY 4 PM EITHER IN THE TAX COLLECTION OFFICE (1 KINGS HIGHWAY) OR VIA OUR ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL.



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE
TAX COLLECTION OFFICE AT 732-615-2086.**

Click [HERE](#) for more information about how to pay taxes.

Save the Date for Free Presentation About NJ's Tax Relief Programs: Wednesday, 2/12 from 2-4 PM



SENIOR RESIDENTS: HEAR UPDATED INFORMATION ABOUT NJ'S TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

The New Jersey Division of Taxation will be hosting a presentation about NEW eligibility requirements for the ANCHOR, Senior Freeze, and Stay NJ programs.

WHEN

Wednesday, February 12th from 2:00 - 4:00PM

WHERE

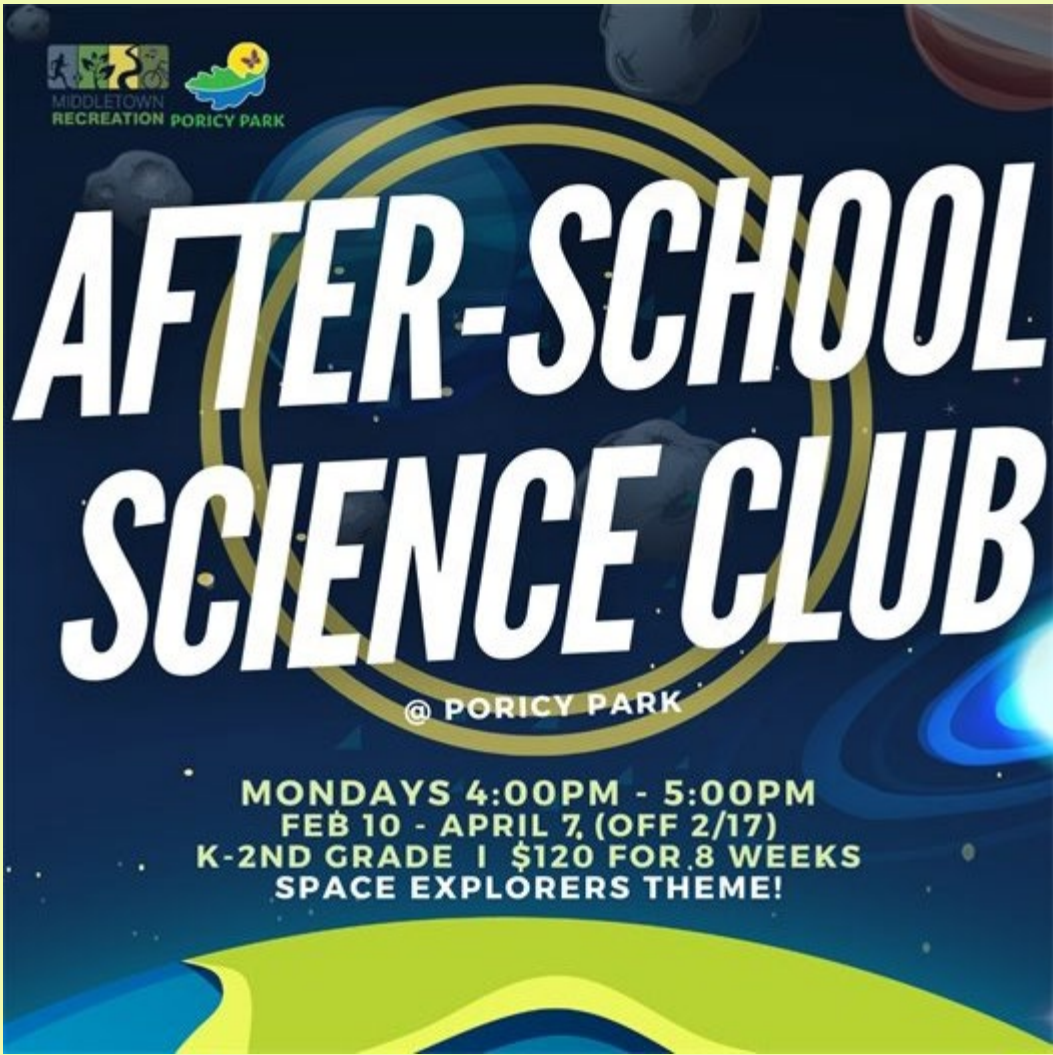
Middletown Senior Center
900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo

**PLEASE CALL THE TAX COLLECTION OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT
(732) 615-2086.**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the presentation.

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



Join Middletown Recreation for its award-winning After-School Science Club where there's 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.

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

**Join Middletown PBA Local 124 and Hazlet PBA 189 at
Annual Climb With A Cop Fundraiser TOMORROW
(Saturday, 2/1)**

FUNDRAISER
TO BENEFIT
Special Olympics
New Jersey

SATURDAY
February 1, 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM
37 Kanes Ln.
Middletown, NJ
Entry fee \$35
*proceeds go to Special Olympics NJ

Climb With A Cop







Visit www.gravityvault.com, www.njtorchrun.org or call
The Gravity Vault at (732) 856-9599 for more details.

Must be 5 years old or older to climb. Individuals under 18 must have waiver completed by parent or legal guardian.

Middletown PBA Local 124 is partnering with Hazlet PBA 189 to host the annual Climb with a Cop fundraiser on Saturday, February 1st. The event will take place at Gravity Vault (37 Kanes Lane) from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics of New Jersey (SONJ). We hope to see you there!

**Middletown VAC Encourages Community to Attend Annual
Four Chaplains Service on Sunday, 2/2 at 2 PM**



The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) invites residents to attend VFW Post 2179's annual Four Chaplains Service. It will take place at the Post (1 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth) on Sunday, February 2nd from 2-3 PM.

The Four Chaplains Service is held annually to commemorate the selfless acts of valor of the four chaplains who perished on the U.S.A.T. Dorchester in 1943.

The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation exists to further the cause of "unity without uniformity" by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people.

Sign Up for Middletown Recreation's Maple Sugaring Programs Happening Saturdays, 2/8 and 2/22



Bring your scout group to Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road) to learn how to collect sap, identify maples and other trees in the winter, and how boiling increases solution concentrations to create syrup!

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**Attend Middletown Preschool's Open House on Tuesday,
2/11 from 5-7 PM**



Visit Middletown Preschool (50 Bray Avenue) on Tuesday, February 11th from 5-7 PM to see if it's a good fit for your little one! Take a tour, meet our teachers, and get more information about sending your child to preschool. Please RSVP by emailing recreation@middletownnj.org.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Middletown Preschool.

**Listen to Live Music at the MAC's Monthly Music Cafe on
Sunday, 2/2 from 4-6 PM**



Join the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) for its monthly music showcase featuring singer-songwriters Dan Toye, Gwynne Alden, Kevin Liebkemann, and Patrick Bamburak. The concert will take place inside the MAC's theater (36 Church Street). The event is free with a suggested donation of \$5.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the concert and click [HERE](#) to donate.

**Play Games at MTPL's Tween Game Night on Tuesday, 2/4
from 7-8 PM**

TWEEN GAME NIGHT

Bring a friend, make a friend and join us for a fun night of games.

TRIVIA
BINGO
PICTIONARY
CHESS
CHECKERS
AND MORE



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 | 7-8PM
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM

Please register on the calendar at **mtpl.org**.



Calling all tweens! Bring a friend or make a friend at the Middletown Township Public Library's (MTPL) Tween Game Night on Tuesday, February 4th! Come to the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road) to play games like Trivia, Bingo, Pictionary, HeadsUp, and more. This free program is for kids between the ages of 9-12. Registration is required.

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

Design Greeting Cards for Senior Citizens at the MTPL on Wednesday, 2/5 from 3-5 PM



Teens, stop by the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road) to make 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. Registration is NOT required.



- Church Street in Belford (near Saint Mary School) will be closed between Leonardville Road and Drift Road beginning Monday, February 3rd to replace Bridge MT-10. It will be closed 24/7 to vehicular traffic through October, but

pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the course of the project.

- As of Monday, January 13th, Broadway is 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 were posted. Port Monmouth Road between Main Street (Port Monmouth) and Church Street (Belford) reopened on Monday, January 13th, 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 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.

RESOURCES

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 for additional information and the permit application.



New Jersey American Water Plans for Routine Maintenance at Its Swimming River & Jumping Brook Water Treatment Plants

As part of an annual routine maintenance program, New Jersey American Water (NJAW) will temporarily change the water treatment process at its Swimming River Water Treatment Plant in Colts Neck and its Jumping Brook Water Treatment Plant in Neptune. The maintenance will take place the week of February 17, 2025 through mid-April, and consists of temporarily shifting from using chloramine to free chlorine.

This routine, annual change in treatment helps ensure the continued safety and reliability of water quality throughout the distribution system. During this period, some customers may notice a slight taste and smell of chlorine in their water. This is normal and will only be temporary until the system maintenance is complete. If customers experience this, the company suggests placing water in an uncovered

pitcher in the refrigerator overnight to allow the chlorine to dissipate.

Throughout the maintenance period, New Jersey American Water will continue to monitor water quality in the system to provide water to customers that meets or surpasses federal and state drinking water standards.

Click [HERE](#) to read NJAW's full press release.

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 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.

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.



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO REPORT A WATER EMERGENCY?

To report a water emergency to us, visit amwater.com, select your state from the drop down, and click on the **Report Emergency** button in the upper right hand corner.



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



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



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



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



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

[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 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.



**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.



**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.

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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