

Middletown Minutes

Official Township E-Newsletter



Township Committee Celebrates Belford Brewing Company's New Location



Pictured from left: Committeeman Ryan Clarke, Belford Brewing Company CEO Kevin Enny, Belford Brewing Company Executive Vice President Michael Enny, Belford Brewing Company Managing Partner Jacqueline Burke, Belford Brewing Company Owner/Brewmaster Alan Tufano, Mayor Tony Perry, and Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell

Earlier today, Belford Brewing Company (888-890 Main Street, Belford) hosted a grand re-opening for its new location on Main Street in Campbell's Junction.

The small business, which has been in Belford since 2014, serves as a vibrant community hub where open-mic events, trivia nights, and hand-crafted brews bring people together. Cheers to its continued growth!

Visit belfordbrewing.com for more information.

Honey Baked Ham Holds Grand Re-Opening



Mayor Tony Perry, Committeeman Kevin Settembrino, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, and Committeeman Ryan Clarke were happy to join Honey Baked Ham employees and the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon cutting!

On Saturday, Honey Baked Ham (770 NJ-35) celebrated the completion of its recent renovations with a grand re-opening. Known for their beloved holiday and special-occasion hams, the Township Committee was proud to commemorate this accomplishment just in time for the holiday season!

From their signature honey-glazed meats to the everyday sandwiches, sides, and meals our community enjoys all year long, Middletown is excited to welcome this business back home.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Monmouth Museum Hosts Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony for Community Members



Photo courtesy of Monmouth Museum

On Saturday, Mayor Tony Perry, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, and Committeeman Kevin Settembrino helped kick off the holiday season by participating in the Monmouth Museum's holiday tree lighting ceremony. While there, kids were also able to make crafts and listen to stories read by Mrs. Claus!

Middletown Senior Center Members Shine in Festive Performance at the MAC



Photo courtesy of Middletown Parks & Recreation

Our talented Middletown Senior Center members recently put on an incredible show at the Middletown Arts Center (MAC)! Led by their amazing teacher, David Meenan, the show featured a lively tap performance, a Broadway-style dance number, and a

fun skit from their acting class. The Senior Center wrapped up the festive day with pizza and a showing of *Deck the Halls*.

Middletown Hosts Second Annual Great American Smokeout Event



Middletown Alliance Coordinator Erika McKee was happy to greet interested residents and Township employees!

On Thursday, the Middletown Township Health Department and Middletown Alliance held their second annual Great American Smokeout event at Town Hall. The Great American Smokeout is an annual campaign sponsored by the American Cancer Society that challenges people to stop smoking for at least 24 hours, with the hope that their decision not to smoke will last longer.

Residents and Township employees visited the information table throughout the day for smoking and vaping cessation resources. People were also encouraged to build their own smoking "quit kits" with the following items that were being given away: nicotine gum, minty toothpicks, water bottles, lollipops, and a lung-shaped stress toy.

Smoking "quit kits" are also available during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) at the Health Department, located on the middle floor at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).

If you're having trouble quitting smoking or vaping, the Middletown Township Health Department and Middletown Alliance encourage you to visit tobaccofreenj.com/gaso for helpful resources.



The Middletown Arts Center will also be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th.

The Middletown Township Public Library will be closing at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 26th and will be closed on Thursday, November 27th. The library will follow its regular business hours the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving.

MIDDLETOWN GARBAGE & RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE COLLECTION CHANGES

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no garbage collection in the North Zone on Thursday, 11/27.

🍂 **North Zone** will have a double garbage pickup on **Monday, 12/1**. Residents may leave up to 3 additional closed garbage bags next to the cart.

🍂 **South Zone** will have their regularly scheduled pickup on **Friday, 11/28**.

🍂 **The Middletown Recycling Center** (52 Kanes Lane) will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and reopen on Friday.

🍂 **The Middletown Recycling Center** drop-off at the train station will remain open.

Check Out the Fall 2025 Edition of *Middletown Matters*!



MIDDLETOWN MATTERS
FALL 2025

Thompson Park
Photo courtesy of Michelle O'Grady @jerseyshorelens

READ THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE TOWNSHIP'S OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION:
MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/MATTERS

Our bi-annual newsletter, *Middletown Matters*, will be arriving in residents' mailboxes soon! In the meantime, feel free to read the digital version at middletownnj.org/matters.

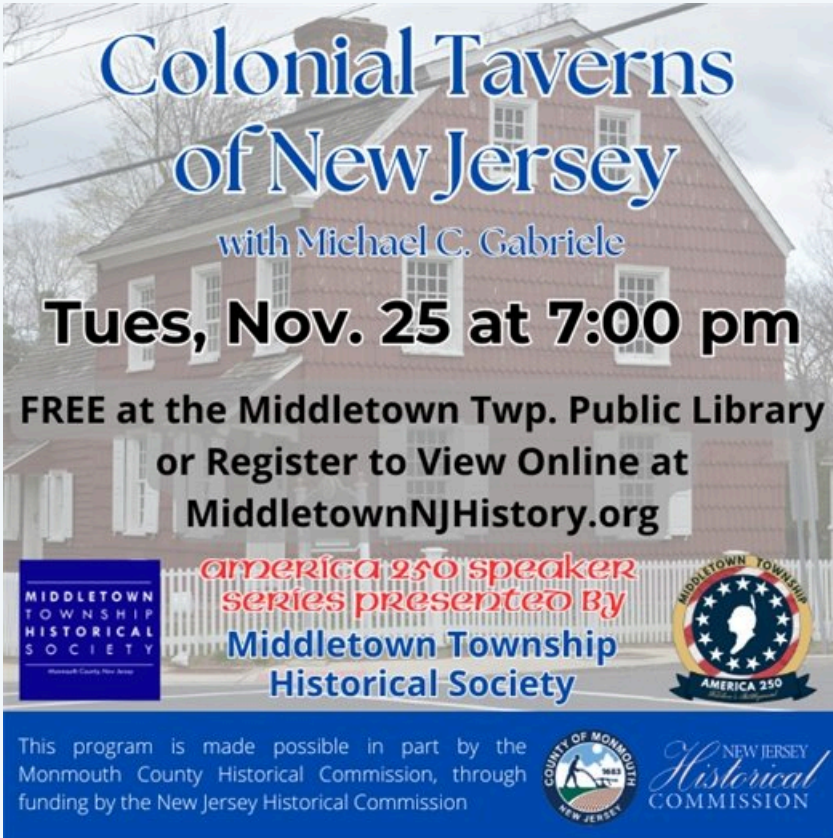


IN CONGRESS July 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

Celebrating America 250

AMERICA 250

Sign Up for MTHS's Presentation about Colonial Taverns of New Jersey Happening on Tuesday, 11/25 at 7 PM



**Colonial Taverns
of New Jersey**
with Michael C. Gabriele

Tues, Nov. 25 at 7:00 pm

**FREE at the Middletown Twp. Public Library
or Register to View Online at
MiddletownNJHistory.org**

**MIDDLETOWN
TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
Monmouth County New Jersey

**america 250 speaker
series presented by
Middletown Township
Historical Society**

**AMERICA 250
2025**

This program is made possible in part by the
Monmouth County Historical Commission, through
funding by the New Jersey Historical Commission

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
NEW JERSEY**

**NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION**

New Jersey was the “Crossroads of the American Revolution,” and as battles raged, colonial taverns were the main stage for the unfolding drama of a colony transitioning into statehood and making decisions about declaring a war of independence. The Middletown Township Historical Society (MTHS) will be hosting author Michael C. Gabriele as part of its special America 250 Speaker Series.

People can attend the event in person at the Middletown Township Public Library (55 New Monmouth Road) or register to watch it online. Admittance is free.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

**Find Out the Answer to This Week's Township Trivia
Thursday!**



TOWNSHIP TRIVIA



THE ANSWER IS...

A CHRIST CHURCH



The Middletown America 250 Committee and Middletown Township Historical Society are partnering to present *Township Trivia Thursdays* every other week.

Test your trivia skills while learning more about our town and its rich history. This week's question can be found on middletownnj.org/trivia and the Township's [YouTube channel](#).

The next trivia question will be featured via the Middletown America 250 Committee's Instagram story on Thursday, December 4th. The answer will be revealed in the Friday, December 5th issue of *Middletown Minutes* and on our Township Trivia page.

Make sure you follow the Middletown America 250 Committee on [Instagram](#)!

Browse Our New Middletown America 250 Merch Store!



Introducing the Middletown America 250 Store!

Items for Sale

- Sandy Hook Lighthouse Ornament
- Middletown America 250 Challenge Coin
- Citizen Soldier Challenge Coin
- Middletown America 250 Mason Jar
- Seabrook-Wilson House Tote Bag
- Sandy Hook Lighthouse Tote Bag
- Murray Farmhouse Tote Bag

Payment

Payments will be processed directly through this online platform. Credit and debit cards are the only accepted forms of payment.

Order Pickup

All items will be available for pickup at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748) at the Clerk's Office window on the Ground Floor. Email america250@middletownnj.org to schedule a pickup time.

Join us in commemorating Middletown's pivotal role in the Revolutionary era by purchasing a keepsake from the Middletown America 250 Merch Store!

Visit middletownnj.org/america250store to explore all items, including our limited-edition Sandy Hook Lighthouse ornament. Crafted by the same renowned company that produces the official White House ornaments, this piece offers a beautifully-made tribute to one of the nation's oldest and most treasured landmarks. You can

also browse other Middletown favorites that make thoughtful gifts and meaningful mementos this holiday season.

Each purchase will directly support upcoming events and initiatives that honor our community's rich heritage as we approach our nation's 250th anniversary next year.

Items are available for pickup at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).
Click [HERE](#) to schedule your pickup.

Learn about Revolutionary War Patriot Reverend Abel Morgan, Jr. in the latest *Locally Sourced* Middletown America 250 Series Podcast



In the second episode of our Middletown America 250 series *Patriot Profiles* — a special edition of Mayor Tony Perry's *Locally Sourced* podcast — we explore the life of Reverend Abel Morgan, Jr., a steadfast spiritual leader who helped guide Middletown through the Revolutionary War.

You can listen to the podcast on middletownnj.org/locallysourced, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Podbean, and Spotify.

Our next *Patriot Profiles* episode will air on Thursday, December 4th.

MonmouthNJ 250 Committee's Parade to Take Place in Middletown on Sunday, 6/28 Beginning at 12:30 PM



Help Keep Our Storm Drains Clear This Season

As heavy rain and freezing temperatures approach, please take a quick look at any storm drains in the street near your property. Leaves are falling fast, and when they pile up on top of a storm drain, they can block water flow and contribute to street flooding and icy conditions.

How You Can Help

- ✿ If you see a storm drain covered with leaves, please sweep or rake the debris away from the grate to keep water moving safely. Move leaves and other debris out of the roadway so they don't wash back onto the grate when it rains.
- ✿ If the drain is completely blocked or unsafe to access, please report it by calling Public Works at 732-615-2090 or by visiting middletownnj.org/connectcorrectcategories and submitting a request under "Roads".

DPW crews are out clearing drains across town, but with over 6,000 catch basins in our neighborhood streets, every bit of community help goes a long way.

Thank you for helping keep Middletown safe and prepared for fall and winter weather!

Township Committee Tests Out New Tindall Park Courts by Competing in Exciting Pickleball Game



Pickleball is taking off and Middletown is ready to play! With eight brand new dedicated pickleball courts and 12 refurbished tennis courts at Tindall Park, we're serving up more ways to stay active and connected.

Click [HERE](#) to watch as the Township Committee gives the game a try and see how we're keeping our "parks in play" for everyone!

Sign Up for a Free Home Smoke Alarm Installation with the MTFD and American Red Cross

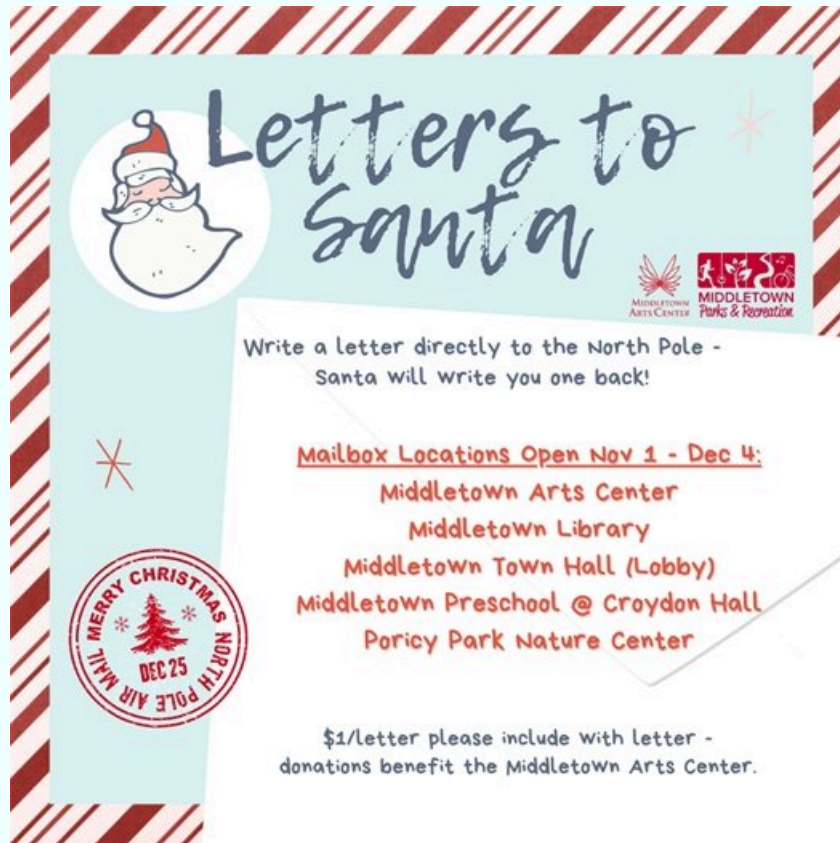


The Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) and Middletown Township Fire Prevention Office are partnering with the American Red Cross to install smoke alarms for free throughout Middletown. We encourage all residents to check if their smoke alarms are working.

If you are interested in this free service, please schedule an appointment at [middletownnj.org/smokealarm](https://www.middletownnj.org/smokealarm).

Click [HERE](#) to watch a Public Service Announcement for more information.

Write a Letter to Santa by Thursday, 12/4

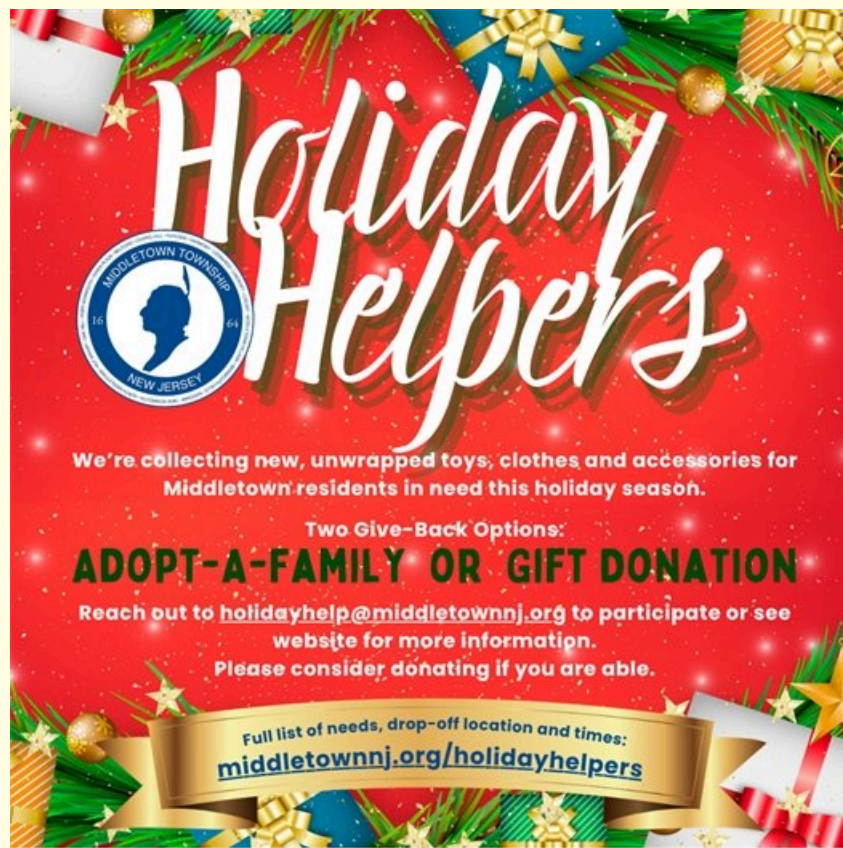


Our Middletown elves are currently collecting letters in our special mailboxes and will be delivering them directly to the North Pole! Santa will write a personalized return letter to your child through the joint Middletown Parks & Recreation and the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) Letters to Santa program.

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 through Township's Holiday Helpers Program:
Donations Will Be Accepted Until Friday, 12/12**



Looking to spread some holiday cheer? Middletown Township is pleased to announce the return of our Holiday Helpers program! Support a Middletown family in need this season by either "adopting a family" or donating a gift. We kindly ask our community to give back if they are able.

To participate, please email holidayhelp@middletownnj.org or drop off gift donations at the location and times found on middletownnj.org/holidayhelpers.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Pay Off Late MTPL Fees with Food Bank Donations from
Monday, 11/24 through Wednesday, 12/31**

Food for Fines

**PAY OFF LIBRARY LATE FEES
WITH FOOD BANK DONATIONS!**

Each item donated will eliminate \$1.00 in late fines, up to \$10.00 maximum per card.

Nov. 24 to Dec. 31



**ALL DONATIONS
WILL GO TO AREA
FOOD BANKS**



Food for Fines returns to the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) beginning Monday, November 24th and will run through the end of December! During this time, patrons can pay off library late fees with donations of nonperishable food items. Each item donated will reduce late fees by \$1.00. Patrons can donate up to a total of \$10.00 per library card. Donations may be dropped off at the Circulation Desk.

Please note that donations cannot be applied toward lost or damaged items. Expired food also cannot be accepted. All collected items will be donated to local food banks.

**Participate in the MTPL's Strategic Planning Survey by
Sunday, 11/30**



The Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) is planning for the future — and your voice matters!

The MTPL is working on its next Strategic Plan, which will help guide the library's goals and priorities for the coming years. Your input ensures the library reflects the needs, ideas, and dreams of our community.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the short survey.

Fall 2025 Leaf Collection to Begin Monday, 12/1



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

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

FALL 2025 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

COLLECTION ZONE	START DATE
All Zones	Monday, 12/1

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

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

LEAF COLLECTION ONLY – NO BRUSH UNTIL SPRING!

DO NOT SET OUT LEAVES AFTER YOUR STREET HAS BEEN COLLECTED – Violators will be charged up to \$1,500 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 Kaness Lane) from November 1st until June 1st. Brush is accepted year-round for residents.

Visit middletownnj.org/collection for more information.

MTPD to Host Free Car Seat Safety Checkpoint on Wednesday, 12/10 from 2-6 PM



Residents are invited to a **FREE** Car Seat Safety Checkpoint hosted by the Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) at Station 11 Old Village Fire Company (1340 NJ-35) to ensure your child is in the right car seat and that it is installed correctly. The checkpoint will be open from 2-6 PM.

Car seat safety checkpoints are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Please contact Officer Michael Reuter at 732-615-2046 if you have any questions or concerns.

MTPD Promotes E-Bike Safety in PSA

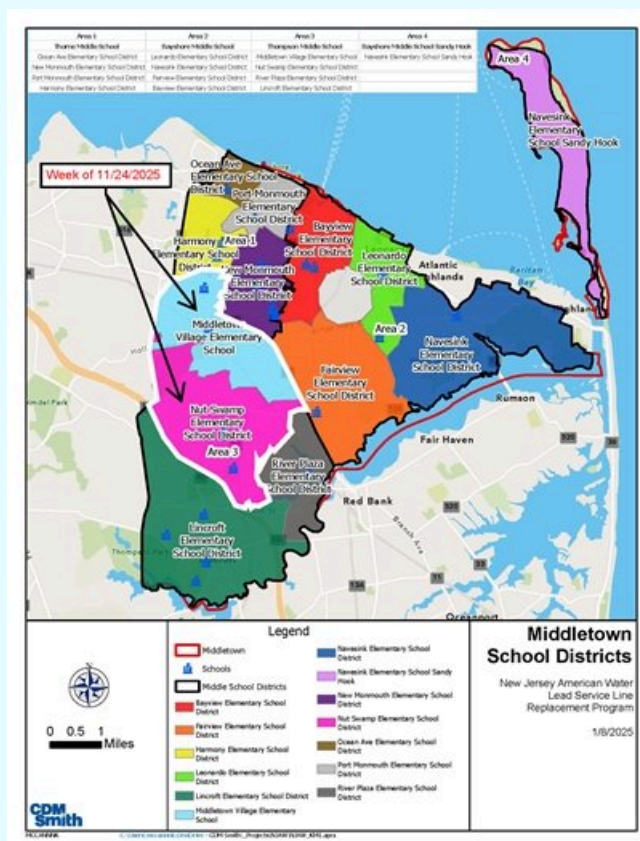


Across the country, and right here in Middletown, we're seeing a surge in injuries involving electric bikes and scooters, especially among young riders.

Deputy Chief Paul Bailey of the Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) shares some crucial information in this Public Service Announcement (PSA) about the different types of micromobility devices and the regulations that riders should follow when using them. Please tune in and stay safe!

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

NJAW Lead Service Line Replacement Program Door-to-Door Canvassing Continues



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

CDM Smith, on behalf of New Jersey American Water (NJAW), started a door-to-door canvassing effort related to the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) in Middletown on Monday, February 3rd. The team will be working in the Middletown Village Elementary School District and Nut Swamp Elementary School District in Area 3 this upcoming week. There will be no work conducted on Thursday, November 27th or Friday, November 28th due to Thanksgiving.

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 to not 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Listen to Live Music at the MAC's Monthly Music Cafe on Sunday, 11/23 from 4-6 PM



Join the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) this Sunday, November 23rd for its monthly music cafe, featuring the following local talents: The Sunken City, Carl Alderson, Daniel Ravaglia, and Ralph Rasa. The concert will take place at the MAC (36 Church Street). The event is free with a suggested donation of \$5.

Click [HERE](#) for information about the showcase's artists and click [HERE](#) to donate to the MAC.

Exercise at Middletown Parks & Recreation's Turkey Trot Hike on Wednesday, 11/26 at 2:30 PM



Come stretch your legs before your Thanksgiving feast! Join Middletown Parks & Recreation to hike the trails of Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road) with a guide, enjoy the beautiful scenery, and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife.

Visit mtownrec.recdesk.com to register on RecDesk.

**'Tis the Season: Attend Our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting
on Sunday, 11/30 from 5-7 PM**



Santa's coming to town! Catch the annual Holiday Tree Lighting at the MAC (36 Church Street). Bring the whole family — get your photo with Santa and enjoy some crafts, bonfires with classic holiday cartoons, a holiday train ride, and an inflatable gingerbread house! The event is free for residents and food will be available for purchase.

**Purchase Tickets for Middletown Parks & Recreation's
Annual Santa Ferry Happening on Saturday, 12/6**

Middletown Parks and Recreation and SeaStreak Present

SANTA FERRY

SAT DEC 6TH



Ticket Update:
 9am - Small Pairs Together
 11:30am - Large Groups Together
 1pm - Large Groups Together
 \$30/adult, \$25/child, \$5/infant (R)


IN-PERSON SALES ONLY AT PORICY PARK NATURE CENTER
 345 OAK HILL RD, RED BANK NJ 07701
 SALES OPEN TO RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS MON-FRI 8AM-4PM

Middletown Parks & Recreation is back on the bay to celebrate Christmas! The annual yuletide ride features Santa and friends, presents, entertainment, and a scenic ride around the Statue of Liberty. All children and infants will receive a holiday present!

Tickets are only sold in person at the Poricy Park Nature Center (345 Oak Hill Road) on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Only a limited amount remain, so buy yours today!

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

TRAFFIC SAFETY & DETOURS

MIDDLETOWN  TOWNSHIP

- On Saturday, November 22nd, avoid Dwight Road and Middletown-Lincroft Road in the area of Thompson Middle School from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM due to heavy traffic.
- Cherry Tree Farm Road will be closed Monday, November 24th through Wednesday, November 26th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM for road work. The closure will be between Wilson Avenue and Leonardville Road. Please follow the posted detour.

- In June, Monmouth County began the construction of the replacement of Bridge S-14 on County Route 50 (Swimming River Road). The road will remain open throughout construction and two 11-foot-wide travel ways in each direction will be maintained. Construction is anticipated to take two years. Please follow all posted signs and stay alert while driving in the area, as temporary changes to traffic patterns may occur. [Click HERE](#) to read the County's press release for more information.
- Church Street in Belford (near Saint Mary's School) between Leonardville Road and Drift Road is currently closed to replace Bridge MT-10. It will most likely be closed 24/7 to vehicular traffic for the remainder of 2025. Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the course of the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year.
- 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Port Monmouth Flood Control Project. Broadway will be closed for approximately two 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.

RESOURCES

Prepare Your Home for Winter Weather



The Middletown Township 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!

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.

Need Assistance? Utilize the Monmouth ACTS Navigation System

Monmouth ACTS Navigation System

Warm Line: 732-683-8959



The Navigation System offers residents a comprehensive and accessible way to connect with resources in the Monmouth County area.

This tool provides easier access to services including :

-  Mental Health
-  Food
-  Housing
-  Substance Use
-  More



Monmouth County proudly offers the Monmouth ACTS Navigation System – an easy way for residents to find and access appropriate services in Monmouth County to meet their needs. Created as part of Monmouth County's Department of Human Services, the Navigation System serves as one point of entry for residents to be connected to any human service provider in the County without needing to make multiple calls.

Call the Warm Line at 732-683-8959 to reach countless service providers and visit monmouthacts.org for more information.

Middletown Township Building & Inspection Department Launches New SDL Online Permit Portal

CONNECT WITH MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP'S
Building & Inspection Department

- ✓ Request Building Inspections
- ✓ Search Town Data
- ✓ Access Town Maps



Middletown is on the SDL Portal, an online hub where residents and professionals can access information, check status updates, and submit requests 24/7.



Visit sdlportal.com to get started or scan the QR code above to access the SDL Citizen Portal.

Visit sdlportal.com to access the portal and create an account.

Need assistance? Click [HERE](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to create an account.

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 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.

Exciting news — the *Connect & Correct* app is now officially available on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)! The goal of the app is to make it even easier to report your concerns on-the-go as well as streamline communications regarding any concerns you may have.



**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

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Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20



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