



Middletown Minutes

Official Township E-Newsletter



Happy Thanksgiving

from Middletown Township

Municipal offices will be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th to observe the holiday.

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

The Middletown Township Public Library 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.

Community Supports Local Nonprofit Middletown Helps Its Own's Thanksgiving Food Drive



Photo on bottom right courtesy of Middletown Lions Club

Last weekend, hundreds of community members came together to assist local nonprofit Middletown Helps Its Own pack and deliver boxes of food and turkeys to local families in need. Thanks to our community's generosity, a total of 350 families in Middletown can eat a delicious Thanksgiving meal.

Mayor Tony Perry, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Middletown first responders, and the Middletown Lions Club were proud to be part of the many individuals and organizations who lent a helping hand for this great cause.

Historic Cedar View Cemetery Celebrates 175 Years



Pictured from left: Mayor Tony Perry, FOCV Committee Chair Beverly Holland, and FOCV President John Smack (Photo courtesy of FOCV)

On Sunday, November 16th, Mayor Tony Perry was honored to present a proclamation to local nonprofit Friends of Cedar View (FOCV) at Cedar View Cemetery's 175th anniversary luncheon.

Cedar View Cemetery, located off Hurleys Lane in Lincroft, is the final resting place of Black soldiers from the Civil War and World War I, as well as formerly enslaved people and their descendants. In addition to being one of the most historic cemeteries in Monmouth County, it is also the only known African-American burial ground from that time period. On November 14, 1850, John B. Crawford, a local white farmer, and his wife, Catherine, sold the two-acre plot of land for \$60 to 14 free Black men to be used as a burying ground.

After discovering how neglected the cemetery had been, a group of descendants, historians, and citizens incorporated FOCV in 2021 to preserve the cemetery and its forgotten history. Today, FOCV hosts routine cleanups to continue restoration and maintenance, participates in community events, and organizes fundraisers to raise awareness and protect this hallowed ground.

Celebrate Small Business Saturday on Saturday, 11/29 by Supporting Local Businesses!

**SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HEART OF
OUR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY.**

SHOW SMALL BUSINESSES SOME  ON

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 29th

Middletown Township



'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 Middletown Arts Center (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.

Fall 2025 Leaf Collection to Begin Monday, 12/1



Visit middletownnj.org/collection for more information.



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 to Host Meeting on Monday, 12/1 at 7 PM

The Middletown Township Committee Workshop Meeting will be held on Monday, December 1st 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, December 1st 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](#).

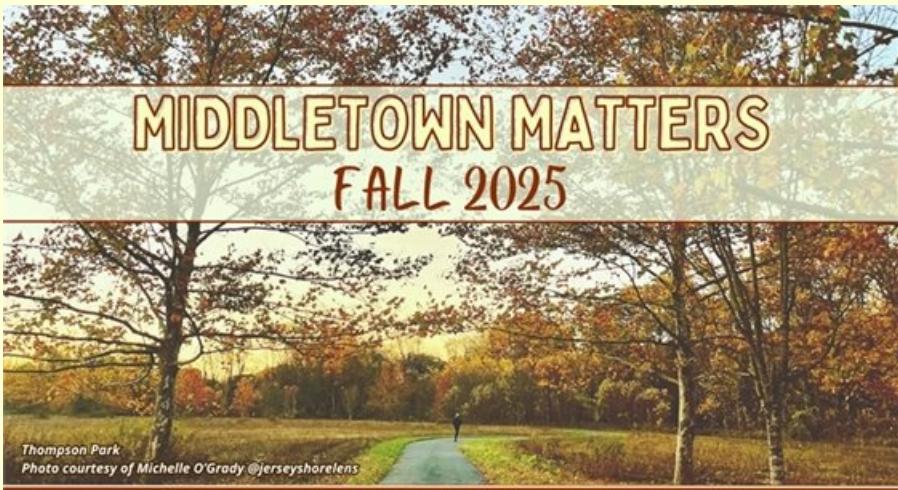
Click [HERE](#) for more information and to access the meeting agenda.

Nominate a Middletown Veteran for the 2025 Veteran of the Year Award by Friday, 12/26



Visit middletownnj.org/voty for more information.

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](http://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.



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 via middletownnj.org/america250store. 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. Visit middletownnj.org/250pickup 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.

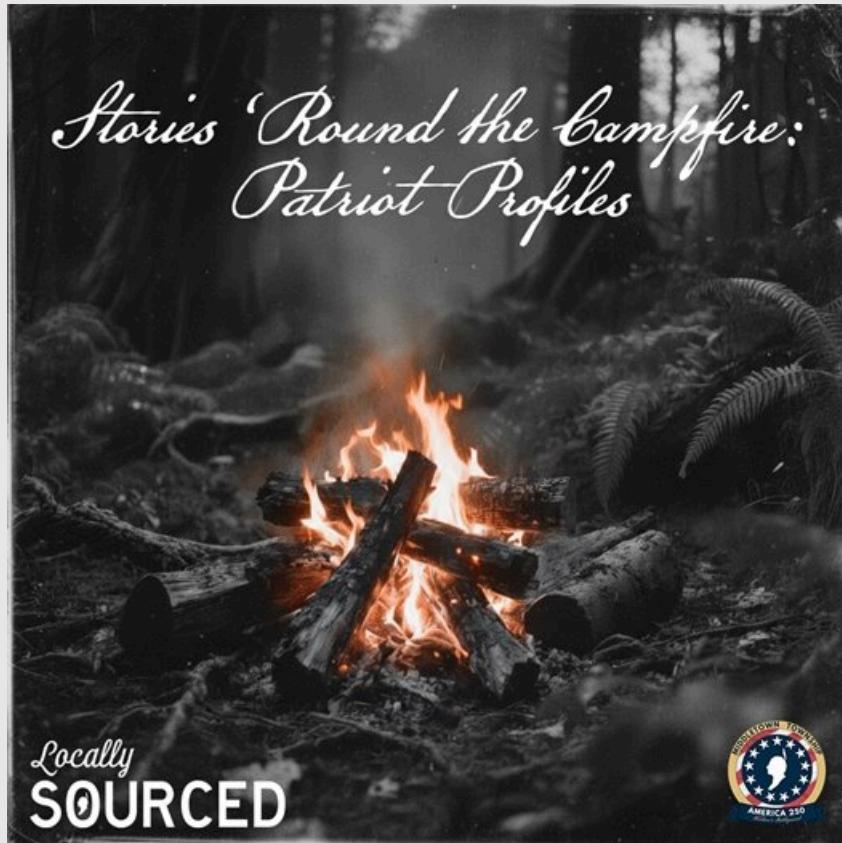
Once you decide on your item(s), please click "Participate Now" on the online store to place your order! Credit and debit cards are the only accepted forms of payment.

All payments must be made through the online store.

Items are available for pickup at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).

Visit middletownnj.org/250pickup 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.

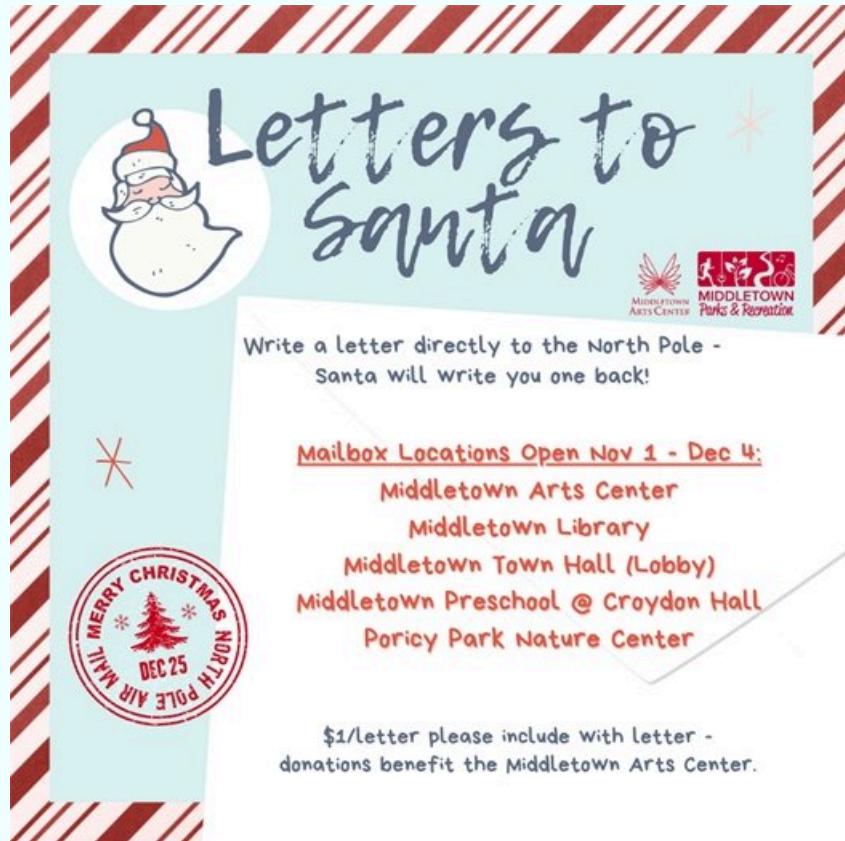
You can listen to the podcast on middletownnj.org/locallysourced, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Podbean, and Spotify.

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



Write a Letter to Santa by Thursday, 12/4

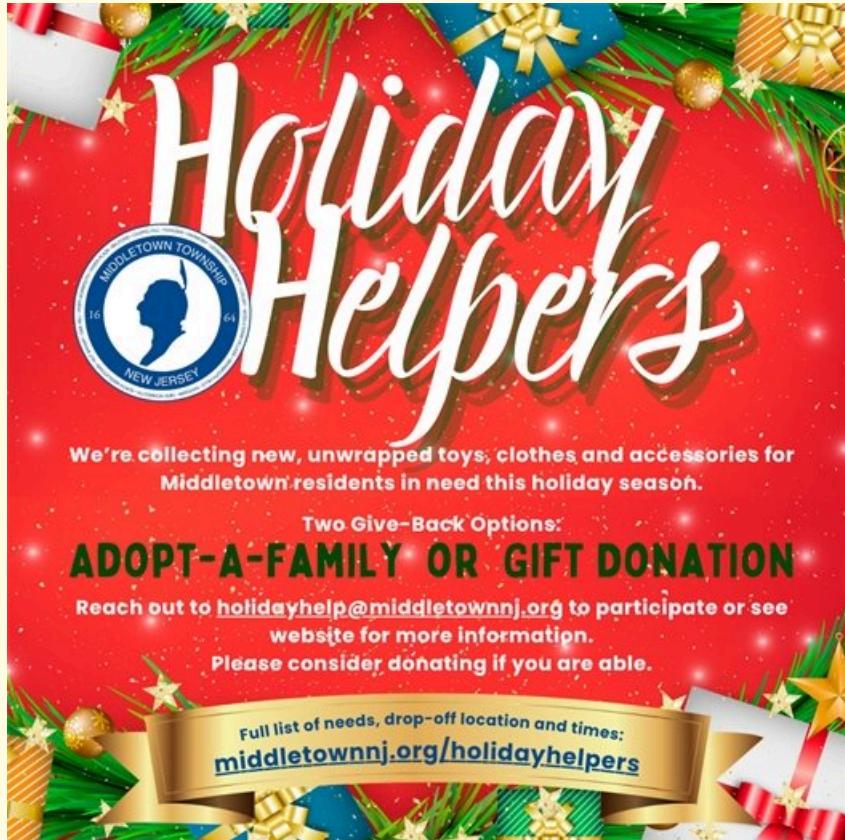


Our Middletown elves are currently collecting letters in our special mailboxes and will be delivering them directly to the North Pole! Santa will write a personalized return letter to your child through the joint Middletown Parks & Recreation and the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) Letters to Santa program.

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 has officially returned to the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) 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.

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 Corporal Michael Reuter at 732-615-2046 if you have any questions or concerns.

MTPD Promotes E-Bike Safety in PSA

E-BIKE SAFETY

A MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLETOWN
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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.

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



FREE HOME SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



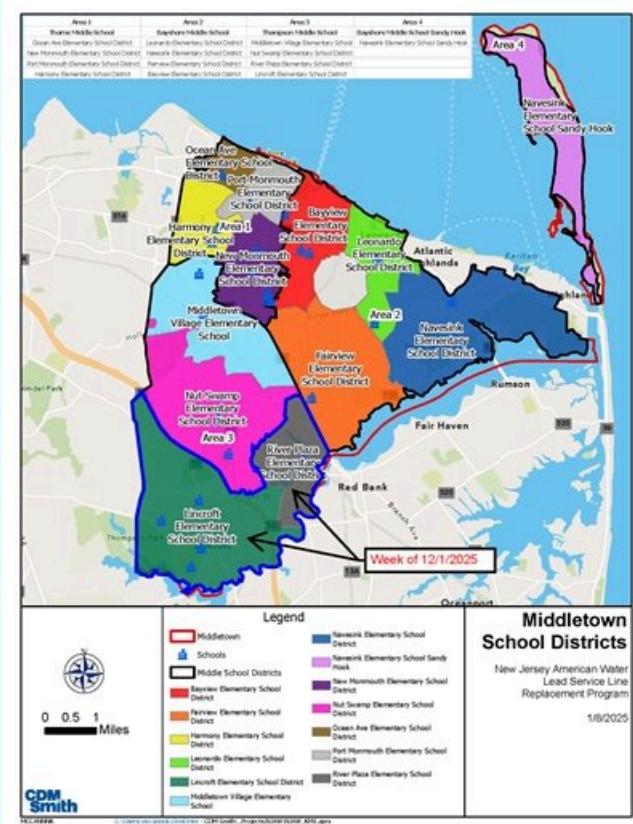
The Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) and Middletown Township Fire Prevention Office are partnering with the American Red Cross to install smoke

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.

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

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 River Plaza Elementary School District and Lincroft Elementary School District in Area 3 next 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

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

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

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



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.

**Create a Special Stocking Stuffer at the MTPL
Makerspace on Wednesday, 12/3 at 6:30 PM**

**MADE AT MTPL
MAKERSPACE**

**Parent & Caregiver Night Out
at the MTPL Makerspace**

Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 pm

Parents and guardians of children in 2nd grade and up can create a custom stocking stuffer in the Makerspace while children enjoy a craft and music in the Teen Room.

Only MTPL cardholders may register; registration required. See the Calendar for required pre-program training:

WINTER WONDERLAND WORKSHOP

Parents, caretakers, and guardians of children in 2nd grade and up are invited to the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) Makerspace for a festive winter holiday event. Craft a custom item to give as a stocking stuffer for your child! While caregivers create, children can enjoy a craft and holiday music next door in the library's Teen Room.

A registration form will be emailed and must be completed to participate. Makerspace training is required for Safety, Sublimation & Heat Press. Patrons who have not completed the training must take the training online prior to the event.

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

**Celebrate the Holidays at MTPL's Annual Holiday Concert
on Saturday, 12/6 at 2 PM**



THE BAND OF THE TWO RIVERS

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Saturday,
December 6 at 2pm
The Community Room



Kick off the holiday season with some music! Enjoy the festive sounds of the popular local group, "The Band of the Two Rivers", live in the MTPL's Community Room. Registration is recommended.

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

Attend Our Annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting at the MAC on Wednesday, 12/17 at 5:30 PM



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

Buy Tickets for Middletown Night at the New Jersey Devils by Thursday, 12/4



Cheer on Jersey's hockey team during Middletown Night, which is taking place on Sunday, January 4th at 7:00 PM! Tickets include a postgame on-ice shoot from the blue line experience. All children will receive a Devils swag-bag!

Click [HERE](#) to get special event tickets.



- On Sunday, November 30th, avoid Cooper Road (Bodman Park) to Bowne Road to Browns Dock Road (Huber Woods) between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM.
- 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



THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM HAS LAPSED: WHAT TO KNOW



What You Need to Know	Information for Homebuyers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NFIP cannot issue new or renew existing flood insurance policies until the program is reauthorized. Consumers who had a pending policy application or renewal should confirm with their agent that they have coverage. Homeowners with active NFIP policies will still be covered until their expiration date, including a 30-day grace period. NFIP will continue to adjust and pay claims as funds are available. If funds are depleted, claims payments will be delayed until additional funds become available. If you have private flood insurance, you are NOT affected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In some cases, homebuyers may be able to assume the seller's existing NFIP policy. Lenders may continue making loans during a lapse, but must still conduct flood determinations, provide accurate borrower notices, and follow all other flood insurance regulations. They are also expected to manage safety, soundness, and legal risks, and consider private flood insurance options. Private flood insurance remains an option and should be strongly considered.
<p>Are Floodplain Regulations on Hold?</p> <p>No, Middletown Township must continue to enforce local, state, and federal regulations during the lapse.</p>	

MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/FLOODPLAINMANAGEMENT

RENTAL UNIT OWNERS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE REGISTRATION IN MIDDLETOWN

In accordance with Ordinance No. 2023-3369, all owners of a business or the owner of a rental unit(s) located within the Township are required to maintain liability insurance for negligent acts or omissions.

Annual Registration: Prior to January 1st of each calendar year, the owner of a rental unit(s) located within Middletown must register their Certificate of Insurance (COI) with the municipality. To complete the registration form, visit middletownnj.org/rentalregistration.

Minimum Coverage: The law mandates a minimum level of liability insurance as follows:

- \$500,000 for combined property damage and bodily injury for most rental properties
- \$300,000 for multi-family homes with four or fewer units if one is owner-occupied

Proof of Insurance: Landlords must submit a copy of their insurance certificate to the Township.

Administrative Fees: The annual registration fee is due and payable at the time of registration. The fees are based on the number of units owned.

Penalties for Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with the registration program can result in fines of \$500.

How to Comply with a COI Registration Program:

1. Obtain a COI.
2. Submit your annual registration form and the COI to Laura Russo-Kay in the Planning, Zoning & Community Development Department. Contact Laura at 732-615-2000 ext.2283 or lrussohay@middletownnj.org if you have any additional questions.
3. Pay any required administrative fees.

VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTY



POLICIES IN MIDDLETOWN



In accordance with Ordinance No. 2022-333, all business owners and owners of vacant or abandoned properties are required to register their property with the Township within 30 days of it becoming vacant.

1. Register your vacant and abandoned property within 30 days of vacancy by visiting middletownnj.org/abandonedpropertyform. Property owners or creditors should be required to renew the registration each year as long as the property remains vacant and/or abandoned and will pay a registration or renewal fee for each property registered.
2. Property owners or creditors must post a sign affixed to the building indicating name, address, and telephone number of the owner or the owner's authorized agent. The sign should be placed in a location that it is legible from the nearest public street or sidewalk, whichever is nearer, but should not be less than eight inches by ten inches.
3. Property must be kept in good condition to prevent hazards, blight, or other code violations.
4. Secure the building from unauthorized entry.
5. Continue to maintain the structure in a secure and closed condition and keep the grounds in a clean and well-maintained condition.
6. Provide proof of property and casualty liability insurance in an amount of no less than \$1,000,000.

Compliance is mandatory. Failure to register may result in fines or other enforcement actions.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Russo-Kay from the Planning, Zoning & Community Development Department at 732-615-2000 ext. 2283 or lrussohay@middletownnj.org. Thank you for helping keep Middletown clean, safe, and thriving!

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 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

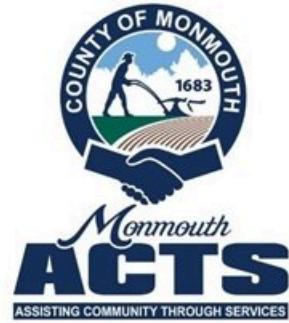
Warm Line: 732-683-8959



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.

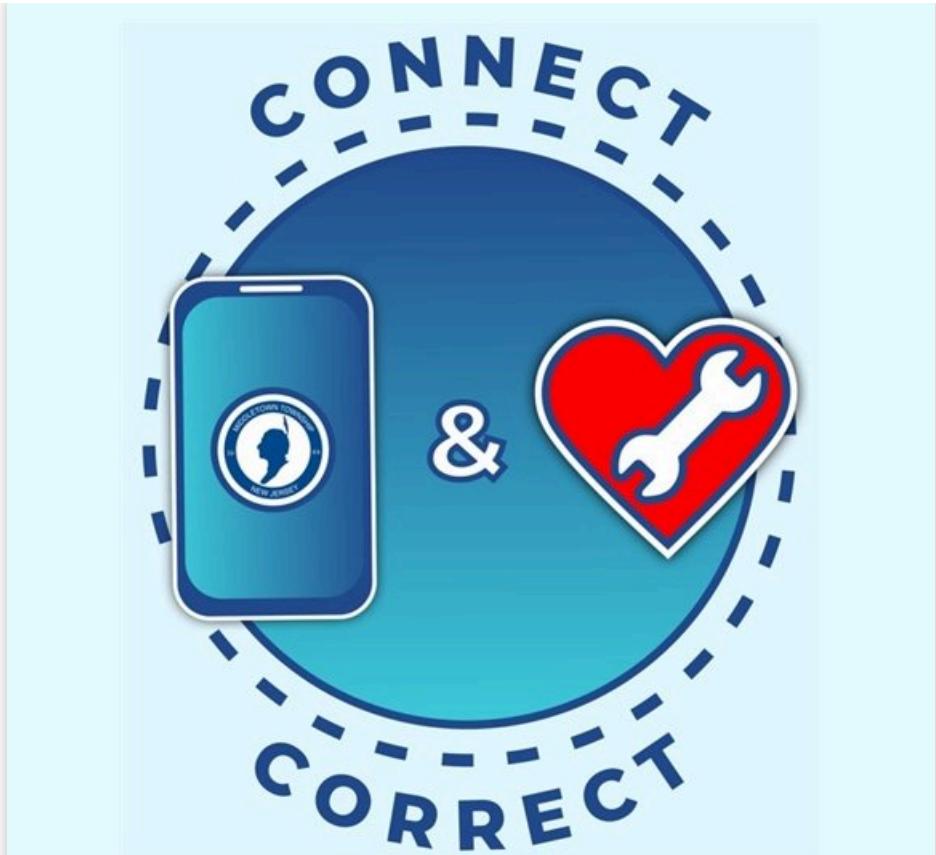


Visit sdlportal.com to get started or scan the QR code above to access the SDL Citizen Portal.

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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