



## **Township Recognizes Former Police Chief Robert Letts as 2025 Distinguished Citizen of the Year**



At the Township Committee Meeting on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Tony Perry and the Township Committee had the honor of presenting the 2025 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award to Robert Letts. A lifelong Middletown resident who will be celebrating his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Robert has been a true staple in our community over the years.

He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps immediately after his high school graduation and served in Korea during the Korean War. After returning home, he joined the Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) as a patrolman. He rose through the ranks in his 37-year career with the MTPD and achieved the highest honor as Chief of Police until his retirement in 1991.

Chief Letts has achieved many notable accomplishments and received numerous accolades throughout his life, including being recognized as the 1980 Policeman of the Year for the State of New Jersey. He is also a Class of 1974 FBI National Academy graduate.

Earlier this year, he was featured in the [Middletown Township Historical Society's "Middletown Memories" video](#) to talk about his experience growing up in Chapel Hill and Leonardo during the Depression, as well as his incredible career.

Please join us in commending Chief Letts for his decades of dedication to our community!

## MTPD Promotes Two Officers



At the meeting, Mayor Tony Perry had the privilege of swearing in two officers from the Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) into their new roles. Congratulations to Sergeant Nicholas Zubkow (pictured above) and Lieutenant Michael Heaton (pictured below) on this achievement! We thank these two men for helping keep our residents safe.



## Two Firefighters Reach 50 Years of Service with the MTFD



Following the police promotions and Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award presentation, firefighters William Hibell and John Drucker were each given a Key to the Township for hitting a major milestone: 50 years with the Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD).

William Hibell (pictured above), who is also the father of Deputy Mayor and Ex Fire Chief Rick Hibell, has served in every capacity with the Independent Fire Company of Belford including Captain, Lieutenant, Engineer, President, and Trustee. He was also elected the Assistant, Deputy, and Chief of MTFD from 2011-2015.

John Drucker (pictured below), who was also the 2024 Distinguished Citizen of the Year, has taken on many roles at Middletown Township Fire Company #1 including Assistant Engineer, Chief Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain, Trustee, and President. A passionate advocate for first responders, he is the coordinator of the Middletown Emergency Volunteer Incentive Program and Township LOSAP Coordinator. He is also part of the Fire Department Planning Advisory Board and the 9/11 WTC Health Program and Victims Compensation Fund, representing over 40 firefighters impacted by 9/11 to help them get health and compensation benefits.

We thank these two selfless men for volunteering their time over the past 50 years to protect our community.





### Middletown High School South Boys Varsity Soccer Team Celebrates Historic Season



The meeting's presentations ended with the Middletown High School South Boys Varsity Soccer Team being recognized for its impressive 17-win season!

The team captured its first-ever Shore Conference Tournament Championship, earned its first-ever NJSIAA Central Jersey Group 3 Sectional Championship, and advanced to the NJSIAA Group 3 State Championship game for the first time.

This historic season will be remembered as a defining moment in Middletown South athletics and a source of lasting community pride. Way to go, Eagles!

Click [HERE](#) to watch the meeting on the Township's YouTube channel or catch it on our TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) every day at 7:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 5:00 PM, and 8:30 PM through Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Middletown Comes Together for Annual Menorah Lighting with Chabad Jewish Center of Holmdel at MAC



*Pictured from left: Committeeman Ryan Clarke, Rabbi Shmaya Galperin, Mayor Tony Perry, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz*

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting at the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) on Wednesday! The event began inside the MAC where attendees were able to make arts and crafts and enjoy donuts and latkes.

Mayor Tony Perry and Rabbi Shmaya Galperin of the Chabad Jewish Center of Holmdel gave speeches in the MAC's gallery, and then everyone moved outdoors to light the Township's menorah. Mayor Perry was honored to light the shamash (helper candle).

After the menorah was lit, Old Village Fire Company excitedly participated in a gelt drop from one of their fire trucks. A gelt drop is a festive Chanukah tradition where chocolate coins (referred to as "gelt" which translates to "money") are dropped from a high place.

Happy Chanukah to everyone who celebrates!

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



*Mayor Perry and his children, Reagan and Grant, join others in the excitement of the gelt drop.*

## Middletown Recognized as "Holiday Hero" at 180 Turning

## Lives Around Boutique



*Mayor Perry proudly accepts the “Holiday Hero” award at the Holiday Boutique. Next year, Middletown will pass it along to another generous group. (Photo courtesy of 180 Turning Lives Around)*

This week, Middletown joined community partners at the 180 Turning Lives Around Holiday Boutique, a heartwarming event hosted by Monmouth County’s domestic and sexual violence response agency. The Holiday Boutique gives survivors and their families the opportunity to safely “shop” for gifts and holiday essentials provided by generous local donors — spreading warmth, hope, and cheer during the season.

Mayor Tony Perry was honored to receive 180’s inaugural “Holiday Hero” award in recognition of Middletown’s Holiday Helpers program, which helps coordinate donated gifts to families in need. Middletown is proud to support 180’s mission to empower survivors on their journey to safety and healing.

## Congratulations to Newest Monmouth County Police Academy Graduates!





*Photo courtesy of MTPD*

On Wednesday, two of Middletown Township Police Department's (MTPD) newest officers, James Courtney and Robert Fernandez, and the following Special Law Enforcement II Officers graduated from the Monmouth County Police Academy: Patrick Gallagher, Brady Klinsky, Ean Shamrock, Alyssa Vetrano, and Dylan Wanagiel. We congratulate them for successfully completing this intense training and thank them for choosing a career dedicated to public service and safety.

### **MTPD Hosts Successful "Cocoa with a Cop" Event**



*Committeeman Ryan Clarke was proud to represent the Township Committee and show his support. (Photo courtesy of MTPD)*

On Wednesday, the Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) partnered with Target for "Cocoa with a Cop"! Officers sat at a table in Target (2105 NJ-35) from 12-3 PM to connect with our community and offer free snacks, crafts, and hot cocoa.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by!

## **Township Installs Historic Marker to Pay Tribute to Middletown's Native American Heritage**





*Pictured from left: Marc Gottwerth, Mayor Tony Perry, Julie Diddell, Rick Geffken, Claire Garland, Frank Godlewski, and Committeeman Ryan Clarke*

**Earlier this week, Mayor Tony Perry and Committeeman Ryan Clarke helped unveil the Township's latest historic marker. The new marker, located next to the Middletown Arts Center and Middletown Train Station, honors the site of the Chaquasitt Village Pow Wow Field in Ramezing.**

**The field was a Native American place for assembly, trading goods, and celebrating communication and spirituality between the Lenape Navesink people and the early settlers who arrived in 1664.**

**Sand Hill Indian Historical Association Director Claire Garland, local author Rick Geffken, and former president of the Eastern branch of the Inter-tribal Council of AT&T Employees, Marc Gottwerth, were instrumental in bringing this project to life.**

**Julie Diddell from the Westfield Historical Society and Frank Godlewski, a resident and volunteer for Middletown's historic preservation efforts, also came to the unveiling to show support.**

**This marker serves as an effort to pay tribute to our town's rich history as we celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We encourage everyone to check it out!**

### **Hearts & Hands Holds Holiday Craft and Bake Sale Fundraiser to Raise Money for Local Nonprofit Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer**



*Photo courtesy of Hearts & Hands*

On Sunday, Hearts & Hands hosted their fourth Holiday Craft and Bake Sale Fundraiser! Hearts & Hands is a group that was created in 2018 by Middletown students who sold crafts and baked goods to raise money for local charities.

Now as juniors at Middletown High School South, the group wanted to get the next generation involved and teach them how to use creativity to give back to our community.

At the fundraiser, Middletown students of all ages came together to sell bracelets, key chains, ornaments, coasters, baked goods, and more. The students raised about \$12,000, and the funds will be donated to Middletown-based nonprofit [Infinite Love for Kids Fighting Cancer](#).

Thank you to everyone who braved the snow to support this great cause!

**Celebrate the 10U River Plaza-Lincroft Chargers Football Team's National Championship at Victory Parade  
TOMORROW, 12/20 at 11:30 AM**

**Come cheer on our**  
**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**  
**THE 10U RIVER PLAZA-LINCROFT CHARGERS**  
**FOOTBALL TEAM!**



**Please join us in celebrating the team's  
national championship with a victory parade  
on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.**

**The parade route will begin on Nutswamp  
Road and follow down to Trezza Field  
(915 Orchard Road).**

Please join us in celebrating the 10U River Plaza–Lincroft Chargers, AYF National Champions, with a victory parade on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.

The parade will begin on Nutswamp Road and proceed to Trezza Field (915 Orchard Road). Residents are encouraged to come out and cheer on the team to help recognize this incredible achievement. Go Chargers!

### Upcoming Holiday Notices & Schedules





## HOLIDAY COLLECTION REMINDER FROM DPW

Please place your recycling outside on the evenings of Tuesday, 12/23 and Tuesday, 12/30 to ensure that you don't miss pickup. Due to the early holiday closures of the Monmouth County landfill, our contractor will begin collecting earlier than usual.



Thank you and happy holidays!





GET THE



APP TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON GARBAGE, RECYCLING,  
AND BULK COLLECTION CHANGES VIA TEXT OR EMAIL.

## Middletown Holiday Collection Schedule Changes

Since there will be no North Zone garbage collection on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, there will be a "double collection" on the following Mondays. Residents can leave up to 3 extra bags next to their carts. Recycling on the Wednesdays prior to the holidays will not be affected.

-  **Christmas Day (12/25):** No North Zone garbage collection; "Double garbage collection" scheduled for Monday, 12/29.
-  **New Year's Day (1/1):** No North Zone garbage collection; "Double garbage collection" scheduled for Monday, 1/5.



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

The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee  
is now accepting nominations for the

2025 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

All nominations must be received no later than  
Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Please visit  
[middletownnj.org/voty](http://middletownnj.org/voty) for more information.

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

## Santa Claus is Coming to Town: Check Out the EMS and MTFD's Santa Run Schedule



**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT'S**  
**SANTA RUN 2025**  
**A COMMUNITY TRADITION**

**Our Fire and EMS Departments**  
are joining forces to bring Santa to visit our community!

Watch for Santa on our apparatus  
as we drive through Middletown  
Township neighborhoods  
spreading holiday cheer!

Please follow your neighborhood  
fire companies Facebook page for  
route details and timing updates.

**We kindly remind our residents**

- Our Firefighters and EMS members are **Volunteers**, and all are **non-profit organizations**.
- While we do our best, it is **impossible** for us to make it down **every street** in the township.
- We strongly suggest that if you hear our trucks, head to your nearest main intersection.
  - Any emergency situations takes precedent over the Santa Run.
  - All dates are weather permitting.
  - All officers hold the discretion to make changes as needed.

It's that time of the year! The Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department are joining forces for their annual Santa Run.

Please understand that while they do their absolute best, it's extremely difficult to pass every house and come down every street while also balancing the emergency needs of our residents. The MTFD's best advice is if you hear sirens, head to your nearest main intersection to get a glimpse of Mr. Claus!



Times, dates, and availability are subject to change at the discretion of company and chief officers. Please monitor the [MTFD's Facebook page](#) and the individual Facebook page of your community firehouse for the dates and times.



### MTFD Shares Live Christmas Tree Safety Tips

This holiday season, the Middletown Township Fire Department (MTFD) and Middletown Township Fire Prevention Office would like to provide residents with tips on how to take care of real Christmas trees.

Click [HERE](#) to watch their Public Service Announcement on YouTube.



## Seasonal Tip: Pile Snow Downhill When Shoveling



**Rain and snowmelt cannot easily infiltrate frozen ground, which inevitably causes flooding.**

**When shoveling, please pile snow downhill from your home where rainwater naturally flows. Keep your gutters unobstructed and directed away from your foundation.**



[MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/SEASONALTIPS](http://MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/SEASONALTIPS)

### Fall 2025 Leaf Collection Update



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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## FALL 2025 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

ECRWSS

COLLECTION ZONE	STATUS
A,B,C,D,F,G,H,I,J	COMPLETE
E,K,L	IN PROGRESS

VISIT [WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/COLLECTION](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Brush is accepted year-round for residents.

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

IN CONGRESS July 4, 1776

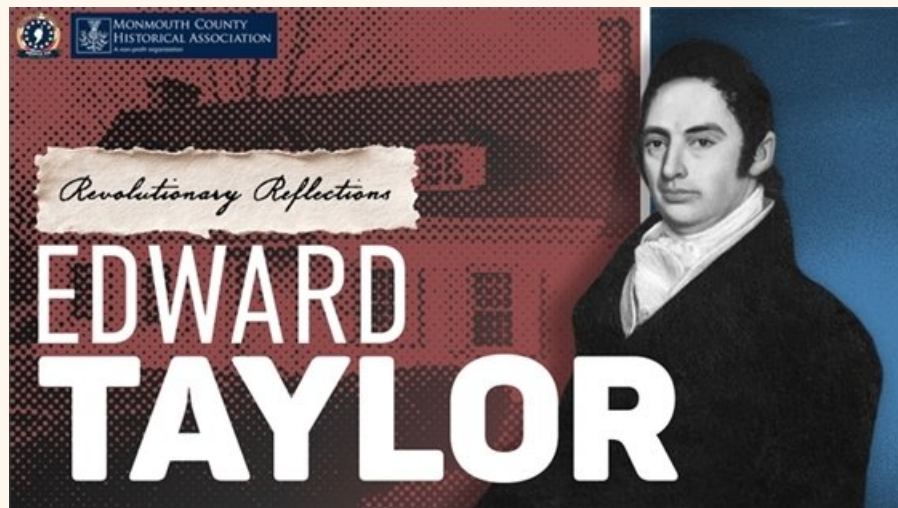
Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America



# Celebrating America 250



**Introducing Our New *Revolutionary Reflections* Video Series: Watch First Episode to Learn About Edward Taylor's Unique Role in the Revolutionary War**



To commemorate our nation's upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Middletown America 250 Committee is launching *Revolutionary Reflections* — a mini-docuseries exploring the real lives, struggles, and choices of Middletown's residents during the Revolutionary War.

Learn about the families, conflicts, and untold stories that defined Middletown's role in America's fight for independence.

Our first episode begins with Edward Taylor, a suspected spy, Loyalist sympathizer, and prisoner under house arrest at Marlpit Hall (137 Kings Highway).

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

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

**TOWNSHIP TRIVIA**

THE ANSWER IS...

**B THE BRITISH WERE COMING BY LAND.**

The Middle town 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](https://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, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The answer will be revealed in the Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 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!**

<b>Items for Sale</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandy Hook Lighthouse Ornament</li> <li>• Middletown America 250 Challenge Coin</li> <li>• Citizen Soldier Challenge Coin</li> <li>• Middletown America 250 Mason Jar</li> <li>• Seabrook-Wilson House Tote Bag</li> <li>• Sandy Hook Lighthouse Tote Bag</li> <li>• Murray Farmhouse Tote Bag</li> </ul>
<b>Payment</b>	<p>Payments will be processed directly via <a href="https://middletownnj.org/america250store">middletownnj.org/america250store</a>. Credit and debit cards are the only accepted forms of payment.</p>
<b>Order Pickup</b>	<p>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 <a href="https://middletownnj.org/250pickup">middletownnj.org/250pickup</a> to schedule a pickup time.</p>

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](https://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 250<sup>th</sup> 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](https://middletownnj.org/250pickup) to schedule your pickup.

**Learn about Revolutionary War Patriot Jehu Patterson in the latest *Locally Sourced* Middletown America 250 Series Podcast**



In the fourth 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 Jehu Patterson, a young Middletown native who witnessed the Revolution unfold right outside his front door. His early experiences during the war helped shape a lifetime of public service, ultimately leading him to become a respected judge who supported the very veterans he once served alongside.

You can listen to the podcast on [middletownnj.org/locallysourced](https://middletownnj.org/locallysourced), Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, Podbean, and Spotify.

**MonmouthNJ 250 Committee Launches Digital Art Contest: Last Day to Submit Entries is Friday, 4/3**



This week, Monmouth County officials and the MonmouthNJ 250 Committee proudly introduced a digital art competition for professional and non-professional artists who are at least 14 years old to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Participants must create digital artwork that portrays one or all of the following themes: Patriotism for Our Country, Pride in Our Communities, and Participating in the Celebration.

Each first-place winner in the professional and non-professional categories will receive \$1,776. Additional prizes will be presented for second and third place. The winners will be announced on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

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





## **RABIES ALERT!**

### **12/15/25 Rabies Alert: Rabid Raccoon Found Near Herb Road and Kenneth Terrace West**

The Middletown Township Animal Control Division responded to a call for a possible altercation between a dog and a raccoon in the area of Herb Road and Kenneth Terrace West. Middletown Animal Control officers retrieved the raccoon and sent it for testing. Lab results confirmed the raccoon was positive for rabies.

Click [HERE](#) to read important reminders regarding rabies and wildlife.

**Pre-Register for Middletown Township Animal Control's  
Free Cat and Dog Rabies Clinic Happening on Saturday,  
1/17 from 8-10 AM**

## Free Cat and Dog Rabies Clinic



**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 8:00-10:00 AM**



**Croydon Hall Gym Parking Lot**  
**(900 Leonardville Road)**



**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
**[middletownnj.org/rabies](http://middletownnj.org/rabies)**

**Please call Animal Control**  
**at 732-615-2097 if you**  
**have any questions.**



The Middletown Township Health Department's Animal Control Division is holding a cat and dog drive-thru rabies clinic on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-10:00 AM. The clinic will be held at the Croydon Hall Gym Parking Lot (900 Leonardville Road).

Visit [middletownnj.org/rabies](http://middletownnj.org/rabies) for more information and to pre-register.

**Pay Off Late MTPL Fees with Food Bank**  
**Donations 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**



It's the final days of Food for Fines at the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL)! Through this program, 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.

**2026 Parking Permits Renewal to Begin Sunday, 2/1: 2025  
Permits to be Honored During This Time**





### ONLINE PARKING PERMIT SYSTEM TO REOPEN ON SUNDAY, 2/1

Due to a system upgrade, the Clerk's Office will be renewing parking permits for 2026 beginning Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will continue to honor the 2025 permits during this time.

Please visit [middletownnj.org/parkingpermits](http://middletownnj.org/parkingpermits) in January for information about when the system will reopen.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Clerk's Office via the following methods:

- Call 732-615-2015.
- Email [townclerk@middletownnj.org](mailto:townclerk@middletownnj.org).

**FOR UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT:  
[MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/PARKINGPERMITS](http://MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/PARKINGPERMITS)**

Due to a system upgrade, the Clerk's Office will be renewing parking permits for 2026 beginning Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Clerk's Office will continue to honor the 2025 permits during this time.

Please visit [middletownnj.org/parkingpermits](http://middletownnj.org/parkingpermits) in January for information about when the system will reopen. Thank you for your patience!

## MTPD Encourages Residents to Volunteer with 180 Turning Lives Around



# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### JOIN 180'S SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART)

180's specially trained, confidential advocates work closely with law enforcement and the Forensic Nurse Examiners program to provide emotional support and assistance to victims of sexual violence and their loved ones. This support is offered during sensitive hospital medical examinations and police procedures. Advocates also offer telephone support, information about the justice system, and referrals to services. The identities of the volunteers remain anonymous. Prior knowledge of sexual violence is not required. 180 is committed to fostering culturally and socially diverse teams to better serve the community, and bilingual capabilities are highly valued. Training will be provided free of charge to successful applicants.

### JANUARY 2026 TRAINING DATES

January 13th-January 31st

**Week 1**  
-Tuesday/Thursday: Zoom 6p-9:30p  
-Saturday IN PERSON: 9:30a-3:30p

**Week 2:**  
-Tues/Weds/Thurs: Zoom 6p-9:30p

**Week 3**  
-Monday/Wednesday: Zoom 6p-9:30p  
-Saturday IN PERSON: 9:30a-3:30p

### HOW TO APPLY

PLEASE CONTACT:  
Jacquelyn Godbey  
Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate Coordinator

908-670-1659  
[jacquelyng@180nj.org](mailto:jacquelyng@180nj.org)

Application can be found [HERE](#) or visit our website for more information

### REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO APPLY

- Must be 18+
- Attend monthly supervisory meetings
- Be willing to serve on an on-call shift basis
- Have a valid driver's license and access to transportation
- Participate in an interview process that includes fingerprinting and a background check
- Successfully complete the mandatory 40-hour training

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH



### 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL HOTLINE

1-888-264-7273

[www.180nj.org](http://www.180nj.org)

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

Click [HERE](#) for more information about how to get involved.

## MTPD to Host Free Car Seat Safety Checkpoint on Wednesday, 1/14 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. There will be no checkpoint on the fourth Wednesday of this month since that is Christmas Eve. Please contact Corporal Michael Reuter at 732-615-2046 if you have any questions or concerns.

## 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](http://middletownnj.org/smokealarm).

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

## Sign Up for Middletown Parks & Recreation's After-School Science Club: Program Begins Monday, 1/5



Join Middletown Parks & Recreation at Poricy Park (345 Oak Hill Road) for the award-winning After-School Science Club! Over the course of several weeks, there will be themed activities, experiments, and hikes in an adventure-packed hour every Monday (except for January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup>).

This winter's theme is The Power of Magnets — sign up via RecDesk for some hands-on learning fun!

Visit [mtownrec.recdesk.com](http://mtownrec.recdesk.com) for more information and to register.

**Register for Middletown Parks & Recreation's Winter Skateboarding Classes: First Class is on Tuesday, 1/13**





Does your child want to learn how to skateboard or expand their existing skillset? Regardless of their experience, Middletown Parks & Recreation's winter classes will teach them the fundamentals of skateboarding in a safe, courteous manner and at a skill level appropriate to everyone. Beginners and intermediates will be broken into two classes.

Visit [mtownrec.recdesk.com](https://mtownrec.recdesk.com) to sign up.

**New Year, New Hobby: Make an Artistic Resolution and Register Now for MAC's Winter Classes!**



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

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

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



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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Enjoy The Wag's Christmas Spectacular at the MAC on Saturday, 12/20 at 7 PM**



There's nothing like a good old-fashioned holiday special — and The Wag's Christmas Spectacular delivers just that! Inspired by the beloved holiday TV shows of the past, Bayshore-based band, The Wag, captures the nostalgia of those classics while adding their own joyful twist.

This year's show also features a "Christmas Around the World" theme, celebrating holiday traditions and songs from Ireland, Germany, Spain, and beyond. The Wag's Christmas Spectacular is a feel-good holiday experience the whole family will love!

The concert will take place at the Middletown Arts Center (MAC, 36 Church Street) and all proceeds will benefit the Monmouth County SPCA.

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

**Sign Up for a Winter Solstice Hike Happening on Sunday, 12/21 at 5 PM**



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

Visit [mtownrec.recdesk.com](https://mtownrec.recdesk.com) to register.

**Support the MTPL at the Friends of MTPL's End of Year Book Sale through Wednesday, 12/31**

Dec  
17-31



## FRIENDS OF MTPL BOOK STORE

**END OF YEAR SALE:  
Buy 1 Get 1 Free  
on BOOKS!**

EXCLUDES GIFT-WRAPPED BOOKS

From now until Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, come to the MTPL and shop at the Friends of MTPL Bookstore's End of Year Sale! The shelves are freshly restocked, and the nonprofit is clearing things out to make room for even more great books.

Enjoy the buy-one-get-one-free special on all items (except the gift-wrapped books). This is the perfect opportunity to stock up on great reads for the new year and support your library!

### Reorganization Meeting Set for Sunday, 1/4 at 10 AM



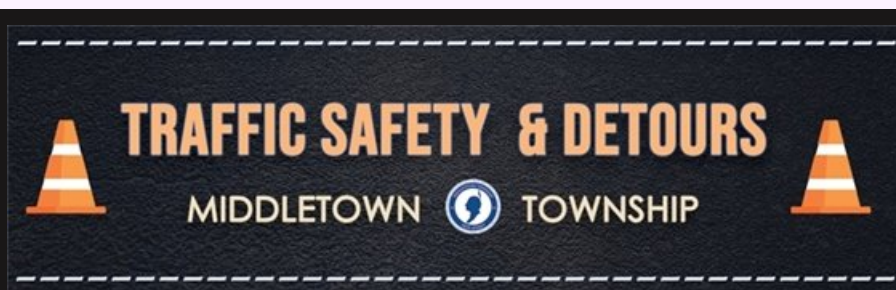


## Buy Tickets for Middletown Parks & Recreation's Daddy-Daughter Dance Happening on Sunday, 2/1 at 11 AM



Middletown Parks & Recreation's Daddy Daughter Dance is returning to Jacques Banquet Hall (500 Palmer Avenue)! The theme is "In Our Daddy Daughter Dance Era", so wear your favorite Taylor Swift-inspired outfit and dress to impress! Semi-formal attire is encouraged.

Enjoy a night of dancing, good food, and fun surprises. Two of the three dances are already SOLD OUT — register while you can on [mtownrec.recdesk.com/](https://mtownrec.recdesk.com/)!



- On Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM, expect delays on Nutswamp Road eastbound between Normandy Park and Shadow Lake Village for the 10U River Plaza-Lincroft Chargers National Championship Victory Parade.
- 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.

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Port Monmouth Flood Control Project Road Closures and Updates:

- Broadway remains closed between Main Street (Port Monmouth) and Church Street (Belford) due to ongoing construction. Broadway will be closed until May 2026.
- Campbell Avenue will be closed at the intersection with Creek Road starting January 12, 2026 and is estimated to remain closed until October 2027.
- Detours will be posted. Vehicles traveling between Belford and Port Monmouth can use Highway 36 or Port Monmouth Road.

## RESOURCES



### THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM HAS LAPSED: WHAT TO KNOW



#### What You Need to Know

- 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.

#### Information for Homebuyers

- 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.

#### Are Floodplain Regulations on Hold?

No, Middletown Township must continue to enforce local, state, and federal regulations during the lapse.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 [lrussokay@middletownnj.org](mailto:lrussokay@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](http://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 [lrussokay@middletownnj.org](mailto:lrussokay@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](https://www.weather.gov) for additional information. Stay safe and warm!

## Register for Middletown's Emergency Alerts & Updates

### STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT SNOW WITH NIXLE

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](https://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](https://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](https://sdlportal.com) to get started or scan the QR code above to access the SDL Citizen Portal.**

*Visit [sdlportal.com](https://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](http://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](https://middletownnj.org/oem).

Click [HERE](#) to access hi-res photos from this e-newsletter.



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