## Township Phone Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergencies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dial 9-1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police, Fire, 1st Aid, Rescue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Municipal Services (732 area code for all numbers)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Control</td>
<td>615-2097</td>
<td>M-F, 8a-4p Weekends, Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building &amp; Inspections</td>
<td>615-2106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Administrator</td>
<td>615-2036</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Enforcement</td>
<td>615-2106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads (substance Abuse Services)</td>
<td>615-2269</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Management</td>
<td>615-2129</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Services</td>
<td>615-2252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department &amp; Fire Official</td>
<td>615-2270</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>615-2095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>671-3700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Office</td>
<td>615-2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown Arts Center</td>
<td>706-4100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Community Development</td>
<td>615-2098</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>615-2095</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>671-3700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s Office</td>
<td>615-2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown Arts Center</td>
<td>706-4100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Community Development</td>
<td>615-2098</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police (non-emergency)</td>
<td>615-2100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works (Garbage, Roads, Parks)</td>
<td>615-2109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Information</td>
<td>615-2287</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>615-2260</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>615-2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>615-2094</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Board of Education</td>
<td>671-3850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center</td>
<td>615-2265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewerage Authority</td>
<td>495-1010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Assessor</td>
<td>615-2089</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Collector</td>
<td>615-2086</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonya Keller Community Center</td>
<td>615-3250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township Administrator</td>
<td>615-2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township Engineer</td>
<td>615-2110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township Clerk</td>
<td>615-2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>615-2085</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Many Neighborhoods.

**One Middletown!**

- Belford
- Chapel Hill
- Fairview
- Harmony
- Leonardo
- Lincroft
- Locust
- Middletown Village
- Monmouth Hills
- Navesink
- New Monmouth
- North Middletown
- Nutswamp
- Oak Hill
- Port Monmouth
- River Plaza

## Zip Codes

Middletown Township covers some 42 square miles. We’re divided into 12 different zip codes by the United States Postal Service. Visit www.usps.gov to find your local post office.

- Atlantic Highlands - 07716
- Belford - 07718
- Highlands - 07732
- Holmdel - 07733
- Leonardo - 07737
- Lincroft - 07738
- Locust/Rumson - 07760
- Middletown - 07748
- Navesink - 07752
- New Monmouth - 07748
- Port Monmouth - 07758
- Red Bank - 07701

## STAY CONNECTED

**Alerts** Register for alerts via email and phone through the township website.

- **Website** www.middletownnj.org
- **Facebook** middletownnjtownhall
- **Twitter** middletownnj
- **Radio Station** 1620AM
- **Television** Comcast Channel 20
  - Verizon FiOs Channel 26

- **Brookdale College** brookdale.cc.nj.us
- **Middletown Arts Center** middletownarts.org
- **Middletown Library** mtpl.org
- **Middletown Schools** middletownk12.org
- **Monmouth County** visitmonmouth.com
- **State of New Jersey** nj.gov
Welcome to Middletown Township!

Hello and welcome to Middletown Township! Officially founded in 1664, the Township of Middletown is one of the seats of colonial America. Today it thrives as the largest municipality in Monmouth County and as one of the biggest in the state of New Jersey.

With approximately 67,000 residents, 42 square miles, and nearly 350 plus years of history, you can imagine what I mean when I say Middletown has it all. Five historic districts, Brookdale Community College, an acclaimed library and a celebrated Arts Center make us a hub for arts, education and culture. A volunteer force of nearly 1,500 residents serving the community in various positions is not only the hallmark of our town but a testament to our sense of community.

Middletown is the home of Gateway National Park on the beaches of Sandy Hook. We also have over 70 of our own municipal parks, several beaches, rolling countryside landscapes and lakeside communities. With more than 20 schools, 11 firehouses, multiple business centers and easy commuter access to nearby New York City by boat, rail, or bus, and now, a world class Sloan Kettering Medical Facility to open in 2016, it's no wonder why Middletown has been named a top town to live time and time again.

I invite you to discover why we are known as one of the biggest small towns in New Jersey!

Mayor Gerry Scharfenberger

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middletown By Comparison</th>
<th>MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP</th>
<th>MONMOUTH COUNTY</th>
<th>NEW JERSEY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largest municipality in county</td>
<td>16th largest in state</td>
<td>53 municipalities</td>
<td>565 municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Median</td>
<td>40,989 square miles</td>
<td>468.79 square miles</td>
<td>7,504.8 square miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Income</td>
<td>$102,088</td>
<td>$84,526</td>
<td>$71,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Area</td>
<td>66,522</td>
<td>630.380</td>
<td>8,791,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Acreage</td>
<td>852.44 acres</td>
<td>16,175 acres</td>
<td>499,793 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Parks</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>41 parks &amp; forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Mileage</td>
<td>350.25 miles</td>
<td>4,000 miles</td>
<td>34,268 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles of Coastline</td>
<td>19 miles (Sandy Hook-15.8)</td>
<td>53 miles (27 Ocean, 26 Bay)</td>
<td>130 miles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

One of the Best Places to Live in New Jersey and in America

Middletown Township has been named one of the best places to live by MONEY magazine four times since 2006. A low crime rate, great schools, and access to an abundance of cultural and leisure activities are among the reasons that Middletown is known as one of the best places to live in New Jersey and the Northeast Region in particular.
Recycling Curbside Collection
Middletown collects recyclable materials from your curb. Recyclable materials can be placed in the same containers for collection. Max weight is 50 lbs per container. Recycling collection schedules are determined by your election district. The recycling collection schedule for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day is shifted to the next business day.

Kanes Lane Recycling Center
The Township’s Recycling Center is located at 52 Kanes Lane, off Highway 35. The facility is open to Middletown residents only. Recycling Center operating hours are Thursday through Monday, 8:30am to 4:30pm; closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays, New Year’s Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Recycling Center and the Train Station Drop-Off Site on Church Street does not accept single stream recycling at this time. Recyclable materials brought to these locations must be separated.

Garbage Collection
Garbage collection is dependent upon location. Residents in the Solid Waste Collection District pay a garbage tax to receive municipal collection. Residents not located in the district do not pay this tax and must arrange for a private hauler to collect their garbage.

Brush and Leaf Collection
Brush is collected curbside in the spring. Leaves are collected curbside in the fall.
Residents or their landscapers can bring leaves to the Recycling Center from Nov. 1st until June 1st. Brush is accepted year-round.
Do not place material at the curb earlier than 7 days before your zone’s start date. Doing so creates a hazard for pedestrians and drivers. Tree stumps, lumber, plywood, fence posts, railroad ties, or garbage are not be collected. Don’t set out materials after your zone has been collected. Violators will be charged $1,250 for a separate collection. Visit www.middletownnj.org/collection for status updates.

Middletown Township At A Glance
- Founded in 1664
- 16th largest municipality in New Jersey
- Ferry, Bus and Train Access to New York City
- 18 Scenic Corridors
- 5 historic districts
- Henry Hudson Trail Access through the Bayshore
- 4 Neighborhood Commercial Districts
- 2 Major Shopping Corridors
- 11 fire companies
- 5 first aid squads
- Largest Police Department in Monmouth County
- Lowest Crime Rate in 25-plus years
- 5,463 acres public parks & open spaces (15%)
- 60+ athletic fields, 28 playgrounds, 26 tennis courts, 15 basketball courts, 3 roller hockey rinks, 2 sand volleyball courts, 2 beaches, and 2 indoor gyms
- 1,927 acres farmland (8%)
- Active Senior Center and Community Center
- World class township library with the highest circulation statewide
- Home to Award-winning Middletown Arts Center
- Raritan Bay & Navesink River frontage
- Home to Brookdale Community College and the award-winning MAST and High Tech High Schools
- 19 public schools and five private schools
- Home to a Sloan Kettering Medical Facility and AT&T Research Facility
- Award-winning website
# Township Recycling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recyclable Material</th>
<th>Curbside (Single Stream) Collection Per zone, see schedule</th>
<th>Kanes Lane Recycling Center Thurs. - Mon. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM</th>
<th>Train Station Recycling Open 24 Hours</th>
<th>Garbage Pick up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPLIANCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/C Units</td>
<td>YES ($25)*</td>
<td>YES ($10)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerators</td>
<td>YES ($25)*</td>
<td>YES ($10)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoves</td>
<td>YES ($20)*</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washer/Dryer</td>
<td>YES ($20)*</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARDBOARD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard (broken down)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food-contaminated cardboard (Pizza Boxes)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELECTRONICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers/monitors/laptop</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVD Players/Stereos/VCRs</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printers/Tel/Fax/Copiers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVs</td>
<td>YES ($20)*</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GLASS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottles/Jars</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics/Dishware**</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightbulbs/Windows**</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEAVY PLASTICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckets/Storage Bins</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kid's Toys/Ple Play Equipment</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coolers/Trash Receptacles</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>METALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum/Tin/Steel Cans</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Foil/Tins/Pie Tin</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Hangers/Scrap Metal</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MIXED PAPER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ads/Catalogs/Magazines</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal Box/Br Paper Bags</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy/Fax/Office Paper</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes /Soft Cover Books</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardcover Books**</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Metallic Wrapping Paper</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cups/Plates/Food Wrappers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEWSPAPER</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper (tied in bundles)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper used for Pet Waste/Household Projects</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MISCELLANEOUS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerosol Cans</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batteries - household</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batteries-car &amp; rechargeable</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling &amp; Golf Balls</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Material**</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fence Posts (w/o concrete)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Clipping/Tree Stump**</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latex Paint, lid off (dried)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Hangers/PVC piping</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber Products (Hoses)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires – Automobile (&lt; 17” Rim)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES ($25)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires – Pick-up Trucks/SUV</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES ($17)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane Tanks/Motor Oil</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl Products (manageable size)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Must be scheduled and paid for prior to pick up.
** Contact the Monmouth County Landfill at 732-683-6896 for disposal.
*** If cover and binder removed, may be disposed of (as mixed paper) curbside or at Kanes Lane.
Commuter Parking

Middletown Township offers parking at the NJ Train Station located on Church Street and at Academy bus stops along Route 36. Parking permits are required.

Parking Permits: Permits can be purchased online or at the Township Clerks’ Office. Visit www.middletownnj.org.

Daily Parking: The Daily Metered Parking Lot on Church Street is located across from the Train Station. A fee of $6.00 per day can be paid at the convenient parking kiosk located in that lot.

More Information: www.middletownnj.org/parking

Licenses, Permits & Records

The Township Clerk’s Office issues licenses and permits and processes records requests including:
- Alcoholic Beverage Control Retail Licenses, Liquor Stores, Restaurants and One-Day Licenses.
- Auto Towers
- Limousines/Taxi Cabs
- Marriage/Civil Union Licenses
- Marriage, Birth and Death records
- Precious Metal Buyers/Sellers
- Non Food Vending Machines
- Bingo and Raffles for Non-profit, Educational, or Religious organizations

Elections & Voting

The Middletown Township Clerk's Office organizes, runs, and reports the results of the School Board, Primary and General Elections for the township. The Primary Election is held the first Tuesday after the First Monday in June. Polls are open 6:00am until 8:00pm. The General Election and School Board Election is held First Tuesday after the First Monday in November. Polls are open 6:00am until 8:00pm

Voter Registration: To register, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years old by the next election, AND a resident of the county for 30 days before the election. You are not eligible to register to vote if you are serving a sentence or are on parole or probation, as a result of a conviction of an indictable offense under state or federal law or have adjudged mentally incompetent. The registration deadline to vote at the next election is 21 days prior to election day.

Change of Address: Change of address only applies if the voter has moved within the county he/she was currently registered. If a voter moves to another county, the voter must register as a new voter. The changes or new registrations deadline to vote at the next election is 21 days prior to Election Day.

More Information
- Registration Information & Form : njelections.org | 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837)
- Monmouth County Board of Elections: visitmonmouth.com | 732-431-7785
- Township Clerk’s Office: www.middletownnj.org/vote | 732-615-2015

Building and Inspections

The Department of Inspections provides for cooperative inspection and enforcement of all Construction Codes relating to the construction, maintenance, use and occupancy of buildings and structures.

More Information
- 732-615-2106
- www.middletownnj.org/building

Public Health

The Health Department oversees public health issues, environmental concerns, animal control, substance abuse services and social services. Please note Municipal Ordinance 68-2 requires that all cats & dogs must be licensed annually. Applications can submitted online.

More Information
- 732-615-2095
- www.middletownnj.org/health
Parks & More Parks
The Recreation Department offers over 70 parks spread out over 42 square miles. Many locations offer tennis and basketball courts, playgrounds, athletic fields and/or picnic areas.

Programs and Classes
Youth programs offered include ceramics, karate, open recreation, pre-school and summer camps. Adult programs include ceramics, volleyball, yoga, pilates and circuit training. Pre-registration required. Fees apply.

Sports Leagues
Local sports teams and leagues are provided by non-profit organizations. Sports fields are provided by the Middletown Township and the School District. Permits are required to use fields. Call 732-615-2260 for details.

More information
- 732-615-2260
- www.middletonwnj.org/events
- Register/community pass.net/Middletown
All About Middletown

In this section, you’ll find a wealth of information about the Middletown of today and yesteryear. First, there’s a directory of parks and points of interest. As shown by the map on the right, the township is divided into four quadrants to make things a bit easier to navigate. Second, you’ll find our story. The history section includes a timeline and a collection of tidbits about Middletown’s history.

Township Facilities

Middletown Town Hall Main Complex  615-2000
1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ, 07748

Offices found at the at the main complex include: Police, Township Clerk, Mayor’s Office, Municipal Court, Building and Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire Department, Fire Prevention, Tax Collection, Tax Assessor, Finance, Human Resources, Vital Statistics, and Zoning

Health Department  615-2095
180 Main Street, Port Monmouth, NJ 07758

Crossroads  615-2269
730 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, 07738

Croydon Hall Gym  615-2260
900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737

Middletown Library  671-3700
55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown, NJ 07748

Middletown Arts Center  706-4100
36 Church Street, Middletown, NJ 07748

Middletown Sewerage Authority  495-1010
100 Beverly Way, Belford, NJ 07718

Middletown School District  671-3850
834 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737

Planning & Community Development  615-2098
3 Penelope Lane, Middletown, NJ 07748

Poricy Park  615-2260
345 Oak Hill Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Emergency Management  615-2129

Public Works, and Recycling Center  615-2109
52 Kanes Lane, Middletown, NJ 07748

Recreation Department  615-2260
Poricy Park, 345 Oak Hill Road, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Senior Center  615-2265
900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737

Tonya Keller Community Center  615-3250
50 Bray Avenue, Middletown, NJ 07748

Fire Department

11 All-Volunteer Fire Companies

Middletown Township is home to the world’s largest all-volunteer fire department.

Navesink Hook & Ladder Co, Monmouth Ave, Navesink

Prevent Park & Leonardo Fire Co., 36 Center Ave, Leonardo

Belford Engine Fire Co., Main St, Belford,

Community Fire Co., Hwy 36 & Appleton Ave., Leonardo

East Keansburg Fire Co., Thompson Ave, Middletown

Port Monmouth Fire Co., Main St, Port Monmouth

Belford Independent Fire Co., Rt 36, Belford

Middletown #1 Fire Co., 336 Route 35, Middletown

River Plaza Hose Co., 26 Applegate St, Middletown

Lincroft Fire Co., 601 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft

Old Village Fire Co., Rt 35, Middletown

Emergency Medical Services

5 All-Volunteer First Aid Squads

Middletown First Aid & Rescue, 11 Cruise Pl, Middletown

Fairview First Aid & Rescue, 17 Kanes Lane, Middletown

Port Monmouth First Aid, 194 Wilson Av, Port Monmouth

Leonardo First Aid & Rescue, 36 Viola Ave, Leonardo

Lincroft First Aid & Rescue, 58 Hurleys Lane, Lincroft

More Information

• Fire: 732-615-2270 | www.middletownnj.org/fire

EMS: 732-615-2252 | www.middletownnj.org/ems

• FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911
Bayshore

Water Witch Club Historic District
The Water Witch Historic Club District is the fifth historic district established in Middletown Township. It is an important example of a late 19th century/early 20th century romantically designed summer community. The district, bound by Route 36 on the North and Hartshorne Woods on the South, remains as a fine example of architecture and landscape features dating from 1895 to the 1930s. Many of the 44 surviving buildings are outstanding examples of shingle and colonial revival style homes, built by well-known architects of the area. The Water Witch Club Casino is a two and a half story frame structure with a Dutch gambrel room and is of the colonial revival style.

The Water Witch Club was founded in 1895 as a summer club by a group of wealthy businessmen and architects from New York City, led by real estate entrepreneur Ferdinand Fish. The club, which consisted of the clubhouse/casino and 40 summer cottages remained an active summer retreat for its members from its inception in 1895 up until the years of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Having been abandoned as a membership club by the early 1950s, Monmouth Hills, Inc. purchased all of the remaining property from the Highlands of Navesink Improvement Company, in 1957. It was around this time the first new house was built within present-day Monmouth Hills. The Water Witch Club Casino continues to be operated for recreational purposes by Monmouth Hills Inc, a non-profit corporation.

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Fort Hancock
Sandy Hook, known as Sandy Poynt before its hook formed, is a spectacular natural environment that has appealed to visitors for centuries. The Hook’s prominence began in 1764 with the completion of its lighthouse, the oldest continually lit lighthouse in the nation. Adjacent is the restored former keeper’s residence. Its military history starts as a strategic outpost during the Revolution when occupied by Loyalists. Early military posts reached a zenith with the 1895 opening of Fort Hancock. The fort was a coastal defense installation that for much of the 20th century was the most heavily armed fortification on the Atlantic, a role that ended with the 1974 deactivation of NIKE missile batteries. Present at the Hook are a few reminders of a separate military role, a proving (testing) grounds for weapons and defensive armaments. The beach and a variety of flora and fauna give the Hook great appeal to environmental and nature-oriented visitors.

Historic Sites
A. Seabrook-Wilson House, 719 Port Monmouth Road
B. Bowne House, Leonard Avenue
C. All Saints Memorial Church, Navesink Ave & Locust Rd.
D. Water Witch Club House, East Twin & West Twin Rds.
E. Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Sandy Hook National Park

Township Parks
1. Ideal Beach, Bayside Parkway, Middletown
2. Roosevelt Park, Port Monmouth Road, Middletown
3. Tonya Keller Community Center, 50 Bray Ave., Middletown
4. McMahon Park, Alberta Avenue, Middletown
5. Gordon Court Park, Gordon Court, Port Monmouth
6. Butler Park, Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth
7. Greeley Park, Brainard Avenue, Port Monmouth
8. Belford Park, Main Street, Belford
9. Leonardo Beach, Beach Avenue, Middletown
10. Monmouth Cove Marina, 200 Port Monmouth Road
11. Bayshore Waterfront Park, 719 Port Monmouth Road
12. Henry Hudson Trail, Trail Activity Center, Route 36
13. Hartshorne Woods Park
- Buttermilk Valley Entrance, 300 Navesink Ave., Navesink
- Claypit Creek Entrance, 239 Locust Avenue, Locust

National Park
15. Sandy Hook National Park

Leonardo
Leonardo, originally called Leonardville, was named after the very influential Leonard family. The Leonards were prominent Loyalists during the Revolutionary War. The family owned several farms and stores in the area and members of the family were military officials and politicians.
Northern Middletown

Chapel Hill Historic District
The Chapel Hill Historic District, located along Kings Highway East, is one of the earliest in Middletown. It is also the smallest, comprising of not much more than two taverns, a store, and a school. Chapel Hill was originally called High Point, because of the ridge the section of town sits on, but it received a name change in 1809 after a Baptist Chapel was built there.

Because of its strategic location, New Jersey housed many of the missile bases that opened up during the Cold War. One of these bases, the Nike Battery NY-53, was located in the Chapel Hill section of Middletown. On May 22, 1958, several Nike Ajax missiles killed ten Army and civilian personnel working at the base during an accidental explosion. As one of the worst missile explosions of the Cold War, this story received much media attention. According to the May 29, 1958 edition of The Courier newspaper, upon seeing the explosion one Middletown resident, “Thought it was the Russians”.

Locust Historic District
The Locust Historic District was an early farming and fishing village first settled in 1715. Clay Pit Creek became important in the 1800s as a hub of the local oyster trade with New York. In 1850, a steamboat dock was built on Locust Point Road, popularizing the area as a Victorian summer getaway.

Navesink Historic District
The Navesink Historic District was once a 19th century village. Located along Monmouth Avenue from the west of Browns Dock Road to the east of Lakeside Avenue, and from Navesink Avenue to Monmouth Avenue, Navesink was once the largest town in the area. During the period of 1820 to 1866 the Navesink district was renamed Riceville.

The district, which was once home to a post office, three general stores, a feed and grain store, a saw mill, a grist mill, barbershop, taverns, hotels, blacksmiths, a wheelwright, a shoe store, and a stage coach proprietor, now houses mainly private residences as well as a few churches, a school and a library. Monmouth Avenue, a very important street in Middletown history, is also part of the district. After the Battle of Monmouth, the British troops retreated down Monmouth Avenue on their way back to Sandy Hook.

New Monmouth
New Monmouth is located at the intersection of New Monmouth Road, Cherry Tree Farm Road, Leonardville Road and Park Avenue.

This village was formerly known as Chanceville, after Thomas Chance who owned the local tavern. In 1851 it included a second general store, a blacksmith, a wheelwright and approximately a dozen residences. The New Monmouth Baptist Church was built in 1855 in the Ecclesiastical Greek Revival Style. The church was created from the Middletown Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist church in New Jersey. The Stout/Morford house was built around 1765. The trolley transportation system with its station in Campbell’s Junction, about a half mile away at Main Street diverted development away from this 19th century village.

The New Monmouth Baptist Church congregation, organized in April 1854, built the edifice in 1855 at the corner of New Monmouth and Cherry Tree Farm Roads. The structure is easily recognizable today though it has been extensively modified over the years.

Historic Sites
A. New Monmouth Baptist Church, 4 Cherry Tree Farm Rd.
B. Stout/Morford House, 62 Swartzel Rd., New Monmouth
C. William Covenhoven Farm, 435 Kings Highway East
D. Luffburrow House Haskell Estate, Whippoorwill Valley Rd
E. Andrew Varick Stout House, 520 Navesink River Road
F. Leonard House, 76 Leonardville Road, Leonardo
G. Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo

Township Parks
1. Crystal Pond Park, Main Street, Port Monmouth
2. Waloo Park, Main Street, Port Monmouth
3. Chanceville Park, Aberdeen Terrace, Port Monmouth
4. Church Street Park, Belford
5. Countryside Park, Cherry Tree Farm Rd, Middletown
6. Evergreen Park, Lone Oak Road, New Monmouth
7. Tindall Park, Tindall Road, Middletown
8. Schultz Park, Fairview Drive, Middletown
9. Shorecrest Park, Richard Terrace, Middletown
10. Bodman Park, Market Street, Middletown
11. Hillside Park, Chestnut Street, Leonardo

Monmouth County Parks
12. Huber Woods, 25 Browns Dock Road, Locust
Central Middletown

Middletown Village Historic District
The Middletown Village Historic District is made up of 99 properties clustered along Kings Highway and Red Hill Road between Township Hall and Spruce Drive on the east, and Holland Road on the west. The district also includes properties on Church Street, Liberty Street, Conover Avenue, The Trail and Penelope Lane.

Middletown Village is among the oldest permanent English settlements in New Jersey. The first land purchased was by a deed dated January 25, 1664, The first Town Book of Middletown (1667-1699) shows the original settlement consisted of 36 "homelots" and 36 "outlots" along a pre-existing Indian path (that later became Kings Highway). The General Assembly of the colony of New Jersey directed every town to provide an ordinary (tavern or inn) for the convenience of its citizens and travelers. The first reported tavern was on Kings Highway around 1729 and William Wilson operated a tavern at the corner of Kings Highway and Red Hill Road. Marlpit Hall was built circa-1756. It has a rich history and is located at 137 Kings Highway near Highway 35.

By 1834 Middletown Village contained Episcopal, Dutch Reformed and Baptist churches, two stores, two taverns and 25 dwellings. By 1850 it had become the commercial and trading center for those within a 10-mile radius. There were 40 houses, 3 churches, a school, 4 stores, 2 carriage factories, 3 blacksmith shops, 2 leather shops, 1 harness shop, a tanning facility, and a hotel. Also of note is "Locustwood" built by Charles I. Hendrickson. It was the seat of a large, productive farm that included an extensive apple orchard.

Grover House
The Grover House was built by a descendent of James Grover prior to 1750. Grover was one of the original settlers of Monmouth County and the first township clerk of Middletown. The house is one of the few remaining eighteenth century houses in Monmouth County. The house was first moved in 1953 by the family to West Front Street from its original site on Newman Springs Road to clear the area for construction of the Garden State Parkway. The house was occupied by descendants of the Grover family until the death of the last descendant, Anna Lum in 1983.

The house, now owned by the township was moved for a second time in 1996 further down the road to the Stevenson Tract when it was threatened by a suburban subdivision.

Historic Sites
A. Christ Episcopal Church, 92 Kings Highway
B. Old First Church, 69 Kings Highway
C. Little Red Schoolhouse, 951 Middletown-Lincroft Road
D. Marlpit Hall, Kings Highway
E. Taylor-Butler House, Kings Highway
F. Blacksmith Shop, Kings Highway
G. Murray Farmhouse, Poricy Park, Oak Hill Road
H. Grover House, 940 West Front Street

Middletown Parks
1. Dorsett Park, Devonshire Drive, Middletown
4. Middletown Arts Center/WTC Memorial Gardens
36 Church Street, Middletown
5. Bicentennial Park, Route 35, Middletown
6. Applebrook Park, Iler Drive, Middletown
7. Fairview Soccer Fields, Oak Hill Road, Middletown
8. Normandy Park, Nut Swamp Road, Middletown
9. Poricy Park, Oak Hill Road, Middletown
10. Wilmort Park, Washington Avenue, Middletown
11. Nut Swamp Park, Orchard Road, Middletown
12. Stevenson Tract, West Front Street, Middletown

Monmouth County Parks
2. Tatum Park, 151 Red Hill Road
3. Deep Cut Gardens, 152 Red Hill Road

*“Locustwood” is a Greek Revival mansion built in Middletown Village in 1832 by Charles I. Hendrickson.*
Southern Middletown

Brookdale Community College
Brookdale Community College, which was established in Lincroft in 1967 was built on the Brookdale Farm of Colonel and Mrs. Lewis Steenrod Thompson. The Colonel purchased the property from the Withers Estate in 1893.

The farm was once a premier thoroughbred race horse breeding and training facility. The first filly, Regret, to win the Kentucky Derby was foaled at this farm.

Today, the college offers more than 50 programs and has more than 15,000 full-time and part-time students. The campus has grown tremendously in 40-plus years, with 22 buildings totaling more than 700,000 square feet.

Geraldine Livingston Thompson
The Monmouth County Park System has an early Lincroft family to thank for its headquarter park. Officially called the Lewis Steenrod and Geraldine Livingston Thompson Park, the park came about from a donation from Geraldine when she died in 1967. Lewis had passed away about 30 years before her. She left her 215 acres and Georgian revival style mansion to the park system with the belief that “children have to feel the ground beneath them and go out into the woods and see the trees and birds.”

The house was built in 1893 by Lewis Steenrod Thompson’s father William Payne Thompson. Three years later Lewis and Geraldine got married and moved into the home. The mansion had 11 bathrooms, 13 fireplaces, and a full basement.

Geraldine, who was very into philanthropy and social activism, was once called “the First Lady of New Jersey” by Governor Alfred Driscoll.

The house had been partially destroyed by two fires in 1910 and 1923, and had been rebuilt both times. On February 6, 2006, the building caught fire a third time. The structure was too badly damaged to recover though. The visitor center, which now stands, was built in its place.

What’s In a Name? Sandy New, Leedsville and Lincroft

In the 17th century, modern-day Lincroft was part of the land route between Middletown and Shrewsbury. Its earliest name was Sandy New, reportedly dubbed such by Scottish settlers.

In 1680, William Leeds purchased substantial land in this area from the Native Americans. The area’s name Sandy New, however, stuck until about the 1830s. In 1833 the Leedsville Post Office was established. A tavern license documented in 1834 for Joseph Stillwell, Jr. references “Leedsville formerly called Sandy New.”

A re-established post office was opened in 1897 and named Lincroft. The names Leedsville and Lincroft co-existed for a while. Leedsville was named after the area’s prominent landowner while the origin of the exact name Lincroft remains a mystery.

In the 1800s the inn was known as the Leedsville Hotel and gained a fame for its fine well water which refreshed travelers on the Lakewood-New York Stage Coach Run. During the prohibition it remained popular for its hot meals and the “spirits” secretly made in the basement.

Roads of note in the area include Newman Springs Road which was simply known as the hay path before a bridge was built to cross the Swimming River. Phalanx Road was named after the North American Phalanx, a Utopian communal society, that used the road. Middletown-Lincroft Road was named such because it connects the two localities.

The popular Lincroft Inn dates back to the earliest days of English settlement, changing its name to match the times. This landmark was established in 1697 by John Bennett on part of a 350 acre tract of land grant given to him by the King of England. During the 1800s the inn was known as the Leedsville Hotel and gained a fame for its fine well water which refreshed travelers on the Lakewood-New York Stage Coach Run. During the prohibition it remained popular for its hot meals and the “spirits” secretly made in the basement.

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1609 Henry Hudson landed in Sandy Hook Bay. He sent an exploring party into Highlands and claimed land for Dutch.

1613 The first European traders and settlers seeking religious freedom came to the area around this time.

1640 Penelope van Princis purportedly shipwrecked on Sandy Hook. She returned later, married to Richard Stout, as one of the first settlers of Middletown.

1663 A group of Englishmen from Gravesend, Brooklyn came to the area to trade with the Indians and purchase land.

1664 Middletown was settled by the English. Thomas Whitlock purchased land from the Lenni Lenape Native Americans. More land was purchased by Captain John Bowne, Richard Stout, and 10 others.

April 8, 1665 Gov. Richard Nichols issued The Monmouth Patent to 12 Patentees giving them certain privileges and freedoms from taxation until 1672. At almost the same time the Duke of York issued a Patent to Sir John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. Carteret claimed the right to govern the land. The colonists refused to pay him taxes. The controversy raged on for years.

1667 Portland Point, now known as Atlantic Highlands, became the capital under the Monmouth Patent. The legislature met here from 1667-1700.

December 14, 1667 First Town Meeting was held to organize local government. The next day, thirty-six town lots were laid out in Middletown in an English-style grid north and south of a major road, the Kings Highway.

1668 Richard Hartshorne bought land from original patentee William Goulding.

1670 Anticipating trouble from Indians, a block house was built. It was later used as a prison and court house. The site is the present location of Christ Church.

1671 First school opened in Middletown Village by John Smith, a teacher who was friends with Baptist Church founder Roger Williams.

1672 Monmouth Patent voided. As compensation, each of the 12 original patentees received 500 acres and the others received a smaller acreage according to the number of their dependents and length of time in Middletown.

November 13, 1675 Monmouth County established by Provincial Assembly, the only settled portions were Middletown and Shrewsbury.

1677 Richard Hartshorne purchased Sandy Hook.

1688 Middletown Baptist Church (Old First Church), the oldest Baptist church in New Jersey chartered. The building served as Middletown’s first town meeting hall. The present structure was constructed in 1832 on the old 1720 foundation.

Feb 2, 1696 The first official marriage in New Jersey occurred in Middletown.

October 31, 1693 Under an act of the legislature, Middletown became one of the three townships in Monmouth County. Gov. Andrew Hamilton signed the act, establishing the township boundaries that were originally laid out in 1675.

1697 The original structure of the Lincroft Inn was built. In the 1800s the inn was known as the Leedsville Hotel and gained fame for its fine well water which refreshed many a thirsty traveler on the Lakewood-New York stagecoach run.
1699 Dutch Reformed Church Congregation founded. They met in different homes.

1699 Pirates set up headquarters at Brays Landing (known today as Ideal Beach). Several of Captain Kidd’s men are said to have married Middletown women and made their homes here after the execution of their leader in 1701. Captain Morgan was also reported to have been a visitor to the area.

1702 Christ Church was formally organized after a June sermon by George Keith, a specially assigned missionary by Anglican Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

1720 Johannes Luyster erected house in New Holland. Luysters were among the earliest Dutch settlers. During the mid-17th century control of New Jersey changed hands several times between the Dutch and the English.

1733 William Leedes, reputed to be one of Captain Kidd’s chief cohorts, willed land to Christ Church. Leedes already owned most of Lincroft, formerly known as Leedsville.

1746 Sandy Hook Lighthouse constructed by the colony of New York at the request of New York merchants after three shipwrecks in one year.

1775-1783 Revolutionary war underway with continual raids in Middletown. Middletown was a hotbed filled with Loyalists and Patriots. The Battle of Navesink near Hartshorne’s house was the first engagement in Monmouth County. Later, the British Army under General Clinton camped in Middletown following the Battle of Monmouth. Lord Cornwallis quartered in George Taylor’s house near Garrett’s Hill. The British Army embarked from Sandy Hook after they retreated from the Battle of Monmouth via township roads including Nut Swamp Road and Kings Highway.

November 16, 1790 An act passed transferring authority of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse to the United States government.

February 26, 1806 Title to Sandy Hook passed from Richard Hartshorne II, Tylee Williams, and Nimrod Woodward to the United States government.

1836 Franklin Academy, one of the first private schools, was established on Kings Highway. Later it became a public school, then part of the public library until 1950 when it became a private residence.

1842 Children in Nut Swamp attended school in a one-room school house. It closed in 1906 in favor of a more modern building. Today it’s home to the Middletown Garden Club RFD.

1844 North American Phalanx, a Utopian communal society, based on the ideas of Charles Fourier, was established in Lincroft. Later the building met its demise in a suspicious fire.

March 1846 An act was passed to give Middletown jurisdiction over all Sandy Hook. The property is federal land.

1847 Atlantic Township was created in Freehold taking a large part of its territory from Middletown, Freehold, and Shrewsbury.

1848 Reflecting a statewide trend for smaller municipalities of manageable size, Middletown was further split in 1848 with the formation of Raritan Township, a section that included the future Holmdel, Hazlet, Aberdeen, Matawan, Keyport, Union Beach and most of Keansburg.

1850 Prosperity in the Village: 40 houses, 6 stores, industries and hotel, travel and mail by stage. A post office is established at Chapel Hill, once known as High Point.

1861 Port Monmouth Post Office established.

August 29, 1862 Middletown Village was the scene of one of the largest peace meetings during the Civil War. It was staged by people from the New York area who wished for peace and felt the Southern states should have the right to secede if that is what they wanted. On the flip side, Middletown sent more commissioned officers to the field in this war than any other community of its size in the country.

1856 Conover Beacon and Chapel Hill Lighthouses built.

1866 Navesink Post Office established, replaces the Riceville branch which had been named for Rice Hatchell, a merchant.

1876 Railroad came to Middletown. The original station still stands in the corner of the daily parking lot.
Timeline 1887–1964

1887 Atlantic Highlands formed its own borough and seceded from Middletown.

1886 Navesink Hook & Ladder Company, the township's first volunteer fire company was established.

1890 African American Methodist Church founded in Red Hill, New Jersey's first free black settlement. Clinton Chapel built in 1901 and named for their first pastor Calvin Health.

1891 Lincroft Post Office established. The area was previously known as Sandy New, then Leedsville after William Leeds.

1891 Belford Post Office and Railroad Station established.

1891 Oceanic Bridge opened.

1897 Leonardo Post Office opened, named for Leonard family.

1900 Highlands formed its own borough and seceded from Middletown.

1904 The trolley arrived and connected the township with towns to the north, Highlands and Red Bank. Campbell’s Junction was a major transfer hub.

1913 Middletown High School, located in Leonardo, opened. Today it serves as one of the township’s 12 elementary schools.

1916 Old Grist Mill on Whipporwill Valley Road built by J. Armor Haskell.

1920 Middletown Public Library established by voter referendum.

1921 Middletown Township started a mobile library, the first of its kind in the state. It was run by Dorothy Norton who drove around about 600 books in the township’s Ford.

1925 Oliver Horton’s Twin Brooks Zoo opened. One of the zoo’s highlights was Judy the elephant on which children could take rides. It was located where Outback Steakhouse stands today on Route 35.

1928 Nine fire companies joined together to form the all-volunteer Middletown Fire Department.

May 15, 1928 Middletown Police Department was formed with the hiring of its first full-time Police Officer Earn N. Hoyer at an annual salary of $125.

1933 Middletown First Aid and Rescue Squad established.

1935 The first zoning laws were enacted through the efforts of civic associations in various sections of the township. At that time the population was 10,000 and the only large commercial ratable was the Belford Fish Factory.

1943 Naval Weapons Station Earle was developed to serve as a depot in the New York area for supplying and loading ships with ammunition during World War II.

1946 USS Solar explosion at Earle. Accident claimed lives of 7 sailors, injured 125 others and destroyed the ship.

1952 New Jersey Turnpike is constructed.

1955 Garden State Parkway brought great change.

May 22, 1958 Several Nike Ajax missiles killed ten Army and civilian personnel working at the Chapel Hill base during an accidental explosion. A monument to the fallen is located at Sandy Hook.

1959 Christian Brothers Academy established on the site of former Whitney Greentree Stables, a 157-acre farm.

1960 Hurricane Donna made landfall in Middletown.

1961 Town Hall was built at 1 Kings Highway.

1961 The Miracle Worker starring Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke was filmed in Middletown.

1964 Middletown celebrates its tercentennial.

1964 Middletown Helps Its Own, a local charity, is organized.

Local firefighters pose for a photo at Middletown High School in Leonardo in February 1939.

Today the former high school serves as one of the township’s 12 elementary schools.

Middletown’s Mobile Library in 1921
Timeline 1966 – Today

1966 Middletown Sewerage Authority was formed to meet the needs of a growing township.

1967 Brookdale Community College established by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

1970 Poricy Park a 250-acre environmental and historic preserve was established. Site includes Joseph Murray’s farmhouse and barn. Murray, a Patriot, was killed during the Revolutionary War. It was once the Whistling Hill Dairy Farm.

1971 The Middletown Public Library’s main branch on New Monmouth Road opened.

1972 Middletown Fire, First Aid and Police Academy established on 17 acres between West Front Street and Nut Swamp Road.

1978 Monmouth County’s Deep Cut Gardens opened. It was the former estate of Mafia Boss Vito Genovese.

1979 Township acquires the former Croydon Hall Academy, previously an all-boys school, for recreational use.

1986 Township Committee woman Olga Boeckel selected as Middletown’s first female mayor.

1994 The first Middletown Day was a community picnic sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the Community Affairs Council. Today more than 17,000 people attend the fall festival.

September 11, 2001 Thirty-seven residents died in the World Trade Center tragedy. The Middletown WTC Memorial Gardens was constructed next to train station in their memory.

2007 Middletown Arts Center opened. The center is the site of the former Banfield Moving and Storage Company.

2012 Superstorm Sandy hit Middletown causing historic flooding and damage.

2013 Trinity Hall, Monmouth County’s first all-girls high school, opened in Middletown.

TODAY Middletown Township has been selected as one of the Best Places to Live in the United States by MONEY magazine several times. It covers 42 square miles and is home to more than 67,000 people. The township maintains a workforce of about 300 full-time employees to provide essential government services. Nearly 150 more workers are employed part-time to fill important roles such as school crossing guard.

The landscape includes marinas, corporate headquarters, country clubs, large estate homes, smaller lots, older residential neighborhoods, a community college, a naval military installation, public beaches, historic districts, Sandy Hook, 17 public schools, 11 volunteer fire companies, seven ecosystems and five first aid squads.

The township has encouraged the preservation of its historical pattern of the development. Many areas continue to have their own unique identity, commercial centers, post offices, and zip codes. They include Belford, Lincroft, Port Monmouth, New Monmouth, Chapel Hill, Navesink, Locust, Middletown Village, Oak Hill, Fairview, River Plaza, and Leonardo.
arrived back at the Taylor house Mary ran crying to General she had been saving for her father’s homecoming. When she coats, Mary spotted another little girl wearing the red dress the adjoining cemetery. The interior, more intimate than the church’s imposing setting on the hill may suggest, is richly decorated with memorial stained glass windows. formalized the next year when the church was consecrated as a memorial to deceased members of their families. The parish house followed in 1866 and the rectory in 1870. All were built of an appealing local peanut stone, a material also utilized in the adjoining cemetery. The interior, more intimate than the church’s imposing setting on the hill may suggest, is richly decorated with memorial stained glass windows. All Saints Memorial Church (“Stone Church”)

The Milnor and Stephens families, who founded All Saints Memorial Church, employed Richard Upjohn, the noted architect who is famed for Trinity Church in New York, and his son, Richard, to design this fine English Gothic Revival masterpiece. Following the laying of the cornerstone on October 7, 1863, the congregation organized formally the next year when the church was consecrated as a memorial to deceased members of their families. The parish house followed in 1866 and the rectory in 1870. All were built of an appealing local peanut stone, a material also utilized in the adjoining cemetery. The interior, more intimate than the church’s imposing setting on the hill may suggest, is richly decorated with memorial stained glass windows.

British General And The Girl With The Red Dress

Mary Stillwell and her parents, John and Elizabeth Stillwell, lived in Middletown during the Revolutionary war. Mary’s father was away serving as a quartermaster in the Monmouth Militia. Mary, who was only 8, planned to wear a beautiful red dress her grandmother had sent her on his return. Her mother had stored the dress safely away in an attic trunk. When Mary's mother learned that British were in the Middletown area, she took Mary to stay with her cousin George Taylor, a Loyalist, reasoning they would be safe in his household. The following morning they were stunned to learn that General Cornwallis, the British commander had chosen the Taylor home as his headquarters.

When the general saw the pretty little girl he asked her name and inquired where her father was. Mary told him that he was away fighting the Loyalist. In short order the great general and the little girl were the best of friends. Mary sat on the general’s lap and sang Whig songs to the amusement of the British soldiers.

The next day during an inspection tour with one of the redcoats, Mary spotted another little girl wearing the red dress she had been saving for her father’s homecoming. When she arrived back at the Taylor house Mary ran crying to General Cornwallis, and told him what she had seen. A soldier was detailed to fetch the Tory girl who wore Mary’s red dress. The girl admitted taking the dress from the Stillwell attic. General Cornwallis ordered the dress returned to Mary, dried her eyes with his kerchief and presented her with a gold coin, calling her “his little redcoat.”

John and Elizabeth Stillwell, Mary’s parents, lie in the Baptist churchyard in Middletown. Mary and her husband, Richard Applegate, are buried in Leonardo.

Beach Plums

Beach plums, which grow wild on Sandy Hook, were a delicacy of the Lenni Lenape Native Americans and the colonists alike. Richard Hartshorne, an early Middletown resident, made a pact with the Native Americans to preserve the beach plum plants.

Blackbeard

Although pirating was not always considered a bad thing early on in Middletown, at one time the residents had had enough of falling victim to certain pirates. Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, was one of those pirates. Middletown farmers eventually joined together in an attack of the pirate and his crew which took place on King’s Highway in Middletown Village. Blackbeard was able to escape with his treasure, but some of his crew members were not so lucky.

Blacksmith Shop

Built in 1825, the William Truex Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop is one of the oldest blacksmith shops in Monmouth County. William Truex, the owner of the shop, was a captain in the Mexican War. He used to drill the local militia on Kings Highway and use his shop as a headquarters for training troops. It’s located on the corner of Kings Highway and Conover Lane.

Bowne House

This house, located in Leonardo, dates from the 18th century and is on the State New Jersey Register of Historic Places. It is a simple vernacular farmhouse which was owned by the Bownes until 1936. The Bowne Family at one time reportedly owned all Bayshore land along the Sandy Hook and Raritan Bays. William and Anne left England because of religious persecution and came to New Jersey in 1664 with five other families. The Williams had three sons who were prominent citizens of Middletown and New Jersey. Captains John and James became judges and Andrews became a deputy governor of East New Jersey. James Bowne was also a native American interpreter and his holdings were known as Atlantic Highlands. The house, accessible from the Atlantic Highlands, is located on Avenue D, over the old Railroad tracks at the corner of Leonard and Bowne Avenues.
Christ Episcopal Church
Christ Episcopal Church, believed to be the oldest building in Middletown, stands on the site of what once was a courthouse and jail built in 1680. Reverend Ernest Mandeville, who wrote *The Story of Middletown* served as priest in the 1920s. Christ Episcopal Church was often called The Pirate Church due to the site’s history with the pirates who made their homes in Middletown. One story recounts a time that the villagers mobbed the trial of a pirate being held at the courthouse. They were able to jail the court authorities while the pirate escaped. It is also legend that a crack above the pulpit of the church in the form of a cross was made by Captain Kidd using the tip of his sword. Christ Episcopal Church is located on Kings Hwy.

Conover Beacon and Chapel Hill Lighthouses
The Conover Beacon and Chapel Hill Lighthouses were part of a set of six lighthouses approved by Congress in 1852 as a way to mark the safest route into New York Harbor. The Conover/Chapel Hill Lights in Leonardo were one set of range lights, along with the Point Comfort/Waackaack Lights in Keansburg and the Elm Tree/New Dorp Range Lights on Staten Island. Range lights are a pair of beacon lights that consist of a lower front light and a higher rear light that vessels line themselves up with in order for safe passage through a narrow waterway. The Conover/Chapel Hill Lights mark what is called the Chapel Hill Channel. Both have survived to this very day, one as a private residence.

Croydon Hall
Croydon Hall has been used for a variety of different purposes over the years. The site the house now sits on was originally owned by the Leonard and Burdge families and used as farmland. In 1892 the Highland Park Improvement Company bought a lot of the land in this area in hopes of making it into a summer getaway. The company built a golf course on part of the land, which is now known as the Beacon Hill Country Club.

Donald MacLeod, a New York City businessman, bought three of the lots from the Highland Park Improvement Company in 1894. MacLeod had a grand house in Queen Anne style built on one of the lots. MacLeod died in 1901 and the house went to his widow. Melvin Rice remodeled the house after marrying MacLeod’s former wife. He built the house’s columned front porch. John M. Carr bought the property after Rice’s death. In 1947 Carr opened the Croydon Hall Academy, an all-boys boarding school. Later in the school’s history, girls were accepted as well, but in 1975 the Academy closed due to financial hardship. In 1977, the township purchased the property and uses it as a hub for recreation activities. In 2013, Trinity Hall, Monmouth County’s first all-girls school opened in one of the buildings that the school leased from the township.

Dempsey House
From stories of murder and suicide to ghost sightings, the Dempsey House in Leonardo has been host to many creepy legends over the years. Contrary to popular belief, the house never served as a residence though. The building was constructed in 1926 by William Dempsey for use as a pump house. Prior to having a municipal water system, the houses in the neighborhood would collect their water from the basement of the house which was built over an artesian well. The house was also used as a community space and play room. The Dempsey House is known for having architectural significance. It is made out of brown peanut stone, which was once a popular building material in the area, but is now no longer available. The Dempsey House, which is now owned by the town, is located at the northwest corner of Thompson and Center Avenues.

Early Elections
Elections in the 19th century were a little different than they are now. General elections were held by ballot, but primary elections were not. Primaries were held in Middletown Village on King’s Highway. A line was drawn across the road and voters would step to one side of the line or the other to indicate who they were voting for.

Eleanor Roosevelt
Eleanor Roosevelt was a regular visitor of Lincroft. She would come often to see her childhood friend Geraldine Livingston Thompson who lived there. The two were surprisingly able to get along well even though Thompson was a prominent Republican and Roosevelt was the wife of a Democratic president.
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General Training Day
In the 1800s, Middletown Township would set aside one day a year, called General Training Day, where all citizens would gather in the village center in celebration. The hungry were fed and all disputes were settled, whether it be with words or fists. Soldiers would parade through the streets on horseback and on foot. Men and boys of all ages had to drill.

Halyburton
Sandy Hook, though parts of it have been state and federal territory through the years, has always been considered a part of Middletown. It was certainly township territory on the night of December 31, 1783, when a freak blizzard whirled in from the Atlantic and covered the peninsula with a deep blanket of freezing snow.

The Treaty of Paris, signed earlier that year by representatives of the new United States government and King George III of England, had ended the Revolution and secured recognition of America as a free nation.

In the Middletown area there were a considerable number of former colonists whose loyalties had remained with the mother country during the war, and after the hostilities were over, the British government felt obliged to help them return to England if they so desired. To this end several British vessels were anchored off the Hook to take off loyalists who wished to leave for England. But stories had circulated among their crews of the wonderful future which would be available to settlers of the newly constituted nation. Hearing them, several seamen serving on the HMS Assistance deserted the Royal Navy and died of exposure.

Lt. Hamilton Douglass Halyburton, first officer on the HMS Assistance, and a party of 13 shipmates landed on Sandy Hook the night of December 31, 1783, to seek out the deserters and return them to their ship. As they scoured the Hook looking for the deserters, they were over taken by the sudden blizzard and died of exposure.

Hendrickson Family
The Hendrickson Family played a part in helping to feed Middletown residents for many generations. The Hendrickson Farm was started by James C. Hendrickson. The Hendrickson Farm, later named the Old Wagon Wheel Farm started a roadside market selling a variety of fresh produce. One of the most highly publicized crops was the apples, which were grown on the farm’s own apple orchards in Middletown along Route 35.

Lenni Lenape Native Americans
The Lenni Lenape Native Americans were the original settlers of Middletown. This peaceful Native American tribe lived a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. They grew and cultivated crops such as corn, squash and tobacco. They hunted and fished using tools made from rocks.

Middletown Tea Party
In April of 1776, Middletown men participated in Monmouth County’s own version of the Boston Tea Party. Middletown residents boarded an English vessel anchored in Sandy Hook Bay, threw the tea into the bay, and forced the captain to sail the ship back to England.

Marlpit Hall
Marlpit Hall, built in 1686, was home to James Grover Jr. After his death, the prominent loyalist Taylor family was the second owner from 1730-1752. The house was restored, furnished and donated to Monmouth County Historical Association by Margaret Riker Haskell in 1936 when it became the first restored house museum in the region. Currently it is restored to reflect Mrs. Haskell’s colonial revival plan in half of the rooms and to reflect the Taylor’s 18th century furnishings in the rest. Marlpit Hall is located on Kings Highway.

Most Wicked People
In 1702 Colonial Governor Lewis Morris wrote to the Bishop of London saying “in Middletown were perhaps the most wicked people in the world.” They were loose people who drank, gambled, and raced horses, according to The Story of Middletown author Rev. Ernest Mandeville. Mandeville also quoted “some of the women drank gin and took snuff and many did both”. Governor Morris’s letter led to the arrival of George Keith, a missionary sent by the Anglican Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, who came to preach in the Village. Keith’s visit prompted the start of Christ Church.

Native American Artifacts
During an archeological dig done at Woolbriar Farm on Laurel Avenue, the Cultural Resource Consulting Group unearthed a large assortment of Native American tools used for hunting and cooking. The earliest artifacts date back to 7000 B.C. and suggest the previous presence of a seasonal campsite.

Oceanic Bridge
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Native American Names
Some white settlers learned the language of the Lenni Lenapes, although the settlers’ articulations often lead to slightly different pronunciation of words. The name Navesink, pronounced by the Lenni Lenape as ne-was-ink, was borrowed from the Native American word for fishing place.

On June 8, 1662 in the First Town Book of Middletown, the purchase of the first land to become Middletown was recorded. The land, called Chaquasitt, was purchased by the settlers from the Lenni Lenape. These original Middletown settlers were called the Weapsiel Lenapes, or the white people, by the Native Americans. The book also makes reference to Poricy Brook the stream which runs into Poricy Pond as Choncsis supus Run and was a boundary for five outlots.

Naval Weapons Station Earle
Naval Weapons Station Earle is a United States Navy base located in the Leonardo section of Middletown, as well as Colts Neck Township, Howell Township, Wall Township, and Tinton Falls. This military base was built in 1943 after the Navy Department decided it needed a place to store weapons that was close enough to New York, but far away enough away from heavily populated areas. Quickly the focal point for ordnance shipping, Earle loaded the majority of ammunition used by the Allies for the invasion of Normandy in World War II, an achievement for which Normandy Road is so named.

News in Middletown
News traveled very slowly to Middletown in the 18th and early 19th centuries. News from Europe came by boat from across the Atlantic Ocean. When a ship was spotted a surfman would swim out to it and the captain would throw overboard the news in a can. The surfman would swim back to shore and wire the news on a telegraph line from Beacon Hill to New York City. This process allowed the news to be received in the city much quicker than waiting for the boat to arrive. In 1826, this practice was stopped when the Atlantic cable was laid.

Receiving news from other parts of the country was also a lengthy process. Middletown received mail once a day which traveled by stage coach from Keyport to Middletown and then to Long Branch. In the winter though, it was often several days between mails. News of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination first brought to Middletown by Ella Hendrickson when she returned from a trip to Long Island.

North American Phalanx
In 1844, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles A. Dana, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Horace Greeley, Lucy Stone, W. H. Channing and several other prominent American thinkers started an out of the ordinary experiment. Called the North American Phalanx, about two hundred men and women got together to form a self-sustaining community based on the idea that all people make up one family. The group purchased the old Van Mater slave farm in Middletown. The Phalanx, located in modern-day Lincolft, consisted of a farm, orchards, shops to make and maintain their equipment, living quarters, a school, a common dining room, and a hall. All meals were eaten together in the dining room. Every meal even had a printed menu that was made in the community's print shop.

The families all lived in one home and divided the household and farming jobs up amongst each other. They broke down the jobs into three divisions: agricultural, manufacturing, and domestic. Every night department meetings would be held to plan the next day’s work. The work week was thirty hours a week and each person could do whatever job they wanted to do. The workers doing the least desirable jobs were paid the highest wages. The community was very successful and eventually produced so many surpluses that products were able to be sold. The mill alone made up to $24,000 in profit a year.

The community, founded on the importance given to intelligence, had many opportunities for entertainment and mental stimulation. The house contained a gallery with a grand piano with many famous musical groups having performed. Plays were also a common form of entertainment. In 1855 there was a fire at the North American Phalanx which caused too much damage for the community to be able to overcome, so it closed.

Old First Church
Old First Church was founded in 1688 by a group of religious refugees. The building standing now was built in 1832 on the foundation built in 1720. Its tall, narrow steeple fell in an 1890 storm and was replaced the next year with the present steeple. It's located on Kings Highway.

Poricy Park
The land that now comprises Poricy Park was originally acquired by John Throckmorton in a 1667 land grant. Part of this land was purchased in 1767 by Joseph Murray. Murray, who was in the Monmouth Militia, was killed on his farm during the Revolutionary War. The farm remained occupied by the Murray family following Joseph’s death until 1861. The farm was owned by several different people throughout the subsequent years. In 1969, the Poricy Park Citizens Committee was formed to help save some of the land near Poricy Brook from being developed. Poricy Park is located on Oak Hill Road and is owned by Middletown Township.
Powwow Field
Known as Powwow Field, the land that now makes up a parking lot at the railroad station, was once a meeting spot for the Middletown settlers and the Native Americans when they needed to settle disputes.

Seabrook-Wilson House
The Seabrook-Wilson house stands on property purchased by Thomas Whitlock, an Englishman seeking religious freedom in the New World. He came to New Jersey in 1648, but he and his friends traveled around the state for 15 years until they settled in the area that is now Middletown. Whitlock built the original house on the property. In 1678, Whitlock started the construction of a second home on the property for his wife Mary Seabrook and her children from her first marriage, and in 1688 he attached the two houses. The final section of the home was built by Daniel Seabrook, one of Whitlock’s stepsons. Daniel purchased some of the land from Whitlock and in 1695 he built his own house on it. When Whitlock dies in 1703, Daniel moved his home, using oxen, over to his childhood house and attached the two.

The Seabrook-Wilson home earned its nickname the Spy House during the Revolutionary War, when the patriot family turned the house into an inn in order to protect it from being destroyed by the British Army. British sailors often anchored in the harbor and left their boats to eat at the inn. Then revolutionary soldiers would go to the harbor and try to sink the ships. George Washington called this tactic Whale Boat Warfare. The influence the house and the Seabrook family had on the Revolutionary War was tremendous. Between 1779 and 1783, this Whale Boat Warfare had lead to 39 raids. These raids made it hard for the British to attack the colonists by land, because they had a limited number of resources.

After five generations of Seabrooks, the place became the home of William V. Wilson in 1855 when Wilson, a preacher, farmer, and investor in steamboat companies, married into the Seabrook family. A once isolated farm became part of an expanding village with the arrival of steamboat services and, in 1860 the Raritan & Delaware Bay Railroad.

By 1967, after almost 50 years as an inn and tavern, the building was bought by the township and opened as the Shoal Harbor Marine Museum, its occupancy until a few years prior to the 1998 transfer of the property to Monmouth County.

Two-Man Police Department
In the 1930's, Middletown Township’s police department consisted of only two men. During this time the state provided police services in the more populated areas near highways, but Middletown felt it needed police in the more rural areas as well.

Taylor-Butler House
Taylor-Butler House was built in 1853 by later generations of the Taylor family. The family had been very successful in the China Trade out of New York and when Joseph and Mary Holmes Taylor married in 1849, they decided to move back to Middletown and build a grand house on the family farm. There they raised their family, Edward, who became a photographer and Mary Holmes Taylor who would be the last family member to live in the house. After her death in 1930 the house stood empty until architect Henry Ludvig Kramer purchased it for his home and office. He restored the house and added indoor plumbing, replacing the two-story outhouse that had extended over the kitchen wing. In the 1950s, George and Helen Butler purchased the property and were known for their community involvement and hospitality. The Monmouth County Historical Association purchased the house and five acres from Mr. Butler’s estate in 1999.

Taxes in the 1800s
Middletowners of the 1800s were not the most reliable when it came to paying their taxes. There was a period when only five residents paid taxes, which totaled $100.

Train Station & Clinton Heath
Since its construction in 1876 for the New York and Long Branch Railroad, the Old Middletown Train Station House has witnessed much of Middletown's history. It is one of the oldest train stations still standing in New Jersey. Clinton Pearson Heath, the station’s flagman for 27 years, is known for his strong influence on the Old Middletown Train Station and Middletown Township. Heath was a former slave who left North Carolina around 1865 after being freed by the ending of the Civil War. He came to Middletown with his brother Calvin to work as a farm hand. He worked on the Edwin Beekman farm on Holland Road until he had saved up enough money to buy his own farm. He then sent for his wife Mary to come live with him in Middletown. He got a second-hand job with the railroad which later led to his job as the Middletown Train Station flagman. Heath often made trips back to North Carolina to bring his friends and family back with him to Middletown.
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Wilson-Bowne House
The Wilson-Bowne House was built in 1684 for use as a tavern. In the late 1700s, the tavern was owned by William Wilson, a township official. Because of this the taproom, called the Rising Star Tavern, was often used for a variety of events, including elections and town meetings. The house is located on Red Hill Road.

Whipporwill Valley Road
Whipporwill Valley is located around the site of the Lufburrow Mill, a very old mill. James Grover, the town miller, built Middletown’s first town mill somewhere near the village. It is believed though that a member of the Grover family built a mill previously on McClees Creek. Members of the Grover family married into the Lufburrow and Winter families who were other early Middletown families. Thomas Lufburrow continued the regular use of the mill until 1871. After Richard’s death the mill was sold to the Winter family. In 1891, the Lufburrow Mill perished in a fire.

Whipporwill Valley Road is one of the only unpaved roads still remaining in Middletown. Thomas Lufburrow’s house, Lufburrow Mill Lodge, also still stands. Early in the 1900s, J. Amory Haskell and Margaret Riker Haskell bought the Grover-Lufburrow farm, Edward M. Cooper farm, and the Lufburrow Mill property, which are all adjacent to one another. The Haskell’s built a stone mill on the Lufburrow Mill property. About ten years later, their son purchased the Andrew Winter farm, adding to the already expansive estate. Several historic buildings are still surviving. They are the Lufburrow miller’s house, George Cooper Farmhouse, Andrew Winter farmhouse, and Richard Walling farmhouse.

Editor’s Note: Material for this publication was collected from online archives and private collections. Texts used include “The Story of Middletown: The Oldest Settlement in New Jersey.” It was written in 1927 by Rev. Ernest W. Mandeville, a priest of Middletown’s Christ Church, and comprised of 173 pages recounting more than 300 years of Middletown history. An exact reprint, annotated and indexed, by Thelma K. Jeliffe, was printed in 1972. Achter Coll to Zoning, an alphabetized set of historic notes written by Jeliffe published in 1982, was also used.
Volunteer Opportunities
You can be a firefighter, an EMT or volunteer at our parks. Youth seeking community service hours are welcome to participate in many activities.

- Fire Department: 732-615-2070
- First Aid: 732-615-2252
- Emergency Management: 732-615-2129
- Middletown Arts Center: 732-706-4100
- Police Auxiliary: 732-615-2041
- Recreation: 732-615-2260

More Information
www.middletownnj.org/volunteer