



Middletown Township Committee Introduces 2020 Budget with 0% Municipal Tax Rate Increase

The Middletown Township Committee introduced its \$83.4 million dollar budget with a zero percent municipal tax rate increase at tonight's Township Committee meeting. The proposed 2020 municipal budget represents an ongoing commitment to minimizing costs while

maximizing revenue and services.

"Despite the global pandemic and declining revenues, the Township Committee has once again delivered a fiscally responsible budget without reducing services, continuing to invest in our parks and recreational facilities and spearheading initiatives that protect Middletown's most vulnerable residents," said Mayor Tony Perry. "This budget represents the fiscal solvency and stability to withstand this crisis and lost revenues, however it hinges on Middletown and the State of New Jersey getting back on its feet."

Key drivers to the budget this year include planning for increased costs in response to a new law protecting firefighters and other first responders and operational storm response savings.

In an effort for residents to gain a greater understanding of where their tax dollars are being spent, the Township will be updating the "Tax Dollar Receipt" calculator on the website: www.middletownnj.org/mytaxdollars.

[**CLICK HERE FOR TO READ THE PRESS RELEASE.**](#)

Middletown Township Celebrates Earth Day with 100% Renewable Energy

In recognition of Earth Day, Middletown Township announced that it has entered into a renewable energy agreement through Tradition Energy, one of the nation's largest independent energy risk management and procurement advisors. The renewable electricity purchase will offset 100% of the Township's conventional energy usage and reduce costs.

"This new electrical energy arrangement will save the Township 10% versus our previous contract and at the same time move our percentage of renewables for



electricity from 25% to 100%," said Mayor Tony Perry. "Not only are we excited to secure these savings for taxpayers, but we're also able to achieve a major environmental win for our Township."

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE PRESS RELEASE.](#)



Join Middletown in Today's Earth Day Challenge and Go Light Outs from 7-8 PM

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day (April 22), the Middletown Green Team and Middletown Arts Center have been co-presenting an Earth Week Challenge on the Green Team's Facebook page to encourage residents to help make Middletown a healthier and cleaner community.

Today's Earth Day Challenge: LIGHTS OUT!

Click [HERE](#) to follow the Green Team's Facebook page to find out why we want you to turn off your lights from 7-8 PM and get information about other challenges. After participating in each challenge, you can post a picture in the comments showing your neighbors what you did (and hopefully encourage them to participate!). For certain challenges, prizes will be randomly selected.

Don't worry if you can't do the challenge on the day it's posted – come back to it another day! All challenges must be completed by Wednesday, April 29. Winners will be announced, along with their winning picture, on Friday, May 1. Winners will be featured in the Township's e-newsletter, *Middletown Minutes*.

Remember, the most important part of this challenge is to have fun and help our community make every day Earth Day!



[Click the picture above to watch the video!](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the video announcement that was posted on the [Middletown NJ Green Team's Facebook page](#).

Watch the Township Committee Meeting on Middletown's YouTube and Municipal TV Channels



On Monday, April 20th the Middletown Township Committee held a virtual Regular Meeting that enabled residents to participate remotely. This meeting included the proposed 2020 budget presentation by Middletown Township CFO Colleen Lapp.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the meeting on the [Township's YouTube Channel](#) or catch it on Middletown Township's TV station (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) every night at 8:45 PM through May 8th.

Middletown's Virtual Game of Catch!



Recreation Director Janet Dellett challenged Middletown residents young and "seasoned" to a virtual game of catch and you all knocked it out of the park! Over 100 households sent in videos with a total of 160 clips. The ball (or roll of toilet paper in some cases!) zigzagged across Middletown over 250 miles! Thank you to all who participated.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the video of this epic game of virtual catch.

LET'S FOCUS ON THE GOOD!

Middletown Township created a webpage, www.middletownnj.org/FocusOnTheGood, that highlights the positive stories in our community during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Here are some of our featured stories!

MTPL and MTPS Work Together to Create Reusable Personal Protective Face Shields for Those on COVID-19 Front Line



Mayor Perry surrounded by face shields created through a collaborative effort between the Middletown Township Public School District and Middletown Township Public Library.

The Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) and the Middletown Township Public School District (MTPS) have been working together to make reusable PPE face shields for those on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic. Face shields have already been delivered to Township emergency services personnel and employees who deal with the public directly, and they have been making more for local medical professionals and first responders.

“Thanks to a great team led by Marc Seigel from the School District and several staff members from our library, we already have 100 face shields ready to donate to Bayshore Medical Center,” said Mayor Tony Perry. “We are proud to do our part in supporting our health care heroes.”

This collaborative effort began when a library patron reached out to see if her sister, who is a nurse, could use face shields that were made by 3D printers, knowing that the library has one. Included in her note were links to directions on how to make a face shield on a 3D printer.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY.

Middletown School Nurses Team Up with Health Department

The Middletown Township Public School's certified school nurses are working with the Middletown Township Health Department to assist in COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing of positive residents. The collaborative effort between and the Township was spearheaded by Middletown High School North Nurse Eileen Gavin and Middletown Health Department Director Rich DeBenedetto.



Click the picture to watch a video about all the great things our school nurses have been doing in our community.

The Middletown School Nurses are dedicated and trained professionals who are also offering case management resources for issues that many people face, such as food insecurities, financial challenges and mental

health referrals. They are currently doing a food drive with Middletown Helps Its Own, so please consider donating to those in need in our community (see details in flyer).

For additional resources and information from the MTPS nursing staff, please visit the new Virtual Health Office by clicking [HERE](#).

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT MHIO



During these challenging times please join **Middletown School Nurses** in supporting a **VIRTUAL** food drive for **Middletown Helps Its Own!**

Donations can now be sent to help purchase food for families here in Middletown through **Venmo**:
Middletown-Helpsitsown
or mail to
66 Main St.
Port Monmouth, NJ 07758

There is also a trailer at the police department for traditional food donations of non-perishable goods if you prefer and want to help

Middletown Helps Its Own



CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ MORE STORIES ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER!

**Takeout Thursdays Restaurant of the Week:
[MJ's Restaurant Bar & Grill](#)**

This [Takeout Thursday](#), the Township Committee went to [MJ's Restaurant Bar & Grill](#) (1005 Highway 35) to grab some of those famous wings. There is



nothing better than wings on the night of the NFL Draft!

Be sure to support our local restaurants every Thursday by ordering takeout/delivery. It helps boost business and allows you to explore new places to eat!

Please consider rallying behind our small businesses by purchasing gift cards for future services. It's a great way to support our community!

Join the Middletown Township Public Library's Online Scavenger Hunt!



Looking for a challenge while you're at home? Try your hand at the MTPL's online scavenger hunt to see how well you know the online resources available at your fingertips!

You have until Tuesday, April 28th to complete the scavenger hunt and submit your answers. Players will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Amazon Gift Card donated by The Friends of The Middletown Library.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND TO BEGIN THE HUNT!](#)

Check Out the MAC's Latest Virtual Arts Center Programming!

VIRTUAL ARTSCENTER
MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER **ONLINE PROGRAMMING**

Explore our [Virtual Arts Center](#)! New content is added daily:

- Draw and paint with the Doodle Dude
- Sing along with Renaissance Kids and Brianna Merriman
- Learn watercolor painting with instructor Gail Sanderson (Lesson One of Adventures in Watercolor)
- Learn to dance with Ballroom Journey
- Discover Project Mapping with The Elizabeth White Creative

DONATE TODAY!

[Click the picture to go to the MAC's Virtual Arts Center.](#)

NEED MULCH THIS SPRING?
DPW HAS YOU COVERED!

**Need Wood Mulch?
It's Available!**

DELIVERY:

- \$30/5 cubic yards, truck load
- Mail check & Mulch Delivery Request Form to DPW (52 Kanes Lane, 07748)
- Delivery on Wednesdays only

MIDDLETOWN RECYCLING CENTER:

- FREE if you load your own vehicle
- Residents only - No business vehicles permitted

732-615-2209
www.middletownnj.org/mulch

[CLICK ON THE PICTURE TO LEARN MORE.](#)

Guidelines for Satellite Recycling Centers

GUIDELINES FOR MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP SATELLITE RECYCLING CENTERS



⌚ The satellite recycling centers are for the following items only: Cardboard, Mixed Paper, Comingled Recyclables (glass, plastic and aluminum) and Styrofoam/EPS. If there is another item you would like to recycle, you must bring it to the Middletown Recycling Center (52 Kanes Lane). Please DO NOT leave items that do not belong at the site.

⌚ If you see that the satellite recycling center is at capacity, do not leave materials outside of the bins and on the ground. The Department of Public Works maintains the centers on a daily basis so hold on to your recycling until there is room.

⌚ DO NOT leave items that are not accepted at the satellite recycling centers. This constitutes illegal dumping (Township Ordinance 540-517 on Solid Waste Disposal) and is punishable by law.

If you have any questions, contact the Department of Public Works at 732-615-2109 or at recycling@middletownnj.org.

NOTICE FROM THE MIDDLETOWN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

THE MIDDLETOWN RECYCLING CENTER (52 KANES LANE)
HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL OPERATING HOURS
(THURSDAY- MONDAY FROM 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM).

COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES ARE STILL IN PLACE.
SELF-SERVICE REMAINS IN EFFECT AND
NO CASH PAYMENTS OR COMMERCIAL DROP-OFFS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

**Restricted public access to Municipal facilities
has been extended through **Friday, May 15th**.**

**Visit www.middletownnj.org/COVID19 for
updates.**

Financially Impacted by COVID-19?

**United Way of Monmouth and Ocean
Counties' Financial Success Center
Network is here to help!**

[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.**](#)



FINANCIALLY IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

FREE phone-based/
virtual services include:

- Application assistance for SNAP/food stamps, health insurance & utility assistance
- Budgeting & money management
- Credit counseling
- Foreclosure counseling
- Job search assistance
- Rent & mortgage counseling
- Resume building
- Student loan counseling
- Tax preparation

The Financial Success Center Network is a partnership of:

Affordable Housing Alliance
Child Care Resources of Monmouth County
Fulfill
Mental Health Association of Monmouth County
Monmouth County Workforce Development Board
Navicore Solutions
St. Francis Community Center (LBICC)
United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties

 www.uwfinancialsuccess.org
 www.facebook.com/UWFSC

United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties' Financial Success Center Network is here to help!

Need help finding the services that you are eligible for right now?

Looking to talk to someone that can help you budget your current income?

Need to look for work or update your resume?

FREE services are available for Monmouth & Ocean County residents! Contact the Financial Success Center (FSC) Network today to connect with a trained Financial Coach who will help determine what benefits you are eligible for, work on a budget and directly connect you with community resources.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT: Email info@uwfinancialsuccess.org or Call 732-414-6745

Please leave a message and a Financial Coach will return your call Monday through Friday.



Virtual FSC Network services sponsored by:



Are you a senior or know a senior in need?

Call Middletown Social Services for help at 732-615-2085.



COVID-19 SUBSTANCE ABUSE HELP

WE ARE ALL FACING OUR OWN CHALLENGES DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME.

OUR SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS AT CROSSROADS ARE HERE FOR YOU AND OFFERING VIRTUAL SERVICES.

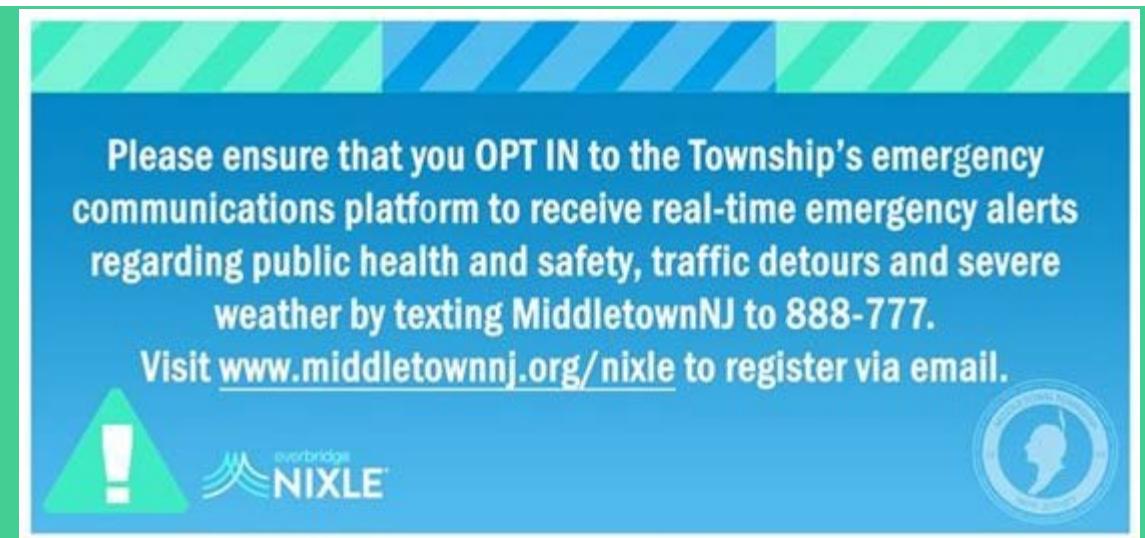
IF YOU, A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER ARE STRUGGLING CALL 732-615-2277 OR EMAIL CROSSROADS@MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG.

Text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive information and stay informed.
To receive live text assistance, text your zip code to 898-211.



NJ 211 has been activated to assist with handling COVID-19 calls from NJ residents. Residents can also text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive information and stay informed. To receive live text assistance, residents can text their zip code to 898-211.

Register Now for Township Emergency Alerts



We strongly encourage each and every resident to register for Township emergency alerts. In the event that something needs to be communicated quickly, including any emergency information about COVID-19, we need to be able to reach you. Please register for alerts by texting MiddletownNJ to 888-777.

Please share to ensure that everyone is aware!

BRUSH ZONE	START DATE*	STATUS
A	March 18 th	COMPLETED
B	March 18 th	COMPLETED
C	March 23 rd	COMPLETED
D	March 23 rd	COMPLETED
J	March 30 th	Ongoing
K	April 6 th	Ongoing
L	April 13 th	Not Started
E	April 20 th	Not Started
G	April 27 th	Not Started
F	May 4 th	Not Started
H	May 11 th	Not Started
I	May 18 th	Not Started

* Start dates are approximate and weather dependent

2020 Brush Collection Update

4/24/20

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Township employees are working an alternating-week schedule, effectively reducing staff by 50%. Crews continue to work diligently to collect brush while still providing other public works essential services during this unprecedented time. We ask for the community's patience as we collect brush in the remaining zones as quickly as possible. Please continue to monitor this web page for updates.

MAX. VOLUME OF BRUSH PILE ACCEPTED = 4 CY (2'W X 3'H X 18'L)

MAX. LENGTH OF TREE LIMBS ACCEPTED = 3 FT

www.middletownnj.com/collection



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



[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Youtube](#)

Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20

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