



A thumbnail for the "Middletown Matters Summer 2020" newsletter. It features a wooden boardwalk over water at sunset on the left and a blue diagonal banner on the right with the text "MIDDLETOWN MATTERS SUMMER 2020" and "CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE TOWNSHIP'S NEWSLETTER." in white.

Congratulations 2020 Graduates!

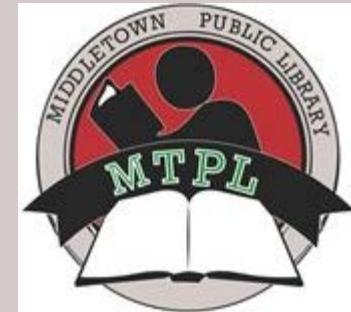


[CLICK HERE TO WATCH MAYOR TONY PERRY'S ADDRESS TO THE 2020 GRADUATING CLASS.](#)

Middletown Township Public Library Receives Grant to Host National Endowment for the Arts Big Read

Middletown Township to Read and Celebrate 'In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex' During the month of April 2021

Middletown Township Public Library received a \$5,000 grant to host the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read in Middletown Township. An Arts Endowment initiative in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.



Middletown Township Public Library is one of 84 nonprofit organizations selected to receive an NEA Big Read grant to support a community reading program between September 2020 and June 2021 and the only public library in the country reading *In the Heart of the Sea*. The NEA Big Read in Middletown will focus on Nathaniel Philbrick's *In the Heart of the Sea* (made into a major motion picture 2015, starring Chris Hemsworth and directed by Ron Howard). Activities will take place throughout the month of April 2021.

[Click HERE to read the press release.](#)



DCA Announces COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program: Enrollment Begins Monday, 7/6

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will begin open enrollment for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (CVERAP). It will provide temporary rental assistance to low and moderate income households that have had a substantial reduction in income or became unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrollment begins Monday, July 6, 2020 at 9:00 AM until Friday, July 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

[Click HERE for CVERAP income and eligibility requirements.](#)



MAJOR CHANGES TO JULY 7, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION
CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION AND LIMITED POLLING LOCATIONS.



Watch the June 15 Middletown Township Committee Regular Meeting



[On Monday, June 15, the Middletown Township Committee held a virtual Regular Meeting that enabled residents to participate remotely. 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 7:00 PM or 8:45 PM through July 13.](#)



[Takeout Thursday](#) Restaurant of the Week: **BELFORD BISTRO**

Committeewoman Pat Snell chose



BELFORD BISTRO (870 Main Street) for Takeout Thursday this week. "If they can make takeout this well, I will be first on the reservation list when we can fully open up our restaurants!" [**CLICK HERE TO ORDER!**](#)

Please continue to support our local businesses!

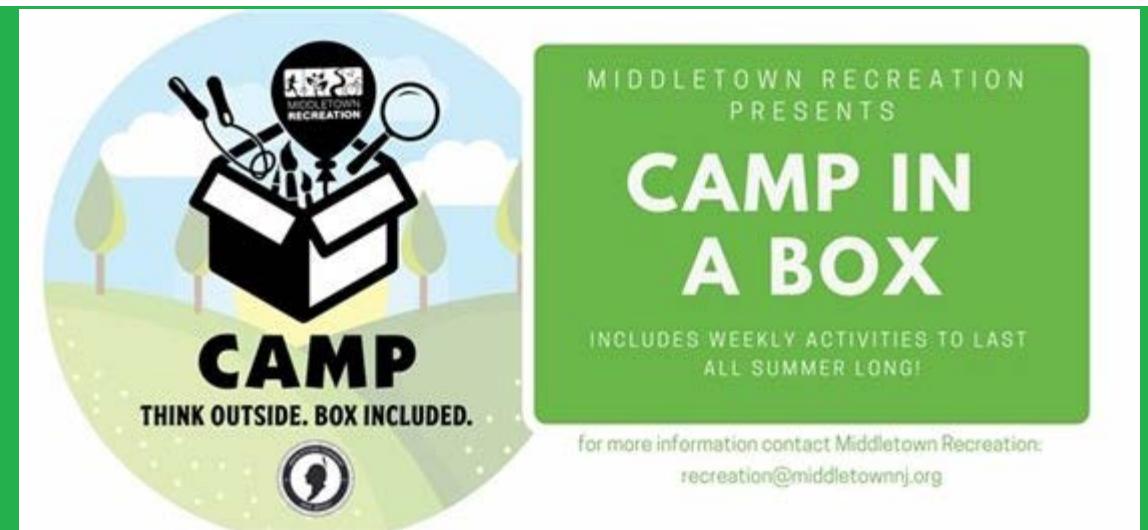


TOWNSHIP JOB OPPORTUNITY

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A PART-TIME MAIL CLERK/ SCANNER.
[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE & APPLY.**](#)

**OUTDOOR DINING IS OPEN
IN MIDDLETOWN!**

**[CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW OUTDOOR DINING REGULATIONS
FOR RESTAURANT OWNERS.**



The image shows a circular logo on the left and a rectangular information card on the right. The logo features a black and white illustration of a campsite with a tent, a campfire, and a magnifying glass. The word 'CAMP' is written in large, bold, black letters at the bottom, with the tagline 'THINK OUTSIDE. BOX INCLUDED.' in smaller letters below it. The information card is green with white text. It reads 'MIDDLETOWN RECREATION PRESENTS CAMP IN A BOX' in large letters, followed by 'INCLUDES WEEKLY ACTIVITIES TO LAST ALL SUMMER LONG!' in smaller letters. At the bottom, it says 'for more information contact Middletown Recreation: recreation@middletownnj.org'.

[Click on the image for a sneak peek of what you can expect!](#)



Middletown Recreation staff are hard at work packing Camp in a Box! If you haven't ordered your box, be sure to do so soon as there are only a limited supply left! Boxes should be ready for pick up by the end of next week.

To order your Camp in a Box visit www.middletownnj.org/signup.

The Middletown (Virtual) Arts Center Presents: SIGN OF THE TIMES COMMUNITY ART EVENT



Calling Artists of All Ages...Dust off your paint brushes, find those permanent markers, put your thinking caps on, get creative and participate in the Middletown Arts Center's "Sign of the Times" public art event.

Proceeds from this event will help support arts programming in our community. A plastic lawn sign will be your blank canvas. The MAC is looking for the most artistic and creatively decorated signs! Everyone is encouraged to participate, regardless of age or ability. You can paint a picture, create a design, write an inspirational

message or decorate it in any way you like using weather-proof materials. It's all about the art and self-expression.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.](#)

BELFORD ENGINE FIRE COMPANY HOSTS DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE TOMORROW, 6/20



739 Main Street, Belford

Belford Engine Fire Company (739 Main Street) will be hosting a drive-thru food drive this Saturday, June 20th from 10 AM to 2 PM (rain or shine) to support Middletown Helps Its Own. Please consider helping our community members who are in need of assistance and rely on organizations such as MHIO during this uncertain time.



FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT



SATURDAY 7.18.20
9:00 AM- 1:00 PM
(or until trucks are full)



MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL NORTH (63 TINDALL ROAD)

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP IS OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDDLETOWN RESIDENTS TO DISPOSE OF PAPER DOCUMENTS TO BE RECYCLED SAFELY.

DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE FREE OF LARGE BINDER CLIPS.
STAPLES AND PAPER CLIPS MAY BE LEFT ON DOCUMENTS.



GET AHEAD OF THE STORM

**Text 888-777 to MiddletownNJ (no spaces) or
visit www.middletownnj.org/nixle
to receive storm alerts.**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCES MILLING AND PAVING SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT MILLING AND PAVING OF THE ROAD

WILL BEGIN...

ON OR ABOUT:

Tuesday – June 16, 2020 THROUGH Wednesday – June 24, 2020

**DURING THIS TIME, THERE WILL BE NO PARKING ON THE FOLLOWING STREETS –
DO NOT LEAVE ANY UNATTENDED CARS:**

East End Avenue

4th Street

8th Street

2nd Street

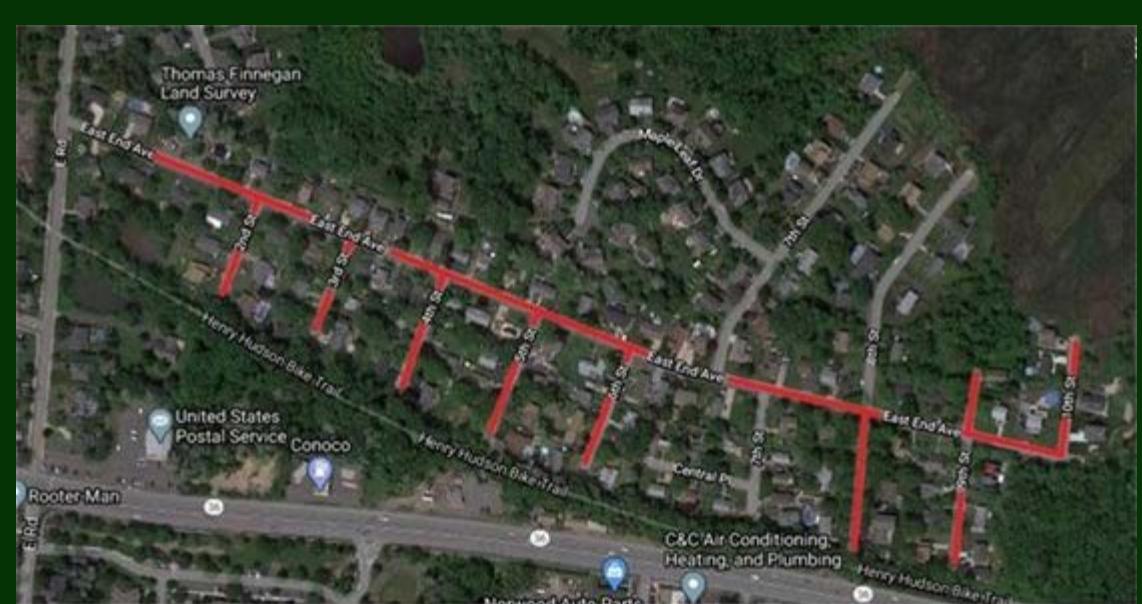
5th Street

9th Street

3rd Street

6th Street

10th Street



Residents living on streets being paved can temporarily park their vehicles in the Belford Engine Company back lot (739 Main Street, Belford) while construction is taking place.



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC ALERTS:

- On or about Tuesday, 6/16 to Wednesday, 6/24 from 7a-5p East End Avenue and all the intersecting streets will be milled and paved — no parking.

**WANT REAL-TIME MIDDLETOWN TRAFFIC ALERTS? TEXT
MIDDLETOWNNJ (NO SPACES) TO 888-777 OR VISIT
WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/NIXLE TO REGISTER VIA EMAIL.**

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Middletown Township Public Library

Encourages Residents to Participate in the COVID-19 Local History Archive Initiative

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP REMEMBERS

Our Town During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A Local History Archive Initiative

We are currently experiencing and living through
an unprecedented situation.

The Middletown Township Public Library is looking
for your help in documenting this historical
event by submitting your personal photos, feelings,
artwork, stories for our local history archive.

Thank you for your assistance with this local
archive initiative!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.](#)

MINIMIZING THE RISK OF COVID-19

The spread of COVID-19 can be broken down into four factors: TIME, SPACE, PEOPLE & PLACE.

TIME	SPACE
How long you will be in a place? More time sitting in one place → higher risk.	How much space will be around you? Less space → higher risk.
How many people will be around you? More people → higher risk.	What type of place are you going to? Indoor places → higher risk.
	

Keeping these factors in mind can help you assess your risk while participating in activities.

Minimizing the Risk of COVID-19

- Limit capacity, especially indoors
- Social distance from others (6 feet)
- Avoid crowded areas
- Choose outside activities vs. inside (dining, worship services, etc.)
- Don't share food/drink, cups or utensils with others; bring your own or use disposable items at outdoor gatherings
- Wear face coverings in public areas
- Wash hands often or use hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol

Singing, yelling/shouting and close contact increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.

June 19, 2020

Positive COVID-19 Test: Updated Instructions & Next Steps


NJ Residents with a Positive COVID-19 Test: Instructions & Next Steps

Question	Instructions
I tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do now?	If you tested positive, you must stay at home and self-isolate. This means stay in a different bedroom from others in your home, and if possible, use a separate bathroom. You must self-isolate until 3 full days (or 72 hours) have passed since you had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND other symptoms are greatly improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first started, or, if you had no symptoms, stay home 10 day after you received your positive test results. If you live with other people and they were not tested, they should keep their distance from you. This includes not eating meals together and not sitting around the house together. Practice social distancing as much as is possible (stay at least 6 feet from each other).
What should the people who live in my home know/do?	If they are symomatic (sick; have COVID-19 symptoms), they should also self-isolate for 3 full days (or 72 hours) until they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications AND other symptoms are greatly improved AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first started. If the symptoms are mild, they should recover at home. If the symptoms worsen and a medical evaluation is needed, call health care provider. Consider getting a viral COVID-19 test to see if you are currently infected. If they are asymomatic (not sick; have no COVID-19 symptoms), they should self-quarantine for 14 days AFTER any sick person in the household's self-isolation period ends. If the asymptomatic person develops symptoms, they should follow the self-isolation instructions above. Symptoms may take 2-14 days to appear. It is important to monitor their health long enough to ensure they do not develop symptoms. Consider getting a viral COVID-19 test to see if you are currently infected.
What is the difference between mild and moderate symptoms?	Mild symptoms are when you feel unwell but can stay home and manage at home. Most people with mild symptoms can recover from home. See above for how long you should stay home/self-isolate. Moderate symptoms are those where you may need a medical evaluation from your health care provider. If your symptoms worsen over time and do not get better, especially if you have trouble breathing, call your health care provider to determine next steps.
Should I tell other people that they may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus?	Those who have been closest to you for a prolonged period of time are going to be at highest risk. Household members and others with whom you spent a prolonged period of time (more than 10 minutes) within 6 feet of you, or shared a meal, would be at increased risk and should be advised to self-quarantine at home for 14 days AFTER your, or any sick household members self-isolation period ends. If the asymptomatic person develops symptoms, they should follow the self-isolation instructions above. People who you did not spend a prolonged period of time (less than 10 minutes) within 6 feet are at lower risk. This would include people that you may have been in an indoor space for a prolonged period of time. They should monitor their health; no restrictions about where they go. They should wash hands often and practice social distancing. If possible, you should notify individuals above regarding your illness. Work or school supervisor may be informed to help with this process. People who you may have casually come into contact with (e.g., passed by in the hall, briefly spent time within a room, shared a short elevator ride), are not considered to be at risk and do not need to be contacted.

For general info about COVID-19, call 1-800-962-1253 or 211 or go to njcovid19.nj.gov or nj.gov/health

May 28, 2020

[**Click the picture to enlarge.**](#)

Negative COVID-19 Test: Updated Instructions & Next Steps



NJ Residents who Tested Negative for COVID-19: Instructions & Next Steps

Question	Instructions
I had symptoms and tested negative for COVID-19.	If you tested negative for COVID-19 but are currently experiencing symptoms, the recommendation is to stay home and practice social distancing until 72 hours after your fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve. After this time, you may resume regular activities. It is recommended that everyone wears a face covering when in public spaces. This protects you from anyone who may not feel sick (but might be asymptomatic) and able to spread the virus to others. Wash hands and clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces often.
I have no symptoms and tested negative for COVID-19 but live with someone who is COVID-19 positive.	Even though you tested negative and have no symptoms, living with a person with COVID-19 means that you may be exposed to the virus. For this reason, it is recommended that you monitor yourself for symptoms. The person who lives with you has a self-isolation of 10 days from the time symptoms began AND 72 hours (or 3 full days) being fever-free without fever reducing medicine. You are recommended to self-quarantine for 14 days AFTER their self-isolation ends. This is because it may take 2-14 days for symptoms to develop.
I have no symptoms and tested negative for COVID-19 but was told I am a close contact of a person who is COVID-19 positive. Now what?	If you were identified as being a close contact of a COVID-19 person, it is recommended that you self-quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure with the person, even if you tested negative. This is because it may take 2-14 days for symptoms to develop. While you are self-quarantining, monitor yourself for symptoms. Close contacts are individuals who were within 6 feet of a lab confirmed COVID-19 case for a prolonged period (about 10 minutes or more) or had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., were coughed on). Walking past a lab confirmed COVID-19 case or just being in the same building does NOT qualify as being a close contact.
What if I tested negative but still feel sick?	If you test negative for COVID-19 but still have symptoms, it is likely you may have another respiratory virus. You should continue to self-isolate yourself from others, practice good hand hygiene and clean and disinfect surfaces in the home. If your symptoms worsen or don't get better after several days, you should call your health care provider. You should not return to work/school or go to public places until 72 hours (3 full days) after your fever has ended without the use of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms have improved.
What other actions should I take to protect my health?	As long as the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading in your community, continue to practice social distancing, wash hands often and avoid touching your face, and clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily in household common areas (e.g. tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, sinks, phones). Wear a face covering when in public places. This protects you from anyone who may not be sick (but may be asymptomatic) and able to spread the virus to others.

For general information about COVID-19, call 1-800-962-1253 or 211. Or go to njcovid19.nj.gov or nj.gov/health

June 3, 2020

[Click the picture to enlarge.](#)

Find a COVID-19 Testing Site Near You

Visit COVID19.nj.gov/testing, click on the “Get Tested For COVID-19” blue button and you will come to an interactive screen that asks for your location. Once you enter your address, a list of testing sites, both private and public, will appear.



In light of the pandemic, we remind you of NJ Mental Health Cares. The state's behavioral health information and referral service offers assistance to people dealing with anxiety and stress related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Residents can call 1-866-202-HELP (4357) for free confidential support. The NJ Mental Health Cares hotline will be answered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week by live trained specialists.

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.

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	COMPLETED
K	April 6 th	COMPLETED
L	April 13 th	COMPLETED
E	April 20 th	COMPLETED
G	April 27 th	COMPLETED
F	May 4 th	COMPLETED
H	May 11 th	<i>In Progress</i>
I	May 18 th	Not Started

* Start dates are approximate and weather dependent

2020 Brush Collection Update

6/12/20

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

[!\[\]\(1a2e9c86c2a63dd0890db1012b677415_img.jpg\) Share on Facebook](#)

[!\[\]\(7a315dbd5736d1ca324577d88145843b_img.jpg\) Share on Twitter](#)

[!\[\]\(2becda4813f27b5edb43f5299d7596ac_img.jpg\) Share via Email](#)

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