

# Middletown Minutes

## Official Township E-Newsletter



### Middletown Township Enters Pilot Program with Somerset County Farm to Test Viability of Leaf Compost as Organic Soil Amendment

Middletown Township announced a partnership with High Time Farm in Somerset County to conduct testing on the compost the Township creates through its leaf collection as a viable organic soil amendment. This is the first pilot program of its kind in the State of New Jersey and the results could be an important step towards moving away from harsh chemical fertilizers to grow plants.

This year-long pilot program is part of Middletown's ongoing commitment to find ways to increase sustainability in an economical way. "Last year, Middletown was the first municipality in the state to invest in a Styrofoam Recycling Machine, and we look to build upon our environmental successes with this program," said Mayor Tony Perry.



[Click on the picture to watch a video of Mayor Perry highlighting the compost pilot program.](#)

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

***Beginning in August, the Township will be offering screened compost to residents at no cost that can be used as a natural way to repair and enhance their yards. Visit [www.middletownnj.org](http://www.middletownnj.org) for updates.***



## GET AHEAD OF THE STORM

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

In preparation for possible effects related to Hurricane Isaias, we encourage residents to monitor news and weather reports. For automatic updates from the National Weather Service, register for the Township's emergency alerts by texting MiddletownNJ to 888-777 or by visiting [www.middletownnj.org/nixle](http://www.middletownnj.org/nixle).

**Middletown Recreation Announces  
Seasonal Surprise Bags for Seniors!**



**[Click on the picture to register!](#)**

**Middletown Recreation announced its new Seasonal Surprise Bags program for seniors! The Department is preparing the activity bags for distribution in August to members of the Middletown Senior Center.**

**"These bags are full of old-fashioned fun and will be linked with live virtual content in August and September," said Recreation Director Janet Dellett.**

**CLICK [HERE](#) FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**

*All members of the Middletown Senior Center (900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo) are eligible to participate in this free program (while supplies last). To register, please call 732-615-2260 or visit [www.middletownnj.org/signup](http://www.middletownnj.org/signup).*

**Monmouth County Freeholders to Allocate  
\$10 Million of CARES Act Funding to  
Small Business Community**



Monmouth County announced a \$10 million Economic Assistance Program for small businesses and non-profits. The [application](#) will go live on Monday, August 3 at 8:00 AM.

Visit [monmouthcountycares.com](http://monmouthcountycares.com) to learn more about the program.

*Thank you to the Monmouth County Freeholders for their support of Middletown businesses!*

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

### Third Quarter Property Tax Payments Due August 1

Third quarter property tax payments are due August 1. To avoid interest charges, all August property tax payments must be received by 4:00 PM on or before August 10, 2020.



Click [HERE](#) for additional information regarding how to pay your tax bill.

## Featured Business of the Week: *Suzi's Sweet Shoppe*

When you're in need of a *premium* chocolate fix (such as the delicious box of treats pictured below!) be sure to stop by Suzi's Sweet Shoppe, located in the Village Mall at 1100 Rt. 35 in Middletown!

They also have a new & improved website where you can place orders. Check it out by visiting [suzisweetshoppe.com](http://suzisweetshoppe.com).



*Suzi's Sweet Shoppe offers hand-dipped chocolates, gift baskets, homemade fudge, candy party favors & more!*

**MIDDLETOWN AUXILIARY POLICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**  
**RECEIVE FIRST HAND EXPOSURE TO POLICE WORK**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- MINIMUM OF 18 YEARS OLD
- NO CRIMINAL RECORD
- GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION
- COMMIT TO 160 HOURS TO THE AUXILIARY ACADEMY
- MINIMUM OF 150 HOURS A YEAR OF ACTIVE DUTY
- WILLINGNESS TO WORK LONG HOURS IN ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS



**FOR INQUIRIES CALL THE SGT. KEVIN GARDINER AT 732-615-2075 OR EMAIL AUXILIARY CHIEF DAVE DEIGERT AT [PDEIGERT01@COMCAST.NET](mailto:PDEIGERT01@COMCAST.NET).**

# Register Now for the MAC'S 2-Week Virtual Theater Summer Intensive!

August 3-14    10 AM - 12 PM    Ages 13+



This exciting opportunity is for older performers, ages 13 and up, with more advanced techniques. Using a professional conservatory approach, the students will take individual classes in acting, voice and dance.

Under the expert instruction of professional theater artists and visiting Master Class teachers, the students will explore their creativity and develop their confidence and skills in a fun and nurturing Zoom environment. The program will run from August 3-14 and culminate with a virtual performance!

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.\*\*](#)

VOTE FOR THE MIDDLETOWN  
TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE  
BEST IN MONMOUTH COUNTY!



Please help the  
Middletown Township Public Library become the  
"Best Public Library in Monmouth County" for  
2020.

Click [HERE](#), scroll down to Public Library and  
vote for the MTPL by August 28!

**MTPL Updates**



**The library's outdoor patio (pictured above) is now open for patrons to enjoy.**

**The MTPL is opening up for full service 9a-9p on Wednesdays.**

**Teens may now make appointments to peruse books in the Teen Room. Appointments run every day from 10:30-11:30a and can be made online by visiting [www.mtpl.org](http://www.mtpl.org).**

**LAST CHANCE TO ENTER THE MIDDLETOWN  
SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST!**



# MIDDLETOWN SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST

If you love nature and enjoy taking photos, this is the contest for you! Photographers of all levels and experience are invited to enter their original work that shows off the unique beauty of Middletown.

## HOW TO ENTER:

 **TAKE A PICTURE IN MIDDLETOWN**

 **TAG IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING #SUMMERINMIDDLETOWNNJ**  
By posting with the hashtag, you allow Middletown Township to use your photo for promotional use (with photo credit).

 **SHARE IT AND INCLUDE YOUR NAME (FOR PHOTO CREDIT) AND THE LOCATION THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN BY JULY 31, 2020**

The three winning photos will be featured on the Township's social media channels, TV station and in the weekly e-newsletter, *Middletown Minutes*, through Labor Day.

*Photo by Jeremy Jaryno*

We are LOVING all of your #SummerinMiddletownNJ photo contest entries! Please keep them coming over the weekend! Submit your photo(s) along with your name and where the picture was taken by Sunday, August 2.

Here are some of our amazing entries:



*Sandy Hook Lighthouse*  
Photo by Ashley Lauren



*Bayshore Waterfront Park*  
Photo by Margaret Schwarz Balsamo



*Osprey Nesting in Belford*  
Photo by Ralph Godwin

## MTPD Offers FREE Car Seat Safety Checkpoint

Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
New Monmouth Baptist Church (4 Cherry Tree Farm  
Road) from 7:00 AM-5:00 PM

Middletown Township Police Department



CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKPOINT

*Residents are welcome to come to this FREE Car Seat Safety Checkpoint hosted by the MTPD to ensure your child is in the right car seat and that it is installed correctly. We ask that adults wear face masks. Call 732-615-2046 for more information.*

**COVID-19 RESOURCES**

# MONMOUTH COUNTY COVID-19 TESTING

Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and The Grunin Foundation have partnered to bring FREE COVID19 Testing to your community.

No appointment necessary, simply walk up during the times listed below and a health professional will conduct the test.

*You do not have to be symptomatic*

The test consists of a nasal or oral swab

## Monmouth County Testing Locations:

**Asbury Park - Asbury Park Transportation Center, 1 Municipal Plaza:**

Wednesday, July 22 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Monday, July 27 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Saturday, August 8 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Friday, August 14 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Freehold Borough - Freehold Borough Fire Department,  
49 West Main St., Rear Annex:**

Thursday, July 23 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday, July 28 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Monday, August 3 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday, August 15 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Keansburg - New Point Comfort Firehouse, 192 Carr Avenue:**

Friday, July 24 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 29 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 4 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Monday, August 10 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Long Branch - City Hall, 344 Broadway:**

Saturday, July 25 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday, July 30 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, August 5 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Bucky James Community Center, 231 Wilbur Ray Avenue:**

Saturday, July 25 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday, July 30 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 11 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

**Neptune - 60 Neptune Boulevard - North Lot**

Friday, July 31 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Midtown Community School / Atkins Avenue (West Lot)**

Thursday, August 6 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Wednesday, August 12 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Red Bank - Pilgrim Baptist Church, 172 Shrewsbury Avenue:**

Saturday, August 1 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Friday, August 7 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.,  
Thursday, August 13 - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.



## COVID-19: ENJOYING PARKS SAFELY



**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.](#)

## **What is the recommendation for wearing a face covering/mask inside while patronizing a business?**

According to the New Jersey Department of Health, accommodations can be made if someone is not able to wear a face mask due to a medical condition. Essential businesses that never closed (e.g. a grocery store or a pharmacy) cannot refuse entry to someone who has a medical condition and can't wear mask. They may offer options, such as to provide curbside delivery and limit time spent inside store, but the person must be allowed to enter.

If the person doesn't have a medical condition, but refuses to wear a mask, essential businesses *can* refuse entry but must arrange curbside delivery or provide a mask, if available. No one can be asked for medical documentation due to various laws that already existed, so people do not need to "prove" why they can't wear a mask.

# MINIMIZING THE RISK OF COVID-19

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




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.



## 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.


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




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