



Middletown Disburses \$422,500 in COVID-19 Relief Grants to 29 Small Businesses and Non-Profits



Mayor Tony Perry, Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell and Committeewoman Pat Snell presented No Limits Cafe Founder Stephanie Cartier and her wonderful staff members with a ceremonial check for \$15K at the restaurant on Tuesday, February 9. "We are very grateful to Middletown for supporting No Limits Cafe," said Cartier. "We opened 2.5 weeks prior to the pandemic so we were hit hard. This \$15,000 will allow us to continue giving our employees with intellectual disabilities meaningful employment. We love our Middletown Community!"

The Middletown Township Committee ceremoniously presented 8 small businesses with a check for \$15,000 on Tuesday, February 9th through the Middletown Economic Relief Program (MERP): All Natural Dry Cleaners, Code Ninjas, Greens & Grains, Middletown Pancake House, Monmouth Museum, No Limits Cafe, Rock'n Music Academy, and Zeek's Tees.

MERP funding was officially approved at the Tuesday, February 16th Township Committee meeting where it was announced that 29 small businesses and non-profit organizations across town will be awarded \$422,500 through this initiative. Of the 29 small businesses that applied, 26 were awarded \$15,000, and the other three were awarded \$10,000, \$10,500, and \$12,500 since that is the amount the business owner requested. The relief program was launched in October 2020 to help provide financial assistance to eligible small businesses and non-profit organizations in the municipality that have been affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

“During this challenging environment, we are very excited to be able to provide some financial assistance to our dedicated and hard-working small business owners who continue to serve our community as well as employ locally,” said Mayor Tony Perry who also serves on the board of the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce. “Business owners will have this money in their hands before the end of the month and we hope that it will not only enable them to stay afloat, but also thrive as COVID restrictions ease up.”

Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell is a business owner and understands first-hand the financial burden this pandemic has had on community. “This is one way we are able to give back to our small business owners who have been putting their heart and soul into trying to adapt to the continuous blows COVID has dealt.”

Click [HERE](#) to read about how some small business owners plan to use the MERP funds.

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

**PLEASE CONSIDER PURCHASING A PERSONALIZED
BRICK TO SUPPORT
THE TOWNSHIP'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD TRADE
CENTER MEMORIAL GARDENS FUND**

HELP MIDDLETOWN HEAL THROUGH HOPE

The Middletown World Trade Center Memorial Gardens Committee is raising funds to erect "The Rise of Hope" fountain, that includes artifacts from the WTC, near the end of the memorial pathway for the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. They will also be installing two additional monuments that will be dedicated to the heroism and patriotism of our military and first responders, as well as memorialize our first responders lost from 9/11 illnesses.

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT FUNDRAISING PROJECT BY PURCHASING A PERSONALIZED 4 X8 BRICK FOR \$150.

CLICK HERE TO ORDER A BRICK

ORDER DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2021

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the Middletown WTC Memorial Gardens Committee is raising funds to add a fountain called "The Rise of Hope" that will be erected near the end of the memorial pathway, giving a quiet space to pause and reflect.

They will also be installing two additional monuments that will be dedicated to the heroism and patriotism of our military and first responders, as well as memorialize our first responders lost from 9/11 illnesses. Please consider purchasing a personalized brick with your family name or a message that will be placed along the new walkway to enter the Memorial Gardens.

[**CLICK HERE TO ORDER YOUR BRICK.**](#)

If you would like to contribute to this 501(c)(3), donations can be sent via PayPal to MiddletownWTC@gmail.com. You can also mail a check made payable to Middletown WTC Memorial Gardens Fund, c/o Mayor's Office, Middletown Municipal Building, 1 Kings

Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748.

For more information, please call 732-615-2287.

DPW Offers Recycling Education Tours for Local Groups: Book Yours Now!



The Middletown Recycling Division offers COVID-friendly outdoor recycling educational tours of the Middletown Recycling Center (52 Kanes Lane) to local groups.

This week, the Recycling Division hosted Cub Scouts Lion/Tigers Pack 142. These Kindergarten and first grade students had a lot of fun and learned how to "recycle right" in Middletown!

If you are interested in participating in an educational tour, please contact Amy Sarrinikolaou, Division Head Recycling and Clean Communities, at 732-615-2040 Monday-Friday between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Mayor Perry Celebrates Great Kindness Challenge Month with Ocean Avenue Elementary School Students



Mayor Tony Perry recently addressed the students of Ocean Avenue Elementary School to thank them for encouraging our community to come together and participate alongside students and staff in The Great Kindness Challenge during the month of February.

Mayor Perry and the Township Committee officially proclaimed February 2021 "The Great Kindness Challenge Month" to inspire everyone in Middletown and beyond to unite in the spirit of kindness and respect.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.

Watch the Tuesday, February 16th Township Committee Meeting on Middletown's YouTube or TV Channels



Click [HERE](#) to watch the meeting on the Township's YouTube Channel or catch it on our TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) every night at 5:00 PM and 8:30 PM through Friday, March 5th.



Garbage & Bulk Collection Weather Update

Due to safety concerns, today's garbage and bulk collection in the South Zone was rescheduled. There will be double garbage pickups in the North Zone (Monday, 2/22) and the South Zone (Tuesday, 2/23). Residents may leave up to 3 additional closed garbage bags next to the cart. Please do not block the cart with the bags. Bulk collection scheduled for

Friday, 2/19 in the South Zone will now be a double pickup on Friday, 3/5 where residents can leave up to 8 items curbside.

Please stay connected to [Recycle Coach](#) and the [Township's website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) social media channels for updates.

**Car Seat Install & Safety Checkpoint: Wednesday, 2/24
2-6 PM
Old Village Fire Company (1340 Hwy 35, Middletown)**



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. Questions? Call 732-615-2046.

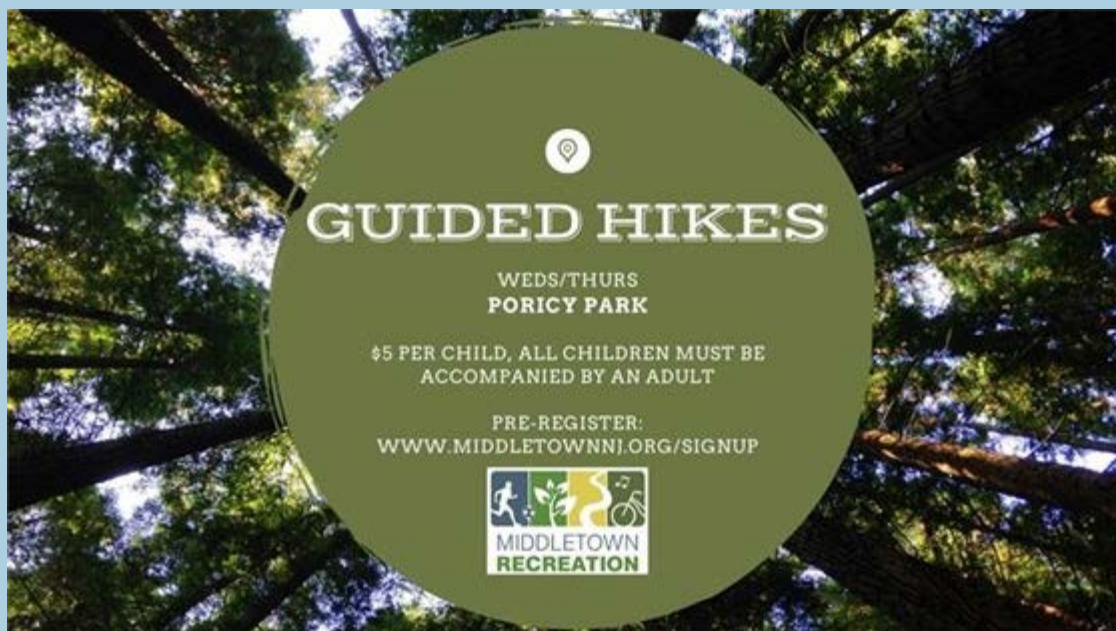
Join in the Middletown Senior Center Fun!

A flyer for the Middletown Senior Center. The title "Middletown Senior Center" is written in a blue cursive font. Below the title are two small images: one of a landscape with purple hills and green fields, and another of a beach with a boat. To the right of these images is a list of activities: "Join in the fun! Free to middletown Residents", "Paint & Sip Classes", "Fitness Classes", "Bingo", "Trivia", and "...& more!". At the bottom, there is contact information: "CALL 732-615-2265 OR EMAIL KDAVIS@MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WEEKLY EVENT UPDATES!". On the right side, there is a photo of a tote bag with the center's logo and a small image of a newsletter.

Click [HERE](#) to read the winter season edition of the Senior Center newsletter!

Middletown Recreation's Collecting Maple

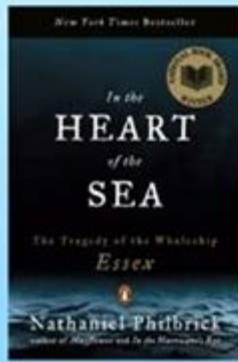
Sap Hike Rescheduled for Thurs. 2/25!



The Collecting Maple Sap event from 2/18 was postponed to Thursday, 2/25 due to inclement weather.

Get out and stretch your legs! Great for all ages. Each week a new topic will be discussed along the trails at Poricy Park. Join us this week to learn where maple syrup comes from and check in on this season's "harvest." Pre-registration is recommended, but walk-ins are also welcome if space permits (no cash accepted). All children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain or shine, dress for the weather.

THE MTPL PRESENTS: An Interview with Nathaniel Philbrick, Author of National Book Award Winner, *In the Heart of the Sea*
Submit your interview questions by today, 2/19!



Have you read the National Book Award winner, *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick?

Submit your first name and a question about the book or the author by 2/19/21 to refmtp1@gmail.com

Tune in anytime beginning 3/22/21 to view our interview with the author, to learn about the book, themes, and possibly hear the answer to your question!

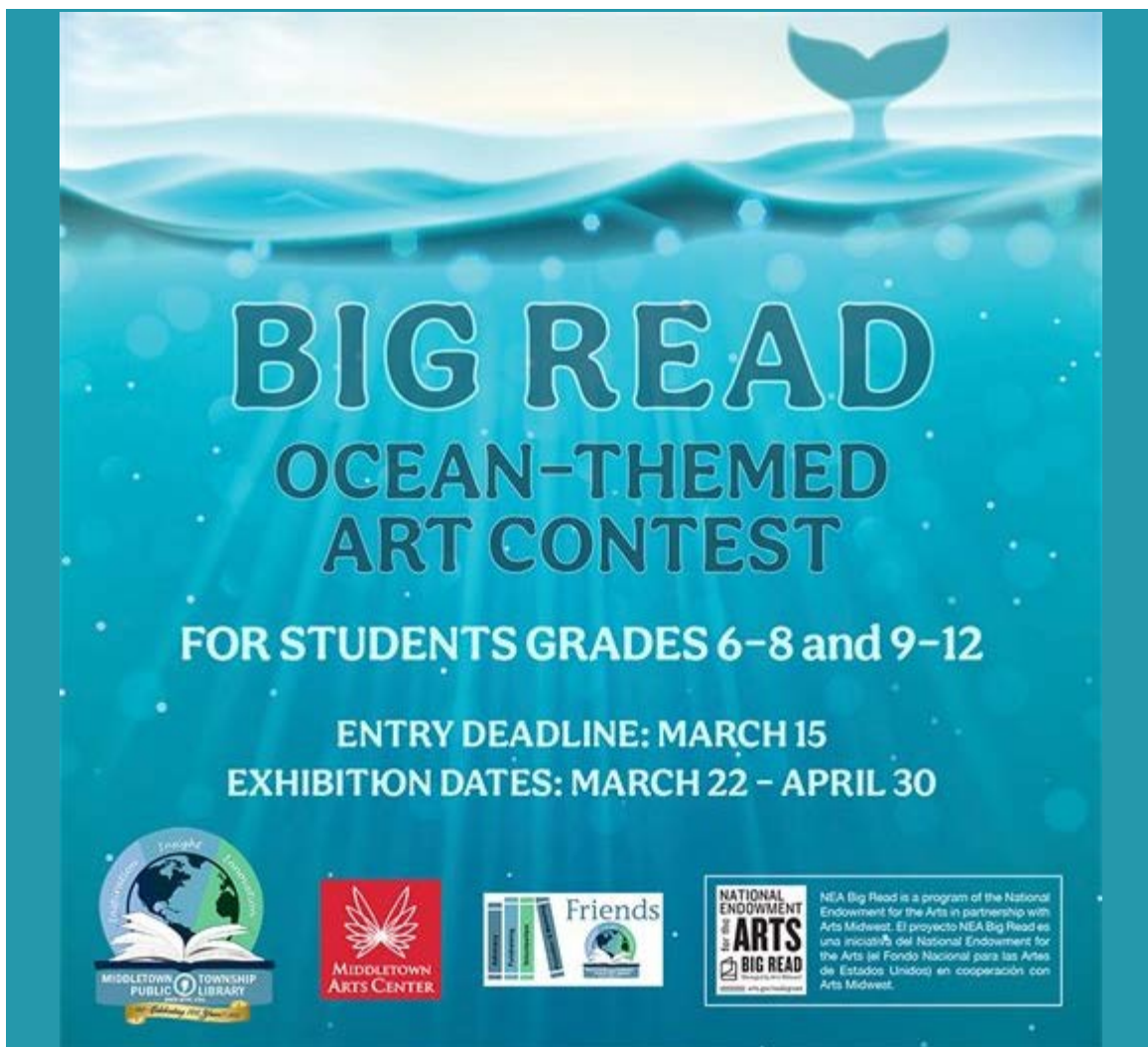


"NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest."

"El proyecto NEA Big Read es una iniciativa del National Endowment for the Arts (el Fondo Nacional para las Artes de Estados Unidos) en cooperación con Arts Midwest."



THE MAC PRESENTS: BIG READ Ocean-Themed Art Contest Entry deadline: March 15th



FOR STUDENTS GRADES 6-8 AND 9-12

The exhibition is inspired by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant book pick, *In the Heart of the Sea*, by Nathaniel Philbrick.

Entry Deadline: March 15 | Exhibition Dates: March 22 – April 30

All work submitted will be part of a virtual exhibit and future window exhibit at the Middletown Arts Center. One student from each of the two categories (Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12) will be chosen to receive a \$50 gift certificate donated by the Friends of the Library. For more information, please email artscenter@middletownnj.org.

Middletown Social Services Encourages

Residents to Lend a Hand This Easter Holiday

Easter Basket Donations

Middletown Social Services is collecting Easter grass, candy and gift cards to create baskets for those in need in our community. Please also consider donating the free ham you earn through supermarket promotions.

Donations should be dropped off at 180 Main Street in Port Monmouth by March 29th. Please call 732-615-2085 before dropping off donation items to ensure someone is there to receive them.



2021 Dog Licensing Information

PLEASE NOTE: Dog license renewals have been extended through the month of February. Late fees will not be incurred until March 1st.



2021 IN-PERSON PET LICENSING

Due to COVID-19, in-person dog licensing for 2021 is being done at the Health Department Building (180 Main Street, Port Monmouth) **BY ONLINE APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Please adhere to the following guidelines when you arrive for your appointment:

- 🐾 Be on time
- 🐾 Wear a facemask on Township property
- 🐾 Call when you arrive to be allowed into the building

CLICK [HERE](#) TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

[CLICK THE PICTURE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.](#)

Due to COVID-19, in-person dog licensing for 2021 is being done at the Health Department (180 Main Street, Port Monmouth) this month by [ONLINE APPOINTMENT ONLY](#).

Click [HERE](#) to access the online pet licensing portal.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

COVID Testing at Train Station Sundays, Mondays & Fridays

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP IS SPONSORING WEEKLY

COVID-19 TESTING
(BEGINNING 1/3)

SUNDAYS 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
MONDAYS & FRIDAYS 1:00-7:00 PM
No out of pocket cost

MIDDLETOWN TRAIN STATION
PARKING LOT
MAIN PARKING LOT OFF OF
MIDDLETOWN-LINCROFT ROAD

VISIT WWW.MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG/COVID19SCREENING
TO REGISTER AND LEARN MORE.



[Click HERE to pre-register and for testing updates.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory: Appointments Can Only Be Scheduled Through County/State



If you are looking to schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination in Middletown, you need to register for an appointment via Monmouth County and/or the State. Offices in the Township do not make appointments for vaccinations.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access important links to County and State information.

COVID Vaccine Eligibility Information

There are numerous sites throughout the state that are currently administering the vaccine to [qualified individuals](#). If you prefer, you


can [reach out directly to a site near you to attempt to schedule an appointment](#). Please note that many of these sites may be fully-booked. No professional or medical documentation is required.

As of January 14, 2021, the following groups are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine: PREPARED: 06 JAN 13, 2021

- ✓ Paid or unpaid persons working or volunteering in a healthcare setting
- ✓ Residents of long-term care facilities and other congregate settings
- ✓ Frontline first responders
- ✓ Persons aged 65 and older
- ✓ Persons aged 16 to 64 years old who have at least one chronic medical condition that poses high-risk for severe COVID-19:
 - Cancer
 - Chronic Kidney Disease
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
 - Down Syndrome
 - Heart conditions (e.g. heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies)
 - Immunocompromised (weakened immune system) due to organ transplant (consult with your doctor)
 - Obesity (e.g. body mass index of 30kg/m² or higher)
 - Pregnancy (consult with your doctor)
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Smoking
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

These groups can start making vaccination appointments. More groups will become eligible in the coming weeks.

For a list of open vaccination sites nearest to you and register for a COVID-19 vaccine visit



If you are eligible to receive a vaccine, there are generally three ways to get vaccinated:

1. You can make an appointment directly with one of the many designated vaccination sites across the state. [Click here to view a full list of these designated vaccination sites](#).
2. You can pre-register for the vaccine on the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System. This online portal enables prioritized groups of individuals, and eventually the general public, to find a vaccination site, pre-register, and schedule an appointment when one is available. [Click here to visit the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System](#).
3. Select healthcare facilities, including many hospitals, are offering vaccines to directly to their employees and volunteers. If you work at one of the facilities, you can contact your employer to learn if the vaccine is available to you.

If you don't qualify for a vaccine at this time, register on the [NJ Vaccine Scheduling System](#) and they will notify you when the vaccine is available for you.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE?
CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Need Support? Resources for Monmouth County Families and Children

If you're struggling with mental health issues, please don't hesitate to reach out for support. Visit [Monmouth ResourceNet](#) for a list of [hotlines/help lines](#).

Municipal Offices Open to Public By Appointment Only

MIDDLETOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A LIST OF DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

To help ensure the safety of visitors and employees, municipal offices are now open to the public *by appointment only*. The only exception is for in-person tax payments at the [Tax Collector's Office](#).


Employees and visitors must wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines. If you would like to schedule an appointment, you can reach the various departments at the phone numbers listed [HERE](#).


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




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Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20

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