



## Bayview Elementary Special Education Teacher Receives 2021 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award



Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell, and Mayor Tony Perry were joined by Bayview Elementary School Principal Tara Raspanti and Board of Education President Frank Capone to surprise Amy Jennings with the 2021 Distinguished Citizen of the Year award. Amy celebrated this achievement with her students and colleagues, pictured above.

Members of the Middletown Township Committee, along with Board of Education President Frank Capone and Bayview Elementary School Principal Tara Raspanti, surprised special education teacher Amy Jennings with the 2021 Distinguished Citizen of the Year award earlier this week. Amy received this prestigious honor, as well as a Key to the Township, for being an inspiring teacher and a philanthropic leader in our town, especially through her "Heroes Helping Heroes" Program.

Last year, Amy and her students created the Bayview Heroes Café. This extraordinary initiative serves as a benefit to all: students learn how to sort and prepare orders, teachers and staff receive delicious drinks that are free but can be paid for through donations, and local organizations and projects receive monetary aid. Bayview Heroes Café has already donated to several organizations in Middletown and beyond. The café has also expanded to not only other multiple disability classes at Bayview Elementary School, but also to

### New Monmouth Elementary School.

As incredible as it is, the café is only one element of the remarkable legacy Amy has created. She has built an entire Heroes Program through the way she instills confidence in her students and teaches them the importance of paying it forward.

Congratulations, Amy! Thank you for uplifting others and making a positive impact that is felt throughout our community.

Click [HERE](#) to watch our *TikTok* about the surprise presentation.

### Middletown Youth Recognized at Elks Lodge No. 2179 Annual Youth Activity Breakfast

Last weekend, Mayor Tony Perry and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz attended Middletown Elks Lodge No. 2179's Youth Activity Breakfast. The annual event recognizes local youth for their participation in various activities of the Elks Youth Activities Committee.



From left: Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn, Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger, Mayor Tony Perry, and two award recipients

Mayor Perry and Committeewoman Kratz presented certificates to volunteers of the Special Children's Committee and winners of the Most Valuable Student Award, Hoop Shoot Competition, and Soccer Shoot Competition.

We are so proud of our amazing youth, and applaud the Elks Youth Activities Committee for the important role they play in our community!

*Photo courtesy of Albert Smith, PER*

### Middletown Township Participates in Rumson's Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



Mayor Tony Perry and Committeeman Ryan Clarke with his daughter Harper take a break from marching

*in Rumson's St. Patrick's Day Parade to smile for the camera!*

**Mayor Tony Perry and Committeeman Ryan Clarke (along with his daughter Harper) were thrilled to march in Rumson's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. After being canceled last year, it was great to celebrate the return of this fun tradition.**

**NOTE: The Middletown Township Committee, our first responders, and local groups will be marching in Saint Mary Church and School's Inaugural St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The parade will begin at 1 PM at Bayview Elementary School and end at Saint Mary's church parking lot.**

## **New Town Hall Update: Township Staff Expected to Move In Next Month!**



Over the last four months, redeveloper Brandywine and InTech Construction have been completing the finishing touches of the new Town Hall. Furniture is currently being set up and Township employees are expected to start moving into the new building in mid-April.

Check out our time-lapse video which showcases the exterior of the building from start to finish!

***Click [HERE](#) to watch the time-lapse video on YouTube.***

*Photos courtesy of Steve Rizzo of Brandywine and MTPD Deputy Chief Bob Stefanski*



## **Middletown Township Committee to Host Regular Meeting at New Town Hall on Monday, 3/21**

The Middletown Township Committee Workshop Meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM will be open to the public and made available to view and listen to through Webex Event Center.

The meeting will be taking place inside the courtroom at the new Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). Due to the sunsetting of the public health emergency, public comments should be made in person. The meeting will also be made available to watch or listen to by [clicking this event link](#). To call in to the meeting, dial 1-408-418-9388. The event access code is 2339 856 5701 followed by #. Enter 2022 if a passcode is required.

Prior to the Township Committee Meeting, the event link will be published on the Township's [Facebook page](#). The recording of the meeting will be aired on the Township's TV channel (Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20) and [YouTube channel](#).

[Click HERE to read the full press release.](#)  
[Click HERE to view a PDF of the meeting agenda.](#)

## DPW Begins Restoration Work on Conover Beacon in Leonardo

Middletown Township is excited to announce that our Department of Public Works & Engineering (DPW) started preliminary restoration work on Conover Beacon, located in Leonardo, earlier this week.

DPW's welder Justin VanArsdale began replacing rusted structural member and metal decking on the beacon. This work is part of a multi-phase in-house project to beautify and restore the beacon to its former glory.



## Middletown Township Hosts Garbage & Recycling Public Forum



*Mayor Tony Perry addresses the audience at the garbage and recycling public forum.*

Earlier this week, the Township hosted a public forum at the Middletown Township Public Library to discuss its upcoming garbage and recycling contract. Mayor Tony Perry, along with Township Committee members, Township officials, and Township staff, discussed our recent survey results and answered residents' questions.

**Thank you to everyone who participated!**

# recycling tip of the week



IT PAYS TO RECYCLE!



There is a lot of confusion as to whether recycling is worth all the effort. In fact, disposing of recyclables is almost HALF of the costs of disposing of regular household garbage. The cost of dumping one ton of household garbage is approximately \$85 a ton, while recycling currently costs only \$45 per ton and can even bring in revenue depending on the market. By recycling, you are not only saving the environment but also saving money.

RECYCLING IS WORTH THE WORK!



Still confused? Download the app to get the What Goes Where look-up tool.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about Recycle Coach.

Click [HERE](#) to download Recycle Coach from the Apple App Store.

Click [HERE](#) to download Recycle Coach from the Google Play Store.

**Volunteer with Our Adopt-A-Garden Program**

## ADOPT-A-GARDEN PROGRAM



**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP IS SEEKING GARDENERS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE ADOPT-A-GARDEN PROGRAM  
FOR THE 2022 SEASON!**

### **PERKS OF ADOPTING:**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

**SCOUT BADGES**

**BE A PART OF KEEPING MIDDLETOWN BEAUTIFUL!**

**EMAIL [JTICINO@MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG](mailto:jticino@middletownnj.org) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION OR TO PARTICPATE!**



Email [jticino@middletownnj.org](mailto:jticino@middletownnj.org) for more information about how you can participate in the Adopt-A-Garden program.

**Support Ukraine at Westminster Presbyterian Church's  
Benefit Concert on Sunday, 3/27 at 4 PM**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 4PM**

# **SUPPORT**

## ***Benefit Concert***

# **UKRAINE**

Featuring performances by:

The Sorochan Family, from Ukraine	Erika Sayar, Westminster Presbyterian
Lern Joy Trio, Folk Ensemble	Malena Towers, St. Mary's Middletown
Joe Moffit, Church of the Precious Blood	Shauna Puccio, soprano
Nancy Scharff, King of Kings Lutheran	Mike Kabash, Lincroft Presbyterian
Jeffrey Boga, violin	Andrew Kosinski, St. Michael's Episcopal

100% of proceeds collected in-person & online to be  
donated to the CARE - Ukraine Crisis Fund.

Concert will also be livestreamed to our YouTube  
channel found on our website below.

  
WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

94 TINDALL ROAD  
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748  
[www.wpcmiddletown.org](http://www.wpcmiddletown.org)

On Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Tony Perry and members of the Township Committee will be supporting Westminster Presbyterian Church's (94 Tindall Road) benefit concert to raise money for Ukraine. The event will take place at the church and begin at 4 PM. The concert will feature professional musicians from both Ukraine and our community, as well an update from a representative of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Perth Amboy.

All proceeds will be sent to CARE's Ukraine Crisis Fund. The fund reaches 4 million Ukrainians and provides them with immediate aid, food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and cash assistance.

Although the concert is technically free, the church will be accepting donations through its website. There is a "Ukrainian Relief Drive" section on the donation link.

Click **HERE** to donate to the church's Ukrainian Relief Drive.

**Help Neighbors in Need by Donating to Social Services'  
Easter Basket Drive by April 11<sup>th</sup>**

# 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 can earn through supermarket promotions.

Donations should be dropped off at 180 Main Street in Port Monmouth by Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please call Social Services at 732-615-2085 before dropping off donation items to ensure someone is there to receive them.



Questions? Call Social Services at 732-615-2085. We kindly request that donations be dropped off by Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fr.	Sat.
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Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fr.	Sat.
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**Register for MMA's Free Adult Mental Health First Aid Training by TOMORROW, 3/19**

1 in 5 American teenagers and adults live with a mental illness.



Learn how to help through Middletown Municipal Alliance's

## FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

The Middletown Municipal Alliance is partnering with the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County to provide free Mental Health First Aid Trainings. The first one was held in February and the next one will be held in April.



### Adult Mental Health First Aid Training

Saturday, 4/2 from 8 AM - 5 PM  
Register by Saturday, 3/19



Training sessions are open to all, regardless of experience, and capped at 30 participants. Visit [middletownnj.org/mhfa](http://middletownnj.org/mhfa) for more information about the program and to apply.

The upcoming training session will teach volunteers how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults. It will also include expanded content on trauma, substance use, and self-care.

The deadline to register is Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in attending, please email Angela Pepe-Lage at [apepe-lage@middletownnj.org](mailto:apepe-lage@middletownnj.org) and include your name, email address, and phone number.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the program.

**Honor Veterans at VAC's Four Chaplains Service on Sunday, 3/20 at 2 PM**

## The Veterans Affairs Committee Invites the Community to Attend the **Four Chaplains Service**

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

2:00-3:00 PM

VFW Post 2179

(1 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth)

*\*Refreshments to follow*



The Four Chaplains Service is held annually to commemorate the selfless acts of valor of the four chaplains who perished on the U.S.A.T. Dorchester in 1943. The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation exists to further the cause of "unity without uniformity" by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people.

The Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) is hosting its annual Four Chaplains Service on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 3 PM at VFW Post 2179 (1 Veterans Lane). The ceremony will honor the four chaplains who selflessly sacrificed their lives to save the troops aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, which was struck by a torpedo during World War II. We encourage our community to join the VAC in commemorating the four chaplains' unity, bravery, and legacies.

### MAC Spring Session Begins on Monday, 3/21: Register Now!



Hurry - it's not too late to register for the Middletown Arts Center's spring session! Classes begin on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Skills in the arts will bloom this season with classes in theater, dance, art, music, adult movement, and STEAM!

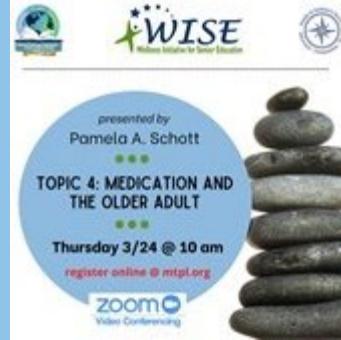
Classes will take place at both the Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street) and the MAC Annex at the Middletown Reformed Church (121 Kings Highway). The two locations are minutes apart from each other.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

## Register for MTPL's Upcoming Programs



[Teen Job Series: Personal Development and Interview Skills on Wednesday, 3/23 at 7 PM](#)



[WISE: Medication and the Older Adult on Thursday, 3/24 at 10 AM](#)



[NJ Makers Day: STEAM Museum on Saturday, 3/26 from 10 AM - 3 PM](#)

The Middletown Township Public Library has some informative upcoming events!

Listen up, teens! Learn how to conduct yourself in interviews at MTPL's "Personal Development and Interview Skills" program on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM.

Barbizon of Red Bank will be teaching attendees how to improve your body language, voice projections, and manners when being interviewed. This helpful event will take place at the library's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road) and is part of MTPL's ongoing Teen Job Series. Registration is required.

Senior citizens are welcome to attend the MTPL's fourth session of the Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE) on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. This week's lesson, "Medication and the Older Adult", will be presented by Pamela A. Schott. WISE is a virtual six-week program that covers different topics. Registration is required.

On Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, the MTPL's Community Room will be transformed into a state-of-the-art, hands-on children's museum to celebrate NJ Makers Day! The museum, which will last from 10 AM - 3 PM, will be focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) education. Bring your children for some educational and engaging activities that are suitable for all ages!

*[Click on each graphic for more information.](#)*

**Join Middletown PBA 124's Climb With A Cop On Saturday, 3/26 at 10 AM**

# FUNDRAISER

TO BENEFIT

**Special  
Olympics**  
New Jersey



SATURDAY  
MARCH 26, 2022

10:00AM - 2:00PM

37 Kanes Ln.  
Middletown, NJ

Entry fee \$30

\*proceeds go to Special Olympics NJ

**Climb  
With  
A  
Cop**



Visit [www.gravityvault.com](http://www.gravityvault.com), [www.njtorchrun.org](http://www.njtorchrun.org) or call  
The Gravity Vault at (732) 856-9599 for more details.

Must be 5 years old or older to climb. Individuals under 18 must have waiver completed by parent or legal guardian.

**Middletown PBA 124 is partnering with Hazlet PBA 189 to host the annual Climb with a Cop fundraiser on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place at Gravity Vault (37 Kanes Ln.) from 10 AM - 2 PM. Proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics of New Jersey (SONJ). We hope to see you there!**

**MAC Announces "Toby Gowing, Illustrations" Art Exhibit  
Open from Friday, 4/1 - Wednesday, 4/27**



The Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street) is thrilled to present the work of book illustrator and Middletown resident, Toby Gowing, from Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition, "Toby Gowing, Illustrations," will feature nearly 50 of the artist's illustrations spanning from 1980 to 2010, as well as several of her fine art portraits of local Middletown children.

In honor of Toby's love for books, a free "Meet the Artist" reception will be held on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3 - 5 PM to kick off National Library Week. Toby will also be collaborating with the Middletown Township Public Library to present a "How to Become a Book Illustrator" program in the near future.

*Click [HERE](#) for more information about the exhibit.*

**Participate in Lincroft Fire Company's Blood Drive on Wednesday, 4/6 from 12:30 - 6:30 PM**



**BLOOD DRIVE**

Help accident victims like Jeff.

DONATIONS SAVE LIVES

**Wed. April 6 12:30-6:30**

**Lincroft Fire Company**

601 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft

Appointments recommended. Walk-ins accepted if space allows.  
For an appointment go to  
<https://nybc.org/newjerseydrive> sponsor code 70286 or call 800-933-2566

Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.  
Donors 76 and over need a doctor's note unless one is already on file.

If you have received the CoVid vaccine there is no waiting period before donating as long as you are feeling well.

**New Jersey Blood Services**

800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org #njbloodservices

**Help save lives and donate blood in Lincroft Fire Company's blood drive on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>! The blood drive will take place at Lincroft Fire Co. (601 Newman Springs Road) from 12:30 - 6:30 PM. Appointments are recommended. The sponsor code to make an appointment online is 70286.**

*Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment.  
Click [HERE](#) to view a larger version of the graphic.*

**Hop into the Holiday Spirit and Register for Recreation's Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, 4/9 at 10 AM**



The poster features a large, stylized text 'Easter EGGSTRAVAGANZA' in yellow and pink. The 'Easter' part is in yellow with a shadow, and 'EGGSTRAVAGANZA' is in pink with a white outline. Below the text is a large pink Easter egg with yellow stripes and a yellow polka-dot pattern. A small circular logo with a profile of a person is on the egg. In the background, there are white bunny ears and a yellow egg. The event details are at the bottom: 'SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH, 10AM -1PM' and 'Middletown Arts Center'. Logos for 'Middletown Arts Center' (15 years) and 'Middletown Recreation' are on the sides.

**Easter EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH, 10AM -1PM  
Middletown Arts Center

[middletownnj.org/easter](http://middletownnj.org/easter)

**Middletown Arts Center**  
Celebrating 15 Years of Community & the Arts  
15 YEARS  
MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER

**Middletown Recreation**

Join Middletown Recreation on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> for its Easter Eggstravaganza! This family fun day of activities, a Peter Cottontail show, and pictures with the Easter Bunny will take place at the Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street) from 10 AM - 1 PM. Goodie bags will be given to the first 300 kids who show up. Registration is recommended.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

**We're Hiring: Apply for Recreation's Summer Camp!**



*the best days are spent at CAMP*

# We're Hiring

for 6 weeks of fun!

Counselors \$13+/hr  
EMTs \$15+/hr

Camp Runs July 5th - August 12th

**MIDDLETOWN RECREATION**

This flyer is for summer camp job hiring. It features a sun and campfire graphic at the top, followed by the text "We're Hiring for 6 weeks of fun!". Below this is a box containing "Counselors \$13+/hr" and "EMTs \$15+/hr" with a cursor icon pointing to the right. The text "Camp Runs July 5th - August 12th" is centered below the box. At the bottom is the "MIDDLETOWN RECREATION" logo with four icons: a runner, a plant, a swimmer, and a cyclist.

Looking for a job? Middletown Recreation is hiring counselors and EMTs for summer camp. Applicants must be at least 16 years old and available to work the entire 6 weeks.

*Click [HERE](#) for more information and to apply.*

## Monmouth County Reminds Residents About Utility Assistance Available through ERAP



Click on each graphic to view the flyer larger.

[ERAP Flyer in English](#)



[ERAP Flyer in Spanish](#)

Since the State of New Jersey winter moratorium against utility shut-offs expired on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners would like to remind tenants and landlords that the Monmouth County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is available to provide utility assistance through New Jersey SHARES.

There will be New Jersey Shares On-Site Applicant Assistance in various Monmouth County library locations throughout March.

**Click [HERE](#) for the schedule and to read the County's full press release.**  
**Click [HERE](#) for more information about ERAP.**



## COVID-19 Testing Site at Brookdale Community College Closed TODAY, 3/18

On Tuesday, the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners announced that due to the decline in demand, the COVID-19 testing site at Brookdale Community College was scheduled to close on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners partnered with Vault Health and Brookdale Community College in January 2022 to provide a state-funded COVID-19 testing site offering saliva and rapid tests three to five days a week.

"With the Brookdale Community College testing site closing, there are still options for those who need access to a COVID-19 test," said Commissioner Deputy Director Susan M. Kiley, liaison to the County's Health Department. "Residents can visit our website at [www.visitmonmouth.com](http://www.visitmonmouth.com) or download the Monmouth County Health Department app for information about testing and vaccines."

**Click [HERE](#) to read the County's full press release.**  
**Click [HERE](#) to download the app from the Apple App Store.**  
**Click [HERE](#) to download the app from the Google Play Store.**

## Upcoming COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine Clinics in Monmouth County

## MONMOUTH COUNTY COVID-19 CLINICS



**Free At-Home Testing:**  
Visit [learn.vaulthealth.com/nj/](https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nj/) for free saliva tests, shipped directly to your home at no cost.

Visit [www.vaulttests.com/](https://www.vaulttests.com/) for 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests for every home in the U.S.

**COVID-19 Vaccines are safe, free, & effective**



Pfizer, Moderna, & Janssen available for 1st, 2nd, 3rd & booster doses

Walk-ins welcome ages 5 & up

ID documentation and health insurance not required. No impact on immigration status

**For free transportation:**  
To your vaccination, enter "VAXRIDE" promo into your NJ TRANSIT app or call NJ TRANSIT at 973-275-555. Get free Lyft rides by calling 24-8 8. Monmouth County Division of Transportation SCAT: 732-431-6480

### DATES & TIMES



**Testing and Vaccine Clinics**

- Wed., March 2- Asbury Park- 4pm-7pm, Asbury Park Transportation Center, 1Municipal Plaza, Asbury Park, NJ
- Tues., March 8- Freehold- 4pm-7pm, Freehold Borough Fire Department, 49 W Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728
- Wed., March 16- Neptune- 4pm-7pm, Neptune Senior Center, 1607 NJ-33, Neptune City, NJ07753
- Wed., March 23- Howell- 4pm-7pm, Howell Senior Center, 251 Preventorum Road

**Vaccine Clinics**

- Thurs., March 3- Allentown- 3:30pm-6:30pm, Allentown First Aid, 70 County Rd. 526, Allentown, NJ08501
- Wed., March 9- Highlands- 10am-12:00pm, Highlands Community Center 22 Snug Harbor Ave., Highlands, NJ 07732
- Mon., March 14- Red Bank- 4pm-6:30pm, Red Bank Primary School, 222 River Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701

**Who can get a booster shot or third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Everyone ages 12 and older should get a booster shot. Those ages 12 through 17 are only eligible for a Pfizer booster.

COVID-19 vaccines are working well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death. All eligible individuals are encouraged to get booster shots.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & INQUIRIES, VISIT [WWW.VISITMONMOUTH.COM/HEALTH](http://WWW.VISITMONMOUTH.COM/HEALTH) OR DOWNLOAD THE MONMOUTH HEALTH APP OR CALL: 732-431-7456**

**Brookdale Community College -Vaccine Only**  
Every Tuesday, 2pm-6pm, Brookdale Community College, 765 Newman Springs Rd., Lincroft Children's Learning Center (CLC) Parking Lots 4 & 5

**Click on the graphic to view the image larger.**

**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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