

# Middletown Minutes

## Official Township E-Newsletter



### Middletown Officially Plants 9/11 Survivor Tree



*Janice and Ken Tietjen show Mayor Perry, Committeeman Clarke, and Committeewoman Kratz where their son's name is on the Flag of Heroes.*

On Wednesday, Middletown planted its 9/11 Survivor Tree – a cloned offspring of the original Callery pear tree that endured the September 11, 2001 terror attacks at the World Trade Center. New York City Department of Parks & Recreation donated the clone in May, and it was the first time the organization gifted a clone to a municipality outside of New York City.

Mayor Tony Perry and members of the Township Committee watched the 15-foot tree get gently lowered into its forever home at our World Trade



Center Memorial Gardens, located next to the Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street). Doug Kniss of Bartlett Tree Experts and Paul Inglese, owner of Chapel Hill Nursery, along with his 12-year-old son Aidan and staff members, collaborated and donated both their time and expertise to successfully transplant the tree and safeguard its wellbeing. Paul's crew was responsible for physically transplanting the tree, while Doug created a comprehensive program to ensure long-term health.

Middletown residents Janice and Ken Tietjen, parents of Kenneth Tietjen, a Port Authority officer who lost his life on that tragic day, attended the ceremony to present the Township with a *Flag of Heroes*. The flag contains the names of the emergency services personnel who gave their lives to save others in the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

As Middletown suffered the second most 9/11 losses after New York City, the Survivor Tree stands as a symbol of perseverance rooted in strength. Visitors can find the tree at the end of the memorial pathway by the new monuments that were installed last year in honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Port Monmouth Fire Company Celebrates Centennial



*Mayor Tony Perry, Deputy Mayor and Ex-Fire Chief Rick Hibell, Committeeman and Ex-Fire Chief Ryan Clarke, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz join PMFC members for a large group photo!*

The Middletown Township Committee was honored to join Port Monmouth Fire Company No. 1 (PMFC) when it celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last weekend!

Mayor Tony Perry, alongside Deputy Mayor and Ex-Fire Chief Rick Hibell, Committeeman and Ex-Fire Chief Ryan Clarke, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, presented a proclamation and personally thanked every member, both past and present, for their unwavering commitment to our all-volunteer fire department.

At the event, Charlie Rogers, the director of our Office of Emergency Management and Ex-Fire Chief of PMFC, received the "Pride and Tradition Award" for his longtime service to the company. PMFC also recognized its newest volunteer, John Manzella, who recently graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. Although PMFC's t-shirt colors are navy and black, the company welcomed John by gifting him its t-shirt in the same green that is the Marine Corps uniform.

## Belford Engine Company Hosts 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show



*Mayor Tony Perry, Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell, Committeeman Ryan Clarke, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz pose with the Mayor's Choice winner!*

Last weekend, Belford Engine Company hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> annual car show. More than 100 incredible cars were featured at the fun event, but the Mayor's Choice went to a 1946 Ford Woody owned by one of our residents!

## Mayor Tony Perry Receives "Good Scout Award" at Boy Scouts of America Monmouth Council's Eastern Monmouth Reception





*Pictured from left: Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell, Former Senator Joe Kyrillos, Mayor Tony Perry, Michelle Bennett, and Committeeman Ryan Clarke*

On Thursday evening, Mayor Tony Perry received the "Good Scout Award" at the Boy Scouts of America Monmouth Council's Eastern Monmouth Good Scout Reception at Navesink Country Club. He was bestowed this prestigious honor in appreciation of his professional accomplishments and dedicated service to the community.

Former Senator Joseph Kyrillos presented the award to Mayor Perry, as well as a proclamation from the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

## Township Committee to Host Regular Meeting on Monday, 10/17

The Middletown Township Committee Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the courtroom at the new Town Hall (1 Kings Highway). The meeting is open to the public.



The meeting will also be made available to watch or listen to by visiting [www.middletownnj.org/tcmeeting](http://www.middletownnj.org/tcmeeting). To call in to the meeting, dial 1-408-418-9388. The event access code is 2343 002 6209 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](#) for more information and to see the agenda.

## Scout Troops Learn About Local Government



This week, Mayor Perry had the honor of meeting with several local troops at Town Hall. Cub Scouts Pack 142 stopped by Mayor's Office Hours as part of their "Building a Better World" requirement to discuss the mayor's role in Middletown.

Two Girls Scouts groups, Fairview Troop 1410 and Bayview Troop 231, also stopped by Town Hall as they work toward their "Democracy for Brownies" badge. They met with Mayor Perry, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, and MTPD Detective Ric Cruz to learn about the purpose and levels of government.



Both groups held mock Township Committee Meetings so they could see firsthand how local government works and learn how their voice can make a difference.

## Recreation, Social Services, and Cub Scout Packs Stuff Backpacks with Items from Back to School Supply Drive



*Our volunteer Cub Scouts beam with pride as they show off all the backpacks they stuffed!*

On Thursday, Middletown Recreation, Social Services, and Committeewoman

Kimberly Kratz were thrilled to join local Cub Scout packs for a backpack stuffing event! The packs used donations from our recent Back to School Supply Drive to fill 50 backpacks.

Thank you to everyone who donated!

## Under My Skin For Life Foundation Donates to Local Nonprofit OASIS tlc with Township's Support



*Members of the Township Committee and Chief Weber were honored to join the two nonprofits at this special event and get a tour of Oasis Farms!*

Last weekend, Mayor Tony Perry, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, and Police Chief Craig Weber, along with Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger and Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn, stopped by Oasis Farms for a check presentation from the Under My Skin For Life Foundation!

In September, Under My Skin For Life hosted the event *Arts for Autism* to raise money for OASIS tlc, a Middletown nonprofit with a mission to promote autism inclusion and acceptance by employing autistic adults to work on its farm. Last Sunday, Under My Skin For Life officially donated the \$12,250 that was raised!



**October is Make a Difference Month in Middletown!**  
We ask that residents help make a difference by participating in our



**FOOD AND CLEANING SUPPLIES DRIVE**



Middletown Social Services is collecting non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, personal items, and paper products.

Bring donations to the following locations:  
Town Hall (1 Kings Highway), Senior Center (900 Leonardville Road), and Social Services (180 Main Street).

**Questions? Call Social Services at 732-615-2085.**



**Congratulations  
to the  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Graduates of  
Project P.L.U.S.!**



Earlier this week, the first session of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduated from Middletown Municipal Alliance's Project P.L.U.S. (Peer Leaders Understanding Students)! The free and after-school 4-week program teaches students the personal, health, and legal consequences of dangerous substances and how to become a leader in their community. Way to go, graduates!

## Demolition of Old Town Hall Buildings Continues



This week, demolition began on the old Town Hall. In September, one of the old Town Hall buildings (which was most recently used as a boxing gym) was removed. Once the old Town Hall/police station is fully demolished, the Township will be able to make way for a large parking lot for the new municipal complex.

**Register for the Mayor's Challenge 5K + 1 Mile Fun Run on  
Sat., 10/22 at 8:45 AM**





Lace up for a challenging trail race and join Middletown Recreation at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Challenge on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>! The morning will be an event for the whole family – choose from the 5K Fitness Walk, a family-friendly 1 Mile Fun Run, or gear up for the 5K Race!

All proceeds will benefit the [Tunnel to Towers Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) that honors our military and first responders who have either been catastrophically injured or have lost their lives by providing mortgage assistance to their families. Registration includes a long-sleeve sports-tek shirt and medal (while supplies last).

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

**Save the Date for the Veterans Day Parade: Sunday, 11/6**



A poster for the 65th Annual Veterans Day Parade. At the top left is the Middletown Township logo, and at the top right is a Maltese cross with a globe in the center. The text reads: "VFW POST 2179 AND MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP INVITE RESIDENTS TO THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE". Below this, there are three icons: a location pin, a clock, and a calendar. Under the location pin icon is "Bayview Elementary (300 Leonardville Rd.)". Under the clock icon is "1:00 pm". Under the calendar icon is "Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>". The background features a stylized American flag.

VFW POST 2179 AND MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP  
INVITE RESIDENTS TO THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# VETERANS DAY PARADE

Bayview Elementary  
(300 Leonardville Rd.)

1:00 pm

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

Visit [www.middletownnj.org/parade](http://www.middletownnj.org/parade) for more information.

## Nominate a Middletown Veteran for Inaugural "Veteran of the Year" Award



A poster for the 2022 Veteran of the Year award. It features a stylized American flag background. The text reads: "The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2022 VETERAN OF THE YEAR". Below this, it says: "All nominations must be received no later than Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [www.middletownnj.org/voty](http://www.middletownnj.org/voty) for more information." The text is enclosed in a gold-bordered box.

The Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee  
is now accepting nominations for the

## 2022 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

All nominations must be received no later than  
Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please visit  
[www.middletownnj.org/voty](http://www.middletownnj.org/voty) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the award.  
Click [HERE](#) to complete a nomination form.

**Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee Invites Local  
Veterans to Open House on Saturday, 10/22 at 1 PM**

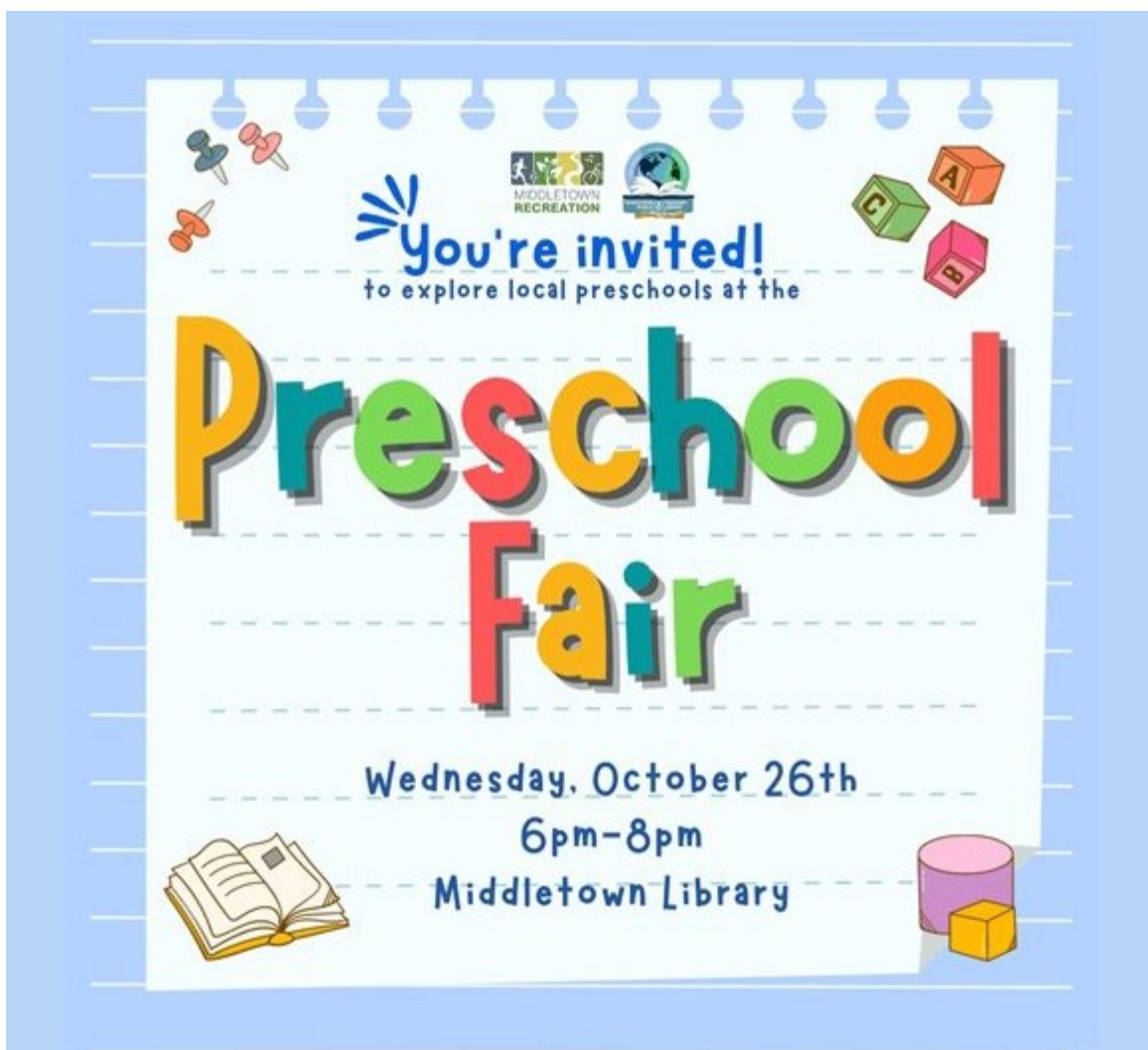




**Drop Off Mail-In Ballots at Boxes Located at MTPL  
and Croydon Hall**







Finding the perfect preschool for your child can be tough, so Recreation is here to save the day with a **FREE Preschool Fair** for interested parents and guardians!

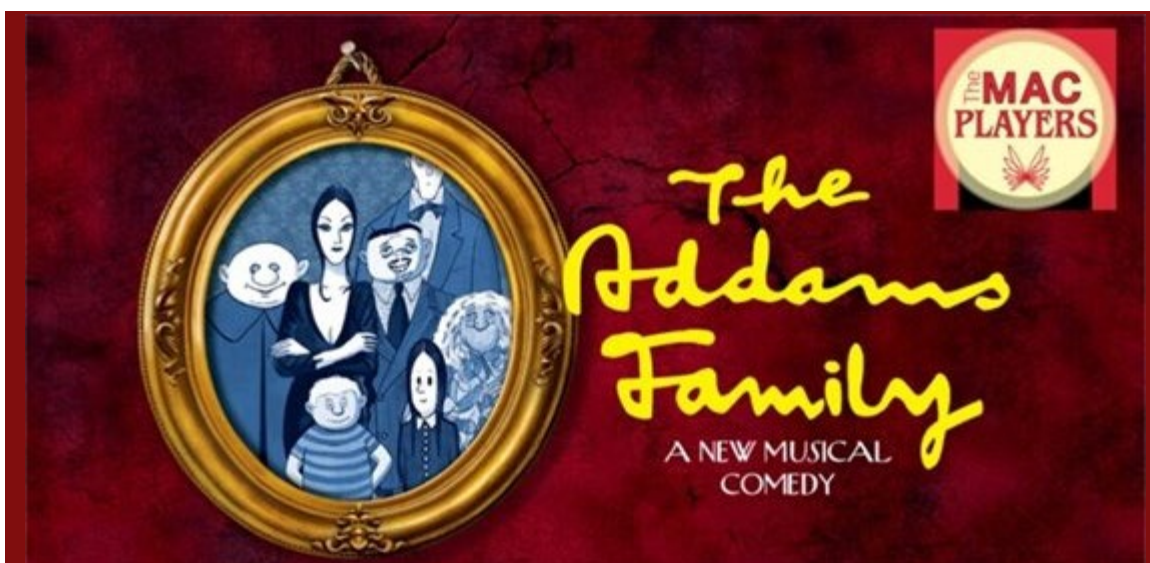
Middletown Recreation and the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) are bringing preschools across town together in one place for your convenience on **Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** at the MTPL (55 New Monmouth Road). Representatives from different schools will be present to speak to you about class options, registration availability, and answer any questions you may have.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and a list of participating schools.

**Spend a Spooky Evening at Recreation's  
Halloween Hullabaloo on Saturday, 10/29 from 5 - 8 PM!**







The MAC Players, the MAC's community theater group, returns this fall with the creepy, kooky, mysterious, spooky and altogether ooky *The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy*!

***The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy***

Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness and daughter of Gomez and Morticia, has fallen in love with a sweet, smart “normal” young man from a respectable family – a man her parents have never met. Everything changes for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “regular” boyfriend and his parents. This musical is a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family and is a whimsical night of music, chills, and thrills!

Performances will take place from Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The Friday and Saturday shows will be at 7 PM and the Sunday shows will be at 2 PM.

Get your tickets [HERE](#) today!

**Support the MTPL at the Black & White Masquerade Gala  
on Friday, 10/28 at 7 PM**

Middletown Township Public Library

# Black & White

## Masquerade Gala

October 28, 2022 • 7:00pm

Jacques Reception Center  
500 Palmer Ave. • Middletown

**\$125.00 per ticket**

Cocktail Hour, Awards, Dinner, Dancing, Open and Cash Bar  
Black or white cocktail attire with a masquerade mask suggested

RSVP to: 732-671-3700x 354 • [alindner@mtpl.org](mailto:alindner@mtpl.org)

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available for the MTPL's Black & White Masquerade Gala on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>!

The gala is the kickoff event for the MTPL's "Re-Imagining Your Library" campaign, which is geared toward the redesign and renovation of our library's interior space!

### Anticipated upgrades include:

- Additional group collaboration and study rooms
- Increased space for community programs
- Open concept space leading toward relaxed "Living Room" seating areas
- A new room featuring Middletown's history and archives, comfortable seating, advanced technology, and room for programming

### 50/50 Raffle

The Friends of the MTPL are also hosting a 50/50 Raffle, which can be purchased for \$5 per ticket at the MTPL's circulation desk. The winner will receive 50 percent of the amount received for all tickets or rights to participate. The winner does not need to be present at the drawing, which will take place at the gala at 9:45 PM.

Click [HERE](#) to read more about the gala and its opportunities.





**Pre-Register for Health Department's Free  
Dogs-Only Rabies Clinic on Saturday, 10/22:  
*Register by Thursday, 10/20***



The Health Department is holding a FREE dogs-only rabies clinic on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Croydon Hall Gym Parking Lot (900 Leonardville Road).

Animal Control will open an additional session from 9:30 - 10:00 AM if the first session fills up. Registration closes on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

Click [HERE](#) to pre-register.

## Monmouth County October COVID-19 Clinics





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