



Mayor Tony Perry and Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone Host Annual Middletown Small Business Roundtable



Mayor Tony Perry addresses the crowd of small-business owners.



EMACC Executive Director Jennifer Eckhoff asks how many attendees are part of EMACC.



Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone proudly talks about the County's initiatives to support small businesses.



T&M Associates Group Manager Caroline Reiter discusses the Route 36 Corridor Project.

On Monday, Mayor Tony Perry and Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone hosted their Small Business Roundtable at Town Hall. Over 40 small-business owners attended, as well as state, county, and Middletown elected officials.

Mayor Perry opened the discussion by acknowledging the supply chain issues businesses have faced post-Covid. He also gave an overview of the Township's Route 36 Corridor Project, updates on the Port Belford Redevelopment Plan, and encouraged small-business owners to consider investing in Route 36.

Monmouth County Commissioner Director Tom Arnone provided information about the Grow Monmouth program and grant funds available for small businesses, microenterprises, and nonprofits. He also spoke about the County's Grown in Monmouth and Brewed & Distilled in Monmouth initiatives.

Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce (EMACC) Executive Director Jennifer Eckhoff then talked about the pros of becoming a member of the chamber, including opportunities to mingle and share knowledge with fellow business owners through networking breakfasts and Happy Hours as well as marketing assistance. T&M Associates Group Manager Caroline Reiter was then invited to speak about the Route 36 Corridor Study. She explained the study which includes evaluating the 500 properties along the 300 acres and 5 miles of Route 36's residential and business zoned districts to promote economic incentives and revitalization. Michael Mandzik, a representative from New Jersey Natural Gas, was also there to exhibit The SaveGreen Project's energy efficiency programs which provide business owners with a budget-friendly pathway to saving energy and money while reducing their carbon footprint.

The roundtable ended with a Q&A with business owners and additional networking opportunities. Thank you to everyone who attended. Middletown is proud to support our small businesses!

Township Committee Kicks Off May with Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation and Presentation



Mayor Perry and Piper Wyman show off the Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation.

At Monday's meeting, the Township Committee proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to Piper Wyman. Piper is a junior at Middletown High School South who is a strong advocate for mental health and is currently organizing the "Be the Difference" community walk (with help from her peers at both Middletown High School North and South) in honor of suicide awareness and prevention.

Nearly 1 in 5 Americans will experience a mental illness in any given year and suicide continues to remain the 12th leading cause of death in our nation. Suicide has reached every part of the world, including Middletown.

That being said, Middletown strongly encourages our residents to register for "Be the Difference" which will take place on Sunday, May 21st and begin at 9 AM at the Middletown Arts Center (36 Church Street). Proceeds will be donated to the Americas Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Check out the "bethedifference_nj" Instagram account and the flyer below for more information.

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 Sunday, May 14th.

Step Up to Suicide Awareness and Prevention by Registering for the "Be the Difference" Community Walk

on Sunday, 5/21 at 9 AM

STEP UP TO SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION BE THE DIFFERENCE.

Middletown Community Walk:

Sunday, May 21, 2023 starting at 9am

Begins at the Middletown Arts Center



How: With the support of Middletown Township, we will walk to raise funds that will be donated to the Americas Foundation For Suicide Prevention.

Why: As a community, it is time to make a change. The goal of this walk is to acknowledge the stigma associated with mental health and express how important mental health is by bringing the community together in a supportive way.

[Click on the graphic to view it in a larger PDF format.](#)

[Click **HERE** to either register for the walk or donate to it.](#)

MTPL Breaks Ground on Joyce P. Murphy Children's Garden



Pictured from left: Library Board of Trustees President Robert Phelan, Library Director Heather Andolsen, Mayor Tony Perry, Alexis Trullo-Graham of Terra Casa LLC, Joyce's sister Mary Ann Scotti, and Joyce's husband Kevin Murphy and their son Kyle Murphy (Photo courtesy of MTPL)

The Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) held a groundbreaking ceremony for The Joyce P. Murphy Children's Garden at the library on Wednesday, May 3rd. When completed in mid-July, the new children's garden will be an inviting outdoor space for story times, library programs, and contemplation. The gated garden will include landscaping with all native plant species, programming space, permanent seating, and a water feature.

The garden honors Joyce Murphy, a beloved long-term employee of MTPL who passed away unexpectedly in February of 2021. During her twelve years at MTPL, Joyce worked in the Children's Department and managed the library's social media. She was a dedicated advocate for children's literacy and learning.

Click [HERE](#) to read the MTPL's press release about the groundbreaking.

Gabriella's Italian Steakhouse Celebrates Expansion and Introduces Brand New Room



Pictured from left: Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell, Gabriella's Co-Owner Frankie Brusco, Mayor Tony Perry, Gabriella's Co-Owner Gabriella Varshavsky, Gabriella's Manager Dan Morgan, and Gabriella's Executive Chef Mike Tsarnas

On Thursday night, Mayor Tony Perry and Deputy Mayor Rick Hibell helped Gabriella's Italian Steakhouse (447 NJ-35) celebrate the grand opening of its brand new room with a ribbon cutting and certificate! Luxury cars lined the entrance to this mini red carpet event as patrons stopped in to check out the expansion, drink signature cocktails, and eat delicious food.

Check out www.gabriellasnj.com!

Blast to the Past with "Weekend in Old Monmouth" This Saturday, 5/6 & Sunday, 5/7



The Murray Farmhouse (345 Oak Hill Road) is proud to be one of the 50 historic sites in Monmouth County opening its doors to visitors for the 2-day event "Weekend in Old Monmouth" happening this weekend! Staff and volunteers will be on hand to give free short tours and answer questions.

Additional Middletown locations include the All Saints Memorial Church, Grover House, Marlpit Hall, Old First Church, and Taylor-Butler House.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about "Weekend in Old Monmouth."

Middletown Ballot Boxes' Locations

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ELECTION BALLOT BOXES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
(55 NEW MONMOUTH ROAD)
- CROYDON HALL MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
(900 LEONARDVILLE ROAD)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

With the New Jersey Primary Election coming up on Tuesday, June 6th, our Township Clerk's Office would like to remind residents of where Middletown's election ballot boxes are located.

REMINDER: There is no longer a ballot box at Town Hall (1 Kings Highway).

 **Police Week: May 14th - May 20th**
Police Memorial:
Friday, May 19th at 11:00AM

Police Week is an annual event held in May. During the week, Police Department tours are available to students, scouts, senior citizens, and anyone who is interested. Please email kdavis@middletownnj.org or call 732-615-2039 to schedule a tour.

The Police Memorial service will be held rain or shine on Friday, May 19th at 11:00AM at the Middletown Police Memorial located at the corner of Kings Highway and Route 35. The public is invited to attend.

Project P.L.U.S. Students Get Special



Visit from K9 Officers!

Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) detectives and K9 handlers, along with their furry partners, paid a visit to Project P.L.U.S. this week!

Patrolman Brian MacDonald and K9 Officer Dallas loved visiting the students! (Photo courtesy of MMA)

Project P.L.U.S. (Peer Leaders Understanding Students) is a free after-school program that is hosted by the Middletown Municipal Alliance (MMA) and MTPD and teaches students the personal, health, and legal consequences of dangerous substances and how to become a leader in their community.

MTPD Hosts Free Car Seat Safety Checkpoint on Wednesday, 5/10 from 2-6 PM at Old Village Fire Company



Residents are invited to a **FREE** Car Seat Safety Checkpoint hosted by the MTPD on Wednesday, May 10th at Station 11 Old Village Fire Company (1340 NJ-35) to ensure your child is in the right car seat and that it is installed correctly. The checkpoint will be open from 2-6 PM.

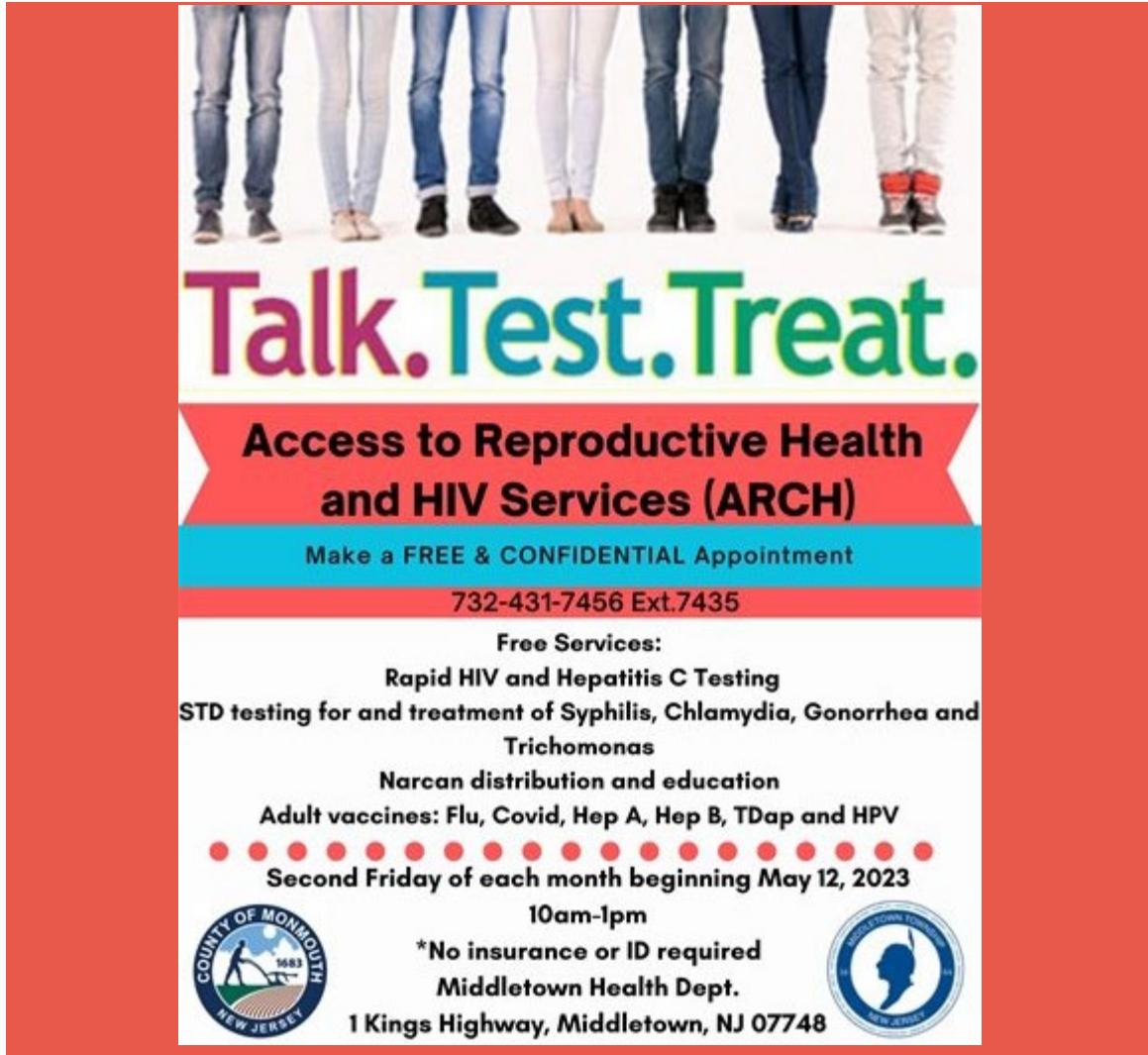
Car seat safety checkpoints are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Please contact Officer Michael Reuter at 732-615-2046 if you have any questions or concerns.

Middletown Township Health Department Provides Tips for Skin Cancer Awareness Month



Click [HERE](#) to find a location for a free skin cancer screening.

Register for Free & Confidential Reproductive Health and HIV Services Appointment on Friday, 5/12



Talk. Test. Treat.

Access to Reproductive Health and HIV Services (ARCH)

Make a FREE & CONFIDENTIAL Appointment

732-431-7456 Ext.7435

Free Services:

Rapid HIV and Hepatitis C Testing

STD testing for and treatment of Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Trichomonas

Narcan distribution and education

Adult vaccines: Flu, Covid, Hep A, Hep B, TDap and HPV

Second Friday of each month beginning May 12, 2023

10am-1pm

*No insurance or ID required

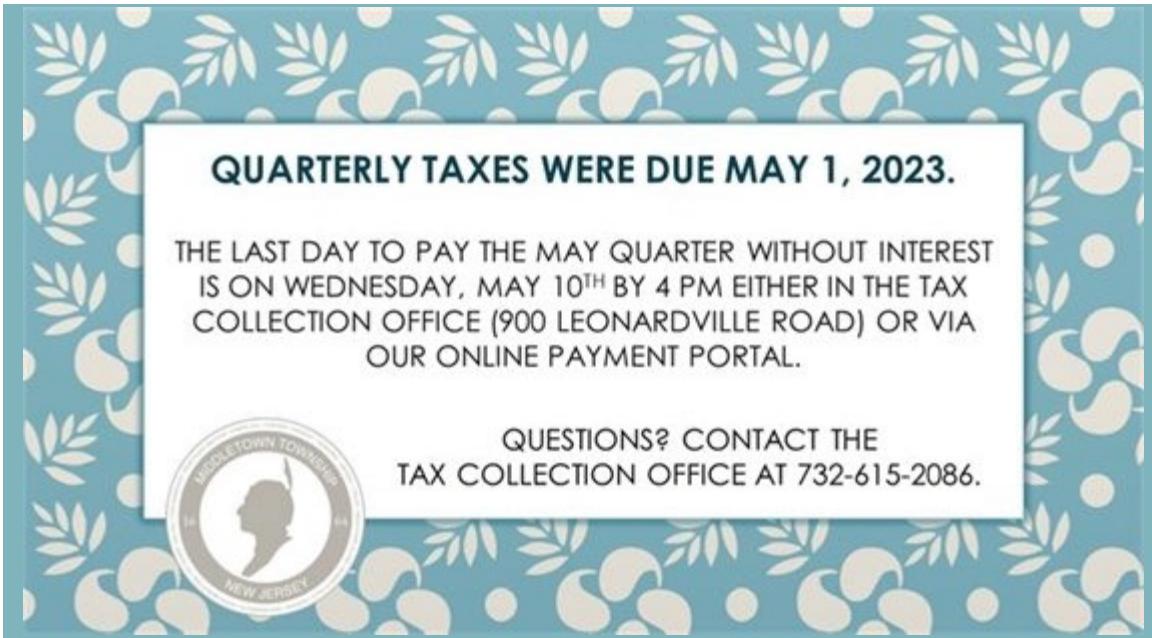
Middletown Health Dept.

1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748

The Middletown Township Health Department and Monmouth County are partnering to offer free services (such as rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, STD testing, Narcan distribution, and adult vaccines like flu, COVID-19, HPV, etc.) on the second Friday of every month from 10 AM - 1 PM, beginning Friday, May 12th. Appointments will take place at the Middletown Township Health Department (1 Kings Highway).

Please call 732-431-7456 ext. 7435 to make an appointment. Insurance and ID are not required.

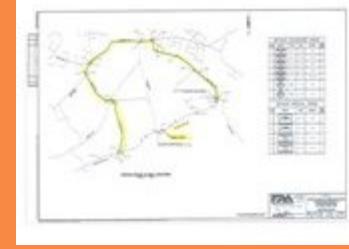
Last Day to Pay Quarterly Property Taxes Without Interest is Wednesday, 5/10



Click [HERE](#) for more information about how you can pay your taxes.



- Beginning on Monday, May 8th at 7:00 AM, Navesink River Road will be closed for approximately 2-3 weeks. The MTPD will advise residents when the road opens via Nixle. Click on the map to the right to see the detour in a larger PDF format.
- There is a road closure between 122-126 Pine Street in Lincroft until further notice. If you are driving between 1-122 Pine Street, please come off Swimming River Road. If you are driving from 122 and higher on Pine Street, please use Phalanx Road to Hickory Lane.



[Map of Navesink River Road detour \(PDF\)](#)

Visit www.middletownnj.org/nixle to register for Nixle and receive traffic alerts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sat.

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Sign Up for Middletown Soccer Showdown Happening on Saturday, 6/3



Sign your team up for the Middletown Soccer Showdown, a double-elimination 4v4 tournament, to be crowned the winner of your division! All participants receive a commemorative patch and medals will be given to the winners. Divisions are based on grade (2nd-8th), gender, and skill level (recreation & travel).

Visit www.middletownnj.org/soccer for more information and to register.

Pre-Register for Middletown Recreation's & MTPD's Youth Bike Rodeo on Wednesday, 5/17 & Thursday, 5/18

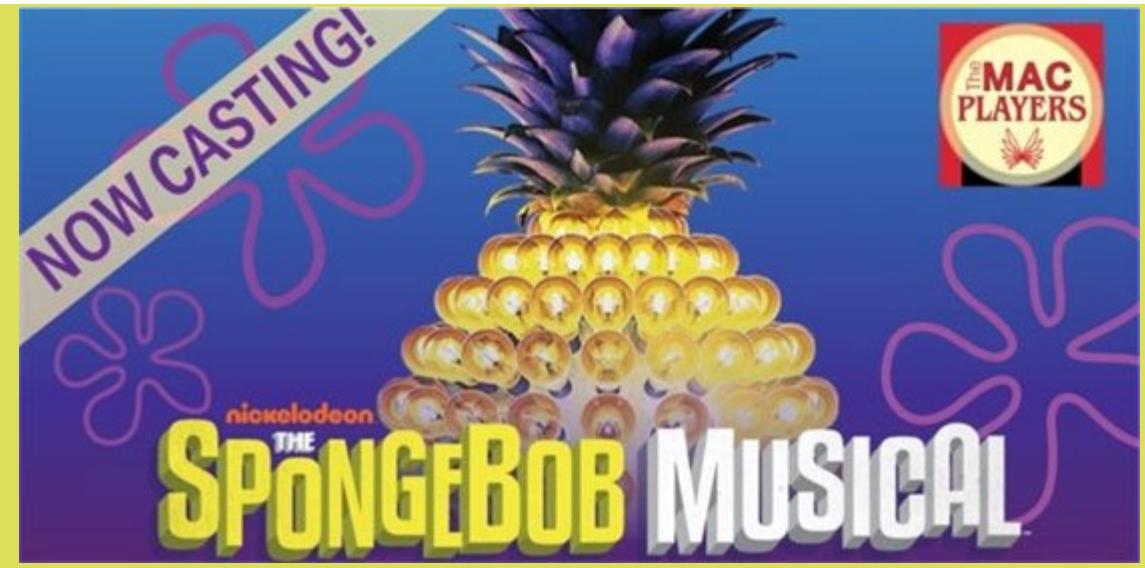


May is National Bike Safety Month, so please join us on Wednesday, May 17th and Thursday, May 18th from 4-5 PM for some safety fun at the Youth Bike Rodeo part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign! Members from Middletown Recreation, the MTPD, and Hackensack Meridian Health are teaming up to teach kids from 1st to 5th grade the rules of the road, how to properly wear a helmet, and other important points.

This great event is free for residents! Pre-registration is required.

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

Audition for The SpongeBob Musical at the MAC on Monday, 5/8 from 6-9 PM



The MAC Players is now casting for the Middletown Arts Center's (MAC) production of The SpongeBob Musical! Auditions will take place at the MAC on Monday, May 8th from 6-9 PM. Please email auditionmac@gmail.com to schedule an audition time.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the production and available roles.

**Learn About Spring and Summer Coastal Birding on
Wednesday, 5/10 at 6:30 PM at the MTPL**

SPRING AND SUMMER COASTAL BIRDING

with author and photographer Susan Puder



**Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 pm
The Community Room**

 *Registration is not required.
Read more about this program
on the calendar at mtpl.org.*

Stop by the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road) on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30 PM to join author and photographer Susan Puder on an exploration of coastal New Jersey for spring and summer birds! During the spring, one of the greatest migration events occurs with the arrival of Red Knots and other shorebirds along the Delaware Bayshore area. In the summer, most birds are nesting and raising their young, with July bringing on the start of fall migration. Patrons will learn all about shorebirds and warblers that visit or breed during the spring and summer months!

Click [HERE](#) for more information and Susan's bio.

RESOURCES



Earn Extra Money by Becoming a Monmouth County Poll Worker

**Become a
Monmouth County
Poll Worker Today!**

EARN EXTRA MONEY...

\$300.00 per election for *June Primary* or *November General Election*. Must be a Monmouth County Registered Voter.

**For More Information Call
732-431-7802 x7150**

**NJNG Offers In-Person Energy
Assistance to Customers through
Friday, 6/30**

**In March, New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) announced
it will provide customers with personal support — at
the company's Asbury Park and Lakewood walk-in**



payment centers — to help access energy assistance grants to pay for their energy bills. On select days through June 30, 2023, representatives from local Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies will be on hand to help customers determine eligibility for grants and other energy assistance programs and with the application process.

Click [HERE](#) to read NJNG's press release for more information.

Monmouth County May COVID-19 Clinics

MONMOUTH COUNTY COVID-19 CLINICS

May 2023

COVID-19 Vaccines are safe, free, & effective

Walk-Ins welcome ages six months & older

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

Free At-Home Testing:
Free over the counter antigen test distribution program at www.covid.gov/tests

Free transportation to your vaccination:
Get free Lyft rides by calling 2-1-1
Call NJ TRANSIT at 973-275-5555.



DATES & TIMES



Testing and Vaccine Clinics

- May 3, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Asbury Park Municipal Building Lobby, 1 Municipal Plaza, Asbury Park, 07712
- May 10, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Neptune Senior Center, 1607 NJ-33, Neptune, 07753
- May 17, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Middletown Health Department, 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, 07748
- May 24, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Howell Senior Center, 251 Preventorium Rd., Howell, 07731

Pfizer, Moderna, both of the updated bivalent boosters, & Novavax COVID-19 vaccines are available

Monmouth County Health Dept. Clinic

Vaccine Only

- Every Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monmouth County Health Dept., 50 East Main St., Freehold, 07728
- Entrance closes 15 minutes before clinic ends

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & INQUIRIES, VISIT WWW.VISITMONMOUTH.COM/HEALTH OR DOWNLOAD THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. APP OR CALL 732-431-7456



Click on the graphic to view it in a larger PDF format.

Visit www.vaccines.gov/search to find other locations to receive a Pfizer or Moderna booster.

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



@middletownnjtownhall



YouTube

Middletown Township Channel



@middletownnj



middletown.township

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[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)

Verizon FiOS Channel 26/Comcast Cable Channel 20



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