



Middletown Celebrates Mayor for a Day



Pictured from left (top row): Mayor Tony Perry, Mayor Dominick Caddle of River Plaza Elementary School, Mayor Riley Toale of St. Mary's School, and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz. Pictured from left (bottom row): Mayor Ryan Grasso of Bayview Elementary School, Mayor Christian Paglio of Lincroft Elementary School, Mayor James Snyder of New Monmouth Elementary School, and Mayor Sera Vazquez of Harmony Elementary School. Not pictured: Mayor Oliver Senatore of Nut Swamp Elementary School

On Wednesday, Middletown was thrilled to host its annual Mayor for a Day program! Six students from different elementary schools came to Town Hall to assume their mayoral responsibilities. The fun event began outside where the young mayors met Mayor Tony Perry and Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, as well as members of our Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services Departments as they checked out the first responder trucks! The mayors then headed up to the Mayor's Conference Room where they enjoyed pizza and discussed the importance of leadership.

Each student had the opportunity to visit the Mayor's Office and sign their Mayor for a Day certificate as well as a proclamation recognizing May 29, 2023 as Memorial Day in the Township of Middletown. The certificates were also signed by Mayor Perry and brought to the young mayors' respective schools. The certificates were signed by their principals today and each student served as their schools' mayor.

To get a better understanding of their new role, the young mayors participated in a mini Township Committee meeting that included the Pledge of Allegiance, reading a proclamation for the record, and the opportunity to make public comments. While on the dais, the mayors discussed different initiatives like fixing local athletic fields and preserving open space. Mayor Perry reminded them that any initiative that helps someone is important, whether it helps 10 people or 10,000.

Congratulations to our young community leaders!

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

MTPD Hosts Annual Police Memorial Service



Mayor Tony Perry thanks MTPD Chief R. Craig Weber (pictured) and the entire department for their dedicated and brave commitment to our community.

On Friday, May 19th, the Middletown Township Police Department (MTPD) held its annual Police Memorial Service during National Police Week, which included its 95th anniversary celebration on May 15th.

The service was held at the Middletown Police Memorial, located at the corner of Kings Highway and Route 35. It was a beautiful day to remember our fallen police and K-9 officers who served the MTPD, and many residents and loved ones of the deceased officers came to pay their respects. Members of the MTPD, elected officials, and Township administration and staff were also in attendance.

The service began with a Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance. Police Chaplain Reverend Dr. Dan Correa led the ceremony with an invocation. Chief of Police R. Craig Weber and Mayor Tony Perry delivered speeches at the event, and Deputy Chief of Police Paul Bailey read the names of Middletown's deceased officers, including Captain William Halliday and Sergeant Ronald Furiato who were added to our memorial this year.

Family and friends of the officers in our memorial were then invited to place flowers at the monuments. The memorial concluded with a benediction by Father Jeffrey Kegley of St. Mary, Mother of God Church. New Jersey State Police officers Daniel Murphy and E.J. Hannafey played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes, and Middletown High School South student Ben Adams performed TAPS on the trumpet.

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

MTPD Patrolman Omar Akel Awarded Prestigious TOP COP Award during National Police Week



Pictured from left: Monmouth County Prosecutor Raymond Santiago, Mayor Tony Perry, Patrolman Omar Akel, MTPD Chief R. Craig Weber, and Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives John McCabe (Photo courtesy of MTPD)

Last Friday, Mayor Tony Perry and members of the MTPD attended the National Association of Police Organizations' TOP COPS Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. MTPD Patrolman Omar Akel was honored alongside Howell Township Police Department Patrolman Daniel Murphy and Manalapan Township Police Department Sergeant Eric Voorand for their response as part of the Monmouth County Emergency Response Team during the execution of a search warrant in Long Branch. After nine hours of negotiation due to a 2-week old infant being home, the person who they were conducting the search warrant for left the house and set it aflame, while firing upon the officers and using the infant as a shield. Officer Murphy, with Officers Akel and Voorand by his side, was able to strike down the criminal and save the baby's life.

We commend these officers for their heroism and swift action during this dangerous hostage situation.

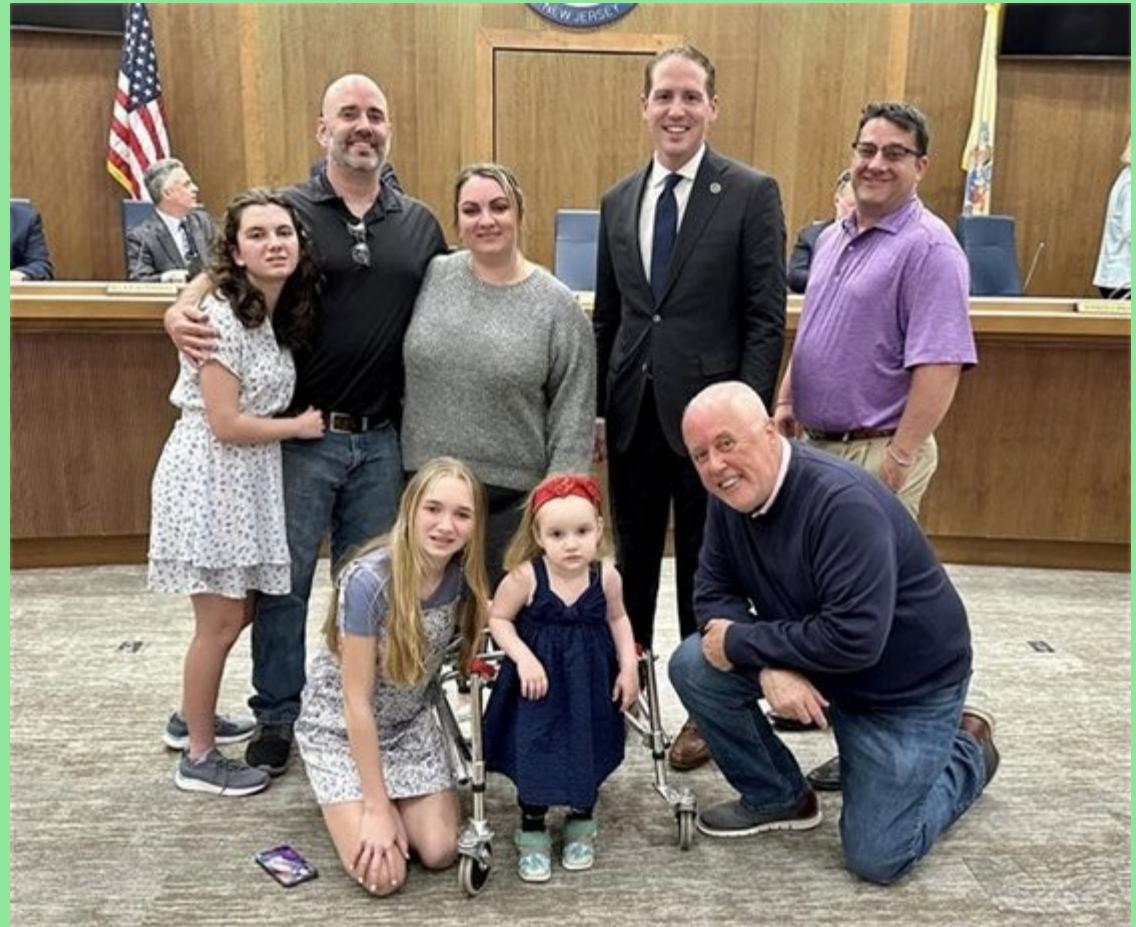
Join Middletown and American Legion Post 338 at Annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 5/29



Middletown Township is honored to partner with American Legion Post 338 for our annual Memorial Day Parade. We encourage community members to join us in remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

The parade begins at 10:00 AM at Bayshore Middle School (834 Leonardville Road). Visit www.middletownnj.org/parade to view a map of the parade route.

Township Committee Approves Fully-Inclusive Playground at McMahon Park



Drew Zimmerman and Stacey Owens, alongside her daughter Teddi and the rest of her family, join Mayor Tony Perry at the front of the courtroom at the Township Committee Meeting.

At the Monday, May 15th meeting, the Township Committee authorized the construction of the first *truly* all-inclusive playground at McMahon Park in North Middletown. Mayor Tony Perry thanked residents Stacey Owens, her daughter Teddi, and Drew Zimmerman who reached out to the Township to advocate for a playground that would allow children with mobility devices to be able to access and enjoy it. Mayor Perry recognized Teddi for opening his eyes to this need and passed the resolution in her honor.



Rendering of fully-inclusive playground at McMahon Park

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, June 4th.

Middletown Township Committee Introduces Ordinance to Protect Open Space from Development



At the Monday, May 15th Township Committee Meeting, the Middletown Township Committee introduced an ordinance that authorizes the acquisition of several properties to help protect open space and enhance public recreational opportunities.

Click [HERE](#) to read our full press release about the ordinance.

Lincroft Senior Citizen Housing Donates to Local Nonprofit 180 Turning Lives Around



Mayor Tony Perry, Lincroft Senior Citizen Housing Board Members (including Committeeman Ryan Clarke), and 180 Turning Lives Around employees gather for a group photo after the donation was given.

This morning, Mayor Tony Perry joined members of Lincroft Senior Citizen Housing to present 180 Turning Lives Around with a generous donation. Lincroft Senior Citizen Housing Corporation is an

independent entity that provides rental housing and related facilities and services for elderly and handicapped families on a nonprofit basis. The Corporation offers housing through Luftman Towers and the Pavilion located off Hurleys Lane. Residents are appointed to the Board of Directors by the Township Committee. 180 Turning Lives Around is a nonprofit based in Hazlet that provides survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families with free confidential programs and resources to heal from their experiences.

The donation will be used to help 180 Turning Lives Around carry out its critical mission and also support 2NDFLOOR, which is its state-wide preventative youth text/call/chat line.

Visit www.180nj.org for more information about 180's services.



Lincroft Senior Citizen Housing Board Members present the check to 180 Turning Lives Around in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn Hosts Tree Dedication Ceremony in Honor of Mother's Day



Pictured from left: With shovels in hand, Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz, Monmouth County Surrogate Maureen Raisch, and Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn pose next to the beautiful memorial

tree. (Photo courtesy of Tom Zapcic Photography)

Committeewoman Kimberly Kratz was humbled to join Monmouth County Surrogate Maureen Raisch at Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn's tree dedication ceremony in honor of mothers who have passed. The ceremony was held the Monday after Mother's Day.

The Monmouth County Park System donated the beautiful "rosy teacup" dogwood and helped plant it at Deep Cut Gardens (152 Red Hill Road) in Middletown. The new tree can be found next to the bonsai display near the greenhouse.

**Register for Suicide Awareness and Prevention
"Be the Difference" Community Walk this Sunday, 5/21**

**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.](#)

Shop in Our Town-Wide Garage Sale This Weekend!



Shop 'til you drop this weekend at our annual town-wide garage sale! This fun event is free for shoppers.

[Click **HERE** to check out the final map and listing.](#)

Attend Public Meeting about Raritan Bay & Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study in Middletown on Tuesday, 5/23

HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES RISE TO RESILIENCE:

 Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study Public Outreach Meetings 

TUESDAY, MAY 23RD Middletown Town Hall Courtroom 1 Kings Highway 2-4PM & 6-8PM	WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH Aberdeen Town Hall Courtroom 1 Aberdeen Square 2-4PM	WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH Sigismondi Community Center 651 Prospect Avenue, Keaport 6-8PM
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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NJ Department of Environmental Protection will be discussing the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study process and timeline.

The study will evaluate critical infrastructure, transportation, and evacuation routes that are at risk due to the effects of coastal storms in the study area including socially vulnerable areas (e.g., low income, limited English speaking, people of color, etc.).

Public input is appreciated. Light refreshments will be served.



The red outline is the study area.

Visit www.middletownnj.org/csrn for more information.

Middletown Social Services Currently Not Accepting Any Donations

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Middletown Social Services will not be accepting donations of any kind. If you would like to donate food to *Middletown Helps Its Own*, please call (732) 787-3604. For other Social Service needs, contact Monmouth County Social Services at (732) 431-6000.



Plots Still Available at Middletown Community Garden

Interested in participating in a Community Garden?



A Limited Number of Plots Are Still Available!

Middletown Township's Community Garden Opened April 15th!
Email communitygarden@middletownnj.org to receive updates, reserve a plot and volunteer!

*Plot Reservations are based on a first come, first served basis.



Visit www.middletownnj.org/communitygarden for more information about it.

Middletown Ballot Box Locations



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).

**Middletown Township Health Department Provides Tips
for Skin Cancer Awareness Month**



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



- Navesink River Road is currently closed and will remain closed for approximately 1-2 more 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.



Listen to Live Music at the MAC's May Music Cafe on Sunday, 5/21 from 4-6 PM



Join the Middletown Arts Center (MAC) this Sunday, May 21st from 4-6 PM for its monthly music cafe, featuring local talents and top-notch singer-songwriters Jeff Siegel, Kevin Liebkemann, Bill T. Midnight, and Mary Ellen O'Brien. The concert will take place inside the MAC's theater (36 Church Street). The event is free with a suggested donation of \$5.

Click [HERE](#) for information about the showcase's artists and click [HERE](#) to donate to the MAC.

**Register for MTPL's Funny Freckled Frogs Program on
Monday, 5/22 at 10 AM or 11 AM**



Meet several live frogs at the Middletown Township Public Library (MTPL) on Monday, May 22nd as you learn about their amazing life cycle! Children will share the fun of helping tell several frog stories and discover why ponds are so important to frogs and the environment.

This program will be presented by naturalists from the Monmouth County Park System. Registration for children is required since space is limited to 30 children.

Adults are expected to accompany the children, but are kindly asked to not register. There is one session at 10 AM and one at 11 AM. Both will take place in the MTPL's Community Room (55 New Monmouth Road).

Click [HERE](#) to register for the 10 AM session. Click [HERE](#) to register for the 11 AM session.

Learn About Neil Diamond's Career with MTPL's Musical Biography Program on Wednesday, 5/24 at 2 PM

NEIL DIAMOND

A Musical Biography Program featuring Phil Bruschi

Wednesday, May 24 at 2:00PM



REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED, NOT REQUIRED.



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
55 New Monmouth Road Middletown, NJ 07748
Phone: 732-671-3700 • www.mtpl.org

Join the MTPL on Wednesday, May 24th to celebrate 45 years of musical mastery as Phil Bruschi brings Neil Diamond's legendary career to life! Phil will discuss Diamond's early career to present day while performing songs such as "Sweet Caroline," "Hello Again," "Cracklin Rose," "September Morn," and many more. Registration is recommended, but not required.

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

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.

Ahoy Mates! Register for Middletown Recreation's Daddy-Daughter Beach Bash on Friday, 6/9



Middletown Recreation's Daddy-Daughter Beach Bash is back on Friday, June 9th! Attendees are invited to Ideal Beach (Bayside Parkway, North Middletown) to enjoy a DJ, fun activities, and a delicious dinner. This year's theme is Pirates and Mermaids. Please remember to bring your beach chairs and blankets.

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

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.



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