

The Biggest
Small Town
in New
Jersey



MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

www.middlestownnj.org Township launches new website

Summer 2011

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The township's new website is already turning a few heads. The Monmouth University Polling Institute and Public Policy Graduate Program recently awarded the township an honorable mention for overall appearance and content.

Our goals in redesigning the site were to enhance transparency in government, make it easier for residents to communicate with us and easier to find the information they need quickly, said Mayor Anthony P. Fiore.

Some features of the new website

include:

- Enhanced access to community calendars and contact information.

- New homepage navigation by popular subject and department.
- New subsection navigation that helps users track their location with the site and locate related content.
- A new central repository for forms and other downloadable documents.

Residents are encouraged to register for the Citizen Communications Center to receive alerts from the township by e-mail and cell phone regarding coastal flooding, winter storm updates, and other occurrences that can impact the community. Registered users also receive community announcements and local news via e-mail. Currently nearly 6,100 users are registered. Registration is not required to receive Reverse 911 alerts via home phone.

Registered users can also submit requests for service directly to departments through the website. A service request may include quality of life issues including recycling pickup, snow removal, the discovery of a pothole, or suspected code violations.

Township Completes Tax Reassessment

Middletown has completed a tax reassessment to bring property values closer in line with current market values and stem a tide of expensive tax appeals.

"Homeowners should have the fair and accurate assessment of their property values. We believe this reassessment provides an accurate assessment of property values and will result in long-term savings for the township by substantially reducing the number of future tax appeals," said Mayor Anthony Fiore.

A reassessment, which is conducted by the Tax Assessor's office, uses existing data to appraise all or a substantial portion of land within a municipality. A reassessment, which can only be conducted within five years of having completed a revaluation, is less complex and less expensive than the recent revaluation. The recent revaluation involved visual inspection and detailed analysis of all township properties by a state-approved realty appraisal firm. A reassessment is more of an adjustment exercise, intended to be more of a correction to the aggregate

continued on page 5



Tax Dollars and Sense

Visit pages 2-3 to learn more about how Middletown is working smarter to provide programs and quality of life services in an extraordinarily difficult financial year.

Middletown Town Hall
1 Kings Highway
Middletown NJ 07748

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Official News Published for the Residents of Middletown Township

Municipal Directory

**Police, Fire & Rescue
Emergencies** Dial 9-1-1

**Police Department
Non-Emergency** 615-2100

Municipal Offices
(All numbers have a 732 area code)

Main Number 615-2000

Animal Control 615-2094
(Monday - Friday, 8am- 5pm)

Animal Control 615-2100
(holidays, nights & weekends)

Building & Inspections 615-2106

Community Development 615-2280

Court Administrator 615-2036

Code Enforcement 615-2286

Crossroads 615-2269
(substance abuse services)

Emergency Management 615-2111

EMS (First Aid) 615-2252

Fire Prevention 615-2270

Health 615-2094

Mayor's Office 615-2024

Parks & Recreation 615-2260

Planning & Zoning 615-2098

Public Works 615-2109

Public Information 615-2287

Recycling 615-2008

Senior Center 615-2265

Tax Assessor 615-2089

Tax Collector 615-2086

Township Administrator 615-2013

Township Engineer 615-2259

Township Clerk 615-2015
(parking permits, voter registrations,
elections, Committee agenda)

Social Services 615-2085

Other Important Numbers

Board of Education 671-3850

Library 671-3700

Sewerage Authority 495-1010

Website

www.middletonnj.org

Middletown Municipal Television

Comcast Cable Channel 20

Verizon FiOS Channel 26

Middletown Emergency Radio

1620 AM

How Your Property Taxes Are Collected and Distributed

Your total property tax bill is a result of three different and distinct budgets—the school budget, the county budget and the township budget. Nevertheless, by law, the Township of Middletown is required to collect all property taxes even though the township will only retain 23% of the taxes levied this year.

For every taxpayer dollar received in 2010, 62 cents was sent to the school district, 15 cents was sent to Monmouth County, and 23 cents stayed here in Middletown Township. While these percentages change slightly from year to year, they do not vary greatly. Based upon a tax rate of \$2.04 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation the average Middletown homeowner, with a home assessed at \$380,000 would pay about \$4,806.00 to the schools, \$1,162.00 to the county and \$1,783.00 to the township.

The Proposed 2011 Municipal Budget

The 2011 introduced municipal budget is 4.5 million or 6.8% less than the total 2010 budget and conforms to the State's new 2% cap levy law.

The proposed budget, which totals \$61.11 million, reflects the layoff of 8 employees, and the third consecutive year of salary freezes for managerial employees. The proposed 2011 budget anticipates an increase in the total tax levy of \$1,357,855 which complies with the new 2% cap levy law and will cost the average Middletown homeowner approximately \$5 per month.

Budget Data and Facts

- The proposed 2011 municipal budget is \$61,114,285 compared to the total 2010 budget appropriation of \$65,626,859.
- The proposed 2011 budget includes reductions of over \$1,265,000 in salaries & benefits from a combination of layoffs and retirements.
- The proposed budget also includes a \$188,000 cost savings in the Health Department driven by an interlocal with Monmouth Regional Health Services, a \$230,000 decrease to street & roads budget primarily due to efficiencies through the use of private contractors and employees for leaf collection and a reduction of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department budget.
- Cost drivers in the proposed budget are state-mandated pension contribution increases of \$566,000 or 22%, costs associated with deferred charges due to numerous retirements last year and \$550,000 in costs associated with snow storms.
- Middletown will continue to focus on core governmental functions while seeking other ways to continue to reduce costs through interlocal agreements and the Township's solar initiative that is currently under way.

- In 2010, the Middletown Police Department, having the smallest number of officers per capita in the county, responded to 45,587 calls for service, or 125 per day, that's 3 more calls per day compared to 2009
- Public Works collected 4,929 tons of recyclables including paper, glass, aluminum and plastic last year. The department also maintains over 300 miles of road.
- The Building Department conducted 15,457 inspections in 2010, that's about 1,288 every month.
- The Health department issues about 6,500 pet licenses, 225 marriage licenses and 250 burial permits annually. They also provide more than 3,000 certified copies of marriage licenses and death certificates; conduct about 300 communicable disease investigations; and regularly inspect more than 450 retail food vendors.
- The Fire Prevention Office conducted more than 50 fire safety inspections at businesses and special events last year. They also investigated 40 fires, 85 complaints, and provided fire education programs to township youth at 15 schools.
- The township funds vehicles, uniforms, and equipment for fire and first aid services. The township also funds a voter-approved, tax-deferred program known as LOSAP for qualified volunteer firefighters and first aid members. The Fire Department responded to 1,437 calls last year. First Aid responded to 4,300 emergency calls in 2010. That's 12 first aid calls and nearly 4 fire calls per day.
- The township's award-winning Library operates from four locations and contains over 260,000 volumes. In 2010 the library had 543,282 visitors who borrowed 1,018,479 volumes and attended 1,253 programs.
- The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Department maintains 862 acres of parkland at 43 sites that contain hockey rinks, tennis and basketball courts, and dozens of athletic fields. They also manage two public bathing beaches and four recreation centers.
- Many other services to the community are provided including a drug and alcohol alliance, housing assistance programs, social services, a public information television station on Comcast and Verizon FiOS, and an Emergency Management Office.

Financial Planning for 2011

The Township continues to be innovative and creative in finding ways to continue providing important services to the community without increasing costs. Middletown has always been a leader in shared service arrangements. We already have shared service arrangements in place for health services, animal control, athletic field maintenance, energy purchases. Several more are currently being negotiated.

Restructured health insurance programs are being developed to ease costs in the future. In some cases, departmental and staff reorganization is enabling the Township to avoid replacing some retiring employees, saving key dollars. The Township was also successful in negotiating favorable contract terms with some of its key bargaining units. These contract terms are designed to help lower costs both in the short and long-term.

Finally, the Township has been successful in recent years in obtaining grants. In particular grants related to energy will result in the replacement of older inefficient heating and air conditioning units and systems, as well as the replacement of inefficient lighting throughout the Township. These changes will result in immediate, as well as long term savings to the Township, all at no cost to us.



**School
62 cents**

**Municipal
23 cents**

**County
15 cents**

2011 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

ANTHONY P. FIORE
MAYOR
732-615-2024

PAMELA M. BRIGHTBILL
DEPUTY MAYOR
732-615-2024

STEPHEN G. MASSELL
COMMITTEEMAN
732-615-2015

GERARD P. SCHARFENBERGER, PH.D.
COMMITTEEMAN
732-615-2015

KEVIN M. SETTEMBRINO
COMMITTEEMAN
732-615-2015

ANTHONY MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

HEIDI R. BRUNT, RMC, CMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

SEND COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS TO:
PUBLICINFO@MIDDLETOWNNJ.ORG
OR MIDDLETOWN MATTERS,
TOWN HALL
1 KINGS HIGHWAY,
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

CINDY A. HERRSCHAFT
EDITOR

JERSEY PRINTING ASSOCIATES INC.

Message from the Mayor

\$4.5 Million In Spending Cuts Introduced In Township Budget

Township Committee Advocates for Additional Reforms



The Township Committee introduced its 2011 budget with more than \$4.5 million in spending cuts, which amounts to a 6.8% reduction in overall Township spending from the prior year. These cuts are necessary to bring the Township into full compliance with Governor Chris Christie's 2% tax levy cap law, which the Township Committee fully supports. In the absence of the remainder of the Governor's proposed property tax reforms, however, these cuts are going to have a disproportionate impact on many municipal services.

The problem we face is that the majority party in the State Legislature continues to stall on the remaining property tax reforms proposed by the Governor, known as the "Toolkit". These toolkit reforms include a series of proposals that are essential to helping municipalities curb the major costs associated with property tax increases. These include curbing pension and health benefit costs, caps on retiree payouts for unused sick and vacation time, binding arbitration reform, and civil service reforms that would allow Middletown to share more services with our neighbors that would help us balance budgets without gutting essential municipal services.

As is the case in most municipalities, our most significant cost drivers are health and pension benefits that continue to rise at an alarming rate. More than 25%, or \$15 million, of the Township's \$61 million introduced budget goes towards nothing but for health and pension benefit costs for public employees over which the Township has little control. Nevertheless, the Township Committee and Administration have taken aggressive steps to try to curb these costs.

Working with our professionals and the public employee unions, the Township Committee continues to push for changes to the structure of our health insurance plans that will not only have a major economic impact on today's budget, but also in future fiscal years. Changes to our benefit packages are

essential, as we cannot continue to absorb these costs while keeping property taxes in check.

With dozens of existing agreements in place, Middletown continues to remain a leader in shared services, and we are always seeking out new interlocal agreements that make financial sense. With the 2% tax levy cap in place, the time has never been better for municipalities to pool their resources to provide municipal services at a reduced cost.

Realizing significant savings through the expansion of our shared service programs, however, has proven challenging in the face of archaic Civil Service regulations. These regulations do not generally allow for needed flexibility for us to restructure our workforce in a manner that can achieve a great savings to taxpayers by sharing employees or dividing their duties with other municipalities. The Governor's proposed Civil Service reforms are essential to enhancing Middletown's ability to achieve significant savings through the increased utilization of shared services with neighboring municipalities.

Fortunately, our local legislators have been very supportive of the Governor's property tax reforms, however, the majority leaders in the State Assembly and Senate refuse to post these bills for a vote. In the meantime, municipalities such as Middletown are being forced to cut an increasing number of programs and services to absorb rising costs that provide no appreciable benefits to property taxpayers.

We will continue to exhaust all legal resources at our disposal to provide property tax relief to you while maintaining the essential municipal services we all require and deserve in exchange for our property tax dollars.

Train and Bus Parking Lots

Middletown Parking Permits Expire June 30, 2011

All township parking permits must be renewed by June 30, 2011. Failure to renew your main train lot permit in a timely manner could cause loss of the permit. Current permit holders will have the opportunity to either renew through the township website or via postal mail. Renewals will not be processed in the office while you wait. New permits must be purchased in-person or by mail. If you do not receive your parking permit renewal form please call (732) 615-2014 or download one from the website at www.middletownnj.org

Renewal fees July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Location	Residents	Non Residents
Train Station Parking Lot	\$400.00	\$450.00
Bus Commuter Lots	\$100.00	\$230.00



MIDDLETOWN RECYCLING



RECYCLING IS MANDATORY.

Township ordinances REQUIRE all residences and business to recycle of cans, glass, bottles plastic containers, newspaper, mixed paper (junk mail, magazines, office paper), and electronics (computer monitors, TVs). Violators subject to a fine up to \$1,500.00.

Curbside Collection

Curbside collection schedules are determined by your election district. The collection schedule for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and proclaimed state or municipal emergency days, ie: snow emergency, is shifted to the next business day. Visit www.middletonnj.org/recycle to look up your recycling zone and for more information on recycling.

Aluminum/tin, glass bottles/jars, and certain plastic bottles will be picked up once a month. Jars and bottles can be co-mingled in a 32 gallon container with a secure lid. Maximum weight is 50 pounds.

All paper including cardboard, newspapers, junk mail and office paper can be co-mingled in a 32-gallon container with a secure lid. Maximum weight is 50 pounds. Newspapers and cardboard can also be tied.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

3211 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls
Reclamation Center, Building H
By appointment only 732-922-2234

Materials accepted include motor oil and filters, propane tanks, antifreeze, gasoline, pesticides, paints and pool chemicals. Materials must be in marked containers with original labels

RECYCLING CENTER FEES

Automobile Tires (under 17" rim diameter) \$2 each off rim, \$3 each on rim
Truck Tires (pick-up, SUV) \$7 each, must be off rim
Refrigeration & Air conditioning Units - \$10 per unit
Non-Freon appliances free

CURBSIDE FEES

Refrigerators , Air Conditioners \$25 per unit
Stoves, Washers, Dryers \$20 per unit
TV & basic metal items \$20 per unit
Fees must be paid when pick-up is scheduled.

RECYCLING CENTER

52 Kanes Lane
Thurs-Mon, 8:30 am to 4:30pm
732-615-2008

	Curbside Collection	Recycling Center	Train Station
		52 Kanes Lane Th-Mon 8:30am-4:30pm	Parking Lot Church St. 24 hrs
Bottles and Cans	1st Pick Up	yes	yes
Aluminum Cans	1st Pick Up	yes	yes
Tin Steel Cans	1st Pick Up	yes	
Scrap Metal		yes	yes
Plastic	1st Pick Up	yes	
Newspaper	2nd Pick Up	yes	
Office paper	2nd Pick Up	yes	
Mixed Paper	2nd Pick Up	yes	
Corrugated Cardboard	2nd Pick Up	yes	
Brush	Spring	yes	
Leaves	Fall	yes	
Tires		yes*	
Motor Oil		yes	
Electronics		yes	
Non-Freon Appliances <i>e.g. washers, dryers, stoves</i>	yes*	yes	
Refrigerators, Air Conditioners	yes*	yes*	
TV's & basic metal items	yes*	yes	

* Fees Apply

Recycle 2\$ave

A concerted effort by all residents to recycle more helps reduce the community's carbon footprint, decrease pollution and conserve energy and saves tax dollars.

By recycling more, we're sending less waste to the landfill, which saves the township money on the tipping fees charged to dispose of the material. The value of recycling is furthered by the revenue that is generated from the sale of the recyclables collected.

It is important for each of us to modify our habits to recycle more. Each of us has a responsibility to toss every piece of junk mail and every section of cardboard in-between our frozen waffles into the recycling bin, not the garbage pail.

Consider the following facts:

- ♻️ 1 ton of garbage costs \$73.10 to dump in the Monmouth County Reclamation Center.
- ♻️ 1 Ton of commingled recyclables collected curbside costs \$0.00 to dispose of at RecycleAmerica; Savings realized of \$73.10 per ton.
- ♻️ 1 Ton of recyclable paper collected curbside results in a payment to the township of at least \$50.00 per ton; Savings realized of \$123.10 per ton

FOUR WAY STOP INSTALLED

THE LONG-AWAITED FOUR-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF PORT MONMOUTH ROAD AND OCEAN AVENUE IN NORTH MIDDLETOWN WAS INSTALLED BY MONMOUTH COUNTY WORKERS RECENTLY. MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED TO OBEY ALL LOCAL TRAFFIC LAWS.



Township Completes Tax Reassessment

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assessed value within the taxing district and often as a consequence of the recent reevaluation.

The revaluation was completed in early 2009, with assessed values for properties set as of October 1, 2008. New tax bills with the new assessed valuations were initially distributed in the third quarter of 2009. Throughout this time general real estate values continued to decline. It did not take long for a wave of tax appeals to be filed; this was on top of a large number of mostly non-residential appeals that had been in progress since 2008. As an example of the impact, prior to the revaluation a typical year would see 30 about tax appeals. The two years following the revaluation saw 1,600 tax appeals filed.

Going into Middletown's 2011 budget the Township was faced with a total impact of lost revenue due to tax appeals of \$4.9 million. Currently, when townships are forced to pay tax appeals, the municipality must not only pay back its portion, but also the county and school portion of the tax bill. "I have always found it frustrating that although Middletown's portion of a tax dollar is about 23 cents, when we are required to pay for a tax appeal award we must pay back the entire dollar, in essence the school and county portions as well as our own. My next hope, once we get through this, is that the Legislature takes a look at some of the inequities of the current system," stated Mayor Fiore.

Reassessments and revaluations are processes approved by the County Board of Taxation and state Division of Taxation. Both are designed to redistribute the existing tax levy among property owners more fairly based upon the true value of their property. All property, whether residential or commercial, vacant or occupied, are assessed at the same time to insure property owners are paying their fair share of the property tax. Neither a reassessment nor a revaluation results in additional tax revenue for a municipality, in that they merely redistribute taxes already being paid and are thus revenue neutral. Two properties having essentially the same market value should be paying approximately the same in property taxes.

Road Improvements Scheduled

Improvements along 20 stretches of township road are slated to begin over the next few months. The scheduled improvement projects include:

- Pine Street from Swimming River Road to Hickory Lane (Lincroft)
- Viburnum Terrace and Boxwood Terrace (Shady Oaks – Lincroft)
- Ontario and Raritan Avenues (Hilton Park)
- Cooper Road from Browns Dock Road to Bowne Road (Navesink)
- Kings Highway East from Windy Hill to Portland Road
- Various Road Improvements: Sections of Browns Dock Road, Red Hill Road, East Road, Marlpit Place, Twin Brooks Avenue and West Nut Swamp Road
- Drainage Improvements: Van Kirk Avenue, Garfield Avenue, Fairfield Avenue, Summit Avenue, Farview Avenue, and Reta Drive.

Road improvement projects can include milling, paving, drainage work and curbing. Projects are selected based on need as well as recommendations from the Township Public Works Director, who also serves as Township Engineer, and Roads Division Supervisors, said Township Administrator Anthony Mercantante.

Fellow to Study Energy Efficiency in Middletown

A specially trained graduate student will spend the summer in Middletown sleuthing ways to increase energy efficiency in township buildings and save money.

The graduate student is provided gratis by Climate Corps Public Sector, an innovative summer fellowship program developed by Environmental Defense Fund. Cost savings are directly linked to improvements in lighting, computer equipment, and heating and cooling systems. Fellows document how to use savings to pay for energy upgrades, said Township Planner Jason Greenspan.

In the summers of 2009 and 2010, fellows identified projects in other locations that could reduce energy use by as much as 46 percent. The program is credited with helping North Carolina Central University identify ways the campus could cut energy costs by more than \$2.6 million annually – a dramatic 64 percent reduction.



"This fellowship program is a great opportunity for Middletown to identify cost-effective ways to improve township facilities, conserve a greater amount of energy and ultimately save tax dollars," said Mayor Anthony P. Fiore. "I'm looking forward to seeing the study results."

Meanwhile the township is gearing up to install HVAC and lighting upgrades at township buildings to increase energy efficiency. The \$450,000 improvement project comes at no cost to the township, thanks to funding from the NJ Clean Energy Direct Install program and federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. The upgrades will produce an immediate savings of \$100,000 per year in utility bills, Township Administrator Anthony Mercantante said.

Middletown, a Sustainable Jersey certified town, has instituted a number of eco-friendly projects and programs aimed at helping the community live greener, conserve energy and reduce dependency on foreign oil. Other projects undertaken since the township's Green Initiative began in 2007 include the use of two hybrid vehicles by township personnel, Recycle2\$ave, which encourages residents to recycle more; a bio-fuel pilot program which utilizes used vegetable oil to fuel township vehicles; installation of energy efficient light bulbs in township buildings; and a planned native plant garden installation at Poricy Park with grant assistance from the Sustainable Jersey Program. Meanwhile township is considering additional green projects including installation of solar canopies to generate electric.

EDF Climate Corps Public Sector is an offshoot of EDF Climate Corps, started in 2008 to place top-tier MBA students in the nation's leading companies to identify and analyze energy-saving opportunities and develop practical, actionable plans for companies to implement them. The program's rapid success in the corporate world led EDF to expand its work into the public sector.

Summer 2011



MIDDLETOWN PARKS, RECREATION

Poricy Park/Nature Center

There are 250 acres of open space, wildlife and their habitats, prehistoric fossil beds, the historic Murray Farmhouse and Barn, a Gift Shop and programs for all ages! Enjoy hiking, bird watching, walking the trails, or go on a hunt for fossils. Visit the Nature Center and say hello Franklin the Iguana, live snakes, and turtles. Our gift shop has the most unique items, including geodes, druse, shark teeth, jewelry, hand crated walking sticks and more. The Murray Farmhouse dates back to 1770 and is a recognized NJ historical site.

Poricy Park Conservancy is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization located at 345 Oak Hill Road, Middletown, NJ. The Nature Center is available Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm; 732-842-5966; www.PoricyPark.org.

Summer Camp 2011

The experiences created for children at Poricy Park's Summer Camp are adventuresome ones—remarkable ones—ones that help make the unfamiliar familiar, and ones that center around the idea that everything in nature is always becoming something else. Our Staff is creative, nurturing and specially trained to enhance children's appreciation and knowledge of the natural world through science, the arts, and outdoor recreation. Summer Camp runs from June 27 through August 19, offering half and full day camps. Multiple week and siblings discounts; morning and afternoon extended day option also available.

Fossil Hunting!

Hunt For Shark's Teeth, Ancient Crabs, Sea Lilies & More at the Poricy Park Fossil Beds!! Our experienced guide will prepare you for your journey back in time 65 million years ago! The beds date back to the Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic era, 145 to 65 million years ago!! We will provide the trowels and sifters and help you identify your treasures! Appropriate for school groups, summer camps, adults and children (children must be accompanied & supervised by an adult). Call the Nature Center to schedule your guided hunt at 732-842-5966.

Facilities

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Road
Leonardo, NJ 07737 (732) 615-2260
Office Hours:
8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday
recreation@middletownnj.org

Tonya Keller Bayshore Community Center
50 Bray Avenue, Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 787-1880

Hillside Community Center
144 Chestnut Ave.
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716 (732) 872-8101

Senior Center/ Croydon Hall
900 Leonardville Road Leonardo, NJ 07737
(732) 615-2265

Middletown Arts Center
36 Church Street Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 706-4100

Swim & Tennis Club
214 Harmony Road Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 671-5757

BEACHES

Ideal Beach Bayside Parkway
(732) 787-6157

Leonardo Beach Beach Avenue
(732) 872-6708

Middletown Senior Center

Middletown's Senior Center welcomes Middletown residents 60 and older to become members. A variety of special events, trips and weekly activities, are offered throughout the year. Transportation is available to registered members by reservation. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Events are held in the East Wing unless otherwise noted. Call 732-615-2265 for more information.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 11:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Sign up by July 8th. Tickets are \$4.00 for a hot dog picnic lunch and two Hours of music & dancing with the wonderful Jerry Castaldo. Don't miss this great event!

FRIDAY, JULY 29, SPIRIT CRUISE

Cruise departs from Weehawken. Tickets are \$70. Include a narrated tour of N.Y. Harbor, buffet lunch, entertainment, tax, tip, and gratuities. Independent non-residents age 60 and over are welcome to sign up.

TUESDAY AUGUST 9, 1 P.M., CARNIVAL GAME DAY

Play some carnival games (just for fun) and have an ice cream. Free, but sign up by August 5th.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1 P.M., DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Middletown Emergency Management Coordinator Charles Rogers will provide current information on disaster preparedness and how to sign up with the Special Needs Registry for residents that may need assistance evacuating during an emergency.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

Tickets are \$20 with \$30 voucher for Showboat Casino. Tickets are \$25 for independent non-residents age 60 and over.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1 P.M., PINK FLAMINGO BIRTHDAY PARTY

Break out your favorite pink attire and celebrate August birthdays. Prize provided to the person who wears the most pink. Hawaiian music provided by Entertainers Plus and tropical refreshments.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1 P.M., SO LONG TO SUMMER PICNIC

Sign up by August 19. Tickets are \$4.00 for a box lunch with your choice of sandwich. Entertainment by the Music Makers, John & Isabella.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, NOON TO 2 P.M., SENIOR EDUCATIONAL HEALTH FAIR

Don't miss this educational fair held in conjunction with the Society on Aging. Fair includes 10 participating sponsors, door prizes and panel of expert speakers. Free. Register by September 5.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1 P.M., SCHOOL DAZE GAMES

Celebrate September birthdays and test your knowledge just for fun. You'll feel like a kid again! Refreshments served.

Coyote Precautions

Coyotes are typically secretive, nocturnal animals. However, they can be seen any time of day, especially during the spring when they are looking for food and in the fall when parent coyotes teach young pups how to hunt.

The following guidelines can help reduce the likelihood of conflicts with coyotes:

- Never feed a coyote. Deliberately feeding coyotes puts pets and other residents in the neighborhood at risk.
- Feeding pet cats and/or feral (wild) cats outdoors can attract coyotes. The coyotes feed on the pet food and also prey upon the cats.
- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Bring pets in at night.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, and other farm animals.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Although extremely rare, coyotes have been known to attack humans. Parents should monitor their children, even in familiar surroundings, such as backyards.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Clear brush and dense weeds from around dwellings. This reduces protective cover for coyotes and makes the area less attractive to rodents and rabbits. Coyotes, as well as other predators, are attracted to areas where rodents are concentrated like woodpiles.
- If coyotes are present, make sure they know they're not welcome. Make loud noises, blast a canned air siren, throw rocks, or spray them with a garden hose.

If you see an animal that appears to be a coyote, please call the Middletown Police Department at 732-615-2100.

MIDDLETOWN SWIM AND TENNIS CLUB

214 Harmony Road
732-671-5757

Open Daily

Applications available at
Parks & Recreation Offices or
www.middletownnj.org

Over 10 Acres of Picnic & Play Areas

Cabanas

Bathhouses

4 Swimming Pools

Snack Bar

5 Tennis Courts

Bocci

Volleyball

Horseshoe

Shuffleboard

Fun In The Sun Day Camp

Competitive Swim Teams

Tennis/Teams/Tournaments

Various Special Events

Family & Teen Fun Nights

Health Department Offers New Vaccination Program

The Middletown Township Health Department is proud to announce a new Public Health Vaccination Program. Through a new shared service agreement with the Monmouth County Health Commission #1, our Public Health Nursing Service can now offer free and low cost vaccinations to our residents.

During these tough economic times, many people and parents have had to put off receiving vaccinations due to a lack of insurance or co-pays. Not being able to get the proper immunizations can cause great risks to yourself, your children and the community. Currently, we are experiencing a national Pertussis (Whooping Cough) outbreak. Besides any current vaccine preventable disease outbreaks, there are requirements for entry into pre-schools/schools and higher educational facilities that need to be addressed.

Our Vaccination Program can now offer the following immunizations: Meningococcal vaccine, Tdap, HPV (Gardasil), Pneumovax, Hepatitis B, Influenza, Prevnar, Polio, Hepatitis A, MMR, HIP, DTAP, Rotavirus, and Td. In addition, the Nursing Program can offer TB tests. These vaccines are free for children up to age 19 with Family Care or Medicaid. Low cost vaccinations are available to all whether you have insurance or not. Please call for financial eligibility. Contact Rich DeBenedetto at 732-615-2096 for more information.

Tonya Keller Bayshore Community Center

Farmer's Market

Our Farmer's Market is now open! Stop by on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All plants and vegetables were planted and are cared for by the children of the Tonya Keller Community Center. Residents interested in helping tend to the garden are welcome to join the Garden Club! The Garden Club meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. All proceeds from the Farmer's Market go directly back into the garden.

Just For Toddlers Preschool Playgroup

Join us for an exciting new year at Just For Toddlers! We have increased our class times and offerings to allow for more instruction. Just For Toddlers is a preschool playgroup for children 18 months to Pre-K. Arts & crafts, stories, music, numbers, letters, colors and many other activities will be taught to your child. Please be aware, however old your child will be on October 1, 2011 will determine the class for which he or she may register. All classes run from September through May and consisting of three, 10-week sessions. Class schedule is primarily run around the Middletown Public School schedule. All classes are held at the Tonya Keller Community Center. For more information, call 732-615-3250.

ARTS CENTER

Jazz and Blues Festival comes to the Middletown Arts Center

The Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Foundation, which produced the Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival for many years, is presenting this year's Festival in three parts at three new locations, the first of which is at the Middletown Arts Center on July 23rd from 11:00 AM until 8:00 PM. This FREE event will feature performances by the Colts Neck Swing Band, The Cobra Brothers, Nine Below Zero, Mike Barris and Friends, Kimon and The Prophets, and Ron Sunshine and His Orchestra. The event will also include food and craft vendors and family activities. For a complete schedule, please visit www.jerseyshorefestival.org.



Keep Kids Creative and Cool at Summer Arts Camps at the MAC

The Middletown Arts Center will continue its summer tradition of presenting affordable arts camp programs for children and teens. This summer's camp will feature week-long camps in music, theatre, visual arts, fashion design, cartooning, animation, songwriting, guitar, video game design, dance, and more in our beautiful, air conditioned facility. Camp schedules vary to offer flexibility for busy families and include before care and after care options. The camp program ends September 2nd.

World Premier – "Broadway Jayne"

Young Stars on the Rise will present an original musical, "Broadway Jayne," to benefit the Middletown Arts Center on August 4, 5, 6 and 7th at the MAC. Come in, out of the heat, and enjoy this one-of-a-kind production before it heads to New York City! The show features talented teens from the community and promises to be entertaining for all.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and seniors. Visit www.middletownarts.org for more information.

2011 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

From left are (front row) Mayor Anthony Fiore, Deputy Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill, (back row), Committeeman Steve Massell, Committeeman Kevin M Settembrino, and Committeeman Gerard P. Scharfenberger

Township Committee meetings are open to the public and generally held the first and third Monday of the month. Township Committee members also can be reached through the Clerks' Office at 732-615-2015. Written comments and inquiries can be sent to Township Committee members and staff any time via e-mail at www.middlestownnj.org. Written correspondence can be sent to: Middletown Township Committee, c/o Township Clerk's Office, 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748.



Tax Collector's Message

The New Jersey Homestead Benefit has been applied directly to the May 2011 tax quarter for eligible homeowners. Please pay the amount shown on the adjusted bill if applicable.

The last day for payment of taxes without interest is 4:00 PM on May 10, August 10 and November 10.

Tax payments can be made by the following methods: Check, cash and credit card.*

Payments are accepted at the Tax Office. Payment windows open 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. To avoid lines at the Tax Office, please mail check and tax stub to Tax Collector, 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ, 07748.

ACH or credit card* payments can be made at www.middlestownnj.org. On-line payments (bill pay) authorize your bank to print a check and then mail it to the Tax Office. Please allow ample time for bank processing and mailing. On-line payments are not considered certified funds and if returned will be treated as a "Returned Check" and a fee may be applied. *Please note-there is a convenience fee imposed by the banks for all credit card payments either on-line or at the Tax Office.

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The newly minted Veterans Affairs Committee is responsible for reporting the concerns of veterans to the governing body, providing information on local state and federal veteran's programs and making recommendations on how to best meet the needs of veterans. Veterans and their families are welcome to attend a meeting for more information or leave a message at the Clerk's Office during business hours at 732-615-2015.

Live Where You Work

Middletown is among the newest members of the state's Live Where You Work Homebuyer Program.

The Live Where You Work Program was created by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and



LIVE WHERE YOU WORK
A PROGRAM OF THE NJ HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE AGENCY

offers low-interest mortgages and down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers who live and work in Middletown. For

more information contact Amy Sarrinikolaou, Assistant Director of Community Development at (732) 615-2289.

The Live Where You Work Program complements the BUY Middletown program, which encourages the community to support the local economy, and the Township's Green Initiative, an eco-friendly cache of programs and projects all designed to reduce our carbon footprint. Bringing the Live Where You Work program to Middletown also furthers municipal efforts to create a more environmentally sustainable community.

Fix Your Home

INTERESTED HOMEOWNERS WANTED

Do you need a new roof? Worried about an old heating system? Plumbing or electrical problems? Accessibility issues? If you are a Middletown homeowner, you may be eligible for home rehabilitation grant assistance from Middletown's Community Development Program funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to households that meet income limits. For more information, please call (732) 615-2281 or visit Planning and Community Development section of www.middlestownnj.org; the click the "Home Rehabilitation Program" link. For more information on HUD visit www.hud.gov.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE MAX GROSS INCOME

(effective 5/31/2011)

1 person	\$44,950	5 people	\$69,350
2 people	\$51,400	6 people	\$74,500
3 people	\$57,800	7 people	\$79,650
4 people	\$64,200	8 people	\$84,750

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Residents are invited to discuss issues related to township government with Mayor Anthony Fiore during his Open Office Hours held on the first and third Monday of each month (excluding federal holidays) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway No appointments are necessary. Residents are seen on a first-come, first served basis.

Residents can also reach Mayor Fiore by calling his office at 732-615-2024; Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Township Committee Workshop Meeting
Town Hall, 8 p.m.
1st Monday (monthly)
- Township Committee Regular Meeting
Town Hall, 8 p.m.
3rd Monday (monthly)
- Planning Board
Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
1st Wednesday (monthly)
- Zoning Board
Town Hall, 7 p.m.
4th Monday (monthly)
- Community Affairs Council
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.
1st Wednesday (monthly)
- Environmental Commission
Town Hall, 7 p.m.
3rd Wednesday (monthly)
- Human Rights Commission
Town Hall, 8 p.m.
4th Thursday (monthly)
- Landmarks Commission
Main Library, 7:30 p.m.
2nd Thursday (monthly)
- Library Board
Main Library, 7 p.m.
3rd Wednesday (monthly)
- Municipal Alliance
Crossroads, Croydon Hall, 8:30 a.m.
3rd Saturday (monthly)
- Recreation Advisory Committee
Middletown Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.
4th Monday (monthly)
- Safety Council
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.
3rd Thursday (monthly)
- Veteran's Affairs Committee
Town Hall, 7 p.m.
1st Tuesday (monthly)

Upcoming Public Meetings