

The Biggest
Small Town
in New
Jersey



MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

Middletown Main Library Voted Best Library in Monmouth County

December 2008
January 2009

INSIDE THIS EDITION

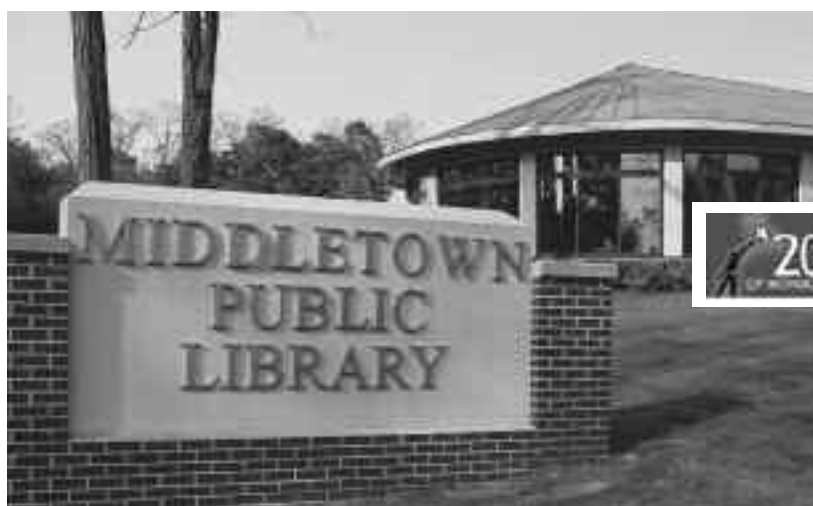
MAYOR'S MESSAGE
PAGE 3

CROSSROADS
PAGES 4-5

PARKS & RECREATION
PAGES 6-9

ARTS CENTER
PAGE 10

LIBRARY
PAGES 12-14



A recent poll of "Asbury Park Press" readers revealed that Middletown Main Library was voted the "Best" Library in Monmouth County. Middletown Main Library not only houses one of the most comprehensive book collections (including foreign language collections), but it also provides free educational, cultural, and entertainment programming for children, teens, and adults. Each staff member is dedicated to providing the best possible service to all of its patrons—from the young inquisitive visitor who comes with mom, to our active senior citizens. Visit Middletown Main Library and discover a world of information, ideas and activities that reside within its comfortable and welcoming setting.



Middletown Plans to Make Improvements to 12 Roads

Middletown is preparing to improve 12 roads and replace the Senior Center roof as part of the annual Capital program.

The design phases of five reconstruction projects are included in the program. The design phase includes engineering costs and coordination with the utility companies. The projects are:

- Delaware Avenue Area Reconstruction, Phase II, with improvements to be made on Erie Road from Raritan Avenue to Oneida Avenue and First Avenue;
- Campbell Avenue Area Reconstruction, Phase I, with improvements to be made on Campbell Avenue from Church Street to the bridge;
- Bayside Parkway Area Reconstruction, Phase I, with improvements on Bayside Parkway from Weehawken Avenue to Ocean Avenue;
- Cooper Boulevard Area Reconstruction, Phase I, with improvements on Cooper Boulevard from East Roosevelt Circle to the cul de sac.

The 2008 Roadway Resurfacing Program includes:

- Locust Point Road from Lakeside Avenue to Locust Avenue,
- Sieben Drive from Warren Place to Maxim Court,
- Kings Highway East from Route 35 to Heritage Drive,
- Chapel Hill Road from Route 35 to Lombardi Court,
- Pelican Road and Borden Road Intersection,
- Spruce Drive from Kings Highway to Brandywine Way,



From left to right are RACES Captain Mario Sellitti, AARL Ham of the Year David Mutterer and Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger. See New and Noteworthy on page 2 for more information.

- Sears Avenue from Monmouth Avenue to Valley Drive.

Funding is also allocated to make drainage improvements on Fish Hawk Drive and Grand Tour, replace the Croydon Hall Senior Center roof, and construct a truck wash at the Public Works yard as required by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Through annual capital program the township is able to address long-term improvements needed to be made to keep the township's infrastructure and facilities in working order, explained Mayor Gerard P. Scharfenberger.

Middletown Town Hall
1 Kings Highway
Middletown NJ 07748

POSTAL PATRON

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Middletown, NJ
Permit No. 45

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 Clerk 615-2014
(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

Middletown Emergency Radio

1620 AM

Business to Business Night

The Middletown Community Affairs Council is proud to report that the Middletown's inaugural Business to Business Night was a resounding success with nearly 150 representatives from local businesses in attendance. A few business owners had such a good time mingling with others from Middletown that they offered to host the next networking night! The event was held at the Middletown Arts Center with refreshments donated by Whole Foods. The Community Affairs Council hopes to make the networking opportunity an annual event.



From left are Community Affairs Council member Mitch Gotesky, Deputy Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill, Event Chairwoman Lori Anne Oliwa, and Community Affairs members Al Siano, Elizabeth Johnson, Craig Finnegan, and John Giordano.

Winter Road Safety

Residents are reminded to keep streets and sidewalks free from snow and safe for travel this winter. Residents should shovel their sidewalks and driveways as necessary without putting snow back into a recently-plowed street. When snow is returned to the street, it can turn to ice and create potentially more hazardous road conditions. To ensure the safety of Middletown's school children and pedestrians, property owners are required by ordinance to shovel sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of a snowstorm. Failure to comply with the ordinance can result in issuance of a warning notice. The property owner can be fined for each day the snow is not removed.

New & Noteworthy

TIETJEN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Mayor and Township Committee issued a proclamation recognizing the Tietjen family and the Police Officer Kenneth F. Tietjen Memorial Foundation for granting holiday wishes to needy families. The foundation, created to honor the memory of Kenny Tietjen, a 31-year-old Port Authority Police Officer who lost his life on 9/11, is formally working with the Social Services Department this year to bring holiday cheer to 150 Middletown families. Last year they helped more than 600 Monmouth County families. For information and donations visit www.kenttietjen.com.

PORICY PARK DONATION

Poricy Park earned nearly \$3,900 during a Whole Foods' Community Giving Day held on September 24. The store donated 5 percent of the day's net sales. Visit www.poricipark.org for a full listing of family-friendly events at the 250-acre nature preserve.

TOMASO PLAZA TURNS 30

Tenants of Alice V. Tomaso Plaza celebrated the building's 30th birthday in October. The complex, managed by the Middletown Housing Authority, has been offering affordable rental apartments to eligible seniors 62 and older since 1978. The six-story building, located on 7.74 acres at 2 Oakdale Drive, consists of 152 one and two-bedroom apartments.

CDBG GRANT ALLOCATION

2009 will mark 35 years of township participation in the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The 2009 allocation will be used to offer housing rehabilitation at owner-occupied income-eligible households and upgrade handicapped accessibility at some township facilities.

POLICE GRANTS

The Middletown Police Department Traffic Safety Bureau is receiving several state grants to help fund education and enforcement activities. These include a \$16,369.11 grant for DWI Drunk Driving Enforcement; a \$15,000 grant for the Rude Awakening program; a \$6,000 for child safety seat checkpoints; and \$5,000 for DWI enforcement during the holiday season. The department is also receiving \$9,578 to purchase bullet proof vests.

HAM OF THE YEAR

David Mutterer, KC2H, received the Ham of the Year Award from the American Radio Relay League for his outstanding contributions to the world of amateur radio. Mutterer is a dedicated member of the of the township's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, which provides supplementary assistance to the Communication Department.

WHITE HOUSE VISIT

Middletown Emergency Management Operations Chief Charles Ehret attended a special gathering of volunteers at the invitation of President George W. Bush. Ehret coordinates Middletown's Community Emergency Response Team. Our CERT is one of the largest teams in New Jersey.

'I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE'

The Mayor and Township Committee issued a proclamation commemorating April 25, 1893 as the date the nation's Pledge of Allegiance was officially recited for the first time. The oath was said at a grand patriotic affair at the Navesink Light Station, better known as the Twin Lights. At the time of the event, the Twin Lights was a part of Middletown Township!



Message from the Mayor

Gerry Scharfenberger Ph.D.

2008 Year in Review

For my final column of 2008, I thought I would briefly review the past year and then outline some of our goals for 2009. While the headlines are filled with unnerving reports of economic troubles, particularly in the state of New Jersey, Middletown Township has managed to buck the trend with some good news on a number of fronts.

First, I am proud to say that Middletown was named one of the top 100 places to live in the United States by Money Magazine for the second time in three years (Last year, the magazine only considered towns under 50,000 in population). The magazine cited among others, the township's "low crime rate, good schools and abundance of cultural and leisure activities." Middletown also had its magnificent AA bond rating reaffirmed by both Moody's Investor Services and Standard and Poors. This is a testament to the town's sound financial operations, low debt and stable tax base. In addition, Middletown's budgeting process was once again held up as a model for the rest of the state to follow by the League of Municipalities, who include it as must reading in their elected officials handbook. Our budget also passed the rigorous state audit with flying colors once again, and our purchasing department has a remarkable streak of flawless audits for twelve years in a row.

This year, Middletown also saw the completion of the Recreation Master Plan, which will help to guide us in upgrading and expanding our wonderful recreation facilities in the coming years. We are hopeful that we can attend to those facilities needing repairs and improvements and expand others to provide activities that are underrepresented in our present offerings. The new Middletown Arts Center, in its first full year of operation, has surpassed all expectations in terms of event attendance and participation in the dozens of programs available for every age and ability and promises to be a beacon of artistic expression and activity for decades to come.

Middletown has also taken the lead in the state by showing our support for the brave soldiers overseas fighting to protect our country and way of life. Through generous donations from our fellow citizens, we were able to send nearly two tons of supplies to our adopted troop, Charlie Company of the 82nd Airborne Division stationed in Iraq. I was never more proud of Middletown and its wonderful residents as when the commanding officers told me that the supplies we sent to Iraq actually saved the lives of American soldiers. Villagers became allies after troops distributed pencils and paper, items that we take for granted, but mean the world to children who can just as easily be taught to read and write as they can to set a roadside bomb. Our generosity made an enormous difference in the struggle to calm a troubled region.

Now, for the coming year. While there are many things that we are looking forward to accomplishing next year, perhaps none is as critical as addressing local property taxes.

To summarize the property tax structure, the Board of Education accounts for approximately 64% of the tax bill, while the county portion is 18% and the remaining 18% goes to the township. The township portion goes to provide essential services (i.e. police, public works, parks and recreation), infrastructure repairs (i.e. paving roads), equipment purchases (i.e. police cars, snow plows) and energy costs (fuel, heating oil). As the cost of these items increase, so too does the pressure on local property taxes. Thus, we find ourselves at a crossroads. Clearly, we cannot depend on support from Trenton. Indeed, they have exacerbated the situation by cutting our municipal aid and foisting costly unfunded mandates and pension costs upon us. Simply put, we can no longer afford to wait for the state government to get its house in order in the hopes of property tax relief trickling down to the suburban towns.

We must get creative and find ways to cut costs and pay for essential services without relying on local property taxes.

To that end, we are looking at a number of ways to shift the burden from the taxpayer to alternative means of funding essential services. One of the most promising will be the savings from the expanded Green Initiative. We have already cut our energy costs in half on select vehicles by simply using used cooking oil as a fuel additive. Increasing interlocal agreements will allow the town to generate additional revenue through new or existing services that can be utilized by other municipalities. Instituting a farmers market will not only foster community spirit and provide an outlet for locally grown produce, but provide a new source of revenue for the town. Aggressively pursuing businesses to fill existing commercial space will increase the commercial tax base without sacrificing open space. Increasing participation in township programs helps to support departments through fees, rather than taxpayer dollars. These are just some of the ideas that we will implement in the coming year.

In closing, I just want to thank all of the residents for doing their part to make Middletown the special place it is. Despite the uncertainty that we face economically and the slippery slope that finds New Jersey struggling to divest itself of the unenviable distinction of having the highest taxes in the nation, Middletown has managed to maintain its high standard of living and unshakeable community spirit. I can promise that we will continue to work tirelessly to see that Middletown remains the great community it is, and, as it has so many times in the past, sets the example for all that is right with New Jersey.

2008 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

GERARD P. SCHARFENBERGER, PH.D.
MAYOR

PAMELA M. BRIGHTBILL
DEPUTY MAYOR

SEAN F. BYRNES, ESQ.
COMMITTEEMAN

PATRICK SHORT
COMMITTEEMAN

THOMAS P. WILKENS
COMMITTEEMAN

ANTHONY MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP
TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

HEIDI R. ABS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

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

CINDY A. HERRSCHAFT
EDITOR

GRAPHICOLOR CORPORATION
PRINTING

**One Bad Decision
Is All It Takes To
Ruin Your Life!**



MIDDLETOWN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

2009 Alliance Members and Meeting Schedule

The Middletown Alliance was established by township resolution in February 1990 to provide grass root volunteers an opportunity to make direct, effective change to their community's specific substance abuse problems. Individuals included in the Alliance's membership represent the Middletown Township Committee, school officials, businesses, Middletown Police, individuals in recovery, high school students, the judicial community, substance abuse counselors, and, grieving parents. Alliance members come together to make a difference in prevention education services and public awareness of alcoholism and drug abuse. They are diverse in their personal and professional lives but together they are a network creating a positive impact in the community where we work and live.

The Alliance meets on the third Saturday of each month. There are no meetings during July and August. All meetings begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and are 1 hour in duration. Meetings are held at Crossroads at Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo. The date for 2009 are as follows: January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19.

CROSSROADS CONTACT INFORMATION

ALCOHOL AND DRUG PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Ret. Det. Mike Slover, Director & Chairperson
732-615-2277
mslover@middletownnj.org

GENERAL ALLIANCE INFORMATION

Fern B. Foster, Coordinator
732-615-2269
ffoster@middletownnj.org

EARLY INTERVENTION, ASSESSMENTS & COUNSELING

Mark A. Generoso, Clinical Supervisor
732-615-2275
mgeneros@middletownnj.org

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM

Madolyn F. Smith, Senior Therapist
732-615-2279
msmith@middletownnj.org

Mail: 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737

Fax: 732-291-4398

Why Do We Have A Municipal Alliance?

Middletown Township is a forty-two square mile municipality that more than 69,000 neighbors call home. We are a unique collection of nine neighborhoods, each with its own flavor and personality. Together we form a dynamic community. As parents, friends, brothers and sisters, the Middletown Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse recognizes that we have to take more proactive measures instead of reactive measures to educate the public and, most importantly, our young children. We represent residents of all ages with opportunities to learn about the current realities of alcoholism and drug abuse and to ask questions will that help them protect their loved ones.

Although tragic events afford an immediate opportunity to disseminate facts, it's too late. The Middletown Alliance does everything it can to educate our residents before a tragedy occurs. An evaluation through Early Identification, Intervention and Referral results in utilizing appropriate substance abuse services. By accurately presenting the health, legal, and personal consequences of alcohol misuse and drug abuse, the common programmatic theme revolves around "it only takes one night of bad judgment to ruin your life and the lives of those who love you". Local recognition of Alcohol

Awareness Month every April, National Recovery Month every September, and Drugged and Drunk Driving Month every December, reminds residents that no community is exempt from the devastation associated with the disease of addiction.

Fifth-grade students who participate in Project P.L.U.S. (Peer Leaders Understanding Students) emerge with the potential to be middle school peer leaders helping one another avoid alcohol, drugs, and tobacco as they mature into healthy, productive adults. They absorb the real life stories of guest speakers and communicate their new-found knowledge with their peers and parents.

The interactive Reaching Out program provides a consolidated continuum of our prevention education programs offered to youth and adults. Professionals representing the legal, police, and education communities come together with parents and youth to collaborate to develop a community action plan that will save lives. Networking within our community continues to contribute to preventing substance abuse related tragedies, ultimately resulting in a better quality of life for all our citizens.

Fifth-Grade Project P.L.U.S.

Project P.L.U.S. (Peer Leaders Understanding Students) is a free after-school peer leadership program for any fifth grade student interested in devoting time and effort

to a program that has the potential to save lives. The program's goal is to prepare fifth grade students for the upper grades and teach them the health and legal consequences of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

More than 850 students have completed the program over the past 7 years. Their most popular comments were:

"I wish the program was longer."

"I met new friends."

"It was great to have fun and learn at the same time."

"I'll never forget Project P.L.U.S."

Speakers include the municipal court judge, police, high school students, grieving families, recovering addicts, and members of the Municipal Alliance. Each week the program is facilitated by Retired Detective Sergeant Mike Slover. Fifth grade students are grouped by the middle school they will be attending.

The first program for the current school year is made up more than 125 students who attend Bayview, Fairview,

Leonardo, and Navesink Elementary schools and feed into Bayshore Middle School. They meet on one of two evenings each week for eight weeks at the Senior Center at Croydon Hall. The final program for each group culminates in a Completion Ceremony. With Parents and Principals in attendance, Middletown's Mayor presents each student with a certificate of completion. The celebration includes pizza and ice cream.

A component of the Project P.L.U.S. program is a parent workshop. Registration for the township's remaining fifth grade students will take place in 2009. Registration will be announced within each of Middletown's public elementary schools as well as participating private and parochial schools. For information contact Mike Slover at (732)615-2277.



REACHING OUT



To Prevent
Alcoholism and
Drug Abuse

Municipal Alliance Collecting Cell Phones, MP3s and PDAs

Did you recently upgrade your cell phone? Do you have an old MP3 player or PDA taking up space? Donate your old phones, MP3s, iPods and PDAs to the Municipal Alliance. Old and unwanted phones, MP3s, iPods and PDAs are being collected to raise funds for the township's alcohol and drug prevention education programs.



Devices do not have to be in working order. However, newer working models generate more funds for the Alliance. As part of the township's Green Initiative, batteries, cradles and phone cords are also accepted.

Collection boxes are located Town Hall, the Johnson-Gill Annex, the Parks and Recreation Office, and Crossroads at Croydon Hall. Contact Fern Foster 732-615-2269 for information.

Dangers of prescription drug abuse from theantidrug.com

Although teens are turning away from street drugs, now there's a new threat and it's from the family medicine cabinet: The abuse of prescription (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs.

Parents and caregivers are the first line of defense in addressing this troubling trend.

What's the problem?

Teens are abusing some prescription and over-the-counter drugs to get high. This includes painkillers, such as those drugs prescribed after surgery; depressants, such as sleeping pills or anti-anxiety drugs; and stimulants, such as those drugs prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Teens are also abusing over-the-counter drugs, such as cough and cold remedies.

Because these drugs are so readily available, and many teens believe they are a safe way to get high, teens who wouldn't otherwise touch illicit drugs might abuse prescription drugs. And not many parents are talking to them about it, even though teens report that parental disapproval is a powerful way to keep them away from drugs.

Is your teen using OTC drugs to get high?

Signs and symptoms of abuse may include short term effects such as impaired judgment, nausea, loss of coordination, headache, vomiting, loss of consciousness, numbness of fingers and toes, abdominal pain, irregular heartbeat, aches, seizures, panic attacks, psychosis, euphoria, cold flashes, dizziness, and diarrhea.

Long term effects may include addiction, restlessness, insomnia, high-blood pressure, coma, or even death.

Where do teens get them?

In many parts of the country, teens can easily buy OTC cough and cold remedies at any supermarket, drugstore, or convenience store where these products are sold. They can also get them from home, or order them over the Internet. And even if they do not order OTC drugs online, they can surf the Web to find information and videos on what drugs to try and mix together.

How do teens abuse OTC drugs?

Teens take large doses to get high, sometimes mixing these drugs with prescription drugs, street drugs, or alcohol. Some teens crush pills and snort them for an intensified effect.

Could your teen overdose on OTC drugs?

Yes. The point at which teens may overdose on OTC drugs varies depending on the amount of the drugs they took, over what time period, and if other drugs were mixed. Some OTC drugs are weak and cause minor distress, while others are very strong and can cause more serious problems or even death. If you suspect your teen has overdosed on OTC drugs, take them to the emergency room or call an ambulance immediately for proper care and treatment by a medical doctor.

Tips for Preventing Rx Abuse

Safeguard all drugs at home. Monitor quantities and control access. Take note of how many pills are in a bottle or pill packet, and keep track of refills. This goes for your own medication, as well as for your teen and other members of your household. If you find you have to refill medication more often than expected, there could be a real problem—someone may be taking your medication without your knowledge. If your teen has been prescribed a drug, be sure you control the medication, and monitor dosages and refills.

Think about your home. What prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs do you have? Where are they kept? Would you know if some were missing?

Set clear rules for teens about all drug use, including not sharing medicine and always following the medical provider's advice and dosages. Make sure your teen uses prescription drugs only as directed by a medical provider and follows instructions for OTC products carefully. This includes taking the proper dosage and not using with other substances without a medical provider's approval. If you have any questions about how to take a drug, call your family physician or pharmacist.

Be a good role model by following these same rules with your own medicines.

Examine your own behavior to ensure you set a good example. If you misuse your prescription drugs, such as share them with your kids, or abuse them, your teen will take notice.

Properly conceal and dispose of old or unused medicines in the trash.

Unused prescription drugs should be hidden and thrown away in the trash. So that teens or others don't take them out of the trash, you can mix them with an undesirable substance (like used coffee grounds or kitty litter) and put the mixture in an empty can or bag. Unless the directions say otherwise, do NOT flush medications down the drain or toilet because the chemicals can pollute the water supply. Also, remove any personal,

identifiable information from prescription bottles or pill packages before you throw them away.

Ask friends and family to safeguard their prescription drugs as well.

Make sure your friends and relatives, especially grandparents, know about the risks, too, and encourage them to regularly monitor their own medicine cabinets.

Talk to your teen about the dangers of abusing prescription and over-the-counter drugs. These are powerful drugs that, when abused, can be just as dangerous as street drugs

12-STEP SELF-HELP CONTACTS

Alcoholics Anonymous
(800) 245-1377

Al-Anon and Ala-Teen
(732) 536-5676

Narcotics Anonymous
(800) 992-0401

Nar-Anon
(732) 409-1238

For links to these and additional self-help groups, please visit www.middletonnj.org/crossroads/12-step.asp Site includes group details and meeting locations.

ADOLESCENT AND ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING SERVICES

The Community Based program at Crossroads provides short-term outpatient treatment at no charge to Middletown residents. A substance abuse evaluation is the first step in the counseling process. To schedule a free & confidential appointment call Mark A. Generoso at (732)615-2275.

ALLIANCE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

K.I.D.S.

Kids Instructed on Dangerous Substances is an educational prevention program for children five to fifteen years old. The children will learn the health and legal consequences of involvement with substance abuse.

Reaching Out

Reaching Out is a program designed to bring the public, professionals, recovering addicts, and grieving families together in an open forum to discuss all aspects regarding substance abuse.

G.L.A.D.

Grown-ups Learning About Drugs is an educational prevention program for adults. Participants will learn the health and legal consequences of involvement with substance abuse.



Adult Instructional & Activity Programs

BEGINNERS COMPUTERS

Learn basic computer skills from turning on the computer to running programs including Microsoft Word and Excel. Create simple letters, spreadsheets and more.

Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m. (5 weeks)
First class starts January 7, 2009
Code #421112-01 Cost \$60.00
Thorne Middle School Computer Lab

INTERMEDIATE COMPUTERS

This course is designed for the person who has computer knowledge and wants to improve their skills. Learn advance techniques in Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point and Publisher. Create letters, spreadsheets, presentations and more.

Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m. (5 weeks)
First class starts February 18, 2009
Code #421112-02 Cost \$60.00
Thorne Middle School Computer Lab

BEGINNERS CERAMICS

Learn to decorate various figures from pre-cast molds. Instruction by certified teacher.

Thursdays 5:45-7:15 p.m. (6 weeks)
First class starts January 8, 2009
Code # 421030-01
Cost \$55.00 including all supplies.
Croydon Hall Activity Center

FITNESS PROGRAMS

ALL FITNESS PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE CROYDON HALL GYMNASIUM.

YOGA

Yoga allows you to enhance creativity, create energy and reduce stress. Meditation, posture, breathing and relaxation will help to improve health function of the body and mind.

BEGINNERS
Mondays 10:00-11:00 a.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 5, 2009
Code #421222-01 Cost \$35.00

Saturdays 8:15-9:15 a.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 10, 2009
Code #421222-02 Cost \$35.00

BALANCE & STRETCH

This fitness program focuses on strengthening muscles needed for balance, flexibility, mobility and stability.

Mondays 8:15-9:00 a.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 5, 2009
Code #421223-01 Cost \$35.00

Tuesdays 8:15-9:00 a.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 6, 2009
Code #421223-02 Cost \$35.00

BODY TONING

This program is designed to help better condition and improve muscle tone, shape and to improve cardiac output with the use of free weights and exercise.

Mondays 9:00-10:00 a.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 5, 2009
Code #421221-01 Cost \$35.00

Wednesdays 7:15-8:00 p.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 7, 2009
Code #421221-02 Cost \$35.00

KICK BOXING

The program is a moderate to high energy cardiovascular workout program that combines kick boxing techniques to work the upper body, lower body and abdominals.

Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 5, 2009
Code #421114-01 Cost \$35.00

LOW IMPACT CARDIO

Beginner, intermediate and advanced low-impact aerobic exercises are demonstrated. Everyone is encouraged to work at their own comfort level.

Wednesdays 6:30-7:15 p.m. (12 weeks)
First class starts January 7, 2009
Code #421116-01 Cost \$35.00

Thursdays 9:00-10:00 a.m. (12 weeks)
First Class starts January 8, 2009
Code # 421116-02 Cost \$35.00

FITNESS PROGRAMS SPECIAL OFFER

Register for any two (2) programs at the same time.
Code #421119-01 Cost \$60.00
Register for any three (3) programs at the same time
Code #421115-01 Cost \$90.00

PERSONAL TRAINING - GROUP

This program is designed with the personal touch in mind. Participants are evaluated for individual needs and abilities. Programs are developed based on evaluation and monitored during six week period. Limited enrollment per session. Session run for 6 weeks twice per week unless otherwise noted. Personal training programs are held at the Croydon Hall gymnasium.

Mondays 11:00 a.m. to noon
Fridays 10:30a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
First class starts January 5, 2009
Code #421220-01 Cost \$95.00

Mondays & Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.
First class starts January 5, 2009
Code #421220-02 Cost \$95.00

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.
First class starts January 6, 2009
Code #421220-03 Cost \$95.00

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to noon
First class starts January 6, 2009
Code #421220-04 Cost \$95.00

Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.
First class starts January 6, 2009
Code #421220-05 Cost \$95.00

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Fridays 11:00 a.m. to noon
First class starts January 7, 2009
Code #421220-06 Cost \$95.00

Fridays 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Once per week for 6 weeks
First class starts January 9, 2009
Code #421220-07 Cost \$50.00

Saturdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Once per week for 6 weeks
First Class starts January 10, 2009
Code #421220-08 Cost \$50.00

SECOND SESSIONS

Mondays 11:00 a.m. to noon
Fridays 10:30-11:30a.m.
First class starts February 16, 2009
Code #421220-09 Cost \$95.00

Mondays & Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.
First class starts February 16, 2009
Code #421220-10 Cost \$95.00

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m.
First class starts February 17, 2009
Code #421220-11 Cost \$95.00

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 a.m. to noon
First class starts February 17, 2009
Code #421220-12 Cost \$95.00

Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.
First class starts February 17, 2009
Code #421220-13 Cost \$95.00

Wednesdays 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Fridays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m.
First class starts February 20, 2009
Code #421220-14 Cost \$95.00

Fridays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Once per week for 6 weeks
First class starts February 20, 2009
Code #421220-15 Cost \$50.00

Saturdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Once per week for 6 weeks
First class starts February 21, 2009
Code #421220-16 Cost \$50.00

PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Parents/Guardians Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Email _____ Emergency Phone _____

Participant Information

Code # _____ Activity Name _____
Participants Name _____ M/F _____ Age _____
Fee _____

Form of Payment: 1. Cash _____ 2. Check _____ Total Enclosed _____

Parent's Signature _____

Mail to : Middletown Parks and Recreation: 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737

& CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Adult Instructional & Activity Programs

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOPS

This 4-hour workshop teaches several effective self-defense techniques to use in case of attack. Come and learn easy techniques that, when used correctly, can ward off an assailant no matter how big. There will be opportunities to practice assault scenarios and escape options in class.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

January 10, 2009

Code #421213-01 Cost \$30.00

Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

January 14, 2009

Code #421213-02 Cost \$30.00

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

January 22, 2009

Code #421213-03 Cost \$30.00

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1p.m.

January 24, 2009

Code #421213-04 Cost \$30.00

PILATES BODY SCULPTURE

Pilates will strengthen and lengthen muscles, improve posture and flexibility and build core strength. These workouts will help to sculpture your body in ways that normal exercise does not accomplish.

Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. (12 weeks)

First Class starts January 5, 2009

Code #421118-01

Cost \$35.00

Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (12 weeks)

First Class starts, January 6, 2009

Code #421118-02 Cost \$35.00

WOMEN'S CIRCUIT TRAINING

This program is designed as a come when you want program. You can go any day of the week. One month use. NEW STUDENTS ONLY

Sunday-Saturday 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

New session starts every day

Code #421230-01 Cost \$35.00

Centrex/Fit Express

887 Rt. 35, Middletown

ADULT KARATE/KICKBOXING

Learn basic karate and kick boxing moves and discipline for fitness and health. Instruction by Black Belt. Uniform required. May be purchased at first session

Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.

& Thursdays 8:00-9:00 p.m.

(5 weeks)

First class starts January 7, 2009

Code #421211-01 Cost \$45.00

Amato's Karate, 509 Palmer Ave., Middletown

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Enjoy this co-ed sport with teams picked on a weekly basis. Great exercise and socialization.

Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 p.m.

First session starts January 6, 2009

Code #421117-01 Cost \$35.00

Croydon Hall Gymnasium

YOGA FOR RELAXATION

Meditation, posture, breathing and relaxation improve the health function of the body and mind. Yoga allows you to enhance creativity, create energy and reduce stress.

BEGINNERS

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (10 weeks)

First session starts January 6, 2009

Code#421210-02 Cost \$60.00

Croydon Hall Senior Center East Wing

INTERMEDIATE

For those that have already completed the beginners program.

Mondays 7:00-8:30 p.m. (10 weeks)

First session starts January 5, 2009

Code#421210-01 Cost \$60.00

Croydon Hall Senior Center East Wing

ADULT OPEN BASKETBALL

Open basketball for adults. New teams formed each week with participants present. All participants must be 18 years old or older. Participants must register in person at the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Office. The \$10.00 fee covers the 2009/2010 school year. ID Cards will be issued and must be presented at each session. There will be no session when school is closed.

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30p.m.

First Session starts January 6, 2009

Code # 421800-01 Cost \$10.00

Thompson Middle School

Middletown/Lincroft Rd, Middletown

Middletown residents ONLY!

Registration Information

NO telephone registrations accepted. Please complete registration forms as completely as possible. All programs are for ten (10) weeks unless otherwise noted. Instructors reserve the right to place participants in another class section if abilities warrant a change.

SENIORS FREE PROGRAM POLICY

Middletown Seniors Citizens are permitted to attend classes held at Croydon Hall free of charge of space is available with the following stipulations. No class is to have more than 6 free Middletown Seniors (only 3 free seniors in class that has a maximum of 12 or less participants). No Middletown Senior may sign up for more than 1 free class per session. Registration starts the first day that the session program is distributed to Middletown households on a first-come, first-served basis at the Parks Office ONLY. Proof of residency is required.

Space is limited in all programs. Registration is on a first-come, first served basis. Participants will only be called if class is cancelled or postponed. Non-residents will be placed on a waiting list and called if a class is not filled. Refunds will only be granted up to and before the second class of the program. Refund fee is \$5.00.

Ways to Register

In person - Visit the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Office, 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07748

Mail - Make checks payable to: Middletown Parks Recreation & Cultural Affairs. Mail to the above address with registration form.

Online - Visit www.middletonnj.org, Click on 'Parks and Recreation', then 'Online registration.'

Senior Center

The Middletown Senior Center welcomes Middletown residents 60 or older to become a member. Registration is free and required to participate in Senior Center events. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Transportation provided to events for registered members with advance reservation. Events are held in the East Wing of the Senior Center unless otherwise noted. All events begin at 1 p.m. unless noted otherwise. Seniors wishing to be transported to the Senior Center to register can call 732-615-2265.

DECEMBER 23

HOLIDAY BINGO

Don't miss the prizes and surprises!

JANUARY 6, 11:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

AVOIDING STROKES AND HEART ATTACKS

Begin the New Year on a healthful note The Senior Health Network will provide information on how to avoid a stroke or future heart attack. Bring your own lunch.

JANUARY 16

JERSEY SHORE LEGENDS SHOWCASE

Chase the winter blues away by coming to see the "Jersey Shore Legends Showcase". This entertaining group will be appearing in the Croydon Hall Gym 1:00-3:00 p.m. You will actually think they are the real singers they imitate! Sign up by Jan. 13. \$1.00 donation.

JANUARY 29

CHINESE LUNCHEON & AUCTION

Sign up and bring in a new item by Jan. 22. Cost for lunch is \$7.00.

FEBRUARY 5

ENERGY GAME

Try this energizing game presented by NJ Natural Gas Co. Learn tips to conserve energy and save on your bills. Prizes.

FEBRUARY 12

VALENTINE

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Doug Alt entertains by singing love songs and the songs we love. Refreshments.



T.K. Bayshore Recreation Center

Just for Toddlers

Classes for 18 months to Pre-K. Arts & crafts, stories, music and more.

Activities

Ceramics for Juniors, Aerobics and Ceramics for Adults

Call 732-787-1880 for full class schedule.



Youth Instructional & Teen Activity Programs

SCIENCE ENRICHMENT

Learn a new phase of science each week. Uncover secrets of chemistry. Create awesome smoke illusions. Learn about light, colors, holograms and special effects. Investigate matter. Build your own model rocket. Discover space. Look at planets, moons, comets and the stars. Take part in a model rocket launching and more. Classes held at the Croydon Hall Activity Center.

Grades K-2

Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m. (8 weeks)

First session starts February 18, 2009

Code # 411400-01 Cost \$99.00

Grades 3-5

Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 p.m. (8 weeks)

First session starts February 18, 2009

Code # 411400-02 Cost \$99.00

COMPUTERTOTS

PROGRAMMING WITH PRO-BOT

Grades K-2

Pro-Bot is a robot designed for kids and shaped like a car! Write programs on the computer and download them to Pro-Bot. Use arrows and numbers, light, touch and sounds sensors, and practice cause and effect when you program Pro-Bot to zoom around at your command!

Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m. (8 weeks)

First session starts February 3, 2009

Code # 411450-01 Cost \$99.00

CONNECTING WITH ENGINEERING

Grades 3-4

Using TechnoK[™]NEX[™] systems our young engineers will build large functioning models using motors, lights and sensors. They will link their model to a computer and learn how to program it using state-of-the-art computer control technology.

Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 p.m. (8 weeks)

First sessions starts on February 4, 2009

Code # 411450-02 Cost \$99.00

VIDEO GAME ANIMATION - SCRATCH

Grades 5-6

Dive into the world of animation by creating characters that dance, sing and interact with one another. Add sound effects and music clips to create a dynamic video animation using Scratch, the innovative programming language created just for kids by the MIT Media Lab. Videos can be posted online.

Wednesdays 4:00-5:30 p.m. (8 weeks)

First sessions starts on February 5, 2009

Code 411450-03 Cost \$130.00

BEGINNERS CERAMICS

Boys and girls 7-14 years old. Learn to decorate various figures from pre-cast molds. Instruction by certified teacher.

Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (6 weeks)

First session starts January 8, 2009

Code # 411030-01

Cost \$55.00 including all supplies.

Croydon Hall Activity Center

YOUNG BOWLERS

For boys and girls 5-14 years old. This 12-week program costs \$7.00 per participant per week for 2 games. Includes rental shoes, balls, trophies and tee shirts. Programs held at the Brunswick Zone, Hazlet. Registration cost is \$10 per program.

Wednesdays 4:00 p.m.

Starting January 21, 2009

Code #411085-01

Saturdays, 11:40 a.m.

Starting January 24, 2009

Code #411085-02

Adult & Youth Program

Sundays 4:30 p.m.

Starting February 8, 2009

Code #431085-01

GYMNASTICS

Instruction for beginners Learn basic gymnastic skills, including tumbling and jumps. Instruction by accomplished gymnast. Dress in loose, comfortable sweats. Classes held at Head Over Heels Gymnastics, Kanes Lane, Middletown. First time students only.

For boys and girls 4 and 5 years old

Saturdays 12:45-1:45 p.m. (10 weeks)

First session starts January 10, 2009

Code #411010-01 Cost \$35.00

For boys and girls 6-10 years old

Saturdays 1:45-2:45 p.m. (10 weeks)

First session starts January 10, 2009

Code #411010-02 Cost \$35.00

INDOOR SOCCER PROGRAM

This program is designed to assist young boys and girls in developing skills and techniques they can use to enjoy soccer as a sport and recreational activity. Activities include fun mini-games that will teach the child the various aspects of soccer. Instruction provided by qualified instructors/coaches from New Jersey Youth Soccer Organizations.

For boys and girls from 5-6 years old

Wednesdays, 4:00pm to 5:00pm (6 weeks)

First session starts January 7, 2009

Code #411091-01 Cost \$35.00

Limited space available

BASIC KARATE

For boys and girls 4 years old and older Learn basic karate moves and discipline. Instruction by Black Belt. Uniform required. May be purchased at 1st session. Classes held at Amatos Karate, 509 Palmer Avenue, Middletown

Saturdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. (10 weeks)

First session starts January 10, 2009

Code #411093-01 Cost \$35.00

Saturdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. (10 weeks)

First session starts March 21, 2009

Code #411093-02 Cost \$35.00

PERSONAL TRAINING - GROUP TEENS

Participants are evaluated for individual needs and abilities. Programs are developed based on evaluation and monitored during 6 week period. For youth 13 to 17 years old. Limited enrollment per session and each session runs for 6 weeks. All personal training programs are held at the Croydon Hall gym training room.

Tuesday & Thursdays 4:30-5:30 p.m.

First class starts January 6, 2009

Code #4121220-01 Cost \$95.00

Saturdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

First class starts January 10, 2009

Code #4121220-02 Cost \$50.00

Saturdays 11:30-12:30 p.m.

First class starts January 10, 2009

Code #4121220-03 Cost \$50.00

SECOND SESSIONS

Tuesday & Thursdays 4:30-5:30 p.m.

First class starts February 17, 2009

Code #4121220-04 Cost \$95.00

Saturdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

First class starts February 21, 2009

Code #4121220-05 Cost \$50.00

Saturdays 11:30am to 12:30 p.m.

First class starts February 21, 2009

Code #4121220-06 Cost \$50.00



Spring 2009 Roller Hockey League

March through June

Teams forming in the under 8 through 19-year-old age groups Tiny Tots program for children 6 and under also available

Fee is \$95.00 per player. Includes 10 games plus playoff, referee fees, insurance, jersey and awards.

Registration
Friday, February 6, 2009
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 7, 2009
12:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 8, 2009
2:00-6:00 p.m.

Croydon Hall
900 Leonardville Road
Leonardo, NJ
(732)615-2260

Middletown Swim & Tennis Club

Memberships will be available for the 2009 season. Come join friends and neighbors at the improved Swim and Tennis Club

Look for membership application in January at www.middletownnj.org

Cabanas and Bathhouses are available on a seasonal basis. Club amenities include: 4 Pools, 5 tennis Courts, basketball, acres of picnic areas, swim lessons, swim team, tennis team/lessons, snack bar.

Call 671- 5757 to join the mailing list!

& CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Special Events and Trips

Saturday, January 31 Family Ski Trip

Mountain Creek Ski Area, Vernon, NJ
Whether you ski or snowboard you and your family are certain to enjoy this amazing mountain facility. Several packages are offered. Price varies by package. Fee includes ski package and charter bus transportation. Departs: 7:00 a.m. Returns: Approximately 7:00 p.m.



Saturday, February 14 Family Ski Trip

Camelback Ski Resort
A great day for families who love to ski. Many packages will be offered for skiing, snow boarding, and tubing. Prices vary by package. Fees include ski package and charter bus transportation. Departs: 7:00 a.m. Returns: Approximately 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 14 American Museum of Natural History & Hayden Planetarium

This New York City museum has it all from dinosaurs to IMAX films to the Hayden Planetarium, one of the world's most powerful virtual reality simulators! Fee to be announced. Includes admission to all special exhibits and bus transportation. There is a food court at the museum for those wishing to purchase lunch. Departs: 9:00 a.m. Returns: Approximately 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29 Wizard of Oz

There truly is no place like home as the greatest family musical of all time, the Wizard of Oz, twists its way into New York City! The entire family will be captivated as they travel down the Yellow Brick Road and beyond with Dorothy, Toto and their friends the Cowardly Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow in this lavish production featuring breathtaking special effects, dazzling choreography and classic songs. Fee to be announced. Includes charter bus transportation and lower level seats in the WaMu theater, Madison Square Garden, NYC. Show time is 11 a.m. Departs: 8:15 a.m. Returns: Immediately after the show



Sunday, April 5 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus

This is a great show for all ages. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey have extraordinary things in store for their ZING ZANG ZOOM All-New Red Tour of the Greatest Show on Earth. Fee to be announced. Includes charter bus transportation and lower level seats at Madison Square Garden, NYC. Showtime is 11 a.m. Departs: 8:15 a.m. Returns: Immediately after the show

Saturday, April 18th Philadelphia Zoo

The Philadelphia Zoo's 42-acre Victorian garden is home to more than 1,300 animals, many of them rare and endangered. Cheetahs, hippos, giraffes and more make the zoo Philadelphia's leading family attraction with over 1.2 million visitors last year. Fee to be announced. Includes charter bus transportation and all-access tickets. Departs: 9:30 a.m. Returns: Approximately 6:30 p.m.

Annual Girls' Night Sat. March 21, Sat. March 28, Fri. April 17*

Moms will have the opportunity to escort their daughters (Grades K-5) to an evening of fun and dancing. Event held from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Includes a dinner buffet, DJ, 5x7 photo of mom and daughter, and a special gift for each daughter. Middletown residents only. Fee to be announced. Registration begins January 20, 2009. (*dates are tentative)

Fees and Registration

For fees and other information, call Parks and Recreation Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 732-615-2260. All bus trips depart from and return to the Johnson Gill Annex at Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway. Register for trips and special events in person at the Parks and Recreation Croydon Hall or by mail to Middletown Parks and Recreation, 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo, NJ 07737.

Middletown Community Art Show Series

The Middletown Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the Middletown Cultural and Arts Council are partnering to bring you four separate art shows. All shows will be held at the Middletown Arts Center, 36 Church Street. Pre-registration is required to participate. Entry forms are available at the Arts Center and Parks & Recreation Office at Croydon Hall. All artwork is to be submitted to the Arts Center on the dates listed below. Space is limited.

Youth Art Show February 28 - March 8, 2009

Awards Reception Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. Open to young artists 8-12 and 13-17 as well as high school seniors. Art Work will be accepted on Monday, Feb 23 and Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009, 3:00-8:00p.m. Fee is \$2 per entry. Limit 5 entries.

Professional Art Show April 18 - 26

Award Reception Friday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. Open to adult professional artists. Professional artists are considered to be those who sell their work. Entry fee is \$25 with a maximum for 5 framed entries. Size restrictions apply. Artists may also enter unframed, matted artwork for display in our print racks. Artwork will be accepted at the Arts Center on Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Photography Show May 9 - 17

Award Reception Friday, May 15, 7:00 p.m. Open to adult photographers in both amateur and professional categories as well as youth photographers ages 8-12, 13-17 and high school seniors. Entry for adults is \$25 for up to 6 framed photographs. Entry fee for children is \$2 per piece with a 6-piece maximum. Photographers may also entry photographs for display in our print racks. Photos will be accepted on Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5, 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Amateur Art Show June 6 - June 14

Award Reception Friday, June 12, 7:00 p.m. Open to adult artists who are beginners or paint as a hobby, but do not sell their work. Entry fee is \$25 for up to 5 framed pieces. Specific size restrictions will apply. Artwork will be accepted on Monday, June 1 and Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 3:00-8:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hours - All Shows

Monday-Friday 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Facilities

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Road
Leonardo, NJ 07737 (732) 615-2260

Office Hours:
8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday
E-mail: recreation@middletonnj.org

Tonya Keller Bayshore Recreation 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

Miniature Golf Course
Tindall Park Tindall Road
Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 671-5145

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

Spring Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.

The Eggstravaganza will be held at the Middletown Arts Center. This free event includes pictures with the Easter Bunny, craft activities, a magic show and more. Parents must bring their own camera for photos. No pre-registration required. Middletown residents 8 and under only.

Annual Mother / Son Brunch Sunday, May 3

Moms will have the opportunity to escort their sons (Grades K - 5) to an afternoon of relaxation and fun. Event held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Includes a buffet brunch, DJ, 5x7 photo of mom and son, and a special gift for every son. Middletown residents only. Fee to be announced. Registration begins on February 2, 2009.



Scholarship Open to High School Seniors

The Middletown Township Cultural & Arts Council's \$1,000 scholarship for "Achievement in the Arts" is now in its sixth year. The scholarship recognizes talented students in our community who have attained a notable level of achievement in their particular area of the arts. Applicants will be judged on their record of involvement, service and contribution in the community related to their discipline. Applications are available at the MAC. The deadline for submission is March 27, 2009. The scholarship is to be used to pursue further study in their area of expertise.

Winning Pumpkins

Kudos to everyone who submitted clever and artistic pumpkins in the Middletown Township Cultural and Arts Council's annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest held during the Halloween Hullabaloo. Honorable Mentions went to Chloe Rubino for her "Little Pumpkin Lady" and Randy Byrk for his "Hot Air Balloon Pumpkin." "Froggy Pumpkin" created by Lauren Bryk won Third Place and the Second Place winners were Kaitlyn and Paige Straniero with their creative "wicked Witch." The First Place winner was the Fitzsimmons Family for their beautiful and creatively designed pumpkin "Cinderella's Carriage." Congratulations to all!



Masquerade Ball a Scary Success

It was a scary and fun night at the MAC on October 31st at the first annual Middletown Masquerade Ball. The creativity that went into designing and making costumes, make-up, and masks was a frightening thing. However, it demonstrated the artistic talents of numerous Middletown residents. Many posed for the special camera that took free digital photos of those who came to dance away the evening (in between trying to spook the other revelers).

TEACHERS AT ART CENTER SHINE – PROFILES IN TALENT

Doodle Dude Art Kaney *Cartooning and Animation*

Very few people call him Art. Once you meet the Doodle Dude and absorb some of his boundless energy, you'll enjoy addressing him as all the kids do: with a big smile and yelling out, "Hey, Doodle Dude!"

Doodle Dude teaches several courses at the MAC, Cartooning & Animation I, Doodle Dude's 3-D Mania, and Doodlism – History of Art from Caveman to Computer. He teaches classes to various age ranges and hosts children's parties at the MAC. Additionally, he offers presentations for Scout troops and at schools.

His enthusiasm is a key element in communicating with children. Doodle Dude is like a tornado and the kids get swept into the fun without a chance to escape. "At first I didn't look at myself as a teacher, but as a performer or entertainer. But then I discovered that if you rock the kids back on their heels, you have an opportunity to get your lessons across to them," said Doodle Dude.

Art has been teaching animation and cartooning for 24 years at schools such as the Art Connection and the Seashore Day Camp & School in Long Branch. It's clear why Art Kaney can easily manage and control lots of kids at the same time. He has three children of his own and his three-year-old boy is often found happily hanging onto Art's leg.



"I'm happy to be back in Middletown and have my children attending these wonderful schools," said Art. When he was 16, Doodle Dude's Middletown South art teacher, Douglas Havet, spotted him drawing on a chalkboard and noticed how stylish and entertaining his work was. He had never seen Art doodle before and was amazed at how fast he could create strong impressive images. Mr. Havet immediately pushed Art into volunteering at Art Happenings at Middletown grade schools. Art resisted, but Mr. Havet had his way.

"No kidding, he actually forced me to go," said Art laughing, "but it changed my life forever."

It wasn't long before the word was out and the school began to receive requests for the Doodle Dude to come and doodle his doodles for the younger kids at all kinds of events. Once, several days after a performance, an unsolicited check arrived for him at the school. The principle at the time, Dennis Jackson, used to say that his school had its own "professional performing artist."

"I got such encouragement from Mr. Havet and Mr. Jackson. They were so proud of me and let me know I had an artistic gift...and, that I could teach. They were the ones who steered me in the right direction. I am forever thankful," said Art aka the one and only: Doodle Dude.

Volunteers Pass 400-Hour Mark

The MAC Volunteer Corps has logged-in over 400 volunteer hours in the last three months. The Arts Center is very grateful for the enthusiastic support shown by the community. This is a particularly important in-kind contribution for non-profit arts organizations. Volunteer hours help MAC serve the community by keeping programs affordable or free.

Volunteers have completed assignments at the main office, at box office, and the refreshment stand. They've managed the information table during performances, ushered, and assisted the teachers. Others have helped with fund raising projects and special events, such as the Middletown Masquerade Ball. Several professional photographers have volunteered their talents, shooting photos of the art exhibits and performances. A new program is also being developed to train volunteer production assistants in the use of the theater's high-tech lighting and sound systems.

A Volunteer Coordinating Committee has been formed to manage assignments and communications within the Corps, including Joann Cresci, Walter Johnson, Linda Luhn, Robin Powell, and Marge Schick. For those who want to join the Volunteer Corps, registration forms can be downloaded from the press section of the MAC website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There's lots to do inside when it's cold outside. The Winter/Spring Performance series will include four concerts on Friday or Saturday evenings. A new children's series featuring interactive family-oriented events will be introduced on Saturday afternoons. Get ready for a puppeteer and a juggler who entertains and teaches! The very popular Talent Showcase returns in spring 2009. Everyone is invited to audition. In addition, short story theater is coming! Similar to the one offered by NYC's Symphony, the event will draw from the best short story readers in Middletown.

2009 Winter/Spring Schedule

The complete Winter-2009 Course Catalog will be available online, at the MAC and in Middletown's public schools beginning December 12. Please be sure to ask your children to bring home a copy.

MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER
36 CHURCH STREET,
MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748
(732) 706-4100
www.middletownarts.org
Registration for classes on this page
are only accepted at the MAC

Hometown Heroes at Town Hall

Proud relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers are submitting Hometown Heroes actively serving in the United States Military to add to our growing tribute wall located at Town Hall. Soldier honored on the wall include:

Marine Lance Cpl. Jonathan Bagnato
Scott Bauer, US Army
Air Force 1st Lt. Nicole Beaumont
Navy Officer Steven J. Borbely
Army Sgt. Anthony Capella
Army Specialist Matthew J. Colby
Marines Pvt. Robert J. Curci III
Marines Cpl. Scott Davis
Army Sgt. 1st Class John Dolan
Navy Lt. Michael S. Dwan
Marines Sgt. Joshua P. Hansen
Army Sgt. Michael A. Hrehowsik
Air Force Airman 1st Class Dan Johnson
Marine Corp Cpl. AJ LeComte
Coast Guard 1st Class Cadet Steven Letts
Marines Private First Class Thomas Letts
Marines Lance Cpl. A.J. Maresca
Marines Lance Cpl. Brett Maresca
Army Lt. Patrick Mahoney
Army Staff Sgt. Eric McCoy
Navy Inter al Comm. Fireman Anthony Pagano
Army Sgt. Sean Rath
Army Staff Sgt. Lawrence Seymour
Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin T. Smith
Army Specialist Michael J. Smith
Army Private 1st Class Joshua Vallaster
Air Force Tech Sgt. Robert Venancio

Do you know a Middletown resident actively serving in the military? Send us a photo and a short biography so we can add him or her to the tribute wall. Biographies should include the soldier's name, rank, military branch, current location, previous tours of duty and local schools attended. Submissions can be mailed to Mayor's Office, c/o Deputy Mayor Pam Brightbill, 1 Kings Hwy. Middletown, NJ, 07748 or dropped off in person. All submissions must include a contact name, address and phone number. Call 732-615-2287 for more information.

WWII VETERAN FINALLY GETS HIS MEDALS

Luftman Towers resident Joseph Sekerzicky finally received the Bronze Star Medal and other awards he earned for his service during World War II. Mr. Sekerzicky, 89, did not receive his medals because he was in the hospital having surgery during an award presentation held more than 50 years ago. Sekerzicky, a life-long New Jersey resident, received his awards during a special ceremony held at Luftman Towers on November 13 from Colonel Michael Christian. Sekerzicky received his Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, World War II Victory Ribbon, Philippines Liberation Ribbon and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII. November 13, 2008 was proclaimed Joseph Sekerzicky Day by the Middletown Township Committee in honor of his service to our country.

Joseph Sekerzicky has his medals pinned to him by Colonel Michael Christian.



82nd Airborne Division Homecoming

Soldiers who were attached to the 82nd Airborne Division's First Brigade Special Troops Battalion came to Middletown during Veteran's Day weekend to say thanks for the incredible support Middletown provided during their deployment to Iraq.

Middletown adopted the paratroopers of Charlie Company, 1BSTB in December 2007 through America Supporting Americans, a non-profit group that unites towns with active military units. Neighboring Holmdel adopted Alpha Company shortly thereafter. The two-tons of donated supplies Middletown shipped to Iraq was sufficient to support both companies as well as several humanitarian missions to Iraqi communities located near their outposts.

The soldiers who visited Middletown were former A Company Commander Captain Vince Boncich, A Company First Sergeant MSG Devin Gallagher, Charlie Company CMO SSG James Matthews, and battalion commander Lt. Col. Frederic A. Drummond. During their visit they met with Middletown Emergency Management members who volunteered their

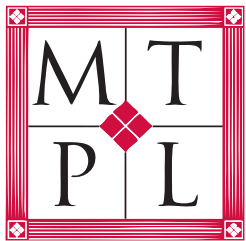
time to package donated supplies; veterans who belong to VFW Post 2179; and residents who made donations. The soldiers also proudly marched in the VFW Veteran's Day parade.

Special thanks to the Middletown VFW 2179 hosting an Open House during Homecoming Weekend. The VFW also donated all the funds necessary to ship the supplies to Iraq during the battalion's deployment.



SUPPORT THE TROOPS

Army Staff Sgt. Eric McCoy, a township employee and resident, is currently in Iraq serving his second tour of duty as a member of Delta Company, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion. Middletown adopted Eric's 37-member battalion and will be shipping donated supplies to the soldiers during their 12-18 month tour. Donations are accepted at the Main Library, Croydon Hall, the Senior Center, Arts Center and Town Hall. Visit the Support the Troops section of the website for suggested items to donate.



Winter 2009

CHECK IT OUT!

Library Slogan Contest Library Trustees Select Winning Entry

From a pool of excellent library slogans, the Library Trustees chose "Middletown Main Library: Where Our Community Comes Together" as the best entry in the recent contest. The winning entry was submitted by Courtney Ness of Leonardo, who said "Middletown Library is the place I go to with my kids to take advantage of the wonderful books and programs; to get audio books for my husband; and to select books for myself from the library's excellent collection." She adds, "my friends and I go all the time!"

Music Programs

MUSIC FOR A WEDNESDAY EVENING

January 14, 7:30 p.m.

Monmouth Conservatory of Music Classical Concert
Katha Zinn, violin and Illya Filshinsky, piano.

February 4, 7:30 p.m.

Monmouth Conservatory of Music Classical Concert
Jameson Platte, cello and Vladislav Kovalsky, piano

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS

January 25, 3:00 p.m.

Beth Arentsen Trio

Acclaimed singer-songwriter Beth Arentsen explores the universal themes of love, loss, and hope in her music and was a nominee for the "Top Female Acoustic Act" by Asbury Awards.



Music Open Mic

Moderated by Tony Sloan

December 30, 7:00 p.m.

Bring your songs, sheet music, and musical instruments -- an accompanist will be available. Featured performer Brian Yeh Band.

Children's Program

PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:30 P.M.

Kitty Jones of Kit's Interactive Theatre will portray Miss Charlotte. Miss Charlotte Beauregard, a fictitious upper class Southern Belle speaking in a Southern dialect, creates a historic depiction of life during the 19th century and the Civil War.

This show will provide students with a greater understanding of the major economic and political issues e.g. slavery vs. states' rights that lead to war, and what life was like during the war. Key events such as the first shots at Fort Sumter and the Gettysburg Address are also reenacted. The Southern surrender at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia is commemorated with a good old fashioned square dance using 19th century music and dance steps.

An original, authentic portrayal by award-winning actress, writer and choreographer Kitty Jones features exquisite costumes along with period props, dance and music. With so much creativity, integrity and wit, adults have as much fun as the kids.

Registration required. Free tickets will be available at the Children's Desk starting Monday, February 2nd. Ages 5 and up.



eReference Resource A Wealth of Information Just a Mouse Click Away

The Gale Virtual Reference Library, available through Middletown Main Library's website, is an authoritative online resource that provides access to approximately 400 eBooks. Now you can read, explore, or conduct research 24/7 from home on your own computer. With this new technology a click of the mouse will bring up a wealth of reference materials in the Arts, Biography, Business, Education, Environment, General Reference, History, Law, Literature, Medicine, Multicultural Studies, Nation and World, Religion, Science, and Social Science.

Log on to the library's website at www.mtpl.org and click the "Databases" link at the top of the page to access the electronic database of your choice: Information Resources, Indexes, Abstracts, Journal Articles,

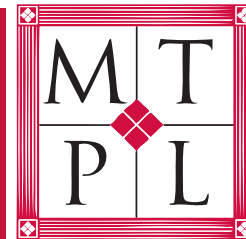


Photographs, and Reference Information. Two excellent examples of the databases are "Heritage Quest Online," an essential genealogical database for the professional as well as the non-professional. And for kids there's "Searchasaurus," an educational and engaging database for students that provides Fun Facts, an Encyclopedia for Animals, a General Encyclopedia, and much more. Additionally, Gale Virtual Reference Library's extensive search capabilities enable users to search one reference book or search across the entire collection. A very helpful feature is that all the Reference books in the GVRL are convertible to eight languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish.



Inflation Fighter

One of the best inflation fighter tips is to visit your public library regularly. Think how much you can save by reading your favorite magazines there instead of buying them! There are over 350 magazines at the Main Library, some just for teens or for children, but most titles are for adult readers. Very comfortable chairs, a pleasant view of the patio and on cold days, a fire in the fireplace, create a great place for reading. In addition to the familiar titles, the library has just added some new ones. These include: *Attitude*, *Creative Knitting*, *Eating Well*, *Make*, *Men's Vogue*, *ShopSmart*, *Victoria*, *Vietnam*, *Women's Health*, and *World War II*.



Parent Workshop

Taking the Lead to Help Your Child Succeed

A workshop for parents entitled "Taking the Lead to Help Your Child Succeed" will be held at Middletown Main Library on **January 20 at 7:00 p.m.** The goal of this workshop is to empower parents to maximize their children's educational experience. Topics covered will include: Communicating Effectively with Teachers, NJ School Report Cards, Learning at Home, and Benefits of Parent Involvement in Education

Funding for this workshop is provided by a grant from the New Jersey State Parent Information and Resource Center. Danielle Kootman, Children's Services Director, is the administrator of this grant.



January: A Little Bit of Italy

Cooking Demonstration

Saturday, January 24, 2:30p.m.

Anna Teresa Callen Cooking Demonstration and Book Signing

Movie Series with Italian Cookies and Coffee

Movies at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m

Monday, January 5

"Much Ado About Nothing" 1993

Monday, January 12

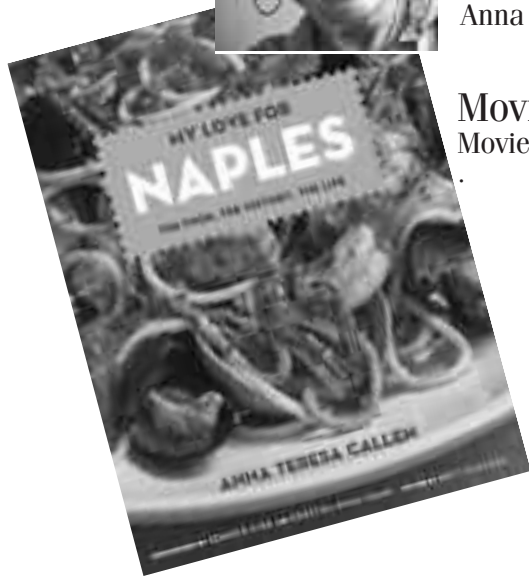
"L'Uomo Delle Stelle" (The Star Maker)

Monday, January 26

"Big Night"

Monday, February 2

"Enchanted April"



Computer Workshops:

FREE WEEKLY COMPUTER CLASSES TUESDAYS, 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Registration required up to nine day prior to class. Register at the library or by calling 732-671-3700. All classes are free, must be 18 years or older.

JANUARY 6 COMPUTER BASICS

An introduction to computer use: includes keyboard and mouse skills.

JANUARY 13 INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET

Introduction to using the World Wide Web, includes basic internet searching.

JANUARY 27 COMPUTER BASICS

An introduction to computer use: includes keyboard and mouse skills.

FEBRUARY 3 INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET

Introduction to using the World Wide Web: includes basic Internet searches.

FEBRUARY 10 E-MAIL PART 1

Learn to use electronic mail: includes creating a web-based E-mail account.

FEBRUARY 24 E-MAIL PART 2

Learn how to set up an address book, send and open e-mail and attach a file.

MARCH 3 MICROSOFT WORD

Learn how to create, edit and save a Word document; create flyers, and use WordArt and clipart.

THE TEEN ZONE

BOOK CHAT

January 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Thirteen Little Blue Envelopes
by Maureen Johnson

February 8, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Looks
by Madeleine George

Video Dance Party Monday, December 29 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Much more to come in 2009 — Wii Tournaments, Steal Bingo, make your own mosaic tile, create your own commercial, and community service opportunities.

ORA

HOW DO I GET A LIBRARY CARD?

If you live or pay taxes in Middletown Township, you may become a member of the library. Obtain a free library card at any of the library locations, just by presenting identification and proof of your address. Children may get their own card when approved by a parent or guardian. Free membership is also available on a one year renewable basis to anyone who works or attends school in Middletown Township. Non-residents may purchase a library card for an annual fee of \$75.00 or \$25.00 for senior citizens.

Library Locations & Hours

MAIN LIBRARY

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

BAYSHORE BRANCH

Mon. & Wed. 1-5 & 6-8 p.m.
Tues. & Fri. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.

LINCROFT BRANCH

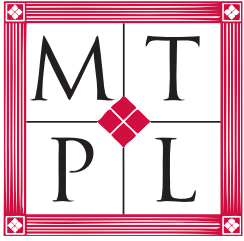
Mon. & Wed. 1-5 & 6-8 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

NAVESINK BRANCH

Mon. & Wed. 1-5 & 6-8 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs. 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.

Library Closings:

Christmas Eve December 24
Christmas Day December 25
New Years Day, January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 19
Presidents' Day, February 16



Winter 2009

MIDDLETOWN
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Foundation Provides Local Match for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Opportunity Online Grant Program

Presenting a check to the Library for \$1,950 is Foundation President Robert Laskowski. Representing the Library are Susan O'Neal, Library Director and Randall Gabrielan, Board of Trustees President. The grant provides three new computers in the Bayside Branch. Grant guidelines require a 25% match of funding. The Library Foundation, now in its 6th year, raises funds for support of the Library not covered by its regular municipal appropriation.



Time to License Your Dog

Annual dog license renewals are conducted during the month of January by the Middletown Health Department and Animal Control Division. In preparation, we send out renewal forms in mid-December. This time of year can be very hectic since we are consumed with so many holidays, but please do not misplace your documents. Many people have had to pay late fees because they forgot about the January 31st deadline.

Please remember that all dogs must be licensed. The fees are \$12.00 for a spayed/neutered animal and \$15.00 if not altered. You must send proof of spayed/neutered procedure if this is the first time you're claiming the reduced fee.

In addition, all rabies vaccinations must not expire prior to October 1, 2009. If they expire on September 30, 2009 or sooner, the application will be rejected. If you need to find a free rabies clinic, do not hesitate to contact the Animal Control Clerk. We keep a list of any clinics in the county that may be available. Animal Control can be contacted at 732-615-2094 to answer your questions. The \$5 late fee will be assessed on February 1, 2009.

by Rich DeBenedetto
Senior Sanitarian
Health Department

Last Thursday Poetry Reading & Open Mic

Moderated by
Gloria Rowder Healy



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 7:00 P.M.
Lorraine Stone, Performance Poet

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7:00 P.M.
"Cool Women" Performance Poets Group

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST
LEARN TO USE ANCESTRY.COM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
CALL 732-671-3700, EXT. 320

Book Clubs

Director's Choice Book Discussion

"Read Around the World"
Moderated by Susan O'Neal
9:00 a.m. Coffee
9:30 a.m. Discussion

Friday, January 9 "Anil's Ghost,"
by Michael Ondaatje, Sri Lanka

Friday, February 13 "Clear Light of Day,"
by Anita Desai, India

Science Fiction Book and Film Club

Second Thursday of the Month
5:30 p.m. Film
7:30 p.m. Discussion

January 8 "The Andromeda Strain"
by Michael Crichton

February 12 "Starship Troopers"
by Robert Heinlein

Mystery Book Discussion

Second Wednesday of the Month at 10:00 a.m.
January 14 Mystery Round Robin Theme
"Crime in Warm Places"
February 11 "The Big Sleep"
by Raymond Chandler

PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

2009 SEASONAL JOB EXPO

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7, 2009
10:00 A.M. TO NOON

Senior Center
900 Leonardville Road
Leonardo, NJ 07737
(732) 615-2260

Summer seasonal positions are available at the Middletown Miniature Golf Course, Tennis Courts, Park Maintenance and the Middletown Swim & Tennis Club. Seasonal employees must be at least 16 years old.

Available positions include: Clerical, Summer Recreation Counselors/ Leaders, Tennis Instruction, Golf Attendants, Swim Instruction, Supervisory, Beach/ Pool Lifeguards, Camp Counselors, Sports Camp Instructors, and Park Maintenance.

Employment offered May through September and varies depending on season program. Salary ranges from \$6.55 to \$15.00 per hour depending on position and experience.

See What the Summer Has In Store For You!

School District News

Income Eligible Pre-School Begins September 2009

In compliance with the State Department of Education's mandate to provide full-day preschool for income eligible three and four year-olds, Middletown will offer a preschool program for 127 income eligible students by September 2009. The cost for this program will be fully funded by the New Jersey Department of Education and will provide all necessary staff, furniture and classroom materials. Income eligibility for the full-time preschool program is determined through the Free and Reduced Lunch Application Process.

The program will be located at the Community YMCA Hazlet Facility on Route 36 and Poole Avenue, just north of Middletown, where the district has leased nine classrooms. Registration for the preschool program will be held at Nut Swamp and Port Monmouth Elementary Schools on January 5, 6, 12 and 14, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Full-time Kindergarten Implementation Plan

In addressing the need to provide full-time kindergarten, the district is also working on a plan to implement full-day kindergarten for all children by the 2010-2011 school year. Rather than purchasing or leasing expensive additional facilities, the district plans to reallocate existing space in the elementary school buildings so kindergarten students will primarily be able to attend their home schools. The district believes this will present the most preferred and cost-effective option for our youngest students.

5.8 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE PRESERVED

Middletown's Open Space inventory grew this fall with the acquisition of 5.8 acres of environmentally sensitive land located next to Chanceville Park on Route 36. The township will acquire the property from owners William Throckmorton, Mellissa and Jessica Ko and the estate of Joseph Gorny for \$49,000 using funds collected through the township's voter-approved dedicated 2-cent open space tax. The property is located in the Port Monmouth section of Middletown east of Middletown VFW Post 2179.

Acquisition of the property will preserve another environmentally sensitive slice of Middletown while providing additional passive use areas and natural spaces for residents. Approximately 300 acres of green spaces have been preserved since the Open Space Program began in 1999.

Poricy Park Conservancy

W.A.N.T.
WEDNESDAYS
3:30-5:15 P.M.
FIRST SESSIONS
STARTS
JAN. 14, 2009

We Are Nature's Team (W.A.N.T.) is an after-school program that brings children and nature together in a mutual and supportive way. Experienced and trained instructors will lead each team in age-appropriate nature exploration and understanding through experiments, crafts, and hands-on activities. Space is limited. Register early to give your child the healthy benefits that nature provides. Registration deadline Wed., January 7, 2009. Six-session fee is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members.

Poricy Park Conservancy is located off Oak Hill Road in Middletown Township. With exceptional ecological resources, 250-acre historical and nature preserve makes it one of the largest parks in Monmouth County. The township park offers family-friendly activities and amenities such as wooded hiking trails, pristine pond settings, fishing, and a 70 million year-old Cretaceous fossil bed. For program registration and information, visit www.poricipark.org, or call 732-842-5966.

Where is Middletown? What's in Middletown?

A Geographic Briefing from the Middletown Environmental Commission

Where is Middletown? What is in Middletown? Let's start with Where. The Township of Middletown is located at the northeast portion of Monmouth County with approximately 4 miles of Sandy Hook bay shoreline as the north boundary. The south and southeast boundaries of the Township are also located along water bodies known as the Monmouth Reservoir-Swimming River to the south and the Navesink River to the east and southeast. Middletown's west boundary follows roads and is situated along Laurel Avenue, Palmer Avenue and Port Monmouth Road to Carr Place at the bayshore. Looking at the bigger picture, Middletown is situated within the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Atlantic Coastal Plain is a geographic province that encompasses all of the coastal areas of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. The coastal plain is mostly flat land that was a part of the continental shelf or continental margin that extends eastwards out into the Atlantic Ocean and westwards to the Piedmont Plateau and the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northwest New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The coastal plain in New Jersey (and Middletown) is made up of primarily of sediments eroded from the hills and mountains to the north and west.

Okay, now for What's in Middletown? A bird or a person flying over Middletown (or someone looking at an aerial photograph) will see single-family residential areas throughout the Township with commercial development along the major thoroughfares including Route 35 and Route 36. However, the aerial view will also show that Middletown contains significant areas of lightly developed and undeveloped/open space and wooded land. These undeveloped/open space areas include several large Township and County parks, dedicated open space tracts, golf courses, the Earle Naval Reservation and private farms and wooded land. In addition, the aerial view shows that Middletown contains dozens of creeks, brooks and unnamed tributaries that flow north towards the bayshore and south and east towards the Navesink and Swimming rivers. The Swimming River, Navesink River and all other surface water bodies in Middletown are known as coastal sub-watersheds and are part of the larger Watershed Management Area 12-(Monmouth) which extends from Perth Amboy to the north to Point Pleasant Beach to the south.

The types of natural areas found within the undeveloped/open space areas in Middletown include sandy beaches with dune areas and salt marshes along the bayshore, forested coastal highlands or bluffs at the central and east portions, and pockets of mixed hardwood forest in county parks in the western areas. The recognition, appreciation and preservation of these natural areas are worthwhile activities for all who live here. The Environmental Commission urges township residents to inform themselves about the location, physical characteristics and natural resources of the Township.

Joseph S. Martin
Middletown Environmental
Commission



Practice Makes Perfect

Middletown Emergency Management recently conducted an emergency preparedness drill in cooperation with the Monmouth County departments of Health and Emergency Management to test the county's Prophylaxis Distribution Program. The goal of the program is to efficiently distribute medications such as those needed to combat chemical attacks and disease outbreaks. In addition to distributing medication to the township, Middletown Emergency Management is a Point of Distribution for 16 neighboring municipalities.



From left are Senior Sanitarian Rich Debenedetto, RACES Caption Mario Sellitti and Holmdel OEM Coordinator Mike Simpson.

Questions & Answers

Q HOW DO I GET A CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS?

A Certified copies of marriage, domestic partnership, birth, & death records are \$10.00 each. A completed application, including proof of valid identification and a check for all fees that apply may be mailed or physically submitted to the Health Department Office. Requests for Vital Statistic information will not be honored over the phone. Call 732-615-2095 for more information.

Q HOW DO I REPORT A LOST PET?

A Call Animal Control at (732) 615-2094 during business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After business hours and on weekends, contact the Middletown Police Department at (732) 615-2100. Any dog or cat found should be reported to animal control so we can attempt to return the animal to its owner. Any animal not claimed or returned by 2:00 p.m. daily will be taken to the shelter. Injured animals are taken to local vets for basic treatment.

Q HOW DO I PROPERLY INSTALL A CHILD CAR SEAT?

A A resident may bring his or her vehicle and car seat to have the Traffic Safety Officer instruct him or her on the proper method of installing the child car seat. This free service is provided by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, when staffing levels permit. Call 732-615-2045.

County Mosquito Commission Seeking Focus Group Participants

Rutgers University and Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission are looking for 12 participants to read and provide comments on newly developed brochures, educational materials and fun handouts. The goals of these materials are to teach the public how to reduce mosquitoes and mosquito bites in your backyard. In order to develop fun and informative materials, we need your feedback and comments. The focus group will take place on January 20th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Union Beach Borough Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If interested in registering, please contact Kristen Bartlett at 732-932-9341, M-F, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Staying In Touch

Middletown offers several communication resources to keep residents connected to their community. These include an emergency radio station, a website, Reverse 911 system, TV station, and newsletter.

The most recent addition to the township's communication resources is Middletown Emergency Radio found at 1620 AM. The station, launched earlier this year, is managed by Middletown Emergency Management. It provides information on hurricanes and other emergencies such as the recent blackouts. The station's coverage currently focuses on the Bayshore area from Highlands in the east to Keansburg in the west, and from the Bayshore north to Route 35 West.

The township website, www.middletownnj.org, includes news updates, important notices, a community calendar and details on township services. Requests for service can also be submitted online.

Residents who register online with the Citizen Communications Center can opt to receive township alerts via cell phone text message and e-mails. The township also sends important messages to home phones via the Reverse 911 system. Registration is not necessary to receive messages via Reverse 911.

The township's municipal access television station is located on Comcast Cable channel 20. The station airs community announcements and programs produced by the school district.

Middletown Matters, the township's newsletter, is published six times a year. The publication includes news, recycling and leaf/brush collection schedules and guidelines, and event and program schedules.



Be Safe At Home This Holiday Season

Christmas trees

- * Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out burn faster than fresher, well-watered ones.
- * Make sure your tree stand holds at least 1 gallon of water. Stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of trunk diameter. The average 6-foot tree has a 4-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as 1 gallon of water per day.
- * Keep your tree at least 3 feet from fireplaces, heating vents and other heat sources. Don't place the tree where it blocks an exit.

Lighting

- * Look for the UL Mark on light strings, electrical decorations and extension cords. The UL mark means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards such as fire and electric shock.
- * Ensure outside lights, decorations and extension cords are rated for outside use and bear a red holographic UL mark.
- * Inspect new and old electrical decorations for cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires before plugging them in to avoid an electric shock or fire.
- * Purchase plastic hooks or clips designed for hanging lights.
- * Check packaging to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected
- * Don't overload extension cords by plugging in too many decorations.
- * Turn off all electrical lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- * Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Candles

- ◆ Keep candles away from combustible materials, such as decorations, paper, and wreaths.
- ◆ Place candles away from places that could be knocked over by a person or pet.
- ◆ Use sturdy, non-combustible candleholders that can collect dripping wax.
- ◆ Extinguish a candle when 2 inches of wax remains or a half-inch if the candle is in a container.
- ◆ Keep candles, matches and lighters, out of children's reach.
- ◆ Never use lit candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- ◆ Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

For more information call Middletown Fire Official Cliff Dainty at 732-615-2270.