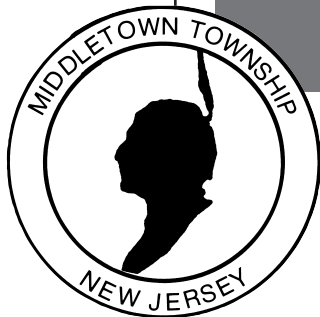


The Biggest
Small Town
in New
Jersey

MIDDLETOWN

MATTERS



BUY MIDDLETOWN Community Support Strengthens Local Economy

Before heading outside of town for goods and services, consider whether you can purchase them from a business right here in Middletown. After hearing about the BUY MIDDLETOWN campaign, a local PTA decided to consider whether they could find a nursery in town before going to the usual vendor for the annual plant sale. With little effort, the PTA found a nursery in Middletown that was happy to support the event. This one simple change allows the PTA to support the school and business community. In addition, the business owner can show support for the community through his participation in the annual event and can potentially meet new customers.

If you are a member of a school, community, civic or fraternal organization, please consider whether your group can work with a Middletown business for your next event. Each of us who makes a purchase from a Middletown

business is contributing to a stronger community and a thriving local economy.

To make it easier to find Middletown businesses, the township is devoting a section of the website to the cause. Coming soon is a categorized database of Middletown businesses. Business owners will be able to enter their vital statistics on the site for free. Residents and fellow business owners will be able to search the free service to see if they can BUY MIDDLETOWN.

BUY MIDDLETOWN, a public awareness campaign launched earlier this year, is aimed at building a more vibrant local economy. Contact the mayor's office at 732-615-2024 or mayorsoffice@MiddletownNj.org to share your ideas as to how to promote local businesses and encourage consumers to shop in Middletown before going elsewhere.

Middletown Elks Donate First Aid Equipment



From left are (standing) Elks members Bob Santoro, Bert Revill, Daniel McCartan, Mike Dickie, and Exalted Ruler Michael Parulis, Jr. and Port Monmouth First Aid Squad members Dawn Doherty, Ken Howe, Ryan Flores, and Mayor Pam Brightbill. (kneeling) Elks members Mike Anghelone and Ed O'Kane.

Middletown Elks Lodge 2179 has generously donated a specialized stretcher to the Port Monmouth First Aid squad. The new stretcher replaces the current equipment used in the squad's bariatric unit. Port Monmouth's bariatric unit is one of two, all-volunteer units in New Jersey. With the Elks donation, the squad can transport patients up to 900 pounds safely and with dignity. The squad's bariatric unit, created in 2005, utilizes a high strength stretcher coupled with a ramp load system to move the patient, keeping the patient as well as the rescuers, safe.

Volunteer organizations are always in need of support. Call the Port Monmouth First Aid squad at (732) 787-9566 and the Elks at (732) 495-2733.

Protecting Your Home from Brush Fires

Stands of Phragmites (aka common reeds, crow weeds) are among the threats that can put homes at risk of damage from brush fires. Because Phragmites stands contain a lot of standing dead material, they will carry fire readily even in summer when the current year's growth is still green. Fire danger is increased in the fall after the current growth is killed by frost and remains high until spring green up.

The community's cooperation is integral to the success of any township effort to mitigate brush fire hazards. Turn to page seven for steps homeowners can take to reduce the risk and effect of brush fires in the community.

Spring / Summer
2009

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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 Engineer 615-2259

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



VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS!

FROM LEFT ARE GAIL BECHTOLDT AND CATHY FLAIG CHATTING DURING THE 2009 VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE HELD AT THE MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER. MORE THAN 125 RESIDENTS ATTENDED TO MINGLE WITH FELLOW AND ASPIRING VOLUNTEERS. PARTICIPATING GROUPS INCLUDED TOWNSHIP BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE NJ BLIND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, MIDDLETOWN GARDEN CLUB; MIDDLETOWN NEWCOMER'S CLUB, ELKS LODGE 2179, MIDDLETOWN LIONS, AMERICAN LEGION POST 338, AND BREAST FRIENDS FOREVER. REFRESHMENTS WERE DONATED BY FOUR MIDDLETOWN BUSINESSES - STARBUCKS, WHOLE FOODS, GUTTENPLANS, AND SUZI'S SWEET SHOPPE. THIS EVENT WAS SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COUNCIL.

North Middletown Neighborhood Preservation

Efforts to revitalize North Middletown are underway thanks to the North Middletown Preservation Program, a state and locally-funded program designed to preserve and rehabilitate housing stock, reinforce the vitality of the business district, and improve parks and community buildings.

The program is currently in the planning phase. The township is gathering comments from residents through meetings and a community survey. The goal of this phase is to identify residents' needs in terms of services, housing, recreation and economic development.

To supplement the program, the Township Committee recently authorized the Planning Board to investigate whether an area at the commercial core of North Middletown qualifies as an "Area in Need of Redevelopment" per the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. This investigation, which will be conducted over the upcoming months, intends to bolster long-term North Middletown neighborhood revitalization efforts. Although both are separate planning projects, each provides a unique tool for the revitalization and long-term sustainability of the North Middletown neighborhood.

Standing Water = Mosquitoes

Warm weather is approaching and with it will come the mosquitoes. Mosquitoes ruin the enjoyment of outdoor activities like sports, picnics, fishing, hiking, or just relaxing in the backyard. More importantly they can spread diseases like West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and heartworm to people, household pets, and horses.

All mosquitoes need standing water to grow. It only takes about a week for mosquito eggs to hatch, grow, and then fly away as adults ready to bite. To reduce mosquitoes around your home:

Check for sources of standing water that can breed mosquitoes around the home such as tires/tire swings, bird baths, buckets, wheelbarrows, pool covers, children's pools and toys, clogged rain gutters, plastic tarps, garden ponds, fountains, uncovered trash cans.

- Throw out items that hold water but are not wanted or needed like old tires.
- Cover or turn over items that are wanted but don't need to hold water like buckets.
- Change the water at least once a week in items that should hold water like birdbaths.
- Put fish in garden ponds or fountains.

To protect family, pets, and yourself use mosquito repellants containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon, Eucalyptus, or IR3535 (always read and follow product label directions). Keep window and door screens in good repair. Ask your veterinarian about the proper medicines or vaccines for your cats, dogs, or horses.

Remember that not all mosquitoes breed in containers. For problems that are too big for you to handle, contact the Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission 732-542-3630 or www.mosquitoes@co.monmouth.nj.us.

Township Committee Members Get New Phone Numbers

Do you need to talk to Township Committee members but find that you're too busy to attend a public meeting or compose an e-mail? Try calling Township Committee members directly. The township has established direct voice mail lines for each of the five governing body members to further enhance the lines of communication between residents and the local governing body.

Mayor Pamela Brightbill: 732-615-2024

Deputy Mayor Gerard Scharfenberger: 732-706-4151

Committeeman Sean Byrnes: 732-706-4152

Committeeman Anthony Fiore: 732-706-4153

Committeeman Patrick Short: 732-706-4154





Message from the Mayor

Pamela M. Brightbill

2009 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

PAMELA M. BRIGHTBILL
MAYOR
732-615-2024

GERARD P. SCHARFENBERGER, PH.D.
DEPUTY MAYOR
732-706-4151

SEAN F. BYRNES, ESQ.
COMMITTEEMAN
732-706-4152

ANTHONY P. FIORE
COMMITTEEMAN
732-706-4153

PATRICK SHORT
COMMITTEEMAN
732-706-4154

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

COURIER PRINTING

Municipal Budget Has Many Factors To Consider

There are many factors that must be considered as township officials work to develop a municipal budget that minimizes local tax burdens to the extent possible while providing funds to maintain essential municipal services and preserve the high quality of life residents enjoy and expect. Below are some of those factors.

Loss of Revenue

The township anticipates \$2.4 million less in revenues this year. This includes reductions in state aid, reductions in permit fee revenue and reductions in interest earned.

Grants Received

The township consistently and aggressively seeks grant funding to defray operating expenses and fund community programs. Grants received so far this year total more than \$775,000.

Federal Assistance to Firefighters – An \$89,340 matching grant was received from this federal program for needed fire equipment. The township has received four separate grants totaling nearly \$900,000 from this program thanks to volunteer firefighters and grant writers Peter Lucyk and Vernon Peterson.

Community Development Block Grant - \$77,381 has been received from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects that create suitable living environments, provide decent affordable housing and create economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income. These funds will supplement the Township's anticipated 2009 CDBG annual grant allocation, which will be announced in Spring 2009.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant - \$610,800 has been received from the US Department of Energy for projects that reduce community's energy use and fossil fuel emission, and improve energy efficiency.

Historic Preservation Grants - \$8,000 has been awarded to Middletown by the Monmouth County Historical

Commission to defray the cost of preservation projects at the MacLeod-Rice House, an 18th century landmark at Croydon Hall, and the Little Red Schoolhouse on Middletown-Lincroft Road..

Stimulus Funding Requests

The township has requested federal stimulus monies for projects that can save money, improve the town infrastructure and further the community's commitment to using green technologies whenever possible.

Leonardo Outfall & Stormwater Drainage – \$1.1 million is requested to replace a failed outfall pipe and install a new stormwater drainage system at the northerly end of Leonard Avenue. This project, which has received all necessary environmental permits, is expected to result in a significant improvement to local drainage and mitigate localized flooding issues.

Road Improvements – \$1.07 million is requested to fund reconstruction of a portion of Campbell Avenue and Cooper Boulevard, Bayside Parkway, and 1st Avenue.

Truck Wash – \$480,000 is requested to fund a Truck Wash the township is mandated to construct by the state DEP. The township plans to offer use of the equipment, which would accommodate a bus, to government entities and private corporations to generate revenue.

Dock & Roll Hybrids - \$400,000 is requested to replace four aging shuttle buses used to operate the Dock & Roll commuter and shopper shuttle service. New hybrid vehicles would reduce operating costs and improve the program's life span.

Arts Center Solar Panels - \$500,000 is requested to install solar panels on the Middletown Arts Center roof. Use of solar energy would reduce traditional utility bills and enhance the educational opportunities the facility already provides.

More Information

Municipal budgets are posted online once they are formally introduced by the township committee. Visit the town website or stop by town hall to view the budget. Please remember this is the community's budget.

RIGHT-OF-WAY PESTICIDE APPLICATION

From April 6-October 16, 2009 the Public Works Dept. will be conducting its Right-of-Way maintenance program for control of weeds growing near guide rails and concrete medians on main and connecting roads throughout the township. Roadside spraying will be conducted by Dominic Derasmo, DEP Pesticide Applicator License # 27252A. The brand names of the pesticides to be used are Accord XRT and Arsenal. The active ingredient in Accord XRT is Glyphosate, N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine, in the form of isopropylamine salt, 53.67%. The active ingredients in Arsenal is Imazapyr (2-[4, 5 Dihydro-4methyl-4(1-methyl)-5-oxo-1H-imidazol-2-Yl]-3-Pyridinecarboxylic acid salt with 2-propanamine (1:1), 28.7%. The applications will be made utilizing a 200-gallon power sprayer with a hose and hand held spray nozzle for guide rails, and a 5- gallon backpack type spray unit for concrete medians. Upon request the applicator will provide residents with notification at least 12 hours prior to the application except for Quarantine and Disease Vector control only when conditions necessitate pesticide applications sooner than that time. For additional information about advertised applications contact Dominic Derasmo, 52 Kanen Lane, Middletown Township, NJ 07748, 732-615-2000 x 2123.

For pesticide regulation information, pesticide complaints, and health referrals contact NJDEP Pesticide Control Program at 609-530-4070. For routine health inquiries and to obtain information on signs and symptoms of pesticide exposure contact The National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 1-800-858-7358. The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System phone numbers - Emergency Hotline: 1-800-222-1222, Business Office: 973-972-9280. For information about specific dates and locations of spraying, visit the DPW area of www.MiddletownNJ.org.

Meet Mayor Brightbill

Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill will hold open office hours at Town Hall, 1 Kings Highway, on the first Wednesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Residents are welcomed on a first-come basis to discuss any concerns or issues they may have related to township government. Residents are also invited to share thoughts and ideas about how the township can better serve its citizens at any time by contacting the mayor's office at 732-615-2024.

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



MIDDLETOWN MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

12 STEP SELF-HELP CONTACT INFORMATION

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

(800) 245-1377

AL-ANON AND ALA-TEEN

(732) 536-5676

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

(800) 992-0401

NAR-ANON

(732) 409-1238

For internet links to these and additional Self Help Groups visit the Crossroads page on the township's web site.

CROSSROADS CONTACT INFORMATION

Crossroads at Croydon Hall
900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo 07737
Fax: 732-291-4398

Alcohol and Drug Prevention Education Programs
Ret. Det. Sgt. Mike Slover, Crossroads Director &
Alliance Chairperson
732-615-2277
mslover@middletownnj.org

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

Early Intervention, Assessments & Counseling
Mark A. Generoso, MS, CADC, CCS,
Clinical Supervisor
732-615-2275
mgeneros@middletownnj.org

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



6th Annual Reaching Out To Prevent Substance Abuse Program to be held May 14, 2009

Reaching Out will be held at the Middletown Arts Center from 7:00-9:00p.m. This program deals with the health, legal and personal consequences of substance abuse and the tragedies associated with it. The Township and Alliance have taken proactive measures to educate the public and our young children before senseless tragedies happen. A panel that includes professionals from our Police

Department, Municipal Government, Municipal Court system, Public School system, and the Alliance Chairperson will provide information as to what they can do to assist those in need of help with substance abuse. The audience will be given the opportunity to ask questions. The program is recommended for 5th grade students through adults. Please call (732) 615-2277 or 615-2269 for program details.

Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment

More than three decades of scientific research have yielded 13 fundamental principles that characterize effective drug abuse treatment. These principles are detailed in National Institute on Drug Abuse's *Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide*.

1. **No single treatment is appropriate for all individuals.** Matching treatment settings, interventions, and services to each patient's problems and needs is critical.
2. **Treatment needs to be readily available.** Treatment applicants can be lost if treatment is not immediately available or readily accessible.
3. **Effective treatment attends to multiple needs of the individual, not just his or her drug use.** Treatment must address the individual's drug use and associated medical, psychological, social, vocational, and legal problems.
4. **At different times during treatment, a patient may develop a need for medical services, family therapy, vocational rehabilitation, and social and legal services.**
5. **Remaining in treatment for an adequate period of time is critical for treatment effectiveness.** The time depends on an individual's needs. For most patients, the threshold of significant improvement is reached at about 3 months in treatment. Additional treatment can produce further progress. Programs should include strategies to prevent patients from leaving treatment prematurely.
6. **Individual and/or group counseling and other behavioral therapies are critical components of effective treatment for addiction.** In therapy, patients address motivation, build skills to resist drug use, replace drug-using activities with constructive and rewarding nondrug-using activities, and improve problem-solving abilities. Behavioral therapy also facilitates interpersonal relationships.
7. **Medications are an important element of treatment for many patients, especially when combined with counseling and other behavioral therapies.** Buprenorphine, methadone, and levo-alpha-acetylmethadol help persons addicted to opiates stabilize

their lives and reduce their drug use. Naltrexone is effective for some opiate addicts and some patients with co-occurring alcohol dependence. Nicotine patches or gum, or an oral medication, such as bupropion, can help persons addicted to nicotine. (may include Suboxone detox)

8. **Addicted or drug-abusing individuals with coexisting mental disorders should have both disorders treated in an integrated way.**
9. **Medical detoxification is only the first stage of addiction treatment and by itself does little to change long-term drug use.** Medical detoxification manages the acute physical symptoms of withdrawal. For some individuals it is a precursor to effective drug addiction treatment.
10. **Treatment does not need to be voluntary to be effective.** Sanctions or enticements in the family, employment setting, or criminal justice system can significantly increase treatment entry, retention, and success.
11. **Possible drug use during treatment must be monitored continuously.** Monitoring a patient's drug and alcohol use during treatment, such as through urinalysis, can help the patient withstand urges to use drugs. Such monitoring also can provide early evidence of drug use so that treatment can be adjusted.
12. **Treatment programs should provide assessment for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, and counseling to help patients modify or change behaviors that place them or others at risk of infection.** Counseling can help patients avoid high-risk behavior and help people who are already infected manage their illness.
13. **Recovery from drug addiction can be a long-term process and frequently requires multiple episodes of treatment.** As with other chronic illnesses, relapses to drug use can occur during or after successful treatment episodes. Participation in self-help support programs during and following treatment often helps maintain abstinence.



To Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

REACHING OUT

HOST LIABILITY

You have a party at your home and as a result the law classifies you as a "social host". A guest drinks too much and injures someone on the way home in their car. Perhaps you went away and your son or daughter had the party. Someone got drunk and injured another individual. The injured party is now suing you.

As the "social host," you may have a duty under the law to prevent your partygoers from drinking too much and then getting behind the wheel or engaging in other possibly hazardous activities. In some instances, if your friend hurts someone because he drank too much at your party, the person he injured could sue you for things like medical expenses, vehicle repairs, lost wages, and pain and suffering, simply because the driver drank at your party. In some circumstances, you can also be held criminally responsible. A guest could also file suit if injured.

Once your guests begin to drink, their judgment may become impaired. It is up to you as the host to either take away their car keys and call a cab, or let them spend the night. Although it probably goes without saying, never serve alcoholic beverages to guests who are younger than the state's legal drinking age. If you do, you may be held liable civilly as well as be charged with a criminal offence. If someone obtains a judgment against you for the injuries described above, a lien is placed on any real estate you own in New Jersey. When the time comes to sell or refinance, in most instances the judgment must be paid in full.

I am encouraged to report that residents are becoming aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. When I first became a Municipal Court Judge in 1989, Middletown had over 400 DWI arrests. With increased citizen awareness and police enforcement the DWI arrests were reduced to 147 during 2008.

Please note that the comments provided are for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Please contact your attorney and insurance professional for advice regarding your personal circumstances.

Richard B. Thompson, Esquire, Municipal Court Judge, Alliance Member

ADOLESCENT AND ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING SERVICES

The Community Based program provides short-term outpatient treatment at no charge to Middletown residents. A substance abuse evaluation is the first step in the counseling process.

Please call Mark A. Generoso, MS, CADC, CCS, (732)615-2275, to schedule a free & confidential appointment.

ALLIANCE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

K.I.D.S. and G.L.A.D.

Kids Instructed on Dangerous Substances and Grown-ups Learning About Drugs are educational prevention programs for children five to fifteen years old and adults. Youth and adults will learn the health and legal consequences of involvement with substance abuse in an age appropriate format.

Project PLUS (Peer Leaders Understanding Students)

Project P.L.U.S. is a free after-school peer leadership program for any fifth grade student interested in devoting their time and effort to a program that has the potential to save lives. Almost 1,200 students have completed the program over the past 7 years. Speakers include grieving families, recovering addicts, and other individuals directly affected by alcohol and drug abuse who share their personal stories, as well as the police, municipal court Judge, high school students, and members of the Municipal Alliance.

The goal of this prevention education program is to prepare fifth grade students for the upper grades and teach them the health and legal consequences of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. Students are grouped by the Middle School they will be attending. A parent workshop is a program component.

Alcohol + Prom = No Graduation Ceremony

The administrators and staff at the Middletown Public Schools want to insure that all students who attend the Junior and Senior Proms this year have a safe and enjoyable experience. A review of the events at last years' proms, which included a small number of students who were arrested for underage drinking and possession of alcohol, prompted some changes to the district's Prom Contract. The contract is a document that must be read, understood and signed by the parents of all students under 18 who attend the prom, including students' guests. Adult students sign their own contracts. For the 2009 proms, the contract was strengthened by linking consequences to graduation exercises. Any senior who violates the contract by possessing or by being confirmed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the prom will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony. Parent meetings were held in December at both high schools to explain the contents of the contract, and the contract was sent home in a mailing with the first report card.

Karen L. Bilbao, Superintendent, Middletown Township Public Schools, Alliance Member

Municipal Alliance Collecting Cell Phones, MP3s and PDAs

Donate your old phones, MP3 players, and PDAs to the Alliance. These items are being collected to raise funds for alcohol and drug prevention education programs. Devices do not have to be in working order. Collection boxes are located Town Hall, the Police Department, the Johnson-Gill Annex, Parks and Recreation, and Crossroads. Call 732-615-2269 for more information or to request a collection box.

DID YOU KNOW that Middletown Township has an ordinance regarding alcohol possession and consumption by minors on private property?

portions from ORDINANCE NO.2007-2901, ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 65 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Possession and Consumption on Private Property Restrictions and Penalties: Any person under the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages who, without legal authority, knowingly possesses or who knowingly consumes any alcoholic beverage on private property shall be punished by a fine of \$250.00 for a first offense and 350.00, for any subsequent offenses.

The Court may, in addition to the fine authorized for this offense, suspend or postpone for 6 months the driving privilege of the defendant. If a person at the time of the imposition of a sentence is less than 17 years of age, the period of license postponement, including a suspension of postponement of the privilege of operating a motorized bicycle, shall commence on the day the sentence is imposed and shall run for a period of 6 months after the person reaches the age of 17 years.

A Day (and Night) in the Life of a Middletown Police Officer

I was lucky enough to ride with a member of the Middletown Township Police Department for the purpose you are reading it -- to inform any and all interested parties about the goings-on of the MTPD.

No, there were no Dunkin' Donuts stops on our shift that Saturday night. No there was no targeting of teens in particular. Patrolman Adam Colfer was there strictly to protect and uphold the law to keep Middletown safe.

Through the course of the night Patrolman Colfer, who has been on the force for four years, gave out three tickets, two for cell phone usage and one for not wearing a seat belt.

While on our ride that evening, there was a 911 call for a 10-34 (a fight) on Navesink Avenue in Middletown. Sitting at a red light behind two other vehicles on Highway 36 near RiteAid, Colfer switched on his siren lights and auxiliary and proceeded to the fight that was in his assigned district. After cautiously proceeding through a red-light intersection and reaching nearly 75 MPH on the highway, Colfer scoped out vehicles on the way to the scene, looking for the vehicle of one of the fighters that Headquarters had sent out a hit on.

After not finding the vehicle, we pulled up to the scene where the fight was and saw the victim standing outside of his house with bloody knuckles, arms and knees. His brother had keyed him inside the house. Once we got all of the information from the victim, he and his other brother were transferred to police headquarters, where the attacker had already been brought.

Colfer arrested the attacker on simple assault that night, bringing a sense of righteousness to the evening. Upon further inspection, officers noticed that the attacker also smelled of alcohol, and the victim confirmed that the attacker was drinking. The victim declined a restraining order (because he said it was up to the fourth brother who owned the house), but said that he'd notify the MTPD if anything changed. The attacker was released on the terms that he could not return to the home for 24 hours.

Visit middletownnj.org for a full timeline of the night's events.



Author:
Sean Fitzgerald
Sean is Editor-in-Chief of Middletown High School North's newspaper, Lion's Roar. He is a senior in High School. His article first appeared in the paper's Feb 2009 edition.



Policeman's Bio
Name: **Adam Colfer**
Position: Patrolman
Birth Place: Howell, NJ
Years on Force: 4 years
Previous Jobs: Four years in the Navy, Security officer at Centra State Hospital, bar bouncer.



SF: Do you give more warnings or citations?

Colfer: It depends. If I give a warning, it's usually just a verbal warning. All cops give more warnings than citations. That's a given. If I gave a ticket for every stop I made, I'd probably have about 30 tickets a day, which is unheard of.

SF: What kind of person is best suited for the job?

Colfer: Somebody who's got common sense, got a good personality. A guy (or girl) that's not high-strung or with a short temper. We don't want the person that tries to get back at anyone who did them wrong in high school.

SF: Have you ever been threatened with a weapon?

Colfer: Oh yeah. Mostly just blunt objects. Like bats, things like that. People want to fight you all the time. Well, it's a rough thing when you're taking away somebody's freedom. It's a hard thing for people to get a grip on.

SF: So, have you ever had to draw your weapon?

Colfer: I've never had to use my weapon, but I've had to draw it.

SF: What's the worst crime you've ever been witness to?

Colfer: I just got a guy for kidnapping and sexual assault and aggravated assault two weeks ago.

SF: How often do you get nonsense calls?

Colfer: I thought calling the police, before I got hired as a cop, was such an alien thing that you only did when it had to do with life and limb, but people call the police for EVERYTHING.

SF: Have you ever crashed your cruiser?

Colfer: No, but I've flooded it. It was a really bad rainstorm in the summer and my wipers were on as high as they could go. I underestimated a puddle and water flooded in. I was later told the freezing water seized the hot engine.

Township Tidbits

PARKING PERMIT FEES

The township received a demand from NJ Transit to begin making lease payments on a portion of the main train station parking lot. Since the town's costs will increase significantly, the township is considering fee schedule adjustments to make up to the additional expense.

NURSING ASSESSMENTS FOR SENIORS

Nurses from the VNA of Central Jersey provide FREE monthly-on site nursing assessments to Middletown Seniors at Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Rd on the second Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. This service is sponsored by the Middletown Township Health Department.

GARAGE SALE SIGNS

Residents who use lawn signs to announce garage sales are reminded that township ordinances require that signs be placed no earlier than one week before and removed the day after the sale. Township ordinances also prohibit posting notices on telephone poles. For more information call Code Enforcement at (732) 615-2286.



FROM LEFT ARE: DEPUTY CHIEF JOSEPH BRAUN, SERGEANTS JEFFREY THOMAS BARNER AND ANTHONY G. BAGILEO, CHIEF ROBERT OCHES, AND DEPUTY CHIEFS FREDERICK HENRY AND EUGENE HANNAFEY. BARNER AND BAGILIEO WERE BOTH PROMOTED TO SERGEANT THIS SPRING.

Protecting Your Home from Brush Fires *from page 1*

The Yard

- Maintain a defensible space of at least between 30 and 100 feet around your home. This will serve as a firebreak in the event of a wildfire and it will also give firefighters room to work. Homes with defensible space are more likely to survive a wildfire with little or no damage.
- Control any vegetation, particularly Phragmites, growing in this area. Also remove any dead vegetation such as leaves and pine needles that can carry fire. Landscape with fire resistant plants (for example, plants with high water retention ability and no highly flammable aromatic oils).
- Maintain a well-watered green lawn that is mowed regularly.
- Don't burn trash or brush. Take it to the local landfill.

Access

- Keep your lane or driveway open. Remove vegetation that can burn and trap you in or prevent access to your home by emergency vehicles.
- Be sure your house number is clearly visible from the road.

The House

- Keep your roof, gutters and deck clear of dead leaves and pine needles.
- Don't stack firewood against your house or under your deck. Don't store gas cans or lawnmowers under your deck.
- Keep your chimney clean - have it checked at least twice a year.

Phragmites 101

Tall stands of Phragmites with big fluffy seed heads is a familiar, welcoming site to many visiting in the Bayshore. But for those familiar with the species, a colony of Phragmites is hardly a welcome site.

Phragmites is a tall bamboo-like perennial grass that thrives in both fresh and saltwater marshes and ditches – especially in coastal areas. The plant, known as common reed or as crow weeds, is an aggressive invader of wetland areas particularly where the soil has been disturbed or exposed. Dense stands of Phragmites that grow up to 12 feet tall crowd out native wetland plants and provide little or no value to wildlife.

A precious natural resource, wetlands act as filters, preventing pollutants from entering rivers, lakes and streams that supply drinking water. They provide flood control by absorbing excess water and protect coastal areas from erosion. Wetlands are also home to a significant percentage of endangered and threatened wildlife and are prime spots for fishing, hunting and bird watching. Without native plant production, marshes and wetlands can quickly become degraded.

The plant is tolerant of low water, filling, storm water discharge, road salts and pollution, Phragmites is capable of surviving the harshest conditions, including fire, frost, high pH and flood. Fast-growing and difficult to eradicate, the species spreads by rhizomes, forming a dense mat that puts a chokehold on native vegetation and wetlands.

Port Momouth Beach by Roberta Vega



Questions & Answers

What can I do if I have a problem with a neighbor?

Issues between neighbors can often be addressed by the Township's Code Enforcement Staff. If Code Officers determine a code violation is occurring, they will notify the parties and give them the opportunity to correct the violation. In the event that the violation remains, further action then takes place. However, Code Enforcement can not handle all neighborhood issues. Some violations may involve nuisance issues and the like, that have more to do with the quality of life than direct code violations. In these instances, residents may file a complaint with the Municipal Court, where Court Administrators and/or Judges will make a determination of Probable Cause to issue a complaint and bring the parties to court, or forward an informal complaint to mediation, where court-trained and appointed mediators will endeavor to work out the issues involved.

Where can I drop off recyclables?

The Kanes Lane Recycling Center, located off Hwy. 35 N., across from Cooper Electric, is open Mon-Sat, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and Sun 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Closed Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Easter) For Middletown residents only. ID may be required.

Where can I play miniature golf?

Enjoy an affordable family fun day this spring at Middletown's mini-golf course located at Tindall Park, Tindall Rd. Reservations accepted for family tournaments, birthday parties and special events. Discount books available.

School District News

Success of Summer Program 2008 Leads to Plans for Summer 2009

In the Summer of 2008, the Middletown Public School District expanded its Summer Reading Program for children exiting Kindergarten and First Grade from the 2 weeks the previous year, to 6 weeks. A detailed selection process was developed to assure that the students who were most in need received the highest priority. The premise of the program was that students will catch up in reading if they receive a systematic, explicit instructional program that is student-centered, with at least 80 hours of intensive instruction. The school district was looking to examine the effectiveness of the program by asking the following two questions, "Does the participation of these students who are seriously behind in reading pay off?", and "Do these students maintain the gains they made in the Summer Reading Program and then continue to grow during the regular school year?"

Based on mid-winter Developmental Reading Assessments (DRA2) that were administered by their first and second grade teachers respectively, the answers to both questions were a resounding, "Yes!" Of the 67 kindergarten students who attended 60 hours or more, 65 made significant gains in the Summer Program and continued to improve during the school year in first grade. Seven students completely caught up and are on or above grade level in reading now. Of the 93 first grade students, 92 made significant progress and continued to improve in second grade. Seventeen completely caught up and are on or above grade level in second grade now.

The great advantage of a successful Summer Program like this is that these students, especially those that have caught up, will not need to be referred for special education services and/or supplemental services. They will have the opportunity for continued success throughout their school career due to their competent reading ability.

Due to the tremendous success of the Summer Program in 2008, the Middletown School District plans to expand the 2009 Summer Program to students exiting Kindergarten through Fifth Grade by using federal funds. The same systematic, explicit instruction will be utilized, but due to an analysis of the students' attendance compared to progress, it was determined that five weeks of instruction will be sufficient to provide the maximum benefit. The Title 1/IDEA Elementary Summer 09 Programs will be offered at Fairview and Ocean Avenue Elementary Schools from July 6 through August 7, 2009. The Extended School Year Program for students with disabilities will also run this summer and will be held at Nut Swamp Elementary School and High School North for middle and high school students.

Fred Carrigg, Assistant Superintendent
for Accountability
Karen Bilbao, Superintendent of Schools

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS



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 a series of art shows that showcase local talent. 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.

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.

Summer Recreation Program

The program will be held M-F from June 29-July 31, 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m. at Croydon Hall, Thorne and Thompson Middle Schools. The first day to register is Sat, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Swim & Tennis Club

Bathhouse memberships available The Swim Club, located at 214 Harmony Road, is scheduled to open weekends beginning May 23 and daily June 27. Call 732-671-5757.

New & Noteworthy

Meeting Info Online

A new township policy promotes the posting of more meeting information online prior to meeting time. Efforts are being coordinated to post documents such as proposed resolutions and newly proposed ordinances. Meeting materials will also be available for inspection in the meeting room within an hour before meeting time to the extent possible.

Twp. Committee Salaries Suspended

The Township Committee unanimously adopted an ordinance to suspend their annual \$4,000 salaries through December 31, 2009.

Senior Legal Services

The Middletown Senior Center, located at Croydon Hall, 900 Leonardville Rd, Leonardo, offers free legal services on the third Tuesday of the month. To schedule an appointment, call the Center at 732-615-2265, Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Website Features

Residents who log into the Citizens Communications Center will see a new dashboard with more interactive features. From a personalized portal, residents can submit service requests, contact township departments, connect to many social networking sites to get real time updates of township news as it's published, and search a news and information web archive. Registered users also receive township alerts via e-mail and cell phone text message regarding emergencies such as power outages and potential flooding.

Emergency Planning for Pets

Please include pets when making emergency plans for your family. Red Cross disaster shelters cannot accept pets due to health and safety regulations. The only exception is service animals that assist people with disabilities. Residents should plan in advance for shelter alternatives. Middletown Emergency Management provides planning guidelines for pets at local vet's offices, animal hospitals, and kennels.

TRAINING ACADEMY SPRING SEMESTER

The Spring Semester at the Middletown Township Fire Department Training Academy is underway. On March 7th, a new class of Firefighter Recruits began their training. The Firefighter 1 recruit class is one of thirteen offered this semester. The one hundred and eighty hour basic class concludes with graduation ceremonies on June 20th at Croydon Hall. The Training Academy has expanded its curriculum this semester to include the NJ Boater Safety Class. This class is available to the general public for a tuition fee of fifty dollars.

The Training Academy continues to serve as the Township's Emergency Services training facility and will continue to expand its offerings to civilians. For regular updates and course information visit www.middletownfireacademy.com. For general information send email to info@middletownfireacademy.com.

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 Tuesday (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
Croydon Hall, 7:30 p.m.
4th Monday (monthly)

Safety Council
Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.
3rd Tuesday (monthly)

Upcoming Public Meetings

Keep Middletown Clean and Green

The township's property maintenance requirements are intended to preserve our high quality of life and property values while assuring a clean and attractive community. Please remember township code requires all exterior properties to be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. All lawns are required to be kept cut. All exterior property areas are required to be free of excessive junk, trash and debris. Garbage must be kept in non-absorbent containers with tight-fitting lids and stored away from the street between removals. All sources of stagnant water must be eliminated, since it serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and allows for potential mosquito transmission of the West Nile Virus. New sheds and fences require zoning approval.

Call Code Enforcement at 732-615-2286 with any questions about property maintenance requirements.