



PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dollar Wi\$e Week September 26 – October 3, 2009

- WHEREAS:** In the year 2009, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' National Dollar Wi\$e Campaign has declared September 26–October 3 Dollar Wi\$e Week; and
- WHEREAS:** The theme of Dollar Wi\$e Week 2009, "Preparing Youth for a Dollar Wi\$e Future", emphasizes the importance of instilling in our youth healthy attitudes and skills relating to wise personal financial management; and
- WHEREAS:** Financial illiteracy threatens to stunt economic recovery and delay the nation's exit from recession; The average score among the more than 46,000 high-school students who took the first-ever National Financial Literacy Challenge, conducted by the Office of Financial Education of the United States Department of the Treasury and endorsed by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, was 56% – a failing grade; and
- WHEREAS:** Only 51% of teenagers know how to write a check, 34% can balance a checkbook, 26% understand credit-card fees, and 24% know the consequences of using check cashers; and
- WHEREAS:** The National Council on Economic Education reports that only 28 states require that their personal-finance curriculum standards be implemented; only 9 require that a personal-finance course be offered, and of those only 7 require that the course be taken; and only 17 states mandate an economics course as a graduation requirement; and
- WHEREAS:** Our youth are at a teachable moment in their lives; the habits they form and the decisions they make now will help determine a lifelong attitude toward personal finances; and as parents, teachers, and leaders we are in a trusted position to teach these youth the skills they need to make wise financial decisions now and in the future; and
- WHEREAS:** Our nation's cities and municipal governments, with the support of federal and state governments and national and local organizations, are uniquely qualified to help young Americans become more financially literate and thereby build a solid foundation for their future. Now
- THEREFORE:** I, Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill, and the Middletown Township Committee do hereby proclaim the week of September 26–October 3, 2009, as Dollar Wi\$e Week in Middletown Township, and urge all citizens in our community and throughout the country to join together in a national movement to help our youth become financially literate.

Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill