



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP REPORT News of Your Community

Volume 34 Issue 2

www.middletowntownship.org

Fall 2015

Chester Creek Rail-Trail Construction Underway

A groundbreaking ceremony for Phase I of the Chester Creek Rail Trail, the portion that will primarily run through Middletown Township, was held on July 5, 2015. During the ceremony, members of the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch Board honored and remembered the late Founder and President Mike Fusco, who first envisioned the rail-trail project 21 years ago and who guided the effort over the years to make the trail a reality.

Construction of the 2.8 mile section of trail, which runs from Lenni Rd. to Creek Rd., is now underway. Of particular note in the construction process is the current closure of W. Knowlton Rd. north of Creek Rd. in order to reconstruct what was formerly a railroad underpass beneath the

road. The new tunnel will be used as a pedestrian pass-through for the trail (photo below). The tunnel will be located near the W. Knowlton Rd. trail parking area.

A reminder that no motorized vehicles are to be used on the Rail-Trail, either during the construction phase or once opened for public use. Construction of the County-contracted project is anticipated to be completed in 2016, at which point the Friends of the Chester Creek Branch group will take over trail maintenance responsibilities.



From Left to Right: Peg Amoroso (2nd District Council Representative of Middletown Township), Barry Pinkowicz (Vice President), Valerie Fusco (Secretary) Wife of the late Mike Fusco-Founder & President), Lois Replenski (Sister of the late Mike Fusco), Janilyn Pinkowicz (Director of Membership), John Paulson (Treasurer).



Parks & Recreation Events

Log on to the Township website to download the 2015 Annual Trip Flyer.

www.middleowntownship.org

Email: parkandrec@middleowntownship.org or Call: 610-565-2700

Fall/Winter 2015 Day Trips

- Oct 1:** Lincoln Cottage Civil War Trip
- Oct 3:** DC On Own
- Oct 10:** Ocean City, NJ Fall Fest
- Oct 17:** Unique NYC Tour
- Oct 28:** Fall Mystery Trip
- Nov 5:** Columbia, PA National Clock Museum
- Nov 7:** 911 Museum and Memorial

- Nov 9:** USO Show—Tropicana Casino AC
- Nov 19:** "No Place Like Home for the Holidays"
- Nov 21:** American Girl Place, NYC
- Nov 23:** Lancaster Christmas
- Dec 2:** American Music Theatre Christmas Show
- Dec 3 & 8:** Radio City Rockettes Christmas Show
- Dec 5:** Bridgeton, NJ Christmas House Tour
- Dec 6:** A Dickens Christmas, Mount Hope Winery
- Dec 9:** Hershey Christmas
- Dec 11:** Meyerhoff Hall Christmas Show
- Dec 13:** NYC On Own

2015 Remaining Overnight Trips - Oct 4-

7: Niagara Falls; **Oct 11-14:** Outer Banks; **Oct 12-16:** Cape Cod; **Oct 14-18:** West Virginia Trains; **Oct 19-23:** Asheville, NC; **Oct 25-31:** Savannah/Charleston; **Nov 4-12:** Branson, MO; **Nov 15-17:** Greenbrier Resort; **Nov 29-Dec 21** Newport, RI Christmas; Call for Fall River Cruise Info!

2016 Overnight Trips: **Feb:** South American Cruise; Danube/Rhine River Cruise; **Apr:** Tulip Time River Cruise; **May:** Columbia & Snake River Cruise; Alaska, etc.

Sleighton Park Playground equipment was installed this summer and is ready for use!



15th Annual Golf Outing to be Held Tuesday, October 6 at Edgmont Golf Club

The 15th Annual Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at the Edgmont Golf Club. This is a change in venue from previous years' outings due to a temporary course maintenance condition.

Log on to the Township website www.middleowntownship.org for more event information and to download a registration form. This event serves as a fundraiser with proceeds to benefit the Parks & Recreation Active Recreation Fund to enrich recreational activities offered by Middletown Township. Since the Outing's debut in 2001, it has raised nearly \$200,000.

OTHER EVENTS . . .

Book Club: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1pm.

Fall Lectures at Township Building

Nov 4—The Battle of Leyte Gulf at 2pm

Learn the details of the largest WWII battle which occurred in the Philippines in October 1944, involving over 250 ships, both Japanese and American. Lecture by Middletown Resident John Glanfield.

Nov 5—"Genealogy" at 1:30pm

Bridge & Pinochle Card Players Wanted!

Players meet every Monday AM. Call for details.

Discount Ski Resort Tickets will be sold starting early December. Check website for details!

Multi-Year Darlington Trail Reforestation Project Continues with Tree Planting Planned This Fall

Several years ago, the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) identified Middletown's Darlington Trailhead on Darlington Road as a potential candidate for a multi-year streamside buffer restoration project. This popular township trail runs along the East Branch of the Chester Creek and connects with the Rocky Run Trail.

Middletown Township has since partnered with CRC to complete this restoration project. In 2014, Middletown Township received a TreeVitalize Watershed grant in order to begin the task of eliminating the invasive plants that were beginning to overrun other native vegetation along the stream, and then completing the first of several tree and shrub plantings over several years to re-forest the stream area. 77 trees and shrubs were planted last fall by 41 volunteers from CRC and Middletown Township, along with staff members from both organizations. CRC and Middletown Township donated in-kind services to support the planting.

The Township received another TreeVitalize grant for 2015, and a second large planting is being planned for the Darlington trailhead with the help of CRC on Saturday, October 10, 2015. If you would like to volunteer with the planting, please contact CRC at info@crcwatersheds.org or 610-359-1440.

The project's focus is a half-mile stretch of buffer and meadow sections along the trail. Streamside forests improve water quality by filtering pollutants before they reach the stream and decreasing erosion. They also keep water temperatures cool, an essential for insect and fish populations.



Yard Waste Collection Upcoming Collection Dates

September 16

October 7 and 21

November 18

December 16

- Collection occurs once a month on the third Wednesday from November-March, and twice a month on the first and third Wednesday from April-October.
- Yard waste refers to twigs, sticks, branches, and tree and shrubbery trimmings only. No grass, weeds or leaves will be accepted.
- Individual branches are to be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet in length.
- For branches that meet the size requirements but are too unwieldy to bundle together, a maximum of 10 single branches may be put out to the curb per collection.
- Yard waste is to be placed at the curb the evening before collection, or **no later than 6am** on the day of collection. If it is not out to the curb by the time the truck arrives to collect, the truck will not be sent back to collect later. Please report yard waste placed out at the curb correctly and on time that has not been collected to the Township at 610-565-2700.
- **In the fall months, to minimize confusion with the leaf collection occurring in biodegradable paper bags, the bundling or containing sticks and branches in open trash cans is encouraged, as the leaf collection and yard waste collection are done separately (see p. 5 for the 2015 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule).**



Summer Camp Roundup

Middletown Township's 2015 Summer Camp had a terrific six-week program that was sold out for most of those weeks! Camp Director Kara Volpe did a great job running camp this year, and as always, our fun-loving, caring counselors loved interacting with the campers, who ranged in age from 4 to 12 years old. Awesome activities were planned for each age group, which included a crazy dance contest, wacky water games and a camper talent show. Arts and crafts each week kept all ages busy having fun making flubber, tie dying t-shirts & designing planets. Every week, Special guests like DJ Bruce, Lynn the Animal Lady, John the Scientist and the Middletown Firefighters entertained the children. Off site, fun-filled events included Oasis Fun Center, picking peaches, a hay ride at Linvilla Orchards and bowling at Conchester lanes.

Planning for next summer's camp will begin in early spring 2016. Remember to register your children early next year (signups to open late April) as camp will surely sell out again! See you then!



Employee Profiles: Meet Aaron Carney, Public Works



Aaron Carney has been employed by Middletown Township in the Public Works Department for the past 8 years. Some typical projects Aaron routinely takes care of for the Township include stormwater inlet repair, welding and repairing vehicles and machinery, and landscaping work. Many other duties are seasonal-related work, from field and trail cutting in the summer and collecting leaf bags in the fall, to snowplowing in the winter.

Aaron says that his favorite part of the job is when the Public Works staff is given a project that they can "get their hands dirty" with, and see through from start to finish. One such example of this was during the development of what is now the Township's 22-acre Sleighton Park, located at the corner of Valley and Forge Roads. The Public Works staff did an extensive amount of work clearing the land prior to the land grading, moving topsoil, hydroseeding, and finally installing the irrigation system that is now used to water the playing fields.

A 1994 graduate of West Chester East High School, Aaron now lives with his family in Upper Providence Township. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys spending time with his family and friends, reading, and listening to and playing music.

2015 Fall Leaf Collection Schedule and Procedures

2015 Leaf Collection will begin the week of **October 19 and run through December 4, 2015.**

Leaves will only be collected in biodegradable paper bags. Bags are available for purchase at cost at the Township Building, Linvilla Orchards, or Wolff's Apple House at a price of \$2.50 for a bundle of 5 bags.

There is no need to call the Township for collection. Just place the bags at the curb by Tuesday of each week, and the Public Works staff will be making weekly sweeps of the Township. Please note that if a sweep of your neighborhood is done once during the week, the crew may not get back until the following week. The bags can be left out until the next collection.

Please keep the weight under 40 pounds per bag and simply fold the top of the bag down; do not tape or seal the bag shut. No sticks, stones, or grass clippings may be mixed with the bagged leaves. At its discretion, the Township may refuse to collect improperly bagged items.



What can YOU do to prevent stormwater pollution?

1. Remember: Only rain belongs in the drain!

Don't dump anything down storm drains. Be sure to clear away leaves and debris.

2. Wash your car over your lawn or gravel.

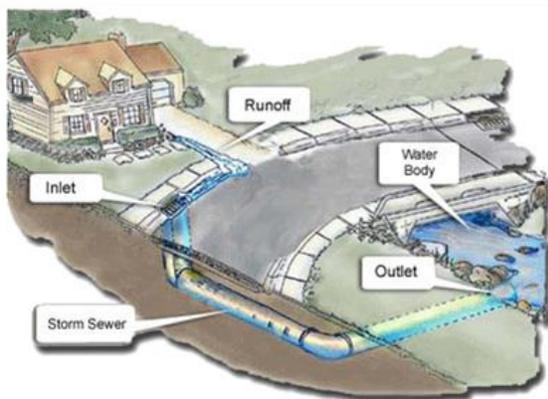
This allows the ground to neutralize the soap and grime from your car rather than sending it directly to our creeks and streams. Use biodegradable or non-toxic soap that is phosphate-free. You can also take your car to a commercial car wash where wastewater is either recycled or treated.

3. Keep your car well-maintained.

Fix any fluid leaks promptly and make sure to clean up any spills.

4. Use lawn or garden chemicals sparingly.

Choose organic alternatives when possible and check the weather forecast to avoid applying them before a storm.



5. Mow your lawn less often.

Try to keep your lawn at least 3" in height to minimize weed growth, reduce the need for watering, and decrease the likelihood of pests. Leaving the clippings on the lawn can also help block weeds and retain moisture. Sweep your sidewalks and driveway rather than hosing them down.

6. Plant native, low maintenance plants and grasses.

They often have longer root systems, which reduce the amount of chemicals and water needed.

7. Clean up pet waste.

Bag up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash to prevent harmful bacteria from washing into local waterways.

8. Consider minimizing impervious surfaces around your home.

Use bricks, gravel, cobbles, natural stone, or permeable pavers instead of asphalt or concrete when possible.

9. Walk, bike, or share a ride when possible.

Driving causes particulates to enter our air. This air pollution can contaminate our rain and end up in our streams and lakes.

10. Install a rain barrel or cistern to capture roof runoff.

This helps prevent stormwater from reaching waterways and provides a no-cost source for plant and garden watering.

Reminder: ATVS are not permitted to be operated on Township Property. This includes Township-owned open space as well as trails.



Middletown Township Sewer Authority Updates

Chester Creek Interceptor Phase I Update

We are happy to report that the MTSA recently received all of the required permits for construction of the Chester Creek Interceptor Phase I (CCPI). This phase proposes the construction of a sanitary sewer interceptor which extends from Pennell Road just south of Mount Road to Knowlton Road, a distance of approximately 8,300 linear feet. The contract was awarded to PACT One LLC and construction is scheduled to commence in August. It is anticipated that this phase of the Interceptor will take approximately 6 months to complete.

Chester Creek Interceptor Phase II Update

MTSA is diligently working on the final design, easement acquisition and permitting for Phase II of the Chester Creek Interceptor. Phase II will extend from Knowlton Road to the new DELCORA pump station in Aston which is located at the site of the former SWDCMA Wastewater Treatment Plant, a distance of approximately 12,500 linear feet. MTSA plans to have construction of Phase II of the interceptor completed prior to May of 2017. Upon completion of Phase II of the interceptor, the MTSA will eliminate the existing Glen Riddle Pump Station located on Martin's Lane.

Water Conservation

As outlined in past newsletters, DELCORA is now providing the treatment services for all our residents and business owners. We are now being billed for every drop of water that enters into the sanitary sewers. The cost of sewer treatment has been increasing along with energy, insurance and capital upgrades to the sanitary sewer system. Water conservation is one way all homeowners and business owners can help keep treatment costs and sewer rates down. We also need everyone's help keeping extraneous water out of the sanitary sewer system. Please ensure no sump pumps and HVAC condensate lines are connected to your sanitary sewer and inspect all cleanouts to make sure they are not broken by lawn mowers. We sincerely appreciate everyone's effort in

helping keep the sewer costs as low as possible.

Residential Plumbing Permit Process

Recently MTSA has received several calls from homeowners on what the MTSA requires in order to conduct a repair to an existing broken or blocked sanitary building sewer and/or trap. Please be advised that all repairs to any existing building sewer require a plumbing permit which is obtained from the MTSA. Please note that all plumbing contractors must be licensed, insured and registered with Middletown Township. Prior to final approval of the repair, MTSA will conduct a final inspection of the work to ensure the repair meets all minimum requirements. The project is not legally complete until it passes a final inspection. Should you have any questions regarding the plumbing permit process for sanitary sewer work, please do not hesitate to contact the MTSA manager.

2015 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

All events take place from 9am to 3pm, rain or shine.

The following dates are collections for Household Hazardous Waste ONLY—

NO ELECTRONICS ACCEPTED

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Penn State Brandywine
25 Yearsley Mill Rd. (Rt. 352), Media

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Emergency Services Training Center
1600 Calcon Hook Rd, Sharon Hill

More info at DCSWA at 610-892-9627 or www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/hhw.html

Recycling Quick Tips

Co-mingle plastics **1-7**, glass, steel, bi-metal, and aluminum cans. Newsprint, phone books, junk mail, and office paper may also be placed in the same container with the other co-mingled materials, provided that the paper is prevented from blowing away by the use of a lidded container.

If using a lidless container, paper should be bundled in paper bags or tied and placed in or near the container(s). Corrugated cardboard and gray cardboard (pizza and cereal boxes) are to be bundled or stacked in bags and placed in or near the recycling bin.

Non-Township issued containers must have Yellow Recycling stickers affixed, available free at the Township, Wolff's, and Linvilla.



Council Members

At Large

Lorraine Bradshaw
Mark Kirchgasser
Norman C. Shropshire

First District

Scott D. Galloway

Second District

Margaret J. Amoroso

Third District

Russ Carlson

Fourth District

Christopher B. Quinn

This newsletter has been provided to you as a service by Middletown Township. If you have any suggestions for future issues, please let us know by contacting the Township Building.

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