



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP REPORT News of Your Community

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Winter 2013-14

Giant Sequoia Donated to Township by Tyler Arboretum Takes on New Life at Longwood Gardens

In 2002, Tyler Arboretum donated a sequoia sapling to Middletown Township, which was planted at the Township Building (pictured below). The sapling was an offshoot of the 160-year-old Giant Sequoia located on Tyler's property near Painter Rd.

Recently, with the Township's permission, Longwood Gardens collected small cuttings from the Township's Sequoia and grafted them on to the stem of root stock of a different type of plant. The goal is to develop a hybrid that has greater adaptability to mid-Atlantic growing conditions. In 2012 Longwood Gardens was able to directly root small cuttings collected from the tree at the township building (photo at right).



Above: Cuttings taken from the tree at the Township Building in 2012. Still small but growing roots!



Above: Photo originally printed in the Fall 2002 Township Newsletter of Tyler Arboretum's Director of Horticulture Gerry LaFerriere (left) and Executive Director Rick Colbert after the tree was planted.



Above: What a difference 11 years makes! The Giant Sequoia "sapling" today.

Township Council Holds Line on Property Taxes for 2014; Local Services Tax Implemented for Workers in Middletown

The approved 2014 budget continues the property tax millage rate at last year's rate of 1.6 mills in order to cover Township operations. Using the 1.6 mills levy and the average residential tax assessment in the Township of \$194,285, the "typical" property owner will receive a tax bill for Township purposes of \$310 in 2014. As a comparison, that same property owner paid \$1,059 to Delaware County, and \$4,457 to the Rose Tree Media School District during 2013.

Despite the healthy tax base in the Township, Township Council has recognized that resolving traffic capacity issues and meeting demand for emergency response services are key issues likely to require significant additional funding beyond the ability of the current operating budget to support. In response, Council recently enacted the Local Services Tax (LST) on people employed within the Township which will start to be collected in 2014. This tax is currently levied by 41 of the 49 municipalities within Delaware County. People employed within Middletown Township have already been paying the Occupational Privilege tax, a \$10 per year tax that goes to the Rose Tree Media School District. With the enactment of the LST, \$52 dollars per year will be collected from each worker in the Township: \$10 will still go to the Rose Tree Media School District as it has in the past, and \$42 additional will now go to the Township. The tax will be set up as an incremental payroll deduction throughout the year, not at one deduction in the full amount.

Berkheimer & Associates, the company charged with collecting the tax, estimates that the LST will generate approximately \$350,000 - \$400,000 in annual revenue to the Township. The Local Tax Enabling Act requires that 25% of the LST go toward the funding of Emergency Services (Police/Fire Companies/EMS). With the estimated income from the implementation of the LST, approximately \$100,000 will fund Emergency Services annually, and the remaining 75%, or \$300,000 of the proceeds will be directed by the Township Council to a fund dedicated to intersection improvements at Rt. 452 and Rt. 1.

Workers earning less than \$12,000 annually are exempt from having to pay the LST. A person seeking to claim an exemption from the Local Services Tax must file an exemption certificate each year. Copies of the form will be made available at the Middletown Township office, or can be downloaded from the Berkheimer website <http://www.hab-inc.com> under the Tax Forms tab.

The certificate must be submitted, along with w-2s or end-of-year pay stubs, to the person's employer. Upon receipt of the exemption certificate, the employer shall not withhold the tax from the person during the calendar year or the remainder of the calendar year for which the exemption certificate applies.

Questions about the collection of the LST tax can be directed to Berkheimer at 610-599-3142.

2014 Recycling Collection Schedule Available Online

The 2014 Recycling Schedule is available for download and printing on the Township website www.middletowntownship.org under the tab **Recycling**. If you would like to receive a hard copy of your street's collection schedule in the mail, please call the Township at 610-565-2700.

The schedule will continue as it has since October 2008 with Area 1 (south of SEPTA tracks) and Area 2 (north of SEPTA tracks) alternating collection weeks and being divided among Wednesday, Thursday and Friday collection days.

FACT: In 2012, 1,168 tons of recycling was collected from residences in Middletown Township. Divided among the 4,400 residential units in the Township, this means that each household is recycling an average of 600 lbs per year. That is a lot of material that is being diverted from the landfill and converted for re-use. Great job recycling!

Christmas tree collection will run from Monday, January 6 through Friday, January 17, 2014.

Trees should be placed at the curb and all ornaments and tinsel must first be removed, or they will not be collected. The trees are then taken to the Delaware County Compost farm where they are recycled.

Variety of Options Available for Making Township Tax Payments

Township tax bills will be mailed out soon into the new year. Payments can be made without the penalty fee through May 31, either online, by mail, or in person at the Township Building or at Republic Bank on the corner of Baltimore Pike and Providence Rd. in Media. Payments may be made by cash, check, or VISA, MasterCard, or Discover.

As a convenience to taxpayers, Middletown Township offers online payment of real estate taxes through the township website, www.middletowntownship.org, keyword Electronic Payments. American Express, Discover, Master Card, Visa credit and debit cards and electronic checks are accepted.

Official Payments, the Township-contracted collection company, only charges a \$3 flat fee when paying online by E-Check no matter the tax payment amount, whereas a 3% fee will be charged to the user for credit card transactions made online or by phone.

To Pay Online with E-Check (\$3 flat fee)
Visit www.officialpayments.com/echeck
(Use Jurisdiction Code 4882)

To Pay Online by Credit Card (3% fee)
Visit www.officialpayments.com
(Use Jurisdiction Code 4882)

To Pay by Phone (3% fee)
Call 1-800-2PAY-TAX
(Use Jurisdiction Code 4882)

2014 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, **AS WELL AS Computers, Printers, Scanners, Fax Machines, and TVs.**

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Emergency Services Training Center
1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill

Sunday, September 14 (New day & location!)

Penn State Brandywine
25 Yearsley Mill Rd, Media

Saturday, October 18

Upper Chichester Township Building
8500 Furey Road, Boothwyn

HHW ONLY Date: Saturday, June 7

Marple Transfer Station
Marpit Drive & Sussex Blvd, Broomall

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

Typical HHW Includes:

Oil-based paint—paint thinner—varnish—kerosene—gasoline—motor oil—antifreeze—weed killers—fungicides/pesticides—cleaners/solvents—mercury-containing items—propane tanks <20lbs—ni-cad, lithium, rechargeable & lead batteries—cell phones

Small Electronics/Appliances Accepted:

tvs—computers systems—stereos—CD & DVD systems—microwaves—toasters—blenders—power tools—hair dryers—vacuums—copiers—typewriters—adding machines

Latex Paint (dried out) and Alkaline Batteries can be disposed of in regular trash.

Employee Profiles: Meet Finance Director Tim Sander



Tim Sander has been employed with Middletown Township as the Finance Director for the past 15 years. Before coming to work for Middletown, Tim was the Finance Director at Haverford Township. Originally from Johnstown, PA, Tim attended Lewistown High School before going to Thiel College, and later receiving his Masters in Government Accounting from the University of Pennsylvania.

Tim's main responsibilities as Finance Director are overseeing the revenue and tax collection for the Township, as well as payroll and accounts payable. He also assists in the annual budget preparation, and acts as benefits administrator. Additionally, he invests Township funds and works regularly with investment advisors and other Township consultants.

Tim says that one of the most fulfilling aspects of his job is being able to see new projects through to completion, such as when he coordinated the implementation of the retirement health savings plan for Township employees.

In his free time, Tim spends many fall and winter Sundays at Eagles games as a season ticket holder. He also enjoys spending time with his six grandsons, and vacationing at different beaches with his wife, Arlene.

Parks & Recreation Events

www.middletowntownship.org

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

2014 complete Trip and Event Flyer will be available by late February. Check the website starting in January 2014 for early trip & event postings. Call with trip ideas!

March & April 2014 Day Trips

- Mar 5:** Philadelphia Flower Show
- Mar 10:** St. Pat's Day Celebration, Caesar's AC
- Mar 18:** "Moses" Sight & Sound Theater
- Mar 22:** Washington, DC On Own w/ Zoo Option
- Mar 26:** "Motown" NYC
- Mar 28:** Italian Feast, Doolans, Spring Lake, NJ
- Apr 3:** Odyssey Cruise/ DC Cherry Blossoms
- Apr 5:** NYC On Own (Macy Flower Show option)
- Apr 8:** Bethlehem Sands Casino
- Apr 13:** "Calamari Sisters" Penn's Landing
- Apr 23:** Mystery Trip
- Apr 26:** NYC Show

2014 Proposed Overnight Trips

2014 Cruises to warm Southern Destinations—Caribbean, Mediterranean, Bermuda, Hawaii, and the Panama Canal. Also in the works for 2014, cruises to Canada/New England, Alaska, and American Steamboat Paddlewheelers. Call for additional options!

Spring—Savannah and the South; Africa in April; European River Cruises
March Phillies Spring Training Programs in Clearwater, FL, via air and motorcoach.

Summer—River Cruises to Paris & Normandy; Rhine and Danube; USA National Parks; Pittsburgh; New England Rail & Sail; Smoky Mountains, TN; Trains of New Hampshire & Vermont, and more!

Fall—Italy, Greece, Spain
September Memorials of War/Paris & Normandy with three-night post tour extension to London.

Winter—New Orleans; Holiday Trips to New England; European Christmas Market River Cruise on the Danube; Williamsburg Christmas

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 1pm. Indian Lane School

Middletown Community Day

Sat. May 3, 2014 at Penn State Brandywine. 11-3pm.

Lovely Ladies Luncheon & Fashion Show

Tuesday, May 13 at the Towne House in Media. Fashion show, jewelry display & makeup demo

Summer Camp 2014 at Indian Lane

Runs 6 weeks from the end of June-early Aug.
Call for details.

Red Cross Blood Drive planned for July

Call for details.

Lecture Events

Three to be announced for Spring, Summer & Fall

Book Club

1st Tuesday of every month at 1pm

Trail Walks

Held each Spring and Fall, led by an expert.
Call for details.

Calling all Pinochle & Bridge Players

11am Mondays at Township Building. Call for details.

Discount Ski Resort Tickets

to many regional ski resorts are now available for sale through the winter season. Check the website for the order form, and call first for availability.



Be Smart: Get Your 2014 Dog License

Dog licenses are now available for sale at the Township Building or at the County Government Center. In addition to it being a state law that all dogs must be licensed, if your dog strays or runs at large from your property and is wearing its tag, the dog will be able to be returned directly back to you and you can avoid unnecessary worry, costs, and trips to the Chester County SPCA. Middletown Township and the majority of the other Delaware County municipalities have a 5 year stray boarding contract in place with the CCSPCA. Municipalities will be charged \$275 in 2014 for each stray animal that is located and collected within its borders, and subsequently turned in to the Chester County SPCA.



Due to the high intake cost being charged back to Middletown for each stray turnover at the Chester County SPCA, please be advised that the owner of any dog that is detained will be cited by the Animal Control Officer at the District Court, and must pay the Township the sum of the expenses incurred by the Township for the collection and detention of the dog.

MTSA Asks Residents to Check Sewer Vents for Needed Repairs

The Middletown Sewer Authority needs your help keeping unwanted Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) from entering the sanitary sewer system.

During the summer lawn mowing season, damage may have occurred to your sanitary sewer vents and cleanouts that are located in lawn areas. Please inspect all sewer vents and cleanouts for any damage incurred from lawn mowers.

Sewer vents should be a minimum of 6" above grade with a dome shaped vented cap. Sanitary sewer cleanouts can be level with grade, but must be equipped with solid caps to keep unwanted rain and surface water from entering into the sanitary sewer system. Perforated and slotted caps are not permitted to be installed at grade level.

If any damaged cleanouts or vents need to be replaced, the MTSA has caps in stock that can be purchased for \$40.17.

As stated in past newsletters, in the near future the MTSA will be charged for every gallon of water that enters into the sanitary sewer system. The removal of additional inflow and infiltration into the sewer system will help lower the sanitary sewer treatment costs, and reduce the impact on future bills.



Stormwater Is Everybody's Business

Stormwater picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, manure and other pollutants as it flows over surfaces such as driveways, roads and lawns. Without proper stormwater management, this polluted runoff flows untreated into our streams, rivers and wetlands.



Polluted stormwater runoff is the greatest threat to clean water!

Our streams and rivers supply water for drinking, fishing, swimming, boating, and water for wildlife.



Residents, municipalities, businesses and developers need to work together to decrease stormwater runoff and increase stormwater infiltration.

Safety Tips to Help You Help Responders in an Emergency

Seconds count . . . Especially in an emergency. Help responders to be able to act more quickly in the event they're called to your home.

- Display your house number prominently in a location easily visible from the street. This can be on a placard at the end of your driveway, on your mailbox, or on your house near the front door. Numbers should be at least 3" high.
- After each snowstorm, "adopt" a fire hydrant that may be located near your home and clear the snow away from it. Fire fighters can connect to hydrants more quickly when they are readily visible and accessible.

When Seconds Count...



After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.

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.

Editor

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www.middletowntownship.org



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