



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP REPORT News of Your Community

Volume 33 Issue 3

www.middletowntownship.org

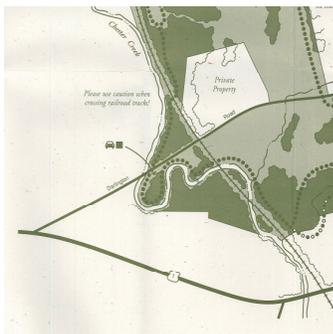
Winter 2014-15

Middletown Tree Tenders® Group Formed; Darlington Trail Reforestation Project Underway with Fall Tree Planting

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.

Middletown Township has since partnered with CRC to complete this restoration project, which involves eliminating the invasive plants that were beginning to overrun other native vegetation along the stream, and then completing several tree and shrub plantings over several years to reforest the stream area. 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.

The project's focus is a half-mile stretch of buffer and meadow sections along the trail. Over the past year, steps were taken to eliminate the invasive plants. This past October, CRC and Middletown Township coordinated the first of



several tree plantings for the site. 77 trees and shrubs were planted by 41 volunteers from CRC and Middletown



Township, along with staff members from both organizations.

This planting was funded by a TreeVitalize Watershed Grant. CRC and Middletown Township donated in-kind services to support the project.

In related news, Middletown Township has formed its own Tree Tenders® group known as the Middletown Delco Tree Tenders, or MDTT. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's (PHS) Tree Tenders® program trains volunteers on tree planting and care. The members of the MDTT group are Debbie Timblin, Cathy Bradfield, Steve Wood, Susan Sharp, Karen Holm, Brian Lank, Susan Powell, Gregory Reitze and Cala Smith.

Several of the members volunteered at the recent Darlington Trail planting. Future projects will include a pruning project at the Township Building and tending to past Township tree plantings at Sleighton Park. Anyone interested in joining the group or submitting suggestions for projects, please contact Debbie Timblin at 610-565-2700 or dtimblin@middletowntownship.org.

Clearing Streets During Snow Storms: How You Can Help

During snowstorms, residents often wonder when and how their streets will be cleared of snow. All 58 miles of Township-owned streets are cleared by the Public Works Department. An additional 20 miles of state maintained highway are cleaned by PADOT.

Once plowing has started, the crew will continue to clear just the center of the roads until the snow stops. After the snow has stopped (and under ideal conditions) it can take the plow up to eight hours for three to four complete additional circuits of the route to clear back to the curb. If in this time it begins to snow again with accumulation, the plow will start all over again.

Because of the duration of the typical storm and the long hours needed to just clear the roads, intersections and cul-de-sacs are left to be fully cleaned off until after the roads are completed. Sometimes this occurs the day after the storm due to the number of intersections and cul-de-sacs within the Township and the time needed to clean them up.

There are several important things residents can and should do in preparation for snowfalls to aid with the removal of snow from your street:

- Park cars in the driveway, if possible
- If you must park in the street, park all cars on one side of the street to allow for greater passage of the snow plow
- Shovel snow "downstream" (in the same direction of travel) from your mailbox and driveway so that piled snow does not get pushed back into the driveway entrance by the snow plow
- **Do not plow snow from your driveway into the street or across the street**
- Remove any portable basketball backboards from the curb area before winter
- Keep fire hydrants near your home shoveled out in case of emergency

Flyers may be placed on vehicles or mailboxes to notify residents of issues that are impeding the snow removal operation.



Get Township Information Emailed to Your Inbox!

Log on to www.middletowntownship.org and click on the tab "Email Alerts" to sign up for email notifications for the latest Township documents and publications.

Information available (choose any or all):

- Agendas and Minutes of various Township Council and Board meetings.
- The "General Alerts" checkbox sends emails that deliver important weather alerts, safety alerts, road closures, schedule changes, etc.
- Announcements about various special events sponsored by the Township Parks & Recreation Department
- Flyers announcing the latest day and overnight trip offerings sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department
- The Township newsletter published 3-times a year containing important information relevant to Township residents.

Parks & Recreation Events

www.middleowntownship.org

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

2015 complete Trip and Event Flyer will be available mid-late February. Check the website starting in January 2015 for early trip & event postings. Call with trip ideas!

March & April Tentative 2015 Day Trips

- Mar 3:** Philadelphia Flower Show
- Mar 10:** Union League & Academy of Music Tours
- Mar 12:** Doolan's, Spring Lake, NJ, St. Pat's Party
- Mar 16:** Atlantic City, Caesar's, Irish Show
- Mar 21:** New York City Broadway Show
- Mar 24:** Hunterdon Hills, NJ, Show & Luncheon
- Mar 28:** New York City On Own Day
- Apr 1:** Mystery Destination Day
- Apr 7:** Odyssey Cherry Blossom Cruise & Lunch
- Apr 11:** 911 Memorial & Museum, New York City
- Apr 18:** DC On Own Day
- Apr 22:** Dutch Apple "Funny Girl" Show & Luncheon
- Apr 28:** Special Lancaster Tour with Civil War Expert
- Apr 30:** Bethlehem Sands Casino Day

May & June Day Trips in the Works...

Alexandria, VA with Private Guide ~ West Point, NY ~ Central Park, NYC Private Tour & Tavern on the Green Lunch ~ Amish Farm Tour ~ Private House Tour, Spring Lake, NJ ~ Citizens Bank Park Tour & Lunch ~ Arlington Cemetery Private Tour ~ Taste of Eastern Shore, MD ~ Natural History Museum, NYC ~ Summer Mystery Trip

2015 Proposed Overnight Trips

European Spring, Summer and Fall River Cruises; Canadian Rockies, Grand Canyon and out West Adventures; Unique Italy Tours & Scotland and Ireland to name a few! Plus Montreal & Quebec Visits.

US motor coach tours to include: Hudson Valley, New York - Alaska Land tour Only - California Rails, Wines and Redwoods - Cape Cod & Newport, Savannah & Charleston - Charleston & Myrtle Beach - Charlottesville & Asheville with the Biltmore - Saratoga Springs, NY - Ohio - West Virginia, Endless Mountains of North Central PA and Corning, NY - Erie, PA - Finger Lakes, NY - Niagara Falls - Boston & Beyond - New Hampshire - Pennsylvania and the Flight 93 Memorial Area - Washington, DC & more!

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 1pm. Indian Lane School

Lovely Ladies Luncheon & Fashion Show

Tuesday, April 14 at the Towne House in Media. Fashion show, jewelry display & makeup demo

Summer Camp 2015 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 & Fall. Call for details.

Calling all Pinochle & Bridge Players

11am Mondays at Township Building. Call for details.

Flea Market & Movie in the Park

Being planned by Recreation Committee. Stay tuned 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.



Animal Ordinance Prohibits Dogs from Running “At Large”

The Township’s Animal Ordinance requires that dogs are not permitted to go “at large” upon any street, public place or private property and must be leashed, secured, or in an enclosure, and/or under the reasonable control of the owner when doing so. (Refer to Section 63-4.D. of the Animal Ordinance for the full language, available on the website under the **Code Book** tab.) Any owner of a dog that is found to be habitually running at large, causing a nuisance, or generally affecting the health, safety and welfare of others will be cited by the Animal Control Officer at District Court per the Violations and Penalties provision of the Animal Ordinance (Section 63-7).

A resident may report an incident of a dog running at large, or any other Animal Control issue, to the Township by calling 610-565-2700. If the Township offices are closed at the time, the State Police may be contacted at the non-emergency number (484-840-1000) and they will contact the Township’s contracted Animal Control Officer. Please report any complaints to the Township during regular business hours that had been reported to the State Police during off-hours so that a staff member can track the incident and any necessary follow-up required.



Employee Profiles: Meet Building Inspector Bob Ellis



Bob Ellis has been employed with Middletown Township as the Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer for the past 13 years. Before coming to work for Middletown, Bob was the Building Inspector at Marple Township. Prior to beginning his career in municipal code enforcement and building inspection, Bob had a full career with the U.S. Air Force, where he was a fire fighter and fire inspector. Though originally from Iowa, Bob’s military career brought him to live in a number of places throughout the world, including Italy and Japan, before his retirement from the military and moving with his family to Delaware County.

Bob’s main responsibilities as the Building Inspector are overseeing all residential and commercial construction projects within the Township. This includes performing plan and permit application reviews, meeting with residents and contractors, and performing inspections to ensure the construction complies with the building code, which is in place to protect the safety of the present and future property owners and all who visit the property.

Bob says that one of the most fulfilling aspects of his job is helping people to obtain a healthy and safe living environment and seeing new construction projects being completed.

In his free time, Bob enjoys spending time with his family, including his wife, Pam, their children and grandchildren.

2015 Recycling Collection Schedule Available Online

The 2015 Recycling Schedule is available for download and printing on the Township website www.middleowntownship.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.



Christmas tree collection will run from Monday, January 5 through Friday, January 16, 2015.

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 chipped by the Public Works Department. The wood chips will be made available to Township residents at Memorial Park.

SPECIAL SPRING LEAF COLLECTION Week of March 23, 2015

Place leaf bags out to curb by
7am on March 23, 2015
to ensure collection.



Didn't get all your leaves cleaned up before the winter? The Township provides a special leaf collection each spring.

There is no need to call the Township for collection. Simply place leaves, contained in biodegradable bags, out at the curb by **7am on Monday, March 23** so that the Public Works Department can make a sweep of the entire Township throughout the week.

Please note that this collection is for leaf waste only— yard waste (sticks & branches) is collected and recycled separately. The yard waste collection schedule can be found on the Township website under the **Recycling** tab.

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)

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

Saturday, April 25, 2015
Emergency Services Training Center
1600 Calcon Hook Rd., Sharon Hill

Saturday, June 13, 2015 (NEW LOCATION!)
Marple Newtown High School
120 Media Line Rd., Newtown Square

Sunday, September 20, 2015
Penn State Brandywine
25 Yearsley Mill Rd, 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

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:

tv's—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.

Middletown Township Sewer Authority Update

Sewer Rental Rates to Increase

A few years ago, the Sewer Authority recommended gradual increases in sewer rental rates to cover the cost of infrastructure upgrades and increases in sending sewage to DELCORA WWTP for treatment. The new DELCORA pump station is up and running and is now accepting sewer flows from Middletown Township. All sanitary sewage will be sent to the DELCORA WWTP in Chester Township for treatment. In 2015, the annual residential rate will be adjusted from \$350 to \$400 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit. The quarterly commercial/industrial base rate will change from \$100 to \$114 for the first 24,000 gallons, plus \$4.76 for each additional 1000 gallons. This represents 59 cents per 1000 gallons increase over the 2014 rates.

The Sewer Authority sincerely appreciates the support it has received from its customers and will continue to strive to maintain a reliable sanitary sewer system and keep rates as reasonable as possible. We continue to urge all residential and commercial property owners to ensure that no rain or ground water is permitted to enter into the public sanitary sewer system via sump pumps, condensate lines, downspouts, foundation drains, broken pipes or slotted/cracked vents and cleanouts. If not controlled, the cost of treating rain and ground water will ultimately result in future rate increases. Thank you for your support to help keep everyone's sewer rates down.

2014 Inflow and Infiltration Project Update

During the summer months, the Sewer Authority conducted an Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Program which included televising and repairing a portion of the sanitary sewer system located in the Township. Based on flow metering conducted prior to and after completion of the work, the Sewer Authority Engineer reported a significant reduction in inflow, and more importantly, a

reduction in the average daily sewer flow in the area where the work was conducted. (47,000 gallon reduction per day). This equates to a savings of approximately \$52,000 per year.

Residents Urged to Research the Presence of Abandoned On-Lot Sewage Disposal Systems

The MTSA has become aware of a potential safety hazard that may exist on certain properties where on-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS) were utilized prior to the installation of public sewer service. There have been several instances in the Township during the past year that involved the collapse of corroded steel septic tanks and/or cesspools on residents' properties that had not been properly filled in at the time the houses were connected to the public sewer system. Three of the collapsed tanks occurred in the Riddlewood Development. An unfilled, aging underground tank is an unsafe condition. We urge all residents to fill any abandoned OLDS or wells with clean material (dirt, stone or sand) to avoid the possibility of a future collapse.

Please review your property records to determine the location and status of any OLDS and verify whether or not the OLDS were properly filled. Please share any information about any OLDS that may have been filled so that we may update our records, as the Township's property records in this regard are not very detailed prior to the 1950's.

If your house was built prior to the installation of public sewers in your area and you are unaware of the location of an OLDS on your property, we strongly suggest that test holes be dug to confirm the location, and if it is not filled, to do so. There are also service companies with ground penetrating radar equipment that may be able to locate OLDS.

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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Township Contact Information

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www.middletowntownship.org



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