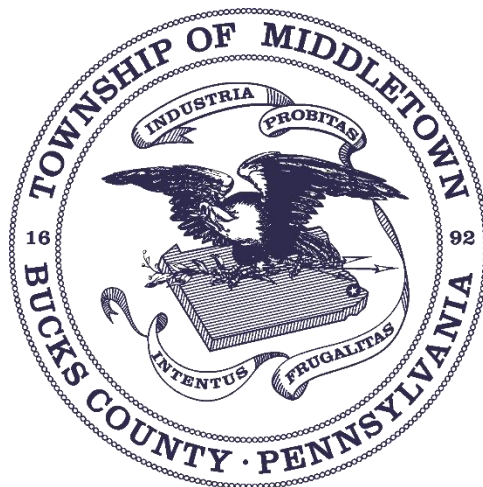


Middletown Township Media Package

Middletown Township to Rename Cobalt Ridge
Playground in Honor of Supervisor Anna Payne

April 24, 2026



Press Release:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject:

Middletown Township to Rename Cobalt Ridge Playground in Honor of Supervisor Anna Payne

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Resources can be found on the final pages of this document for this project.

Middletown Township, PA — Middletown Township will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 1 at 4:00 PM to officially rename Cobalt Ridge Playground as Supervisor Anna Payne Memorial Park. The public is invited to attend and join in honoring Payne’s legacy and lasting impact on the community.

Originally constructed in August 2022, Cobalt Ridge Playground was the Township’s first inclusive and accessible playground, designed to ensure children of all abilities can play and interact together. Payne was a driving force behind the project, advocating for a space where all children feel welcome, supported, and included.

The park held special meaning for Payne, who grew up in the Cobalt Ridge neighborhood. Her vision helped shape a playground that features wheelchair-accessible elements, solitude seating designed for children on the autism spectrum, interactive music features, and adaptive swings that allow children and caregivers to sit face-to-face.

“I really can’t think of a more fitting tribute,” said Supervisor Mike Ksiazek. “It’s important that Anna’s legacy lives on, and this is something she would be proud of.”

Payne, 37, lived with cystic fibrosis her entire life and courageously battled stage four colon cancer for four years. She was a passionate advocate for individuals with rare illnesses and worked to create a more inclusive community for all.

The renaming serves as a lasting tribute to Payne’s dedication, especially in the neighborhood where she grew up and near a park she helped champion.

“Anna’s impact on this community will not be forgotten,” said Chairperson Bernadette Hannah. “This park stands as a reflection of her commitment to inclusion, compassion, and service to others.”

The May 1 ceremony will include remarks from Township leadership and elected officials, followed by a community celebration. All are welcome to attend.

A commemorative garden at the park entrance was made possible through a donation from the Middletown Township Community Foundation, with installation completed through donated time and services by Foraker Landscaping.

-End of Release-

Resources:



Supervisor Anna Payne Memorial Park



Ribbon Cutting of Cobalt Ridge Playground August 10, 2022



Bernadette Hannah, Middletown Township Board of Supervisor, Chairperson



Mike Ksiazek, Middletown Township Board of Supervisor, Chairperson