

TOWNSHIP OF  
—MIDDLETOWN—  
B U C K S C O U N T Y

### Two Retirees Leave, and Four New Hires Join Middletown Township

Middletown Township congratulates John Balent and Lisa Berkis on their retirement and welcomes new many new faces to the team!



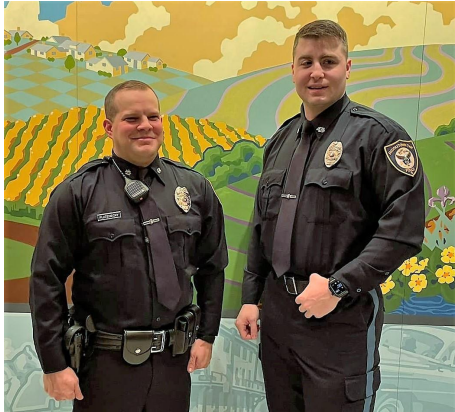
John Balent began working for Middletown Township in 1985. He has worked in many roles in various departments over the years. John transitioned to his current role as a Foreman in Public Works Department when the Park Maintenance crew was consolidated with Public Works in 2018. John's 37-year career has solidified his role as the Township encyclopedia; his extensive knowledge will certainly leave a void. Middletown Township looks forward to seeing John have the retirement he has long been working towards.

Lisa Berkis, Special Projects Manager began working for the Township in the early 1990s. Over the years, she rose through the ranks serving in various administrative roles in multiple departments before becoming the Special Projects Manager, working directly under the Township Manager. Lisa has been instrumental in many critical projects during her tenure. Middletown Township wishes her a well-deserved retirement with her husband in sunny Florida.



Jim Ennis joins Middletown Township as the Director of Building and Zoning. He has extensive experience in zoning and planning as well as working in other municipalities. Jim received his Bachelor of Science in Geography from Kutztown University and holds a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Temple University. Jim has a background in GIS and cartography, which is where his passion for this field began. In his spare time, you will find him spending time with his wife, two daughters, and two dogs.

Christina Bernhardt began with the Township in May 2021 as a Management Intern and was recently brought on as the Special Projects Manager. Christina received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management and minor in Strategic Communications from West Chester University in 2020. She continued her education at Villanova University where she will graduate with her Master of Public Administration in May 2022.



The Middletown Township Police Department welcomes two new Police Officers, Drew Amoroso and Nick Platenecky.

Drew comes from a long, proud line of police officers. His father, Andy, is a detective in the Middletown Township Police Department. His grandfather, Andrew, served for 22 years with Bristol Township PD and 1 year with Lower Makefield PD.

Nick joins MTPD after having previously served as an officer for Septa Transit PD in Philly, and as a ranger for the U.S. National Park Service.

Drew and Nick are both looking forward to serving and protecting the community.



### Homeowner Assistance Program Now Open for Families of Four Making Below \$141,750

Homeowners struggling with mortgage payments or other housing expenses due to COVID-19 pandemic-related financial hardships may apply for relief if their household income is at or below 150% of the area median income.

If a **family of four** makes \$141,750 or below, they are eligible for the Homeowner Assistance Program. Eligibility is based on family size and income. Visit the [Homeowners Assistance Fund Summary](#) to view the household size charts to determine eligibility.

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency has \$350 million in American Rescue Plan funds available to provide eligible homeowners with assistance to prevent and/or ease mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, displacement, and utility disconnection. Funds will be distributed directly to lenders, servicers, utility providers, and other authorized third parties (not to homeowners).

Homeowners may learn more and apply online for these funds through the Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund by visiting [www.pahaf.org](http://www.pahaf.org). For those who need assistance, local housing agencies can help or call toll-free 888-987-2423.



## Applications Now Open for the Annual Middletown Community Foundation Scholarship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 Middletown Community Foundation Scholarship Program.

Since 2002, the Middletown Community Foundation has awarded 172 scholarships totaling \$176,000 to High School Seniors residing in Middletown Township in recognition of their service to improve our community.



Eligible students must reside in Middletown Township, have participated in community service throughout their high school careers, and be attending a college, university or trade/vocational school to further their education.

The application is [available to download here](#).

Applications must be submitted and postmarked by May 6, 2022. All applications must include the application form and a 250-500-word essay detailing the student's community service.

Completed applications and essays should be mailed by May 6, 2022 to:

Middletown Community Foundation  
PO Box 1128  
Langhorne, PA 19047



### Free Smoke Detectors Available Through Fire Prevention Program

The Department of Fire and Emergency Management offers free smoke detectors to homeowners in need.

With house fires in the Township on this rise in recent months, Riley Collins, the leader of the Fire Prevention Program, has worked to distribute hundreds of smoke detectors in the community.

Currently, around 300 smoke detectors have been distributed to residents in the Township since January.

If you are in need of smoke detectors please email Riley at [rcollins@middletownbucks.org](mailto:rcollins@middletownbucks.org) or contact the office of Fire and Emergency Management at 215-750-3812.

For homeowners who have smoke detectors remember to test them monthly and change the batteries every six months. A good rule of thumb is to change the batteries every daylight savings, which is right around the corner! Smoke detectors

## Middletown Township Recognizes Cory Hemberger for Heroic Act

The Middletown Township Board of Supervisors recognized local hero and avid hockey player, Cory Hemberger, a 16-year old of Red Rose Gate.

Cory and a friend were practicing hockey on the frozen Lake Afron in Yardley, on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, when he overheard a 13-year old boy fall through the ice. Soon after, a second boy fell through the ice.

Despite the risk, Cory sprung into action and rescued the two boys from the freezing lake with his hockey stick. His quick action resulted in both boys being rescued and not needing medical attention. Without Cory's heroism, the outcome of this incident would certainly not have been the same.

Middletown Township Secretary Dawn Quirple applauded Cory for his heroism, "Knowing there are kids out there like you that take the time to put yourself out there with bravery, we are so proud".

The Township wishes Cory well in his future endeavors and want to thank him for his selfless actions that saved the lives of two others.

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## Stay Connected!



Middletown Township  
3 Municipal Way, Langhorne, PA 19047  
215-750-3800

[www.middletownbucks.org](http://www.middletownbucks.org)

Thank you for reading this edition of the Middletown Township E-news. Feel free to share with friends, family, and neighbors!

We'd like to hear from you! If you have an idea for something that we can cover in the E-news, please let us know by emailing Christina Bernhardt at [cbernhardt@middletownbucks.org](mailto:cbernhardt@middletownbucks.org).

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