

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

Middletown Township Joins Local Climate Action Program



Middletown Township was recently selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Local Climate Action Program (LCAP). Middletown Township is one of 21 communities in Pennsylvania, and the only one in Bucks County to participate in this program!

In its second year, LCAP is a program of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) aimed at assisting municipalities with gauging and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The cost of the program is underwritten by the US Department of Energy State Energy Program (SEP), making it free to the municipalities.

The program pairs municipalities with a college student for 11 months. They begin by creating a GHG inventory by analyzing data about electric, natural gas, solid waste, water, wastewater, and transportation utilization in the community. The program will utilize data from 2018.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) completed a similar inventory for municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2015. Middletown Township's participation in LCAP will lay the foundation to begin plotting a trajectory for changes in our GHG emissions.

After the inventory is complete, the student will work with the Township

to create a climate action plan which establishes goals and strategies to reduce GHG emissions.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Monday, August 24

The Middletown Township Board of Supervisors will hold their regularly-scheduled meeting virtually on Monday, August 24, at 7:00 PM. The agenda includes several items such as an ordinance to establish a human relations commission and final approval of a multi-family redevelopment plan at the Oxford Valley Mall.



Unlike before, residents will have the opportunity to join the Zoom call to interact directly with the Supervisors. Residents choosing to log on to the Zoom meeting will be prompted one at a time to share their comment.

Residents wishing to leave a comment may email or text until 5 PM on the day of the meeting. To email a comment, please email info@middletownbucks.org. To text a comment, please text (215) 995-1249.

Residents may make a comment live during the meeting by logging onto or dialing into the Zoom meeting. Information about how to do this can be found [on the Township website](#).

Two Long-Time Township Employees Retire



Middletown Township says "see you soon" to two employees with a combined 70 years of service to the community. Nancy Blank and Ruth Sproehle, both residents of Levittown, have seen the evolution of Middletown Township firsthand.

Nancy Blank, the longest-tenured employee in the Township, celebrated her 51st year of service to Middletown this spring. She has worked as a secretary in the police department since April 1969. When Nancy was hired at 16, she earned \$1 per hour. Shortly after starting, her position was removed from the budget, but would ultimately be reinstated six weeks later after protesting the decision. She has been with the Police Department ever since.

Ruth Sproehnle was the administrative assistant in the Department of Building & Zoning. Beginning part-time in 1999, Ruth began working at the former Township Building on Trenton Road (which has since been repurposed as the Ray Mongillo Community Center). She moved to the current Township Building shortly after becoming a full-time employee in 2002. Ruth's husband, Jeff, a former police officer, retired from Middletown Township in 2011.

Both Nancy and Ruth took advantage of the Township's early retirement incentive program, enacted this spring as a way to reduce costs. They celebrated their last day of work on Friday, August 14.

We are very sad to see them go and appreciate their many years of service to the residents of Middletown Township.

LED Streetlights, Fixtures Provide Big Savings

In August, Middletown Township received its Year Two Measurement and Verification Report assessing reduced energy utilization and costs from a LED light conversion project. In 2017, Middletown Township worked with several key partners, including the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), to convert all streetlights in the community to light emitting diode (LED) lights. LED lights are one of the most energy efficient and ecologically-friendly ways to add light.



In all, more than 3,800 lights were replaced with LEDs. The Township's streetlights and several light fixtures at township parks and facilities are included in this change.

The report, completed by Johnson Controls (JCI), affirms that in the

period between April 2019 and March 2020, Middletown Township saved \$122,303. With additional savings in year one, the LED light program has saved the Township a total of \$323,467.

The Township is currently converting light fixtures at the Municipal Center to LED lights to provide further energy savings. The Department of Public Works has worked hard to replace many lights throughout the Township to more efficient alternatives.

Drive-In Concerts Come to the Oxford Valley Mall



Two regional bands, Split Decision and Shot of Southern, came to the Oxford Valley Mall on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. Middletown Township was excited to partner with the Mid Atlantic Event Group and the Oxford Valley Mall to bring two live concerts to the community.

Shot of Southern entertained a sold-out crowd of 250 attendees. Split Decision entertained about 180 attendees. Several food vendors provided take-out style food for attendees to enjoy in and around their vehicles during the show.

For \$25, attendees could listen to a live concert from their car. Each vehicle was parked to create a socially-distant space away from other cars and parties. Attendees could stay in their car or bring chairs to spread out.

Additional concerts and shows are being planned. They will be announced by the Mid Atlantic Event Group and shared by the Township.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all events have been cancelled. These drive-in concerts were two of the first medium-sized entertainment events organized to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The Bucks County Health Department provided guidance to make sure attendees and event staff were safe.

Nearly 10,000 Residents Need to Complete the 2020 Census

As of mid-August, 78% of Middletown Township residents have completed the 2020 Census. The Census impacts political boundaries and the allocation of state and federal resources.

10,000

**MIDDLETOWN RESIDENTS
HAVEN'T TAKEN THE CENSUS**

Mandated in the Constitution, the Census counts everyone in the United States every ten years. While Bucks County leads the way in responses to the Census of all counties in Pennsylvania, Middletown Township still has 22%, or nearly 10,000 people that have not yet been counted. This translates to more than \$20,000,000 each year of state and federal resources that will not be allocated to our community.

According to census tract data, the most undercounted neighborhoods are located along Durham Road.

Anyone needing to respond to the 2020 Census can do so online by going to www.census.gov. Respondents are instructed to use the address they were living in on April 1, 2020, to complete the Census.

Request Your Mail-In-Ballot for the 2020 Election



The 2020 General Election is just a few short months away, and it is easier than ever to cast your vote by mail. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pennsylvanians can now request a mail-in ballot without providing a reason. The 2020 election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

To apply for a mail-in ballot, voters can go to www.votespa.com. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot from the Bucks County Elections Office is Tuesday, October 27, 2020, by 5 PM. An application to vote by mail must be received by the County in order to be valid.

Voters are strongly encouraged to return their mail-in ballot as soon as they can as the influx of mail-in ballots is expected to cause delays

with the US Postal Service.

Residents wanting to vote in-person can view a list of polling places in Middletown Township on [our website](#). Please note that this list is subject to change at the discretion of Bucks County.

See, Squish, & Share Spotted Lanternflies

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive species in our area that poses a threat to trees and agriculture. Spotted lanternflies have been present in the Philadelphia area for the last few years, but they are showing up this year in Middletown Township in record numbers.



In late summer into the fall, the bugs mature into adults and look like large moths with grey and red wings with black spots. In the winter and spring, they lay eggs on tree bark and lie dormant. In the spring and summer months, spotted lanternflies appear as a black beetle-like bug with white spots, or a burnt orange bug with black and white spots.

Residents are encouraged to report spotted lanternfly sightings to [the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#).

Local authorities encourage anyone who sees a spotted lanternfly in any stage of its lifecycle to kill it immediately. Residents with large numbers of spotted lanternflies should consider targeted remediation such as [constructing a trap](#).

Report Trash Collection Issues Straight to Waste Management!



NEED TO TALK TRASH?

Call the Waste Management
Middletown Township Hotline at

1 (800) 255-8479



When calling, say you are from
"Middletown Township, Bucks County"

Beginning in 2020, residents have a new way to get any questions regarding issues with trash, recycling or yard waste collection answered. To report an issue, please call Waste Management at 1-800-255-8479.

This is a direct access phone number for Middletown residents. Use the key phrase "Middletown Township - Bucks County" when speaking with the customer service representative or when leaving a message on the after-hours message system.

A Waste Management representative will be available Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The after-hours message system will be monitored so that issues reported after hours are corrected as soon as possible, the following day. Please make sure to listen to the entire recorded message. At the end of the message, press "1" for other options. Pressing "1" will allow you to leave a message in the assigned after-hours voicemail box. Remember to leave your address and a contact number if you wish to receive a return call.

You have received this mailing because you previously indicated an interest in receiving email updates from the Township. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please utilize the unsubscribe link below.

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

www.middletownbucks.org

Thank you for reading this edition of the Middletown Township eNews! 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 eNews, please let us know by emailing Nick Valla at nvalla@middletownbucks.org.

Stay Connected!



Middletown Township Board of Supervisors

Mike Ksiazek, Chairperson

Amy Strouse, Vice Chairperson

Tom Tosti, Secretary

Anna Payne

Dawn Quirple

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Manager