

TOWNSHIP OF
—MIDDLETOWN—
BUCKS COUNTY

COVID-19 Vaccine Information & Mitigation Update

Vaccines for COVID-19 are now widely available with walk-in appointments being accepted in multiple locations locally. The two-dose Pfizer vaccine has been approved for everyone age 12 and older.



In addition to pharmacy and medical office locations, the Bucks County Health Department is hosting vaccination clinics at the Bucks County Community College locations in Newtown and Perkasie, as well as the Neshaminy Mall and Warwick Square. These locations are administering the two-dose Pfizer vaccine, and the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine. Hours may vary by location, and transportation is available to those in need. Please visit the [Bucks County COVID-19 Vaccine Portal](#) for more information.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has updated masking guidance for fully-vaccinated individuals. A person is considered fully-vaccinated two weeks after their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The revised guidance permits fully-vaccinated individuals to resume regular activity without masks or physical distancing, except when required by law, local businesses, and employers. [This chart](#) shows different activities that may or may not require masks for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Additionally, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced plans to lift mitigation orders on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021, as well as plans to lift the masking order once 70% of Pennsylvania adults are fully vaccinated.

Residents are asked to respect any and all masking and distancing requirements posted at businesses. Prior to your visit, check to see if the business offers curbside or delivery services if you do not want to enter into a business.

Middletown Township Municipal Center Reopening June 1st!



As more community members receive vaccines for COVID-19 and as cases of new infections continue to decline, Middletown Township is pleased to announce the reopening of the Middletown Township Municipal Center to limited hours, 10 AM - 2 PM,

Monday - Friday. The Municipal Center began conducting business by appointment only in December to mitigate transmission of COVID-19. We are proud to report that a large majority of our staff is fully vaccinated.

Before 10 AM and after 2 PM, Township staff will still be available to conduct business by appointment only, by phone, and online. A drop box for documents will remain available next to the main entrance of the Municipal Center. In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

The Municipal Center will be completely closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

Middletown Earns Second Triple-A Credit Rating & Saves Nearly \$300,000 From Debt Refinancing

Middletown Township is pleased to share it has again earned a "triple-A" credit rating from Moody's, the highest possible credit rating offered by the agency. Middletown earned its first triple-A rating from Moody's in November 2019. A credit rating is issued before a government agency borrows money. Despite nationwide economic challenges and many credit downgrades issued to other municipalities, Middletown is proud to maintain its credit rating. Key factors to Moody's rating include strong financial reserves, sound management, and a persistent local economy.



Middletown Township issued the Series of 2021 General Obligation Bond in May 2021 to refinance the 2016 General Obligation Bond. Interest rates are near record lows, meaning agencies may borrow funds and pay less in interest while the debt is repaid. With Middletown's best-possible credit rating and strong financial reputation, the Township's bonds were highly desirable to lenders. The Township is borrowing at an interest rate at less than 0.5%. Refinancing the Township's 2016 bonds, coupled with a very low interest rate, resulted in nearly \$300,000 in savings. The Township did not borrow any additional funds.

Township Set to Pave 5.4 Miles of Township Roads



The ninth year of the Road Improvement Program was recently authorized by the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors, which will repave 5.4 miles of Township-owned roads. Roads will be paved in Georgetown, the Fairways, Windybush, and portions of Parkland. In addition, these neighborhoods will see the construction of many curb ramps constructed as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Curb ramps will also be constructed in the Idlewood neighborhood

and at Upper Orchard Park. The contract to complete this work was awarded to JD Morrissey, Inc., for \$1.59 million.

The Township solicits bids for repaving several miles of Township roads each year. Soliciting bids from contractors allows the Township to find a competitive rate from various businesses, while avoiding overhead costs such as equipment and seasonal personnel.

Also included with this bid are several basin retrofits, which includes the creation, repair, and expansion of a riparian buffer areas near stormwater basins. Basins are a vital component to the Township's stormwater management efforts, as they are some of the many areas utilized to collect stormwater. Adding more plants and vegetations creates a buffer zone between the source and destination of stormwater, which allows it to slow down and reduce the potential for pollutants to flow into our basins.

The full list of roads (all or in part) to be paved include:

- Beechwood Avenue
- Bromley Way
- Canton Lane
- Carter Avenue
- Concord Place
- Danby Lane
- Golf Club Drive
- Hampton Court
- Hampton Drive
- Healy Court
- Healy Way
- Pleasant Avenue
- Poplar Street
- Rising Sun Avenue
- Russel Avenue
- Shelton Lane
- Tollgate Road
- Virginia Avenue
- Walsh Avenue
- Wistar Road

In addition to these roads, PennDOT is busy throughout the area repaving state-owned roads.

Footbridge Between Snowball Gate & Forsythia Gate to be Replaced This Summer

Last spring, the footbridge across Mill Creek connecting the neighborhoods of Snowball Gate and Forsythia Gate in Levittown was shut down for safety reasons. After planning, designing, and soliciting bids from qualified contractors, the footbridge is slated for replacement this summer. The footbridge is a valuable asset to locals as it serves a dual purpose for connecting pedestrian access and for recreation in the area.



The existing footbridge was recently removed and new footings on each side of Mill Creek will be installed. These footings will be left to cure for some time before the new bridge is put into place. Residents are asked to continue to follow posted signage and avoid the area until the bridge is replaced and reopened.

The replacement bridge will be created by Contech Engineering Solutions at a cost of about \$48,000. The Middletown Township Department of Public Works will be completing much of the installation in an effort to reduce costs.

Learn the Signs of Stroke During Stroke Awareness Month



Jefferson Health - Northeast Stroke Awareness Month 2021 PSA

Gerald Wydro, MD, Chair, Emergency Medicine, Jefferson Health - Northeast, joined first responders from Middletown Township to remind those in Northeast Philadelphia and Bucks County that May is Stroke Awareness Month. [Watch this important video](#) as Dr. Wydro and his colleagues provide 10 important facts that can help all of us recognize the signs of

stroke. We would like to thank the Middletown Township Police Department, the Middletown Township Department of Fire & Emergency Management, the Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad, and Bensalem EMS.

The signs of stroke can best be recognized by remembering the word FAST. The letters of fast stand for Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, and Time to call 911. Stroke is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, claiming the lives of more than 150,000 Americans in 2019 alone.

Union Carpenters Rebuild Dugouts at Middletown Community Park

The baseball dugouts on the 90-foot field at Middletown Community Park received a facelift recently thanks to the help of members of Carpenters' Local 167. The carpenters worked tirelessly for several days in April to make the upgrades. The existing dugouts were deteriorating and in need



of improvements. According to Middletown Township Parks & Recreation Director Paul Kopera, the carpenters' improvements are expected to last 10 to 15 years.

Snowball Drive to Receive Traffic Calming Improvement



Snowball Drive will be getting a touch of paint this summer as part of an effort to calm traffic and reduce speeding in the Snowball Gate neighborhood in Levittown. Snowball Drive is the "ring-road"

surrounding Snowball Gate, providing access between the interior streets and the major thoroughfares of Trenton Road, Veterans Highway, and Frosty Hollow Road.

A six-foot-wide shoulder will be painted on one side of Snowball Drive with a small buffer between the shoulder and the travel lanes. The

travel lanes for vehicle traffic will be separated by a fresh yellow dividing line. In addition to calming traffic, this project will allow vehicles to park (where allowed) more safely, and for through traffic to flow safely around them.

Residents can expect contractors to be in the area completing the work later this summer. This work is being completed as part of the Township's Road Improvement Program.

These improvements are the direct result of residents going through the traffic calming process, outlined in the [Middletown Township Traffic Calming Policy](#). This policy establishes a process and requirements for certain traffic conditions to exist on Township-owned roadways. If these conditions exist, a method to calm traffic will be determined that best suits the conditions of the road. This plan is then presented to the locally-affected residents, who then must vote on it. Although not yet established when this project was reviewed, the Citizens Traffic Commission now reviews traffic complaints in the community and works to assess and resolve them.

Philly Workers Who Stayed Home May Be Due a Wage Tax Refund

Has your home turned into an office in the last year? With the pandemic forcing many people to work from home, thousands in our area are no longer commuting to work like they used to. For those who used to commute to work in Philadelphia,



there is yet another benefit to working from home besides saving time, gas, and tolls: a tax refund.

Anyone who works in Philadelphia and lives in Middletown Township is subject to pay the non-resident Philadelphia Wage Tax, which stands at a hefty 3.5019% of gross wages. Middletown Township levies an Earned Income Tax (EIT) of only 0.5%. Residents living in the suburbs are subject to this lower rate EIT where they live-unless they work in Philadelphia. However, with many required to work from their homes in the last year, they may no longer be subject to the Philadelphia Wage Tax for the time worked at home.

Is it worth the effort to pursue a refund? The simple answer is yes! Someone working from home in Middletown Township during the pandemic making \$60,000 per year would be subject to Middletown

Township EIT, which is only 0.5%. In the span of one year, this would equal a savings of nearly \$1,800! Plus, the 0.5% you are contributing in your local EIT stays in your home community, getting reinvested in your own back yard toward things like public safety and infrastructure improvements.

How do you take advantage of this? For any time a Philadelphia job was worked at home outside of the City of Philadelphia, they may [request a Wage Tax refund from the City of Philadelphia](#). When submitting a tax return to Keystone Collections, the tax officer for all EIT in Bucks County, use the Out-Of-State Tax Credit Worksheet on Line 12 of the [tax return form](#), if you need to receive tax credit for the time you did work in Philadelphia.

For anyone who continues working from home outside of the City of Philadelphia, they should submit a [Residency Certification Form](#) to their employer and request that their local EIT be deducted from their wages instead of the City Wage Tax. Middletown Township's political subdivision (PSD) code will be needed for the form, which is 090665.

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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 Nick Valla at nvalla@middletownbucks.org.

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