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# Mayor's Message

## A Casual Day at Lake Creighton

Many of you who read my articles and follow my mayoral term know that I try to present a balanced overview on important Borough matters. Keeping folks informed and up-to-date like this maintains a sense of comfort and understanding how municipal issues are handled and what direction we take on each matter including a comprehensive transparency on all decisions.

After careful consideration, I broached an unlikely, unprecedented news development that quickly put Middlesex on the map. Yes, it is hard to believe that someone's pet took up residence in our historic Lake Creighton.

### Public Safety Prioritized

For two weeks the search went on regarding the illusive reptile utilizing all the resources available to Chief Matthew Geist and the Middlesex Borough Police Department. Mr. Lenny Vidal, Supervisor of our Department of Public Works worked very closely with the police to put together an urgent plan in the spirit of public safety. The decision was made to close the entire park until this 4-foot alligator was found, captured and relocated. Many of the resources used included drones for observation, animal control officers in the water utilizing kayaks, waders and video surveillance equipment with constant police monitoring.

Organizations who participated include Mr. Lenny Vidal, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Police, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, Middlesex Borough Office of Emergency Management, Middlesex Borough Fire Department, Somerset Regional Animal Control and West Pest Management. My apologies if I left someone or some group out. Much of this information was extracted from the recent Police Department Press Release.

The sheer number of these resources utilized should give us pause regarding the intention of the release of an "exotic" pet by an irresponsible individual. Such a reckless act may have caused serious injury to a pet, child or adult. In *continued, next page*

## Alligator: A Timeline

AUGUST 23: THE SIGHTING



*"...The Middlesex Police Department investigated a report that there was a small alligator in the Ambrose Brook, which was confirmed. The reptile submerged and has not been seen since. The alligator is estimated to be approximately 3-4 feet in length. We are working closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Conservation Police to capture and relocate the reptile..."*

THROUGH EARLY SEPTEMBER:  
THE SEARCH



*"...With help from our partners, we have continued attempts to locate, capture, and relocate the alligator... Observation through drones, animal control officers in the water by means of kayak and waders, video surveillance, and patrol officer monitoring have not positively identified the presence of the reptile in over seven days within the waterways in which it was previously observed. Although this likely indicates that the alligator is no longer in the area, anyone who observes the alligator should not approach or otherwise interact with it and immediately contact the Middlesex Borough Police Department..."*

addition, because of this event alone, the enormous amount of planning and expense was probably very significant and unnecessary.

### Got 'Em!

On Thursday night, September 7, 2023 at 10:10 pm, Piscataway Police responded to a call by a resident in the area of 2nd Ave., Piscataway where the alligator was spotted in the roadway. The reptile was quickly captured and ultimately relocated to the Cape May County Zoo.

Although Lake Creighton and Victor Crowell Park are now open, fishing and swimming are still off limits. Please observe the posted signs there for your safety.

This is a great example of a very efficiently coordinated effort by many to attain a positive resolution.

*“Courage is the resolution to face the unforeseen”  
– Agatha Christie*

Please stay safe. Thank you all.

Regards,

Mayor John L. Madden 9/10/2

### SEPTEMBER 7: THE CAPTURE



*“...On Thursday, September 7, 2023 at approximately 2210 hours, officers from the Piscataway Police Department responded to the area of 2nd Avenue, Piscataway, NJ, where they located a nearly 4 foot long alligator in the roadway in front of a residence. This location is approximately 400 yards southwest of the Ambrose Brook. The reptile was secured at Piscataway Police Department headquarters awaiting the response of NJ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Police...”*

## From the Mayor

### The Summer of Our Discontent

Approaching the ending of our summer plans and activities, it seems that there were more things that we wanted to accomplish. Even with the best laid plans, this epilogue becomes the very reprise of each passing summer.

How do we break this persistent cycle? Do we attempt to plan more efficiently or leave off some of these items from our bucket list? I have always tried to live by the old adage; “if you fail to plan then you will plan to fail”.

This conundrum seems to pervade both outside as well as inside of Borough Hall. In other words, some positive and some not-so-positive events do occur every year. The similarities are striking.

### OUR PLANS AND THEIR STATUS

For instance, although years in the making, our streetscape,  
*continued, next page*



## *From the Mayor* (continued)

along Bound Brook Road, plan is finally coming to fruition.

On the flip side, we have spent many hours in conversation, meetings and emails attempting to resolve the erosion problem with the folks on Heather Lane. I call this an urgent environmental emergency (one of two lingering in the Borough). The agencies that initially offered to help were FEMA, Army Corp, Green Brook Flood Control Commission, DEP, State OEM and the list goes on. One by one they all bowed out. I have called Senator Bramnick to come out and take the tour. He was quite surprised to see the damage. Next, I called Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman to also come out to see the problem. Hopefully she will visit soon.

I urge residents to contact your representatives to remedy this issue as one house has already been condemned and if nothing is done, the domino effect will claim the other homes. I believe that federal funds can be available in this case. Unfortunately, the Borough cannot get involved with private property.

### **MORE GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS**

On a positive note, we have recently purchased the Foreign Express property at 302 Union Ave. The vision is that this will be a nice addition to enhance the Victor Crowell Park entrance, including parking and rest rooms.

On the flip side, we are still facing the ecological and environmental damage of our historic Creighton Lake, which occurred when on August 1, 2021, a major N.J. American Water main burst, bringing to our lake much debris and chemical discharge causing a massive fish kill and extremely high E. Coli contamination (in my opinion). One month later we were hit with storm Ida, further exacerbating the damage. This is now a “swirling vortex of entropy). N.J. American Water has absolved all responsibility for the damage. Again, Senator Bramnick took the tour to view the ongoing problems with our lake.

The road to success in these two problem areas, in my opinion, is to scour every possible related resource and inundate them with persistence until resolved.

Mayor John L. Madden

*Newsletter continues on next page*

*“Success is  
not final;  
failure is  
not fatal;  
it is the  
courage to  
continue that  
counts.”*

**– Winston S.  
Churchill,  
former Prime  
Minister**



# Clerk

## General Election

As the November 7, 2023 General Election approaches, the Middlesex Borough Clerk's Department wants to keep all residents informed that the last day to register to vote in the General Election is October 17, 2023. Also, the deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot by mail for the General Election is October 31, 2023.

For the General Election this year, all districts will be voting at the same locations that were used for the Primary Election in June. These locations are as follows:

- DISTRICT 1, 2 & 3 HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
- DISTRICT 4 & 10 RECREATION CENTER
- DISTRICT 5 & 6 HAZELWOOD GYMNASIUM
- DISTRICT 7, 8 & 9 MAUGER MIDDLE SCHOOL – GORMAN GYMNASIUM

Please visit our borough website ([www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/clerk#voting-nextup](http://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/clerk#voting-nextup)) to stay up to date on all election information as we receive it. If you have any question, feel free to contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238.

## POLLWORKERS NEEDED

The Borough is looking for individuals who are registered to vote in Middlesex County to work the Primary and General Election as a Poll worker. Anyone wishing to work can find the application on the Borough Website ([www.middlesexboro-nj.gov](http://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov)) under Job Listings. For any questions please contact the Borough Clerk at 732-356-7400 Ext. 238.

## Shade Tree: Photo Contest

**Take a gorgeous fall foliage photo? Have a beautiful picture of a tree on your phone? MIDDLESEX BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION WANTS TO SEE THEM!**

- Email entries to [Ichismar@middlesexboro-nj.gov](mailto:Ichismar@middlesexboro-nj.gov).
- Deadline: November 22, 2023
- Winner will receive a 2-2.5" caliper tree the STC will have planted for you within the Borough.

The contest is open to Middlesex Borough residents and business owners of all ages. Photos must be original and taken by the entrant.



## PHOTO CONTEST

TAKE A GORGEOUS  
FALL FOLIAGE PHOTO?

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE  
OF A TREE ON YOUR PHONE?

MIDDLESEX BOROUGH SHADE TREE COMMISSION WANTS TO SEE THEM!



Email entries to  
[LChismar@middlesexboro-nj.gov](mailto:LChismar@middlesexboro-nj.gov)

**DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 22, 2023**

WINNER WILL RECEIVE A 2-2.5" CALIPER TREE  
THE STC WILL HAVE PLANTED FOR YOU WITHIN THE BOROUGH

• Contest open to Middlesex Borough residents and business owners of all ages. Photos must be original photos taken by entrant.

# Promoting CPR Literacy

## Office of Emergency Management Emphasizes CPR Literacy at Varsity Football Halftimes

With excitement mounting, the large crowd began to arrive in anticipation of the opening game for the Middlesex Borough Blue Jay Varsity Football Team of the 2023 season, Friday night September 15, 2023.

On hand was MedicZero to perform free, individual (3-5) minute presentations of Bystander CPR.

The Middlesex Borough OEM and Middlesex Public Library want to emphasize the importance of CPR Literacy to all athletes, coaches, staff, and spectators. The goal of this program is to empower bystanders with the confidence and basic knowledge to recognize and to ACT when cardiac emergencies occur.

Thanks go out to Athletic Director Mike O'Donnell for supporting this program and the invitation to bring this vital program to the Whole Community.

The Middlesex Boro Office of Emergency Management in Collaboration with the Middlesex Public Library arranged to have (3-5) minute, Individual presentations of Bystander, No Breath, Hands Only CPR offered to the public on site, free of charge. The presentations will be at each of the four Home Games including the upcoming September 29th, October 6th and October 20th.

Middlesex Borough OEM, in collaboration with the Library, began the "You Are The Help Until Help Arrives" campaign in 2022 offering our Borough Residents opportunities to experience Bystander CPR at community events and taking full courses in CPR and Bleeding Control, free of charge, part of the "Whole Community" approach to Preparedness. The focus is to educate and inform our residents and develop a shared responsibility and ultimately a culture of Preparedness. This requires involvement of everyone –not just the government.

We are thrilled to work with the very capable and passionate non-profit MedicZero with respect to our sponsored programs.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) can happen at any Time. It is a life threatening emergency that occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating. Survival from SCA depends on the quick actions of people nearby.



# Breast Cancer Awareness

## Borough Employees Partner with Dance for the Cure to “Tie the Town Pink”

For the past several years during October, Dance for the Cure has organized a Tie the Town Pink awareness campaign in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

The goal is to highlight the importance of getting an annual mammogram and urges women to be diligent about early detection, which can be life-saving, and to call attention to Dance for the Cure’s mission to provide financial support to local families who find themselves struggling due to the challenges that accompany a breast cancer diagnosis.

Dance for the Cure has been able to gift over \$970,000 to date to individuals throughout Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties while they go through their breast cancer journey. As you drive down Mountain Avenue this month keep a look out for the pink ribbons that adorn Borough Hall and the Police Building.



## OEM Wants You!

### Do You Enjoy Helping Your Community?

The Office of Emergency Management’s responsibility is in the organization and management of resources for dealing with all aspects of emergencies, in particular mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

- [middlesexboro-nj.gov/emergency-management](http://middlesexboro-nj.gov/emergency-management)
- **Instagram** @MiddlesexBoroOEM
- **Facebook** @middlesexoem
- **Phone** 732.356.7900

V-O-L- -N-T-E-E-R  
all that's missing is U!



# Legacy Lawn

## Are You (or a Family Member) a Veteran or In Active Duty? We Want to Honor You!

### DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Middlesex Public Library and the Borough are proud to announce partnership with the American Legion to create a living tribute called The Legacy Lawn to honor Middlesex residents who have served in the military, or are in active duty currently.

From November 11 –December 11, lawn signs with each veteran's name, picture (if desired), branch, rank of service, and any awarded medals or accomplishments, will be displayed on the lawn. Signs will start display on Veterans day and will also coincide with Pearl Harbor Day, and the American Legion's annual Post Everlasting remembrance ceremony. Signs will be stored in the Library and then placed out on Memorial Day weekend for the parade route.

Visit [the Library page here](#) to access the application form.

This will be a project that the Library will maintain and manage year after year, and will allow for additional applicants to submit to be part of the Legacy Lawn. Since these signs will be accessible and at eye level, we encourage all to stop, pull over and spend some time reflecting and honoring.

The Library can maintain accurate records of participants in the program and protect the privacy and integrity of the shared information. Library staff specialize in keeping information organized and consistent. The Library will own the original design files and copyright, and can ensure all of the signs, design wise, remain consistent.

The Library is a long standing institution that will fund this project, with appropriate staffing to maintain, install and look after the signs.

Borough residents have long expressed an interest in honoring their veterans similar to other towns. By adapting the program to work with our level of staffing and budget, as well as tailoring it to the uniqueness of our community, we can start and maintain a valuable tradition, honor the legacy of our brave residents, and bring our town together.





# Library

## Fall Programming

### Get Your Native Garden Ready with the Library!

Build your garden “now” and give plants a head start for next year!

- Saturday, Oct. 14. @ 10am
- Library Community Room
- REGISTRATION REQUIRED:  
phone (732) 356-6602  
or online: <http://tinyurl.com/fallnativegarden2023>

### Holiday Quilting Workshop

Join us to make a beautiful holiday quilting keepsake!

- Tuesday, November 14 at 1pm
- in the Community Room
- all materials provided
- no experience or skill required

Register under the Adult Programs tab on our website here or via the link on our Instagram. For questions email [tbond@middlesexlibrarynj.org](mailto:tbond@middlesexlibrarynj.org).

## Children’s Fall Programming

Fall Programming runs October 9th – November 17th. For more information and to register for our storytimes, visit [middlesexlibrarynj.org/kids](http://middlesexlibrarynj.org/kids)

### Mondays at 10:15am- Sensory Storytime

- Ages 0-3. Registration recommended.

### Tuesdays from 4:00-7:00pm: Tinker Tuesdays

- Stop by the children’s room to explore what we have to offer!
- Play with legos, playdough, 3d pens, snap circuits, and more!
- All ages. No registration required.

### Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm: Therapy Dog

- All ages. No registration- first come first served.

### Thursdays from 7:00pm-7:30pm: Pajama Storytime

- On Zoom.
- All ages. Registration recommended.



1300 Mountain Avenue  
[www.middlesexlibrarynj.org](http://www.middlesexlibrarynj.org)



# Recreation

## Registration Open for Many Fall and Winter Programs

For additional information and links to register, **visit the Rec Department page on our website here.**

### Happy Halloween Haunted House

OCTOBER 10 & 11 AT THE REC CENTER

- 6-8pm
- Free Admission
- Sweets and Photo Opportunities

### Buddy Ball

Registration for Buddy Ball kickball is open! Please log on to your MyRec account and register! And, if you are interested in being a “buddy” please reach out to the Rec Department!

### Basketball

GRADES K, 1-2

BALL aboard! Registration for our kindergarten and 1st/2nd grade basketball programs is open! **Visit MYRec to register** (deadline is 11/3/2023).

GRADES 3-8

HOOP...There it is! Basketball registration is open for boys and girls, and the deadline to register is November 3rd. We need coach volunteers! If we do not get enough coaches, we cannot run this program. Please reach out to the Rec Department by phone at 732-356-7400 x-277 or x-258 or email us at [recreation@middlesexboro-nj.gov](mailto:recreation@middlesexboro-nj.gov) for more information.

### Yoga

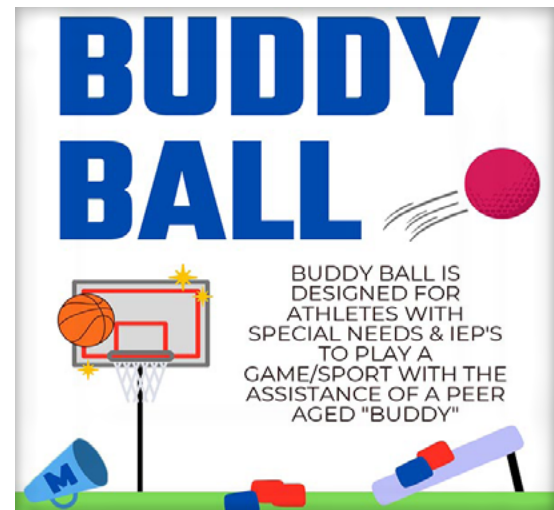
Eight weeks of Tuesday classes begin Oct. 17th, running October-November from 7:00-8:00 PM with Joy Provenzano at the Middlesex Recreation Center. All levels are welcome! Registration fee \$80. (Drop-in class cost \$15/per.)

### New Activities are Added All the Time!

Visit the Rec Department web page and follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Follow the Rec Department ►  
on Facebook!

facebook



# Public Works

## Recycling

### Recycle Center Hours

- Monday ..... closed
- Tuesday ..... 6am-1:45pm
- Wednesday .... 6am-1:45pm
- Thursday ..... 6am- 5:45pm
- Friday ..... 6am-1:45pm
- Saturday ..... 7am- 2:45pm

## Fall Leaf Pick up

Grass and Leaf pick up will end on the last Wednesday of December and commence on the first Wednesday of March. Place bags at curb the night before for pick up. Grass/leaves will only be picked up in paper biodegradable bags. Plastic bags will NOT be picked up. Grass/leaves can also be taken to the Recycling Center. Leaves cannot be raked or blown to the curb or roadway.

**LEAF BAGS AVAILABLE:** Residents will be entitled to 10 bags which will be available for pickup at the recycle center in November.

- Leaf bags will be available the first week of October while supplies last
- Bags will be given out during Recycle Yard normal business hours
- A coupon is required to pick up the bags
- Bags will be given out while supplies last

## Road Projects

Recently, many roads have been repaved throughout the Borough.

- Fairview, East Greenlawn (partial), Delaware (partial), Clinton (partial), Melrose Ave, Seneca, South Woodland (partial), Greene Ave
- A Street, C Street, D Street
- Hazelwood Ave, Judson Ave, Shearn Drive, Misty Lane, Lonnabe Drive

### Upcoming streets to be paved

- Rutgers Ave, Douglas Ave, and Princeton Drive

## “How Do I Know if It’s Recyclable?”

### DOWNLOAD RECYCLE COACH!

Use the app to stay up to date on recycling pickup news and schedule changes – download the Recycle Coach app or login into their website for all your recycling needs [recyclecoach.com/cities/usa-nj-borough-of-middlesex](https://recyclecoach.com/cities/usa-nj-borough-of-middlesex).

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**DPW** *(continued)*

**Recycling Pickups are MCIA:** Recycling pickups are managed by the Middlesex County Recycling program (MCIA). For pickup information, schedule, complaints, and comments, call the County office at 1-800-488-6242 or visit [the County website here](https://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/public-works#bulk-pickups).

**Bulk Pickup**

Bulk pickup is limited to one per year, and is arranged by appointment only. Rules are strictly enforced. Read all the details on the DPW web page here [www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/public-works#bulk-pickups](https://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/public-works#bulk-pickups).

**Garbage Collection**

If your garbage pick-up falls on a holiday Monday or holiday Tuesday while once a week garbage is in effect your pick up will be on Wednesday.

Please help keep Middlesex clean - do not store garbage at the curb. Garbage should be placed at the curb the night before pickup and remove empty cans from the curb by 8:00 P.M. on pickup day. Use regulation 32 gallon covered containers not to exceed 50lbs.

- Once-a-week schedule: September – May
- Twice weekly: June – August



# Community Pool

## An Ode to Autumn

<p>Tw'as the first day of Fall Down at the pool The pools were all covered The weather was cool</p> <p>The frog slide is ready for slumber The snack bar is all packed up Everything is tucked away Nothing visible, not even a cup</p> <p>The newly-resurfaced water slide is covered Diving board packed away</p>	<p>Lane lines and diving blocks Stored for another day</p> <p>Dreaming of Summer Seems so far away Pool memberships and guest passes Will be back one day</p> <p>Fun in the sun and pool So many memories held dear Until next Summer We'll be right here....</p>
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– Your Middlesex Community Pool



# Police Dept

## School Is In Session

Students and Staff of the Middlesex Borough Public Schools need us all to be aware of School Zone Speed limits around all of our schools. Be mindful of students walking and crossing our roadways with designated Crossing Guards. Be cautious of stopped school buses and obey applicable traffic laws, including N.J.S.A. 39:4-128.1, Improper Passing of a School Bus.

## Pedestrian And School Traffic

Traffic signals on Route 28 at the intersections with Lorraine Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive are primary crossing points for students and parents walking to school. Please be aware of pedestrian traffic and Crossing Guard directions when around our schools.

## Buckle Up!



Under state law, drivers and passengers must all wear seat belts, and failure to do so for those in the front seat is a primary offense, meaning police can pull a car over if someone up front isn't wearing one. The fine for not wearing a seat belt in is \$46.

## Don't Drive Distracted

Distracted driver remains a major contributing factor in motor vehicle crashes and injuries on the state's roadways. Over the five year period



between 2015-2019, New Jersey's roadways experienced 709,061 motor vehicle crashes, in which distracted driving was a contributing factor. In those crashes, there

were 164,334 reported injuries and 981 fatalities. It is important to recognize and address the dangers posed by distracted drivers.

**Over the five year period from 2015-2019, in Middlesex Borough, there were 1,561 crashes.**

Distracted driving was a contributing factor in 1,012 of those crashes, which accounted for 64.83% of all crashes in Middlesex Borough. To reduce the number of distracted driving motor vehicle crashes within

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## *Police* (continued)

Middlesex Borough and reduce the amount of distracted drivers in and around school zones beginning October 1, 2022 and extending through September 30, 2023, Middlesex Police Officers will be enforcing Distracted Driving laws in an effort to educate our community and reduce the occurrences of distracted driving related crashes.

## Burglars And Theft

Unlocked vehicles are popular targets for opportunistic thieves. The modern convenience of key fobs also makes vehicles more susceptible to theft when the fobs are left in vehicles. PLEASE lock your vehicles at all times when they are unattended and keep valuables stored out of view of prying eyes. Burglars often pose as solicitors, enabling them to approach homes to determine if anyone is present, without arousing suspicion. For this reason, the Borough of Middlesex requires that all solicitors obtain license before engaging in such activity. If you suspect that someone is soliciting without a license, please report them to the police.

## Internet Exchange Zone

The Middlesex Police Department has established an Internet Exchange Zone in the parking lot at police headquarters. The zone is monitored by a dedicated video surveillance camera. The goal is to create a place that promotes safer transactions between individuals making sales, purchases or exchanges with total strangers.

## Nixle Community Alerts

Nixle is a free communication system that connects residents to the agencies that protect, serve and communicate with them. Residents are urged to sign up to receive Nixle Alerts and Messages. Nixle allows the Police Department to send important, valuable community information directly to residents using the latest technology. Messages will be delivered by email, SMS/text message (Standard text message rates apply), and over the World Wide Web. Notifications may include crime related alerts, traffic advisories and other relevant safety and community event information.

Register now to receive text messages: Text "MIDDLESEXP" to 888777 to begin receiving SMS/text only. You can also sign up through the registration form on [the Nixle page on our website here](#).

To learn more about Nixle and to sign up, please visit our web site at [www.middlesexpd.com](http://www.middlesexpd.com).



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# Police *(continued)*

## Police Records

The Police Department’s Records Bureau window is located inside the lobby of the Middlesex Borough Police Department at 1101 Mountain Avenue. The Records Bureau window is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Citizens can obtain motor vehicle crash reports and police incident reports by completing a request form and providing their information and a proper form of identification.

Please allow up to 5 business days for report availability.

Contact the Records Bureau at (732) 356-1900 ext. 230/231 for information or to check the status of your report request.

## Firearms Applications And Carry Permit Information

See <https://middlesexpd.com/firearms/> for updated information.

Firearms Applications can now be completed online at <https://njportal.com/NJSP/FARS>

All forms, payments, Identification Cards, and Purchasers Permits are ELECTRONIC. Paper cards and permits are no longer generated or provided to applicants.

### PLEASE FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CONTINUALLY UPDATE NEWS AND PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION.

Like us on Facebook, follow us on **Twitter** and follow us on **Instagram**



# The Rock Snake

## In Case You Missed It...

This summer Victor Crowell Park was “rocked” by a special guest named Victor the Rock Snake! Led by dedicated volunteers and crafted (mostly) by kids, Victor started as a few colorful painted stones and grew all the way beyond the grassy area, past the 3rd lamp post, and even past the boat house! Check out the adorable photo gallery on our website at [www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/latest-news/rock-snake-2023](http://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/latest-news/rock-snake-2023).

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# Board of Health

## Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Nov. 4th

Our annual Rabies Clinic will be on Saturday, November 4, from 10:00 AM to Noon at the DPW Garage located at 110 Main Street. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Noon as the veterinarian leaves at Noon.

## Questions about the Board of Health?

If you have any concerns or suggestions about health-related services in our community, please consider attending one (or more) of our Board of Health monthly meetings. Dates are located on the Borough website: here, [www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/health](http://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov/health).



# OEM Special Report

## Preparedness is Essential to Your Safety

Middlesex Borough's Office of Emergency Management and FEMA want you to be aware that Preparedness is a shared responsibility. Taking a Whole Community approach we strive to educate and empower our residents to prepare and respond to emergencies which include natural and man-made disasters.

Disasters are unexpected by nature. By creating an emergency plan and resources ahead of time, you can reduce the confusion and chaos during an actual emergency. This article has a focus on our Senior Community and their caregivers. However, our whole community will find helpful information here!

- **Assess your needs.** If you have medications that need refrigeration, rely on mobility or assistive devices or have a pet you'll need to understand how these variables will factor into what you'll need to stay safe in a disaster or emergency.
- **Make a plan.** Once you assess your needs, you can tailor your plans to make sure your needs are met. This can include building a kit that includes extra medication, having a way to store medications in an emergency and planning for your pets or service animals. If you're an older adult or work with and support older adult communities visit [Ready.gov/older-adults](http://Ready.gov/older-adults) and [Ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores](http://Ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores) for resources.



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## OEM (continued)

- **Engage your support network.** Reaching out to family, friends and neighbors can help you build a support network that can support you before, during and after a disaster or emergency. Share each aspect of your emergency plan with everyone in your group, including a friend or relative in another area who would not be impacted by the same emergency who can help if necessary. Make sure everyone knows how you plan to evacuate your home or workplace and where you will go in case of a disaster. Make sure that someone in your personal support network has an extra key to your home and knows where you keep your emergency supplies. Practice your plan with those who have agreed to be part of your personal support network.

**As an older adult, you may have specific needs after a disaster.** Assess your needs and take simple, low-cost steps that help you get better prepared.

- **Disasters** could affect your area, which could call for an evacuation, and when to **shelter** in place, and plan what you need to do in both cases.
- Keep a **NOAA Weather Radio** tuned to your local emergency station and monitor TV and radio for warnings about severe weather in your area.
- **Download the FEMA app** and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.

## Plan Ahead

- 1 Plan how you will **communicate** if you have a communications need.
- 2 Plan for **food, water, and essentials** for you and **pets or service animals**. Research pet-friendly evacuation centers.
- 3 Plan for your transportation if you need help evacuating.
- 4 Include items that **meet your individual needs**, such as medicines, medical supplies, batteries and chargers, in your **emergency supply kit**.
- 5 Plan how you will have your assistive devices with you during an evacuation.
- 6 **Make copies** of Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards.

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## OEM *(continued)*

### Make a Plan

**Determine any special assistance you may need and include plans for that assistance in your emergency plan. For more detailed information, visit our page on [planning for people with disabilities](#).**

- Create a support network of family, friends and others who can assist you during an emergency. Make an [emergency plan](#) and practice it with them.
- Make sure at least one person in your support network has an extra key to your home, knows where you keep your emergency supplies, and knows how to use lifesaving equipment or administer medicine.
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify back-up service providers.
- Don't forget your pets or service animals. Not all shelters accept pets, so plan for alternatives. Consider asking loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area if they can help with your animals.



### Get Your Benefits Electronically

A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, important way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recommends two safer ways to get federal benefits:

## Follow the Borough

### Middlesex Borough website

- For **LOCAL** links and resources, [visit the "Local" options](#) in our site's navigation menu
- For **CONTACT** information about Borough staff and departments, [visit the "Contact" page](#) under the About menu
- **Sign up for EMAILS** about Borough promotions and general information (sent about once per month) on the website Home page

### Borough Facebook page

- Follow [the Borough's main Facebook page here](#).

[www.middlesexboro-nj.gov](http://www.middlesexboro-nj.gov)