



MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP REPORT

News of Your Community

2019 Volume 1

www.middletowntownship.org

Winter 2019

Tyler Arboretum Pink Hill Barrens Preservation Project Update

Adapted from an article by Laura McPhail, former Communications Coordinator for Tyler Arboretum

A number of Middletown residents have inquired in recent months about the nature of the activity that is occurring on the Tyler Arboretum property along Barren Road. Tyler secured several grants totaling \$330,000 to fund a restoration project for what is now officially known as the "Pink Hill Barrens." "Pink Hill" references that short period of time each spring when the pink phlox for which the area is named is in full bloom.



"Barrens" refers to serpentine barrens, which is a unique ecosystem that was formed when two large land masses collided millions of years ago. The serpentine layer that had been the sea floor between the continents was buried in rocky hills and mountains. After 100 million years of slow erosion, the serpentine layer was exposed, creating a rare ecosystem with truly unique soil chemistry.

This serpentine barren is the last of its kind in Delaware County. It has a complex and fascinating history. It is home to an extraordinarily diverse group of plants and animals for such a small area of land, including several rare, threatened and endangered species. Due to decades of reforestation, 14 acres of open grassland has dwindled to three acres.

The plan for preserving this ecological treasure includes invasive species control, partial soil organic matter removal, tree removal, baseline surveys focusing on rare plant and animal species, species reintroduction/augmentation and deer management.

Tyler obtained approvals from the Delaware County Conservation District and DEP prior to initiating the work. The area being restored to barren and the corresponding fence line were both cleared at the same time, so the fencing will be installed shortly after the clearing. The fence will be similar to the deer exclusion fence around Tyler's core area; the fence will include pedestrian gates so the hiking trails that transverse that area still have access to Pink Hill.

The plans also call for signage and benches in the area, as well as ADA-accessible parking and access to the top of the barren. The trees that were removed from the site were recycled for other uses.

If you would like to learn more about Pink Hill and serpentine barrens, Dr. Latham's 2008 report "Pink Hill Serpentine Barrens Restoration and Management Plan" can be found on the Publications page of Tyler's website, www.tylerarboretum.org.

Parks & Recreation Events

middleowntownship.org

For trip information email: pmccoy@middleowntownship.org or jbullard@middleowntownship.org.

Phone: 610-565-2700

2019 complete trip & event flyer in the works. Check our website [mid-January](http://middleowntownship.org) 2019 for info to sign up early for some of these trips & events!

Proposed Spring 2019 Day Trips

- March 5:** Philadelphia Flower Show
- March 13:** Phila Day– Hamilton Exhibit
- March 21:** Bethlehem Casino
- March 24:** “Meshuggah Nuns” at Pitman Thtr, NJ
- March 30:** New York City, on own
- April 6:** NYC Broadway to see “The Cher Show”
- April 10:** DC Cherry Blossom Cruise on Odyssey
- April 13:** NYC 911 Museum and Memorial
- April 16:** Rice Market and Peddlers Village
- April 27:** DC on own at the Smithsonian
- April 30:** Annapolis Cruise/Naval Academy Tour
- May 2:** ‘Costuming the Crown” exhibit at Winterthur Garden & House tour
- May 4:** NYC Private Tour of Harlem, Grant Memorial, & Riverside Church
- May 9:** “Sophisticated Ladies” at Fulton Thtr.
- May 14:** Spring Mystery Trip
- May 18:** DC John Wilkes Booth Day
- May 22:** Cape May Lewis Ferry Day

Building Events in the works for 2019

- Dancing & Exercise Classes at Roosevelt School
- History of Music Series conducted by a local Music Professor
- History of Painting Through The Ages Lecture

Discount Ski Resort Tickets to Bear Creek, Blue Mountain and Jack Frost/Big Boulder ski resorts are now available for sale through the winter season. Sold 9am-3pm daily Monday-Friday.



SAVE THE DATE . . .

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 1pm. Roosevelt School

Adult Social Club

Wednesday, May 15 at 1pm. Roosevelt School

Sunset Music Fest

Saturday, June 15 at 4pm. Roosevelt School

Summer Camp 2019 at Indian Lane

Runs 6 weeks from the end of June-early Aug.

Info on website mid-April 2019

Book Club

1st Tuesday of every month at 1pm

Trail Walks

Saturday, June 1st led by Dr. Richard Brenner.

Meet at Darlington Trail at 11am

2019 Proposed Overnight Trips (check our Facebook Page and website for details)

VA Beach, Mackinac Island, Michigan, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Hamptons, Long Island, NY. Bermuda Cruise, Tanglewood Festival, MA & Boston, Cape Cod & Martha’s Vineyard, Myrtle Beach, Kentucky. Plus out west USA Grand Canyon and Canyonlands & National Parks of the US, Mt. Rushmore. USA River Cruises, Alaska with Land Tour & Canada/New England Cruise, Canadian Rockies – Montreal & Quebec, Charleston & Savannah, Niagara Falls.

Europe Events too – Christmas Markets River Cruise, Italy, Great Britain, Spain & Portugal & more!



Be on the lookout for Middletown’s Snowman Building Contest 2019. Information will be available on Facebook and township website early January 2019.

Christmas Tree Collection January 7-18, 2019.



Trees should be placed at the curb and all ornaments, lights, and stands must be completely removed, or they will not be collected. The trees are then chipped by the Public Works Department. The wood chips will be made available to Township residents at Memorial Park.



Delco Alert
Delaware County, Pennsylvania
Emergency Notification System

Delaware County provides a Mass Notification service that allows all County residents to subscribe to receive specifically chosen notifications.

Access the Delco Alert portal at www.delcoalert.org. When the County issues a notification about a potential safety hazard or concern, a message will be sent on the voice or text communication methods that you have registered. Your contact information provided is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

Get Your 2019 Dog License

Annual dog licenses are now available for sale at the Township Building or at the County Government Center. In addition to the state requirement that all dogs must be licensed, if your dog strays and is wearing its tag, the dog will be able to be returned directly back to you and you can avoid unnecessary worry, costs and trips to the Brandywine Valley SPCA. Delaware County offers a license tag look-up service on its website at www.co.delaware.pa.us that provides the lost dog's name and phone contact information.

Special Spring Leaf Collection Scheduled for Week of March 25, 2019



Didn't get all your leaves cleaned up before the winter? The Township provides a special leaf collection each spring.

Place leaf bags out to curb by 7am on March 25, 2019 to ensure collection.

There is no need to call the Township for collection. Simply place leaves, contained in biodegradable paper bags, out at the curb by **7am on Monday, March 25th** so that the Public Works Department can make a sweep of the entire Township throughout the week.

Please note that this collection is for leaf waste only— yard waste (sticks & branches) is collected year-round and recycled separately. The yard waste collection schedule can be found on the Township website under the "Recycling" tab.





New Township Website to be rolled out early 2019

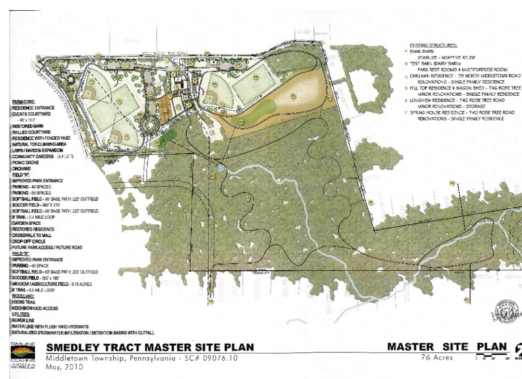
In order to expand citizen engagement and offer more robust platforms for making information available to residents, Township Council has authorized a comprehensive update of the Township website. Township staff are currently working with web vendor GovOffice to design the new site, and have sought public feedback on the design and layout. The new site will go live in early 2019.

In addition to the new site design, the Township has increased its presence on social media to keep residents informed with the latest news and updates. The Facebook page is for Parks & Recreation information and Twitter is for general Township information. Further expansion of social media will continue in 2019. Residents can still sign up on the website for general alerts and to receive agendas and minutes for upcoming and recent Board and Council meetings.

First Stage of Smedley Park Construction Completed

The first stage of the Smedley Park Development into active recreational fields was completed over the summer and fall months of 2018. Stage 1 included grading/erosion controls and the construction of stormwater/erosion control detention facilities and pipe/swale conveyances.

Future plans include Stage 2, which will consist of bulk earth moving to grade the site. Stage 3 of the development will be other site improvements such as paving, trails, signs, striping, etc.



Pennell Road/352 Intersection to be Improved with Addition of Turn Lane

Township Council authorized funding for intersection improvements at N. Pennell Road (S.R. 452) and N. Middletown Road (S.R. 352). Improvements will include the implementation of a dedicated northbound left turn phase for Pennell Road onto N. Middletown Road. Motorists should begin seeing work beginning on the signal improvements soon (see plan below).



Township Welcomes New Staff Members

Meet Finance Director Vince Visoskas



Vince Visoskas was recently hired as Middletown Township’s Finance Director to fill the position after former Finance Director Tim Sander’s September retirement. Vince has a Bachelor’s Degree from Villanova University and a Master’s Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He has had previous municipal experiences in West Bradford and West Pikeland Townships, and has also worked for the Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium.

Vince’s duties as the Finance Director for Middletown Township include overseeing the financial assets of the Township including our tax collection and investments. With Middletown Township making progressive changes, Vince states, “my favorite part of the job is having the opportunity to be part of a forward-looking Township that wants to preserve our residents’ quality of life”.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish as Finance Director he said, “I want to make the Township’s budget and finance information more digitally friendly and institute long range, multi-year financial planning to create a better financial picture of the Township.”

In Vince’s free time, he enjoys coaching baseball and woodworking.

Meet Community Relations & Digital Media Specialist Alex Mitchell



Alex Mitchell was recently appointed to the newly created role of Community Relations and Digital Media Specialist. She is not new to the Township, however. Alex first began working for Middletown as a Camp Counselor with the Parks and Recreation Summer camp from 2010-2012. In February 2017, she came onboard part-time to complete various administrative tasks, such as scanning and filing.

Alex graduated from West Chester University in 2015 with a Bachelor’s in Psychology and is excited to take on her new role in Media and Communications. Some of her typical job responsibilities are maintaining the Parks & Recreation Department Facebook page, assisting with the development of the new Township website to be launched in early 2019, and taking over the coordination and editing of the Township newsletter.

Alex has particularly enjoyed her work with helping redesign the website. When asked what she hopes to accomplish in her new role, she said “I hope to help residents learn more about where they are living and how they can take full advantage of all the Township does. I have lived in Middletown Township for most of my life and I am proud to call it my home. I hope our new presence on social media will reach a new audience of the Township that we may have not reached before.”

In her free time, Alex loves playing with and walking her dog, Rookie. He loves exploring all the trails in Middletown Township.

Middletown Historical Society News and Notes

VISIT US ONLINE AT MTHSDELCO.ORG

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month at Middletown Township Building

Middletown Mondays Winter/Spring 2019

Lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. at Lima Estates, 411 North Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063 Free and open to the public, no registration required.

In 2019 we will be looking at how Philadelphia celebrates the anniversaries of American Independence from the Centennial in 1876 through the planning for the Semiquincentennial in 2026.

Monday, February 25

THE 1876 CENTENNIAL IN PHILADELPHIA

By Mary Anne Eves, Vice President, Middletown Township Historical Society. Join us to see what marvelous things they saw at the fair.

Monday, March 18

CHARLES E. HIRES AND THE DRINK THAT WOWED A NATION!

By Bill Double, journalist & author of Charles E. Hires and the Drink that Wowed a Nation: The Life and Times of a Philadelphia Entrepreneur. Come learn about Charles E. Hires and his journey from farm boy, drug store apprentice, owner of his own pharmacy, to inventor of a tasty homemade root beer.



Monday, April 15

THE CENTENNIAL AND THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM AND SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL ART

By Sara MacDonald, Public Services Librarian, University Libraries, University of Arts. Join us to learn more about why Philadelphians recognized that the Centennial was a unique opportunity to form a nucleus of objects that could grow and benefit the city's industries.



Historical Society at Roosevelt

The museum at Roosevelt continues to add interesting pieces of history. On loan are items discovered in the old

Weathers' Market along with pictures of the business. To coincide with Boy Scout Month and Girl Scout Week during February and March, there will be a special display of scouting memorabilia and uniforms from Township Troops. The museum will extend hours anticipating increased interest. Please check the website for hours, www.mthsdelco.org. In May/June items and early pictures of Penncrest High School will be on display, remembering the first graduating class at Penncrest, 1959.

Clearing Streets During Snow Storms

There are several important things residents can and should do in preparation for snowfalls to aid with the removal of snow from your street:

- Park cars in the driveway, if possible.
- If you must park in the street, coordinate with your neighbors to park all cars on one side of the street to allow for greater passage of the snow plow.
- Shovel snow "downstream" (in the same direction of travel) from your mailbox and driveway so that piled snow does not get pushed back into the driveway entrance by the snow plow.
- **Do not plow snow from your driveway into the street or across the street.**
- Contact Public Works for information regarding mailboxes being knocked down and the replacement process.
- Please email comments or letters of appreciation to the Public Works Department via publicworks@middletowntownship.org

Sewer Authority Update

2019 Sewer Rental Rates to Remain the Same

Middletown Township Sewer Authority (MTSA) received a copy of the proposed 2019 DELCORA Budget which reflects an 8% increase over the 2018 Sewer Treatment Rates. The Authority is happy to report that based on the MTSA reserves there will be no proposed increase in the residential or commercial sewer rents for calendar year 2019. The annual residential sewer rate for \$550 per year for all residential customers.

The MTSA appreciates all the support it receives from both its residential and commercial customers. The MTSA will strive to maintain a safe and reliable sanitary sewer system and keep rates as low possible.

MTSA Certification Program

Effective September 1st, 2018, the Delaware County, MTSA implemented its new Sanitary Sewer Certification Program that requires the inspection of Building Sewers for damage or sources of infiltration. These problems must be repaired prior to sale, transfer, or refinance of any property by a property owner. In addition, payment of all sewer rentals and tapping fees must be current prior to the sale, transfer, or refinance of any property. Visit the MTSA section of the Middletown Township web site for additional details and instructions for the MTSA Sanitary Sewer Certification Program. The sewer authority staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the new program.

SEPTA Elwyn-Wawa Restoration Update for December

SEPTA will restore service on the Media/Elwyn Regional Rail Line from its current terminus at Elwyn Station to Wawa, PA. An early action phase to stabilize embankments on sections of this line was completed in 2010. The next component of this 3-mile service restoration will involve significant infrastructure renewal, including retaining walls and the rehabilitation or replacement of track, catenary and structures, and signals. The last component of this project is the construction of a new station, a 600 car parking deck, and an intermodal connection.

ROUTE 1 UPDATE: Weekend Bridge Removal Postponed to January

The weekend closure of Route 1 has been postponed until sometime in January. An exact date for this work has not been set – full details, including detours, will be provided at least two weeks in advance. As a reminder, in order for crews to safely complete this work, northbound and southbound Route 1 will be closed at the bridge for one full weekend (Friday night through Sunday night). Following the removal of the bridge, and continuing for 8-12 months – northbound and southbound Route 1 will be reduced to one lane in both directions for approximately 1,200 feet at the underpass.

December Summary

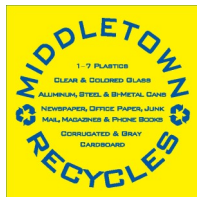
The primary work area is concentrated in the Chester Creek oxbow area related to the removal and replacement of the rail bridges over the creek. Residents may also see ongoing site work along the track area between Lungren Road and Route 352 (Work Area #2). Eventually this work will include the installation of access roads at various locations and tree and shrub removal, chipping (clearing & grubbing) activities, and installation of erosion and sediment controls, both on SEPTA's right-of-way and on several private properties for which easements have been obtained.

Recycling Quick Tips

Co-mingle plastics 1-7, glass, steel, bi-metal, and aluminum cans, newsprint, phone books, junk mail, and office paper may also be placed in the same container with the other co-mingled materials, provided that the paper is prevented from blowing away by the use of a lidded container.

If using a lidless container, paper should be bundled in paper bags or tied and placed in or near the container(s). Corrugated cardboard and gray cardboard (pizza and cereal boxes) are to be bundled or stacked in bags and placed in or near the recycling bin.

Non-Township issued containers must have Yellow Recycling stickers affixed, available free at the Township Building, Wolff's and Linvilla Orchards.



Council Members

At Large

Mark Kirchgasser
Susan Powell
Norman C. Shropshire

First District

Scott D. Galloway

Second District

Walter (Bok) Read

Third District

Russ Carlson

Fourth District

Stephen Byrne

Name changed? Report changes to Township REPORT editor.

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