

MIDDLETOWN LEADS

WHAT IS MIDDLETOWN LEADS?

Middletown Leads is a weekly newsletter intended to connect the Middletown community by providing information about the civic undertakings of the Town.

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANS – THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE & TIME

The State of RI requires that each community review and revise its Comprehensive Community Plan every 10 years. It recognizes that change is inevitable with the passage of time. Thus it requires a progress review every 5 years and allows as many as 4 amendments per year.

MIDDLETOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

The current Community Comprehensive Plan was approved by The Middletown Planning Board on September 10, 2014; it was adopted by the Middletown Town Council On March 2, 2015.

MIDDLETOWN'S PLAN – THE OVERALL VISION

Middletown will preserve its *quality of life* for all generations as a *safe and friendly* community with a *distinctive heritage*, *extraordinary cultural and natural resources*, a *strong local economy* and *fiscally sound government*.

In this and future newsletters, we will explore the various areas addressed by the Comprehensive Plan to see how it addresses the values it has defined as equally important to the community's character:

1. Cultural & Historic Resources
2. Natural & Ecological Resources
3. Recreation, Conservation, & Open Space
4. Economic Development
5. Transportation
6. Housing
7. Facilities & Services
8. Land Use

AREA # 7 – FACILITIES & SERVICES

Town Departments – as of 2014 (Links to each department are on the town's website)

Building/Zoning

Engineering

Finance

Fire

Human Resources

Library

Planning

Police

Public Works

Purchasing

Refuse Collection

School Department

Senior Center

Substance Abuse

Tax Assessor

Technology

Town Administrator

Town Clerk

Voter Registration

FACILITIES & SERVICES - DATA

The following data reflects conditions in 2013, prior to approval of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan.

Educational Facilities

Three elementary schools (incl. grade 4 Learning Academy), one middle school, one high school. In October 2013, a total of 2,267 students were enrolled in Middletown public schools. The FY2013 expenditure per pupil was \$14,890.

Police

Current to the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, the Middletown Police Department employed 38 full-time officers, one animal control officer, two civilian clerks, one full-time maintenance person, and a part-time VIN inspector. In 2013, the total number of calls for service was 28,360. Total offenses for 2013 were 2,029 with 228 being felonies.

Fire

Current to the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, the Middletown Fire Department employed 32 full-time members including a Chief and Administrative Assistant. All the firefighters were trained EMT's to the cardiac level. In 2012, the Fire Department received a total of 3,060 emergency calls, which was an increase of 1,003 from 2000. The 2014 Comprehensive Plan reported that the bond for the new Fire Station had been approved. (It has since been completed and is occupied.)

Public Library

In 2013, the collection contained 67,715 books as well as journals, digital resources, and computer stations. Public computer use in FY2011 was 20,803. The total circulation in FY13 was 176,314. There were 12,285 registered borrowers. The number of visits was 173,477.

Senior Citizen Center

Middletown Senior Citizen programs, available to residents 55 years or older, include meals, transportation, education, social services, exercise, health presentations and screenings, entertainment, gift shop, computer lab, and community soup to go. In 2013, MSC served 20,547 community and island residents, 6,485 congregate meals, volunteer hours of 20,547 with 125 scheduled programs/speakers.

FACILITIES & SERVICES – GOALS, POLICIES, & ACTION ITEMS

1. Provide high quality and efficient municipal service and facilities that meet the needs of residents.
2. Support consolidation and sharing of public services and facilities that result in an increase in cost-effectiveness without negatively impacting the quality of service provided.
3. Deliver high quality public education and school building facilities in order to promote excellence in public education and fully meet the community's responsibility to provide for the next generation.
4. Provide programs, services, and materials for all ages that encourage a love for reading, life-long learning, and cultural enrichment.
5. Provide high-quality law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency dispatch services in a cost-efficient, coordinated, and cooperative manner that meets the needs of the town's residents, workers, and visitors.
6. Provide solid waste and recycling management in an economical and environmentally sound manner.

FOOTNOTE

See the updated Housing data from the 2017 Housing Fact Book released by HousingWorks RI at MiddletownLeads@blogspot.com.