



ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS HERALD

New Jersey's 1st Official Electronic Newspaper

ONLINE ADVERTISING **45,000 VISITS WEEKLY**

Atlantic Highlands - Fair Haven - Highlands - Keansburg - Little Silver
Middletown - Monmouth Beach - Red Bank - Rumson - Sea Bright



Home | [Subscribe](#) | Events | Columns | Forums | Letters | Archives | Classifieds | Advertise
| Contact

News

- [-Home](#)
- [-Local News](#)
- [-Events& Meetings](#)
- [-Archives](#)

Opinions

- [-Your Views](#)
(registration req.)
- [-Reader's Write](#)

Columns

- [-Adoption Option](#)
- [-At Large](#)
- [-Bishop on the Issues](#)
- [-Body Politic](#)
- [-Ferry Rider](#)
- [-Food for Thought](#)
- [-JobPath](#)
- [-LeafNotes](#)
- [-Lemonade Stand](#)
- [-No Bull Fishing](#)
- [-Old Oak Trail](#)
- [-Pastors Corner](#)
- [-Senior Savvy](#)
- [-Spotlight on Keansburg](#)
- [-Trenton Talk](#)
- [-Windows on Red Bank](#)

Features

- [-Picture This!](#)
- [-Poets' Lair](#)
- [-Fire EMS report](#)
- [-Lend-a-Hand](#)

EYE ON MIDDLETOWN
 by Mayor Joan Smith
 Middletown Township
thesmitty1@home.com -
 email



[View Archive](#)

SUGGEST US
TO A FRIEND

[Click here](#)

Tell others about this page

MIDDLETOWN'S UNSUNG HEROES

In Middletown, we are lucky to have so many people who volunteer their time to make our community a better place to live. They work quietly, out of the spotlight, to help their fellow man on as much as they can. They fight fires, provide medical attention, raise money for worthy causes, offer recreation and recognitions programs for children, protect our environment and history, help to offer affordable housing and so much more.

Volunteers are the kind of people who don't seek praise for their efforts, even though deserve it. They do it simply because they care about their neighbors. This week I'd like to tell you about some of the volunteer groups I visited; the unsung heroes I met; and the contributions they have made to our community.

At this week's Township Committee meeting we thanked the American Legion Post. No. 338 for donating \$21,600 to purchase life-saving equipment for our emergency service providers.

With their donation, we will be able to purchase four automatic electronic defibrillators for our police department, a thermal imaging camera for the fire department and a portable device that will allow Leonardo first aid to monitor vital signs during transport. The American Legion raised the money with a state-regulated lottery machine located at the Post. What's even more amazing is they raised all this money since last September!

I don't know where to begin to thank them. They decided to fund the purchase less than a week after I wrote a letter asking for their help. Thanks to their donation, the Police Department will purchase four Automatic Electronic Defibrillators at a total cost of \$10,400. This purchase will bring the number of available units to 11. Since July 1999, the township has purchased six

[-Word Search](#)

Classifieds

[-Help Wanted](#)

[-For Sale](#)

[-Boats](#)

[-Public Notices](#)

Community

Websites

[-Atlantic](#)

[Highlands](#)

[-Fair Haven](#)

[-Highlands](#)

[-Keansburg](#)

[-Little Silver](#)

[-Middletown](#)

[-Monmouth](#)

[Beach](#)

[-Red Bank](#)

[-Rumson](#)

[-Sea Bright](#)

Resources

[-Tides](#)

[-Legislators](#)

[-World News](#)

[Links](#)

[-Houses of](#)

[Worship](#)

[-Organizations](#)

FAQs

[-Advertise Online](#)

[-Subscribe Free](#)

[-Contact Us](#)

[-Share the News](#)

Website by:


adean.com

(732) 872-1957

defibrillators and another was donated by Agnes Eperthener, a local resident. (She came to one of our meetings to earlier this year. Thanks again, Agnes!)

Defibrillators have been used more than a dozen times to restore an effective heartbeat to cardiac victims. This includes three lives that were saved by Police Officer Lawrence Schatchel since last October. A defibrillator is currently assigned to an officer in each of the township's seven patrol districts while he or she is on duty. The other units will be located at headquarters and assigned to officers stationed at large gatherings such as Middletown Day and the great race.

The American Legion's donation will also permit us to bring the number of thermal imaging cameras available to fire fighters to eight. These are truly incredible devices that allow the user to see through thick smoke to find fire victims and lost fire fighters, discover hidden fires and search for injured victims in wooded areas. Seven thermal imaging cameras have been purchased for the fire chief, assistant fire chief and four fire companies since 1998 with township and state grant funding.

Earlier in the month, I had the honor of attending the 58th annual recognition dinner for the Fairview First Aid Squad, which is one of five all-volunteer squads in Middletown. Last year, the volunteers from this squad answered more than 2,100 calls for help. Keep in mind this is addition to holding down a job, caring for their families, attending classes to retain their EMT statuses, and all the other responsibilities of modern life.

Awards were given to the five volunteers who answered the most calls. They were Mike Henry who answered 45 percent or 1029 of those calls; Thomas Wieczerek who answered 37 percent or 853 calls; Floyd Goldstein who answered 30 percent or 697 calls; Joseph Blarr who answered 24 percent or 551 calls and Paul Aguilar who answered 21 percent or 496 calls. The squad also honored volunteers who had saved the lives of several patients by performing CPR. They were Thomas Wierczek, Mike Henry, Thomas L Paulin, Floyd Goldstein, Steve Reddy, John Mattoccia Jr., Mike O'Shea, Matthew Henkel, Joseph Blarr, and Jeff Arvin.

I also went to the Annual Youth Activities Awards Breakfast, which was held by the Middletown Elks No. 2179. These volunteers donate their time to provide recreation facilities for the entire family and are the focal point for many community service and charitable programs.

The Elks devote a great deal attention to youth activities. The breakfast was held to recognize the winners of several youth programs sponsored by the Elks including the Soccer Shoot-Out, Basketball Hoop-Shoot and Student of the Month. Two scholarships were also awarded.

Since the purpose of the breakfast was to recognize the children, I'll do the same. The winners of the Hoop Shoot were Emily Trammell, David Vespa, Michelle Borgese, Kyle Murphy, Ashley Frick and Michael Dennis. The winners of the Soccer Shoot were Lindsay Balsamo, Michelle Borgese, Kim McConnell, Bobby Evans, Robbie Dickerson, Jimmy Thornton and Sean Corridon.

Middletown's students of the month were Julia Ott, Carina Bleickhardt, Victor Peng, Sheila Clabby, Sarah Rajtmajer, and Lisa Huang. Scholarships were to awarded Carrie Long and Mathew Carew. Congratulations and good luck next year!

Thank you to everyone who donates their time to our community. Without you, I suspect

Middletown would be a very different place. If you'd like to volunteer, contact one of these groups or any others that suits your interests. And don't worry if you don't have the time to answer 1,029 first aid calls like Mike Henry or chair the Elks Youth Activities Committee like Ed Hahn. Volunteers are needed for all kinds of tasks, big and small. If you need help finding a volunteer organization, call me at 615-2024 or e-mail me.

Contact Mayor Joan Smith - thesmitty1@home.com

<http://www.exit109.com/~townhall/> - Middletown Township Municipal Website

<http://www.ahherald.com/middletown/index.html> - Middletown Community Website

The views and opinions expressed by contributing writers do not necessarily reflect those of the Atlantic Highlands Herald or any official thereof.

[User Agreement](#) - PLEASE READ

AHHerald Webmanager - [Allan Dean](#)

copyright © 1996- 2004 - Allan Dean - All Rights Reserved
Atlantic Highlands Herald - 25 Second Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716 - (732) 872-1957