

Middletown raising awareness about community programs, issues

MIDDLETOWN -- The Mayor and Township Committee issued several proclamations at the April 20 meeting to raise awareness about noteworthy community programs and social issues that affect us as a nation.

Autism Awareness Month

The Middletown Township Committee joined Impact Oasis in encouraging the community to participate in Autism Awareness Month activities to become better educated on the subject of autism. As more and more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are diagnosed on the autistic spectrum resulting in rates as low as one in 166 children. In New Jersey that number drops to one in every 94 children.

In addition a majority of Township Committee introduced an ordinance to preserve nearly 26 acres on Sleepy Hollow Road in partnership with the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Impact OASIS, the NY/NJ Baykeeper and state Green Acres. Impact OASIS would obtain approximately 7 to 8 acres along with a house located on the property for use as a residential farm for autistic adults. The remainder of the space would be preserved for use and open space and recreation.

Meanwhile, Middletown Township leases seven acres of farmland at Stevenson Park to Impact OASIS for farming, gardening and horticultural purposes as part of training and assistance programs for autistic individuals. Non-disabled peers, individuals with autism, and their families are invited to help Impact OASIS manage this year's crop of vegetables and flowers. Upcoming planting and harvesting dates are April 25 and May 16. Weeding watering and harvesting will be conducted on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursday from June 30 through September 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stevenson Park is located 940 West Front Street. Contact Barbara at impactoasis@gmail.com or visit www.impactoasis.org for information.

Middletown Township leases seven acres of farmland at Stevenson Park to Impact OASIS for farming, gardening and horticultural purposes as part of training and assistance programs for autistic individuals.