

# TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN

Township Hall, One Kings Highway

ANTHONY S. PERRY

*Mayor*

RICK W. HIBELL

*Deputy Mayor*

RYAN M. CLARKE

*Committee Member*

KEVIN M. SETTEMBRINO, AIA

*Committee Member*

Middletown, NJ 07748-2594



Organized December 14, 1667

ANTHONY P. MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP

*Township Administrator*

HEIDI R. BRUNT, RMC, CPM

*Township Clerk and Registrar*

## Koleda Park Improvement Project

### Middletown Township, New Jersey

**Middletown is seeking funding to improve a property known colloquially as the Koleda Property, located in the River Plaza section of Middletown Township.**

The Township of Middletown acquired the 3 acre Koleda property in 2012 for **\$923,500.00**. Located at the Northeast corner of Hubbard Avenue and Navesink River Road, the Koleda property holds a link to the local history of the area. Situated immediately adjacent to the River Plaza Elementary School, which is on land provided to the local school district by the Koleda family in the early 1900's. The remaining Koleda Farm contained two residences and a greenhouse from which the Koleda family produced a variety of plants and flowers, including award winning Iris's.

The property also sits across the street from Poricy Park Pond, a local attraction for a variety of recreational and historic education programs. The pond is also popular for recreational fishing. Currently there is no provision for onsite parking in order to access the pond. Therefore, there is currently no safe way for users, especially those with boats or canoes to access the pond. Users are forced to then park on nearby residential streets. The Township plans to provide for parking on site in order to provide safe access to the park for all users, especially those looking to access the pond. A new Driveway will be added to allow access from both Hubbard Avenue and Navesink River Road. The property is also located just about 300 yards west of Shadow Lake. Shadow lake is a major recreational destination for fishing and boating. However, it lacks sufficient space for public Access. The only other public Access point is too silted to be viable. As a result of the limited access the State of New Jersey stopped stocking it with Trout about a decade ago. Again this new lot on the Koleda Park will allow for recreational boaters and fishermen to park after they drop off their small boat, canoe or Kayak at the lake. We are hopeful that their improved access will help us to get the state to restore trout stocking once again.

Other recreational amenities may be added to the Koleda Park in the future, a Playground has been considered as well as possibly a basketball court.

One of the challenges to utilizing the property has been the discovery of on-site soil contamination. While some contamination is always to be expected as a result of a greenhouse, this was not the major issue. Upon doing further soils investigation it was discovered that much of the soil contained Chlordane a once common pesticide (used in the US from 1948-1988). This material needs to be either removed or

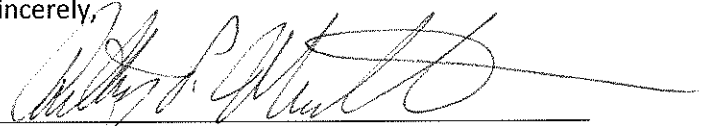
#### **Many Neighborhoods. One Middletown!**

Belford ◦ Chapel Hill ◦ Fairview ◦ Harmony ◦ Leonardo ◦ Lincroft ◦ Locust ◦ Middletown Village  
Monmouth Hills ◦ Navesink ◦ New Monmouth ◦ North Middletown ◦ Nut Swamp ◦ Oak Hill ◦ Port Monmouth ◦ River Plaza

capped with new clean soil. This need adds to the cost of the overall park improvement cost significantly and the fact that the material sits adjacent to a school adds to the importance of completing this project. Although there is no immediate threat caused by the presence of this material next door, everyone would feel better if it could be properly mitigated. Our request would be for \$1,000,000.00 for this project. This would cover and estimate of \$837,690.00, \$26,900.00 in engineering design costs and an additional permitting and contingency costs of \$135,410.00

There is also a plan to connect the driveway so that it can be accessed to the rear of the school. While this is only a tangential benefit, it will allow the school traffic, which is substantial in this location to be better dispersed, improving public both vehicular and pedestrian safety substantially.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Mercantante', written over a horizontal line.

Anthony P. Mercantante, P.P. AICP  
Township Administrator