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6/6/2008

Community Partnership Brings Wheelchair Swing to Croydon Hall

A cool new wheelchair swing has been added to the playground at Croydon Hall thanks to a community partnership forged between Middletown Elks 2179, Whirl Construction, Pat Dunphy, a local physical therapist and Middletown Township.

"The installation of the handicap swing is a perfect example of a community need being identified and a collaboration of the Township and community organizations working together to meet it. Mike Dickie, from the Middletown Elks, who works tirelessly helping handicapped kids in the community, Pat Dunphy, a Middletown physical therapist and Whirl Construction purchased and installed the swing. Middletown is thrilled to have been able to find a spot in our playground at Croydon Hall for this amazing swing," said Deputy Mayor Pamela M. Brightbill. She attended the dedication ceremony along with Mayor Gerard Scharfenberger and Committeeman Patrick Short.

The swing allows special children that are restricted to wheelchairs to enjoy the parks swings again, Elks members explained. The swing welcomes the child and wheel chair onto a special platform that closes up to allow a child to move freely as a regular swing. Abby Dun Melanie Luebs and 2007 Elks Poster Child Kyle Smith were among the first children to take rides on the cool new swing.

"It was thrilling to see firsthand three of our special residents take the first rides on the swing. The parents I spoke with love the location because it is included in an already existing park. Their wheelchair bound kids can play at the same place their siblings can," she said.

Croydon Hall's playground is located across from the Parks and Recreation Administration Building. Croydon Hall is located at 900 Leonardville Road, Leonardo. The swing is one of only a handful known to exist in Monmouth County.


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Photos

- [Kyle Smith enjoys his first ride on the swing.](#)
- [From left are Kyle Smith, Melanie Luebs and Abby Dunn with her Sabrina. They are among the first kids to enjoy the new swing.](#)
- [Community Members Gathered to Celebrate Installation of the Wheelchair Swing. From left are: \(Front Row\) Martha Smith, Elks 2007 Poster Child Kyle Smith, Melanie Luebs, Abby Dunn \(Back Row\) Nancy Pavelka-Luebs, Committeeman Patrick Short, Special Children Committee Chairman Mike Dickie, Todd Syrdale, Pat Dunphy, Eddie Lopez of Whirl Construction, Exalted Ruler Michael Parulis Jr., Deputy Mayor Pam Brightbill, Sabrina Dunn, & Mayor Gerard Scharfenberger.](#)

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