



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 12, Issue 1 ♦ January 15, 2020

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

After eight years of service on Town Council, Councilwoman Carole Snyder Jones has resigned from the Town Council. Mrs. Snyder Jones in a letter dated December 21, 2019 stated that, “It is with a heavy heart that I write my resignation from Town Council. Due to circumstances and the demands of a family illness, I don't feel I can fulfill my position at this time to the best of my ability. Please know that I really have enjoyed being a part of the transformational success Middletown has had over the last eight years under the leadership of Mayor Harbaugh. Therefore, please accept my resignation effective December 31, 2019.”

Mrs. Snyder Jones entered town politics during a difficult time for the town and brought years of human resources and finance experience to the board. She will be recognized for her service at a Town Council meeting, TBA.

Carole was a tremendous councilwoman and a great friend; she will truly be missed. From monthly finance meetings, human resource questions, filling Easter eggs for the annual hunt to registering cars at the annual car show, she was just exceptional! She loves Middletown and was a great asset to us over these last eight years.

Council will look to have her seat voted on and in place at the February Town Council meeting. The term expires December 30, 2020. All interested applicants for the open position on Town Council should submit an appointment application and resume to the town office. Deadline to apply is **January 31, 2020**.

Please welcome our newest member Jessica Carper to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Jessica has been involved with the town her entire life. She has a Master's degree in School Counseling and has worked in the public school system for 7 years. Her family have been residents of the town for over 60 years.

Jessica filled the seat of John Blaisdell whose term expired September 2019. We thank John for his years of volunteerism serving on many different boards. John was always a pleasure to work with and he will be missed by all. We thank you John for all of your efforts and the years you have dedicated to the town.

We will host Shenandoah Valley Runners Heart and Soles 5K again this year which will be held on Saturday February 15, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in participating please contact Shenandoah Valley Runners at www.svrunners.org for details. And remember to please be alert if you are out and about around town the morning of the event.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

If you have police matters please do not call the Town office staff. This creates confusion, possible miscommunications and takes up unnecessary time in having an officer respond to the complaint. For all non-emergency police issues please contact the Middletown Police Department directly Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 540-868-0535. Only leave a voice message at the Middletown Police Department if the return call is for administrative or information only.

All non-life-threatening matters which require an officer please contact Frederick County non-emergency dispatch at 540-662-6162. If you have an emergency please call 911. All calls for service must first go through Frederick County dispatch. Frederick County dispatch will contact the officer/deputy on duty who will be handling the complaint. This will ensure that all calls are handled properly and in an efficient & timely manner.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

Please remember to update your contact information with the Town office. Telephone numbers are very important to the staff in case we need to contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your account.

Homeowners please remember if you are having contracted work done at your home such as roofing, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, additions, and these are just a few examples please make sure the contractor(s) has a valid Town of Middletown business license. This helps ensure you are dealing with a legitimate business. And no one should be soliciting business door to door in the town without a Town of Middletown business license.

As always, all utility payments are due by the due date indicated and, if late, penalties will be applied. If the bill is not paid in full by the cut-off date, service will be disconnected for non-payment and there will be a \$100.00 cut-off/on fee added to your bill. There will be no payment arrangements. The Town will offer a onetime payment deferment on a case by case basis due to unforeseen circumstances. If you have any question regarding this policy please contact the Town Clerk 540-869-2226 ext. 1

For information regarding the Town of Middletown please visit the Town's website www.middletownva.gov

From the Zoning Administrator

As a reminder, permits must be secured through the Town office prior to any work. All renovations to buildings need a zoning permit. All accessory buildings such as sheds and/or outside storage containers also need a zoning permit. When in doubt please contact the town office.

Town Code section 14-4 Removal of snow from sidewalks

It shall be unlawful for the occupants of any building and where there is no occupant, for the owner of such vacant building or any unimproved lot or land lying on any street, alley or public place within the town where there is a brick or cement sidewalk, or any other walk so named by the Mayor or Town Council, to permit snow to remain on such a sidewalk longer than 6 hours after the snow has ceased to fall; except, that if the snow shall cease to fall in the night time, it shall be cleaned away by noon the following day. If the occupant or owner of the premises, as the case may be, fails or refuses to clear off the snow after being duly notified, it shall be the duty of the Town Sergeant to cause such pavement or sidewalk to be cleaned at the cost plus 10% to such occupant or owner of the premises. All bills for cleaning ice or snow from pavements are due payable when presented, which shall be in addition to any fine imposed. (10-3-55, ch.17, S 55.)

Penalty – Any persons violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to arrest, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00 or the discretion of the court trying the case.

When out on your walks with your pets please be considerate and pickup waste. It is unlawful to allow feces deposited by his/her animal to remain on any public highway, street, sidewalk, part of other public property, or on private property without written consent of the owner thereof or his agent.

Town Code section 3-8 Littering

No person shall allow feces deposited by his/her animal to remain on any public highway, street, sidewalk, part of other public property, or on private property without written consent of the owner thereof or his agent.

Penalty – Any person who knowingly violates this Ordinance shall be guilty of a littering infraction and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$25.00 per occurrence. (Middletown Town Code § 3-8)

From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

Public Works will be picking up Christmas trees now through January 31, 2020. Please place the Christmas tree curbside for pick up. We will not pick up any yard waste or artificial Christmas trees.

This year Yard Waste Pick-Up will begin on Monday March 30, 2020 and will end on Monday November 16, 2020. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the next day.

Please take time to review the guidelines for yard waste. **We will no longer pick up any yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines.** Yard waste collection will be every Monday, and must be placed curbside by 8:00 a.m. Yard waste consists of grass trimmings and leaves which CANNOT weigh more than 40 lbs. Branches or twigs can be **NO LONGER** than four (4) feet in length and **NO LARGER** than twelve (12) inches in diameter and must be **tyed in bundles** (no wire or plastic string). Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable or paper yard waste bags only **NO PLASTIC BAGS**. Yard waste should not be placed curbside until the morning of collection. This helps keep the community neat and free of clutter.

Please make sure the water meter in your yard is free and clear at all times. The meter should never be covered or buried by anything. Please make sure the meter is not covered with grass, weeds, bushes, vehicles, boats, trailers, ice, snow etc. This can cause serious problems in the event of an emergency if we are unable to find and/or access the meter. The meter should be visible and most importantly easy to access. Please take the time to make sure the water meter in your yard is accessible at all times and clear from all debris and/or obstructions.

If you notice a street light out please contact the Public Works Department at 540-869-7731. Please provide the following information. Your name, your phone number, the street light address and the pole number if possible. We will then contact Rappahannock Electric regarding the outage.

An important reminder of the DO NOTS when it comes to flushing items down a toilet. These items can cause significant damage to the sewer lines and pumps. All items listed can cause backups and blockages in the sewer lines as well as cause the pumps at the pump stations throughout town to malfunction and stop working.



Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Welcome to a New Year and a new decade! Now that the holidays are over it's time to think of spring and moving on to daylight savings time. Please save the date for Monday May 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. for our annual Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Bricks are still available for purchase. For details or to purchase a brick please contact our town office staff. Forms to purchase a brick can also be found on the town website www.middletownva.gov

Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The Middletown Heritage Society meets at The Wayside Inn at noon on the second Thursday of the month except January and July. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving artifacts and stories about Middletown's long history. Anyone with knowledge of our area's past is welcome and appreciated. Our meetings are informal with no need to RSVP. We order off the menu when we arrive and then have a short business meeting before lunch is served. If you have questions please contact Tess Klimm at 540-247-2211.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Please join us on Tuesdays for Bingo in the social hall. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Early bird games, followed by regular Bingo at 7:00 p.m. The Auxiliary sells concessions. We have free tea, coffee, and water. There is an ATM and smoking areas. \$15 minimum admission with special games extra. There are two progressive bingo games and two progressive tips.

We are always looking for new members! If firefighting or emergency medical services aren't your thing, we can use help with fundraising. Call us at (540) 869-1829 or stop by the station.

Calendar of Events

January

January 17 – Lee-Jackson Day, Town office closed
January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town office closed
January 27 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

February

February 3 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
February 10 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
February 15 – Heart and Soles 5k
February 17 – Presidents' Day, Town office closed
February 24 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March

March 2 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 9 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 23 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 30 – Yard Waste Pick-Up begins curbside by 7:30 a.m.

New Residents: Welcome to the Town of Middletown

- Water billing is bi-monthly and is due on the 15th of the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December. It is important to pay your bill on time or by the cut-off date. If service is disconnected for nonpayment there is a \$50 cut-off fee and \$50 cut-on fee for a total of \$100.
- Trash service is provided through the town. Trash service is every Wednesday, curbside by 7:00 a.m. You must purchase your own trash can(s). No trash should be placed curbside outside of a trash can. No specific trash can is required. This is for regular household trash only. Recyclables can be taken to the Frederick County Convenience Center located at 6671 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA 22645. And large items to the Frederick County Landfill located at 280 Landfill Road, Winchester, VA 22602.
- Please report all vehicles, motorcycles and trailers to the Personal Property Division of Frederick County at 540-665-5681 ext. 1. The town bills real estate and personal property taxes once a year due in December. The county bills taxes twice a year due in June and December. When you buy, sell, trade or dispose of a vehicle please report this information to Frederick County. We receive all real estate and personal property billing information from Frederick County. You will receive tax bills from both the town and the county.
- The town office is opened Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (540)-869-2226
- Forms of payments accepted: check, cash, money order, debit or credit over the phone or in person there is a 3% convenience fee. Visa, Mastercard and Discover are accepted. No online payment at this time.
- Please visit the town's website at www.middletownva.gov for additional information for upcoming events, calendar of meetings, staff and town officials contact information, newsletter etc.