

~Thank a Hero Serving this Great Nation on the Frontlines~

Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 12, Issue 3 ♦ May 15, 2020

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Hello Middletown I hope this finds everyone healthy, safe, and surviving these trying times. The town employees have been doing a tremendous job keeping things as normal as possible so the citizens of Middletown do not experience any delays in services or hardships. Our Public Works Department has not skipped a beat and continue their everyday routine to keep our treatment plant up and running and the maintenance of the town above par. Our police department has been running business as usual taking all necessary precautions to keep themselves safe while keeping our community safe. They along with the fire department have pulled off a couple birthday surprises for the kids of Middletown. The office staff continues to work remotely from their homes providing outstanding service, not missing any calls, returning emails, and processing the mail daily and any incoming payments. Our Planning & Zoning administrator is working remote, as well as in the field; performing inspections and processing zoning permits. The Council continues to meet via telecommunications and conducting town business. We are currently working on the FY 2020-2021 budget. All meeting agendas are posted on the town website under Agendas & Minutes with the call-in information provided at the top of the agenda.

Hats off to these guys for keeping us afloat during these uncertain times, we truly appreciate all that you do!

Evergreen Waste Management has rescheduled Spring Clean-Up for the town which will be held on Monday June 29, 2020. Please see the guidelines in this newsletter for regulations of what they will and will not pick up. If anything is left curbside it is because it is not landfill acceptable and you will need to remove it from the roadside. Spring Clean-Up items must be curbside by 7:00 a.m.

Our July 4th Celebration will go on as planned unless the Governor extends the current guidelines and regulations. Please watch the town's Facebook page for updates or contact the town office. #middletownstrong

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

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.

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 purposes 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.

Please remember the Open Burn Law. Open burning is only allowed between 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m., per the Department of Forestry. Please visit www.dof.virginia.gov for further details.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

If there have been any changes in your contact information please provide the updated information to the town office. Contact information is very important to the town staff in the event of an emergency or to discuss your account. In this day and time, we all have a lot going on and sometimes forget due dates. As a courtesy the town will contact you if they notice you are not normally late paying. This deems impossible if we do not have current contact information on file.

Citizens for your safety and for recourse if ever needed please remember if you are having contracted work done at your home please make sure the business providing services has a valid Town of Middletown business license. This helps ensure you are dealing with a legitimate business. No one should be soliciting business door to door in the town without a Town of Middletown business license. If you are unsure please call the office and we can advise if there is a current and valid business license on file for the business in question.

From the Town Manager/Treasurer

Rebecca Layman

If you have not paid your Real Estate or Personal Property taxes please do so no later than June 30, 2020. After this date there will be an 8% penalty applied to all delinquent property accounts. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the town office. If a lien or DMV stop has been placed on a property there will be additional fees applied. The lien or DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance has been paid in full.

Reminder when you buy, trade, sell or dispose of a vehicle you must notify Frederick County 540-665-5681 extension 1. The Town of Middletown receives all billing information from Frederick County therefore they must have the correct information on file in order for the Town of Middletown to bill you correctly.

From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

Attention Middletown Citizens, a friendly reminder to please clean up after your pet(s) whether you are in the town park or walking throughout the town. This is imperative and this is an ordinance/law, not only in the Town of Middletown but in the county as well. This is highly inconsiderate of those who choose not to clean up after their pet(s). The Public Works Department will be installing signs in the town park and throughout the town as a courtesy for those who need to be reminded to please clean up after their pet(s).

Please take a moment to review the yard waste guidelines. We will no longer pick up any yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines. Yard waste pick-up is every Monday, and must be curbside by 8:00 a.m. Yard waste consists of grass trimmings and leaves which CANNOT weigh more than 40 lbs. per bag. 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 **tied 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 never place the paper bags out in the rain the night before pick up. Please note that yard waste pick-up will end this year on Monday November 16, 2020.

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.

From the Planning & Zoning Administrator

Eric Bittner

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 call the office and speak with me. 540-869-2226 ext. 4

Please take a minute to review the Town's ordinance on grass, weeds or like vegetation as well as littering. When mowing or weeding it is unlawful to leave your grass clippings on the sidewalks and roadways.

Town Code section 6-2 / Duty of owners, etc., of premises - To cut and remove tall grass and weeds.

a. It shall be unlawful for any person owning, occupying or having charge of any real estate or an interest therein, located within the corporate limits of the town, where the parcel is one acre or less, to allow grass, weeds, or like vegetation grow on the property to a height of no more than 10 inches.

b. Parcels greater in size than one acre that lies within 25 feet of the right of way boundary of a public roadway (except for interstate highways) must also keep the grass, weeds or like vegetation to a height of no more than 10 inches.

c. If any owner, occupant or person in charge of such land or interest therein shall fail to have such illegal growth of grass or weeds on his land cut or otherwise removed within 7 days written notice of violation of this section, the town shall have the right to cut or remove such unlawful growth at the expense of the landowner, and such expense may be collected by the town as taxes are levied and collected. In addition, the owner shall pay a penalty of \$50.00 as a fine of this section.

d. Each day that any owner, occupant or person in charge of such land or interest shall fail to have such an illegal growth of grass or weeds on his land cut or otherwise removed after the above mentioned 7 days has run shall constitute a separate offense. Subsequent offenses in the same calendar year shall double until the fine reaches \$200.00. The fine per calendar year is capped at \$2000.00.

e. This section shall not apply to any land used for agricultural or industrial purposes.

Please remember to be courteous and do your duty as a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pet(s) when out and about in town. This is an enforceable ordinance which can be found in the town code section 3-8 *Littering*.

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 Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

Hoping everyone is well. The pandemic has caused The Middletown Heritage Society to cancel our regular monthly meetings at The Wayside Inn on second Thursdays even though they still offer curbside pick-up. There's hope we can meet in the fall to plan "Merrimint" for December 2020. Thank you, Mayor Harbaugh, for your donation of memorabilia to place in the cases in the new museum area at The Wayside Inn. The Middletown Police Department also has a small display case recently donated by our Secretary, Lisa Shaffer to display artifacts including those donated by Chief Breeden's family. Attempting to help MHS cope having to social distance, Tammy Keeler has launched Facebook/Instagram sites where MHS can share photos and stories about some of the items donated. MHS began as a committee during the town's bicentennial in 1996 and became a nonprofit to fund the historic district recognition by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. For more information, call Tess Klimm 540-247-2211.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Our Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place via telecommunications on Monday May 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and save the date. Please plan to attend the live presentation from home via the town's Facebook page. As hard as this is for me to ask please do not attempt to attend the event in person as this would immediately terminate the event. Newly purchased and installed bricks can be viewed at a later time on an individual basis. Thank you for your continued support.

Our guest speaker this year will be Sheriff Lenny Millholland. Lenny is currently the only Sheriff to have ever been Sheriff for a City, (3 terms) and then run for and successfully win the position as a County Sheriff. Sheriff Millholland is responsible for 415 square miles and over 89,000 residents. Sheriff Millholland commands 146 sworn law enforcement personnel, 10 office staff and 4 Communications personnel. Sheriff Millholland has been in Law Enforcement for over 40 years and was a K-9 handler for over 22 years, handling Patrol K-9's and Bloodhounds. We look forward to having the Sheriff as our guest speaker this year.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

All of our fundraisers in the past few months (including Bingo) have been canceled due to COVID-19. With on-going restrictions in Virginia, we do not know when we can get back to having large groups in the social hall for fundraising. Our fundraising efforts have come to a halt. We have lost the weekly income from bingo and three fundraisers that were canceled, we continue to be there for YOU! We continue to train, maintain equipment at our station, and run fire and EMS calls. Donations are much appreciated and can be sent to us at PO Box 111, Middletown, VA 22645. A HUGE thank you to those who have brought face masks, food, and other treats to us at the station. We are very grateful for all kinds of support. After restrictions are lifted, watch for updates on our future fundraisers and the return of BINGO!

A little history throwback....in 1941 there was a devastating fire on Main Street which led to the Company being formed in April of 1942. The fire "station" was in a garage on Main Street, then moved to a garage that was attached to the Town Hall on Church Street. In 1952, Carlton D. Harris donated land for the building of a new fire hall on the site of that big fire. The men pictured below were some of the early members that worked on getting the fire hall built. An addition was built in 1992.



Left to right: Wilson Hoffman, Allen Cooley, unknown, Terry Kelly, Bill Shull,
Walter Little, Jack Partlow

WE NEED YOU! We need new members for fund raising, EMS, and/or firefighting. Stop by the fire hall and visit to find out more!

Calendar of Events

May

May 25 – Town office closed

May 25 – Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony 2:00 p.m. via Virtual Communications

May 26 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

June

June 1 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

June 8 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

June 22 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

July

July 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

July 13 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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



SPRING CLEAN UP

**THE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP WILL BE MONDAY JUNE 29, 2020
ALL ITEMS MUST BE PLACED
CURBSIDE by 7:00 a.m.**

***THE COLLECTED ITEMS MUST BE LANDFILL
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS, INCLUDING FURNITURE***

**IF IT IS NOT LANDFILL
ACCEPTABLE IT WILL
NOT BE PICKED UP**

***EXAMPLES OF NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:
APPLIANCES, TV'S, COMPUTERS,
COMPUTER MONITORS, MICROWAVE OVENS, PAINT, HAZARDOUS
WASTE, TIRES OR
LAWN EQUIPMENT***

**REMINDER:
PLEASE KEEP YARD WASTE SEPARATE.
YARD WASTE SHOULD BE PLACED IN
BIODEGRADABLE OR PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS ONLY
NO PLASTIC BAGS**

Yard waste will be picked up by the Public Works Department. Spring clean-up items will be picked up by our trash service, Evergreen Waste Management. Please keep these items separate to ensure pick up.



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.
- Town meetings are held on the first, second and fourth Monday of every month. Work Session meetings are held on the first Monday of every month. Town Council meetings are the second Monday of every month. The Planning Commission meetings are the fourth Monday of every month. Every meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and is held in the Council Chambers located in the town office at 7875 Church Street. Please enter at the rear of the building. The public is welcome at all meetings.