



Town of Middletown ♦ 7735 Main Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 9, Issue 6 ♦ November 15, 2017

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Please come out and join us for our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday November 24, 2017 at 4:45 p.m. with special guest Robbie Limon. We will have gifts for the kids, hot cider, light refreshments and a bonfire to gather round and sing Christmas carols. We will host our 2nd Annual Christmas House Decorating Contest on Saturday December 2, 2017. Our 4th Annual Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday December 3, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. A huge thank you to this year's sponsor: City National Bank. Their continued support along with our local businesses is truly remarkable. What a great small town we have here in Middletown!

Despite the cold weather we had a great turn out at our Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony. Thank you to everyone that continues to devote countless volunteer hours to make our memorial great. Volunteers are a huge part of our memorial and without them we would not have the success we have had thus far.

Just a reminder bricks are still available for purchase at our beautiful Middletown Veterans Memorial. What a great way to remember a loved one, past or present. These make great gifts just in time for the holidays. Order forms can be picked up at the Town office or the Town's website www.middletownva.gov

From the Zoning Administrator

Fred Wharton

Permits must be secured through the Town office prior to the following: 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

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.

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.

From the Treasurer/Town Manager

Rebecca Layman

It is with pleasure to announce that Tess Klimm has been reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Tess is an instrumental part of the Town and we look forward to another 4 years of her service. Congratulations Tess!

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 Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

As a reminder if you have a non life threatening matter which requires an officer please contact Frederick County non emergency dispatch at 540-662-6162. If you have an emergency please call 911. Never leave a voice message at the Middletown Police Department. All calls must first go through Frederick County dispatch. Frederick County dispatch will then contact a Middletown officer who will then contact you or report to the location of the call. This saves time and ensures all calls are handled promptly and in an efficient manner.

With the holidays upon us there will be an increase of traffic on the roadways with people traveling. Please remember to be courteous & buckle up. Middletown Police Department wishes you a safe & happy holiday.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

If you have not already: please update your records to reflect the Town's correct mailing address. This will ensure that we receive your payments on time. We still have residents mailing payments to the old address which delays the payment from reaching us and in some cases penalties have been applied to accounts.

We still have numerous folks calling the day of water cut offs to arrange a payment plan on their outstanding balance. You must contact the office before the cut off day to make arrangements. We only offer a ONE-TIME deferment on a case by case basis in the event of unexpected circumstances/emergency. Once you have used the ONE-TIME deferment your account is marked and there can be no further payment extension on your account.

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 balance. The water service will not be restored until the total balance is paid in full. If you have any question regarding this policy please contact the Town Clerk 540-869-2226 ext. 1

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

From the Maintenance Department

Donald Welsh

Reminder to please make sure the water meter on your property is free and clear at all times. This is the property owner/tenant's responsibility. The meter must be visible at all times. Please remove any and all over growth including but not limited to; grass, weeds, bushes, etc. The meter needs to be clear of snow, ice and never blocked by vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. This can cause a serious problem in the event of an emergency if we are unable to find and/or access the meter. Please take the time to make sure the water meter in your yard is accessible at all times and never blocked or covered. If you have questions please feel free to contact the office.

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 and they will repair the street light.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Chairman Raymond Steele

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who came out to our Veteran's Day ceremony and honored our Veterans. A special thank you to our guest speaker: Retired U.S. Army Colonel Julius Jones for his wonderful remarks and R.E. Aylor Choral Director Ms. Melissa Legge for her beautiful rendition of our National Anthem.

Thank you to those who recently purchased bricks. As can see we still have plenty of bricks to be purchased.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Mr. Myron Kramer and his staff for installing all the bricks. To Mrs. Christina Smith, our town clerk who spends countless amounts of time coordinating, proofing and ordering the bricks and to the Middletown Maintenance Department who is responsible for mowing the grounds.

Thanks again and my prayers continue for **ALL** of our Veterans who valiantly defend this great nation both domestically and abroad. ***May God continue to be with you!***

Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The 2nd Annual "Merrimint in Middletown" will be Sunday December 10, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Wayside Inn will be hosting Father Christmas and storytelling of Jan Brett books with free decorated cookies and a special wreath vendor. Miniature trains will puff away next door at 7793 Main Street. The Hoffman House at 7827 Main Street will be decorated for the season and offering free tours and organ recitals. Several other older buildings such as Carolyn's Cabin on Church Street and Belle Grove will be part of the tour. Dominion Real Estate Associates will have complementary miniature gingerbread houses to decorate.

Any and all local businesses are welcome to participate. Please get in touch with me no later than Monday November 28, 2017 to be included in the promotional materials. For more information please contact Tess Klimm 540-247-2211.

Middletown Garden Club

The Middletown Garden Club will host its 4th Annual Gingerbread Houses & Fantasy Creations Contest. Completed entry forms must be received at the Wayside Inn by November 25, 2017. For questions please contact Faith Harbaugh at (540) 664-4897. Entry forms can be picked up at the Wayside Inn located at 7783 Main Street, the Middletown Town office located at 7735 Main Street or email innkeeper@waysideinn1797.com Completed entries must be delivered to the Wayside Inn beginning November 27th and NO LATER than November 30th between 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Judging will take place on the evening of November 30, 2017. Two trophies will be awarded. The first will be "Best in Show" and the other will be "People's Choice Award". Ribbons will be issued to first, second and third place winners in each category.

Several categories are open to showcase talent: Professional, Adult 18 and older, Teen 13-17, Youth 9-12, and Child 5-8. Judging will be based on the following criteria: Overall appearance, originality/creativity, difficulty and precision.

Please stop by the Wayside Inn and vote for your favorite gingerbread house between December 1st through December 10th. All entries will be available for free public viewing through December 16th. All entries must be picked up December 18th through December 20th from 10:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to George & Becky Reeves, owners of the Wayside Inn for graciously hosting the 4th Annual Gingerbread Competition.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Megan Bowers

A big "Thank You" to everyone that came out for our Pancake Breakfast in September and our Turkey-Oyster Supper in October. We are also very grateful for all of the donations coming in for our annual Fund Drive. Thank you for our support!

2018 MISS MIDDLETOWN HONORARY FIRE CHIEF

Applications are available for the 2017 Miss Middletown Honorary Fire Chief and are due by 8 pm on Saturday, January 13, 2018. For information on requirements and the application, please go to: www.middletownfire.com/hfc/.

ADOPT-A-HYDRANT

We need your help. Snow will be here before we know it and fire hydrants may need to be cleared in your neighborhood after a snowfall. The snow accumulations combined with the after-effects of plowing roads may result in many fire hydrants partially or completely buried in snow. By keeping fire hydrants clear of snow, you can help our firefighters easily locate hydrants and access water quickly, preserving valuable time to potentially save lives and structures while the snow is still on the ground. Take note of hydrant locations in your neighborhood and help keep them clear! ADOPT-A-HYDRANT! Co. 12 thanks you.

When Seconds Count...



After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.

We Need Volunteers Like YOU!

We are looking for Middletown residents to join the Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company.

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer: Fire/EMS, grant writing, buildings and grounds, equipment maintenance, fundraising and much more!

Requirements:

- at least 16 years of age
- Fingerprinted and able to pass a criminal background check
- Firefighter and/or EMS training and equipment is provided, if desired
- No previous experience is needed

Please visit www.middletownfire.com for more information.

Bingo every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. Concession served. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Non smoking facility.



Calendar of Events

November

November 22 – Town office closing at 12:00 pm

November 23 & 24 – Town office closed

November 24 – Middletown's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony 4:45 p.m.

November 27 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm

December

December 3 – Middletown's Christmas Parade 2:00 pm

December 4 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 pm

December 11 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm

December 22 thru 26 – Town office closed

December 27 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm

January

January 1 – Town office closed

January 8 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 pm

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Town office closed

January 16 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 pm

January 29 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm

*Reminder – all Town meetings are now held in the Council Chambers at the Church Street office. Please enter through the rear entrance of the building.