

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN NEWSLETTER
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MIDDLETOWN, VA 22645
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September 15, 2014

FROM THE MAYOR

Charles Harbaugh, IV

I hope everyone had a safe and active summer around Middletown and that you made memories that would last a lifetime. On the docket next we have some really great events for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 17, 18 and 19, 2014. One of the biggest is the luminaries in town that will be put up Saturday, October 18th to commemorate the fallen soldiers of the Battle of Cedar Creek. 964 soldiers died in the battle, both North and South; think about that for a minute. The luminaries will be placed from the traffic light on Main Street headed south of town to the Timeless Wines shop. Additionally, a few luminaries will be placed at St. Thomas' Chapel on Church Street, which was used as an infirmary for the battle. We are still asking for a few volunteers to help with the process, please contact me at 540-877-4594 to volunteer or discuss any topics in town.

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

R. Philip Breeden

Folks it has been brought to my attention that there are inoperable vehicles sitting in yards and driveways. This is not only an eye sore that makes our community look bad but it is against the Town Code. If you have one of these vehicles please take care of removing them; we would rather you take care of the problem before we have to.

Also vehicles parked on the street facing the wrong direction will be ticketed. We will start enforcing this effectively immediately. This is not only a violation of the VA State Code but it violates the Town Code as well. When parking on the street you must park with the flow of traffic. If you park facing the flow of traffic you will be ticketed.

Trick or Treat will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday October 31st. Hopefully the extended hours will allow parents time to get home from there busy day and get their little ones ready for a fun evening. Please make sure there is adult supervision to ensure the safety of all children. Have a Happy Halloween.

FROM THE TREASURER

Rebecca Layman

We continue to receive calls asking for special arrangements in making delayed utility payments. Only those individuals with bona fide emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis for a **ONE-TIME** deferment so therefore there will be **NO** payment arrangements.

All utility payments are due on 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 fee added to the bill. If you have any question regarding this policy please contact the Town Clerk Christina Smith@540-869-2226 ext. 1

FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Christina Smith

The Town of Middletown **NOW ACCEPTS** credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover) there is no convenience fee at this time.

- As a reminder if water service has been disconnected due to non-payment there will be a fee of \$50.00 to turn off and there will be a fee of \$50.00 to turn on for a total of \$100.00. If it is after hours there will be an additional fee of \$50.00.
- Reminder to Middletown residents if you will be having contracted work done at your home such as roofing, plumbing, tree pruning or building additions, these are just to name a few; the contractor(s) must obtain a business license from the Town of Middletown.
- If the Town office receives three or more returned checks from an individual, all further transactions must be paid by debit or credit card, money order, or cash. The return check fee has increased from \$30.00 to \$45.00.
- The Town Office will **not** accept large amounts of unrolled change. If you must use change it has to be rolled in coin wrappers.

TOWN ORDINANCE

Due to recent complaints regarding animal waste I wanted to send out a friendly reminder to all citizens. It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in the community. In fact, if you do not watch your step, you're liable to step in one such reminder! Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of the children who play in the community and to other pets, not to mention a nuisance to residents who do not have pets but are left to clean up after someone else's pet. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter. When walking your dog in the community, remember that it should be leashed and that it is very important to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie to pick up the waste and then dispose of it properly. By taking these few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of the community but the cleanliness of our lawns and sidewalks.

Section 3-8 Littering

- A. 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 the written consent of the owner thereof or his agent. (10/8/01; 09/13/04.)
- B. 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. (09/03/14.)

FROM THE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Donald Riffey

Yard waste collection will be collected every Monday, and **MUST BE PLACED CURB SIDE BY 8:00AM**. Yard waste should consist of branches or twigs **not larger** than four (4) feet in length and **not larger** than two (2) inches in diameter and tied in bundles (no wire or plastic string). Yard waste should be placed in biodegradable or paper yard waste bags only **NO PLASTIC BAGS**.

******* The last day of the year for yard waste pick up will be November 10, 2014 *******

MIDDLETOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE COMPANY

Please come out and support YOUR local Fire & Rescue Company!

- **Pancake Breakfast** on September 27, 2014 from 7 a.m. to 12 noon at the Fire Hall. Meals are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Takeouts will be available.
- **Annual Fund Drive Campaign** will be kicking off October 1, 2014. Having the support of our community is crucial to our survival. There are two BIG ways that you can help – donating and volunteering!
- **BINGO** is held every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall. Doors open at 5 p.m. and concessions are sold by the Company Auxiliary.
- **Annual Company Memorial Service** will be held on October 5, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the fire station.
- **National Fire Prevention Week** is October 5 – 11, 2014.
- **Battle of Cedar Creek** will be held October 18 – 20, 2014. Traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, will be very heavy during that weekend. Please be safe and mindful of your surroundings and have extra patience when attempting to travel through and around town!
- **Turkey or Oyster Supper** on October 25, 2014 beginning at 4:30 p.m. Meals are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Takeouts will be available.
- **Honorary Fire Chief** – Applications will be available December 1, 2014 for the 2015 Miss Middletown Honorary Fire Chief. For details, go to: www.middletownfire.com and click on “Miss Middletown”.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU!

We are looking for individuals to join YOUR volunteer fire and rescue company. Firefighter and/or EMS training and equipment is provided. No previous experience is needed.

Requirements:

- at least 16 years of age
- be fingerprinted and pass a criminal background check
- willing to volunteer a minimum of 24 hours/year

Please visit www.middletownfire.com for more information.





When was the last time you tested the smoke alarms in your home? Was it last week? Last month? A year ago?

If you're like many people, you may not even remember. Smoke alarms have become such a common feature of U.S. households that they're often taken for granted, and aren't tested and maintained as they should.

However, working smoke alarms are a critical fire safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms can cut the chance of dying in a home fire in half. Meanwhile, NFPA data shows that home fires killed more than 2,300 people in 2012; many of these deaths could have been prevented with the proper smoke alarm protection.

As a member of the fire service for over 50 years, I've seen the devastating effects of fire first-hand; the burn injuries, the loss of homes and possessions are distressing. What's even worse is witnessing a family's anguish after a loved one has been killed in a fire. It's heartbreaking.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, 2014, NFPA is promoting "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" to better educate the public about the true value of working smoke alarms.

My sincere hope is that all Middletown residents participate in this effort and make sure there is working smoke alarms installed throughout their homes. These simple steps can help make a life-saving difference, and prevent the potentially life-threatening impact of fire.

Here are additional smoke alarm tips to follow:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.

To learn more about the "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" campaign; visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

September 16 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meeting
September 22 – 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting

October

October 6 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting
October 13 – CLOSED Columbus Day
October 14 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting
October 21 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meeting
October 27 – 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting
October 31 – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Trick or Treat

November

November 3 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting
November 4 – ELECTION DAY
November 10 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting
November 11 – CLOSED Veterans Day