

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN NEWSLETTER
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MIDDLETOWN, VA 22645
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FROM YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Carl Bernhards, Mark Davis, Donna Gum-Gray, Charles Harbaugh

By now most everyone is aware that there has been a major upheaval in our town government. Three resignations were submitted at the formal Town Council meeting this month, including those of Mayor Mark Brown and Councilors John Blaisdell and Gil Barrington. Earlier the same afternoon we received notice that our newly contracted Town Attorney had resigned as well. As is typical in situations like this, there is an abundance of information (and mis-information), opinion, and rendered judgment regarding why these events occurred. We don't feel that it's appropriate to engage in such discussions in this newsletter, but will simply state that while there are very often "two sides to the story", there is only one truth.

We would like to express our hope that we can all move forward from a difficult period in our Town's governance. It is our view that despite this disruption and the turmoil that preceded it, we have now turned a corner and are entering a new period where a more productive, effective, and cooperative Mayor and Council will function as they always should have. We are heartened by the words of support we have received from many of you, and are encouraged by the level of interest you've expressed in filling our vacant Town Council seats. Toward that end, we would like to encourage anyone interested in serving on the Middletown Town Council to stop by the town office and fill out an application.

At our informal meetings scheduled this month we will be identifying and prioritizing actions that need to be taken in the near term, including the appointment of an Interim Mayor and hopefully the selection of three new Interim Council members. Note that these interim appointments will only be active through the end of this year, when both the Council and Mayoral seats will be placed on the ballot for the November election.

It is our hope and intent that before long the citizens of Middletown will see signs of a new functional and cohesive town government. We ask for your patience as we work through the steps that will get us there.

Thank you.

FROM THE TOWN TREASURER

Sharon K. Fadely

Julian F. Carper Educational Trust Scholarship - Mr. Julian Carper served the Town of Middletown as a member of Council, Finance Director, and a Vice Mayor. His love for Middletown and the people of the area was evidence of his daily activities and Mr. Carper spent his time serving others. In honor of his memory an educational scholarship fund was established in his name. Anyone wishing to donate to the scholarship is asked to make checks payable to **Julian F. Carper Educational Trust**. Applications are now being accepted for the Julian F. Carper Education Trust Scholarship. The deadline to submit your application will be on April 30, 2012 at the close of business. You may pick up the application at the Town Hall as this scholarship will be awarded in May.

If the Town Office receives three or more returned checks from an individual, all further transactions will be by money order or cash ONLY. The return check fee has increased from \$30.00 to \$45.00.

This is a reminder that the Town has to **charge a 3% convenience fee for our credit card machine** to offset the fees added on by the card processing company.

This is a reminder that the Town Office will **not** accept large amounts of unrolled change. If you must use change it must be rolled in coin wrappers.

FROM THE MUNICIPAL CLERK

Rebecca Layman

Starting with the next billing cycle, this newsletter will no longer be mailed with the water bill. The Town now has a website and the newsletter may be viewed at www.middletonva.gov. The newsletter will continue to be posted on the bulletin board in front of Town Hall.

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Donald Riffey, Superintendent

Middletown's Spring Clean-Up will be held on the weekend of April 28th & 29th, 2012. The town's Public Works Department will pick up all material over the weekend for recycling. All other trash will be picked up on Monday April 30th and must be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m.

Yard waste collection will resume on April 2, 2012. Middletown residents will be able to take their yard waste to the bush pile located at the Maintenance Department on Third Street during normal operating hours.

Remember, any and all questions pertaining to water, water meters, water leaks, trash collections, road conditions can be answered by calling 869-7731 (fax 869-7734). All billing and payment queries are handled by the Town Office.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Fred Wharton

Effective 4/1/2012 All Zoning and/or Building issues will be by appointment. The base available hours for in office consulting and/or permitting will be 10AM to 12 PM Monday through Friday. In most cases except holidays, weekends and during out of Town travel, 48 hour advance notice will get you an appointment. Messages on the Office telephone 869-2226 Extension 22 or E-mail to Whartonfred@yahoo.com will get you a call back from me within 48 hours if you'll give me your available times and contact information. This will enable me to make the best use of your and my time.

MIDDLETOWN CHILDRENS FIRST LIONS CLUB

I am a member of Middletown Children First Lions Club. We meet at Middletown Elementary School the first Thursday of the month. Our goal is to prepare pre-school children 3-5 years old for kindergarten. We teach the letters, numbers and shapes through stories, music, crafts and snacks. We work on large and small motor skills and social behavior needed for kindergarten. We have two "Little Lions" work sessions per month during October-May. We encourage parents to work with their children with a take home package. We do this free as a service to the community. We would like to invite children and parents to participate in our sessions. "Little Lions" meet on the first Tuesday at 4:30 and the fourth Thursday at 6:00 each for one hour. We need to get the word out to the community we have been doing this since 2003 and this year our attendance has fallen so we would appreciate your help in spreading the word. For more information please contact Marge Davis, president, at 869-4809.

MIDDLETOWN FIRE AND RESCUE

Henry Shiley, Chief

A friendly reminder that the BURN BAN is now in effect for Frederick County. February 15 through April 30 each year, burning shall be conducted between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight ONLY. For more information, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (540) 665-6350 or go to http://www.co.frederick.va.us/fire_and_rescue/LIFE_SAFETY/burnlaws.aspx. Please remember to properly display your house number on your mailboxes and homes. If you can't see it, we can't see it. This helps us

quickly find your home or property, if we are ever called to an emergency. Also, if you have trees that line your driveway, please make sure that they do not obstruct it. If branches are too low for our equipment to get through, it makes it tough to get access to your home and will delay response to the emergency situation. For tips on how to help 911 responders find your home, go to: <http://factoidz.com/how-to-help-911-responders-find-your-home/>. Thank you for your help and continued support.

MIDDLETOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE CO. AUXILIARY

Lisa Beauchamp, Secretary

The Spring Turkey or Oyster Supper will be held on Saturday, April 28 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Middletown Fire Hall. The cost is \$13 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Takeouts will be available. Please come out and support your fire and rescue company.

4th OF JULY COMMITTEE

Charles Harbaugh, Committee Chairman

I'm very excited and looking forward to seeing everybody at our 4th of July Festival, scheduled for Wednesday, July 4, 2012 in the Middletown Town Park. Plan for an eventful day of fun, food, games, music, and fireworks! We have already begun working on some exciting events and activities that will run throughout the day. As in the past, the 4th of July Committee is responsible for raising all the funds needed. The committee is *actively* seeking both corporate and individual sponsorships and donations to help fund the featured band and other activities for the day. We will continue to host car washes during the spring as well as three softball tournaments during the year—May 26, July 4, and September 1. If you are interested in participating in the softball tournaments, the information is available on the website (see below). If anyone is interested in participating in the 4th of July Celebration, in any of our fund raising events, or would like to join the committee, please call me at 540-877-4594 or come to our next meeting (March 21 at 7 pm at the Town Office). Help us make this year's festival something everybody wants to be a part of!! Thank you, in advance, for your donations/sponsorships, help and support. We encourage you to go to our website at www.middletownfire.com/4thofjuly.htm and keep an eye on the schedule of events, as we continue to plan this year's festivities. The website will be updated frequently as more plans are made. We're also on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MiddletownVA4th. The Middletown's 2nd Annual Car Show will be on June 2, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Middletown Park. Registration forms are available at the Town Office or online.

4th OF JULY PARADE COMMITTEE

Megan Bowers, Director

mvfd12@gmail.com

It's that time of year again, when we begin planning Middletown's 4th of July Parade. Because of everyone's support and participation, we had a wonderful parade last year and are going to try hard to make it even bigger this year. We're keeping our fingers crossed for another year of *fantastic* weather. This year's parade will be held on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 at 4 pm. The parade line up will be from 2:30—3:40 pm on the parking lot of Lord Fairfax Community College. Awards will be given out following the parade. If you are interested in participating in the parade this year, please complete an entry form, located at the fire station and the Town Office beginning in March, or online at <http://www.middletownfire.com/4thparadeforms.htm>. The entry forms are available on the website. The deadline for registering for the parade is June 30. You may also register during the parade line up. If you would like to donate your convertible for the parade, to haul a dignitary, please email at mvfd12@gmail.com. Be sure to visit our website www.middletownfire.com/4thofJuly.htm and our Facebook page for more announcements, updates, and more information on the parade and festivities. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th, for a day full of family fun.

VALLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Valley Assembly of God will be hosting and Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Festival for ages 2-13; on Sunday April 1, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. please bring your own basket. Following the event the Kids Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 2376 Fourth Street. Should you have any questions about this event please contact Denise FaJohn 540-664-7882. This event will take place rain or shine.

MIDDLETOWN PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tammy Mason, Chair

Volunteer Tammy Mason is looking for any and all help in fundraising to upgrade the playground in the Town Park. If you would like to help on her committee or donate money for the project please contact Tammy Mason at (869-6935).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 19 – Workshop Meeting (Planning Commission)

March 20 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meeting

March 21 – 7:00 p.m. 4th of July Meeting (Town Hall)

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

April 2 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting

April 9 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting

April 17 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meeting

April 23 – 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting

May 7 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting

May 14 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting

Please note that the Public Hearing previously scheduled for March 20, 2012 at 6:00 has been CANCELLED