

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN NEWSLETTER
7875 CHURCH STREET
MIDDLETOWN, VA 22645
(540)869-2226/FAX (540)869-4306
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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

I just wanted to take this opportunity and express how excited I am to be Middletown's Mayor. For those who don't know me, I was elected to Middletown's Council in May 2010, before that I organized the 4th of July Celebration and have continued to do so since 2009. Additionally, I worked at the maintenance department as a teenager in the summers during high school. So to say that this is an exciting opportunity would be an understatement. The situation through which I became Mayor was needless to say less than ideal, but nonetheless the council and I were very touched by the numerous applications for the council seats. For those who did not get appointed, I would encourage them to run in November's election or to consider an appointment to the Planning Commission or to volunteer on the 4th of July committee.

Middletown's recent upheaval reminds me of a story from the American Revolution.

On December 23, 1776 sixteen-year-old Private John Greenwood lined up with the rest of the men of General George Washington's Continental Army to hear an officer read an essay by Thomas Paine called The Crisis. This essay was intended to persuade soldiers like Greenwood, who had become discouraged by their army's many defeats that year to re-enlist. The officer read: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of every man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." Thomas Paine's fine words did what they were intended and many soldiers re-enlisted.

Currently, council is working together very closely on matters such as the budget, boundary adjustment and other upcoming events. Our next community event in town is the **2nd Annual Car Show** sponsored by Stingray Motors and Malloy Ford, Saturday June 2nd at the Middletown Park. The car show along with the numerous softball tournaments helps support the July 4th celebration, which should be better than ever this year. It's important to note that the current council is more like a football team now these days with me being the quarterback and everybody working together as one. We are pursuing goals together that will benefit the town, and we pride ourselves on listening to the citizens and finding effective solutions to the town's most difficult problems. We also are striving to be more positive, more upbeat, more energetic, more civil and more stable. Middletown deserves better than recent news and hopefully we provide a better product to the town's citizens.

I know my age is a concern to some, there's not much I can do about that but I promise to work hard and be available to citizens' requests. I look forward to working with Vice-Mayor John Copeland, Trip Chewning, Donna Gum Gray, Mark Davis, Tom Simon and Carole Snyder, the town's employees and most importantly all of Middletown's citizens.

FROM THE TOWN TREASURER

Sharon K. Fadely

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

The newsletter will no longer be mailed with the water bill. The Town now has a website and the newsletter may be viewed at www.middletownva.gov. The newsletter will continue to be posted on the bulletin board in front of Town Hall. Hard copies will be made upon request and there will be a sign up sheet at the Town office for those who would like to continue to receive the newsletter with the water bills.

Just a reminder that there is a .66 cent increase on water only that will be reflected in the May water billing this is due to the increase from the City of Winchester.

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Donald Riffey, Superintendent

To all citizens who will be filling a swimming pool this summer please contact the Town office so that the maintenance department can do a meter reading before and after a pool has been filled. The meter readings must be done between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Yard waste collection has resumed, here are the guidelines for yard waste collection:

- Bundles – Branches and twigs cannot be longer than four feet in length and 2 inch in diameter and must be tied in a bundle with twine (no wire or plastic string)
- Bags - Only biodegradable paper bags can be used. These 30 gallon size bags can be purchased at Wal-Mart and other lawn and garden stores.

If high winds or storms bring down large branches, the town will do its best to make a special collection within 48 hours. 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.

Swimming Pools – summer is approaching and the following information about swimming pools is for your guidance.

- Pools higher than 30 inches and with over 24 inches of water must be inspected under a building permit.
- These pools must have a barrier of 48 inches high such as a fence, unless the pool itself is 48 inches high and it has a retractable ladder which can be locked in the upward position.
- Electricity to the pool must also be inspected under a permit and be safe for this use.

A reminder that grass, weeds and other foreign growth must be cut when it **exceeds 10 inches**. Lawn clippings must be removed from streets and sideways adjacent to your property.

MIDDLETOWN FIRE AND RESCUE

Henry Shiley, Chief

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

We would like to thank everyone who donated and came out to support our Turkey and Oyster Supper on April 28. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

4th OF JULY PARADE COMMITTEE

Megan Bowers, Director

mvfd12@gmail.com

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 in the Town Park.

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.middletonfire.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 me at mvfd12@gmail.com.

Be sure to visit our website (www.middletonfire.com/4thofJuly.htm) and our Face book 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.

CONVERTIBLES NEEDED: We are also in need of convertibles for several of our dignitaries, including and not limited to the following: the citizen of the year, local political figures, state political figures and our grand marshal. Due to liability purposes, most of the car dealerships no longer allow the public to use their vehicles in parades, so we must depend on the great citizens of Middletown and the surrounding areas. It's also a great opportunity to drive someone through the parade and to support your community!! If you are interested, please contact Megan Bowers at mvfd12@gmail.com or 540-459-9742.

Middletown's Annual Fourth of July Celebration Schedule of Events

NOTE: All events are in the Middletown Park, unless noted

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2012

Softball Tournament

Sponsored by Italian Touch

9 am—3 pm

9 am—Noon

Children's Carnival

Sponsored by Grace United Methodist Church

10 am—4 pm, 5 pm—8:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2012

Rain date: Saturday, June 9, 2012

Car Show

Sponsored by Stingray Motors

10 am—3 pm

Crafts Fair

Noon—3 pm, 6 pm—8 pm

Registrations forms are available online and at the Town Office. Spots are \$25 each. Set up begins at 11 am. Register by 4 pm on June 23.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2012

Softball Tournament

Sponsored by Italian Touch

8 am—2 pm

Parade Line Up (Registration & Check-In)

2:30 pm—3:40 pm

Lord Fairfax Community College Parking Lot

Farmer's Market

Wayside Inn parking lot

Parade

4 pm
Sponsored by the Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company
Main Street and Church Street

Music by *The Instigators*
6-9 pm

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
by the Shenandoah Carriage Company
6-8 pm
Entrance to Middletown Park
\$7 for adults, \$5 for children ages 12 and under

Music, bingo, games, food, crafts, raffles/door prizes, & more!

6-9 pm

Welcome, general announcements, award presentations
6:30 pm

Fireworks (*Rain Date: Saturday, July 7, 2012*)
Dusk (around 9:15 pm)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

Softball Tournament
Sponsored by Italian Touch
9 am—3 pm

More information on all events is available online at www.middletownfire.com/4thofjuly.htm

ALL CITIZENS AND VETERANS OF MIDDLETOWN

Mary Shull would like to form a committee to honor our Veterans; this has been on her mind for some time. These men and woman took time out to serve our Country so that we can have the freedom that we have. One way we can honor the Veterans is to have them as our Grand Marshal in the upcoming 4th of July parade. If anyone would like to help and if any Veterans are interested in being in the parade please contact Mary Shull by phone 540-869-6053 or by email mshull24@yahoo.com

VALLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Kidz Club meets every Sunday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church located at 2376 4th Street in Middletown. This is for children ages 4-12. We would like to invite your children to explore the Christian faith as we teach a weekly bible study, play games, and make arts and crafts. For more information on our children's program please call 540-664-7882.

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

May 7 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting
May 14 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting
May 16 – 7:00 p.m. July 4th Meeting
May 21 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting for the Planning Commission
May 22 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meeting
May 28 – **TOWN OFFICE CLOSED** / 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting
May 29 – 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting

June 4 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting
June 11 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting
June 19 – 7:00 p.m. Committee Meeting
June 25 – 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting

July 2 – 7:00 p.m. Work Session Meeting
July 4 – **TOWN OFFICES CLOSED**
July 9 – 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting