



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 12, Issue 4 ♦ July 15, 2020

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

This year it was not rain, rain go away it is COVID-19 please go away! Thankfully we were able to pull off the parade and fireworks without any rain to damper the event. We took into great consideration the times we're currently living in and decided the community needed the event to take place. Thank you to all those who supported the event. Thank you to our generous sponsors, old and new, who truly went above and beyond during a pandemic to make this event possible for the community. First Bank, MEP Home Services, Ryan Homes, Trex, Carmeuse, Rubbermaid, 5 Star Executive Chauffeuring, Core & Main and Southern Software.

The July 4th Committee showed up and did what they had to do to pull everything together all while following CDC Guidelines and Social Distancing Regulations. Our Public Works department worked tirelessly leading up to the event and the day of to prepare the town. Chief Benedict and his department prepared weeks in advance to ensure a safe event. The following police departments assisted Middletown to help pull off a safe event. Stephens City, Lord Fairfax Community College, Frederick County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police. Thank you all for assisting the town with the event.

Please mark your calendars for City National Bank 10th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show on Sunday August 16, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. located on Historic Main Street. Rain date will be Sunday August 23, 2020. There is a \$10 entry fee and all proceeds will benefit the town's July 4th celebration held each year.

The Town of Middletown will graciously host the NW Works 5th Annual Farm to Table on September 13, 2020. Road closure for this event will affect Main Street at Second & Third Street. For further details or to purchase tickets please visit NW Work's website at www.nwworks.com or by calling 540-667-0809.

Please remember to join us for the 4th Annual Patriot's Pride Day hosted by the Town of Middletown and Colonel James Wood, II Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. The event will be held at the Middletown Veteran's Memorial located on the south end of town on September 19, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. There will be live music at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks at dusk graciously sponsored by Powerscreen Mid Atlantic, Inc.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

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 do not call the Town office with police matters. This creates confusion, possible miscommunications and takes up unnecessary time in having an officer/deputy respond to the complaint. For questions or concerns please contact the Middletown Police Department Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (540)868-0535. Only leave a voice message if the return call is for administrative or informational purposes only.

From the Town Manager/Treasurer

Rebecca Layman

Penalties were applied on July 1, 2020 on all delinquent Personal Property and Real Estate accounts that have not been paid. If you have any questions or need to check to see if you have an unpaid balance 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(s) has been paid in full.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

ANNOUNCING THE NEWLY LAUNCHED TOWN WEBSITE AND ONLINE PAYMENTS

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NOW OFFERING TEXT OR EMAIL REMINDERS

GET YOUR ACCOUNT SET-UP TODAY and TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE NEW FEATURES

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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.

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.

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 bill. Only those individuals with bona fide emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis for a ONE-TIME deferment. There will be no payment arrangements. If you have any question regarding this policy please contact the Town Clerk 540-869-2226 ext. 1

From the Planning & Zoning Administrator

Eric Bittner

Please remember when mowing your grass to NOT leave grass clippings or debris on the sidewalk or streets. This is for the safety of our motor cyclists along with water runoff and clogging the storm drains. (Town Code § 6-1)

When out on your summer walks with “Fido” please be considerate and pickup waste. It is unlawful to 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 Town Code § 3-8)

If you have any summer projects underway that need a zoning permit please feel free to call the office to discuss. If you are unsure it is always better to inquire before you get started to ensure nothing is built on an existing easement as well as getting the necessary inspections scheduled. Please make sure before you start a job the contractor you hire has a business license with the Town of Middletown and a valid contractor’s license.

Signage cannot be placed in any State-maintained right of way. State-maintained right of way is property along a roadway on either side. This area does not belong to individual property owners. It must be kept clear for motorist safety and so road crews have room to work. (VA State Code § 33.2-1224)

If you are planning to have a yard sale please make sure you get a yard sale permit with the exception of the Route 11 Yard Crawl which is scheduled to take place on August 8, 2020. You do not need a permit the day of the Yard Crawl. If you post signs, they must be ***free standing*** and not attached to any utility poles or roadway signs. Signage must be removed immediately following your yard sale.

From the Maintenance Department

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 should never be covered by any type of over growth including but not limited to; grass, weeds, bushes, vehicles, boats, trailers, 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.

Please take time to review the guidelines for yard waste. **We will no longer pick up any yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines.** Yard waste collection will be every Monday, and must be placed curbside by 7:30 a.m. Yard waste consists of grass trimmings and leaves which CANNOT weigh more than 40 lbs. 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 and prevents rain-soaked bags that rip or tear easily.

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.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Greetings!! At the writing of this note we are in Phase 3 of our pandemic and folks are still feeling pretty uncomfortable with how things are being observed and handled. Please continue to social distance yourselves and keep up the good hand washing hygiene.

I am proud that we were able to live stream our Memorial Day Ceremony on the town's Facebook page. I want to thank everyone who participated and/or helped in all facets of this event. Kudos to Tina Smith for her great efforts and support. We had over 1500 likes and views from the event. I commend our local talent; Mrs. Melissa Legge-Mauck who sang our National Anthem and town residents Andrew and Sarah Paul who played Taps/echo Taps. Again, I would like to thank Mr. Allen Boyd who generously provided his sound system and took the time to set everything up for us. Last but not least that you to SAR Colonel James Wood II Chapter and Ed Ellis who led his team in the Three-volley salute.

This November will mark the 5th Anniversary of our Veterans Memorial and I have a great speaker lined up. Please mark your calendars for November 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Finally, this would be a great occasion to honor a love one (past or present) with the purchase of a brick. We will continue to install newly purchased bricks twice a year as we receive orders. Please come out and support the memorial by purchasing a brick or by making a donation. All donations are appreciated. God Bless you.

Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) is still postponing our regular monthly meetings on the second Thursday at The Wayside Inn. Hopefully we will be able to meet this fall and maybe even plan "Merrimint" for December 2020, although it's too soon to plan that far ahead.

Thank you, Susan Baker, for your donation of the table top case. It will be a very useful addition to the new museum area at The Wayside Inn. Also, please check out the Facebook/Instagram sites (thanks to Tammy Keeler) where MHS can share photos and stories about some of the items donated. MHS is a nonprofit who helps to preserve and present the history of Middletown. For questions or more information please feel free to contact Tess Klimm, MHS President at (540) 247-2211.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

We are still on hold as far as opening up for Bingo or other fund raisers. The guidelines are still very stringent. We will be mailing our annual fund drive letter out to all Middletown addresses in early September. As soon as we can safely open back up for Bingo and other events, we will advertise. Stay tuned!!

We greatly appreciate all of the extra donations we have received during the pandemic. Support of the community means everything to us. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy.

We are always looking for new members to help with fund raising and/or to run fire and EMS calls. Stop in and visit the station if you are interested in volunteering and becoming a part of Co. 12!

Now...a little Co. 12 history:



Pictured above are Joe Jenkins, Woody Legge, and Paul Hinkle. They are standing beside a 1962 International Travel-All that the members converted into an ambulance. This was the third ambulance the Company had, but it was the first new one. Joe was Chief at the time of the purchase and Woody was President. Ambulances (and uniforms) have come a long way since this time period!

Calendar of Events

July

July 27 – Public Hearing with Planning Commission Meeting to follow 7:00 p.m.

August

August 3 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

August 8 – Route 11 Yard Crawl – CANCELLED

August 10 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

August 16 – 10th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

August 24 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September

September 7 – Labor Day – Town office closed

September 8 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 13 – NW Works Farm to Table

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

September 19 – Patriot's Pride Day 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., live music at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks at dusk

September 28 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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 in person: check, cash & money order. To pay by phone please call (855) 844-0226 or to pay by debit card, credit card or e-check please visit www.middletownva.gov
- Please visit the town's website at www.middletownva.gov for additional information on upcoming events, calendar of meetings, staff directory 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. And 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.