

From the Mayor

Charles Harbaugh, IV

It is with great sadness to share with the community the loss of Councilor Daryl Terrill. Councilor Terrill joined the Town Council in 2018 and also served as the Planning Commission Chairman before serving on Council. He had a wonderful sense of humor, very energetic, and outgoing. He was a pleasure to know and just an all-around wonderful, wonderful individual. The unexpected loss has left a hole in our team. Councilor Terrill was always ready to serve the community no matter the need. He was a loyal and supportive advocate for the town who always had a smile on his face. It won't be the same without him that's for sure. Rest in peace my friend.

The 10th annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show drew a record number of participants this year. We had a total of 300 entries that lined historic Main Street to show off their prized possession. The total money raised this year was a little over \$5,000.00 which will benefit the annual July 4th Celebration. I would like to thank everyone who came out and volunteered their time and supported the event.

Hats off to the amazing sponsors, new and old, who made the event a success. The continued support of City National Bank and town resident Thomas A. Lash is commendable. Our local businesses went above and beyond this year to support the event during these unforeseen times. The generosity of our sponsors is remarkable and we are grateful to have such great people among us supporting us and our community events.

The town will host NW Works 5th annual Farm to Table on Sunday September 13, 2020 on Main Street. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit www.nwworks.com or by calling NW Works (540)667-0809. Tickets available \$150/pair. This year's event is brought to you by Shaffer's BBQ and Timeless Wines.

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. Stay for live music starting at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks at dusk.

The lighting of the luminaries will take place the evening of Saturday October 17, 2020 starting at the traffic light on Main Street heading south of town ending at Timeless Wines. We will need volunteers to help fill, set up and light the luminaries. If you are interested in commemorating the 964 fallen soldiers please contact the town office.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday October 31, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you will be passing out candy please make sure your front porch and walkway areas are well lit to ensure everyone's safety. Please be aware and courteous when driving through town. We strongly encourage adult supervision for children at all times to avoid any incidents. Flash lights and reflective clothing are always a great idea when walking at night.

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.

From the Town Manager/Treasurer

Rebecca Layman

Real Estate and Personal Property bills will be mailed mid-October and will be due on December 7, 2020. Please remember if you have sold, traded, disposed of and/or purchased a vehicle you must update your information with Frederick County so that the Town of Middletown can bill you correctly. This helps save time for all parties involved. The Town can only bill what Frederick County reports to our office. To contact the personal property division of Frederick County please call (540) 665-5681 ext. 1

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

I hope all those who have visited the new town website find it user friendly and easy to navigate. We will continue to update and improve the website as the community grows. We live in a technology world and so many of you have asked for a more up to date way to handle town business and we have finally executed your request. Our goal at the town office is to make things more convenient for our citizens. If you have any suggestions or would like to see other options please feel free to contact the town office. A tax module will be added in the near future.

Online payments have been a huge success and we are seeing large numbers of user who are taking advantage of the different features you can utilize to maintain and pay your account. If you have not registered your account yet I encourage you to take advantage of this option. If you need help please do not hesitate to contact the office. We have had a good amount of citizens already signed up for paperless statements and email/text reminders.

To pay your water & sewer bill online please visit www.middletownva.gov or call (855)844-0226

Important message: Please note the last two water & sewer billings the town waived all penalties and there were no water cut-offs on delinquent accounts. Penalties and cut-offs will go back into effect with the new billing due in October. Penalties will be assessed on October 19, 2020 and water cut-offs will take place on October 29, 2020.

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, Christina Smith (540)869-2226.

If you are having contracted work done at your home such as roofing, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, additions, etc. please make sure the individual(s) have a valid Town of Middletown business license. This helps ensure you're dealing with a legitimate business. We have had a few complaints from residents regarding door to door sales offering to do miscellaneous jobs. The complaints included poor workmanship and not completing the job promised after payment had been issued. No one should be soliciting any type of business in the Town of Middletown without a valid business license issued by the town.

Please take a minute to 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. Please feel free to email any changes to clerk@middletownva.gov

For more information regarding the Town of Middletown please visit the town's website www.middletownva.gov

*****Last Day of Yard Waste Pick-Up Monday November 16, 2020*****

From the Planning & Zoning Administrator

Eric Bittner

Fall is upon us and camping season should be in full swing, per Town Code all travel trailers, and the like, need to be stored only within the minimum rear yard requirements. (Middletown Town Code § 17-6-A) In addition it shall be unlawful for a camper or travel trailer to be parked on any street or alley of the town for more than twenty-four hours. (Middletown Town Code § 8-10)

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. (Middletown Town Code § 6-1)

When out on your 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)

Any projects that might be underway may need a Zoning Permit. Please feel free to call the office to discuss if a permit is necessary as this will assure that nothing is built on an existing easement as well as getting the necessary inspections.

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)

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.

Last day of Yard Waste Pick-Up will be Monday November 16, 2020. Yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines will not be picked up. Yard Waste must be 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**. Please do not place curbside until the morning of collection. This prevents rain soaked bags and helps keep the community neat and free of clutter along our roadways.

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.

***** Last Day of Yard Waste Pick-Up Monday November 16, 2020 *****



Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

We've been hard at work coming up with ways to raise funds. We have some upcoming events to tell you about and we hope you will come out and support us!

On September 19, 2020 we will have a DRIVE-THRU BBQ CHICKEN DINNER beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the fire station. Dinners are \$12 and are first come, first serve until sold out. The meal includes half of chicken, green beans, and scalloped potatoes. The chicken will be prepared by Shaffer's BBQ.

You should have received a FUND DRIVE letter in the US mail from us. This is our annual fund drive mailing. We usually send them out in October but this year, we sent it a little earlier.

We've also been working on figuring out a way to follow CDC guidelines and have Bingo. To truly follow 6-foot social distancing, we are limited to about 64 players. We are looking at ways other fire companies are handling this as well. Stay tuned and we hope to have Bingo back soon!

We hope you will come out and support our fund-raising efforts!

Calling all former Honorary Fire Chiefs: We would like to have a float in the Christmas parade and have as many Middletown Honorary Fire Chiefs ride as we can find. Please contact Malinda Greene for more information (540)535-8810.

If you are interested in becoming a member at Co. 12, please give us a call, (540)869-1829 or stop by for a visit. We are always looking for more volunteers!!

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

The Fifth Anniversary of the dedication of the Middletown Veterans Memorial is fast approaching. We will celebrate Veterans Day at the memorial on November 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. with a wreath laying ceremony in honor of those who served and are currently serving. Our guest speaker will be Richard H. Van Norton, Jr. SgtMaj. USMC (ret).

This year being the Fifth Anniversary of the memorial now would be a great time to honor your Veteran or loved one. There are still plenty of bricks for purchase. It makes the perfect gift to honor that special someone who has served. We are indebted to those brave men and women who have served and those that are still serving our great country. This is truly a wonderful way to honor those that have fought for our freedom.

We will continue to install 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, big or small are appreciated.

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Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) is still postponing our monthly meetings which are usually on the second Thursday of the month. We might plan an outdoor patio event in October, but for now the consensus is to continue practicing social distancing. The plans for “Merrimint” this December 2020 are still unknown.

Thank you, Tammy Keeler for arranging the Facebook/Instagram sites so we can share photos and stories about Middletown. Hope everyone stays well. For more information, contact Tess Klimm, President (5400247-2211).

Calendar of Events

September

September 19 – Patriot’s Pride Day 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

October

October 5 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 12 – Columbus Day – Town office closed

October 13 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

October 31 – Trick or Treat 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

November

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

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

November 11 – Veterans Day – Town office closed

November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Middletown Veterans Memorial 1:00 p.m.

November 16 – Last Day of Yard Waste Pick-Up

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