



From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Happy New Year Middletown! As we all embrace 2021 let's remember those who worked tirelessly to keep the town up and running during the pandemic. Our Public Works department is here and, on the job, every day to make sure there is no interruption in service and are taking all necessary precautions to keep our wastewater plant safe. The police department is here every day ready to serve and protect never thinking about themselves. We are fortunate to have the amazing crew we have and want each one to know it is they who keep us up and running and we appreciate them for all they do to make our community the great little town that it is.

Please welcome our newest member of council, Stephanie Mitchell. Stephanie has been a resident of Middletown since 2010 and wants to be a part of a team that will help the community thrive. She joins a strong team of colleagues who are here for the good of its citizens and the community. I would also like to welcome back Councilor Carolyn Aliff and Councilor Shayla Rickard. If you are not familiar with the members of council please plan on joining us at our monthly meetings. We encourage and welcome your involvement in town matters.

A sincere farewell to our out-going Town Council member George "Jay" Smith. Councilor Smith served on council for 7 years. He oversaw the town hall renovations and kept his peers abreast through the process. Jay's passion for the town and his need to do what was best for the citizens was always evident. Due to a promotion with his employer Jay decided not to run for another term as he will not have as much free time in his new position. We will all definitely miss Councilor Smith and wish him all the best in his new endeavors. Good luck Jay.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

New Virginia Law effective January 1, 2021. Phone Down. It's the Law. A person who violates 46.2-818.2 is subject to a fine of \$125 for the first offense and \$250 for the second and subsequent offenses. In the event that you are pulled over for holding a handheld personal communications device, act in the same manner you would for any traffic stop. You will not be asked to hand over your device. Keep in mind that what you are doing with the device is irrelevant, it is the act of HOLDING the device while driving that is illegal.

If you have police matters please do not call the Town office staff. This creates confusion, possible miscommunications and takes up unnecessary time in having an officer respond to the complaint. For all non-emergency police issues please contact the Middletown Police Department directly Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 540-868-0535. Only leave a voice message at the Middletown Police Department if the return call is for administrative or information only.

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.

From the Town Manager/Treasurer

Rebecca Layman

Reminder, please retain your original tax bill(s) for tax purposes as there will be a charge should you request additional copies when filing your taxes this year. There will be an administrative fee of \$3.50 for each copy requested. Due to the large number of request each year we have had to impose this fee to the cover cost incurred.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

Citizens, please update your contact information with the town office. Telephone numbers are very important to the staff in case we need to contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your account. Email is also a way we can communicate with you regarding account matters or issues at your property. Please feel free to email me with your updated information and email address which I will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. clerk@middletownva.gov

Homeowners, please remember if you are having contracted work done at your home such as roofing, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, additions, and these are just a few examples please make sure the contractor(s) has a valid Town of Middletown business license. This helps ensure you are dealing with a legitimate business. And no one should be soliciting business door to door in the town without a Town of Middletown business license.

As always, 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. There will be no payment arrangements. The Town will offer a onetime payment deferment on a case-by-case basis due to unforeseen circumstances. If you have any question regarding this policy please contact the Town Clerk (540) 869-2226 ext. 1

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

From the Zoning Administrator

As a reminder, permits must be secured through the Town office prior to any work. All renovations to buildings need a zoning permit. All accessory buildings such as sheds and/or outside storage containers also need a zoning permit. When in doubt please contact the town office.

Town Code section 14-4 Removal of snow from sidewalks

It shall be unlawful for the occupants of any building and where there is no occupant, for the owner of such vacant building or any unimproved lot or land lying on any street, alley or public place within the town where there is a brick or cement sidewalk, or any other walk so named by the Mayor or Town Council, to permit snow to remain on such a sidewalk longer than 6 hours after the snow has ceased to fall; except, that if the snow shall cease to fall in the night time, it shall be cleaned away by noon the following day. If the occupant or owner of the premises, as the case may be, fails or refuses to clear off the snow after being duly notified, it shall be the duty of the Town Sergeant to cause such pavement or sidewalk to be cleaned at the cost plus 10% to such occupant or owner of the premises. All bills for cleaning ice or snow from pavements are due payable when presented, which shall be in addition to any fine imposed. (10-3-55, ch.17, S 55.)

Penalty – Any persons violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to arrest, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00 or the discretion of the court trying the case.

When out on your walks with your pets 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.

Town Code section 3-8 Littering

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 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)

From the Public Works Department

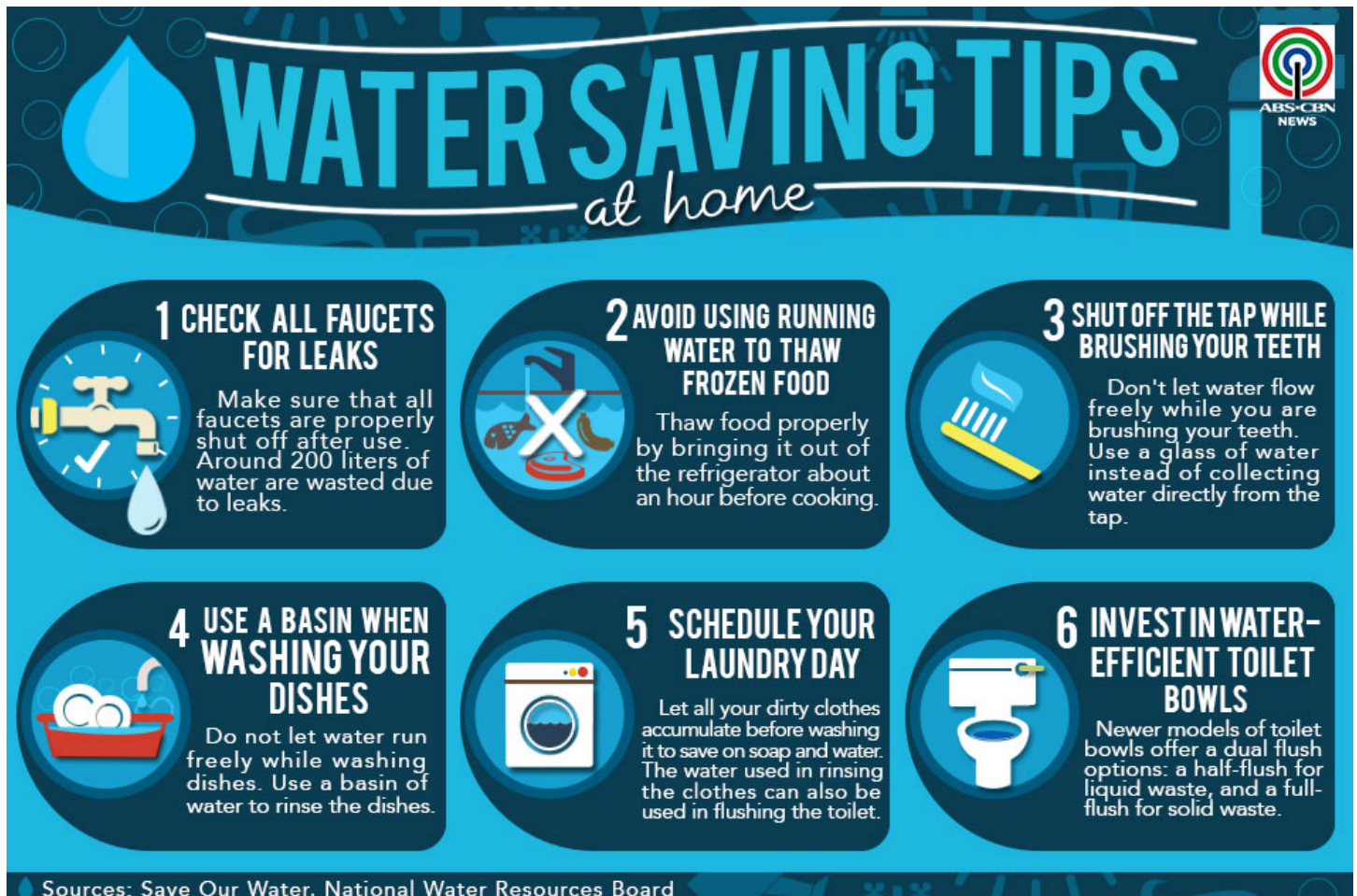
Les Morefield

This year yard waste pick-up will begin on Monday March 29, 2021 and will end on Monday November 15, 2021.

If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the next day.

Please 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 8:00 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 **tyed 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 ensures the bags have not been compromised due to weather. Rain soaked or damaged bags that rip or tear during pick up will be the responsibility of the homeowner/tenant to clean up. If you have any questions, please contact Les Morefield, Public Works Superintendent at (540) 869-7731.

Please make sure the water meter in your yard is free and clear at all times. The meter should never be covered or buried by anything. Please make sure the meter is not covered with grass, weeds, bushes, vehicles, boats, trailers, ice, snow 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 on your property is accessible at all times.



WATER SAVING TIPS
at home

1 CHECK ALL FAUCETS FOR LEAKS
Make sure that all faucets are properly shut off after use. Around 200 liters of water are wasted due to leaks.

2 AVOID USING RUNNING WATER TO THAW FROZEN FOOD
Thaw food properly by bringing it out of the refrigerator about an hour before cooking.

3 SHUT OFF THE TAP WHILE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH
Don't let water flow freely while you are brushing your teeth. Use a glass of water instead of collecting water directly from the tap.

4 USE A BASIN WHEN WASHING YOUR DISHES
Do not let water run freely while washing dishes. Use a basin of water to rinse the dishes.

5 SCHEDULE YOUR LAUNDRY DAY
Let all your dirty clothes accumulate before washing it to save on soap and water. The water used in rinsing the clothes can also be used in flushing the toilet.

6 INVEST IN WATER-EFFICIENT TOILET BOWLS
Newer models of toilet bowls offer a dual flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste, and a full-flush for solid waste.

Sources: Save Our Water, National Water Resources Board

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

It certainly has been a long year tolerating this pandemic and I pray its dangers will be over soon. I don't know about you but I'm getting tired of events being cancelled and also having to attend meetings, etc. via "Zoom, Webex or Google meet". I look forward to in-person gatherings.

As a Veteran I am appalled at the behavior of those unhappy with our government but truly feel this is still the greatest nation in the world and that we should remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Please save the date: Monday, May 31, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. for our Memorial Day Wreath Laying & Recognition ceremony. At this time, the plans are to conduct the ceremony at the Memorial and to live stream it via Facebook.

Help support the memorial. Bricks are available for purchase. For details or to purchase a brick please contact our town office. Forms to purchase a brick can also be found on the town website www.middletownva.gov

Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The Middletown Heritage Society is still hibernating as we all stay distanced dealing with concerns of the virus. There is hope that by late spring we might consider an outdoor patio meeting.

Meanwhile Becky and George Reeves deserve the highest accolades for all they have done for The Wayside Inn. It was announced that the Inn has been sold and will be undergoing renovations. Happily, my understanding is that the MHS display cases will still have a place as they reopen. I hope that we will be able to recognize the Reeves for all of their efforts especially through difficult times. The Wayside Inn not only draws visitors but it's such an important part of the community on Main Street.

If anyone has stories to tell, remember we have an MHS Facebook page and if you or someone you know would like to be added to our email list please get in touch. Tess Klimm (540) 247-2211

Calendar of Events

January

January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town office closed

January 25 – Board of Zoning Appeals Public Hearing 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission meeting to immediately follow the hearing

February

February 1 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

February 8 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

February 15 – Presidents' Day, Town office closed

February 22 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March

March 1 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 8 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 22 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 29 – Yard Waste Pick-Up begins curbside by 8:00 a.m.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

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!

Please help keep fire hydrants free of snow so we can find and access them as quickly as possible in an emergency. Always make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street. These are simple ways to help us help you!

We want to thank everyone AGAIN for your support. We had the biggest response to our fund drive mailing ever! With the economy taking a big hit with the pandemic, we are more than grateful for continuing support. Last January, we ordered a new Rescue Engine that will replace our 2003 truck. Due to high mileage and maintenance costs, we are in the process of ordering a new ambulance. We received a grant from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Rescue Squad Assistance Fund to help with this purchase. We MUST keep our equipment up-to-date to provide the best service we can to our community. Your support is more important than ever, especially as our Town and surrounding areas grow.

Our officers for 2021 are: Chief – Mark Dalton, Assistant Chief – Matthew Price, Captain – Jordan Dalton, Sergeant – Chris Haley, Lieutenant – Matthew Clark, President – Gary Legge, Vice President – Neil Stallings, Secretary/Treasurer – Lisa Beauchamp, Assistant Secretary – Malinda Greene, Junior Advisor – Kathi Henderlite, Chaplain – Rev. Clay Knick, Assistant Chaplain – Mary Shull, Chief Emeritus – Henry Shiley, Trustees – Granville “Jr” Ruckman, Marty Monk, Scott Horsburgh, and Bill Orndorff.

Kaitlyn Schraff is our Honorary Fire Chief for this year. We are hopeful she will get to participate in local community activities, parades, etc. that were cancelled last year.

We are always looking for photos or other “historical” items from our Company. Please let us know if you have anything we can use. We can make copies of photos. We are still searching for photos of our first two presidents, George R. Clark(e), 1942-44 and Charles L. Wright, 1944-48.

From our history files.....

