



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 4 ♦ July 15, 2021

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

What a great Independence Day Celebration we had this year. It was an amazing day from start to finish. It takes months of planning and preparing and we are very grateful to have the devoted individuals we have to get the job done. Hats off to our dedicated volunteers and 4th of July committee, our outstanding Public Works Department, Chief Benedict and his department, and the surrounding law enforcement agencies who assisted, Eric Bittner who was in the park the entire day. We have amazing event coordinators among us and are so thankful to them all.

Thank you to our generous sponsors who made the event possible for the community. Without these folks there would not be a day of celebration in Middletown. Thermo Fisher Scientific, First Bank, MEP Home Services, Modern Renovations, LLC., Capon Valley Bank, Ryan Homes, Trex Company, Carmeuse Americas, 5 Star Executive Chauffeuring, Johnny Blue, and Vulcan Materials. We are grateful to have the support they provide.

Our next event is the City National Bank & Commonwealth Rod & Customs 11th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show on Sunday August 15, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. located on Historic Main Street. Rain date will be Sunday August 22, 2021. There is a \$10 entry fee, all proceeds will benefit the town's July 4th Celebration.

The Town of Middletown will host NW Works 6th Annual Farm to Table on September 12, 2021. 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. This event benefits a great cause.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

No handheld devices while driving, 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

Penalties were applied on July 1, 2021 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

The town offers online payments for your convenience. Have your bill handy because you will need your account number in order to get started. Once there you can register your account and set up the many features that make paying your bill(s) easy such as automatic and recurring payments, text and email reminders, paperless statements, etc. Please go to www.middletonva.gov and check it out. You may also pay over the phone, available 24/7 by calling (855)844-0226. If you need assistance registering your account, please feel free to contact the town office.

Yard sale season has begun, 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 Saturday August 14, 2021. 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. Permit and rules & regulations can be found online at www.middletonva.gov under the Resources tab. Complete the required form and drop it in the payment drop box located at the town office and we will sign off on it and get it back to you before your sale.

Homeowners, please remember if you are having contracted work done at your home such as landscaping, roofing, plumbing, electrical, additions, fencing and decks, etc., please make sure the contractor(s) has a valid Town of Middletown business license. This helps ensure you're dealing with a legitimate business and if recourse needs to be taken, we have information on file for the business that we can provide to you. No one should be soliciting business door to door in town limits without a Town of Middletown business license.

Please remember to 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@middletonva.gov We still have a good bit of contact information that needs to be updated. I came across several accounts just recently with bad contact information.

As always, all utility payments are due by the due date indicated or by the cut-off date. If the bill is not paid in full by the cut-off date, service will be disconnected for non-payment and an additional fee of \$100 will be added to your account that must be paid before services are restored. Cut-off \$50/cut-on \$50. If you have any questions, or need assistance paying your bill please contact the town office. Please call before the account is past due.

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

From the Planning & Zoning Administrator

Eric Bittner

Please remember when mowing your grass do NOT blow or discharge grass clippings or debris on to the sidewalks 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 walks with your pet(s) please be considerate and pickup their 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 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 start the project and to verify that the company or contractor you hire has a business license with the Town of Middletown.

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

Please save the date for 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

Hope everyone was able to enjoy the Fourth and all the activities in town. These memories are our future heritage, thanks to Mayor Harbaugh and all who helped in planning!

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet again on September 9, 2021, the second Thursday at noon. Our meetings are open to any and all with an interest in Middletown's history. The location to be announced closer to the date. For more information or to be added to the email list, please call (540)247-2211 or email me tess@visuallink.com.

Our next meeting we will discuss the Gene Dicks Award, walking tour & signage and "Merrimint". Happy summer to all! ~ Tess Klimm, President

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Your volunteers are working hard to provide YOU with up-to-date fire and rescue equipment. The 2020 Pierce Velocity pumper that we have on order is progressing nicely despite delays by the pandemic. We are looking for delivery in the fall. Production on the 2021 Road Rescue ambulance on order is being held up due to the unavailability of the “chip” that Ford has been unable to obtain. Delivery may be delayed until after the first of next year.

We continue to have Bingo every Tuesday night. Regular Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. Concessions are available from our Auxiliary. We provide an ATM and outside smoking areas. Proceeds from Bingo pay for fire and EMS equipment. An interesting note from the minutes of December 1960 was that the profit from Bingo was running about \$14 to \$16 a week and they thought that was great! Luckily for us, we do a bit better than that now!

We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website (middletownfire.com) or at the fire station. You must be 16 years old to apply. Training is provided. Joining a volunteer fire and rescue company is a great opportunity for young people! If you aren't interested in running fire and EMS calls, there are other opportunities to help with fundraising.

A little history.... our Auxiliary was formed in August 1943 when thirty-two Middletown ladies met to plan how to support their fire company. Most of the ladies at that time were wives, mothers, and daughters of the first fire company members. The first president was Mary Little. The ladies planned “measuring parties”, dinners, and Bingo. The group was instrumental in the building of the original part of our fire station in the 1950's and many, many things since. Through the years the membership has changed to include men, so “ladies” was dropped from the group's name. The Auxiliary has supported the fire and rescue company by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars. They have also bought much needed supplies through the years, including two advanced lifesaving vehicles.



Some of the early Auxiliary members are included in the picture above for the dedication of the then “new” fire station on Main Street in 1954. Pictured on front row: Ruby Campbell, Evelyn Muntzing, Bernice Burdette, Sadie Shull, Louise Mowery, Peggy Lawton, Sarah Ridings. Back row: Fire company members Robert Campbell, William Shull, Fred Wealthy, Wilson Borden, Walter Little, Ainsworth Sperry.

Calendar of Events

July

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

July 27 – Public Comment Meeting on Hester Property 7:00 p.m.

August

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

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

August 14 – Route 11 Yard Crawl

August 15 – 10th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

September

September 6 – Labor Day – Town office closed

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

September 12 – NW Works Farm to Table

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

September 18 – Patriot's Pride Day 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., live music at 6:00 p.m. and fireworks at dusk

September 27 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.