

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Happy New Year Middletown! My New Year's resolution for Middletown and its citizens is no more roof tops. Our small town is growing at a rapid pace and this takes away from the true meaning of a small town. Due to circumstances beyond my control this development was approved in years past and cannot be undone. We will embrace and welcome what has been approved and continue to work very hard to stop any future development.

Our Christmas parade was a success again this year. It was a pleasure to see the record number of spectators. The parade committee did an amazing job at planning, preparing and executing yet another successful parade. I would like to thank those that volunteered, participated and supported this year's event. Thank you to our devoted sponsors who continue to make our events possible for the community.

We will host Shenandoah Valley Runners Heart and Soles 5K again this year which will be held on Saturday February 12, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The event usually last about 2 hours and should end around 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Shenandoah Valley Runners at www.svrunners.org for details.

Please welcome our newest employee, David Burke. David is our new Planning & Zoning Administrator who comes to us from Frederick County with a plethora of experience. We continue to grow our employee base to meet the needs of our citizens. David has extensive knowledge in zoning and we could not be happier that he chose Middletown. He joins a strong team of colleagues who are all here for the good of its citizens and the community. Stop by the office and introduce yourself to David and give him a warm Middletown welcome.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

For Middletown residences who live on the following streets: In the very near future, the following streets will become PUBLIC streets; Coville, Woolen Mills, Kercheval and Emmet. Therefore, these streets will be subject to ALL State and Town parking regulations, i.e., parking facing the wrong direction, blocking driveways, fire hydrant, sidewalks, mailboxes, unregistered and/or uninspected vehicle, no commercial vehicle/trailer, camper/travel trailer.

All vehicles in violation will be subject to parking fines under the town's ordinances. Please contact the police department if anyone has any questions.

As a reminder, it is still illegal to have your cell phone in your hand while operating a vehicle. 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.

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

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 Planning & Zoning Administrator

David Burke

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.

Attention citizens, our trash service will no longer clean up after our residents who choose not to use a trash can. This is a violation of the towns zoning ordinance. All trash should be stored in a trash can with a vermin proof lid. It is an unsightly nuisance when animal(s) get into trash bags laying curbside. This creates trash blowing throughout the town or onto neighboring properties. Please place trash curbside in a trash can. **Household trash only. If it does not fit in a trash bag inside a trashcan it will be left curbside for you to dispose of or remove from the curb same day.** If you would like to purchase a used trash can please call our trash service at (540)773-3391.



From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

This year yard waste pick-up will begin on Monday March 28, 2022 and will end on Monday November 14, 2022.

If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the following day. Any yard waste that is not within the below guidelines will be left curbside and it will be for the tenant/owner responsibility to remove from curb.

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 **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 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.

When out walking your pets 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. The town sidewalks and park are littered with feces from irresponsible pet owners. Please do your part and clean up after your pet(s) or be fined.

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)

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.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Please save the date for Monday, May 30, 2022 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 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 (MHS) is still hibernating but we plan to meet in person come spring. We look forward to reviving our projects and making new plans. We welcome anyone with an interest in Middletown's history to please attend our meetings. For questions feel free to contact President Tess Klimm (540) 247-2211.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Want to make a difference in your community?? 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.

BINGO is held every Tuesday night! Regular Bingo starts at 7 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.

Taking a look back.... many of you Middletown "long timers" remember when our Company had the carnivals for a week in the summer. We had a parade on one of the evenings of the carnival. We had rides, games, and food. You could smell those burgers cooking for blocks! Many of the ladies around town made cakes for the cake walks. Children enjoyed winning prizes from the "Duck Pond" and everyone pitched dimes to win glassware. Bingo (using dried corn as markers) was very popular. Prizes were kept on a hay wagon. The wagon was pulled and pushed from a garage at the Town Office every day prior to the start of the carnival and then pushed and pulled back at night afterward. You could see for miles from the top of the Ferris wheel. It was a lot of fun but a whole lot of work. And if it rained, well, it washed away the profit! Through the years, it cost more and more to have the carnival and the profit was not worth all of the weeks of work. We had to come up with other ideas for more profitable fundraisers. Great memories!



Calendar of Events

January

January 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town office closed

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

February

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

February 12 – Heart and Soles 5k

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

February 21 – Presidents' Day, Town office closed

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

March

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

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

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