



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 2 ♦ March 15, 2022

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

It is with great sadness to announce we have lost a valuable member and pillar in our community. Mr. Gary Fletcher, a Korean War Veteran, a hero, a volunteer who never expected anything in return, a man who gave you his word and you knew that was all you needed. He was a friend to so many. A true friend with a peaceful heart who never spoke an unkind word. We have a lot to figure out without you here with us. Heaven has gained an angel. God Bless Mr. Fletcher. My wish for you is that you rest in eternal peace forever. A true hero gone but will never be forgotten. You were, and I am sure you still are, one in a million; resting easy watching over us.

We hope to begin the 2022-23 budget preparations next month. The finance committee has not officially set a date and time but I hope to have one soon to share with the community. Once posted please plan to attend and get involved. Be in the know of how your tax dollars are being put to good use to benefit you.

Please plan to attend the town's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 16, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. in the town park. Please remember to bring a basket for your child to collect easter eggs throughout the park and a camera. The Easter Bunny will visit and be glad to take pictures with each and every child in attendance. Please remember to be courteous to others and keep a safe distance. We hope to see you there and share in this family fun event.

We will also host National Vietnam War Veterans Day Event which will be held at the Veterans Memorial on March 26, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

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.

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

Hello citizens, please note that this year's Annual Spring Clean-Up will take place on **Tuesday May 9, 2022** this year and not the usual Monday as years past. Please review the guidelines provided in this newsletter so you are prepared before the clean-up date arrives. If there are any items placed curbside that are non-acceptable items it will be left curbside in which will need to remove from curbside same day by you the tenant/property owner.

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 Town 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.middletownva.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.middletownva.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 with the start of warm weather and outdoor clean up to begin, 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 are 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 valid 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@middletownva.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.middletownva.gov

From the Planning & Zoning Administrator

David Burke

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)532-1802.



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.

Please take a minute to review the Town's ordinance on grass, weeds or like vegetation as well as littering. When mowing or weeding it is unlawful to leave your grass clippings on the sidewalks and roadways.

Town Code section 6-2

Duty of owners, etc., of premises - To cut and remove tall grass and weeds.

- a.** It shall be unlawful for any person owning, occupying or having charge of any real estate or an interest therein, located within the corporate limits of the town, where the parcel is one acre or less, to allow grass, weeds, or like vegetation grow on the property to a height of no more than 10 inches.
- b.** Parcels greater in size than one acre that lies within 25 feet of the right of way boundary of a public roadway (except for interstate highways) must also keep the grass, weeds or like vegetation to a height of no more than 10 inches.
- c.** If any owner, occupant or person in charge of such land or interest therein shall fail to have such illegal growth of grass or weeds on his land cut or otherwise removed within 7 days written notice of violation of this section, the town shall have the right to cut or remove such unlawful growth at the expense of the landowner, and such expense may be collected by the town as taxes are levied and collected. In addition, the owner shall pay a penalty of \$50.00 as a fine of this section.
- d.** Each day that any owner, occupant or person in charge of such land or interest shall fail to have such an illegal growth of grass or weeds on his land cut or otherwise removed after the above mentioned 7 days has run shall constitute a separate offense. Subsequent offenses in the same calendar year shall double until the fine reaches \$200.00. The fine per calendar year is capped at \$2000.00.
- e.** This section shall not apply to any land used for agricultural or industrial purposes.

From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

URGENT NOTICE: Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. A lot of people have been using the wastewater plant road as an entrance to the park and ball fields for activities such as practices and games. Please use the Park entrance off of Senseney Road to gain access to the Town Park for all activities moving forward.

Access to the Park: going North on Main Street turn Left onto Second Street, going South on Main Street turn Right onto Second Street.

Citizens the Public Works department will begin hydrant flushing during the month April. You could potentially experience cloudy or discolored water during this time. If you do notice a change in your water it will clear up and resolve itself the more you run your water. If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the Public Work Department directly Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (540) 869-7731.

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 required guidelines will be left curbside and it will be for the tenant/owner to remove from curb same day.

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. 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 free and clear and 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 Remembrance & Wreath Laying Ceremony to pay homage to our veterans. We will host the ceremony in person at the memorial and will live stream via Facebook as well. If by chance there is rain the day of, the ceremony will take place at the Middletown Fire Department.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum who was appointed to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) as a Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Benefits. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the VBA's Strategic Program Management Office (SPMO). She leads teams in managing enterprise-wide projects to implement high-performing, standardized, and effective business processes. She serves as VBA's Customer Experience executive, responsible for integrating the customer perspective into initiatives that impact and improve benefits and services to Veterans.

Originally from South Africa, Karen resides in Northern Virginia with her husband Tim. Her son, Daniel and daughter-in-law, Kelli Jo, live nearby. When she is not doting on her granddaughter Natalie, she can be found walking her dog on one of the area's many nature trails or practicing and teaching yoga at a local studio in the community.

Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) hopes to meet in person soon. 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.

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 with me.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Some statistics from 2021: Co. 12 had 1092 calls for service, an increase of 122 calls from 2020. 234 of those calls were within the Town limits. Nineteen volunteers responded on calls which equals 768.5 hours (remember: **VOLUNTEER**). Thirty-six members participated in training which was 2,498 hours (**VOLUNTEER**). Thirty-two members helped with fundraising for a total of 1,976.75 hours (**VOLUNTEER**). Add in meetings and work details and your **VOLUNTEERS** put in 6,174 recorded hours (not all hours get documented.... there just isn't enough time). All of those hours are tax dollars saved by the residents of Middletown and Frederick County.

The Company's Annual Installation of Officers and Awards was held February 19. Members of the Year were Mark Dalton and Lisa Beauchamp. Firefighter of the Year was Dustin Richards. Dustin and Peggy LaFollette received the J. W. Legge, Jr. award for fundraising. Individual members were recognized for having more than fifty hours of training and fundraising. The top ten call runners were recognized and Chief's Awards were given to those who achieved more certifications. Chief's Awards were also given to members of the community that go above and beyond to support Co. 12.

Officers for 2022 are: Chief – Mark Dalton, Assistant Chief – Matthew Price, Captain – Jordan Dalton, Lieutenant – Chris Haley, Sergeant – Matt Clark, President – Gary Legge, Vice President – Henry Shiley, Secretary – Lisa Beauchamp, Treasurer – Lisa Beauchamp, Jr. Advisor – Kathi Henderlite, Chaplain – Rev. Clay Knick, Assistant Chaplain – Mary Shull.

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.

In April we will celebrate our 80th birthday! 80 years of service to our Town and community. We thank YOU for your support!



SPRING CLEAN UP

THE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP WILL TAKE PLACE ON

TUESDAY MAY 3, 2022

ALL ITEMS MUST BE PLACED
CURBSIDE by 7:00 a.m.

*****THE COLLECTED ITEMS MUST BE LANDFILL***
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS, INCLUDING FURNITURE**

IF IT IS NOT LANDFILL
ACCEPTABLE IT WILL
NOT BE PICKED UP

A FEW EXAMPLES OF NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

APPLIANCES, TV'S, COMPUTERS,
COMPUTER MONITORS, MICROWAVE OVENS, PAINT, HAZARDOUS WASTE,
TIRES, PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER, CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING
MATERIALS, BRICKS, CONCRETE, LAWN EQUIPMENT ETC.

REMINDER:
PLEASE KEEP YARD WASTE SEPARATE.
YARD WASTE SHOULD BE PLACED IN
BIODEGRADABLE OR PAPER YARD WASTE BAGS ONLY
*****NO PLASTIC BAGS*****

Yard waste will be picked up by the Public Works Department on Monday May 2, 2022. Please keep these items separate to ensure pick up.



Please take advantage of this free offer for you to clean up the outside of your property!
We offer this to you to help keep Middletown neat and free of unsightly clutter.

Calendar of Events

March

March 26 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day Event 1:00 p.m.

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

April

April 4 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April 11 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April 16 – Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 a.m.

April 25 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April 30 – Apple Blossom – office closing at 12 noon

May

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

May 3 – Annual Spring Clean-Up, curbside 7:00 a.m.

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

May 30 – Veterans Memorial, Memorial Day Ceremony 1:00 p.m.

May 30 – Town office closed

May 31 – Planning Commission Meeting (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m.

Middletown Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 16, 2022 | 11:00 a.m.

Middletown Park

Bring your own basket



Parents bring your camera. The Easter Bunny will be here to visit the kids.

Yard Waste Guidelines

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 begin on **March 28, 2022 through November 14, 2022**. Yard waste must be placed curbside by 8:00 a.m. the morning of pick up. Yard waste consist of grass trimmings and leaves, which cannot weigh more than 40 lbs.

Branches and twigs **CANNOT BE LONGER** than four (4) feet in length and **NO LARGER** than twelve (12) inches in diameter. They must be tied in bundles. No wire or plastic string. Do not place branches or twigs in bags.

Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable or paper yard waste bags only. **NO PLASTIC BAGS** will be picked up.

Rain soaked or damaged bags that rip or tear during pick up will be the responsibility of the homeowner/tenant to clean up. 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.

In the event a holiday falls on a Monday or the Town Government is closed, yard waste will be picked up the following day, after the holiday or closure.

If you have any questions, please contact our Public Works Superintendent Les Morefield at (540) 869-7731.

Thank you for your continued support and effort to help make the everyday operations of the town manageable for all involved.

SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

For more information visit our website: www.crwater.com



IRRIGATION TIPS

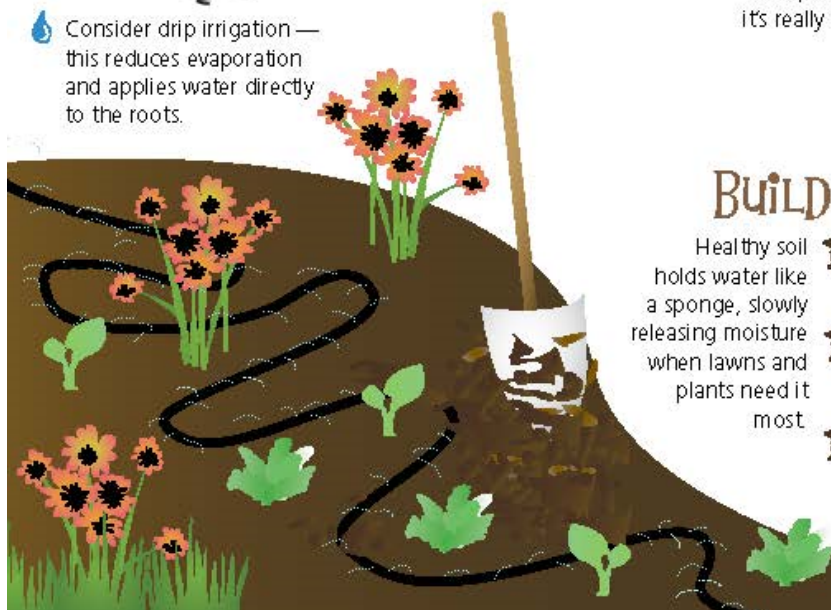
- Check your system each spring. Because automatic irrigation systems often come on during the early morning hours, leaks and other problems can go unnoticed for long periods of time.
- Take time to check your system and provide periodic checks throughout the summer to ensure the system is operating properly and efficiently.
- Replace your old controller with a new Watersense® weather based irrigation controller or adjust your current controller to the weather throughout the summer so you're not depriving plants or watering unnecessarily.
- Correctly program your irrigation controller.
- Install a rain sensor switch to temporarily shut off your system when it rains.
- Prevent run-off by splitting watering times into two or more applications with breaks in between. This will promote deeper root growth and foster a healthy landscape that is more resistant to dry weather.
- Water early in the morning when the air is cool and calm and evaporation is at a minimum. Watering in the evening is second best.



- Consider switching your old spray nozzles for more efficient multi-stream rotating nozzles.



- Consider drip irrigation — this reduces evaporation and applies water directly to the roots.



OUTDOOR WATER EFFICIENT TIPS

- Wash your car on the lawn.
- Take your car to a car wash that recycles and reuses the wash water.
- Fix all dripping hose bibs.
- Cover the pool when you're not using it to prevent unnecessary evaporation.
- Check for undetected leaks in your pool throughout the summer.
- Use a bucket of soapy water and a shut-off spray nozzle on the end of your hose when you wash your car.
- Sweep your driveways and patios instead of spraying them with water.



LAWN CARE TIPS

- A healthy lawn needs less water, pesticides, and fertilizers. Typical Willamette Valley lawns need only one inch of water a week, unless it's really hot.
- Aerate lawns in the early summer to allow water and air to reach the roots.
- Mow high to shade roots, keep soil cool and retain soil moisture.
- Mulch grass clippings to naturally green up your lawn.
- Water one inch a week, unless it's really hot. Visit our website for the weekly watering number.
- Fertilizer organically to protect kids, pets, and the environment.
- Skip the weed and feed products. Many of these can damage soil as well as pollute our waterways.



BUILD HEALTHY SOILS

Healthy soil holds water like a sponge, slowly releasing moisture when lawns and plants need it most.

- Avoid using man-made fertilizers and pesticides. They can harm worms and other beneficial organisms found in healthy soil.
- Healthy soil will reduce runoff — and less runoff means less pollution and sediment in our streams and rivers.
- Adding soil amendments like compost or mulch cools and feeds the soil, improves water holding capacity, encourages deeper root growth and reduces the need for water and fertilizers.

PETS POOP, YOU SCOOP

Attention citizens and pet owners. Please clean-up after your pets. Please do not be that irresponsible pet owner that makes our responsible pet owners and their fur baby have to navigate around your pet's waste. We work diligently to get the word out and make those that are not aware that this is a law. It is hazardous to the public and toxic to other animals.

Pet waste containers like this (pictured below) are located at the Town Park by the bathrooms, at the corner of Third Street and Main Street and at the Town office near the information sign. Please clean up your pet's waste and dispose of it properly.



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)