



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

Planning is underway! The July 4<sup>th</sup> committee and town staff are busy preparing for another successful event for our community. Middletown's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be held on Monday July 4, 2022. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day which will showcase some very talented musicians and band. We will have a bounce house, water slide, kid's games, magician, and for the adult's a softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and a Veterans lunch.

The grand feature parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. at LFCC and continue down Historic Main Street. The parade will feature the Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal which will be announced at a later date. We will end the evening with an over-the-top firework display. Come out and help us celebrate Independence Day. There will be something fun for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual City National Bank Car, Truck & Tractor show will be held on Saturday August 20, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Historic Main Street. The rain date this year will be Saturday August 27, 2022.

### *From the Police Chief*

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

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*Rebecca Layman*

If you have not paid your Real Estate or Personal Property taxes, please do so no later than June 30, 2022. After this date there will be an 8% penalty applied to all delinquent property accounts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the town office. If a lien or DMV stop has been placed on your property there will be additional fees applied. The lien or DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance has been paid in full.

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## *From the Planning and Zoning Administrator*

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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.

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### **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.
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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.

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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 13, 2022. 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. The yard sale permit and rules & regulations can be found online at [www.middletonva.gov](http://www.middletonva.gov) under the Resources tab.

Homeowners with the start of warm weather and outdoor clean up underway, 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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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.

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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 Superintendent*

*Les Morefield*

**NOTICE:** Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. 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.

Yard waste pick-up is in full swing and will continue through Monday November 14, 2022. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the next day.

We have been picking up some very heavy bags that are beyond the weight limit. Please be mindful of our crew when packing your lawn bags. If you struggle getting it to the curb, please take into consideration what it takes to load it on a truck. This is a courtesy service provided by the town and we appreciate you following the yard waste guidelines to avoid injury to our Public Works employees. We will leave your yard waste curbside if this becomes a repeated occurrence at your property.

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.

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.

Reminder, we continue to have issues with animal waste being left behind by irresponsible pet owners. Please remember to always bring a bag along with you, even on a short walk. "Poop happens" and you as the pet owner need to be prepared to clean it up. The town park and walkways throughout town are littered with animal waste. This is unsanitary and unhealthy for all including your pet. Please be responsible and clean up after your pet(s).

Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot folks in the warmer months that their water & sewer bills have gone up substantially and think they have a leak. To avoid this from happening to you take a minute to review the tips provided. If you think you have a leak, please feel free to call the Public Works Department and we will be glad to come out and check it out (540)869-7731. If you have a billing question, please call the town office for assistance (540) 869-2226.

## 12 Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors

During these warmer months, we spend more time outdoors tending to our lawns, growing gardens, and washing our cars. All of these activities require water. More than half of the average household's water occurs outdoors. As a result, your water bill can see a significant increase during the next few months. Using these simple tips will reduce your water bill and save you money.

1. Inspect your garden hose and irrigation system for leaks. Check hose connectors to make sure rubber washers are in place.
2. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose. You can save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
9. Mulch around plants and flower beds to keep the soil cool, reduce moisture evaporation, promote growth and control weeds.
10. Take your car to the car wash, rather than washing it at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the water.
11. Wash your pet outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs watering.
12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



### ***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

Newly purchased bricks have been installed in time for the ceremony. Please come out and view your newly installed brick(s). Thank you for your continued support. A big thank you to Myron Kremer & Scott Fletcher for their dedication and services. These fine gentlemen carefully install each and every brick at the veteran's memorial. God bless you, Myron & Scott. I know Gary Fletcher is proud as his legacy lives on through the both of you.

Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

### ***From the Heritage Society President***

*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM at The Wayside Inn. We are looking forward to new plans and projects. This will be a dinner get together instead of our usual afternoon lunch meeting. Both the dinner and tavern menus will be available for those who want to order. Anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome at our meetings.

If you have stories to tell or artifacts, remember we have a display case in the museum room at The Wayside Inn. We also have a MHS Facebook page. If you have display items to share, please contact Tammy Keeler at The Inn at (540) 869-1797 or her cell (540) 327-0754. If someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please let me know. Looking forward to June! Please RSVP to Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211.



## *Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Company 12*

Happy Birthday to us! Our Company was formed April 27, 1942, in response to a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire block where the station now stands. The initial membership was twenty-two men. The first chief was Howard Shull and the first president was George R. Clarke. The first fire truck was a used fire engine, purchased from Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. It was housed in a garage on Main Street. In 1943, the Company moved to a garage attached to the Middletown Town Hall on Church Street. In 1948, the volunteers purchased their first new truck, an Oren pumper on a Ford chassis for \$4000.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



## *Calendar of Events*

### **May**

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

May 30 – Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony 1:00 p.m. (Town offices closed)

### **June**

June 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

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

### **July**

July 4 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Parade, all day event (Town offices closed)

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

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

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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.







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Reminder, we continue to have issues with animal waste being left behind by irresponsible pet owners. Please remember to always bring a bag along with you, even on a short walk. "Poop happens" and you as the pet owner need to be prepared to clean it up. The town park and walkways throughout town are littered with animal waste. This is unsanitary and unhealthy for all including your pet. Please be responsible and clean up after your pet(s).

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During these warmer months, we spend more time outdoors tending to our lawns, growing gardens, and washing our cars. All of these activities require water. More than half of the average household's water occurs outdoors. As a result, your water bill can see a significant increase during the next few months. Using these simple tips will reduce your water bill and save you money.

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3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
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Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

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*Tess Klimm*

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The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



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Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

Planning is underway! The July 4<sup>th</sup> committee and town staff are busy preparing for another successful event for our community. Middletown's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be held on Monday July 4, 2022. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day which will showcase some very talented musicians and band. We will have a bounce house, water slide, kid's games, magician, and for the adult's a softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and a Veterans lunch.

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If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

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### *From the Police Chief*

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

For Middletown residences who live in the newer developed subdivisions in the very near future you will be subject to ALL State and Town 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. Please follow all laws to avoid being ticketed. If you are unsure, please ask before you're ticketed.

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

If you have not paid your Real Estate or Personal Property taxes, please do so no later than June 30, 2022. After this date there will be an 8% penalty applied to all delinquent property accounts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the town office. If a lien or DMV stop has been placed on your property there will be additional fees applied. The lien or DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance has been paid in full.

Reminder when you buy, trade, sell or dispose of a vehicle you must notify Frederick County (540) 665-5681 extension 1. The Town of Middletown receives all billing information from Frederick County therefore they must have the correct information on file for you in order for the Town of Middletown to bill you correctly.

DMV stops have been issued on last year's unpaid accounts. If you have not paid your personal property taxes, please drop your payment off at the town office before heading to DMV. Once paid we can remove the stop. There is an additional fee of \$40 to remove the stop. The stop will not be removed until the entire balance is paid in full. If paying by check the amount must clear your bank before the stop can be removed.

## *From the Planning and Zoning Administrator*

*David Burke*

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.

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 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.middletonva.gov](http://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 13, 2022. 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. The yard sale permit and rules & regulations can be found online at [www.middletonva.gov](http://www.middletonva.gov) under the Resources tab.

Homeowners with the start of warm weather and outdoor clean up underway, 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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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.

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### **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 Superintendent*

*Les Morefield*

**NOTICE:** Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. 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.

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- 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.
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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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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.

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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)



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*Les Morefield*

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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.

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.

Reminder, we continue to have issues with animal waste being left behind by irresponsible pet owners. Please remember to always bring a bag along with you, even on a short walk. "Poop happens" and you as the pet owner need to be prepared to clean it up. The town park and walkways throughout town are littered with animal waste. This is unsanitary and unhealthy for all including your pet. Please be responsible and clean up after your pet(s).

Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot folks in the warmer months that their water & sewer bills have gone up substantially and think they have a leak. To avoid this from happening to you take a minute to review the tips provided. If you think you have a leak, please feel free to call the Public Works Department and we will be glad to come out and check it out (540)869-7731. If you have a billing question, please call the town office for assistance (540) 869-2226.

## 12 Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors

During these warmer months, we spend more time outdoors tending to our lawns, growing gardens, and washing our cars. All of these activities require water. More than half of the average household's water occurs outdoors. As a result, your water bill can see a significant increase during the next few months. Using these simple tips will reduce your water bill and save you money.

1. Inspect your garden hose and irrigation system for leaks. Check hose connectors to make sure rubber washers are in place.
2. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose. You can save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
9. Mulch around plants and flower beds to keep the soil cool, reduce moisture evaporation, promote growth and control weeds.
10. Take your car to the car wash, rather than washing it at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the water.
11. Wash your pet outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs watering.
12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



### ***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

Newly purchased bricks have been installed in time for the ceremony. Please come out and view your newly installed brick(s). Thank you for your continued support. A big thank you to Myron Kremer & Scott Fletcher for their dedication and services. These fine gentlemen carefully install each and every brick at the veteran's memorial. God bless you, Myron & Scott. I know Gary Fletcher is proud as his legacy lives on through the both of you.

Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

### ***From the Heritage Society President***

*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM at The Wayside Inn. We are looking forward to new plans and projects. This will be a dinner get together instead of our usual afternoon lunch meeting. Both the dinner and tavern menus will be available for those who want to order. Anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome at our meetings.

If you have stories to tell or artifacts, remember we have a display case in the museum room at The Wayside Inn. We also have a MHS Facebook page. If you have display items to share, please contact Tammy Keeler at The Inn at (540) 869-1797 or her cell (540) 327-0754. If someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please let me know. Looking forward to June! Please RSVP to Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211.

## *Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Company 12*

Happy Birthday to us! Our Company was formed April 27, 1942, in response to a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire block where the station now stands. The initial membership was twenty-two men. The first chief was Howard Shull and the first president was George R. Clarke. The first fire truck was a used fire engine, purchased from Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. It was housed in a garage on Main Street. In 1943, the Company moved to a garage attached to the Middletown Town Hall on Church Street. In 1948, the volunteers purchased their first new truck, an Oren pumper on a Ford chassis for \$4000.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



## Calendar of Events

### May

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

May 30 – Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony 1:00 p.m. (Town offices closed)

### June

June 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

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

### July

July 4 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Parade, all day event (Town offices closed)

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

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

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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.







Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

Planning is underway! The July 4<sup>th</sup> committee and town staff are busy preparing for another successful event for our community. Middletown's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be held on Monday July 4, 2022. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day which will showcase some very talented musicians and band. We will have a bounce house, water slide, kid's games, magician, and for the adult's a softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and a Veterans lunch.

The grand feature parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. at LFCC and continue down Historic Main Street. The parade will feature the Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal which will be announced at a later date. We will end the evening with an over-the-top firework display. Come out and help us celebrate Independence Day. There will be something fun for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

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Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot folks in the warmer months that their water & sewer bills have gone up substantially and think they have a leak. To avoid this from happening to you take a minute to review the tips provided. If you think you have a leak, please feel free to call the Public Works Department and we will be glad to come out and check it out (540)869-7731. If you have a billing question, please call the town office for assistance (540) 869-2226.

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During these warmer months, we spend more time outdoors tending to our lawns, growing gardens, and washing our cars. All of these activities require water. More than half of the average household's water occurs outdoors. As a result, your water bill can see a significant increase during the next few months. Using these simple tips will reduce your water bill and save you money.

1. Inspect your garden hose and irrigation system for leaks. Check hose connectors to make sure rubber washers are in place.
2. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose. You can save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
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12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



### ***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

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Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

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The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



## Calendar of Events

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Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

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*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

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If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

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

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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*

If you have not paid your Real Estate or Personal Property taxes, please do so no later than June 30, 2022. After this date there will be an 8% penalty applied to all delinquent property accounts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the town office. If a lien or DMV stop has been placed on your property there will be additional fees applied. The lien or DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance has been paid in full.

Reminder when you buy, trade, sell or dispose of a vehicle you must notify Frederick County (540) 665-5681 extension 1. The Town of Middletown receives all billing information from Frederick County therefore they must have the correct information on file for you in order for the Town of Middletown to bill you correctly.

DMV stops have been issued on last year's unpaid accounts. If you have not paid your personal property taxes, please drop your payment off at the town office before heading to DMV. Once paid we can remove the stop. There is an additional fee of \$40 to remove the stop. The stop will not be removed until the entire balance is paid in full. If paying by check the amount must clear your bank before the stop can be removed.

## *From the Planning and Zoning Administrator*

*David Burke*

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.

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 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.middletonva.gov](http://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 13, 2022. 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. The yard sale permit and rules & regulations can be found online at [www.middletonva.gov](http://www.middletonva.gov) under the Resources tab.

Homeowners with the start of warm weather and outdoor clean up underway, 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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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.

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### **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 Superintendent*

*Les Morefield*

**NOTICE:** Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. 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.

Yard waste pick-up is in full swing and will continue through Monday November 14, 2022. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the next day.

We have been picking up some very heavy bags that are beyond the weight limit. Please be mindful of our crew when packing your lawn bags. If you struggle getting it to the curb, please take into consideration what it takes to load it on a truck. This is a courtesy service provided by the town and we appreciate you following the yard waste guidelines to avoid injury to our Public Works employees. We will leave your yard waste curbside if this becomes a repeated occurrence at your property.

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.

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- 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.
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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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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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)



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*Les Morefield*

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Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot folks in the warmer months that their water & sewer bills have gone up substantially and think they have a leak. To avoid this from happening to you take a minute to review the tips provided. If you think you have a leak, please feel free to call the Public Works Department and we will be glad to come out and check it out (540)869-7731. If you have a billing question, please call the town office for assistance (540) 869-2226.

## 12 Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors

During these warmer months, we spend more time outdoors tending to our lawns, growing gardens, and washing our cars. All of these activities require water. More than half of the average household's water occurs outdoors. As a result, your water bill can see a significant increase during the next few months. Using these simple tips will reduce your water bill and save you money.

1. Inspect your garden hose and irrigation system for leaks. Check hose connectors to make sure rubber washers are in place.
2. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose. You can save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
9. Mulch around plants and flower beds to keep the soil cool, reduce moisture evaporation, promote growth and control weeds.
10. Take your car to the car wash, rather than washing it at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the water.
11. Wash your pet outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs watering.
12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



### ***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

Newly purchased bricks have been installed in time for the ceremony. Please come out and view your newly installed brick(s). Thank you for your continued support. A big thank you to Myron Kremer & Scott Fletcher for their dedication and services. These fine gentlemen carefully install each and every brick at the veteran's memorial. God bless you, Myron & Scott. I know Gary Fletcher is proud as his legacy lives on through the both of you.

Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

### ***From the Heritage Society President***

*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM at The Wayside Inn. We are looking forward to new plans and projects. This will be a dinner get together instead of our usual afternoon lunch meeting. Both the dinner and tavern menus will be available for those who want to order. Anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome at our meetings.

If you have stories to tell or artifacts, remember we have a display case in the museum room at The Wayside Inn. We also have a MHS Facebook page. If you have display items to share, please contact Tammy Keeler at The Inn at (540) 869-1797 or her cell (540) 327-0754. If someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please let me know. Looking forward to June! Please RSVP to Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211.

## *Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Company 12*

Happy Birthday to us! Our Company was formed April 27, 1942, in response to a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire block where the station now stands. The initial membership was twenty-two men. The first chief was Howard Shull and the first president was George R. Clarke. The first fire truck was a used fire engine, purchased from Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. It was housed in a garage on Main Street. In 1943, the Company moved to a garage attached to the Middletown Town Hall on Church Street. In 1948, the volunteers purchased their first new truck, an Oren pumper on a Ford chassis for \$4000.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



## Calendar of Events

### May

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

May 30 – Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony 1:00 p.m. (Town offices closed)

### June

June 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

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

### July

July 4 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Parade, all day event (Town offices closed)

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

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

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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.







Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

Planning is underway! The July 4<sup>th</sup> committee and town staff are busy preparing for another successful event for our community. Middletown's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be held on Monday July 4, 2022. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day which will showcase some very talented musicians and band. We will have a bounce house, water slide, kid's games, magician, and for the adult's a softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and a Veterans lunch.

The grand feature parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. at LFCC and continue down Historic Main Street. The parade will feature the Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal which will be announced at a later date. We will end the evening with an over-the-top firework display. Come out and help us celebrate Independence Day. There will be something fun for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual City National Bank Car, Truck & Tractor show will be held on Saturday August 20, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Historic Main Street. The rain date this year will be Saturday August 27, 2022.

### *From the Police Chief*

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

For Middletown residences who live in the newer developed subdivisions in the very near future you will be subject to ALL State and Town 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. Please follow all laws to avoid being ticketed. If you are unsure, please ask before you're ticketed.

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1. Inspect your garden hose and irrigation system for leaks. Check hose connectors to make sure rubber washers are in place.
2. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose. You can save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
9. Mulch around plants and flower beds to keep the soil cool, reduce moisture evaporation, promote growth and control weeds.
10. Take your car to the car wash, rather than washing it at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the water.
11. Wash your pet outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs watering.
12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



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*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

Newly purchased bricks have been installed in time for the ceremony. Please come out and view your newly installed brick(s). Thank you for your continued support. A big thank you to Myron Kremer & Scott Fletcher for their dedication and services. These fine gentlemen carefully install each and every brick at the veteran's memorial. God bless you, Myron & Scott. I know Gary Fletcher is proud as his legacy lives on through the both of you.

Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

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*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM at The Wayside Inn. We are looking forward to new plans and projects. This will be a dinner get together instead of our usual afternoon lunch meeting. Both the dinner and tavern menus will be available for those who want to order. Anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome at our meetings.

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Happy Birthday to us! Our Company was formed April 27, 1942, in response to a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire block where the station now stands. The initial membership was twenty-two men. The first chief was Howard Shull and the first president was George R. Clarke. The first fire truck was a used fire engine, purchased from Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. It was housed in a garage on Main Street. In 1943, the Company moved to a garage attached to the Middletown Town Hall on Church Street. In 1948, the volunteers purchased their first new truck, an Oren pumper on a Ford chassis for \$4000.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



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Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

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*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

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If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

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*Gary Benedict Jr.*

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

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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*

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Reminder when you buy, trade, sell or dispose of a vehicle you must notify Frederick County (540) 665-5681 extension 1. The Town of Middletown receives all billing information from Frederick County therefore they must have the correct information on file for you in order for the Town of Middletown to bill you correctly.

DMV stops have been issued on last year's unpaid accounts. If you have not paid your personal property taxes, please drop your payment off at the town office before heading to DMV. Once paid we can remove the stop. There is an additional fee of \$40 to remove the stop. The stop will not be removed until the entire balance is paid in full. If paying by check the amount must clear your bank before the stop can be removed.

## *From the Planning and Zoning Administrator*

*David Burke*

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.

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 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.middletonva.gov](http://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 13, 2022. 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. The yard sale permit and rules & regulations can be found online at [www.middletonva.gov](http://www.middletonva.gov) under the Resources tab.

Homeowners with the start of warm weather and outdoor clean up underway, 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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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.

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### **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 Superintendent*

*Les Morefield*

**NOTICE:** Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. 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.

Yard waste pick-up is in full swing and will continue through Monday November 14, 2022. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the next day.

We have been picking up some very heavy bags that are beyond the weight limit. Please be mindful of our crew when packing your lawn bags. If you struggle getting it to the curb, please take into consideration what it takes to load it on a truck. This is a courtesy service provided by the town and we appreciate you following the yard waste guidelines to avoid injury to our Public Works employees. We will leave your yard waste curbside if this becomes a repeated occurrence at your property.

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.

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.

Reminder, we continue to have issues with animal waste being left behind by irresponsible pet owners. Please remember to always bring a bag along with you, even on a short walk. "Poop happens" and you as the pet owner need to be prepared to clean it up. The town park and walkways throughout town are littered with animal waste. This is unsanitary and unhealthy for all including your pet. Please be responsible and clean up after your pet(s).

Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot folks in the warmer months that their water & sewer bills have gone up substantially and think they have a leak. To avoid this from happening to you take a minute to review the tips provided. If you think you have a leak, please feel free to call the Public Works Department and we will be glad to come out and check it out (540)869-7731. If you have a billing question, please call the town office for assistance (540) 869-2226.



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- 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.
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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 great way we can communicate with you. Please feel free to email me your updated information and email address which we will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. [clerk@middletonva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletonva.gov)

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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 Superintendent*

*Les Morefield*

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Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot folks in the warmer months that their water & sewer bills have gone up substantially and think they have a leak. To avoid this from happening to you take a minute to review the tips provided. If you think you have a leak, please feel free to call the Public Works Department and we will be glad to come out and check it out (540)869-7731. If you have a billing question, please call the town office for assistance (540) 869-2226.

## 12 Ways to Conserve Water Outdoors

During these warmer months, we spend more time outdoors tending to our lawns, growing gardens, and washing our cars. All of these activities require water. More than half of the average household's water occurs outdoors. As a result, your water bill can see a significant increase during the next few months. Using these simple tips will reduce your water bill and save you money.

1. Inspect your garden hose and irrigation system for leaks. Check hose connectors to make sure rubber washers are in place.
2. Add a shut-off nozzle to your hose. You can save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
3. Put out a rain barrel. Collecting rain water is an excellent (and FREE) way to water your indoor plants or wash your car.
4. Water outdoor plants in the morning or late evening. Due to the colder temperatures, less water will be lost from evaporation. Avoid watering on windy and hot days.
5. Use a broom to clean off outside living areas (decks, porches, driveways), rather than hosing them off.
6. When cutting the lawn, set the mower blade to 2-3 inches high. The longer grass will shade the soil, allowing for better moisture retention.
7. Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull blades tear grass, making it susceptible to disease, and causing it to appear tan and worn.
8. Only water your lawn when necessary. Over-watering results in the growth of shallow root systems that are easily damaged. If rainfall isn't sufficient, water your lawn once a week. This routine will encourage healthier and deeper grass roots.
9. Mulch around plants and flower beds to keep the soil cool, reduce moisture evaporation, promote growth and control weeds.
10. Take your car to the car wash, rather than washing it at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the water.
11. Wash your pet outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs watering.
12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



### ***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

Newly purchased bricks have been installed in time for the ceremony. Please come out and view your newly installed brick(s). Thank you for your continued support. A big thank you to Myron Kremer & Scott Fletcher for their dedication and services. These fine gentlemen carefully install each and every brick at the veteran's memorial. God bless you, Myron & Scott. I know Gary Fletcher is proud as his legacy lives on through the both of you.

Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

### ***From the Heritage Society President***

*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM at The Wayside Inn. We are looking forward to new plans and projects. This will be a dinner get together instead of our usual afternoon lunch meeting. Both the dinner and tavern menus will be available for those who want to order. Anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome at our meetings.

If you have stories to tell or artifacts, remember we have a display case in the museum room at The Wayside Inn. We also have a MHS Facebook page. If you have display items to share, please contact Tammy Keeler at The Inn at (540) 869-1797 or her cell (540) 327-0754. If someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please let me know. Looking forward to June! Please RSVP to Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211.

## *Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Company 12*

Happy Birthday to us! Our Company was formed April 27, 1942, in response to a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire block where the station now stands. The initial membership was twenty-two men. The first chief was Howard Shull and the first president was George R. Clarke. The first fire truck was a used fire engine, purchased from Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. It was housed in a garage on Main Street. In 1943, the Company moved to a garage attached to the Middletown Town Hall on Church Street. In 1948, the volunteers purchased their first new truck, an Oren pumper on a Ford chassis for \$4000.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



## *Calendar of Events*

### **May**

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

May 30 – Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony 1:00 p.m. (Town offices closed)

### **June**

June 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

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

### **July**

July 4 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Parade, all day event (Town offices closed)

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

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

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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.







Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

Planning is underway! The July 4<sup>th</sup> committee and town staff are busy preparing for another successful event for our community. Middletown's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be held on Monday July 4, 2022. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day which will showcase some very talented musicians and band. We will have a bounce house, water slide, kid's games, magician, and for the adult's a softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and a Veterans lunch.

The grand feature parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. at LFCC and continue down Historic Main Street. The parade will feature the Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal which will be announced at a later date. We will end the evening with an over-the-top firework display. Come out and help us celebrate Independence Day. There will be something fun for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual City National Bank Car, Truck & Tractor show will be held on Saturday August 20, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Historic Main Street. The rain date this year will be Saturday August 27, 2022.

### *From the Police Chief*

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

For Middletown residences who live in the newer developed subdivisions in the very near future you will be subject to ALL State and Town 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. Please follow all laws to avoid being ticketed. If you are unsure, please ask before you're ticketed.

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

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10. Take your car to the car wash, rather than washing it at home. Most commercial car washes recycle the water.
11. Wash your pet outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs watering.
12. Don't water your lawn during a drought. The grass may turn brown, but it is not dead. Your lawn will turn dormant during dry and hot spells, but it will revive itself when wetter weather returns.

Information Courtesy of Dollar Energy Fund



### ***From the Veterans Memorial Chairman***

*Raymond Steele*

Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony will take place on Monday May 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the ceremony and honor our veterans on this great day of remembrance. We plan to conduct the ceremony at the memorial in person and to live stream it via Facebook for those who are unable to attend in person. We ask if you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Our guest speaker this year is Karen Shrum. Karen 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.

Newly purchased bricks have been installed in time for the ceremony. Please come out and view your newly installed brick(s). Thank you for your continued support. A big thank you to Myron Kremer & Scott Fletcher for their dedication and services. These fine gentlemen carefully install each and every brick at the veteran's memorial. God bless you, Myron & Scott. I know Gary Fletcher is proud as his legacy lives on through the both of you.

Save the date: November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

### ***From the Heritage Society President***

*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 4:00 PM at The Wayside Inn. We are looking forward to new plans and projects. This will be a dinner get together instead of our usual afternoon lunch meeting. Both the dinner and tavern menus will be available for those who want to order. Anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome at our meetings.

If you have stories to tell or artifacts, remember we have a display case in the museum room at The Wayside Inn. We also have a MHS Facebook page. If you have display items to share, please contact Tammy Keeler at The Inn at (540) 869-1797 or her cell (540) 327-0754. If someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please let me know. Looking forward to June! Please RSVP to Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211.



## *Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Company 12*

Happy Birthday to us! Our Company was formed April 27, 1942, in response to a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire block where the station now stands. The initial membership was twenty-two men. The first chief was Howard Shull and the first president was George R. Clarke. The first fire truck was a used fire engine, purchased from Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department. It was housed in a garage on Main Street. In 1943, the Company moved to a garage attached to the Middletown Town Hall on Church Street. In 1948, the volunteers purchased their first new truck, an Oren pumper on a Ford chassis for \$4000.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in August 1943.

The Company continued to grow and in 1952 Carlton D. Harris donated land on Main Street to build a new station. Rescue operations were added in June, 1952, and the Company bought a 1948 International panel truck as its first ambulance. In the late 1960's, the Company adopted its present name, Middletown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Inc.

In 1992, the Company celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community with the dedication of a building addition which more than doubled the size of the station. A social hall and kitchen, engine room, bunk rooms, day room, communication room, and an office were added. Now in our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we are in the early planning stages of a building renovation/addition to properly house our growing staff.

Want to make a difference in your community?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website ([middletownfire.com](http://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.



## *Calendar of Events*

### **May**

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

May 30 – Memorial Day Recognition & Wreath Laying Ceremony 1:00 p.m. (Town offices closed)

### **June**

June 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

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

### **July**

July 4 – July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Parade, all day event (Town offices closed)

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

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

For information regarding the Town of Middletown please visit the town's website at [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov)

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.





Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 13, Issue 3 ♦ May 16, 2022

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

Planning is underway! The July 4<sup>th</sup> committee and town staff are busy preparing for another successful event for our community. Middletown's annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be held on Monday July 4, 2022. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day which will showcase some very talented musicians and band. We will have a bounce house, water slide, kid's games, magician, and for the adult's a softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and a Veterans lunch.

The grand feature parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. at LFCC and continue down Historic Main Street. The parade will feature the Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal which will be announced at a later date. We will end the evening with an over-the-top firework display. Come out and help us celebrate Independence Day. There will be something fun for everyone to enjoy. Hope to see you there!

If you have a citizen in mind that goes above and beyond for the Town of Middletown and would like to nominate this person for Citizen of the Year, please submit your nomination to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov) or drop it in the payment drop box at the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual City National Bank Car, Truck & Tractor show will be held on Saturday August 20, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Historic Main Street. The rain date this year will be Saturday August 27, 2022.

### *From the Police Chief*

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

For Middletown residences who live in the newer developed subdivisions in the very near future you will be subject to ALL State and Town 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. Please follow all laws to avoid being ticketed. If you are unsure, please ask before you're ticketed.

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

If you have not paid your Real Estate or Personal Property taxes, please do so no later than June 30, 2022. After this date there will be an 8% penalty applied to all delinquent property accounts. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the town office. If a lien or DMV stop has been placed on your property there will be additional fees applied. The lien or DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance has been paid in full.

Reminder when you buy, trade, sell or dispose of a vehicle you must notify Frederick County (540) 665-5681 extension 1. The Town of Middletown receives all billing information from Frederick County therefore they must have the correct information on file for you in order for the Town of Middletown to bill you correctly.

DMV stops have been issued on last year's unpaid accounts. If you have not paid your personal property taxes, please drop your payment off at the town office before heading to DMV. Once paid we can remove the stop. There is an additional fee of \$40 to remove the stop. The stop will not be removed until the entire balance is paid in full. If paying by check the amount must clear your bank before the stop can be removed.

### *From the Planning and Zoning Administrator*

*David Burke*

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.