



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 14, Issue 4 ♦ July 15, 2022

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Another fantastic July 4th Celebration here in Historic Middletown. It was an amazing day from start to finish. It takes a dedicated group of people and months of planning and preparing. We are very grateful to have the devoted individuals we have to make this happen. Hats off to our volunteers and the 4th of July Committee, our outstanding Public Works Department, Chief Benedict and his department, and the surrounding law enforcement agencies who assisted. We have amazing event coordinators among us and are so thankful to them all.

Thank you to our generous sponsors who made the event possible for the community. Without these folks there would not be a day of celebration in Middletown. Thermo Fisher Scientific, First Bank, MEP Home Services, Modern Renovations, Capon Valley Bank, Ryan Homes, Trex Company, Visu-Sewer East, Peed & Bortz, Continental – O’Sullivan Films, JDM Technologies, Johnny Blue, Vulcan Materials, Middletown Data Center, and Elite Insulation. We are grateful to have the support that each of these wonderful sponsors provide. #blessed

Our next event is the City National Bank 12th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show on Saturday August 20, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. located on Historic Main Street. Rain date will be Sunday August 27, 2022. There is a \$10 entry fee, all proceeds will benefit the town’s July 4th Celebration. *Note the day and time for this year’s event has changed.

The Town of Middletown will host NW Works 7th Annual Farm to Table on September 10, 2022. Road closure for this event will affect Church Street. For further details or to purchase tickets please visit NW Work’s website at www.nwworks.com or by calling 540-667-0809. The proceeds from this event benefits a great cause.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

For Middletown residences who live in the newer developed subdivisions you will now 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. Here are a few of the streets that will be subject to ticketing Coville, Emmett, Woolen Mills and Kercheval. Please follow all laws to avoid being ticketed. If you are unsure, please ask before you’re ticketed.

No handheld devices while driving. Phone Down. It’s the Law. A person who violates 46.2-818.2 is subject to a fine of \$125 for the first offense and \$250 for the second and subsequent offenses. In the event that you are pulled over for holding a handheld personal communications device, act in the same manner you would for any traffic stop. You will not be asked to hand over your device. Keep in mind that what you are doing with the device is irrelevant, it is the act of HOLDING the device while driving that is illegal.

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

All non-life-threatening matters which require an officer please contact Frederick County non-emergency dispatch at 540-662-6162. If you have an emergency, please call 911. All calls for service must first go through Frederick County dispatch. Frederick County dispatch will contact the officer/deputy on duty who will be handling the complaint. This will ensure that all calls are handled properly and in an efficient & timely manner.

From the Town Manager/Treasurer

Rebecca Layman

Penalties were applied on July 1, 2022 on all delinquent Personal Property and Real Estate accounts that have not been paid. If you have any questions or need to check to see if you have an unpaid balance, please feel free to contact the town office. If a lien or DMV stop has been placed on a property there will be additional fees applied. The lien or DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance(s) has been paid in full.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

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

Yard sale season has begun, please make sure you get a yard sale permit with the exception of the Route 11 Yard Crawl which is scheduled to take place on Saturday August 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. Permit and rules & regulations can be found online at www.middletonva.gov under the Resources tab. Complete the required form and drop it in the payment drop box located at the town office and we will sign off on it and get it back to you before your sale.

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

Please remember to update your contact information with the town office. Telephone numbers are very important to the staff in case we need to contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your account. Email is also a way we can communicate with you regarding account matters or issues at your property. Please feel free to email me with your updated information and email address which I will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. clerk@middletonva.gov We still have a good bit of contact information that needs to be updated. I came across several accounts just recently with bad contact information.

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

Please remember when mowing your grass do NOT blow or discharge grass clippings or debris on to the sidewalks or streets. This is for the safety of our motor cyclists along with water runoff and clogging the storm drains. (Town Code § 6-1)

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

From the Planning & Zoning Administrator

David Burke

If you have any projects underway that need a zoning permit, please feel free to call the office to discuss. If you are unsure, it is always better to inquire before you start the project and to verify that the company or contractor you hire has a business license with the Town of Middletown.

From the Maintenance Department

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.

Please make sure the water meter on your property is free and clear at all times. This is the property owner/tenant's responsibility. The meter should never be covered by any type of over growth including but not limited to; grass, weeds, bushes, vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. This can cause serious problems in the event of an emergency if we are unable to find and/or access the meter. The meter should be visible and most importantly easy to access. Please take the time to make sure the water meter in your yard is accessible.

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 take time to review the guidelines for yard waste. **We will no longer pick up any yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines.** Yard waste collection will be every Monday, and must be placed curbside by 7:30 a.m. Yard waste consists of grass trimmings and leaves which CANNOT weigh more than 40 lbs. Branches or twigs can be **NO LONGER** than four (4) feet in length and **NO LARGER** than twelve (12) inches in diameter and must be **tyed in bundles** (no wire or plastic string). Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable or paper yard waste bags only **NO PLASTIC BAGS**. Yard waste should not be placed curbside until the morning of collection. This helps keep the community neat and free of clutter and prevents rain-soaked bags that rip or tear easily.

If you notice a street light out, please contact the Public Works Department at 540-869-7731. Please provide the following information. Your name, your phone number, the street light address and the pole number if possible. We will then contact Rappahannock Electric regarding the outage.

When out on your walks with your pet(s) please be considerate and pickup their waste. It is unlawful to allow feces deposited by his/her animal to remain on any public highway, street, sidewalk, part of other public property, or on private property without written consent of the owner thereof or his agent.

Penalty – Any person who knowingly violates this Ordinance shall be guilty of a littering infraction and shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$25.00 per occurrence. (Middletown Town Code § 3-8)

Please take a minute to read the outdoor water saving tips provided on the next page. We hear from a lot of 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



Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony. It takes a lot of participation by a lot of folks to be successful and I truly appreciate each one of you; especially our Town Clerk, Town Manager, Maintenance Department, Soloist, Mayor, our guest speaker Karen Shrum, my personal friend, Mr. Allen Boyd, for supplying us with his sound system, Mr. Myron Kramer and Mr. Scott Fletcher for installing the newly engraved bricks, our audience, and, especially our newly retired Pastor, Clay Knick. As you can see it takes quite a few support individuals to make our ceremonies successful!

Please save the date, Friday, November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. for our Veteran's Day ceremony.

Commemorative bricks are still for sale and can be ordered by calling our town clerk or downloading the form from the town's website. Enjoy your summer and be safe! Ray

Middletown Heritage Society

Tess Klimm

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) will meet noon Thursday September 8, 2022. This will be a working meeting for planning an October event, but anyone with an interest in Middletown's history is welcome.

If you have stories to tell or artifacts, remember we have a display case in the museum room of The Wayside Inn and also a MHS Facebook page. Please contact Tammy at The Inn (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. We are looking forward to seeing everyone! Final meeting details such as location will be emailed or contact Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?? We are always looking for new members. Applications are available on our website (middletownfire.com) or at the fire station. You must be 16 years old to apply. Training is provided. If you aren't interested in running fire and EMS calls, there are other opportunities to help with fundraising.



Thank you to everyone that came by for our Open House on July 4. We appreciate all of the support from our community as we celebrate our 80th year of service!

Our new Rescue Engine went in service at the end of May. We are very proud of our new firetruck and have worked hard to get it equipped and ready to respond to emergencies. We are expecting delivery of a new ambulance in August. We do our very best to maintain our equipment to a high standard and to provide our citizens with up-to-date equipment and apparatus. That's why your support is so important to us.



BINGO is held every Tuesday night! Doors open at 5 p.m. Early bird games followed by regular Bingo at 7 p.m. Concessions are available from our Auxiliary. Proceeds from Bingo pay for fire and EMS equipment. Check it out!

Calendar of Events

July

July 23 – Music in the Park 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

August

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

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

August 13 – Route 11 Yard Crawl

August 20 – 12th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

August 20 – Music in the Park 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

September

September 5 – Labor Day – Town office closed

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

September 10 – NW Works Farm to Table

September 12 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 17 – Patriot's Pride Day 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY - TRASH SERVICE CHANGES

NEW TRASH PICK-UP DAY – NOW ON FRIDAY'S

TRASH WILL NOW BE PICKED UP FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 7:00 A.M. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

THERE WILL BE NO MORE TRASH PICK-UP ON WEDNESDAY'S.

HOUSEHOLD TRASH ONLY. ANYTHING OTHER THAN HOUSEHOLD TRASH WILL BE LEFT CURBSIDE BY THE NEW TRASH COMPANY.

PLEASE PLACE TRASH CANS CURBSIDE NO EARLIER THAN 24 HRS. BEFORE THE SCHEDULED PICK-UP DAY AND TIME. PLEASE REMOVE TRASH CANS NO LATER THAN 24 HRS AFTER TRASH HAS BEEN PICKED UP.

PLEASE PLACE TRASH CANS CURBSIDE NO LATER THAN 7:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY'S

THANK YOU