



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 14, Issue 5 ♦ September 15, 2022

### ***From the Mayor***

*Charles Harbaugh, IV*

Hello Middletown! We have had a very hot and humid summer. I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer break as we now prepare for Fall and daylight savings time. I think many of you are ready for a cool fall morning, hay rides, hot cider and pumpkins. The Shenandoah Valley is always the best place to enjoy the beauty of the fall season. We are very fortunate to be surrounded by the many blessings of each season here in the valley.

We had yet another successful event to support the town's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show went off without a hitch. Thanks to our amazing sponsors and devoted volunteers! It is you who made our event a huge success.

The continued support of City National Bank and town resident Thomas A. Lash is more than appreciated. And let's not forget Commonwealth Rod & Customs LLC. for their generous support. The wineries and breweries throughout the valley came through for us again with some pretty awesome donations as well as the local businesses throughout the valley. The generosity of each of our sponsors is truly remarkable and we are grateful to have such great people among us supporting the community.

Please join us for Wild West at the Wayside Inn on October 8, 2022 for a day full of wild west shootouts, carriage rides through town, mounted horses, shooters, cowboys and plenty of fun!

The Battle of Church Street to benefit CCAP takes place on Friday, October 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. on Church Street. All those interested in participating are asked to tie a yellow ribbon to their home, this allows the armies to know you wish to donate and participate with the reenactors.

The lighting of the luminaries will take place the evening of Saturday October 15, 2022 starting at the traffic light on Main Street heading south of town ending at Timeless Wines. We need volunteers to help fill, set up and light the luminaries. If you are interested in commemorating the 964 fallen soldiers, please contact the town office.

### ***From the Police Chief***

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

Trick or Treat will be held on Sunday October 31, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you will be passing out candy, please make sure your front porch and walkway areas are well lit to ensure everyone's safety. Please be aware and courteous when driving through town. We strongly encourage adult supervision for children at all times to avoid any incidents. Flash lights and reflective clothing are always a great idea when walking at night.

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.

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*

Real Estate and Personal Property bills will be mailed late October and will be due on December 5, 2022. Please remember if you have sold, traded, disposed of and/or purchased a vehicle you must update your information with Frederick County so that the Town of Middletown can bill you correctly. This helps save time for all parties involved. The Town can only bill what Frederick County reports to our office. To contact the personal property division of Frederick County please call (540) 665-5681 ext. 1

## *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. 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.

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.

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 take a minute to update your contact information with the town office. Telephone numbers are very important to the town staff in case we need to contact you in the event of an emergency. Please feel free to email any changes to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middletownva.gov)*

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

## *From the Public Works Superintendent*

*Les Morefield*

**Last day of Yard Waste Pick-Up will be Monday November 14, 2022. Yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines will not be picked up.** Yard Waste must be curbside by 7:30 a.m. Yard waste consists of grass trimmings and leaves which CANNOT weigh more than 40 lbs. Branches or twigs can be **NO LONGER** than four (4) feet in length and **NO LARGER** than twelve (12) inches in diameter and must be **tied in bundles** (no wire or plastic string). Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable or paper yard waste bags only **NO PLASTIC BAGS**. Please do not place curbside until the morning of collection. This prevents rain soaked bags and helps keep the community neat and free of clutter along our roadways.

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.

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 must be visible and accessible at all times in the event of an emergency.

## *From the Planning & Zoning Administrator*

*David Burke*

Fall is upon us and camping season will begin, per Town Code all travel trailers, and the like, need to be stored only within the minimum rear yard requirements. (Middletown Town Code § 17-6-A) In addition it shall be unlawful for a camper or travel trailer to be parked on any street or alley of the town for more than twenty-four hours. (Middletown Town Code § 8-10)

When out on your walks with pets please be considerate and pickup 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)

Any projects that might be underway may need a Zoning Permit. Please feel free to call me to discuss if a permit is necessary as this will assure that nothing is built on an existing easement as well as getting the necessary inspections.

Signage cannot be placed in any State-maintained right of way. State-maintained right of way is property along a roadway on either side. This area does not belong to individual property owners. It must be kept clear for motorist safety and so road crews have room to work. (VA State Code § 33.2-1224)

### *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](http://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.

Another exciting opportunity for young people interested in firefighting and emergency medical services as a volunteer or career is to join the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Explorer Post 154. The Explorers are for ages 14 to 18. The Explorers program provides hands-on training and mentorship and teaches leadership skills, service to the community, accountability, chain of command, use of personal protective equipment, radio communications, hose drills, fire suppression, throwing ladders, ropes and knots, search and rescue, first aid, CPR, and more! For more information, please contact (540)546-8027 or [explorerpost154@fcva.us](mailto:explorerpost154@fcva.us).



**BINGO** is held every Tuesday night! Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Early bird games followed by regular Bingo at 7 p.m. Concessions are available from our Auxiliary. An ATM is available, outside smoking areas are provided, and we have free coffee, tea, and water. Proceeds from Bingo pay for fire and EMS equipment. Come check it out, have some fun, and support YOUR volunteers!

## ***Middletown Veterans Memorial***

*Raymond Steele*

Now that we are facing the fall season it's time to start planning our Veteran's Day ceremony which will be observed on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. To be held at our memorial. In case of rain, we will move it to the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department.

Our speaker for this ceremony will be Cathy "Cat" Jeane Claunch Schwetke. Lt Col Cat Schwetke is a retired Air Force Intelligence Reserve Officer who has been stationed in Germany, Korea and the Philippines with many job-related visits to the Middle East. Her jobs included briefer, analyst, instructor, editor and declassifier and her assignment ranged from Wing level to Air Staff (Pentagon) to Unified Command. Cat has a Bachelor's Degree in Russian Studies and a Master's Degree in Arab Studies. Her hobbies are research, genealogy, languages, travel and dance. She is married to Col (USAF Ret) William Schwetke and they have a son and a daughter.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us. As always commemorative bricks can be purchased at the town office.

## ***Middletown Heritage Society***

*Tess Klimm*

The Middletown Heritage Society's September meeting was held at the Italian Touch and was a success with seven members in attendance. First topic discussed was the amount MHS could donate to Mount Olive Baptist Church located on Senseney Avenue to help with the cost of much needed restorations. The church plans to restore the old Log Cabin Church along with the church next door in which they currently hold their services. If you are interested in donating, please contact Head Trustee and Treasurer Joann Bray at (540) 323-1281. We would love to see this project through to fruition and hope others will as well and make a donation towards this wonderful project.

Next agenda item discussed was the presentation of the Gene Dicks Award. We are looking to hold the presentation at The Wayside Inn in October with the date and time TBA. In other business all members present paid their 2022 dues and our next meeting was scheduled for Thursday October 13, 2022 at 12 noon at the Italian Touch.

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 Legge at The Wayside 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.

Tess Klimm, President (540) 247-2211

## *Calendar of Events*

### **September**

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

### **October**

October 3 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 10 – Columbus Day – Town office closed

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

October 15 – Lighting of the Luminaries (Dusk – South end of Main Street)

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

October 31 – Trick or Treat 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### **November**

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

November 11 – Veterans Day – Town office closed

November 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony, Middletown Veterans Memorial 1:00 p.m.

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

November 14 – Last Day of Yard Waste Pick-Up

**\*\*\*Last day of Yard Waste Pick-Up will be Monday November 14, 2022\*\*\***