

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Happy New Year Middletown! Our Christmas parade was a great success. It was a pleasure to see the record number of parade entries and spectators in town. The parade committee did an amazing job at planning, preparing, and executing yet another successful parade. I would like to thank those who volunteered, participated, and supported this year's event.

Thank you to our devoted Christmas Parade sponsors, Modern Renovations, Middletown Data Center, DSM Construction and Old Hickory Buildings, who continue to make our events possible for the community.

We would also like to thank CEO Travis Delaplain and FNB Bank for sponsoring our event, First Night Middletown. We had a wonderful turnout of over 600 folks, and raised over \$2,500 for the rebuilding of our train station project.

We will host Shenandoah Valley Runners for the Heart and Soles 5K again this year which will be held on Saturday February 11, 2023. If you are interested in participating, please contact Shenandoah Valley Runners at www.svrunners.org for details.

Please remember when calling the town office if you do not receive an answer on your first try, please leave a detailed message and town staff will return your call in the order in which it was received. And always same day. If you need immediate assistance, you can also send an email to the town clerk at clerk@middletownva.gov

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

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

Please do not call the Town office with police matters. This creates confusion, possible miscommunications and takes up unnecessary time in having an officer/deputy respond to the complaint. For questions or concerns please contact the Middletown Police Department Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (540)868-0535. Only leave a voice message if the return call is for administrative or informational purposes.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

Attention citizens when paying your bills online (utility and taxes) for the Town of Middletown please make sure you are paying through Invoice Cloud. Invoice Cloud is the only payment vendor processing these payments for the town.

We had a few citizens pay through Doxo which is not a valid payment vendor with the Town of Middletown. It is best to go through the town website to ensure you are directed to the correct payment vendor. www.middletownva.gov

Reminder, please retain your original tax bill(s) for tax purposes as there will be a charge should you request additional copies when filing your taxes this year. There will be an administrative fee of \$3.50 for each copy requested. Due to the large number of request each year we have had to impose this fee to the cover cost incurred. There will be a 24 to 48 hour turnaround time for all request of this nature. Please email clerk@middletownva.gov

From the Planning & Zoning

Town Code section 14-4 Removal of snow from sidewalks

It shall be unlawful for the occupants of any building and where there is no occupant, for the owner of such vacant building or any unimproved lot or land lying on any street, alley or public place within the town where there is a brick or cement sidewalk, or any other walk so named by the Mayor or Town Council, to permit snow to remain on such a sidewalk longer than 6 hours after the snow has ceased to fall; except, that if the snow shall cease to fall in the night time, it shall be cleaned away by noon the following day. If the occupant or owner of the premises, as the case may be, fails or refuses to clear off the snow after being duly notified, it shall be the duty of the Town Sergeant to cause such pavement or sidewalk to be cleaned at the cost plus 10% to such occupant or owner of the premises. All bills for cleaning ice or snow from pavements are due payable when presented, which shall be in addition to any fine imposed. (10-3-55, ch.17, S 55.)

Penalty – Any persons violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to arrest, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00 or the discretion of the court trying the case.

Attention citizens, our trash service will no longer clean up after our residents who choose not to use a trash can. This is a violation of the towns zoning ordinance. All trash should be stored in a trash can with a 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.

From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

Attention all Citizens: Trash pickup occurs on Friday of each week. If you need to dispose of any trash before then, please use the Frederick County Landfill or the Citizen Convenience Center located north of the town limits on Route 11. Dumping trash in the dumpsters at the Wastewater Treatment plant is unlawful per Town Code Section 6-3. Placement of Rubbish, Trash, etc., on Public or Private Premises.

Please make sure the water meter in your yard is free and clear at all times. The meter should never be covered or buried by anything. Please make sure the meter is not covered with grass, weeds, bushes, vehicles, boats, trailers, ice, snow etc. This can cause serious problems in the event of an emergency if we are unable to find and/or access the meter. The meter should be visible and most importantly easy to access. Please take the time to make sure the water meter on your property is accessible at all times.

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)



Middletown Heritage Society

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) is meeting once a month with dates and times to be announced. We will continue to meet at Italian Touch. We look forward to reviving our projects and making new plans. We welcome anyone with an interest in Middletown's history to please plan to attend our meetings.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

Did you know that Benjamin Franklin established the first volunteer fire department in the United States? The first dedicated volunteer brigade was established in Philadelphia in 1736. Franklin was deeply affected by a devastating fire he had witnessed in Boston at a young age. Although the city of Philadelphia bought its first engine in 1718, it wasn't until the 1730's before the city purchased four hundred fire buckets, twenty ladder and hooks and two additional engines. In 1733, Franklin wrote about the need for organized fire protection in his newspaper. After a big fire in 1736, he created a fire brigade called The Union Fire Company which had thirty volunteers. After that, additional companies were formed. Some famous Americans that were reportedly volunteer firefighters: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere. Before 1850, no city in the United States had fully paid, full-time firefighters, Volunteer firefighters played an invaluable role in protecting lives and property as they do today. (firehistory.weebly.com)

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.

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. 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!

Thank you to everyone that supported our mail-in fund drive for 2022! Money raised from the fund drive helps to pay for building and apparatus maintenance, EMS and fire equipment and supplies, and utility bills, among other things. Each and every dollar is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Miss Brittany Shockey who is our 2023 Honorary Fire Chief! Miss Shockey will represent Co. 12 in the Apple Blossom parades and other parades and activities around the area.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Happy New Year. I hope you have enjoyed the warmer weather that we have recently experienced. I would like you to please save the following dates and add them to your personal calendars; Monday, May 29, 2023, Memorial Day Ceremony 1:00 p.m. at the veteran's memorial. 8050 South Main Street and Saturday, November 11, 2023, Veterans Day Ceremony 1:00 p.m. In case of rain, we will move the ceremonies to the Middletown Volunteer Fire department's social hall. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Help support the memorial. Bricks are available for purchase. For details or to purchase a brick please contact our town office. Forms to purchase a brick can also be found on the town website www.middletownva.gov

Yard Waste Guidelines

Please take time to review the guidelines for yard waste. **We will no longer pick up any yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines.**

Yard waste collection will begin on **March 20, 2023 through December 4, 2023**. Yard waste must be placed curbside by 8:00 a.m. the morning of pick up. Yard waste consist of grass trimmings and leaves, which cannot weigh more than 40 lbs.

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

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

Rain soaked or damaged bags that rip or tear during pick up will be the responsibility of the homeowner/tenant to clean up. Yard waste should not be placed curbside until the morning of collection. This helps keep the community neat and free of clutter and ensures the bags have not been compromised due to weather.

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

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

Calendar of Events

January

January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town office closed

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

February

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

February 11 – Heart and Soles 5k Race 9:30 a.m.

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

February 22 – Presidents' Day, Town office closed

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

March

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

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


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



WATER SAVING TIPS
at home



- 1 CHECK ALL FAUCETS FOR LEAKS**


Make sure that all faucets are properly shut off after use. Around 200 liters of water are wasted due to leaks.
- 2 AVOID USING RUNNING WATER TO THAW FROZEN FOOD**


Thaw food properly by bringing it out of the refrigerator about an hour before cooking.
- 3 SHUT OFF THE TAP WHILE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH**


Don't let water flow freely while you are brushing your teeth. Use a glass of water instead of collecting water directly from the tap.
- 4 USE A BASIN WHEN WASHING YOUR DISHES**


Do not let water run freely while washing dishes. Use a basin of water to rinse the dishes.
- 5 SCHEDULE YOUR LAUNDRY DAY**


Let all your dirty clothes accumulate before washing it to save on soap and water. The water used in rinsing the clothes can also be used in flushing the toilet.
- 6 INVEST IN WATER-EFFICIENT TOILET BOWLS**


Newer models of toilet bowls offer a dual flush options: a half-flush for liquid waste, and a full-flush for solid waste.

Sources: Save Our Water, National Water Resources Board