



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 14, Issue 3 ♦ May 15, 2023

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

The 2023-24 budget preparations are coming along well. We should be finalizing and posting the Public Hearing information soon. Citizen comments are always welcomed. We will be keeping the same trash service. Bids were solicited. RWB Disposal has done an outstanding job for us and came in much less than others so it was a no brainer to remain with the same trash vendor so our citizens would be stress free while receiving great service.

Vandalism has been on the rise around town. The park has been vandalized on a few occasions by our youth and we as adults should take a positive step in keeping them safe and free from harm. Frederick County Parks and Recreation have some great summer programs for those in need. There are volunteering opportunities throughout the county and summer camp programs. Here are a few and their website information for those of you interested.

- Frederick County Parks & Recs <https://www.fcva.us/departments/parks-recreation/2023-camp-basicrec>
- The Youth Development Center <https://www.myydc.org/>
- Cedar Creek Christian Camp <https://www.cedarcreekcamp.com/>
- The Kids Club of Northern Shenandoah Valley <https://www.thekidsclubs.org/>

We have lost several members in our community and I wanted to share my condolences with those families. Each were a part of our community and will be greatly missed. Tess Klimm, Joe Carper, Freda & Fred Wharton, Penny & John Blaisdell, Donald Breeden, Thomas Buckley. My sincere condolences to the families of these amazing folks. May they RIP.

The July 4th Committee and Town staff have begun preparations for another successful Independence Day Celebration which will be held on Tuesday July 4, 2023. We have a full day of events planned for the entire family. There will be live music throughout the day, kid friendly activities, a magician, the annual softball tournament, cornhole tournament, local artisans & crafters, food vendors, NASCAR simulator and of course FIREWORKS. The best display in the area to end your spectacular day.

The grand feature parade will kick off at 5:00 p.m. at LRCC and continue down Historic Main Street. The parade will feature the Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal which will be announced later. 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 me at charbaug@su.edu or drop it off in the payment drop box or the town office and note Citizen of the Year nomination.

The 13th Annual City National Bank Car, Truck & Tractor show will be held on Saturday August 19, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Historic Main Street. The rain date this year will be Saturday August 26, 2023. I would like to thank Commonwealth Rod & Custom, LLC. and Thomas Lash, ESQ. for their unwavering commitment and sponsorship of this event year after year.

Be on the lookout as we unveil more Military Tribute Banners along Main Street. The few we have unveiled so far have been a success. And add a sense of pride to our quaint town. Displaying those in our community who have served our country and for those to be recognized by businesses, families and friends for their incredible efforts brings a sense of pride to us all. Once completed it will be a beautiful display of local heroes, we have among us. Thank you for your service and those of you who purchased a banner thank you for your support.

From the Treasurer's Office

If you have not paid your Real Estate or Personal Property taxes, please do so no later than June 30, 2023. There will be an 8% penalty applied to all delinquent property accounts on July 1, 2023. 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 for the Town of Middletown to bill you correctly.

From the Town Clerk

Christina Smith

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

Yard sale season is here, 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 12, 2023. You do not need a permit the day of the Yard Crawl. If you post signs, they must be **free standing** and not attached to any utility poles or roadway signs. Signage must be removed immediately following your yard sale. Permit and rules & regulations can be found online at www.middletownva.gov under the Resources tab. Complete the required form and drop it in the payment drop box located at the town office and we will sign off on it and get it back to you before your sale.

Homeowners 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 Town of Middletown business license.

Please remember to update your contact information with the town office. Telephone numbers are very important to the staff in case we need to contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your account. Email is also a way we can communicate with you regarding account matters or issues at your property. Please feel free to email me with your updated information and email address which I will add to your account for future reference should we need it to contact you. clerk@middletownva.gov

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 make payment arrangements before the account is past due.

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

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

Virginia State Code Section 15.2-904 and Town Code Sec. 8-12.2 requires motor vehicles to be registered, inspected, and the display of current/valid stickers must be displayed. No vehicles sitting on jacks, blocks etc., are allowed. Vehicles that are not in compliance must be covered with a cover designed for that vehicle, no tarps of any sort are allowed. This is unsightly and against the Code of Virginia and the Town and tickets will be issued.

Virginia Law effective January 1, 2021. 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 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 Planning & Zoning Department

Hello citizens, reminder all trash must be placed curbside in a trash can. Our trash company requires it. It is an unsightly nuisance when animal(s) get into trash bags laying curbside. This creates trash blowing throughout the town and onto neighboring properties. We appreciate your attention in this matter and our trash company thanks you for your compliance. Large items of card board should be taken to the landfill and placed in the recyclables.

As property owners, should you decide to build a fence, deck, patio or shed a zoning permit must be completed along with a detailed drawing of your proposed project. The contractor should apply for/or have a Town of Middletown business license. Forms can be picked up at the Town office or found online at www.middletownva.gov

When in doubt please feel free to contact the town office. (540) 869-2226 ext. 4 or zoning@middletownva.gov

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

Town Code section 6-2

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

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

From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

The annual 2022 CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) water quality can be found on the town website for your review. A paper copy can also be obtained at the Town office upon request. Copies are currently available in the lobby at the town office for your convenience.

NOTICE: Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. A lot of people have been using the wastewater plant road as an entrance to the park and ball fields for activities such as practices and games. Please use the park entrance off 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 December 4, 2023. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the next day.

Please review the guidelines for yard waste. **Any yard waste that does not meet the required guidelines will be left curbside.** 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 Public Works (540) 869-7731.

Please make sure the water meter in your yard is always accessible. 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 always accessible.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Please save the date for Monday May 29, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. for our Memorial Day Remembrance & Wreath Laying Ceremony to pay homage to our veterans. We will host the ceremony at the veteran's memorial and live stream via the town's Facebook page. If by chance there is rain the day of, the ceremony will take place at the Middletown Fire Department.

Our guest speaker this year is Ed Tooma. Ed is retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant Ed Tooma, who completed a 22-year active-duty career in 1985. He held various assignments with the American Forces Radio & Television Network in Germany; the Army Information Radio Service in Washington, D.C.; and the American Forces Korea Network in Seoul, Korea. He is a graduate of the Defense Information School of Broadcasting and Public Affairs, the 8th Infantry Division Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, and the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Academy.

Upon completing his military service, he then joined the staff of the United States Information Agency - Voice of America, headquartered in Washington, D.C. He retired in 2005, after 18 years of Civil Service. Ed and his wife, Inge, reside in Strasburg.

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. Save the date: November 11, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony

Middletown Heritage Society

The Middletown Heritage Society (MHS) meets the second Thursday of every month. We look forward to reviving our projects and making new plans. We welcome anyone with an interest in Middletown's history to please attend our meetings. For questions feel free to contact President Paige Ulevich (571) 445-0889.

If anyone has stories to tell, remember we have an MHS Facebook page and if you or someone you know would like to be added to our email list, please get in touch with Paige Ulevich. Our next meeting will be held at Italian Touch on April 13, 2023 at 12 noon.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

We need YOU! 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 are not interested in running fire and/or EMS calls, we can always use help with fund raising.

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 fire and rescue company!

Did you check and/or change your batteries in your detectors when the time changed? We can NOT stress enough how important smoke detectors are to save lives and property. If you need a smoke detector, please let us know.

Another important reminder is to make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street or road. This saves valuable time getting to you in an emergency.



Calendar of Events

May

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

May 29 – Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial 1:00 p.m.

May 29 – Memorial Day – Town office closed

June

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

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

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

July

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

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

July 10 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

If you notice a street light out, please contact the Public Works Department (540) 869-7731 or Middletown Police Department (540) 868-0535. Please provide the following information.

Your name

Your phone number

Street light address

Pole number (if possible, extremely helpful)

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 our Public Works Superintendent Les Morefield at (540) 869-7731.

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

SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

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



IRRIGATION TIPS

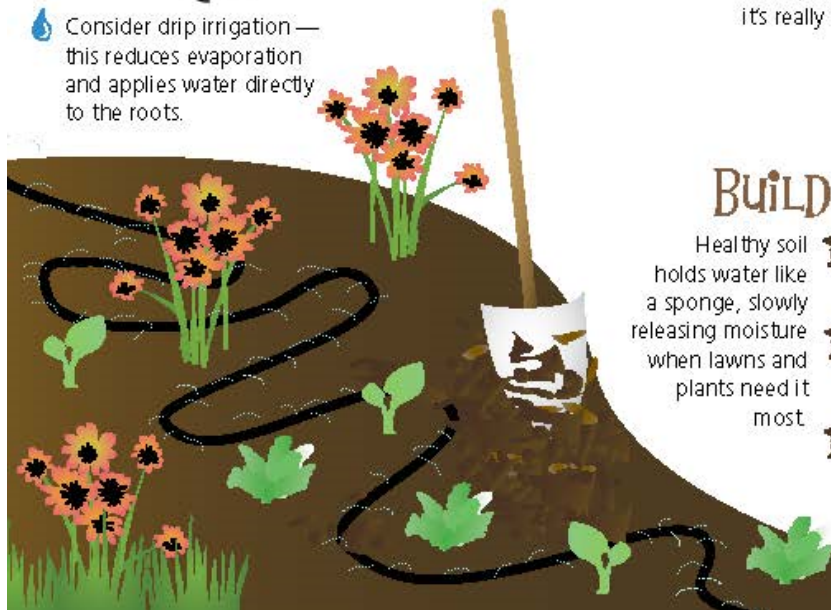
- Check your system each spring. Because automatic irrigation systems often come on during the early morning hours, leaks and other problems can go unnoticed for long periods of time.
- Take time to check your system and provide periodic checks throughout the summer to ensure the system is operating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



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



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



OUTDOOR WATER EFFICIENT TIPS

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



LAWN CARE TIPS

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



BUILD HEALTHY SOILS

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

PETS POOP, YOU SCOOP

Pet owners please clean-up after your pets. Please do not leave your animals waste out there for others to step in and possibly expose other pets to disease.

We work diligently to get the word out and make pet owners aware that this is a law. It is hazardous to the public and toxic to other animals.

Pet waste containers are located at the Town Park, at the corner of Third and Main Street and near the Town office located on Church Street.



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)