



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 14, Issue 6 ♦ November 15, 2023

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles Harbaugh, IV*

Please plan to join us for this year's annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony which will be held on Friday November 24, 2023 at 4:45 p.m. The Christmas Parade will take place on Sunday December 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. The registration link can be found online at [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov). The kids can visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus after the parade at the fire department.

We will hold the 8th Annual Christmas House Decorating Contest again this year. If you plan to decorate for the holidays this year, please enter for your chance to win. Entry forms can be found on the town website or you can pick one up at the town office.

### *From the Clerk*

*Christina Smith*

Real Estate and Personal Property bills have been mailed. Please remember to remit payment by the due date to avoid penalties. 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 receives all billing information from Frederick County.

Tax bills, both real estate and personal property can be paid online via Invoice Cloud. This process will differ slightly from the water & sewer bill process. You will need to have your tax bill with you in order to complete the payment process. To pay your bill(s) online please visit [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov), click on the online payments button and select property tax and complete the all the fields listed. If you have questions, please call the office.

Reminder; please retain your tax bills for tax purposes as there will be a charge should you request additional copies when filing your taxes. There is an administrative fee of \$3.50 for each bill reproduced. Due to the large number of request each year we have had to impose this fee to the cover administrative cost.

Now is a great time to update your contact information with the town office. Up to date phone numbers are essential to town staff in case we need to contact you in the event of an emergency or to discuss your account. If applicable you can add an email address to your account as another form of communication.

Please remember utility payments are due by the due date indicated and, if late, penalties will be applied. If the bill is not paid in full by the cut-off date, service will be disconnected and additional fees will be assessed. The town will offer a onetime payment deferral on a case-by-case basis due to unforeseen circumstances.

When out on your walks with "Fido" 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.

### **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)

**\*\*To pay your water & sewer bill online please visit [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov) or call (855)844-0226\*\***

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

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

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.

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 Maintenance Department***

*Les Morefield*

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 leaves, grass, weeds, bushes, snow, ice, 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 at all times and clear from all debris and/or obstructions.

If you notice a streetlight out, please contact the Public Works Department at (540) 869-7731. Please provide the following information. Your name, your phone number, the streetlight address, and the pole number if possible. The town will contact Rappahannock Electric and report the outage.

## ***Middletown Veterans Memorial***

*Raymond Steele*

I would like to thank everyone who came out to support our Veterans on at our annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Our guest speaker did a great job and the event was well attended. If you were unable to attend, please check the town's Facebook page. The ceremony was live streamed.

I want to wish each of you a very safe and happy holiday season. Please remember save the date, Memorial Day, Monday May 27, 2024, 1:00p.m.

We still have bricks available to honor or memorialize family, friends and loved ones who have served and/or supported our military. Please inquire with the town office if you are interested in purchasing a brick. Applications can be found on the town website as well. [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov)

### ***From the Zoning Administrator***

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 call the office and speak with me. 540-869-2226 ext. 4

#### **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.

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### ***Middletown Heritage Society***

*Paige Ulevich*

The Middletown Heritage Society will meet Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 12 noon at the Hoffman House, 7827 Main St (next to Daily Buzz). We will have a presentation on the Josephine School Community Museum. Lunch will be provided. In January, the Heritage Society will visit the Shenandoah University McCormick Civil War Institute in Winchester with a presentation by Dr. Jonathan Noyalas. Please RSVP to [paige.ulevich@gmail.com](mailto:paige.ulevich@gmail.com) for both events.

The Heritage Society meets the second Thursday of each month at noon. Contact Paige Ulevich for more information [paige.ulevich@gmail.com](mailto:paige.ulevich@gmail.com)

## *Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company*

### *Company 12*

**Pancake and Sausage Breakfast with Santa!** Come have breakfast at the Fire Station on Saturday, November 25, 7-11 a.m. Breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. The meal includes pancakes, sausage, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, baked apples, coffee, and juices. We will have a special guest as Santa comes in to visit with the kids and have photos taken. Please come out to have a good meal and support us!

**We need YOU!** 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 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!

As winter approaches there are some ways you can help us in the event of an emergency. Please help keep hydrants clear of snow. Make sure your house number can be seen easily from the street. Check your smoke detector batteries. If you need a smoke detector, PLEASE let us know. Do not overload electrical power strips. It is not safe to plug space heaters into power strips!

**We want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. We are very thankful for the support we receive from YOU!**

### *Calendar of Events*

#### **November 2023**

November 22 – Town office closing at 1:00 p.m.

November 23 & 24 – Town offices closed

November 24 – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 4:45 p.m.

#### **December 2023**

December 3 – Christmas Parade 2:00 p.m.

December 4 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

December 16 – Mayor Harbaugh's **BIRTHDAY!**

December 22 – Town offices closing at 1:00 p.m.

December 25 – Town offices closed

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

#### **January 2024**

January 1 – Town offices closed

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

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