



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 15, Issue 1 ♦ January 16, 2024

From the Mayor

Charles H. Harbaugh, IV

Happy New Year Middletown! The Christmas parade was a great success. It was a pleasure seeing everyone out and about enjoying the town's festivities. The parade committee did an amazing job at planning, preparing, and executing a successful parade. Thank you to our devoted sponsors, Modern Renovations, Middletown Data Center, and WINC FM. These fine folks make our community events possible.

We would also like to thank FNB Bank for sponsoring our second annual First Night Middletown on New Year's Eve. We had a wonderful turnout again this year, and raised almost \$2k for Winchester Model Railroad Club.

We will host Shenandoah Valley Runners for the Heart and Soles 5K again this year which will be held on Saturday February 10, 2024. 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 as quickly as possible. The town is growing and we appreciate your patience during these times. You may also email general questions to clerk@middletownva.gov Emails and calls are almost always returned same day before the employees leave for the day.

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

VDOT has changed the speed limit along Reliance Road in town limits from 45 mph to 35 mph. Please pay attention when traveling through this area. We have posted the electronic speed limit monitor to help bring attention to this change in the speed limit.

The town's leash law has been updated. No dog is allowed off leash in town limits at any time. All dogs must be on leash and under control. Anyone in violation will be fined. Please be courteous to others and do not allow your pet(s) to wander onto private property without the owner's consent.

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.

Questions 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 only.

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)

Please always clean up after your pet(s). Do not leave waste deposited by your pet(s) on any public highway, street, sidewalk, part of other public property, or on private property.

From the Clerk

Christina Smith

Now is a great time to update your contact information with the town office, both phone number and email.

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 48-hour turnaround time for all request of this nature. Please email clerk@middletownva.gov

The town offers online payments for your convenience. Have your bill ready because you will need your account number 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.

From the Planning & Zoning

As a reminder, permits must be secured through the Town office prior to any work. All renovations, decks, fences, solar panels need a zoning permit. All accessory buildings such as sheds and/or outside storage containers also need a zoning permit. When in doubt please feel free to contact our zoning department. (540)869-2226 ext. 4

All trash should be stored in a trash can with a vermin proof lid. It is an unsightly and a nuisance when animal(s) get into trash stored on the property or laying curbside. This creates trash blowing throughout the town or onto neighboring properties. Please place trash curbside in a trash can. **Household trash only. If it does not fit in a trash bag inside a trashcan it will be left curbside for you to dispose of or remove from the curb same day.**

Please remember that VDOT plows the town's roadways. During inclement weather please park vehicles off road so streets can be plowed with no obstructions in the roadways. Sidewalks need to be cleared in a timely manner are well by the home owner/tenant of the property. Please see review the town ordinance below.

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, 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.



From the Public Works Department

Les Morefield

Yard waste pick-up will begin on Monday March 11, 2024 and will end Monday December 2, 2024. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the following day. Any yard waste that is not within the required guidelines will be left curbside and it will be for the tenant/owner to remove from curb same day.

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 is prohibited.

With winter upon us please make sure the water meter in your yard is free and clear of any obstructions and visible. The meter should never be covered or buried by anything. Please make sure the meter is free and clear of ice, snow, 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 on your property is accessible.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

Now that the holidays have past, we can look forward to spring and warmer weather. Please “save the date” May 27, 2024” at 1:00 p.m. We will host our annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial.

As always bricks can be purchased by contacting our town office. Forms to purchase a brick can also be found on the town website www.middletownva.gov Every veteran should be honored with a brick noting their selfless service to this great nation.

Middletown Heritage Society

The Middletown Heritage Society is still meeting once a month with dates and times to be announced. We look forward to reviving projects and making new plans. We welcome anyone with an interest in Middletown's history to please plan to attend our meetings. For meeting dates and times call President Paige Ulevich (571) 445-0889.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

The officers for this year are: Chief Mark Dalton, Assistant Chief Matthew Price, Captain Jordan Dalton, Lieutenant Dustin Richards, Sergeant Matthew Clark, President Gary Legge, Vice President Henry Shiley, Secretary and Treasurer Lisa Beauchamp, Assistant Secretary Malinda Greene, Jr. Adviser Kathi Henderlite, Chaplain Rev. Clay Knick, and Assistant Chaplain Mary Shull.

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!

Want to give back to your community? 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 or with the Auxiliary. Who are we? We are everyday people, working and taking care of our families. We also feel compelled to give back to our community and take care of our neighbors. We are retirees, mechanics, police officers, bus and truck drivers, secretaries, sales people, electricians, engineers, and so much more. We are YOUR neighbors; we are a family!

Calendar of Events

January

January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town offices closed

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

February

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

February 10 – Heart and Soles 5k Race 9:00 a.m. www.svrunters.org

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

February 19 – Presidents' Day, Town offices closed

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

March

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

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

March 11 – Yard Waste Pick Up begins 8:00 a.m.

