



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 15, Issue 4 ♦ July 15, 2024

### *From the Mayor*

*Charles H. Harbaugh, IV*

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual City National Bank Car, Truck & Tractor show will be held on Saturday August 17, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Historic Main Street. The rain date this year will be Saturday August 24, 2024. I would like to thank Thomas Lash, ESQ. and Hang 10 Car Wash for their support and sponsorship of this year's event.

The Town of Middletown will host NW Works Annual Farm to Table on September 7, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Road closure for this event will affect Church Street in front of the town office. For further details or to purchase tickets please visit NW Work's website at [www.nwworks.com](http://www.nwworks.com) or by calling 540-667-0809.

### *From the Treasurer*

*Keith Smith*

Interest was applied on July 1, 2024 on all delinquent Personal Property and Real Estate accounts that have not been paid. If you have any questions or need to check to see if you have an unpaid balance, please feel free to contact the town office. If a property lien or DMV stop has been placed there will be additional fees applied. The lien/DMV stop will not be removed until the entire balance(s) has been paid in full. (540) 869-2226 ext. 2

Reminder when you buy, trade, sell or dispose of a vehicle you must notify Frederick County Personal Property Division (540) 665-5681 ext. 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.

The town offers online payments for your convenience. Have your bill handy 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](http://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 Police Chief*

*Gary Benedict Jr.*

Important numbers to keep on hand. 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. The town office staff cannot assist in police matters.

Questions only, please call the Middletown Police Department, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (540) 868-0535. Only leave a voice message if the return call is for non-emergency matters.

**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, phone number, street light address and pole number.**

### ***From the Town Clerk***

*Christina Smith*

Important notice to our citizens. As a reminder water usage is higher during the summer months. Please be aware and pay close attention when watering outdoors, pool fills/refills, slip and slides/waterslides. Showers/baths and laundry increase during this time of the year as well creating your usage to increase. See summer water conservation tips included in the newsletter.

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.

Yard sale season is here, please make sure you get a yard sale permit except for the Route 11 Yard Crawl which is scheduled to take place on Saturday August 10, 2024. 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.middlestownva.gov](http://www.middlestownva.gov) under the Resources tab.

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@middlestownva.gov](mailto:clerk@middlestownva.gov)

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

### ***Middletown Veterans Memorial***

*Raymond Steele*

Save the date: Veterans Day ceremony Saturday, November 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. In case of rain, it will be held at the Middletown Fire Hall.

We still have bricks available to honor or memorialize family, friends and love ones who have served and/or supported our military.

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

*Paige Ulevich*

The Middletown Heritage Society 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 or meeting locations please feel free to contact President Paige Ulevich (571) 445-0889.

### ***From the Planning & Zoning Department***

We have been out accessing properties and have noticed large amounts of items being stored in driveways, yards, and porches. This is against town code and unsightly for neighboring properties. No outside storage is allowed. These items should be properly stored in accessory buildings and out of view.

#### **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.

**Please remember when mowing your grass do NOT blow or discharge grass clippings or debris on to the roadways or sidewalks. This is for the safety of our motor cyclists along with water runoff and clogging the storm drains. (Town Code § 6-1)**

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 such as cardboard should be taken to the landfill and placed in the recyclable bins.

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 must have a Town of Middletown business license. Forms can be picked up at the Town office or found online at [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov)

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

#### **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)

## *From the Public Works Department*

*Les Morefield*

**NOTICE:** Town Park visitors - The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street is under construction, this area is off limits to all residents and visitors. Please use the park entrance off Senseney Road to gain access to the Town Park for all activities.

As a reminder please do not bring household trash or yard waste to the Public Works Department for disposal. The town provides trash service every Friday and Yard Waste pick up every Monday. Please use the Citizen Convenience Center located at 6671 Valley Pike, Middletown should you have additional needs during the week.

Yard waste pick-up will continue through Monday December 2, 2024. 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.

## *Calendar of Events*

### **July**

July 15 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### **August**

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

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

August 17 – Car, Truck & Tractor Show 3:00 p.m. – Main Street

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

### **September**

September 2 – Town offices closed

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

September 9 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

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

## ***Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company***

*Congratulations to Katelyn Mumford for completing the EMT academy in April and to Tyler Greatorex for completing the fire academy in June!*

**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 at the fire station. You must be 16 years old to apply. Training is provided. If you aren't 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're YOUR neighbors; we're a family!*





## **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 11, 2024 through December 2, 2024**. 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](http://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 drip irrigation — this reduces evaporation and applies water directly to the roots.

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

## 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.



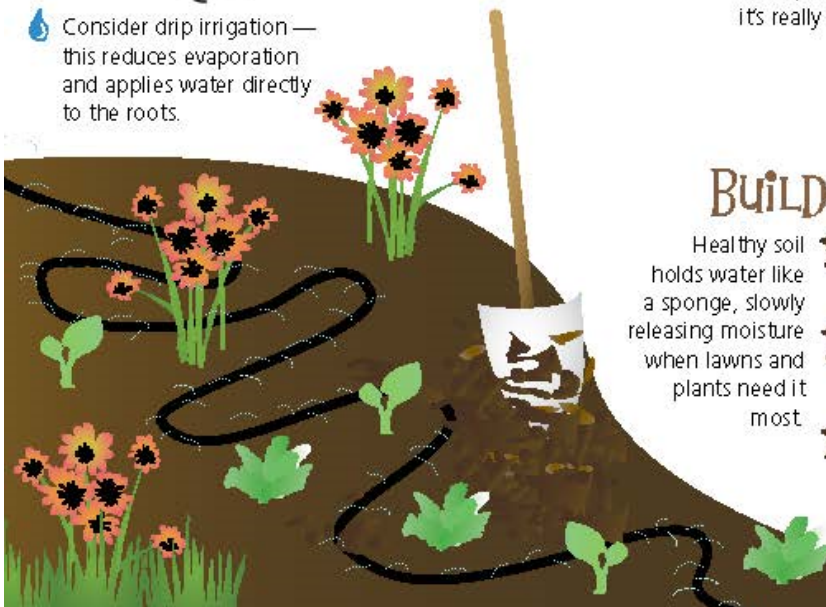
## LAWN CARE TIPS

- 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.
- Fertilize 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 for others to step in and/or expose other pets to disease.

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)