



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 15, Issue 6 ♦ November 15, 2024

From the Mayor

Charles Harbaugh, IV

I am thrilled to announce that the Town of Middletown has received a \$6,500 Virginia Trees and Clean Water Grant to help revitalize our Main Street and town park areas. These funds will be used to acquire and plant trees throughout our community, enhancing the beauty and sustainability of our town.

We extend a special thanks to District Forester Matt Wolanski, whose expertise was invaluable in this project. Recognizing the critical need for improved tree canopy in Middletown, Matt helped us select native tree species that will not only thrive in our local environment but also provide essential ecosystem services. These trees will bring much-needed shade, cooling, and natural habitats for local wildlife. On October 17th, we proudly planted 32 trees to create a vibrant and resilient tree canopy for generations to enjoy.

Looking forward to the holiday season, I am excited to invite everyone to join us for our **12th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Black Friday, November 28th at 4:45pm**. Enjoy free food and drinks, a bonfire, and live music by Jimmy Lee. We will also have a special performance by Selah Theatre Project, Inc., and a surprise guest to help light the tree!

The festivities continue with our **Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 8th at 2 pm**, generously sponsored by Modern Renovations. Our Christmas Parade Committee has been busy and productive, and you are going to notice some changes and upgrades in terms of Christmas decorations in town. And do not miss **First Night Middletown on December 31st**, a New Year's Eve celebration in partnership with the Winchester & Middletown Model Railroad Club and sponsored by FNB Bank.

Lastly, I am deeply honored to have been elected to a fourth term as Mayor. Serving as Middletown's longest-serving Mayor is a privilege, and I am grateful for the trust our community has placed in me. Together, we will continue building a bright future for Middletown.

Thank you for supporting our community, and I look forward to celebrating the season with each of you!

From the Police Chief

Gary Benedict Jr.

Reminder no handheld devices while driving. 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. If 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 ensures that all calls are handled properly and in an efficient & timely manner.

For all non-emergency police questions please contact 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 administrative or non-emergency matters only.

From the Treasurer

Keith Smith

Real Estate and Personal Property bills were mailed mid-October due December 5, 2024. Please remember Frederick County is the record keeper. They tell us who to bill and what to bill you for. If you have sold, traded, disposed of, and/or purchased a new vehicle you must update this information with Frederick County. Your due diligence in this matter is necessary for the town to bill you correctly.

To contact the personal property division of Frederick County please call (540) 665-5681 ext. 1



From the Town Clerk

Christina Smith

The town offers online payments for your convenience. 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 your water & sewer bill over the phone, which is available 24/7 by calling (855)844-0226. If you need assistance registering your account, contact the town office.

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.

As always, all 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 call before the account is past due.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

Raymond Steele

I would like to thank everyone who came out in support of our Veterans during our Veterans Day Ceremony. Our guest speakers all 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 would like to wish each of you a very safe and happy holiday season. Please remember to save the date for our next veterans ceremony, Memorial Day, Monday May 26, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

We 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

Planning & Zoning Department

Reminder Town of Middletown residents, no outside storage is allowed. Items should be properly stored in accessory buildings and out of view. Please clean up your property before being cited. Town officials graciously reach out and attempt to resolve matters before a citation is issued. Help by doing your part to keep the town neat and free of clutter.

Reminder all trash must be placed curbside in a trash can. We appreciate your attention in this matter and our trash company thanks you for your part. Large items such as card board should be broken down or taken to the landfill for recycling.

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

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

When out on your walks with your pet(s) please be considerate and pickup their 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.

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 Superintendent

Les Morefield

The wastewater treatment plant on Third Street remains 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 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.

Last day of Yard waste pick-up Monday December 2, 2024.

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 **tyed 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 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.

Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company

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 are not 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 has supported our mail-in fund drive so far! It is not too late to send in your donation. 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. Every dollar is greatly appreciated.

Little history: On October 3, 1985, our historic Wayside Inn was heavily damaged when a fire broke out in the kitchen area in the early morning hours. The fire spread very quickly through the original central structure. All guests were evacuated safely and there were no injuries. Main Street was shut down for several hours as other local fire companies assisted in extinguishing the fire. Leo Bernstein was the owner at the time and vowed to build the Inn back "bigger and better." Some of the Inn's historical artifacts were saved but many pieces of antique furniture were not. The fire burned from the basement to the roof. It was undoubtedly one of Middletown's worst catastrophes.



We wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!



Calendar of Events

November 2024

November 21 – Planning Commission Public Hearings & Regular Scheduled Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m.
November 27 – Town offices closing 1:00 p.m.
November 28 & 29 – Town offices closed
November 29 – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 4:45 p.m.

December 2024

December 2 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 8 – Christmas Parade 2:00 p.m.
December 9 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 16 – Mayor Harbaugh's **BIRTHDAY!**
December 23 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 24 – Town offices closing at 1:00 p.m.
December 25 – Town offices closed

January 2025

January 1 – Town offices closed
January 6 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 13 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.



Happiest of Holidays Middletown