



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 16, Issue 4 ♦ July 15, 2025

### *A Message from Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV*

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our incredible town staff and the dedicated July 4th Committee for organizing one of the most successful Independence Day celebrations in Middletown's history. We would like to give a special acknowledgement to Citizen of the Year Cornelia Hodson and Employee of the Year Christina Smith. Thanks to your hard work and the generous support of our corporate sponsors, this year's event raised more money than ever before. Your efforts made a powerful impact, and I am truly proud of what we accomplished together.

We were also honored to welcome Washington Commanders all-time sack leader and current linebackers coach Ryan Kerrigan, who said it best:

**"It's so cool to see how the community comes together to support the July 4th Celebration in Middletown. I had a wonderful time and loved the pictures and drone shots of the event. Thank you for having me!"**

Middletown's sense of community and small-town charm is alive and well—and we are just getting started.

Please join us for two upcoming events that truly capture the spirit of Middletown:



**Back 2 School Bash** – Saturday, August 10 from 1–3 p.m. at the Town Park

We will be giving out **free school supplies and haircuts** to help local families get ready for the school year. It is a great way to support our youth and bring the community together.



**15th Annual Car, Truck & Tractor Show** – Saturday, August 16 from 3–8 p.m. on historic US Route 11

Sponsored by **City National Bank**, this is the **largest car show in the Shenandoah Valley**, and a highlight of the summer you will not want to miss!

And for those looking to enjoy the best of Virginia's flavors...



**Shenandoah Sips Festival** – Inaugural event at Belle Grove Plantation

Belle Grove is proud to present a brand-new celebration featuring the finest wines, spirits, ciders, and craft beverages from across the Commonwealth.

**Tasting tickets are just \$30 if purchased before 5 p.m. on Friday, August 22.** Come sip, sample, and savor this uniquely Virginian experience!

Finally, I am pleased to share some good news on the **land preservation front**. Thanks to cooperative efforts, two Main Street properties—a **0.7-acre lot** and a **0.54-acre double lot**—have been preserved, protecting Middletown's scenic character and supporting thoughtful growth. These efforts ensure our town remains a beautiful place to live, work, and visit for generations to come.

Thank you, as always, for your support and involvement in our community. See you around town!

Warmly,

**Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV**

Town of Middletown, VA

## ***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.

As a reminder, vehicles parked on the street facing the wrong direction will be ticketed. This is a violation of the VA State Code and the Town Code. When parking on the street you must park with the flow of traffic. If you park facing the flow of traffic you will be ticketed.

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.

For administrative questions please feel free to contact the Middletown Police Department Monday through Friday during business hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (540) 868-0535. Only leave a voice message if the return call is for non-emergency informational purposes only.

## ***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 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.

Yard sale season has begun, please note a yard sale permit is required except for the Route 11 Yard Crawl which is scheduled to take place on Saturday August 9, 2025. You do not need a permit the day of the Yard Crawl. **If you post signage, it must be free standing and not attached to any utility poles or roadway signs. Signage must be removed immediately following the yard sale.** The yard sale permit and rules & regulations can be found online at [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.gov) under the Resources tab. There is no cost.

Homeowners with the start of warm weather and outdoor clean up to begin, 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 your updated information to [clerk@middletownva.gov](mailto: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.

### ***From the Zoning Department***

As a reminder, zoning permits must be secured through the Town office prior to any work. Building/replacing a deck? Fence? Renovations? These all require a zoning permit. All accessory buildings such as sheds need a zoning permit. When in doubt please contact the zoning department. (540) 869-2226 ext. 4

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 9, 2025. 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. The permit application and regulations can be found online at [www.middletownva.gov](http://www.middletownva.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 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.

Reminder, all trash should be placed and stored in a trash can with a lid on your property. Trash day it should be placed curbside in a trash can. Our trash service provider has brought several properties to the town's attention that are not following protocol. The town provides trash services for household trash only. Recyclables and large items should be disposed of properly at the Frederick County Convenience Center or the landfill. We appreciate your compliance and following our trash service guidelines.

## *From the Public Works Department*

*Les Morefield*

The annual 2024 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. Copies are available in the lobby at the town office.

Yard waste pick-up has had numerous citizens violating the guidelines. Please take time to review the guidelines included in this newsletter below. 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. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the following day.

Please make sure the water meter in your yard is visible and free and clear of all vegetation. The meter should never be covered, blocked, or buried by anything to include vehicles, trailers, campers, etc. This can create serious problems in the event of an emergency if the town's Public Works department is unable to find and/or access the meter. The meter should be visible and most importantly easy to access.

**If you notice a street light out, please contact the Public Works Department and leave a detailed message which includes your name, phone number, street light address and the pole number so we can report to REC for repair. (540) 869-7731**

## **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 be **March 10, 2025 through December 8, 2025**. Yard waste must be placed curbside by 8:00 a.m. the morning of pick up. Yard waste consists 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, damaged bags and 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 ensure the bags have not been compromised due to weather and keeps the community neat and free of clutter.**

**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.

## *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 aren't interested in running fire and EMS calls, there are other opportunities to help with fundraising.

Looking for something to do this summer? **BINGO** is held every Tuesday night! Doors open at 5 p.m. Early bird games are 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!

You can now make donations to us on-line! You can go to our website (middletownfire.com) and click on the "make donation" button or use the QR code.



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## *Calendar of Events*

### **August**

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

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

August 16 – Car, Truck & Tractor Show @ 3:00 p.m. – Main Street

August 25 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### **September**

September 1 – Town offices closed

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

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

September 22 – 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)



# 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 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.
- 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.

Pet owners please clean-up after your pets. And do not leave your animals waste for others to step in and/or potentially 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 throughout town for your convenience. Before you head out on a walk make sure you are prepared and have a bag with you.

When using the waste stations please only utilize the number of bags needed at that time. Please be courteous and do not help yourself to extra bags. We go through a record number of bags but there are still large amounts of animal waste throughout the community. If you witness someone not cleaning up after their pet, please report this to the town's police department. (540) 868-0535



### **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)