



Town of Middletown ♦ 7875 Church Street ♦ Middletown, VA ♦ (540) 869-2226 ♦ Volume 16, Issue 6 ♦ November 15, 2025

From the Mayor

Charles Harbaugh, IV

We start the month of November by being incredibly thankful that Chief Benedict has returned to work and is in good spirits and health. We thank the community for their outpouring of support and prayers for him and our wonderful police department.

I am also pleased to share that the Town of Middletown was once again awarded a **\$6,500 Virginia Trees and Clean Water Grant**—our second consecutive year receiving this important support. These funds will help revitalize Main Street and our town parks by allowing us to plant new trees that enhance both the beauty and environmental health of our community.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to **District Forester Matt Wolanski**, whose guidance and expertise were instrumental in this effort. Recognizing Middletown's need for a stronger tree canopy, Matt helped us select native tree species best suited for our local environment. These trees will provide much-needed shade, natural cooling, and habitat for wildlife—benefits that will be felt for generations to come. In mid-October, our staff and 13 dedicated volunteers proudly planted **24 new trees**, creating a greener, more vibrant future for Middletown.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, I invite everyone to join us for some of our community's most cherished traditions. Our **13th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** will take place on **Black Friday, November 28 at 4:45 p.m.** Enjoy free food and drinks, a cozy bonfire, live music by **Jimmy Lee**, and a special performance by **Selah Theatre Project, Inc.** Plus, a surprise guest will help us light the town tree!

The celebration continues with our **Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m.**, generously sponsored by **Modern Renovations**. Our parade committee has worked hard to make this year's event extra special—with new decorations and festive upgrades you will not want to miss. Finally, ring in the new year with **First Night Middletown on December 31**, a family-friendly celebration presented in partnership with the **Winchester & Middletown Model Railroad Club** and proudly sponsored by **FNB Bank**.

Thank you for your continued support and community spirit. 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 October 15, 2025 and are due on December 5, 2025. 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.middlestownva.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

We would like to thank everyone that came out in support of our Veterans at this year's veteran's day ceremony. The blistery cold weather did not deter many from attending and were so grateful. If you were unable to attend, please check the town's Facebook page for the live stream.

Save the date for our next ceremony, Memorial Day, Monday May 25, 2026, 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.middlestownva.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 cardboard 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 pick up 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 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 8, 2025.

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.

WINTERIZING YOUR HOME



HEATING

- Test all systems
- Clean any debris around units
- Change filters
- Reverse ceiling fans
- Program thermostat to regulate temperatures when you're not home



FIREPLACE

- Clean and check dampers
- Stock up on firewood
- Inspect your chimney cap
- Ensure you have a fire extinguisher nearby



INSULATION

- Look for drafts
- Apply caulk/weather stripping
- Remove and store AC units
- Close vents in unused rooms
- Seal off crawl space



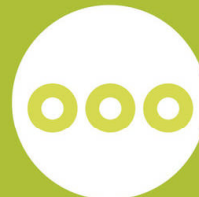
PLUMBING

- Winterize sprinkler systems
- Turn off outdoor spigots
- Detach and drain hoses
- Insulate pipes and faucets
- Turn down your water heater



EXTERIOR

- Winterize and store lawn equipment, outdoor furniture, and grills
- Prepare ice melt, sand, snow shovels, and car scrapers
- Inspect roof for damage
- Clean out gutters



OTHER

- Test and replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Bring plants and delicate trees indoors
- Replace old fire extinguishers

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

Calling all kids: come to the fire station on November 29, 9-11 a.m., for Donuts with Santa!! Donuts, muffins, juice, etc. will be available as you spend the morning with Mr. Claus himself. There will be crafts as well.

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!

Young ladies living in our first due fire response area that are interested in representing our Company as our Honorary Fire Chief: be on the look-out for the posting of the application coming soon. Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 21, never married and live in our first due fire area. The young lady chosen will participate in the Miss In-Town Contest in March and ride in Apple Blossom and other area parades.

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.



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



Calendar of Events

November 2025

November 24 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

November 26 – Town offices closing 1:00 p.m.

November 27 & 28 – Town offices closed

November 28 – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 4:45 p.m.

December 2025

December 1 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

December 7 – Christmas Parade 2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

December 24 – Town offices closing at 1:00 p.m.

December 25 & 26 – Town offices closed

January 2025

January 1 – Town offices closed

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

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



Happy Holidays Middletown