

Town of Middletown♦7875 Church Street♦Middletown, VA♦(540) 869-2226♦Volume 17, Issue 6♦ November 16, 2026

From the Mayor

Charles Harbaugh, IV

The Town of Middletown has much to celebrate as we head into the holiday season, and we would like to begin by extending our heartfelt congratulations to Vice Mayor **Jeffrey Pennington**, **Jacob Skeith**, and **Diane Newman-Shannon** on their reelection to four-year terms on the Town Council. We thank each of them for their continued commitment, leadership, and dedication to serving the residents of Middletown. Their willingness to serve our community helps ensure a bright future for our town, and we look forward to working together in the years ahead.

Earlier this month, the Town proudly hosted another successful **Veterans Memorial Ceremony** at the Middletown Veterans Memorial. The ceremony brought together veterans, families, residents, and community leaders to honor the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our nation. We would like to offer a special thank you to former Mayor **Raymond D. Steele**, whose passion, energy, and unwavering love for both the memorial and this annual ceremony continue to inspire our community. His dedication has helped make the Veterans Memorial a place of remembrance and pride for Middletown, and we are grateful for his many years of service and stewardship.

As the holiday season approaches, we invite everyone to join us for our annual **Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration** on **Friday, November 27 at 4:45 p.m.** This festive community gathering will feature free food, music, games, and a bonfire as we officially welcome the Christmas season in Middletown. We extend our sincere appreciation to the many local businesses helping make this event possible. Food will be provided by **Shaffer's BBQ**, **Italian Touch**, and **Liberty Gas Station**, while coffee and beverages will be provided by **Daily Buzz**. Holiday snacks will be generously donated by **Wawa** and **Sheetz**. We also thank **FNB Bank** for sponsoring this beloved community event. We encourage residents of all ages to come out and celebrate with friends, neighbors, and family as we light the town Christmas tree.

The holiday festivities continue with Middletown's annual **Christmas Parade** on **Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m.** The parade is one of our most anticipated traditions and showcases the spirit, pride, and community involvement that make Middletown such a special place to call home. We are grateful to **Modern Renovations** for serving as the parade sponsor and helping make this event possible. Residents are encouraged to line Main Street, support our participants, and enjoy an afternoon of holiday cheer. We are especially thankful and appreciative of the Christmas Parade Committee for all of their hard work and parade planning.

On behalf of the Town Council and staff, thank you for your continued support of our community events and initiatives. We hope you and your family enjoy a safe, happy, and memorable holiday season here in the Town of Middletown. We look forward to celebrating with you in the weeks ahead.

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 voicemail 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 last month and are due on **December 7, 2026**. 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

Reminder citizens, when calling the town office if you receive voicemail, please leave a detailed message. Town staff works diligently to answer and return all calls within 24 hours.

The Town of Middletown offers online payments for your convenience. You will need your account number to get started. Please go to www.middletownva.gov 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. If you have questions, please contact the town office.

You may also pay your water & sewer bill over the phone, which is available 24/7 by calling (855)844-0226.

Homeowners, please remember if you're having contracted work done at your home, please make sure the business has a Town of Middletown business license.

Soliciting business door to door in town requires 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, please contact the town office before the account is past due.

Middletown Veterans Memorial

After ten years of dedicated service as Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee, Raymond D. Steele is retiring from his leadership role, leaving behind a legacy of commitment, integrity, respect, and community pride.

For the past decade, Ray has devoted his time, energy, and leadership in ensuring that the men and women who have served our country are remembered and honored. His work has helped preserve the significance of our Veterans Memorial and provided our community with meaningful opportunities to recognize the sacrifices made by those who have worn our nation's uniform.

Serving in this role requires more than most think. It takes dedication, a deep sense of responsibility, and a genuine appreciation for the men and women who have served our country. Ray has demonstrated those qualities throughout his service.

On behalf of the town, we extend our sincerest gratitude for Ray's years of leadership and unwavering commitment to not only the veterans' memorial but the town as well. His contributions have made a lasting difference, and the appreciation we have for his efforts will continue long after his retirement.

Thank you, Ray, for ten years of service, dedication, and devotion to honoring our veterans. Your work has helped ensure that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

We would like to thank everyone that came out in support of this year's 10th anniversary celebration on veterans' day. It is hard to believe it has been 10 years. We had beautiful weather and a great turnout. Thank you to all of those who came out and supported our veterans and most importantly all of Ray's efforts to ensure our veterans never go unrecognized for their service and sacrifice.

Save the date for our next ceremony, Memorial Day, Monday May 31, 2027, 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 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

If ever 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 is no longer accessible to 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 pickup 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 7, 2026.

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 tempertures when youre 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



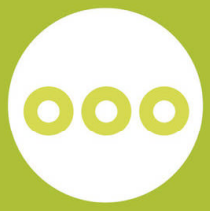
PLUMBING

- 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 on the second Thursday of every month. 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 28, 2026, from 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.

Applications for the 2027 Miss Middletown Honorary Fire Chief are now open until Monday, December 28. Apply at https://forms.gle/LjWG9eBkzi9Em15z5.
All applicants must meet the following qualifications: (Per Shenandoah Apple Blossom Headquarters)
- Be a resident of Middletown Volunteer Fire & Rescue first due response area
- Female whose age is not less than 16 or more than 21 years on May 1, 2027
- Single and never been married nor had her marriage annulled
- Must not be pregnant, nor have any children

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.

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.

Calendar of Events

November 2026
November 23 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.
November 25 – Town offices closing 1:00 p.m.
November 26 & 27 – Town offices closed
November 27 – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 4:45 p.m.

December 2026
December 6 – Christmas Parade 2:00 p.m.
December 7 – **TOWN TAX BILLS DUE**
December 7 – Last Day of Yard Waste Pickup
December 7 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 14 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
December 16 – Mayor Harbaugh's **BIRTHDAY!**
December 24 & 25 – Town offices closed
December 28 – Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 2027
January 1 – Town offices closed
January 4 – Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 11 – Town Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS MIDDLETOWN