



# Middletown Quarterly Update

January 2015

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BURGESS

I hope you have had a very happy holiday season. As we look back on 2014 there was much to appreciate about life in Middletown. We are very excited about 2015 and all that we hope to accomplish.

Some of you may have heard I have been recovering from optic neuritis. This caused me to lose my vision during Thanksgiving week. I am recovering some of that vision now but it is a slow process, possibly taking up to 6 months. There is not a diagnosed cause and we are still searching for answers. But, the recovery of sight is moving in the right direction. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and well-wishes. I greatly appreciate the support I have received.

This coming year will see a lot of projects going on in Town. We are going to begin the reconstruction of West Green Street, we are putting a solar array in Rensberg Park that will pay for the cost of operating our wastewater treatment facilities, we will begin construction of a new dog park at Wiles Branch Park and are upgrading well 15.

Also happening this year should be the construction of a new CVS in a new commercial development at the corner of Middletown Parkway and Main Street, a 81 unit housing development on Green Street will start this year with the first 20 units possibly being constructed later in 2015, and hopefully some new businesses and restaurants will be coming to Town.

We continue to work hard to maintain the strong sense of community that we have and at the same time welcoming our newest residents and neighbors. To that end we have many events and gatherings that promote our coming together as one community. The Heritage Festival in downtown, Christmas in the Valley, the Scarecrows in October, the Movie Nights, the Halloween Parade and the Ice Cream Social on Memorial Day to name a few. Our designation as a Main Street Maryland town has been a great asset to our community in enhancing these social events as well as providing their own events like last summer's celebration of our 150th Anniversary of the Ransom of Middletown by Confederate General Jubal Early! We continue to plan events for you and our businesses and our community. I invite you to take time to participate in these events.

We have had several new businesses open in Middletown. I would hope that you would take time to visit downtown and the other commercial areas to see what we offer before you head over the mountain to shop. We live in a special place—enjoy it!

I will see you out and about. Please feel free to let me know how we are doing. We value your input in helping us do a good job for you.

## Town News and Information

### Water and Sewer Billing Information

**Glenbrook Residents**—the pilot program (monthly billing) ended December 31, 2014. You will be switching back to Quarterly Billing and receive your first Quarterly bill April 2015.

### Payment Options for Water & Sewer Bills

The Town accepts the following methods of payment:

- \* Online banking (via your own checking account)
- \* Credit cards (excluding American Express)
- \* Checks
- \* Cash
- \* You can also pay your bills at BB&T(Middletown Location only) and Middletown Valley Bank

We do not offer automatic payment withdrawals at this time. It is an option we are exploring further.

### Yard Waste/Christmas Trees

Key Sanitation will resume yard waste pick-up on Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

Key Sanitation will collect Christmas Trees in the Town of Middletown on **Tuesday, December 30th, 2014 and January 13th, 2015**. You may also drop your Christmas trees at the Middletown Park beside the Maintenance Shop, 7628 Coblenz Road from December 26, 2014—January 26, 2015.

### Parks

The Town starts taking reservations for the use of the Memorial Park on January 15, 2015. You may call or come in person to reserve the park. **FEES for 2015—\$40 for residents and \$50 for non-residents**. You must pay at the time of making the reservation.

### Bulk Trash Pick-up

The Burgess and Commissioners will hold a Bulk Trash Pick-up day on **Saturday, March 21, 2015**. You may put out 2 items to be picked up. You do not have to register your 2 items with the Town. Just put them out before **6AM on Saturday, March 21** and Key Sanitation will pick them up. There will be two different trucks in town; one will pick up Metal only and the other will pick up all other items. Please be patient.

For a complete list of accepted and un-accepted items visit our website at [www.middletown.md.us](http://www.middletown.md.us).

### Alert Frederick County

If you wish to receive notifications from the Town please sign up at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT)



### Monthly Public Town Meetings

#### Town Workshop

First Thursday, 7:00 PM

#### Town Meetings

Second Monday, 7:00 PM

Fourth Monday, 7:00 PM

#### Planning & Zoning

Third Monday, 7:00 PM

#### Board of Appeals

As needed

### Elected Officials

#### Burgess

John Miller

#### Commissioners

Larry Bussard

Rick Dietrick

Jennifer Falcinelli

Chris Goodman

Anthony Ventre

### Trash Pick Up

Tuesday:

Yard Waste (April-Dec.)

Wednesday:

Trash pick-up and recycling (bi-weekly)

#### Middletown Municipal Center

31 W. Main Street

301.371.6171

#### Town Administrator

Andrew J. Bowen

#### Emergency

301-293-3818

We're on the web

[www.middletown.md.us](http://www.middletown.md.us)



## Zoning Certificates...

Zoning certificates are required before excavating for or constructing any building, including accessory buildings, signs and fences, or before moving, altering, or changing the use of any land or buildings. Work can begin only after the Zoning Administrator has approved and issued a zoning certificate for the work. When applying for a zoning certificate, the applicant should include a plat of the property and other information necessary to facilitate the timely processing of the zoning certificate. Additionally, a building permit must be applied for in most cases through the Frederick County Permits Department (except for fences and sheds under 150 sq. ft.). Approved zoning certificates/permits expire 2 years after being issued. However, the Board of Appeals may grant a one-year extension of the zoning certificate after the two-year limitation expires. There is a fee paid to the Town before zoning certificates are issued. Questions on zoning certificates should be addressed to the Zoning Administrator at 301.371.6171, ext. 20.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!**

## Information continued.....

### Snow Removal

It's winter time again and the Burgess and Commissioners would like to remind our residents about our snow removal ordinance. Ordinance 8.08.020 Section B titled **Un-removed Snow or Ice** states the following: **A hazardous condition resulting from an accumulation of snow or ice upon any sidewalk within the town. The owners and occupants of properties abutting a sidewalk shall remove or cause the removal of snow and ice for the entire length of any sidewalk abutting upon their property within a reasonable time after the end of a snowfall.** The Burgess and Commissioners deem a reasonable time of 24 hours after the end of a snowfall. Municipal infractions carry a fine of up to \$1,000.

**Please do not blow/shovel snow into the street.** Our maintenance staff work long hours clearing the Town streets and blowing/shoveling the snow into the street becomes a driving hazard. If it is necessary to clear your driveway prior to the street being plowed the following suggestions may help eliminate snow being plowed back into your driveway by Town equipment:

1. Clear only your driveway; keep the driveway apron un-cleared until your street has been cleared and the snow has stopped. Then shovel/blow the snow from the apron area into the lawn area.
2. If you must clear the driveway apron before the snow has stopped then shovel/blow the snow into your yard, this will help replenish the water table.
3. Please remove all basketball hoops and other play items from the street or curbside.
4. Also please **DO NOT SET** your TRASH RECEPTACLES in the gutter line during or prior to an expected snowfall.

The Burgess and Commissioners are asking the residents who live on a cul-de-sac **NOT to PARK** on the cul-de-sac when snow is in the forecast. It is very difficult for our maintenance staff to plow the cul-de-sac properly when cars are parked on it.

We are not responsible for mailbox damage unless we hit it with a plow. Heavy snow thrown from plows will break mailboxes and rotted posts. You are responsible for these repairs.