



Middletown Quarterly Update

April 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE BURGESS

It is budget time for us in Middletown and I would like to share some facts and figures with you about this coming fiscal year 2017 budget that begins on July 1, 2016. Our tax rate will remain the same as it has for over 20 years at 23.2 cents. Our General Operating Fund (property tax revenues) is projected at just under \$3 million. We are projecting a \$285,000 surplus at the end of the fiscal year 2017.

On the Water & Sewer side (our enterprise fund paid for by user fees: not a tax) we are budgeting a \$23,000 surplus. I have not proposed an increase in water bill fees in this budget but this could change as the Commissioners have yet to vote on this proposal. There are really only 2 ways to fund the Water & Sewer budget: 1) increase fees to generate a greater surplus or 2) allow controlled growth to the Town. We have been raising fees and, frankly, this is not getting us to where we need to be with our water & sewer infrastructure needs. The tap fees and improvement fees on the 81 homes being built on E. Green Street (by the school complex) are helping to fund many of our capital projects. Also, we have and will continue to have a capital improvement fee on each home. This year the capital improvement fee will be increased to \$41.75. Some of you (the homes built after April 1999) have the debt service fee of \$50.00. Our goal is by 2020 to have every home pay the same \$50.00 fee which will convert to a capital improvement fee for all homeowners.

More budget information can be found on our newly designed website. Also, enjoy the spring and come to our first Green Expo on April 23, 2016 at the Memorial Park.

Town News and Information

Streetscape & West Green Street Improvement

There will be a lot going on in Middletown over the next year. Two major construction projects have been approved by the Town Board.

- * West Green Street Improvement—This project will provide curb, gutter, and sidewalk along West Green Street from the Asian Café to the Amvet's Post #9. Included in the project will be new storm drain and natural gas service. This project will take approximately 9-12 months and will begin in May 2016.
- * Streetscape—This is a major project by the State Highway Administration and will include a new waterline on Main Street, new storm drain, curb, gutter, sidewalk, landscaping, intersection treatments, new paving, and new lighting in the downtown. This project will start at the Safeway shopping center and go all the way to the west end of Town at Ivy Hill Drive. This project is slated to take 24 months and will begin in July 2016.

These projects total over \$7.2 million dollars in expenses to the Town to provide improvements to water services, vehicular and pedestrian safety. Please visit the Town's website at www.middletown.md.us for more information.

Yard Waste

Key Sanitation will resume yard waste pick-up on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. Biodegradable bags are now available at the Municipal Center during normal business hours or on any meeting night.

GO Green.....Rain Barrels for Sale

Middletown, through a partnership with the Scott Key Center, is selling Rain Barrels to town residents for half price at \$40. Rain Barrels can be purchased at the Municipal Center from April 1—April 29, 2016 (cash or check). They are sold on a first come, first serve basis. There are 25 barrels available with a limit of two per household and you must be a town resident.

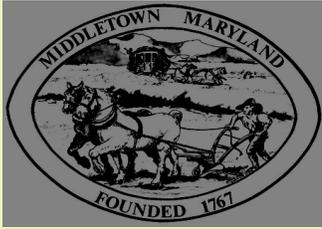
Rain Barrels can be picked up at the Middletown Municipal Center on Thursday, May 5th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Please bring your receipt to pick-up your barrel. For more information about Rain Barrels see the enclosed flyer.

Grass Watering

Ordinance # 06-04-01 prohibits the watering of lawns or grassy areas of any property between the hours of 9:00am.—6:00pm. Violators will receive one (1) written warning and each subsequent offense will constitute a municipal infraction punishable by a fine of \$100.00 and disconnection of water service. To view the entire ordinance please visit our website at www.middletown.md.us.

Overgrown Trees

Just a reminder to all residents to keep your tree limbs and shrubs cut back so that they do not extend over any sidewalk. Per Ordinance 12.08.040 it is unlawful to have trees extend over any sidewalk of the Town at a height less than ten (10) feet from the ground or over any street or alley at a height of less than fifteen (15) feet.



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

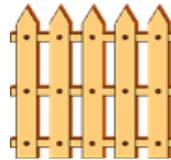
301-293-3818

We're on the web
www.middletown.md.us



When Permits are required (and not required) in Town...

Town residents are reminded that they are required to apply for a zoning certificate **prior to making improvements to their property** that require a building permit thru the County. Approved zoning certificates are **also** required for fences and small sheds which do not require a County building permit. Examples of improvements that require building permits include, but are not limited to: additions, garages and pole buildings, sheds, gazebos, carports, pavilions, decks, covered porches, screened porches, pergolas, swimming pools, hot tubs, demolitions, propane tanks, retaining walls, signs, and interior improvements such as finishing a basement. Permits are also required for non-residential (commercial) uses including change of use, change of tenant, demolition, internal or external improvements and new commercial uses. A zoning certificate is **not** required if a resident is replacing an existing fence with a similar one or replacing the decking on an existing deck. If there are any questions as to whether a zoning certificate is required, please call the Town to inquire. Thanks!



YARD SALE REGULATIONS

Town residents are also reminded of the Town's yard sale regulations. According to the Middletown Municipal Code, yard sales shall be limited to no more than three (3) events a year with a duration of no more than three (3) consecutive days each. Items sold at yard sales shall be limited to those items normally found at a residential premises and shall not include heavy commercial, industrial or agricultural equipment.

Upcoming Events.....

Memorial Day Fun at the Park, Saturday, May 28th from 11:00am.-2:00pm. Enjoy free ice cream. Deck out your bikes, scooters and skateboards and participate in our kid's parade. Sign a large card and donate travel-sized toiletries to send to our troops overseas. American flags, food, fun activities, clown and more!!

Family Movie Nights in the Middletown Park, Friday, June 17th, Friday, July 15th, and Friday, August 19th. Movie TBD (check www.middletown.md.us for update). Event starts at 7:00pm with movie starting at dark. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs for the whole family to watch on Middletown's giant blowup movie screen. A variety of foods and snacks will be sold by local vendors.

Independence Day Celebration, Saturday, July 2nd, at the Middletown Community Park. Festivities begin at 12pm. There will be food, crafts & specialty vendors, live music, demonstrations, children's activities including: face painting, pony rides, moon bounce and magician. Fireworks begin at 9:30pm.

Frederick Co. Sheriff's Office JR Deputy Academy, June 27th —This event is for kids ages 5-11 and is free. It takes place at the Middletown Community Park from 9am.—1pm. Registration is required and online registration begins May 1, 2016. Please visit our website www.middletown.md.us under Middletown Events for the link to register or register online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/jda.