



Middletown Quarterly Update

January 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE BURGESS

I hope that all of you had a safe and a very happy holiday season.

2012 promises to be a busy year in our town. Economic revitalization of our downtown continues and there are more prospects for businesses and residential development within the town.

We have had some good news recently from the Co. Commissioners. The tax rate on the county level may be lowered and they have recently committed an additional \$2 million to municipalities in the form of tax equity payments—payment for duplicate services that the county provides and so does Middletown. We do not know exactly what this will mean for Middletown in a dollar amount but it will be an increase over the last 2 fiscal budgeted years and the funds will be a great addition to our budget.

We have 2 proposed projects that are up for a vote by the Town Board in the next coming months. One is the reconstruction of the bridge on Walnut St. by Gladhill Furniture. This is a necessity and I am almost certain it will be accomplished. Secondly is the continuation of the W. Green St. project from Rt. 17 to North Pointe. This will provide curb, sidewalk and a slightly wider street. I feel that this is a worthwhile project as well. The issue with both of these projects is the cost. The bridge is estimated to cost about \$800,000 and the W. Green St. improvements about \$1,215,000. We are actually in a financial position to possibly pay for the bridge in cash. This will force us to have to finance the W. Green St. project. I would be interested in your thoughts on these projects.

Enjoy the rest of the winter and please continue to support Middletown businesses and Town events.

Burgess Miller

Town News and Information

2012 Election

The 2012 election is just around the corner on **April 2, 2012**. This year we have two (2) commissioner seats and the burgess seat up for election. If you are interested in running for a seat, the Nominating Convention will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7:00pm. at the Municipal Center. Anyone wishing to run must be at least 21 years of age, reside within the corporate limits for at least one year immediately preceding their election, and be a qualified voter of Middletown.

Voter Registration

If you wish to vote in the 2012 Municipal Election you must be registered by Tuesday, March 13, 2012. You may pick-up the Maryland Voter Registration Application at the Municipal Center if you need to register. If you are already registered to vote in the General Election you do not need to register unless you just recently moved to Middletown. If you moved from another city/town in Maryland you must inform the Frederick County Election Board of your new address. You can reach the Frederick County Election Board at 301.600.8683.

Election Judges Needed

We are looking for Election Judges for the upcoming Election on Monday, April 2, 2012. If you are interested in serving as an Election judge please contact Ann Barkdoll at abarkdoll@ci.middletown.md.us or 301.371.6171 ext. 10.

Yard Waste/Christmas Trees

Key Sanitation will resume yard waste pick-up on Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

Key Sanitation will collect Christmas Trees in the Town of Middletown on **Tuesday, January 10th and January 17th, 2012**. You may also drop your Christmas trees at the Middletown Park beside the Maintenance Shop, 7628 Coblenz Road from December 26, 2011—January 25, 2012.

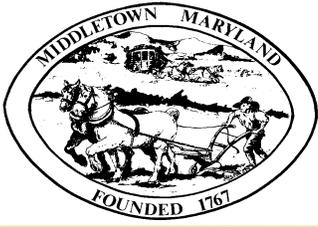
Parks

The Town starts taking reservations for the use of the Memorial Park on January 16, 2012. You may call or come in person to reserve the park. **FEES for 2012—\$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 24, 2012**. 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 24** 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.



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

Vince O'Reilly

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



Temporary Sign Regulations in Middletown...

As a new year is upon us, we felt that it might be a good idea to remind residents of the regulations concerning temporary signs. Temporary commercial advertising signs are **not permitted** anywhere in the Town of Middletown except for the following: real estate signs, signs advertising open houses or other real estate events, seasonal produce stand signs, construction signs, contractor/artisan job site signs, and non-profit signs advertising events, activities, recruiting or fundraising efforts by community service groups, religious groups, youth organizations or student organizations. Please keep in mind though that there are size and time limitations to those types of temporary signs. Permits are needed for temporary residential subdivision signs, special event signs noting an event of general interest, and temporary business identification signs. Town residents and businesses are required to apply for a zoning certificate **prior** to erecting signs on their property unless a permit is not required. If there is any question as to whether a zoning certificate is required, please call the Town to inquire. No signs shall be mounted on any type of utility pole or pole used to display or support traffic control signs or devices. The sign ordinance is available for viewing on the town's website.

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 RECEPTICLES in the gutter line during or prior to an expected snowfall.

The Town prefers to make these suggestions and have residents use common sense rather than create a municipal ordinance with fines to address the few who deposit snow in the Town Streets.

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.