



Middletown Quarterly Update

July 2014

Message from the Burgess

I don't know about you but I am glad to see the arrival of summer. It is always an eventful time in Middletown and for our families and friends.

Some of you have noticed the preparatory work and preliminary engineering being done on Main Street. This is the State Highway Administration getting ready for our long-awaited streetscape project. This will bring about new storm drains, and new road surface, improved sidewalks and pedestrian bridges and we will add in new light poles and street signs. Also, we are going to coordinate with SHA so that we install a new water line to replace the over 100 year old system that is there now. We expect this project to begin in earnest in 2016.

Since I was elected Burgess in 2004 we have worked very hard to maintain the strong sense of community that we have here while at the same time welcoming our newest residents and neighbors. To that end we have created 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, Ice Cream Social on Memorial Day to name a few. Our being accepted 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 Taste of the Town. This July we will add another event celebrating our town and its heritage by celebrating our 150th Anniversary of the Ransom of Middletown by Confederate General Jubal Early! Main Street has a great week of events for you to enjoy beginning July 7. This includes the viewing of the original ransom note! There are flyers, websites and facebook pages filled with the events and schedule for that week. Check it out and learn how historic your town is!

As is witnessed by our many ribbon cuttings found in the pages of the Citizen, 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 hope to welcome our newest business-More Ice Cream-by the time you are reading this. Welcome and enjoy the hometown feel of that ice cream shop.

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

Town News and Information

Credit Card Payments NOW accepted for Water & Sewer Payments

The Town of Middletown is now able to accept credit card payments for Water & Sewer Bills only. Please visit our website at www.middletown.md.us and click on the credit card link for a secure access to process your credit card payment. **There is a 3% convenience fee for all transactions that you will need to pay to use this service.** You will also need your account information to process the charge. If you have any questions, please visit the Town's website or contact the Town Office at 301.371.6171.

Consumer Confidence Report

Each year the Town of Middletown is required to submit to the MD Dept of the Environment our annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you as residents about the quality of our water and services.

If you would like to view our annual drinking water quality report for 2013, please visit our website at www.middletown.md.us.

Grass Watering Reminder

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.

New Code regulations in Middletown

Development review fees – Chapter 17.52 of the Town Code was revised and updated to reflect a change in the fees charged for services including the issuance of a zoning certificate, review of land use and subdivision plats and plans, and administrative procedures to include appeals to the Board of Appeals, requests for text amendments, and applications for annexations. The updated fee schedule can be found on the town website.

Temporary Sandwich board signs – Chapter 17.36 of the Town Code was revised pertaining to the definition of Sandwich board/A-Frame signs, and the regulations in conjunction with those types of signs. Again, the revised regulations can be found on the town website.

Adult Uses proposed text amendment – Due to the fact that the Burgess & Commissioners are concerned with the potential adverse secondary effects of adult oriented businesses which may elect to locate in the Town, they are discussing a possible text amendment which would provide definitions for 'adult entertainment business' and 'adult entertainment activities' and would not permit such businesses within 1,500 feet of any school, park, child day care center, church or house of worship. Further discussions of the proposed text amendment will take place at future planning commission meetings and town board meetings.

2013 Annual Report – Also available for viewing on the town's website is the 2013 Annual Planning and Zoning Report which includes all activity performed by the Middletown Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, and Planning Staff for the 2013 calendar. Once approved, it will be sent to the Maryland Department of Planning as required by State Law.



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

Christopher Goodman

Anthony Ventre

Trash Pick Up

Tuesday:

Yard Waste (April-Dec.)

Wednesday:

Trash pick-up (weekly)

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



Zoning Information.....

Many violations of the municipal code occur because residents are not familiar with the town zoning ordinances. This paragraph identifies several common violations of the code that residents should be aware of and that have been noted by the Zoning Administrator. Did you know that; (1) under Section 17.32.060, Off-street parking requirements, that a person may not park a motor vehicle on grass, mulch, or any other surface that is not a gravel or paved area; (2) under Section 17.3 2.140, Recreational equipment, that parking or storage of such equipment is normally not permitted in the front yard area of any lot, and such equipment is not permitted to be parked or stored on public streets and right-of-ways. Any recreational equipment which is stored in the side or rear yards of residential properties shall be appropriately screened from adjoining properties and such screening shall be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Administrator in order to comply with the code. Recreational equipment means mobile apparatus specifically designed for recreational activities and includes utility trailers, travel trailers, pickup campers, motorized dwellings, tent trailers, boat trailers, houseboats or storage containers used for transporting recreational equipment. Questions on these and other zoning ordinances should be addressed to the Zoning Administrator at 301-371-6171.

Important dates and information....

150th Anniversary of the Civil War Ransom of Middletown—Main Street Middletown, The Central Maryland Heritage League, and the Middletown Valley Historical Society have planned events to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War Ransom in Middletown on July 12, 2014. The event is sponsored in part by the Middletown Valley Bank and the Town of Middletown. This is truly a community event! Come join us! For more information, please visit www.mainstreetmiddletown.org or contact Main Street Manager, Becky Reich at 301.371.6171, ext. 22 or email breich@ci.middletown.md.us.

Family Movie Night, Friday, August 22nd. Movie *Back to the Future* - starts at 7:00pm with movie starting at dark at the Middletown Park. 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.

30th Heritage Day Festival, Saturday, September 27th. Learn about historic Middletown, Maryland and its heritage. We celebrate our community and its past, present and future with a fun-filled day, which starts with a parade at 10am. After the parade, there will be vendors and many exhibits, reenactments, crafts & great entertainment. Come enjoy a day filled with music, fun and food. The event is held rain or shine. Please check www.middletownheritagefestival.com for complete details.

Sixth Annual "Scarecrow Contest".....start thinking about your ideas. The Middletown Arts & Activities Council will once again provide you with the scarecrow kits. Stay tuned for more information on when & where to pick-up your kits and when the Scarecrows will be displayed.

Bulk Trash Pick-up dates—October 25, 2014 and March 21, 2015. You make place 2 items out at the curb for pick-up. For a complete list, please visit our website at www.middletown.md.us.....**Mattresses & Box springs are no longer accepted.**