



Middletown Quarterly Update

January 2023

Message from the Burgess

I said this before and it bears repeating: If you have never seen or, been in a Hallmark Christmas movie then you missed your chance to experience what that is like if you did not attend this year's Christmas in the Valley. It was very merry, charming and filled with community spirit. Several people in attendance remarked that it was like being in a Hallmark Christmas movie. It sure was and what a great feeling! Thank you to Jennifer Falcinelli and her committee, volunteers, participating businesses, and Becky Axilbund and Main Street Middletown for putting on such a heart-warming event.

Main Street looked very festive! Our streetlights were decorated for the season and the downtown was brightened even more by a gorgeous Christmas tree. This year featured a stanza from a poem by renowned writer and native of Middletown, T.C. Harbaugh. The poem is appropriately titled *Christmas in the Valley!* It was on the side of the building next to the Christmas tree and gave a real feel for Christmas in the Valley.

At the end of another great year of living in Middletown I want to again share my feelings about our community. This is such a great place to live, to work and to have a business. This is a supportive, caring and engaged community. We promote or sponsor activities like Christmas in the Valley, Scarecrow Walk, Chalk Art in the Street, Memorial Day in the Park, Movie Nights, Fourth of July in Middletown and the Heritage Festival to celebrate and enhance our sense of community. Please get involved in our community, support our businesses, attend these events and you too will catch the spirit that many of us have found in our wonderful small town.

Happy New Year!

Town News and Information

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Planning Commission is continuing its review and development of the Comprehensive Plan which is a tool for the citizens, staff, and elected officials to use in determining how the Town of Middletown should grow over the next 20 years. We hope to have the final draft completed for public hearings within the next few months. If you are interested in this process or bringing ideas to the Town Board or Planning Commission, please plan to attend the workshops through the coming months.

New Developments in Middletown

The Middletown Planning Commission continues to review proposed developments in the Town. Copies of the plans associated with these developments are available for viewing on the town's website under Planning and Zoning at www.middletown.md.us or in the Town offices.

Middletown Library – construction began this fall on East Green Street of a new 15,250 square-foot library facility for the Town.

Memorial Hall Redevelopment– development of fifteen apartments and two retail spaces continues at 4 E. Main Street.

Foxfield Section 6 – review is continuing for a 148-unit active adult community to be located north of the Middletown County Park.

The Middletown Planning Commission meets on the third Monday of the month and the Wednesday preceding that Monday meeting in a workshop setting. Both meetings begin at 7:00pm. The commission members are Mark Carney (Chair), Bob Miller, Chris Mills, Sean Mahar, Alternate Eric Ware, Temporary Alternate Lori Summers, and town board liaison Jean LaPadula. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings.

Middletown Sustainability Committee News

Gift Tree Program – Honor a special person or event with a native tree to be planted in Middletown. Trees can be planted for the birth of a child, a wedding or anniversary, a recent graduation, and so much more! Your memorial gift will benefit the community for generations to come! Please see the town website for more information and the application.

Recycling Opportunities – Plan to take advantage of opportunities to recycle used textiles, metals, electronics, and paint cans (for a fee) during the Town's bulk trash days proceeding forward beginning with the next bulk trash day on Saturday, March 11, 2023.

Compost bins – Compost bins are available to purchase at Town Hall for a cost of \$40 per bin which is a huge savings compared to buying from a major retailer for more than twice that price. And if you don't have the space for a compost bin, please take advantage of free composting at the community bin located at Memorial Park.

Save the dates – The Green Expo will take place on Saturday, April 22nd at Memorial Park. Check out the calendar at www.greenmiddletown.com for information and dates for upcoming Green Talks at the Middletown Library, plus much more!



Monthly Public Town Meetings

Seasonal Updates

Town Workshop
First Thursday, 7:00 PM
Town Meetings
Second Monday, 7:00 PM
Fourth Monday, 7:00 PM
Planning Commission
Third Monday, 7:00 PM
Town Board & Planning Commission
Quarterly

Snow Removal
It's winter time again and the Burgess and Commissioners would like to remind our residents about our snow removal ordinance. Ordinance 12.04.020 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.

Elected Officials

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:

Burgess
John Miller

Commissioners
Rick Dietrick
Jennifer Falcinelli
Christopher Goodman
Jean LaPadula
Kevin Stottlemeyer

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.

Trash Pick Up

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.

Tuesday:
Yard Waste (April-Dec.)
Wednesday:
Trash pick-up (weekly)
Recycling (bi-weekly)

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.

Important dates and information....

Middletown Municipal Center

Parks
The Town begins taking reservations for the use of the Memorial Park and Wiles Branch Park large pavilions on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. **FEES for 2023: \$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents and \$25 for non-profit organizations.** Reservations are first come first served. You must pay at the time of making the reservation. Currently cash or check are the accepted forms of payment.

31 W. Main Street
301.371.6171
Fax: 301-371-6464

Yard Waste/Christmas Trees
Key Sanitation will resume yard waste pick-up on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Town Administrator
Andrew J. Bowen
office@ci.middletown.md.us

Key Sanitation will collect Christmas Trees in the Town of Middletown **Tuesday, January 3rd and Tuesday, January 10th, 2023.** They must be totally bare of decorations and set curbside. You may also drop your Christmas trees at the designated drop-off area at Remsburg Park from December 26, 2022 - January 22, 2023.

Emergency
301-293-3818

Bulk Trash Pick-Up
March 11, 2023 will be the next bulk trash pick-up. You may place two items out at the curb for pick-up. For a complete list, please visit our website at www.middletown.md.us. In the drop down under Town Government, click on Trash News and then Bulk Trash.