



Middlestown Quarterly Update

October 2020

Message from the Burgess

I hope that your summer was enjoyable and safe! This year and this summer have been difficult for all of us. COVID-19 has had a deadly effect on our society and is disruptive to our town and our way of life. Our normal fun-filled activities were put on hold for another year. This is what should happen as we are concerned, first and foremost, with the safety of our residents, event organizers and attendees. Thank you to the organizers and volunteers of these events for being so flexible and understanding! It is scarecrow time **which will go on** - a perfect event for social distancing! Check out our website for more info.

Main Street is finished!! Let me say that again, Main Street is finished! Our Streetscape project has been completed. State Highway is doing final inspections to see what needs to be repaired before the contractor leaves town.

Our next project is the “mini streetscape” of Washington Street from Church to Elm. Our staff is in charge of this project. New sidewalk, new curb and gutter and a re-paved street are the major improvements. We will also be adding street lights!

New businesses continue to find a home in Middlestown. Several reasons why this is happening. We have a supportive prosperous community. We have developer interest in Memorial Hall and the old fire house - stay tuned! It would be nice to see these buildings once again vibrant contributors to our downtown. Please continue to support our businesses any way you are able! They depend on you and in this current situation - they need you!

I look forward to a spectacular fall in Middlestown. We will get through this together!

Town News and Information

2020 Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is a tool for the citizens, staff and elected officials to use in determining how the Town of Middlestown should grow over the next 20 years. The years-long process of updating the Plan includes monthly meetings and workshops of the Planning Commission and countless staff hours in amending text and creating and revising maps to go with the text.

The process to update the Comprehensive Plan is designed to actively engage residents, business owners, elected officials and others. The public is **welcome and encouraged** to look at the previous plan chapters available for viewing on the town’s website. A survey is also available (on the town website under 2020 Comprehensive Plan) which should only take 5 minutes to complete, so please consider taking that as well. Discussions regarding the town’s growth boundaries will be taking place next spring during the town board and planning commission meetings. A Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan update should take place by early summer.

Please send any written comments or concerns about the comprehensive plan update to our staff planner, Cindy Unangst, at 31 W. Main Street, Middlestown, or to her e-mail address at cunangst@ci.middlestown.md.us.

Hydrant Flushing

Town fire hydrants will be flushed October 12 -16, 2020. Flushing will occur between the hours of 9am.-2pm. You may experience fluctuations in pressure and sediment in the water. Please plan ahead and limit water usage during this time. If you have not signed up for ALERT Frederick County please do so on the homepage of our website. This will notify you of when things like hydrant flushing or water line breaks occur.

Bulk Trash Pick-Up

October 10, 2020 will be the next bulk trash pick-up. You may place 2 items out at the curb for pick-up. For a complete list, please visit our website at www.middlestown.md.us. In the drop down under Town Government, click on Trash News and then Bulk Trash.

Middlestown Memorial Bench Program

Honor someone special by purchasing a memorial bench and have it placed along one of the Town’s walking trails (Your choice, if possible.). Each bench will be personalized with a plaque with the name of the person being honored. The cost is \$720.00. Please see the town website for more information and the application.

Middlestown Memorial Tree Program

Honor a special person or event with a native tree to be planted in Middlestown. 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.

The Town has received its first applications for both a memorial bench and a memorial tree in memory of Lewis Corl, who was instrumental in the development of Middlestown’s walking trails.



Middletown

Monthly Public Town Meetings

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

Elected Officials

Burgess
John Miller
Commissioners
Larry Bussard
Rick Dietrick
Jennifer Falcinelli
Christopher Goodman
Jean LaPadula

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
Fax: 301-371-6464

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

Emergency
301-293-3818



Middletown Speed Enforcement

The Municipal Center has received multiple complaints regarding vehicles speeding on town streets. This includes the main streets within town, side streets and those through residential neighborhoods.

Town officials have requested that our community deputies increase their presence within our community and issue tickets - not warnings - so that residents are aware that the Town is serious when it comes to speeding on our streets.

When driving please remember the following:

- Stay Alert - Pay attention to your actions, other drivers and your surroundings.
Slow Down - Be extra vigilant in those areas with neighborhood playgrounds, parks and school zones, as children may dart out between parked cars to cross the street.
Follow Traffic Signals - Pay close attention to and obey stop signs and traffic lights.
Come to a Complete Stop - At a stop sign or red light it is important to bring your vehicle to a complete stop, even if no other vehicles are coming.
Exercise Patience - Many accidents are caused by impatient drivers rushing to get from one destination to the next.

Please be safe and do not speed in Middletown.

Important dates and information....

COVID-19 and Town Events - With the COVID-19 crisis and imposed states of emergency in effect, the Town will determine whether or not events will be held as each date draws closer. Please continue to check the town website for the most up to date information on each town event.



Thirteenth Annual 'Scarecrow Contest' - Beginning September 21, 2020 go to the Middletown Arts and Activities Council Facebook page and sign up for your scarecrow kit. There are a limited number of kits available. You will not be able to walk in and sign up as in the past.

'March of Scarecrows' - Come check out the scarecrows as they are displayed along Main Street bright and early Saturday, October 17, 2020. Vote for your favorite scarecrows on-line October 17 & 18, 2020. Winners will be announced once the votes are tallied.



14th Series Collector's Ornament - In honor of the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company's 125th anniversary, this hand-crafted ornament depicts the second Fire Hall which was located in the Memorial Hall on East Main Street. This design was based upon the carnival program from 1937, highlighting the old Kissel engine that was kept in the east bay of Memorial Hall.