



# Middlestown Quarterly Update

January 2024

## Message from the Burgess

I said this last year and it bears repeating: If you have never seen or, for that matter, 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 a very merry and charming event filled with community spirit. Thank you to Jennifer Falcinelli and her committee, many volunteers and so many participating businesses, and to Becky Axilbund and Main Street Middlestown all working together to help put on such a heartwarming event. **We hope you all had a Merry Christmas.**

Main Street looked very festive! Our streetlights were decorated for the season and the downtown was brightened even more by our gorgeous Christmas tree.

At the end of another great year of living in Middlestown 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 community is supportive and caring and engaged. We promote or sponsor activities like Christmas in the Valley, Scarecrow Walk, Memorial Day Remembrance event, Movie Nights, Fourth of July in Middlestown and the Heritage Festival. These events are designed to celebrate and enhance our sense of community. Middlestown is growing but we are a caring community and we are still the BEST small town in Frederick County!

Please get involved in your 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

**Middlestown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade** – Middlestown owns and operates two wastewater treatment plants (WWTP): 1) The West WWTP is an aerated lagoon, built in 1976, located in a floodplain, and 2) the East WWTP is a Biological Aeration Chain (Biolac) activated sludge facility, built in 2000. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has informed the Town that the current wastewater treatment lagoon permit (West WWTP), scheduled for reapplication in 2025, will not satisfy the performance requirements of the next 5-year permit. To meet the MDE's waterway and Chesapeake Bay water quality permitting mandates, the Town's wastewater treatment facilities must be upgraded to achieve "enhanced nutrient removal" (ENR), at a cost of \$40 million.

MDE offers a considerable Bay Restoration Fund subsidy to small wastewater treatment facilities that must upgrade to ENR and the program will fund approximately \$30 million of the project. Middlestown's expenses are uniquely elevated, because the lagoon is located in a high-risk flood zone, and the obligatory decommissioning will necessitate the relocation of half the town's wastewater flows to the East WWTP. The East WWTP must subsequently and prematurely undergo an ENR upgrade and significant capacity increase in order to treat all the Town's wastewater. These circumstances have resulted in complex engineering, operational, and safety upgrades, and have exacerbated the already exorbitant cost of upgrades, leaving the Town potentially responsible for an unusually high cost share of \$10-12 million.

Town officials and staff have been actively pursuing additional funding sources to reduce the Town's cost share. This has included hiring a lobbyist, ongoing meetings with state and local officials, and applying for state and federal grants. The Burgess and Commissioners will keep you informed on any progress. Construction is projected to begin the summer of 2026.

**Miss Utility Charges:** Planning to dig? Whether you are planting a tree or using a contractor for a larger job Miss Utility must be called. Middlestown residents there is a change in fees for Miss Utility. Per the Town Code sec. 13.16.010, the Town will begin charging fees for the marking of town water and sewer lines. The cost is \$35 for the first request and \$15 for re-marking of the initial request should it be needed. Contractors and residents will be billed the month following their utility marking. Tracking of requests began Dec. 1, 2023 with invoices being mailed after Jan. 1, 2024

### 2024 Middlestown Election



The 2024 election is just around the corner on **April 1, 2024**. This year we have the Burgess and two (2) commissioner seats up for election. If you are interested in running for a seat, the Nominating Convention will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 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 Middlestown.

### Voter Registration

If you wish to vote in the 2024 Municipal Election you must be registered by Friday, March 15, 2024. If you are already registered to vote in the General Election you do not need to register unless you just recently moved to Middlestown. 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.





### 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

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

The Town begins taking reservations for the use of the Memorial Park and Wiles Branch Park large pavilions on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. **FEES for 2024: \$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.

**Town Administrator**  
 Paul D. Mantello  
 office@ci.middletown.md.us

Visit our website to purchase a memorial bench. A bench around our new pickleball courts would be a nice remembrance of a friend or loved one.

**Emergency**  
 301-293-3818

### Yard Waste/Christmas Trees

Key Sanitation will resume yard waste pick-up on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.  
 Key Sanitation will collect Christmas Trees in the Town of Middletown **Wednesday, January 3rd and Wednesday, January 10th, 2024.** 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, 2023 - January 25, 2024.

**Bulk Trash Pick-Up**  
 March 9, 2024 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](http://www.middletown.md.us). In the drop down under Town Government, click on Trash News and then Bulk Trash.