



# Middlestown Quarterly Update

October 2023

## Message from the Burgess

I hope that your summer was enjoyable and safe—it certainly was dry!! Events do so much to build a sense of community and belonging here. By the time you get this we will have celebrated another Heritage Festival—our great signature event. Soon it will be Scarecrow time. Come on down and do the Scarecrow Walk along Main Street. Mark December 2 for Christmas in the Valley and the lighting of the Town Christmas tree. Check out our website for more Town events and information on check out our new event page for Seniors.

Speaking of the dry conditions, this has been the driest summer since 2007. In that year we averaged 36 inches of rain—this year we are averaging 19 inches of rain. Our projection is to end the year still 4 inches lower than 2007. Which brings me to our drought public notification system—the colored drops that you see on the welcome pillars. We are currently in code yellow and trending, at this writing, to code red. Hopefully not. Pay attention to the colors and be a good citizen and follow the guidelines! For more detailed information on this system view it on our website.

There are several construction projects going on in town. We completed a mill and overlay of Cone Branch Drive and Court and constructed 6 new pickleball courts. Shentel is installing new glo fiber for internet service. Many residents have asked for an alternative to Comcast and this is our choice. It was vetted for almost 2 years by a special committee appointed by the Burgess and Commissioners. There are some construction issues but where Shentel has completed its work residents seem to be happy with the service given to them.

I am sure you are enjoying staying here to do business or dine out and not have to travel over the mountain. Please continue to support our businesses in any way you are able!

I look forward to a wonderful fall season in Middlestown and seeing you around our beautiful town!

## Town News and Information

### Bulk Trash Pick-Up

October 21, 2023 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](http://www.middlestown.md.us) In the drop down under Town Government, click on Trash News and then Bulk Trash.

### Middlestown's Recycle Paint, Textiles Metals & More Event

Also on Saturday, October 21st from 9am – 12pm, plan to bring your metals, textiles, batteries, electronics and old paint cans to the municipal parking lot behind the municipal building at 31 West Main Street. Helpsy will be collecting old clothes, etc., Bill Traub will be collecting metals of all kinds, and Yuck Old Paint will take your old paint cans for \$5/each (cash, credit, or check). Please see the Town's website, [www.middlestown.md.us](http://www.middlestown.md.us), for more information.

### Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

The Frederick County Dept. of Solid Waste Management will sponsor a Residential Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event on November 4, 2023 from 8am. until 12pm at 21 Stadium Drive, Frederick.21703 (upper parking lot of NYMEO Field/Keys baseball Stadium. Use the New Design Road entrance). Please visit their website at <https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/257179/HHWD-FLYER> for a list of the acceptable and not acceptable items.

### Hydrant Flushing

Town fire hydrants will be flushed October 16 - 20, 2023. 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.

### Middlestown Library Update

Amazing progress has been made at the construction site of the new Middlestown Library on Green Street. Are you ready to enjoy the amenities this new building will offer the community?

FCPL has embarked on an ambitious fundraising goal to raise \$100,000 to build an early literacy play and learning space in the children's area of the library. This space will include a custom playhouse that can be transformed from an ice cream shop, to a bank, a post office, or a greenhouse. Children are going to love it!

Local businesses and organizations are being asked for financial support, but individual donations are a key component of this fundraising effort. Please consider making a tax deductible "Early Literacy" donation to the Friends of the Middlestown Library, 101 Prospect Street, Middlestown, MD 21769. Donations can be made online by going to [fcpl.org/donation](http://fcpl.org/donation). Select "Early Literacy Campaign" and be sure to note "Middlestown Friends of the Library" under additional comments at the end of the form. It is just that easy!

Donors who make a gift to the campaign, in any amount, will be invited to a donor reception event and get a sneak peek of the library before it is open to the public.



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
Rick Dietrick
Jennifer Falcinelli
Christopher Goodman
Jean LaPadula
Kevin Stottlemeyer

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
Paul Mantello
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. Residents are reminded that there are posted speeds within town limits for a reason. Speed limits are carefully selected to maximize safety for drivers and for individuals in the homes, businesses and other organizations in the areas where the streets are located.

- 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.

Important dates and information....

Sixteenth Annual "Scarecrow Contest" - Beginning September 25, 2023, the Middletown Arts & Activities Council will once again have scarecrow kits available during regular business hours (8am.-4pm.) at the Municipal Center. Kits are available first come, first served. Completed scarecrows are due back at the Municipal Center by October 13, 2023 and will be on display along Main Street from October 14th - 31st, 2023.



"March of Scarecrows"- Come in and vote for your favorite scarecrow on October 14, 2023 from 2-5pm, at the Middletown Municipal Center. Snacks and beverages will be available.

Halloween Parade - Dress in costume and march down Main Street in Middletown's annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28th at 5:00 PM. Costume judging will be held at the School complex promptly at 4:30 PM before the parade. Candy and light refreshments will be handed out after the parade behind the municipal center. Come enjoy the fun!

Christmas in the Valley - We invite you to join us in celebrating the holiday season at Middletown's annual Christmas in the Valley on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Festivities include caroling, the lighting of the Town Christmas tree, a visit from Santa Claus with treats for the kids and then Christmas music at Zion Lutheran Church. After the show join us for punch and Christmas cookies in the church social hall.



17th Series Collector's Ornament - The 2023 Christmas in the Valley ornament depicts Cone Branch Pocket Park, one of four beautiful small parks in town. This park located at the corner of Main Street and Cone Branch Drive serves as a gateway to the downtown area of Middletown. This park has lovely annual and perennial flowers, varied tree species, and bricked pathways leading to the gazebo. Inside the gazebo is a bricked "M" for Middletown and the outside is always festively lit for the holidays. This ornament, and others in the series, can be purchased during business hours at the Town Hall. The cost is \$30 and includes a stand and gift box. All proceeds fund the Christmas in the Valley Event on December 2, 2023.