



City of Middletown Newsletter

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Mayor's Office

Welcome to our third edition of our City Newsletter. With the Holidays approaching, Main Street comes alive with all the festivities that will be taking place. The Holiday music, tree lighting ceremony and the weekly Saturday events bring a joyous ambiance to our beautiful Main Street. The first event, the tree lighting, will take place on the South Green on November 23rd beginning at 4:00. Then each consecutive Saturday there will be various activities for all family members. The close of our Holiday Season will end with our successful Midnight on Main. The City will also offer free parking, each Saturday, at all downtown city meters and lots from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. I encourage all our Citizens to take advantage of what Middletown has to offer for the Holiday Season and wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Arts & Culture

It's not too early to begin your planning for the January grant application deadline, in particular for those applying under the MCA Category 1 General Operating Support or Pro-

ject Support sectors. All necessary guidelines and forms have been uploaded to the City website and can be accessed directly through cityofmiddletown.com or arts2go.org (under resources/grants); any questions - call the Arts Office. Black Friday, the heavy shopping day after Thanksgiving, kicks off Holi-



day on Main Street with a full early evening of activities along Main St. including tree lighting ceremonies, the announcement of the One Book, One Middletown selection for 2013 by the Mayor, a parade on Main St., Holiday Arts Walk along Main St. north of Washington St., hayrides, horse & carriage rides and fun! Then, for the next 4 Saturdays, there are special activities downtown to celebrate the holiday season. Check out the complete schedule at the Chamber of Commerce's

website: www.middlesexchamber.com. Also, Black Friday marks the beginning of the 57th Annual Wesleyan Potters Holiday Sale and Exhibit. This annual event will run through December 9th and the Potters have established special hours for this occasion: Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.— 9 p.m., Saturday through Wednesday 10 a.m.— 6 p.m.

Events of note include two Oddfellows Playhouse productions, one of which is a collaboration with CT Heritage Productions. The first is Huck Finn, a Junior Rep. Company production which wraps up on Dec. 1; and the second is A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration which features adult community actors along with Oddfellows' Teen Rep. actors which has shows on Dec. 6, 7, 8 and again on Dec. 14, 15. There are a number of holiday-centric events throughout the month too numerous to list. So, take some time and visit

arts2go.org to find out the latest on events taking place in our City. And, the MCA wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and artful season!

Central Communications Department

The Central Communication Center processed over 2300 emergency 911 calls in August. In addition to emergency telephone calls over 7,000 non-emergency calls were answered. The 911 calls produced over 4,100 incidents for Police and Fire to respond to in Middletown and Portland. In September there were over 2,000 911 calls, 6700 non-emergency calls and just over 4,000 incidents dispatched.

Health Department



FREE FLU CLINICS

The Middletown Health Department and MDA (Mass Dispensing Area) 36 (Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield) are sponsoring the following free seasonal flu clinics: November 13th: Coles Road Firehouse, 105 Coles Road, Cromwell, November 27th: South District firehouse, 445 Randolph Rd., Middletown. Must be at least 4 years of age and in good health, residency not required, limited vaccine supply (Injection only, flu mist not offered). No appointment necessary (first-come, first-served) Save time, complete your flu form on-line: www.townofcromwellct.com, www.townofdurhamct.org, www.middletownct.gov If any questions, call (860) 344-3482.

JOIN THE MIDDLETOWN MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS. (MRC)

Volunteers with or without medical training are needed for the Middletown Reserve Corps. Help out at local events or in time of public health emergencies. All that's needed is two hours every month for training. You don't have to be a Middletown resident or medical professional to join. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer call (860) 344-3595 or email:

janet.leonardi@middletownct.gov.

HEALTHLINE

The health- information radio program, sponsored by the Middletown Health Department, airs the first Saturday of every month at 3:15 A.M., 12:15 P.M., and 5:15 P.M. on WIHS 104.9 FM and every Sunday at 6:30 P.M. on WCNX 1710 AM as well as "on-demand" at cnxradio.com. November's topic: "Healthy Eating"; December's topic: "Reducing Stress During the Holidays".

Legal/Risk Management

Conn-OSHA offers a variety of consulting services that are available free of charge to City departments. All consulting services are voluntary. The services are tailored to department needs; there are no penalties or citations issued as a result of this consulting process. Some examples of the consulting services that are offered include: ergonomic evaluations, health and safety training, indoor air quality surveys, job hazard analysis, noise monitoring, construction safety, personal protective equipment, OSHA standard-specific program development (e.g., hazard communication, lockout/tagout, confined space, respirators, and more). The City has utilized the consulting services offered on several occasions and the experience throughout the process has always been a positive one.

MAT

As of October 1st, the MLINK (Meriden) route times have been adjusted. The number of daily runs are the same; however the first run in the morning departs from Middletown at 6:15 a.m. instead of 6:25 a.m. The last run in the afternoon departs at 4:45 p.m. instead of 4:40 p.m. This adjustment was due to the new larger bus that is now being used.

The new proposed Portland/East Hampton routes are awaiting approval from the State Department of Transportation. This will include a Saturday schedule. Holiday Schedule is as follows: Thanksgiving Day – closed/ Christmas Eve – no Night Owl service; Christmas Day – closed; New Year's Eve – Night Owl service extended one run. Last run departs downtown at 12:30 a.m. due to "Midnight On Main Street" festivities; New Year's Day – closed.

Parking Department

Parking Services is proud to announce its relocation within City Hall. As of October 1, 2012, the office staff and customer support functionality moved to Room 112 on the Mid-Level Concourse of City Hall. Department Director Geen Thazhampallath said, "this is just the physical move that illustrates how much we've grown in terms of the customer support



and public services work we offer including lot security, billing and electronic ticket processing."

The Department will also be supporting the seasonal Holiday on Main Downtown Parking Program through which seasonal

visitors to downtown on the six (6) Saturdays from Thanksgiving to New Year's receive free parking at all downtown City meters and downtown lots. "This is something the City has long done to encourage visitors to come and shop or dine in downtown on Saturdays before and during the traditional holidays. It's a special time of the year in downtown with all the lights, decorations and festivities and we want to encourage participation in all of that from the parking perspective as well," said Thazhampallath.

Parks/Recreation Department

The Department encourages the citizens of Middletown to view our fall brochure for a complete listing of all of our programs, parks and fields and other updates at MiddletownCT.gov under Parks and Recreation. Parks are closed from December 1st – February 28th. Winter renovations will convene on our parks and fields in November. For November - December Events – see brochure for detail information or contact the Recreation Department at 860 346-6620.

Charlie Winner's Turkey Hoop Shoot, Free Pictures and Donuts with Santa, Recreation Office - Welcome Santa to Middletown by joining him for juice, donuts, and instant pictures! Parents are welcome to bring their own cameras. K-2 instructional basketball, election day program, Christmas vacation program, mad science spectacular science days, winter vacation swim, outreach adventures field trips, hoops and more, spotlight on ability: unified, theater, Santa's mail box, holiday tree lighting, ornament making, and Bernie O'Rourke-Detroit Hunter Memorial Christmas toy drive.

Public Works

The City of Middletown hosted its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, October 13 at Middlesex Community College. Over 500 vehicles travelled to the collection to dispose of various household wastes, including oil based paints, pesticides, batteries, pool chemicals and transmission fluids.

Residents from Cromwell, Durham, East

Hampton, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland could participate in this event. 186 Middletown households participated in the collection. There was a waiting line at the beginning of the day, although as the day continued, the wait subsided and traffic flowed with minimal wait.

This was the last year the City will be working with the Metropolitan District Commission for Hazardous Waste Collection. The City has coordinated Household Hazardous Waste Collections with MDC for over ten years. However, with recent staff reductions at MDC, they have eliminated the opportunity for non-members towns (Middletown is not a member of the MDC) to participate in their programs.

The City is currently reviewing options for next year. Pending annual budget approval, the City will continue to host a collection in the fall and residents will most likely not see any changes. The collection will be held half a day on a Saturday in September or October. The same types of wastes will be collected – automotive fluids, oil based paints and paint products, pesticides and fertilizers, cleaners, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, mercury containing devices and much more.

If you would like to be notified about next year's collection, contact the Recycling Coordinator at kim.orourke@middletownct.gov and ask to be put on her mailing list to be notified.

Russell Library

Hedda Kopf will lead a discussion of *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht on **Wednesday, November 14th at 7 pm** in the Hubbard Room at Russell Library, 123 Broad Street, Middletown. In this book discussion series, we will explore three recent novels that reflect the varied styles and voices of today's best literature.

The Russell Library is in the midst of a long-term planning project and is looking for residents' input as the Library shapes its future. From the Library's release: "Russell Library has been bringing together people and ideas for almost 140 years, playing an active role as a 'Gateway to the Future of Middletown.'

Its programs, resources, and community involvement have made a difference in Middletown's educational, entertainment, and social environment. As Middletown grows and develops, Russell Library must also evolve. For that reason, the Library has formed a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of Library staff members, Library trustees, and members of the Middletown community to undertake this project." The public forum is being held on Saturday, November 10 at 9 a.m. and led by Alan Gray, a planning consultant with extensive experience in libraries, the business world, and in education. You are encouraged to attend.

Water/Sewer

The City of Middletown was proud to host a "Commissioner in Your Corner" visit from Dan Esty, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Mayor Dan Drew greeted the Commissioner as well as State Senator Paul Doyle, State Representative Matt Lesser, State Representative Christie Carpino and other state and local leaders.

The visitation included a kayak/canoe paddle down the Mattabassett River into the Connecticut River. The purpose of the visit was two-fold. One was to highlight and promote the regions environment as it relates to outdoor recreation and tourism. The other was to speak about the im-



portance of clean water in the state and its effect on recreation and tourism and Esty applauded the City of Middletown's efforts to join the Mattabassett Sewer District. He further stated "This is a great example of local and state government partnerships working as they should". "This project will not only benefit resi-

dents from the Mattabassett District towns, Middletown (soon to be), Cromwell, Berlin and New Britain, but all the residents along the CT River and Long Island Sound as well".

Youth Services

The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) will be working in conjunction with the Mayor's Office to recruit students to participate in the City's "Youth In Government". The program appoints teens to sit on various boards and commissions throughout city government and gives them the opportunity to be part of decisions that impact themselves and the entire community. Students who are interested should check



with the Mayor's Office 860-344-3401 or the YSB 860-854-6030.

On October 17th the YSB held their original play "Bigger Than You Think" based on the stories of growing up in Middletown. The play itself served as a way to help share the "stories" that are behind the numbers in a recent survey they released on youth in our city. Over 300 members of the community participated came to the performance and participated in the community conversation that followed. The plan is to continue to hold community conversations throughout the community around the results of the recent survey and if you are part of a group that may be interested contact the YSB at the number above. For more information about the survey results and asset building in Middletown, please visit www.assetpromise.org.