

*Here are some things we thought you should know:*

**Did you know** that you are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk in front of your property (including shoveling in the winter)? Does it need repair? Middleport has a reimbursement program to help ease the cost. You will be reimbursed \$2.50 per square foot of sidewalk replaced or half of the cost of the work, *whichever is less*. Call the Village Hall for more information.

**Another thing you should know** is that if you pave (or repave) your driveway and there is an existing sidewalk there, it violates Village Code if you pave over the sidewalk. This is a misdemeanor and could result in a fine up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to 6 months.

**New York State now** requires building permits for the installation of above-ground pools. Call or stop in at the Village Hall to get your building permit application. If you have any questions, contact Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Tom Arlington at 772-7826, ext. 7.

**Mr. Arlington also asks** that you please help the emergency and fire service by having your street location number on your house or business. The numbers must be plainly legible and visible from the street fronting the property. *The BUILDING CODE OF N.Y.S. requires 4" high Arabic numerals with a minimum 1/2" stroke*. The numbers must contrast with their background. Buildings located substantially back from the road and/or blocked by trees should have numbers on the mailbox or a separate signpost.

**Many residents don't know** that we have a kennel in the Village garage for stray dogs. If your dog is missing, contact the Village Hall. Your dog just might be there! We hold dogs for several days trying to locate the owner. In addition, we contact the dog officer from the Town of Royalton or Hartland (depending on where the dog was found), who also tries to find the owner. The dog will be turned over to the dog officer if no owner is found after a few days.

Our noise ordinance will be enforced. Please be considerate of your neighbors to avoid a visit from the police. The Village noise ordinance prohibits loud noises, barking dogs, vehicles without mufflers, and/or loud music. There is no set time for enforcement of this ordinance, meaning it can and will be enforced at any time during the day or night if the Police Department receives a complaint. It can only be enforced on a complaint, so please do not hesitate to call if there is a problem.

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**Other items of interest:**

**Have you heard** about the ongoing sewer inspection program the Village is doing? In the summer of 2005, we began inspecting sanitary sewers for illegal sump pump hookups as required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Village Code and state law prohibit discharge of storm water into the sanitary sewer system. Storm water can overload the sewer treatment plant, causing water to be unnecessarily treated and sometimes putting us in violation of the amount of water we are licensed to treat. Both of these can cost the Village money, as treating water is expensive and violations can result in fines from the DEC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Each summer, approximately one-fifth of the residences and businesses are being inspected, so if you get a letter from the Village Hall advising that your area is being done, please be cooperative.

**Have you met Village Coordinator Dan Dodge?** Prior to DPW Superintendent Jim Mahar's retirement in July 2006, the Board of Trustees undertook an exhaustive search for his replacement. After extensive advertising and interviewing and having no candidate who qualified based on the Civil Service job description, it became apparent that the old job description and title didn't serve the needs of the Village. Mayor Maedl contacted several Villages throughout New York State and found that many no longer have a DPW Superintendent. Mayor Maedl and the Niagara County Department of Civil Service worked closely together to create the position of Village Coordinator, a position that oversees the Public Works Department and more. The obvious choice to fill the position was Dan Dodge, a life-long resident of the Village with a strong family presence here. Dan came onboard with the Village in January 2007, and has done a great job so far. If you know Dan, stop in and say hi. If you don't know him, stop in to meet him.

**We're starting our 7<sup>th</sup> year** of traffic control for the Towns of Royalton and Hartland in June. These contracts have been a win-win for all parties involved. The Middleport Police Department provides traffic control (i.e., speeding tickets, etc.) for the Towns, but never at the expense of the Village. Whenever an officer is on duty in one of the Towns, there is always an officer on duty in the Village. In calendar year 2006, there were 556 traffic tickets issued outside the Village limits in the Town of Royalton and 338 traffic tickets issued outside the Village limits in the Town of Hartland. Having this police presence out in the towns makes the roads safer for all. Contrary to what you may have heard, Village residents do not pay a town tax for this police coverage.

The Middleport Police Department was very busy in 2006 in the Village, too. They answered 1,697 complaints, issued 1,439 traffic tickets, made 74 Village noise arrests, 13 Village curfew arrests, and 91 penal law arrests. All of this activity made it clear that the department and the Village could benefit from an additional full-time officer. So, as of October 1, 2006, Officer Roland Johnson was hired full-time. Officer Johnson was originally hired by the Village as a part-time officer December 1, 2003. When the possibility of a full-time position was discussed, the Board decided that they would prefer that the position be filled by a Village resident. Officer Johnson and his wife sold their house in Somerset and bought a house in the Village of Middleport. He is an asset to the community, and we look forward to working with him for a long time!

**Swim Classes** will be held from July 2 through July 20, 2007, and July 23 through August 10, 2007. Sign up will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2007, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Village Hall.

**Summer Recreation** will be held again for **Village residents only** entering Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program will most likely run from July 9 through July 27, 2007. Sign up sheets will be available at the Library and the Village Hall at the end of May.

\*\*\*\*\***INFORMATION TO KEEP HANDY**\*\*\*\*\*

**Brush** pickup is on **MONDAYS** and during the spring, summer, and fall months **only**. Brush is not picked up during January, February or March. If a holiday falls on Monday, chipping will be done on Tuesday. **Brush should not be placed to the curb before Saturday**, and when it is, the butt side should be towards the street. ***Please do not place roots, stumps, grapevines, or rosebushes out for chipping.*** All brush will be left if it does not follow these guidelines. (FYI, your Christmas tree can be put out with the garbage, as they will dispose of it.)

**When the Public Works Department** has chipped brush, it has to go somewhere, so it's piled at the Sewer Treatment Plant on North Hartland Street. These wood chips are available free of charge to Village residents and business owners only. Call the Village Hall if you would like to get some.

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**Garbage and recycling** is picked up on Wednesdays. Garbage and recycling ***should not be placed to the curb before 6:30 p.m. the night before.*** Residents and businesses that regularly place their trash to the curb more than 12 hours before pick up day could be cited for violating the Village's yard maintenance code. This could result in a \$250 fine and/or imprisonment for up to 15 days.

Each **address** is allowed to place one large item at the curb per week that cannot be contained in a bag or can. These items shall include (but are not limited to) furniture, mattresses and box springs, carpets, appliances, and Christmas trees. If any item requires more than two people to lift it, it **will not** be taken. Freon must be removed from any freezers, refrigerators, or air conditioning units before it will be taken. This removal is the responsibility of the resident. One tire per week will be taken, as well. Please note: garbage cans weighing more than 60 pounds **will not** be emptied. Please be considerate of your neighbors. When the weather is bad, make sure your trash won't blow around. If it does, please pick it up instead of leaving it for others to do.

The following holidays may delay trash pick up by one day: **NEW YEAR'S DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, LABOR DAY, THANKSGIVING, AND CHRISTMAS**. If collection day is on or follows any of these holidays during the week, collection will be one day later. If you're not sure, call the Clerk's Office at 735-3303 to verify when pickup will occur.

If you have any questions regarding garbage and recycling pick up, please call the Village Hall at 735-3303. We will gladly send you a fact sheet for future reference.

<p>Do you know who your elected and appointed Village Officials are?</p> <p>Mayor: Julie Maedl</p> <p>Deputy Mayor: Tom Conley</p> <p>Trustees: Liz Bateman, Terry Kirkpatrick, and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ANNUAL EVENTS HELD IN</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT</u></b></p> <p><b>Chocolate Event</b> sponsored by Friends of the Library - February</p> <p><b>Baseball/softball sign up</b> - February</p>
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Frank Sarchia

**VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE - 735-3303**

Clerk-Treasurer Rebecca Schweigert

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.

We do not close at lunchtime.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - 735-3373**

Village Coordinator Daniel A. Dodge

Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT - 735-3373**

Police Chief John Swick

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.

Non-emergency calls: 735-3700

Emergency calls: 911

**CODE/ZONING OFFICER - 772-7826, ext. 7**

Tom Arlington

**Fish Dinners** sponsored by the Cataract Lodge - during Lent

**Easter Egg Hunt** sponsored by Rotary Club - day before Easter

**Arbor Day Celebration** - last Friday in April

**National Day of Prayer Service** - first Thursday in May

**Village-wide garage sale** - first Saturday in May, includes Scout & Barge Canal Art Center fundraisers

**American Legion Poppy Drive** - during May

**Memorial Day Parade, Services & Celebration** - Memorial Day, includes the Rotary Club duck race in the canal & the library's used book sale

**Middleport Festivities**- Saturday before Labor Day, includes Scouts Breakfast, parade, chicken bbq, concert, etc.

**Car Show sponsored by the Fire Department** - Sunday following Labor Day

**Holiday Arts & Crafts Show** at the Fire Hall - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in October

**Veterans' Day Service & Boy Scout Flag Retiring Service** - Veterans' Day

If you would like any more information about these events, please call the Clerk's Office at 735-3303.