

VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT INFO UPDATE

SUMMER 2008

WE CELEBRATE OUR 150TH BIRTHDAY IN 2009

Hey, folks! Did you know that Middleport was incorporated as a village in 1859. The first official meeting was held on March 28, 1859. A committee has been meeting, under the guidance of Chairperson Barbara Albone, to plan a fitting celebration of our birthday. To date we are planning:

- a logo contest that will be open to Village residents only. There will be more details at a later date, but this logo will be used as the official logo for the Village from now on.
- a calendar with photos - new & old - of our great village for purchase. If you have any photos you would like included, please stop in to see Rebecca at the Village Hall or call the Clerk's Office at 735-3303.
- a poster contest next January that the elementary students will be invited to take part in. These posters will be placed around the Village for all to enjoy.
- to identify homes that are at least 150 years old and create a plaque for owners to buy to announce this accomplishment. So, check your deed or title search to see when your house was built. If it was built in 1859 or earlier, please let us know!
- to have a kick-off ceremony on March 28, 2009, to begin the celebrations. We then plan to have events during the Village's Memorial Day celebrations, the Labor Day Weekend celebrations, and something in the months between!

These are just a few of the things we have discussed at our planning meetings. If you'd like to join, the next meeting will be Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall (24 Main Street). The more input the better to make our celebration one that will be remembered!

WE'RE 11th IN THE COUNTRY!!!

The Village of Middleport was named the 11th best place ***in the United States*** to raise children (for less) by BusinessWeek magazine in their November 16, 2007, issue. We also had the highest ranking for all of the municipalities cited in New York State. This is an accomplishment to be proud of, but anyone who lives here already knew we are pretty special. Our tree-lined streets, friendly residents, good schools, inexpensive housing market, great police department, and low crime rate make us an attractive place to live and raise a family. In order to let the rest of the world know, the Middleport Area Tourism & Beautification Committee, the Barge Canal Art

Center, and The Royalton Hartland Business and Professional Association have undertaken a fundraising effort for signs to be placed at the entrances of the Village to let travelers passing through our great little Village know just how special we are. Who knows, maybe they'll stop and stay awhile! If you didn't receive a letter but would like to make a donation, please send it to MATABC, P.O. Box 63, Middleport, NY 14105-0063. Partial funding for the signs has been received due to a grant secured by these organizations from the William G. Mayne, Jr., Business/Community Enhancement Program.

NEW REFUSE & RECYCLE CONTRACT

In July 2003, Middleport contracted with NEI for refuse and recycle pickup in the Village. In the summer of 2007, NEI was purchased by Modern Disposal. This contract will expire at the end of June 2008, so the Village put the contract out for bid to maintain refuse/recycle pickup. Modern Disposal had the lowest bid, so they will continue to be our refuse/recycle company. ***Pickup day will continue to be on Wednesdays, unless a holiday schedule applies.*** Please keep in the mind the following: 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. Warning letters are being sent to addresses where trash is regularly put out to the curb too early. We also ask that you not put refuse & recycling out to the curb when there are high winds. Your neighbor does not want to pick up after you.

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. ***Please note: tires will no longer be picked up and garbage cans weighing more than 60 pounds will not be emptied.*** If your trash containers are out too early and fill with snow or rain, they may not be emptied if they are too heavy.

The following holidays may delay trash pickup 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

BUCKET TRUCK PURCHASE

You might have seen the Public Works Department personnel out trimming trees using a different bucket truck. That's because the Village purchased a pre-owned truck in February to replace the out-dated truck we already had. This newer truck has a greater reach, so we'll be able to care for

more trees than in the past. Due to the damage of the surprise storm in October 2006, there are several trees that still need attention. The Village's ongoing tree maintenance program will continue to address tree issues as they arise. Middleport has been designated a **Tree City USA** community since 1998. We take pride in the trees in our Village and have an ongoing program to maintain them. Each Arbor Day (in New York it's celebrated the last Friday in April), Mayor Maedl conducts a ceremony for the second graders from the Roy-Hart Elementary School, who help plant a tree. If you'd like to know more about this, contact Mayor Maedl or the Clerk's Office.

SEWER CALLS

As a courtesy to Village residents, the Public Works Department will make sewer calls during regular business hours only. The majority of sewer calls that the DPW make are usually the homeowner's responsibility. Should you have a sewer problem after hours, on the weekend, or on a holiday, it is your responsibility to contact a plumber for the problem. ***Village Code Article IV, §150-8. "Cost born by owner"*** states that "All work and expense incident to the installation, connection and maintenance of the building sewer from the building to the sanitary sewer connection shall be borne by the owner. "

BRUSH CHIPPING

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 Sunday**, and when it is, the butt side should be towards the street. ***Please do not place roots, stumps, grapevines, or rosebushes out for chipping.*** Failure to follow this advice can cause all of the brush to be left at the curb. Continually leaving brush at the curb too early can be cause for citation of the Village's yard maintenance law.

HAVE A COMPLAINT?

Have you ever seen something around the Village that you feel needs to be addressed? Perhaps your neighbor doesn't maintain the yard or there is junk stored where it shouldn't be. Please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk's Office about something like this. We are here to help. If you don't want your name used, we'll pass your concern along to the Code Enforcement Officer without using it. However, we can't help if you don't let us. We don't mind phone calls letting us know about a problem, but nothing can be addressed if you don't take the time to let us know. Please don't send in a complaint anonymously, though. These won't get addressed.

INFLOW & INFILTRATION (I&I) INSPECTIONS

As we advised in last year's newsletter, the Public Works Department is making inspections of sanitary sewers, looking for illegal hookups into the sanitary sewer lines. We are required to do this by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. If your sanitary sewer

has been inspected and you received a warning letter about a violation, please remember that it is your responsibility to correct the violation as soon as possible.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

Swim Classes will be held from June 30 through July 18, 2008, and July 21 through August 08, 2008. Sign up will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at the Village Hall. Any child in the Roy-Hart School District age 6 months or older is invited to take these no-cost classes. Parents must register their children themselves or send a signed permission slip with another adult who will sign for them. Children cannot sign for themselves. All children registered in either of the preschool classes must have a **parent** with them in the water during the lesson. For more information, call the Village Hall.

Summer Recreation will be held again for **Village residents only** entering Kindergarten through 6th grade in September 2008. The program will most likely run from July 7 through July 25, 2008. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Library and the Village Hall in June.

The Middleport Free Library's Summer Reading Program's theme this year is ***Catch a Bug - Read!*** Story hours will be held on Thursdays starting July 10 and running for six weeks until August 14, 2008. Take your 2-, 3-, or 4-year-old to the Library at 10:00 a.m. for Story Hour. For the older kids, a great program has been planned, partly in thanks to an Arts Niagara grant that was awarded to the Library. On tap for the 2 p.m. story hour for the older children and their families are dancers from ***The McMahon School of Irish Dance*** located in Medina, ***the Dady Brothers*** and their Irish music, ***a steel drum band***, ***Native American dancers***, and more. Please call the Library at (716) 735-3281 for more information and to register for the program! The Middleport Free Library is located at 9 Vernon Street.

<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, Frank Sarchia, and Dick Westcott</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ANNUAL EVENTS HELD IN</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT</u></p> <p>Chocolate Event sponsored by Friends of the Library - February</p> <p>Baseball/softball sign up - February</p> <p>Fish Dinners sponsored by the Cataract Lodge - during Lent</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Rotary Club - day before Easter</p> <p>Arbor Day Celebration - last Friday in April</p>
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VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE - 735-3303

Clerk-Treasurer Rebecca A. 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.

Summer hours: 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - 735-3373

Police Chief John J. 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

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 - 4th Saturday in October

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

Village Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Sing-a-long - TBA

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

Have a happy, healthy, great summer!