

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Ah, spring has finally arrived..... it's time to start letting your pup outside more often for fresh air and walks. We are getting more and more calls about loose dogs in the Village. Seems like some of our local canines are getting pretty good at slipping away from their owners. Please remember there is a leash law in the Village. All dogs are to be constrained whenever outdoors, whether in a pen, on a line, or on a leash. If your dog gets loose and our Police Department picks it up, it will be housed in the retention area in the Village garage for a short time. We do not have facilities to hold a dog for more than a few hours.

If no owner is located, the Town Dog Control Officer will be contacted. Most dogs found in the Village are turned over to the Town of Royalton Dog Control Officer. Remember, **NYS Agriculture and Markets Law § 353-b** requires that any person who owns or has custody or control of a dog that is left outdoors provide them with appropriate shelter. Appropriate shelter is currently defined as a structurally sound housing facility that is: insulated, has a waterproof roof; and is large enough to allow the dog to stand up, lie down, and turn around. The law also requires that there be a shaded area away from direct sunlight that is accessible to the dog at all times. Violations can trigger a series of escalating fines, which the court can reduce by an amount the owner or custodian proves he or she has spent to correct the deficiencies in the dog's shelter.

As a dog owner, it is also your responsibility to make sure adequate food and water are available to your pet(s), especially water in the summer. Be considerate of your neighbor and do not leave your dog(s) out barking or whining for long periods of time. Complaints may be lodged at any time of the day, and the Police will take action if a complaint is received. Responsible pet owners make for happy pets & happy neighbors!

Please also be courteous when out walking your dog and clean up after it. Your neighbors and friends will appreciate that!

HAVE A CONCERN?

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 complain anonymously, though. These won't get addressed. Contact the Clerk's Office at (716) 735-3303 or MiddleportNY@villageofmiddleport.org.

We are finishing up year two of our recycling program, and so far it is working quite well. We remind you of a few things:

- Recycling is scheduled for every other week. The half of the Village west of Main Street, for the most part, is one week, and the half east of Main street, for the most part, is the other week. Recycling pickup schedules are

available at the Village Hall or by downloading one from the Village's website at www.villageofmiddleport.org. Remember only recycling goes in your green cart.

- Refuse and recycling should be placed to the curb no earlier than 6:30 p.m. the night before pick up and no later than 6:30 a.m. the morning of pick up. Even though yours is usually not picked up until later in the day, sticking with these times – which are part of our contract with Modern Disposal - ensures that if there are schedule changes, new drivers, or substitute drivers your address will not be missed.
- Empty garbage and recycle receptacles should be put away as soon as possible following pickup. They should not be left at the curb overnight.
- If it is very windy out, we suggest taking your refuse & recycling to the curb in the morning whenever possible. This prevents it from blowing about and into your neighbor's yard.

ANNUAL REMINDER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BRUSH: will be chipped each Monday *except for the months of January, February and March*. Brush is to be placed at the curb on Sunday evenings, butt site toward the street, stacked no more than 4 feet high. Please do not place roots, stumps, vines, or rose bushes 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. When tree or lawn work is performed by a private contractor, they should take away the debris.*

WOOD CHIPS: Wood chips are available for Village residents' yard use. Please call Bryan Bobbitt at 735-3303 if interested.

LEAVES: in the fall, leaves are to be raked to the edge of the street and left in open piles. *Any other time they are to be bagged and placed out with garbage.*

We are so excited to announce that *A Friendly Community: A History of Middleport, New York*, written by retired Village Historian Anna Wallace, has gone to the printers. We plan to have the book available locally as well as available through Amazon.com. For updated release information, please check the Village's Facebook page or the website at www.Middleport-NewYork.com regularly as information will be posted as it becomes available.

Sometimes there is some confusion regarding when to contact the Village and when to contact the Town..... The Village falls into both the Town of Royalton (7/8) and the Town of Hartland (1/8). If you live within the Village limits, contact the Village Hall regarding things like water/sewer billing, handicap parking permits, building permits, and code enforcement. Contact the Town halls regarding things like marriage licenses, dog licenses, and court issues. When in doubt, contact the Village Hall first at (716) 735-3303, as more than likely your issue is handled by Village personnel.

We found this little gem and thought it was worth passing along:

10 Ways to help your community in 30 minutes or less
Written by Hilary Hamblin (from the Power to Change website) (edited for this newsletter)

From waking up early to get a chore done to working all day and taxiing kids all evening, most people have little time to think about volunteering for community projects. Busy schedules do not mean we have to write off community involvement completely. In thirty minutes or less, anyone can make a difference in the community.

Check out the following ideas for ways to help your community in the midst of your everyday activities.

1. **Take a garbage bag while walking through the neighborhood.** Pick up any litter along the way. As a by-product, you can get some exercise built into your day.
2. **Shop with locally owned businesses, saving time and money.** Many locally owned businesses offer services like free gift-wrapping and delivery. And a percentage of your sales taxes go directly to the local community.
3. **Find positive aspects of your community to share with other people.** A positive image encourages residents to shop locally, increases the chance new businesses will open in the area, and promotes growth.
4. **Attend a local festival or other event.** Many have free admission and activities. Most festivals are actually fundraisers for non-profit organizations who make their money through sponsorships. Since sponsors look at attendance numbers to decide how much to give, your family can add to the number and help increase what businesses give next year.
5. **Write a letter to local elected officials encouraging them for making good decisions for the community.** People work harder when they know they are appreciated. And elected officials seldom hear enough encouraging words.
6. **Put a potted plant on your front porch.** When your home looks spruced up, it makes the whole neighborhood and the community look better, as well.
7. **Take left over dinner to an elderly neighbor.** If you have a family of four, cook enough dinner for five one night and deliver a plate to the widow next door. Your delivery helps you to get to know your neighbors better, and police promote knowing your neighbors as the best way to fight neighborhood crime.
8. **Look for opportunities to give in your community.** Many schools collect items, such as like canned foods, old coats, toys and eyeglasses, for less fortunate families.
9. **Vote.** While the Presidential election comes around only once every four years, elections happen every year. Check out the candidates for local and state elections.

By doing our part to contribute to the community, we add people to our circle of influence and gain opportunities to build relationships with our neighbors. We also demonstrate what it means to be a good citizen to our children.

If, however, you DO have the time, volunteer if you can! There are several civic organizations in Middleport, and they can always use volunteers. Have you ever thought about joining the Middleport Fire Company, the Masons, the Middleport Area Tourism & Beautification Committee, the Friends of the Royalton-Hartland Community Library, the Rotary Club, The Royalton-Hartland Business & Professionals Organization, or being a Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Cub Scout, or Brownie Leader?

Any of these organizations would love to get new members. Please contact the Clerk's office for more information if you are interested in any of these worthy organizations!

Swim class sign up will be held at the Village Hall, 24 Main Street, on Saturday, June 4, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The swim program is open to any child in the Royalton-Hartland School District age 6 months or older. Notices are sent home with elementary students at the end of May. Session 1 will run from July 5 to July 22. Session 2 will run from July 25 to August 12.

The **Village's recreation program** will be held from July 5 through August 5, 2016. This program is open to children living in the Village who will be entering Kindergarten through 6th grade September 2016. Watch for flyers around town in June with more information. Sign up can be done at Swim sign up, too.

CONTACT INFORMATION

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE – (716) 735-3303 ext 101
Clerk-Treasurer Rebecca A. Schweigert
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Email: ClerkTreasurer@villageofmiddleport.org

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – (716) 735-3373 ext 301
Village Coordinator Bryan Bobbitt
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri.
Email: MiddleportDPW@villageofmiddleport.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT – 735-3373 ext. 202
Police Chief John J. Swick (ext. 201)
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. to Fri.
Non-emergency calls: 735-3700 (NCSO Dispatch)
Emergency calls: 911
Email: MiddleportPD@villageofmiddleport.org

CODE/ZONING ENFORCEMENT – 735-3303 ext. 401
Brian Belson
Office Hours: 9 am to 11 am, Saturdays
Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evenings by appt.
Email: Code.Enforce@villageofmiddleport.org