

MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

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OCTOBER 2014



The *TRUTH* Issue

Welcome to the “Truth Issue” of Middletown Matters.

In this issue, we are taking a long overdue look at some of the rumors, innuendo, half-truths and flat-out lies that some individuals have been circulating through social media and social distortion.

This issue will address some of the most blatant misinformation that has been circulating about your Borough government in an effort to combat the efforts of individuals who knowingly, or unwittingly, have been spreading blatant falsehoods.

The effort to set the record straight actually began with the last issue of this newsletter. Some people, including many of those who have been at the forefront of the efforts to misinform the public, were critical of articles in that issue which laid out the facts behind a

“flag” on state funds for the Borough and the decision to acquire the Elks Building.

Others, though, lauded those articles and asked why the Borough had not been more aggressively working to set the record straight in the past.

A recent study by Commonwealth Economics LLC echoed the sentiments of those who feel the Borough needs to do more to insure an accurate flow of information about Borough issues. Both a focus group of Middletown business owners and one of members of the general public complained the Borough has not done enough to keep them informed.

We’d like to think all those folks are wrong. We’d like to argue that between the Borough’s web site, its use of social media such as Facebook and Nixle, frequent news releases to local media and these newsletters, Middletown does as much, maybe more, to

keep its citizens informed as any municipality.

But perception is reality, and if the perception of the people in those focus groups is that we need to do more, then they are absolutely right. That is why we are planning measures to improve those efforts.

Our web site is packed with information. But a poor design, with inadequate navigation tools, makes it hard to find things – even for those who maintain the site. There are pages with obsolete and out of date information that are so buried we are not even aware of them until somebody

— please see *TRUTH* Page 10

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WWW.MIDDLETOWNBOROUGH.COM

State lifts flag on Borough grants

The flag on state grants to the Borough has been lifted by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development following the satisfactory filing of the Borough's audit of a \$135,000 grant to the Greater Middletown Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC).

The overdue audit, which had been delayed due to the Borough's difficulty in obtaining needed receipts and other documentation from GMEDC, was completed and filed last week after weeks of painstaking efforts by the Borough's current financial staff.

The Borough's financial staff credited current GMEDC head Jack

Raudenbush for his efforts to help retrieve the missing documents. The Borough had received little cooperation from previous GMEDC leadership in resolving the matter.

While the flag, which had delayed a \$250,000 grant to the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company and threatened grants intended to boost economic revitalization efforts in the Borough, was lifted, DCED has ruled the Borough will have to repay \$17,192 of the original \$135,000.

That amount stems from audit findings that GMEDC spent \$3,245 improperly because it was spent prior to the start of the grant program. The other \$13,947

of the repayment amount is due to GMEDC's lack of records showing those funds were spent in compliance with the grant program's guidelines.

The Borough has not decided if it will seek repayment of the misused funds from GMEDC, though Borough finance department staff has indicated such an effort is unlikely to be fruitful due to GMEDC's lack of assets.

In addition to the misused funds, the audit also found other deficiencies with the way both the Borough and GMEDC administered the grant.

According to the auditors, the Borough failed to execute a signed subcontract with GMEDC in 2008 when it passed the funding through to GMEDC to administer the grant.

The audit also faults the Borough and GMEDC for failing to properly maintain all required records for three years following the close out of the grant. The Borough's management should have put in place a process to ensure the records were provided by GMEDC in a timely manner, the audit found.

GMEDC representatives have made statements claiming to have given the Borough the records in 2010. However those records were for a different

audit for a different grant. This audit did not begin until 2012, which was the end of the grant period.

The Borough also had a great deal of difficulty obtaining the records for that 2010 audit. Delays in obtaining those records resulted in the Borough having to pay penalties and interest in excess of \$9,000 due to that audit's late filing.

Records from that 2010 audit show the Borough promised then to put into place a system which would ensure GMEDC would provide timely reports of expenditures, rather than waiting until the end of the grant program. That system, however, was never executed by the Borough's staff and administration at that time, or by GMEDC.

The deficiencies in both audits occurred prior to 2012, and prior to present Borough management team being employed by the Borough, the audit points out. The operations of the Borough's finance department were overhauled in 2012 following recommendations by the Borough's financial consultant. The present administration is reviewing the audit findings with its consultant to determine if additional safeguards are needed.

MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

CHRIS A. COUROGEN, EDITOR

Middletown Matters is the official newsletter of the Borough of Middletown, Pa. Published quarterly, the newsletter is distributed to every residence and business in the Borough. For information on advertising in **Middletown Matters**, please contact Director of Communications Chris A. Courogen at 717.902.0514.

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-- File Photo

Middletown's wastewater treatment plant will be operated by United Water under the terms of a lease deal approved on September 29 by Borough Council and the Borough Authority. The deal will make the Borough debt free, with post-retirement pensions and benefits for current employees fully funded.

Council votes to accept \$43 million deal to lease water-sewer system

Middletown Borough will soon be debt free, with its current pension and post retirement employee benefit obligations fully funded, following the decision September 29 by Borough Council to approve a plan to lease the Borough's water and sewer systems.

United Water, which is headquartered in Harrington Park, N.J., will pay the Borough \$43 million to lease the system for 50 years. United will also pay an annual fee to cover the Borough's expenses to administer the lease.

Under the terms of the agreement, United will be required to meet strict standards for operating and maintaining the system. They will also be subject to rate caps, and will open an office in the Borough. All current Borough water-sewer operations employees will be offered positions with United.

The decision to approve the lease agreement came during a spe-

cial joint meeting of the Borough Council and the Borough Authority, which was held in the MCSO. Council approved the lease by a 7-2

“If we forgo the lease and raise taxes or electric, no business owner is going to want to come here.”

-- Mayor James H. Curry III

vote, with Anne Einhorn and Tom Handley the lone no votes. The Authority endorsed the decision with a 4-1 vote, with A.B. Shafaye dissenting.

Prior to the vote, Council Member Ben Kapenstein, who chaired the committee that explored the feasibility of leasing the systems, made a PowerPoint presentation explaining why he recommended the proposal.

Citing what he called the Bor-

ough's "very real financial problems," Kapenstein explained that the proceeds of the lease would go a long way towards fixing two of the most serious issues impacting the Borough's finances -- \$10.8 million in currently unfunded liabilities for pension and other post-employment employee benefit obligations (OPEB) to current and former employees, and the Borough's \$26 million debt load.

"After this, our pension and OPEB obligations will be fully funded and Middletown will be debt free," Kapenstein said. "With no more structural deficit, we can focus on positive things like infrastructure improvements and rehabilitating our parks, with no need for tax increases for the foreseeable future."

The alternatives, Kapenstein said, would be raising electric or tax rates, or further cuts to the Borough's work force, none of which are

THINK PINK

**RESOLUTION NO. 606
FOR THE YEAR 2014**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
MIDDLETOWN, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RECOGNIZING
OCTOBER 2014 AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.**

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in women and the second leading cause of death among women, with over 220,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer annually in the United States, resulting in more than 40,000 deaths; and

WHEREAS, while more rare, breast cancer also can affect men, with more than 2,100 cases diagnosed each year, leading to more than 400 fatalities, and

WHEREAS, early detection and treatment is a key to surviving breast cancer, with a five-year survival rate of 98 percent when it is detected early, in a localized stage, and ;

WHEREAS, most people are aware of breast cancer, but many forget to make a plan or take the steps needed to detect the disease in its early stages, and;

WHEREAS, October marks the annual observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease and those steps that can be taken to detect it in an early, more treatable stage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLETOWN hereby recognizes October 2014 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the Borough, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council strongly encourages citizens, businesses, community and non-profit groups, and all other interested groups to join in activities which will increase awareness of what can be done to prevent and detect breast cancer.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of October, 2014.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF MIDDLETOWN**

By: 
President

This issue of Middletown Matters has gone PINK in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month for information on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, visit <http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org>

Group hopes to call Elks home

Harrisburg-based Phantom Theater Company in talks to lease historic downtown theater

Picture the Elks Theater in Middletown as a community performing arts center.

Imagine a renovated interior, with the historical character preserved, but modern amenities like updated electrical system and new rest-rooms.

Visualize an extended stage, filled with dramatic and musical theater, dance, musical concerts, and comedy shows. A retractable screen would allow the theater to still be used for movies.

Out front in the Elks Building, the retail spaces along Union Street might be filled with an art gallery, a café, and perhaps class space for acting and dance lessons.

That is the vision of Wendi Dobson and the Phantom Theatre Company (PTC), a Harrisburg area not for profit theater group which has proposed leasing and renovating the Elks Building for just such use.

“We’d like to use it for all kinds of different events. There is just so much that could be done,” says Dobson.

“It’s an exciting idea,” says Matt Tunnell, chairman of the Middletown Industrial and Commercial Development Authority (ICDA), which recently took ownership of the historic downtown anchor building.



-- Photo illustration by Chris A. Courogen

The historic Elks Theater would be renovated to allow its use for plays, musical concerts, and other events under a proposal by the Phantom Theater Company, which is interested in leasing the theater.

The ICDA has agreed to a non-binding letter of intent with PTC in hopes of negotiating a long term lease agreement.

“We have said from the start, the ICDA’s plan in purchasing the building is to see this historic anchor building of Middletown’s downtown restored and turned into a vibrant part of the downtown’s rebirth,” Tunnel says. “A group like Phantom Theatre Company could really help make that vision a reality.”

“I’m very excited about this project. I see the Elks as becoming the cultural hub of Middletown,” says Philip J. Dobson, who plans to assist his wife’s theater group in renovating the building. “It is a good opportunity for the theater group because of what is going on in the downtown in Middletown.”

Wendi Dobson cites the Borough’s downtown streetscape project, set to get underway next year, as one of the reasons she’d like to include a

The TRUTH About . . .

The financial benefits of not leasing the Borough's water-sewer systems

When Borough Council recently voted to lease the water-sewer system, it did so in order to generate \$43 million to allow the Borough to retire all its debt and fully fund its post retirement pension and benefit obligations to current employees.

In the process, Council Member Ben Kapenstein prepared a Powerpoint presentation which he shared with those in attendance at the joint Borough Council-Borough Authority meeting at which the lease agreement was approved.

During that presentation, Councilor Kapenstein pointed to four prime reasons why he felt the lease proposal made sense for the Borough. In addition to funding those obligations to the employees (which were in the neighborhood of \$10.8 million), and paying off the Borough's \$26 million in debt, he pointed out that the Borough has a declining tax base and that while it may be possible in the future for the water-sewer system to generate a profit, it would do the Borough little good since that money could no longer be transferred into the General Fund to help cover up the structural deficit in that fund.

In 2012, the state legislature passed Act 73 of 2012, which amended the Municipal Authorities Act. Passed in part in response to what some considered the City of Harrisburg's misuse of funds from its municipal authority, the new law prohibits an authority from using any of its funds for purposes outside of the authority's mission.

In other words, water and sewer revenue now may only be used for water and sewer expenses and projects. Specifically prohibited are any loans, grants, expenditures or

transfers that are not related to providing water and sewer service. Included is a ban on transferring money to the incorporating municipality's general fund.

It is probably worth pointing out that this was a moot point anyhow in Middletown, where the Borough recently had to enact a significant sewer rate increase just to break even after years of having operational deficits in the water-sewer fund budget.

In 2011, when the writer of the Facebook post served as Borough Council President, the water-sewer fund was budgeted to collect nearly \$5.7 million in revenue. In reality, it generated just \$4.6 million. That year its expenses were nearly \$4.8 million, leaving a deficit, not a profit, of close to \$200,000.

Because the amount needed to finance the bond debt issued to borrow for building a new sewer plant caused debt service costs to increase by more than \$1 million, by 2014, the water-sewer fund's projected shortfall, prior to the rate increase, was \$1,025,000. More than half of the water-sewer fund's revenue (\$2,877,035 out of \$5,073,658) was needed just to make payments on those bonds.

To produce the \$1 million in profit claimed in that post, it would take another rate increase approximately the same size as the one just enacted to make up the existing operational deficit. Not that you could do anything with that additional \$1 million in "profits" for anything other than water and sewer related projects.

Nobody has ever said "the town is broke." But the structural deficit and the unfunded pension and post-retirement benefit liabilities (and the Borough's \$26 million in debt) are more than just the "mantra

PRESS AND JOURNAL

TIME WILL TELL IF WATER, SEWER LEASE IS GOOD CALL

The water system is a profit-turning enterprise, an asset with which the borough should not part, opponents said during a special joint meeting of council and the borough authority on Monday, Sept. 29 at the MCSO Building.

Excerpt from P&J editorial – October 1, 2014



Diana McGlone

September 30 at 4:42am · Middletown, PA

FYI- my comment to council last night...

Yet again this town is being scared by the "the town is broke", "we have a structural deficit", "we have unfunded pension debt", "we will need to increase taxes and electric rates" mantra of council and now the quick fix buzz word is lease. It's no wonder all of this scary, as leasing our water/sewer system makes me horrified, as the proposed lease permits higher rates and added fees, keeps the current rate that just saw some individuals sewer rates increase over 70% for the next 5 years, plus possible tax increases while it would eliminate critical safeguards for the public. Leasing will be nothing but disastrous for our town.

Our current water/sewer system is an asset and generates over \$4 million in revenue and annually produces a profit of over \$1 million. Currently, our electric generates about \$2million in operating income annually at the current rate of 10 cents kpw. An increase of 2 cents kpw would yield an additional \$2million in income. Both systems, need to be managed and leveraged property in order to maximize profits, as currently this is not being done.

of council." Those are verifiable, very real problems facing the Borough, and have been recognized as such by state and county officials, municipal finance experts, Mayor Curry, and the Borough Council which adopted the financial plan put together under the state's Early Intervention Program and the current Council, which voted to pursue leasing the water-sewer system in order to take a giant step towards solving those problems.

It is also worth mentioning two other things Councilor Kapenstein pointed out during his presentation. Barring some sort of wild spending spree, the decision to lease the water-sew-

er system actually will prevent the need for a tax increase in the immediate future. And the 154 page lease agreement and its accompanying 69-pages of operating standards assure the quality of water and sewer service in the Borough will continue to meet the same high standards currently in place.

In fact, the Borough's solicitor says those standards are so strict, two of the three potential bidders who showed an interest in the system backed away from making formal proposals for fear they could not profitably maintain that level of service due to the consumer rate protections included in the deal.

The TRUTH About . . .

Why sewer rates had to go up

As much as every Council member who voted in favor of the sewer rate increase wishes it were not so, the rate increase was necessary.

Each year, in order to satisfy the terms and conditions of the bonds issued to borrow money to build the new sewer plant, the Borough's engineers are required to file a report which includes, among other things, certification that the budget for the water and sewer systems is sufficient to operate and maintain the system



Diana McGlone The 40% increase is unnecessary, do to McNamara's 1 + 1 = 7 math skills. Average residents sewer bill will go from 43 to \$68 monthly and water bill will be higher. That's over \$300 increase for the year per average household. Tom Handley and Anne Einhorn voted No, rest voted yes for the increase.

to industry standards and that the water and sewer rates are sufficient to cover the expenses in that budget.

Failure to meet those requirements could result in the Borough defaulting on the bonds, which would have catastrophic consequences for the Borough's credit rating and its ability to borrow money for future projects.

This year's budget projected a revenue shortfall of just under 40 percent, thus the need to increase rates to balance the books.

As explained previously, and elsewhere on this page, the biggest reason for the deficit is because rates were never adjusted to account for the money that would be needed to repay the \$13 million borrowed in 2009 to build the new sewer plant.

The deficit in the water-sewer fund has existed since at least 2005.

In 2011, when Ms. McGlone was Borough Council President, the deficit was around \$200,00. Increased payments for the sewer plant debt grew that to more than \$1 million.

An increase was needed then. Had one been enacted at that time, it could have been implemented gradually, long before Council was forced to enact a more sudden increase needed to avoid defaulting on the Borough's bonds.

Comparing our rates to Schuylkill Haven



Diana McGlone
September 12 at 12:22pm · Harrisburg, PA

FYI- Sewer rates for schuylkill haven borough to compare to ours. There's is \$7.98/1,000 gallons. Ours is much higher. Council mtg Monday, sept 15 7pm Boro hall, 60 w Emaus. The Boro doesn't have our new exact rate online for us to reference. Also, schuylkill haven is much like our borough, in terms of size, population, demographics and they too have their own electric system, water/sewer and also they have a psu campus/-schuylkill. I know this, cause I grew up there, so a shout out to all the Skooks from schuylkill county, as I'm told our Mayor James Curry might be one also..lol

Actually, Schuylkill Haven is not as similar to Middletown as the post would have you believe. Middletown is more than 60 percent larger than Schuylkill Haven in both population and land area.

Not that any of that matters when comparing sewer rates. In simple terms, comparing Middletown's rates to Schuylkill Haven's is like comparing apples to orangutans.

"She is just wrong to compare somebody else's rates," says Schuylkill Haven Borough Manager Scott Graver. "That is not the way to do it."

Schuylkill Haven has not had a major expansion or renovation to its sewer plant in recent memory, says Graver. Its last major project, construction of a large sewer main, was paid for using money borrowed back in 2009. That was the year Middletown built a new, \$15 million sewer plant. The debt associated with that project is the primary reason behind Middletown's rate increase.

Middletown currently has nearly \$22 million in water and sewer related debt alone. Schuylkill Haven's combined, total indebtedness in 2012 was \$8.5 million, according to reports filed with the state Department of Community and Economic Development.

It would also be unfair to compare Middletown's electric rates, which are approximately 20 percent less for a residential customer using 100 kilowatt hours per month than Schuylkill Haven's, or to compare Schuylkill Haven's pay rate of \$21.80 per hour for its journeyman electricians (their highest classification) to Middletown's rate of \$26.88 per hour for a Class C lineman (our lowest classification).

Why engineers did the rate study



Diana McGlone Ben, 1. Engineers should not be suggesting what dollar amount an increase should be. They are engineers not financial people, there is a difference. 2. Your being lied to time & time again - wake up! 3. There was other options, as here they were. Transfer the 500,000 from general fund to cover any "deficit" (this was done last year with a 549,000 transfer) into the water/sewer fund for 2013 year end. In meantime, do a 5 year cost analysis and INCLUDE the student housing just built behind the brick buildings, which have now about 500 kids flushing toilets & showering and also the new housing to be built on Spring St. And based upon the 5 year cost analysis, do a 3 year plan for gradual increases, if necessary.

The study was not done by the same engineers who drew the plans for the downtown infrastructure project, or advise the Borough on the mechanical operations of the water and sewer system. The study was done by the Financial Services group at HRG, which is staffed by experts in the financial side of water and wastewater system management.

It was that group which played a key role in helping the state develop the procedures and language of important state legislation governing such things as connection fees and tapping fees. In fact, HRG is retained by the state to review grant applications and provide services for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), which funds major projects throughout Pennsylvania. They also are retained to do financial analysis for PENNVEST.

The folks from HRG's Financial Services group have extensive experience with the municipal water and wastewater industry, including capital planning and funding strategies, valuation studies, and utility rate studies.

In other words, these are not just financial people, but financial people with expertise in the finance side of water and wastewater systems. Additionally, they worked closely with the Borough's financial advisors in developing the rate study.

The deficit that exists in the water-sewer operational budget exists now, and to avoid defaulting on the Borough's bonds, needs to be addressed now. Gradual increases would exacerbate the deficit, not solve it. Likewise, a study of the impact of future revenue possibilities could be a useful tool in planning to help avoid sudden increases in the future, but does nothing to solve the current problem.

Oh, and that transfer from the General Fund? It would have to be double that amount to cover the water-sewer deficit, and that would be equal to about a 70-percent increase in property taxes.

The TRUTH About . . .

Funding for the fire department

There is a grain of truth in this discussion. The Middletown Volunteer Fire Department does, indeed, receive tax dollars for operational costs. It also receives tax dollars for other things, too. And yes, there used to be a separate real estate tax that went to funding fire department expenses.

In the 2013 budget, as part of the Borough's efforts to remedy the then \$3 million structural deficit in the Borough's General Fund budget, that was changed. No longer was the fire company tax separate from the rest of the Borough's property tax. Instead, all the tax revenues were consolidated and went to the Borough's General Fund.

Rather than increase taxes, or raise electric rates – two things Mayor Curry recently pointed out the residents of this town could ill afford – the way the Borough handled its contribution to the fire company changed.

In 2013, the Borough budgeted a contribution of a little more than \$110,000 to go to the MVFD. As the post points out, that was less than the fire tax had generated in 2012 (though the tax that year actually only collected about \$134,000).

That, however, only tells part of the story. Unmentioned in the post is how the Borough, in 2013, also provided the MVFD with a variety of other funds. The biggest outlay was \$270,000 given to the fire company so that it could meet the match required on one of the grants it received to help with the renovation project.

The Borough also gave MVFD \$46,000 to purchase a new duty truck for its chiefs, refunded \$4,000 in building permit fees it would have had to pay for its renovation project, paid \$853 towards workers compensation premiums for the department, and paid another \$54,720 in payments on debt for the 2006 purchase



-- Photo by Chris A. Courogen

In addition to other funding given to the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department, in 2013 the Borough paid the full \$46,000 purchase price of this duty truck for use by MVFD's chiefs.



Todd Webb It should also be noted that the MVFD receives tax dollars for operational costs. Two years ago the MVFD received approximately \$148,000 per year give or take. The MVFD currently receives around \$100,000. The math is simple to see that less money compounded with a renovation project built to last our children's lifetime equals greater fiscal responsibility. The MVFD has received grant funds for the renovation project but not 100% of the cost. And oh yeah, respond to over 600 fire calls a year, maintain state mandated training and fundraise for much needed money all on the backs of volunteer membership.



Diana McGlone Wm Schaefer, McNamara and company stopped giving the tax collected to the FD. Todd is correct, the borough is still collecting it through our real estate taxes. It's just being used for some other misappropriate purpose when it should be going to our fire dept.
August 28 at 8:39pm · Like · 1



Todd Webb It was explained to me that the fire tax was illegal or being illegally collected. I know the name Stonehill surfaced so he got blamed. If this is true why wasn't it caught by the auditors? Or caught as part of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting?
August 28 at 8:45pm · Like

*Thread edited to remove off topic posts

of the Union pumper truck and the 2007 refurbishment of the ladder truck.

In other words, the fire company received about \$430,853 from the Borough, which is more than three times as much as the old fire tax would have generated.

This year, in addition to a budgeted \$100,000 contribution, the Borough also contributed \$10,000 through the purchase of the historic "Bluebird" fire truck, which not only provided

the fire company with additional revenue, but also preserved a historical piece of Middletown fire equipment which years ago had been salvaged from a farmer's field and painstakingly restored.

All told, in the two years since the fire tax was eliminated, the Borough has provided the MVFD with more than \$540,000 in taxpayer funds, an average of \$270,000 per year, better than double what the old fire tax would have generated.

Thank you for a great Night Out



-- Photo by Chris A. Couragen

Middletown Night Out volunteers and participants were honored at the October 6 meeting of Middletown Borough Council.

VOLUNTEERS

Barb Arnold
Danielle Baxter
Cynthia Becker
James Bennett
Earl Bright, IV
Lynn Buchner, Jr
Charles Dunn
Sara Egan
Debbie Fuller
Angelo Gonzalez
Katey Hevel
Ron Hevel
Rodney Horton
Ben Kapenstein
Danielle Kapenstein
Ron Kreiser
Zac Krupilius
Rich Jefferies
Dawn Knull
Sue Layton
Jim Lewis
Diana McGlone
Brittany McGuire
Crystal McGuire
Jake Miller
Jenny Miller
Dan Miller
Robin Pellegrini
Rachelle Reid
Anna Rux
Gary Rux
Gary Rux
Gianya Rux
Nena Rux
Pam Rux

Scott Sites
Joe Sukle
Julianna Sukle
Louise Sukle
Shawn Stouffer
Pearl Sweger
Dan Tingle
Jeff Weaver
Lewis Whittle
Scott Yoder

PARTICIPANTS

7-Eleven
193rd SO Wing ANG
230 Café
Aaron's
Alfred's Victorian
Alma's Flowers
American Legion Post 594
American Red Cross
Barnoski, Richard
B'Nai Jacob Historical
Bimbo Bakeries
Blue Room
Brownstone
Capital Area Xtreme
Calvary Orth. Pres. Church
Commonwealth Caterers
Corby's Beverage
Cub Scout Pack 113
CVS
Dairy Queen
Daup Co Children & Youth
Daup Co CRT
Daup Co DA's Office
Daup Co Drug & Alcohol Svc
Daup Co Juve Probation

Daup Co Victim Witness
Discovery Kids
Disney Store
Elwood's
Exelon (TMI)
Feel Your Boobies
First Church of God
Flasher Home Improvements
Fountain of Life Ministries
Frey Village
Friends In Action
Giant Foods (Store 6088)
Gingrich Memorials
Girl Scout Troop 11067
Glasmire Printing
Grove Motor's
Grace and Mercy
HGS Auto Service
Hardee's
Harrisburg Dairies
Harrisburg Pike Rentals
Betty Heddy
Hetrick Center
The Hershey Company
Don Hevel
Hornung's Rentals
lerley Lawn Care
JD's Junction
Jefferies Production
Karns
Kiwanis Club of Mdtm
Kreider, Jason
M&T Bank
Let's Pretend
Londonderry Fire Dept
Londonderry EMS
Lower Swatara Police

M A B A
M&H Railroad
M & T Bank
Martin's Flooring
McGinny's Irish Dance
Member's 1st FCU
Metzger Wickersham
Mid Penn Bank
Midtown Pizza
Middletown Area S.D.
Middletown EMA
Middletown Fire Dept
Middletown Fire Police
Mdtwn. Girls Flag Football
MAHS Boys & Girls Soccer
Mdtwn. Historical Society
Middletown Municipal Pool
Middletown Pharmacy
Middletown Police Dept
Middletown Public Library
Middletown Public Works
Moose Lodge 410
New York Life
Nissley's Auto
Olmstead Rec Board
Pa. State Police Canine
PSP Canine Mounted
PSP Canine Recruiter
PSU Alumni Society
PSU Athletic Dept
PSU Police
Penn Captital Police
Penn DoT
Pa. Fish & Boat Commission
Pa. Attorney General Ofc.
State Rep. John Payne
State Senator Mike Folmer

The Pink Sprinkle
Premiere #1 Limousine
Press and Journal
Prince Edwin Spring Creek
Lodge 486 F&AM
ProBarrier
Razor Tattoos
Rescue Hose Club
Rite Aid (store 04287)
Roberto's Pizza
S A R A A (aka HIA)
S A R A A PD (aka HIA)
SH Boyer Hardware
St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran
Samantha Moore
Seven Sorrows BVM
Seven Sorrows Football
Sharon's School of Dance
Sharp Shoper Grocery Outlet
Dale Sinniger
South Central EMS
Target
Turkey Hill
Twin Kiss
US Army
Coast Guard Auxillary Div 52
US Marines Corps
Jenna Usetlon
VFW Post 1620
Valley Baptist
WHP Talk Radio 580
Wells Fargo
Wesley United
With Kidz in Mind
Youth 10 x Better
Cathy Winter
Zoo America

“Under budget and ahead of schedule”

Middletown’s \$1.6 million downtown infrastructure project should be all but complete by the time this newsletter rolls off the presses.

Weather permit, the final block of the project, between Spring and Emaus streets, was to be paved on Tuesday, Oct. 14 and reopened to traffic the next day.

Some minor details will remain to be taken care of, but all should be

completed well ahead of the original Nov. 1 anticipated completion date.

The project is also expected to come in under budget, according to project engineer Josh Fox, of HRG.

“We are ahead of schedule and tracking under budget,” Fox said.

The infrastructure repairs pave the way for a downtown streetscape enhancement program set to get underway early in 2015.



Barriers like this should be a thing of the past by the time you read this edition of Middletown Matters.

PHANTOM (from Page 5)

café in the group’s concept for the building.

“We envision having a café with internet access and outdoor sidewalk, someplace that would draw Penn State students, local residents and visitors from out of town. Since the intersection of Union and Emaus streets will be so nice, it would be an ideal place for a sidewalk café,” Wendi Dobson says.

Philip Dobson is a Harrisburg area real estate developer who recently renovated an old Catho-

“It is a good opportunity for the theater group because of what is going on in the downtown in Middletown.”

-- Philip J. Dobson

lic elementary school on Cameron Street in Harrisburg, turning it into the River City Blues Club and Dart Room, a live music venue with what

has been called a “world class darts facility.”

In renovating the building, which had been used as a print shop and a roofing supply company since the school had closed, Philip Dobson looked to incorporate as many of the historical features of the old school as he could, even restoring old blackboards in the building.

“I am very conscious of historic preservation,” says Dobson, whose offices are located in the Cameron Mansion on

Front Street in Harrisburg, another historic building he restored. “You have to marry the historic and the modern. Restore and preserve what you can, but you have to have modern electric, air conditioning, bathrooms, and such.”

Having agreed to the letter of intent, Tunnell says the next step will be for representatives of the ICDA to meet with Phantom Theatre Company to begin discussions on the terms and conditions of a lease agreement.

TRUTH ISSUE (from Page 1)

stumbles across them through a Google search and calls our attention to it. There is even a sort of shadow site that is either an older, or unfinished, newer, version of the site that lurks in the background.

Work on the long overdue redesign of that site has begun, with plans for it to launch later this year.

In the interim, we will be adding even more news and information features

to the existing site.

One such feature, recently launched, is a day after recap of the actions taken at Borough Council meetings.

We have begun to utilize the Nixle system more for non-emergency situations and we will continue to look for ways to utilize that communications tool.

And with this newsletter issue we are launching a more aggressive effort to counter the rumors and

misinformation being spread regarding Borough issues.

In addition to this issue of the newsletter, we will utilize the Borough’s web site and social media to fact check the most blatant efforts to mislead the public.

Inside this issue you will find responses to some of the most recent efforts to distort the record. As the theme of this issue implies, we are doing this to make certain the Borough’s citizens are bet-

ter informed and to make sure they know the facts about what is going on in the Borough.

As we did with the last issue of Middletown Matters, we will also post these items on the Borough web site with links to the actual documents that are mentioned in the stories.

We invite you to visit the web site regularly to stay abreast of the latest accurate, fact-based news about the Borough.

LEASE (from Page 3) — good options.

Mayor James H. Curry III endorsed Kapenstein's recommendation. Curry called the plan the "lesser of two evils," saying he did not like the idea of leasing the systems, but given the Borough's financial situation, saw no other choice.

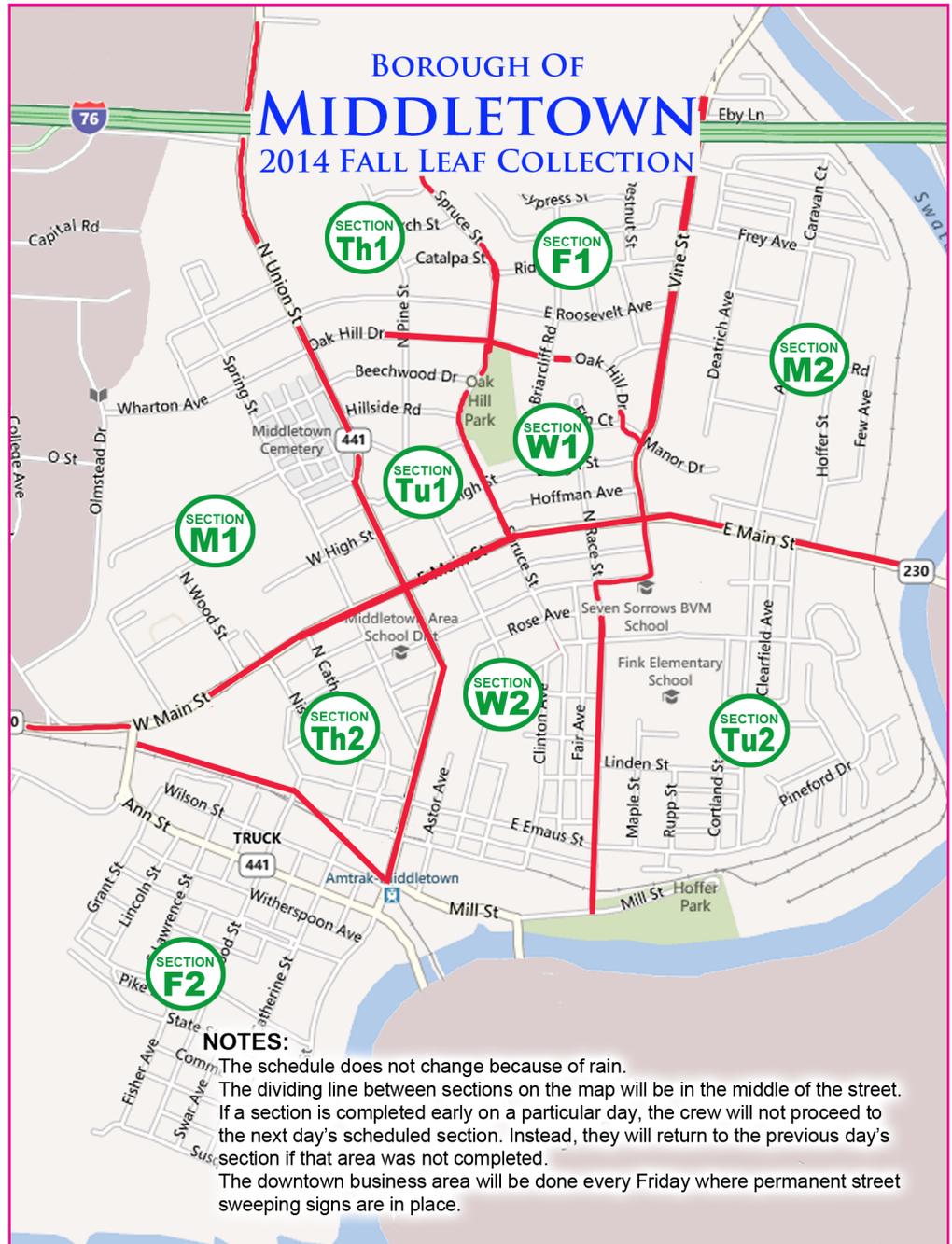
"Nobody likes the idea, but the residents do not want, or cannot handle, a tax increase or a rise in electric rates," the Mayor said. "The money has to come from somewhere and the shoulders of the average citizen are not broad enough to handle (higher taxes or electric rates)."

Curry also pointed to the efforts underway to revitalize the Borough's downtown, saying higher taxes or electric rates would deter new businesses from locating in Middletown.

"If we forgo the lease and raise taxes or electric, no business owner is going to want to come here," he said.

Under the terms of the proposal, the Borough and United Water now have 90 days to close on the lease agreement. United is expected to begin operating the systems on January 1, 2015.

Leaf Collection 2014



HOW TO USE THIS MAP:

1. Find your area of town. Sections are divided by the redlines
2. Identify your section (eg: M1, M2), then use the chart below to see what dates pickup is scheduled in your area

M1: Mondays - Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1	M2: Mondays - Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 8
TU1: Tuesdays - Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2	TU2: Tuesdays - Oct. 28, Nov. 11, Nov. 25, Dec. 9
W1: Wednesdays - Oct. 22, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3	W2: Wednesdays - Oct. 29, Nov. 12, Nov. 26, Dec. 10
TH1: Thursdays - Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Nov. 20, Dec. 4	TH2: Thursdays - Oct. 30, Nov. 13, Nov. 26*, Dec. 11
F1: Fridays - Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 21, Dec. 5	F2: Fridays - Oct. 31, Nov. 14, Dec. 1*, Dec. 12

* The week of Thanksgiving, the TH2 pickup will be on Wednesday, the F2 pickup the following Monday
 An interactive version of this map is available at <http://www.middletownborough.com/leaf>

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