

MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

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Rep. Payne praises Council

State Rep. John Payne had words of praise for Borough Council when he stopped by Council's November 17 meeting to present the Borough with a flag that had flown over the state capital.

In his comments during the presentation, Payne congratulated the Borough on having found a way to resolve the issues caused by problems with an audit of a state grant which had been given to the Greater Middletown Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC).

"Job well done," said Payne. "Thanks to everybody, particularly (Borough Council President) Chris (McNamara) and Jack (Raudenbush) from GMEDC."

Delays in completing the audit were caused by the failure of past leaders of GMEDC to provide the Borough with needed records. The failure of past



Photo by Chris A. Courogen

State Representative John Payne presents the Borough with a flag which was flown over the state Capitol. Accepting the flag for the Borough is Borough Council President Christopher R. McNamara.

Borough administrations to put in place a system to make sure the records were provided in a timely manner after a similar problem with a 2010 audit of another GMEDC grant, also contributed.

The problems with the more recent audit had caused a hold to be placed on the release of

— please see PAYNE Page 8

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Fact Check- police OT - p. 2*
- *Mapping flood impacts - p. 3*
- *Fall decorating photos - p. 4*
- *Parade gallery - p. 6-7*
- *Snow emergency info - p. 9*
- *Community Calendar- p.10*
- *Help Wanted - p.12*

Cause, amount of police OT overstated

A recent Facebook post linked to a media report about the Borough's decision to advertise for the hiring of six part-time officers. In that post, the commenter claimed the Borough has spent "about \$300,000" on police overtime because Borough Council has "refused to hire any police and adequately staff our police department."

The post went on to laud Chief John Bey for "recognizing the public safety issue of not enough officers and controlling police overtime."

Actually, police overtime to date is a little more than half of that off-base estimate. Through the pay period which ended



November 14, police overtime for 2014 has totaled \$179,119.

And the decision to hire the part-time officers did not originate with Chief Bey. That is something

As part of our ongoing commitment to make certain Borough residents have accurate, factual information about Borough government affairs, Fact Check will be a regular feature of Middletown Matters.

A Fact Check section will also debut on the Borough's website when our new, redesigned site launches in early 2015.

Borough Council first authorized in 2012, after then Council member David Rhen voiced concerns over police overtime, which had topped \$220,000 in 2011.

The efforts to hire part time officers to help control overtime were stymied back then by a clause in the previous police contract, which would have required the Borough to pay even part-timers at time-and-half if they were called in to cover a shift that was not on their regular schedule.

In February of this year, Borough Council voted to ratify a new contract, which is based on the ruling handed down last year as the result of binding arbitration. In May, Council voted again to authorize hiring part time officers. However, due to

the vacancy caused by the departure of former Chief Steven Wheeler, the decision was made to put the hiring of part-timers on hold because Council wanted to allow a new chief to be a part of the interview and hiring process.

It is also probably worth noting that from Chief Wheeler's departure in April, until Chief Bey started in October, Sgt. James Bennett assumed the role of Acting Chief, leading to added overtime to fill his regular patrol shifts.

Two officers were also dismissed in recent months. No replacement for them can be hired until after a lengthy grievance/arbitration process plays out. This has also contributed to overtime costs.

Now that Chief Bey is on deck, Council has voted to advertise once again for six part time officers. Because the new contract eliminates the automatic time-and-half pay for part-timers called in to fill a shift (they still get OT for over 8 hours in a day or over 40 hours in a week), Chief Bey will have the management tools needed to make significant reductions in the Borough's police overtime costs.

MIDDLETOWN MATTERS

CHRIS A. COUROGEN, EDITOR

Middletown Matters is the official newsletter of the Borough of Middletown, Pa. Published monthly, 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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AMY J. FRIDAY

County unveils new tool to help forecast flood impact

The Susquehanna River has never reached 37-feet at Harrisburg. At least not in the history of the river gauge that sits just south of the Market Street Bridge on the Harrisburg side of City Island.

The highest level ever recorded there was 33.27 feet during Hurricane Agnes in 1972. But thanks to a cool, and valuable, new tool, we can tell what it would be like in Middletown should the river, God forbid, ever reach such record heights.

The Borough's Public Works facility at the south end of Lawrence Street, along Mud Pike, would sit high and dry. Most areas of the old Portsmouth part of town to the south and east of there, though, would have water.

We know that thanks to a massive computer modeling project which resulted in the development of a highly interactive flooding inundation mapping tool for the 20 miles of the Susquehanna River that stretches from Duncannon to the north to the confluence of the river and the Swatara Creek here in Middletown.

The mapping tools,



Photo by Chris A. Courogen

Ben Pratt, a hydraulic engineer with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, showcases the new, interactive flood forecast mapping tool developed by an interagency team known as the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets.

hailed as potentially life-saving by Stephen B. Libhart, the director of Dauphin County's Emergency Management Agency, can be used in times of high water to get a pretty good idea of what areas are going to get wet at varying river stages.

"This is a tool for identi-

fying people and properties that are at risk much sooner than we could before," Libhart said.

View the
Flood Mapping Tool at

<http://is.gd/icMUZk>

be affected."

For example, if the Susquehanna were to reach 37 feet, water would be 12-14-feet deep at the

intersection of Catherine and Pike streets. At Market and Wood it would be between 1.3 and 2.3 feet. Down at the ball field at the Corner of Susquehanna and Union streets, the river has to reach 21 feet for home plate to get wet. At 37-feet, it would be close to 15-feet under.

The version of the tool made public through the

— please see MAP, page 11

CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH A CLEAN EARTH.



In 2015, United Water and the Borough of Middletown will become partners in the operation, maintenance and management of Middletown's water and sewer utility system.

United Water delivers more than just clean water. For people, businesses, and communities across the country, we provide sustainable solutions for essential environmental services including drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment.



To learn more, visit: unitedwater.com twitter.com/unitedwater facebook.com/UnitedWater

Avoid tickets or being towed by obeying snow emergency parking rules

Under Section 252-34 of the Borough's Code of Ordinances, the following regulations apply during any declared snow emergency in the Borough.

NO PARKING RESTRICTIONS

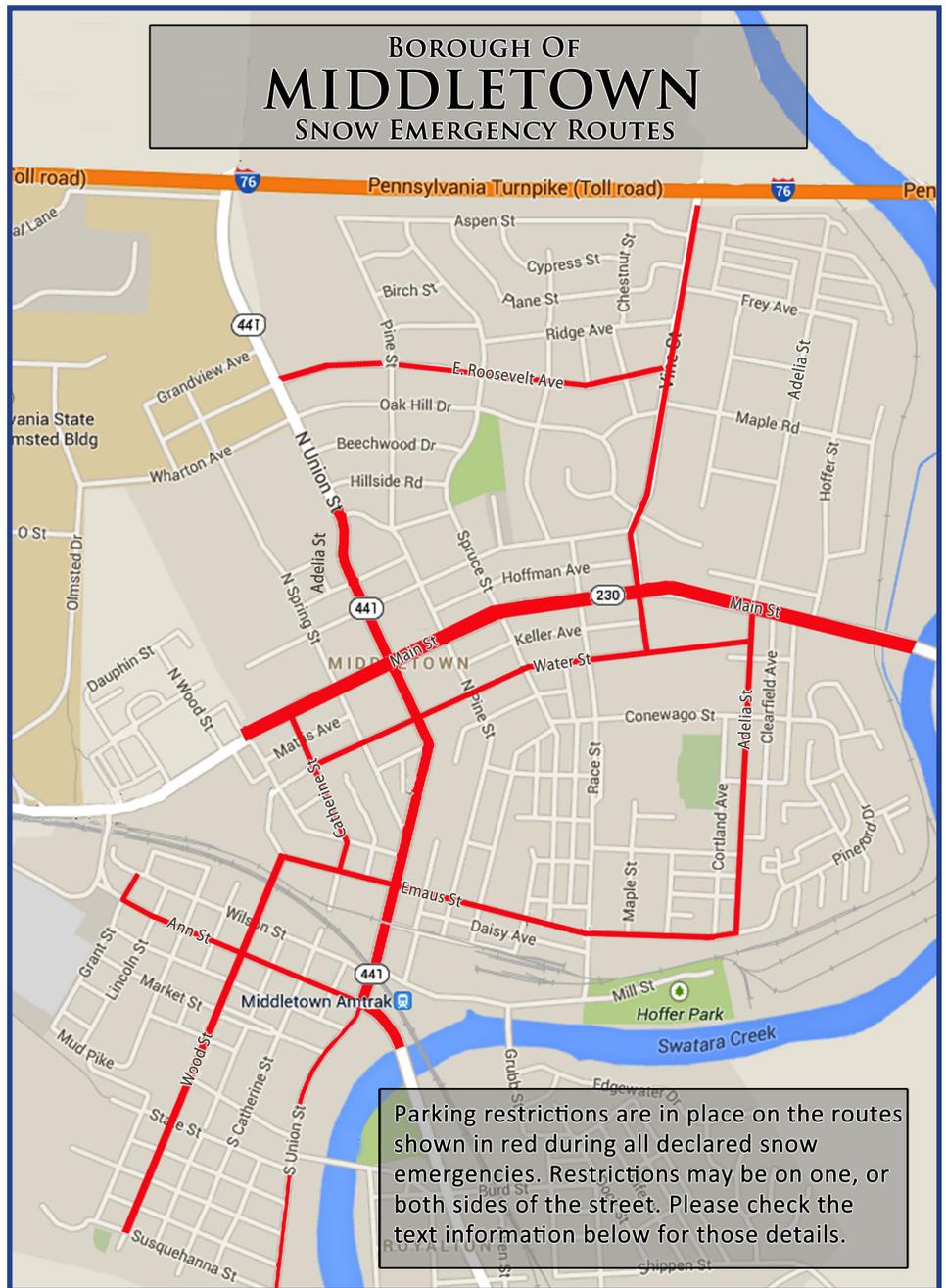
During a declared snow emergency, it shall be unlawful for any person to park, or to permit to remain parked, on any street designated as a snow emergency route (see map and details to the right) any type of motor vehicle, boat, boat trailer, camper, recreational vehicles or any trailer used for the purpose of hauling motor vehicles or other items, with respect to the north side of east-west streets or with respect to the east side of north-south streets, unless otherwise indicated. However, upon complete removal of all snow from the total parking area, on such side of the street in front of any property, parking will at once become again permissible, so long as there is no interference with the snow removal program of the Borough and no interference with traffic during the remainder of such emergency

DUMPSTERS ON SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

It shall be unlawful for any dumpster to be placed on a designated snow emergency route at any time from December 1 of any year through March 31 of the following year, except through the acquisition of a special exemption granted by Middletown Borough Council, and then only for the specified period of time that is approved by Middletown Borough Council.

PLACEMENT OF OBJECTS TO RESERVE PARKING SPACES

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person from December 1 of any year and continuing until March 31 of the following year to place or cause to be placed any item whatsoever for the purpose of reserving parking spaces on any street in the Borough during any periods of precipitation, whether or not a snow emergency has been declared.



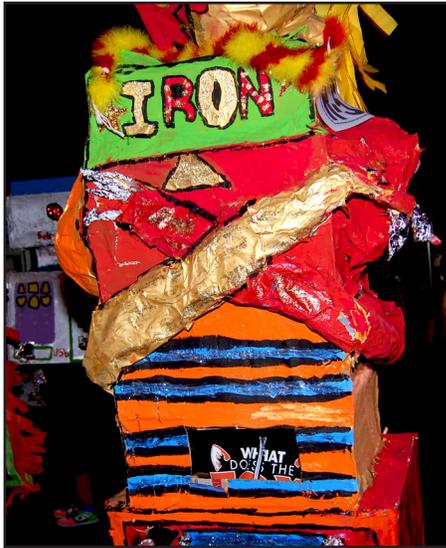
SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING RESTRICTION DETAILS

Name of Street	Side	Location
Adelia Street	East	From Emaus Street to East Main Street
Ann Street	North	From Swatara Creek west to Grant Street
Catherine Street	East	From Emaus Street north to Main Street
Emaus Street	North	From Adelia Street west to Wood Street
Grant Street	East	From Ann Street to Wilson Street
Main Street	Both	From Swatara Creek to Apple Avenue
Roosevelt Street	North	From Vine Street west to Union Street
Union Street	Both	From Ann Street to Park Circle Road
Union Street	East	From Ann Street to its southern limits
Vine Street	East	From Water Street to Aspen Street
Water Street	North	From Vine Street to Catherine Street
Wilson Street	North	From Grant Street to and over the overhead bridge to Main Street
Wood Street	East	From Susquehanna Street north to Emaus Street

61st Kiwanis Ha



Halloween Parade



PAYNE (from Page 1)

state funds for projects in the Borough, including a \$250,000 grant Payne helped secure for the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department.

“It was more than just the \$250,000 for the fire department that was being held up,” Payne said, noting that the hold also impacted more than \$1 million in other grants which have either been approved, or are under consideration, along with the Borough’s share of state Liquid Fuels money.

The issue could also have impacted state funding for next year’s planned resurfacing of Route 230 (Main Street) and plans

to replace the Route 230 bridge over the Swatara Creek, said Payne.

Payne, and state Senator Mike Folmer, helped resolve the situation by hosting a meeting between Borough and GMEDC officials after the Borough had requested an investigation into the missing records by the state Attorney General’s office.

“We really appreciate the

help both Representative Payne and Senator Folmer provided in getting this

“Job well done. Thanks to everybody, particularly (Borough Council President) Chris (McNamara) and Jack (Raudenbush) from GMEDC.”

- State Rep John Payne

have praised Raudenbush for his efforts in helping locate and provide the records after other GMEDC officials had failed to cooperate. With Raudenbush’s help, the

auditors were able to account for all but \$17,192 of the original \$135,000 grant to GMEDC.

The Borough will have to repay the state the \$17,192 — \$3,245 which was spent outside the grant program’s guidelines and \$13,947 which GMEDC could not produce receipts for. Later in that night’s meeting, Borough Council voted to authorize the Council President to sign an agreement being drafted by the Borough’s solicitor which will set up a payment schedule for GMEDC to repay the Borough for those funds.

Reach Everybody in Town



Middletown Matters is distributed to every mailbox in town.

That means your message can reach more than 5,000 homes and businesses, at a fraction of the cost of other forms of advertising.

And now Middletown Matters is also distributed on the Penn State Harrisburg campus, helping your business reach the students, staff and faculty, too.

To learn more about advertising in Middletown Matters, contact us at newsletter@middletownborough.com

Fall Decorating



On Sunday, October 19, a group of civic minded volunteers came together to decorate the Square and the downtown for the fall season. Thank you to all who participated.



Community Calendar

December 1

Public Works Committee Meeting
1:30 p.m., Public Works Complex Conference Room
Borough Council Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Borough Hall

December 3

Public Safety Committee Meeting
1:30 p.m. – Council Chambers, Borough Hall
Industrial-Commercial Development Authority Mtg
6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Borough Hall
Penn State Harrisburg Basketball vs. York (Pa.)
Women – 6 p.m., Men 8 p.m. – Capital Union Bldg

December 4

Historical Restoration Commission Meeting
6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Borough Hall
Borough Authority (water-sewer)
7 p.m., Public Works Complex Conference Room

December 5

Community Tree Lighting w/Santa's Arrival
7 p.m., Swatara Ferry House Landing

December 8

Finance Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. – Council Chambers, Borough Hall
PSU Paws for Health
6 p.m., Middletown Public Library

December 12

Penn State Harrisburg Women's Basketball
vs. Lancaster Bible, 6 p.m., Capital Union Building

December 13

Victorian Holiday Tea
2 p.m., Smuller Bed & Breakfast
10th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes
4-8 p.m., info: www.middletownhistorichometour.com

December 14

10th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes
1-5 p.m., info: www.middletownhistorichometour.com

December 15

Borough Council Committee of the Whole Meeting
7 p.m., Council Chambers, Borough Hall



*Community
Tree Lighting*
*with special appearance
by the Jolly Fat Man himself*

Friday, December 5
7-9 p.m.

Swatara Ferry House Landing
South Union and Ann streets

www.middletownareahistoricalsociety.org



**HISTORIC MIDDLETOWN'S
10TH ANNUAL**

*Holiday Candlelight
Tour of Homes*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
4-8 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
1-5 P.M.**

Victorian Holiday Tea

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
2-4 P.M.**

For Ticket Information
Call 805-5011

www.middletownhistorichometour.com

 www.facebook.com/pages/Middletown-Holiday-Home-Tour

MAP (from Page 3)

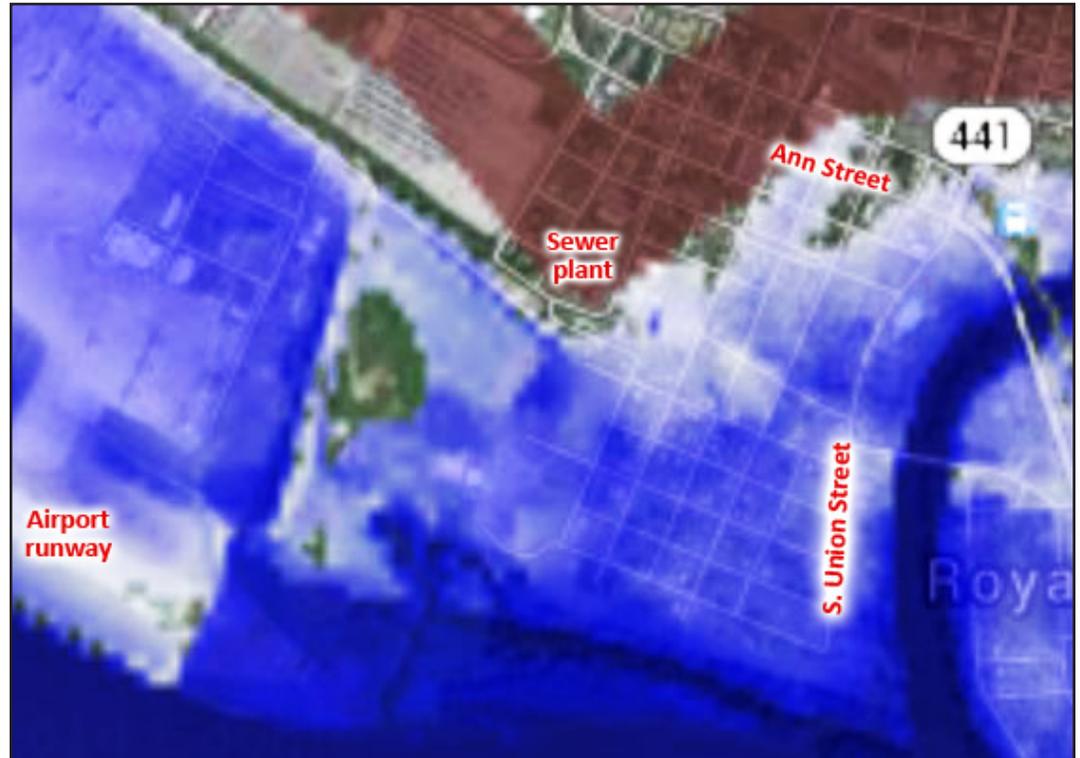
National Weather Service's web site allows users to select various river levels, which are reflected in real time by the map. Users can also "drop a pin" to get more location precise predictions.

"We'd like to see people go to the viewer today and see what level of water impacts them," said Ben Pratt, a hydraulic engineer with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. "It is a very important tool, not just for the citizens of Dauphin County, but also for the county's emergency responders."

The map tool is the result of 18 months of collaborative work by the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets, an interagency team whose members for this project included the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Geological Survey, National Weather Service, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Harrisburg Authority and Dauphin County.

Using historical data, including hand-drawn inundation maps from the past, the team was able to model the impact of flooding based on a variety of river levels.

Changes in local conditions can impact local flooding, but barring the building of things like new dams and bridges,



This screen capture, with landmarks added, shows how most of the Portsmouth area of the Borough would be inundated by flood levels if the Susquehanna River were to reach 37 feet at Harrisburg. The current record crest, set during the Hurricane Agnes Flood of 1972, is 33.27 feet.

Pratt said the map's predictions should be plenty accurate enough for people to be able to tell if they will be impacted based on predicted river levels.

"Things change in the environment. This is a snapshot based on historical data. We recognize that it will be pretty good, but it is not exactly on the spot," Pratt said. "We have a lot of confidence in it, but it is not perfect."

Middletown is a good example of the challenges the map can face. The tool will give a pretty accurate prediction of the impact of high water on the Susquehanna, including flooding that would be caused by the Swatara

Creek backing up due to high river levels.

But when the main cause of flooding is the Swatara, as it was during the Tropical Storm Lee flood, the River map is of little help. The Susquehanna at Harrisburg crested well below 26 feet during Lee.

The epicenter of the Lee flooding on the Swatara Creek side of town was the corner of Few and Maple streets. According to the Susquehanna-based map, that intersection would stay dry until the River was above 30 feet at Harrisburg.

Libhart hopes to secure funding to have the Swatara Creek watershed mapped, too.

During future high

water events, the Borough will link to the inundation map, and post images drawn from the map. Pratt said people should not wait until there are threatening conditions to check it out.

"We'd like to see them go to the viewer today and see what level of water impacts them," he said. "That would allow them to make a plan now."

That is also a good idea because it could take you a while to figure out how to work the map tool. It's fairly intuitive to operate, but you will want to play around a little to explore the capabilities of the map tool. There is also an 8 minute YouTube user guide available.

**LOCAL
Postal Customer**

Yep, we are hiring

Are you looking for a career that's exciting, rewarding and makes a difference?

Then consider joining the Middletown Borough Police Department. The Middletown Borough Police are looking for the finest and brightest individuals to join the ranks of one of the first police organizations in Dauphin County!



The Borough of Middletown is accepting applications for part-time police officers. Candidates should be at least 21 years of age, be a U.S. citizen, possess a high school diploma or GED, possess a valid Pennsylvania driver's license and be physically & mentally fit to perform the duties of a police officer.

Candidates must have all Act 120 certifications required by the state of Pennsylvania. Interested persons may submit a resume with cover letter to Borough Secretary, 60 West Emaus Street, Middletown, Pa., 17057 no later than Monday December 15, 2014.

The Middletown Borough Police Department is an equal opportunity employer and is firmly committed to promoting public confidence in the Department's integrity and professional excellence. It is the policy of the Department to proactively seek the most qualified candidates from the diverse cultural, gender, and ethnic backgrounds of the citizens of this Commonwealth.

The Middletown Borough Police Department is an equal opportunity employer that seeks a diverse workforce, which reflects the communities we serve, while ensuring equal opportunities for all employees and applicants for employment.