



City of Middletown

The Heart of Louisville

The doors are always open in the City of Middletown.
We are here to help you, the residents and businesses.

City Officials

2019-2020

Mayor J. Byron Chapman

•

Commissioner Mark Stigers

Commissioner Ron Wolf

Commissioner Paul Zimmerman

Commissioner Amy Oliver

*Success is not final, failure is not final: it is
the courage to continue that counts.*

From the Desk of Mayor J. Byron Chapman

J. Byron Chapman, Mayor

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! I hope everyone has a great holiday and be sure to enjoy family and friends.

Wow, what a busy year we had in Middletown. Some of the things we got accomplished in 2019:

- Numerous sidewalk and street repairs
- We have several sidewalk projects in design
- The city held five concerts in the park and hosted our annual festival
- Started the Middletown Police Department with outstanding experienced officers under the direction of Chief Robert Herman
- Co-hosted the Trick or Treat & Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt
- Lit up Middletown with more park Christmas decorations

Some things to look forward to:

- Greater efforts to beautify and keep our city clean
- A Meet Your Middletown Police Department event

2020 will be a busy year. We thank you all for continuing to make Middletown such a great city to live, shop and play!

Feel free to stop by our office to meet our Police Department or give us a call with any questions or concerns you might have.

MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The holidays are just about behind us now, and I hope everyone had a great time with friends and family. The New Year brings us hopes and dreams, and this applies to our police department as well. The process of hiring additional officers is in the final stages and as soon as those new officers hit the streets our department will now be a full-time 24hr agency. You will now see our officers patrolling your streets, neighborhoods, and businesses around the clock, thus providing crime prevention and improved emergency response to the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the City of Middletown. I continue to receive positive feedback from our citizens and businesses about contacts they have with our officers. I encourage everyone to stop and talk to our officers when they are not busy handling a call for service.

Crime trends continue to primarily focus on thefts from unlocked automobiles and open garages and sheds. I empower everyone to take steps to help fight this trend by keeping their vehicles locked and valuables out of sight or moving those items into your homes when your vehicle is left unattended. Remember to close your garage and shed doors when you are finished using items that are stored there. More and more residents are installing security cameras on their property to keep an extra eye on their belongings. If you should capture suspicious activity, please notify us and if possible, send that video in so our detectives can review the video for leads. Information and videos can be sent to:

info@middletownkypd.org.

While I patrol around our city, I see a disturbing increase in motorist disobeying stop signs and traffic lights. This leads to increases in traffic accidents and the possibility of criminal fines if stopped by our officers. With a world moving at the speed of light, we sometimes carry that behavior over to our driving habits. I encourage everyone to take the time to obey all traffic laws, whether it is speed limits on neighborhood streets or coming to a complete stop at all stops signs to making

sure it is safe to continue your journey. We are in the process of working with Louisville Metro Council to purchase a new speed machine to deploy in areas where these violations are occurring. This state-of-the-art speed machine will capture speed data and even photographs to help us provide effective traffic enforcement options to problem areas.

Myself and my officers take pride in our city, with your help, we can make Middletown a safer more enjoyable place to live, raise our families, and work. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to give me a call and share your opinions or a story about a contact you had with my officers. I look forward to meeting and talking to all the residents and businesses in Middletown as the New Year progresses.



Chief Rob Herman

11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.

502-365-1900

middletownkypd.org

WELCOME MPD'S NEWEST OFFICERS

In September, the Middletown Police Department hired 4 more officers for a total of 10. All of these experienced and high-quality men are retired from LMPD. You may have already seen them patrolling your neighborhoods and businesses, now we would like to introduce them to you.



Sgt. Pat Bass

Sgt. Bass recently retired from LMPD's 8th Division before coming to MPD. Over his 20 years at LMPD he served in many units and divisions. Sgt. Bass served many years as a Flex Detective and, most recently, a Sergeant over Division Detectives. He enjoys citizen interactions and helping those in need. Sgt. Bass brings extensive experience in investigations and will be our first Detective Sgt.

Officer Scott Beck

Officer Beck also retired from LMPD's 8th Division before coming to MPD, he was with LMPD for 20 years. While at LMPD Ofc. Beck was a Patrolman, Flex Detective, Criminal Investigation Division Detective, on the Special Response Team, and Bicycle Response Team.



Sgt. Dave Peters

Sgt. Peters retired from LMPD's 8th Division before coming to MPD. Sgt. Peters spent many years in the Major Crimes Unit investigating Business Robberies as well as Felony Domestic Violence. Sgt. Peters was a Police Training Officer, Hostage Negotiator, was assigned to the Special Response Team, the Bike Response Team, and certified as a member of the Crisis Intervention Team.



Officer Clint Singleton

Officer Singleton served in combat during the first Gulf war and received several medals and awards including a Navy Achievement Medal. During his service Ofc. Singleton made a lateral move over to the military police side at the rank of Sergeant. After the military, Ofc. Singleton served LMPD for 23 as an Officer, many of those in the 8th Division.



INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
Circa 1797

J. Byron Chapman
Mayor



P.O. Box 43048
11803 Old Shelbyville Road
Middletown, Kentucky 40253
(502) 245-2762
(502) 245-6047 Fax
E-mail: deborah@cityofmiddletownky.org
cityofmiddletownky.org

Dear City of Middletown Resident and Business Owners:

I am writing you today about the importance of making sure that any insurance policy you purchase is designated as a policy purchased within the City of Middletown. This is critical because the 5% tax on insurance premiums is nearly 30% of our total annual revenue.

The law requires insurance companies to designate policies to the correct taxing jurisdiction, but often mistakes and omissions are made. For any of your insurance policies, please make sure your agent or the insurance company designates this as a City of Middletown policy so that we can keep the money in this City.

Insurance premium revenue allows the City to provide services such as a full-time police department, improved roads and sidewalks, streetlighting, snow removal, the Festival, Light up Middletown, summer band concerts in the park, Shelbyville Road beautification and our parks and Community Center.

Insurance companies are required to credit City of Middletown insurance premium taxes against the same tax charged by the City of Louisville. This means that you don't pay the same tax twice. But it also means that if your insurance policy is not designated as a City of Middletown policy, the money goes to the City of Louisville. We need to keep that money in Middletown to provide the local services we all enjoy.

To give you an idea of the importance of this issue, last year's income from the insurance premium tax was \$952,205.00. This was an increase over the previous year of 11.5%. As you can see this is an important line item in our revenue.

The City of Middletown needs insurance premium income to continue to grow. This is crucial as the City of Louisville continues to struggle financially and has cut important services, such as the Metro Louisville Police Department. The City of Middletown is determined to pick up the slack to make sure that Middletown is protected, continues to flourish, and provides additional services to our community.

Please take a moment to make sure all your insurance is designated within the City of Middletown.

Best regards,

J. Byron Chapman
Mayor



Historic Middletown

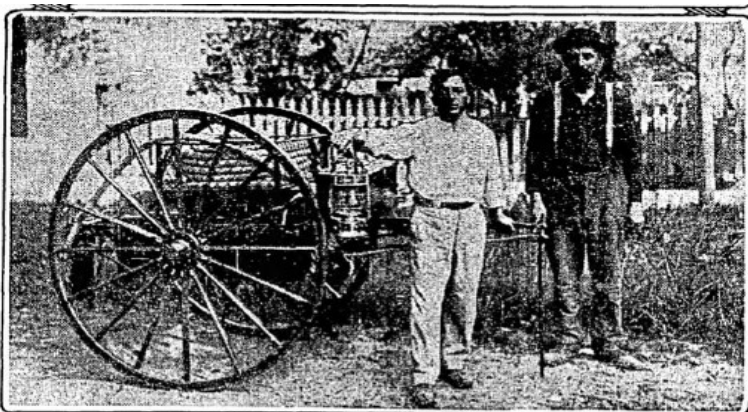
COMMISSIONER MARK STIGERS

Middletown Business Men will Urge Improvements

The Middletown Commercial Club was organized January 11, 1912 at the Bank of Middletown with about fifty businessmen enrolled as members. Better service from the Louisville & Eastern Railroad Company, better mail service for the residents of Middletown, an ice plant, cold storage plant and lighting plant are the objects for which the Middletown Commercial Club will work.

Directors for the year were chosen as follows: Ed Cox, Henry Frank, Will Cox, Dr. Silas Wetherby, Luke Wetherby, Lawrence Cox, Dr. Sam Wetherby, Gene Brinley, E.K. Pennebaker, Clark McDonald, Ben Coleman, James J. Douglas, J.W. Urton, James Blankenbaker, O.S. Kline, C.S. Russell, H.B. Phillips, Ward Jones, William Ousler and Dr. L.D. Mason.

May 23, 1912 the Middletown Commercial Club organized a company known as the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department Company. Articles of Incorporation were drawn up and filed. By-Laws were adopted and the following officers elected: Fire Chief L.F. Jones, Asst Chief L.P. Wetherby, Captain of Chemical Engine E.S. Jones, Lieutenant Chemical Engine H.P. Phillips, Captain Hook and Ladder John Schindler, Lieutenant of Hook and Ladder L.C. McFarland, Secretary and Treasurer Wood H. Jones. A lot has been secured for the engine house and a building will be erected soon. The people are highly pleased with the American LaFrance chemical engine and other fire apparatus, it is said will be purchased to fight fires. Information obtained for the 50th anniversary of the Middletown Fire Protection District stated the engine house was located in a building at or near the intersection of Wayside and South Madison Avenue.



1912 Photograph of the chemical engine of the Jeffersontown VFD Company.

◆ Museum Moment ◆

Middletown Museum 11700 Main Street

The museum is seeing a steady number of visitors. We receive many requests for information about past residents, buildings and other Middletown features. Visitors share their information and the museum provides valuable information that we have available. We have a Face Book page that is updated frequently.

We are open Thursdays 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Come by and check out the Museum's displays.

SWIGERT MIDDLETOWN MASONIC LODGE

Swigert Middletown Masonic Lodge presents 8 new bicycles to Middletown Elementary and Hite Elementary schools as perfect attendance incentives for their students for this school year. Pictured above from left to right are Phil Wells-Lodge Master PT, Justin Matson-Principal of Middletown Elementary School, and Allan Clark-Lodge Secretary.

Swigert Middletown Masonic Lodge holds a Charity Golf Scramble each year to fund our annual Charity donation program. In addition to the bicycle incentive program we also donate to the following; Scholarships to deserving High School Seniors to help defray college expenses, St. Mary's Center for education of autistic children and adults, The Morton Center for substance abuse rehabilitation, Middletown Elementary's Family Resource Center for student needs, Masons Helping Masons for when a member is in need, and the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans.

Additionally, at Christmas time we also deliver food baskets to needy families in the Middletown area. We get the names of these families from our members, the local schools, and the local churches, usually about 12 families per year.

Our annual Golf Scramble is the engine that drives all these charity donations. It is held in June each year at Eagle Creek Golf Course in LaGrange KY. If you are interested in participating, please call 502-245-5280, or e-mail us at al.clark73@aol.com, or by letter to 440 No. Madison Ave, Middletown KY 40243.



Trash Recycle Yard Waste

Rumpke Contact Information



**Phone—800-678-6753 or
502-568-3800 Ext. 3
for Customer Service**

Website: www.rumpke.com

Contact customer service for all your needs: to order a cart, if you have more carts than you want, if you have a broken cart that needs repair or replacement, for a special pick up or if you have a complaint.

In the event you are not satisfied with Rumpke's customer service, please contact City Hall at 245-2762.

For a holiday calendar, please visit rumpke.com and click on the holiday schedule.

RECYCLE PICK UP

North of Shelbyville Road

*Friday, Jan 3
Thursday, Jan 16
Thursday, Jan 30
Thursday, Feb 13
Thursday, Feb 27
Thursday, March 12
Thursday, March 26
Thursday, April 9
Thursday, April 23

South of Shelbyville Road

Thursday, Jan 9
Thursday, Jan 23
Thursday, Feb 6
Thursday, Feb 20
Thursday, March 5
Thursday, March 19
Thursday, April 2
Thursday, April 16
Thursday, April 30



* One day delay due to holiday

The Importance of Recycling

Have you ever wondered what your plastic bottle will become after it's placed in the recycling container? What about that used soup can? These common, household items are sorted, processed and sent to manufacturers to be made into something new. For example, plastic bottles are recycled into plastic strapping and carpet, and steel cans are used in appliances and automotive parts. Recycling good, clean product is important, especially due to recent shifts in the recycling industry.

In 2017, China announced a policy that stopped the import of 24 materials, two of which are essential to residential recycling program – mixed paper and mixed plastics. In addition to the material ban, China enacted strict purity standards, causing many recyclers that were dependent on Chinese markets to stop exports to the country, and in some cases, landfill material. Rumpke, Middletown's waste and recycling hauler, has not landfilled recyclables.

Recognizing the impact of these changes, Rumpke reduced processing speeds at its recycling facilities, added more labor for quality control and increased material audits and customer education. Rumpke also purchased advanced recycling sorting equipment and has developed long-term marketing contracts with manufacturers in the Midwest.

"Ninety-eight percent of the recyclable material Rumpke collects is reused by regional, domestic manufacturers."

Despite these challenges, Rumpke has been recycling for 87 and will continue to do so. It's vital to have strong recycling programs in place and continue spreading the word about the importance of recycling, and how to recycle the right way.

Five Tips to Make Your Recycling Count

- 1. Place items in your recycling container loose.**
Don't place material inside plastic bags, and please don't place empty plastic bags in your recycling. Plastic bags are not accepted in Rumpke's recycling program, but you can take them back to many area grocery/retail stores.
- 2. Avoid "tanglers."**
Items like clothing, bed sheets, garden hoses, chains, ropes, dog leashes and Christmas lights should not be placed in your recycling. These "tanglers" wrap around the sorting equipment at the recycling facility and cause damage.
- 3. Look at Rumpke's list, not the label.**
Virtually everything has a recycling symbol; however, that doesn't mean an item can be recycled everywhere. An item's recyclability is determined by many factors.
- 4. When it comes to plastic, look at the shape of the container, not the number.**
Rumpke only accepts plastic bottles and jugs, which are containers that have a smaller top and larger bottom. Rumpke sells to end-users who ask for plastics made by the blown mold method – and that's bottles and jugs.
- 5. Cans CAN be recycled.**
When it comes to metal and aluminum, only put cans in your recycling container. While

Rumpke Waste & Recycling

other types of metal can be recycled, you should take non-can items directly to a specialized metal recycler.

Recycle These Items

PAPER



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



PLASTIC BOTTLES



METAL CANS



empty aerosol cans that didn't contain hazardous or flammable material

CARTONS



**DON'T
RECYCLE
THESE:**

Clothing
Batteries
Plastic Bags
Pots & Pans



www.rumpke.com | 1-800-828-8171

RUMPKE

An Attitude of Gratitude May Cure the Holiday Blues

By Warren P. Lesser, DBA, MBA President, Middletown Chamber of Commerce

The verdict is in. Hundreds of peer-reviewed, scholarly research studies support the fact that living with an attitude of gratitude can positively impact every area of our lives. Gratitude is a precursor to joy. Living with an attitude of gratitude enhances our mental health and psychological well-being, augments our immune systems and physical health, and resets our spiritual/eternal perspective (see reference links below for more information).

I regard myself as an optimistic person but recently I was feeling down because of certain events. So, I decided to make a list of things for which I could give thanks. I started writing down the big, obvious items like personal health, family, friends, job, house, car, church, America, etc. But then I just kept writing and started listing the smaller items I typically take for granted. For example, I listed electricity in my house, a working refrigerator that keeps cold the food I like, running water that tastes good, fabulous available medical care in our community, our garbage disposal, a hot oven, a warm shower, my skills, traits, and talents (each one of us has unique talents and each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made), eyes that can see, a cognitive brain that can process information, a working tongue I can use to articulate my thoughts, our Commonwealth and the beauty and privileges we can enjoy living in this state, terrific restaurants and innumerable resources we have in Louisville, freedom, government resources, my favorite dessert, hole-less socks, 10 toes, a reliable earth rotation/orbit, etc..

The list is random and once one starts writing, the list can go on and on. However, the value of this exercise is that when finished and we go back and read what we have written down, thoughts of negativity, self-pity, ingratitude, and resultant feelings of depression ... do vanish. This holy day season, we can all be thankful for more things than we can write down, *if this is what we choose to do*.

Last but certainly not least, I am thankful for the city of Middletown, our Chamber of Commerce, and for the dedicated people who work in these organizations. We wish you blessed holidays and a joyful 2020 but specifically, we wish you a spirit and habitual attitude ... of gratitude.

Attitude ↓



Gratitude

Reference Links

Harvard Medical School – Mental Health Benefits

https://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/in-praise-of-gratitude

Forbes – 7 Scientifically Proven Benefits of Gratitude

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/amymorin/2014/11/23/7-scientifically-proven-benefits-of-gratitude-that-will-motivate-you-to-give-thanks-year-round/#43d379ec183c>

31 Benefits of Gratitude

<https://www.happierhuman.com/benefits-of-gratitude/>

Web MD – Gratitude & Health

<https://www.webmd.com/women/features/gratitude-health-boost#1>

Spiritual

<https://www.ibelieve.com/slideshows/7-powerful-spiritual-benefits-of-thankfulness.html>
<https://>

MIDDLETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Freda Chapman, Executive Director

Upcoming Events Check our website for details!

1/9/20 – Chamber Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$20. Details TBA

1/10/20 – Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 @ Middletown City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville

1/16/20 – Chamber Board meeting – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. @ Chamber office, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

1/21/20 – Lunch and Learn Workshop – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Cost is \$15.00 @ Middletown City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

1/23/20 – Ribbon Cutting at Parkside Family Dental. 107 N. Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40243 @ 12:00 P.M.

1/24/20 - Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA.

1/28/20 – Leads at Lightning Speed – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Middletown City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

1/30/20 – Be Our Guest at Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. @ Middletown City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

2/13/20 - Chamber Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$20. Details TBA

2/14/20 – Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA

2/20/20 – Chamber Board meeting – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. @ Chamber office, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

2/28/20 - Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA

3/12/20 - Chamber Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$20. Details TBA

3/13/20 – Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA

3/16/20 – Taste of Middletown – Details TBA

3/19/20 – Chamber Board meeting – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. @ Chamber office, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

3/24/20 – Leads at Lightning Speed – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Middletown City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

3/27/20 - Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA

4/9/20 - Chamber Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$20. Details TBA

4/10/20 – Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA

4/11/20 – Annual Easter Egg Hunt @ 1:00 p.m. – Wetherby Park, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

4/16/20 – Chamber Board meeting – 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. @ Chamber office, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road

4/24/20 - Senior Synergy Networking luncheon – 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Details TBA.

Hello Middletown

We are almost through another year and we have been busy! We are now a chamber of 461 members and growing every day. Our members continue to help each other by sharing ideas and programs. I could go on and on about our businesses...

The chamber has a Senior Synergy group that works together to help our seniors and their sponsors. We had a festive Light up Middletown and our vendor participation is growing. We had a spooky fun trick or treat event with the First Baptist Church and our festival was awesome.

If you know a business that would like to get more involved in our community and grow in a positive way, let them know about our chamber. We are now offering health insurance for members. We would love to have YOU as part of our chamber.

For more information please call the chamber office at 502-245-0404 to speak with me or Laura. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thanks again for all the community support!

Join Your Chamber

2 – 5	Employees	\$150
6-10	Employees	\$175
11-20	Employees	\$200
21-50	Employees	\$250
51-100	Employees	\$300
Nonprofits & Churches		\$150
Individual members with no business affiliation		\$125

Middletown Market

At

First Baptist Church

Celebration Hall 11711 Main Street

2020—Even the numbers are exciting! They make me think that everything this year will come clearly into focus. For First Baptist Church this year is extremely special because we will celebrate our 100th year Anniversary!

In the New Year we often look back on the old one, and because of you I can look back happily at 2019, to see that our schedule of four Markets per year is a good fit. Yes, we have scheduling conflicts with basketball and football games, but so far, it's only a few men who good-naturedly grumble. Someday, we'll get a TV set up in "The Lunch Room". "The Lunch Room" is what we call the room to the right of the Celebration Hall parking lot entrance. It's especially reserved for you who buy something yummy at "The Lunch Counter," such as Miss Cristi's loaded chicken salad on a croissant sandwich and/or one of her great soups. A la carte sandwiches or soups are just \$4, and if you add a drink and chips to make a meal, it's just \$1 more! While I'm talking food, have you noticed that we're now holding a church-wide bake sale with each Market? Originally, we expected to sell baked goods just Friday nights, but we often have a few goodies left Saturday for you early shoppers.

I simply must brag on our vendors! They're what make the Markets special. They work very hard to make their booths inviting and their wares splendid! Whether it's something they've made by hand or especially chosen to put their name to, they want to please you. We wouldn't have a Market without them, and, of course, we wouldn't have a Market without YOU!

Market hours are Friday, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The 2020 Market Middletown Market dates are as follows:

February 7 & 8 -- Valentine Edition

April 17 & 18-- Derby Edition with Fashion Show

September 11 & 12 -- Festival Edition

November 28 -- Holiday/Small Business Saturday Edition (Saturday)

Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS 108 Urton Lane – Chief Andy Longstreet

As we begin a new year, it is often helpful to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and contemplate the opportunities we have in the future.

I take great pride in what our Team accomplished in 2019. We responded to nearly 5,000 fire-related calls for service and over 9,000 medical calls. That's a lot of chances to make someone's bad day just a little better; and our responders do a great job of just that!

Last year also saw the biggest change to local emergency service delivery. The Harrods Creek,

Worthington, and Eastwood Fire Districts all merged into Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS.

We expanded service to the community putting more responders on the street every day. And we did it with the lowest tax rate in Jefferson County.

So, what will 2020 bring? We will soon begin a Strategic Planning process for the merged Districts to chart our course for the next three to five years. We want to ensure that we continue to provide the same high level of service the community expects in a financially responsible manner.

I wish you all the best in 2020.

Louisville Polar Plunge

February 22, 2020

Texas Roadhouse Middletown

The Polar Plunge is not only the #ChillofaLifetime, it's the most unique fundraiser around. Be a part at one of the COOLEST events of the season in 2020! You can take the plunge, donate, or volunteer! It'll be a memory you won't soon forget!

**Register Online at
LouisvillePlunge.com**



FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS
KENTUCKY

No matter how you choose to take part, you'll join hundreds of others in support of the over 10,000 people with intellectual disabilities who participate in year-round sports and health programming provided by Special Olympics Kentucky.

THE MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY: THE WHOLE STORY

By: J. Byron Chapman, Middletown Mayor & Anthony Piagentini, Metro Council District

Much has been reported and said about the closing of the Middletown Library. We know that many reading this newsletter are as distraught as we are about this situation. We want to share with you what we know, what we have done and what we are continuing to do regarding a library presence in Middletown.

The original Middletown Branch opened in Eastern High School in 1962 and was one of four Louisville Free Public Libraries located in Jefferson County Public Schools. This library closed in 1980, reopening on April 29, 1985, in a shared building with offices of the City of Middletown. The Library outgrew this location and in February of 1989 moved to its present location in the East Government Center. The East Government Center, located at 200 North Juneau Drive, was home not only to the Middletown Library but also to the Louisville Metro Police 8th Division and The Neighborhood Place. Louisville Metro Government has a lease on this entire facility through the early half of 2020.

Earlier this year, Louisville Metro Mayor Greg Fischer tried to triple the insurance premium tax to help offset costs associated with the pension problems of the County Employee Retirement System and cover some structural deficits with Metro's budget. A bipartisan group of Metro Council members did not agree and voted down this proposal meaning they would have to slow the growth of Metro Louisville's 2019-2020 budget. The initial number of needed budget changes was reported to be \$35 million, but the Fischer administration identified \$10M of other savings, thereby meaning a \$25 million change in existing services. These changes were felt across the board to almost every cabinet and department of Louisville Metro, including the Louisville Free Public Library System.

In Mayor Fischer's proposed budget, he recommended eliminating the lease on the East End Government Center which would save the city almost \$500,000 per year. He also recommended reducing the hours of the Library System and closing the Fern Creek and Middletown libraries. Before the Metro Council completed the budget process, the Mayor took executive action and closed the Middletown Library on June 19th, despite its full funding through June 30th.

As part of the Metro Council budget negotiations, \$412,500 was directly allocated to the Middletown Library for staffing through June 2020 and another \$1million was allocated to restore proposed cuts to hours of operation across the city's library system that were proposed by the Mayor. Another stipulation added to budget language was the City of Middletown would assist to give space or find another site suitable for the relocation of the Middletown Library by December 31st of this year.

During the months of June and July we met many times with several different entities, including representatives of Mayor Fischer's administration, regarding a potential new site. We identified five possible locations and presented them to Mr. Lee Burchfield, Director of the Louisville Free Public Library. He responded only to say that each of these sites "present one or more substantial challenges that make them less than ideal at this time." Mr. Burchfield did not elaborate as to what these challenges may be or asked for further assistance to remedy these challenges. He did announce they would reopen the Middletown Library in the East Government Center hopefully in September. That opening was contingent upon how quickly they were to fill open positions as well as move books, furniture and other materials back into the space. On Saturday, November 2nd, the Middletown Library did reopen in its former location at the East Government Center. The Middletown Library is open but operates on a reduced schedule. Those hours are: Monday: Closed Tuesday and Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday: Closed.

In honoring the directive that is in the current Louisville Metro budget of finding a suitable location, we have identified a current City of Middletown property that meets all the space needs and requirements for a Middletown Library. That property currently is being leased through 2023. In the meantime, we have developed an interim proposal and have shared that information and offer with Mayor Fischer and the library director. We are waiting to hear back from the administration as to their reaction of our proposition.

As mentioned earlier, the Middletown Library has had a presence in our community since 1962. Students from Hite Elementary, Middletown Elementary, Stopher Elementary, Crosby Middle and Eastern High School use this facility daily. And they are not alone. Many of our citizens along with numerous neighbors in our area come to Middletown just to use this library. The Middletown Library has been the first or second most used library in the entire library system for many years. While there is a wonderful new Northeast Regional Library located in Lyndon, this facility is not on a TARC route, making it difficult to visit if you don't have your own transportation. Finally, the Library Master Plan always envisioned the co-existence of a Northeast Regional Library along with a Middletown branch that was closer to our residential east-end community.

Please know we will continue to endeavor to find a permanent home for the Middletown Library. We are not giving up!



CITY

CALENDAR 2020

JANUARY

- 1 City Hall Closed for New Year's Day
- 9 Chamber Luncheon 11:30-1:00
- 9 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
- 20 City Hall closed for MLK Day

FEBRUARY

- 13 Chamber Luncheon 11:30a-1:00p
- 13 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
- 17 City Hall Closed for President's Day

MARCH

- 12 Chamber Luncheon 11:30a-1:00p
- 12 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.

APRIL

- 9 Chamber Luncheon 11:30a-1:00p
- 9 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
- 10 City Hall closes at noon for Good Friday
- 11 Easter Egg Hunt, Wetherby Park @ 1:00 Sharp

SAVE THE
DATES

School News

Eastern High School



The fall semester has concluded with our crown jewel event of Holiday Care-A-Van. In the holiday spirit, our students and families were able to deliver food to 300 needy families in our community to make their holiday season a bit more festive.

Five years ago, we worked on the infrastructure of our building. This fall we completed two athletic enhancements. Our track project was completed moving from 400 yards to 400 meters and we have replaced the 50-year-old bleachers and expanded seating in the gym. Visit us for a game or meet. www.easterneagles.org/calendar

Visit our website www.easterneagles.org or follow us on Twitter @easternhsmedia or @athleticsehs.

Please visit our calendar for complete list of available events: www.easterneagles.org/calendar or you can follow us on Twitter: @easternhsmedia or @athleticsehs.

Middletown Elementary



We are off to another great start to our year! We believe strongly in developing students' love of learning at a young age. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) serves as a partner in this goal and engages our school community in such events as our annual Read-A-Thon, school dances, and Family Fun Nights throughout the year. Led by parent Becky King, the PTA has created a series of Carpool Conversations shared on social media to keep families informed of upcoming events and celebrations throughout the school year.

We believe it is our moral imperative to keep improving and making sure that our students receive a world-class education in an ever-changing global economy. Middletown Elementary hosts several after-school clubs and activities to help students learn the value of culture, connectedness, and creativity. These opportunities also help students build positive social connections with peers and learn how to think and function effectively as a team.

We also believe it is our responsibility not only to teach but also to ensure that all students learn at high levels. Our teachers are committed to the success of their students, and we value the partnership of this great community. We believe that every Middletown resident has a vested interest in the success of our schools, and we are committed to ensuring that Middletown Elementary represents both the excellence and hard work of our community.

Justin Matson—Principal, Middletown Elementary
middletownelementary.org

City of Middletown
11803 Old Shelbyville Road
PO Box 43048
Middletown KY 40253
Phone: 502-245-2762
Fax: 502-245-6047
E-mail: deborah@cityofmiddletownky.org
www.cityofmiddletownky.org
www.middletownkypd.org
Follow us on twitter: [citymiddletownk](https://twitter.com/citymiddletownk)

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MIDDLETOWN CONCERT SERIES

Wetherby Park, 11803 Old Shelbyville Road
5:30-7:30 p.m. NO PETS NO ALCOHOL Please!

Hold the Dates!!

May 17, 2020

June 14, 2020

July 12, 2020

August 16, 2020

September 20, 2020

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically send a request to: deborah@cityofmiddletownky.org