



City of Middletown

Spring 2022

Finance Department Receives Excellence in Reporting Award

The City of Middletown received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. The award recognizes the city for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2020. "This is the City's 35th year in a row winning the award," stated Samantha Zimmermann, City of Middletown Director of Finance. "Our goal is to strive for transparency in all aspects of governmental accounting and financial reporting."

An impartial panel judges the report "to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report."

The GFOA honors government organizations with the Certificate of Achievement, which is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Attaining this level of success is a significant accomplishment for the city and city administrators.

Grant Pushes Redevelopment of Town Mall Galleria Forward

The City of Middletown and Warren Port Authority received a \$1 million grant from State of Ohio to remediate the Towne Mall Galleria property for redevelopment.

The brownfield remediation grant allows the City and Warren County to "get rid of the old and make way for the new."

In January, Middletown City Council approved \$73,000 toward the project. In addition, Warren County commissioners approved a \$73,000 feasibility and marketing study using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The study would determine the size and scope of the land and what it would take to bring it back to commercial viability.

The Town Mall Galleria is an important area ripe for redevelopment that borders the City's eastern corridor and I-75.

Additionally, Warren County applied for a grant from the State of Ohio that would allow for demolition and remediation.



Fire Department Moves Forward Following Fire Bond Levy Approval

The Middletown Division of Fire celebrated on Tuesday, May 3 as the city residents approved a Bond Levy to build four new firehouses. The much needed new fire houses would provide additional space for firefighters in terms of sleeping quarters and inclusivity for female personnel. It would provide a healthier work environment for all personnel to preventing staff from breathing toxic fumes.

The City began the design process with placing the RFQ on the website to acquire design bids for the large scale project. The City will continue to update residents and City Council as the project progresses.

Middletown Public Works Paving & Central Avenue updates

Paving throughout the City of Middletown is a priority this spring and summer for Middletown Public Works Department. PW is closely working with two contractors along with staff to complete the paving in Zones 4 through 7. Additional information may be found on the City's website at:

<https://www.cityofmiddletown.org/619/Middletown-Paving-Project-2021-22>.

In addition, Central Avenue improvements are continuing to make progress as the City beautifies an important downtown business district. More information may be obtained on the website: <https://middletownprogress.org/>.

There are more projects on the horizon in Public Works Department.



Economic Development Revises the Small Business Development Grants

Small businesses are vital to the redevelopment of the City of Middletown. Therefore, the City is in the process to revising the Small Business Development Grant program that will continue to help business owners be successful in their endeavors. Through this modification process, businesses will complete applications to provide additional information regarding their needs and use of the grant funds. The City desires this fair and equitable process offer clear and concise communications to applicants, have a predetermined screening process, provide transparent program guidelines to all participants, and have the ability to assist more businesses through smaller grant amounts.



The program will now offer three categories of assistance: professional services, equipment, and building improvements. It also requires applicants to share in the costs of the services they are requesting from the City's public funds.

To apply for a Small Business grant, visit the Economic Development Department web page at: <https://www.choosemiddletownoh.org/about>. It will be reviewed by a team, and you will be contacted.

Upcoming Events in Middletown

June

- 24 Middletown Pride
- 25 Movies in the Park: John XXIII School

July

- 4 Parade - 10 a.m.
- 9 Movies in the Park: Downtown Middletown
- 15-16 Ohio Balloon Challenge - Smith Park
- 23 Movies in the Park: Jacot Park

August

- 2 National Night Out - Smith Park 5 p.m.
- 6 Middletown Cruise Car Show - Towne Mall Galleria 5 p.m.
- 20 Hops in the Hangar - Middletown Airport

September

- 3 Middletown Cruise Car Show Towne Mall Galleria 5 p.m.
- 10 Port of Middletown Art & Music Festival
- 17 Movies in the Park - Damon Park



Butler Tech to Expand at Middletown Regional Airport

Middletown Regional Airport currently hosts Butler Tech's Aviation Exploration program, educating approximately fifty juniors and seniors in high school each year in the areas of avionics and aviation maintenance. Butler Tech and the City of Middletown are encouraged that an expansion is on the horizon as the Butler County Commissioners share their vision for the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"The City of Middletown works closely with Butler Tech in areas such as Public Safety, Public Works, Public Health, and Aviation Technology to prepare students entering the workforce. We hope through the expansion of the aviation program to increase these opportunities and continue to foster positive partnerships," stated Acting City Manager Paul Lolli.

Butler Tech requested \$24 million from Butler County's (ARPA) funds to create a workforce pipeline to aviation careers through the expansion of the Middletown project and manufacturing jobs in collaboration with Hamilton. Included in the proposal were 33 letters of support from other local school districts, businesses and government entities.

The impact for the City of Middletown as well as the surrounding area consists of a new facility at the Middletown airport for aviation education as it quickly rises in the ranks as a major in-demand field. Every day, the aviation industry transports more than 10 million passengers and \$18 billion worth of goods. However, the number of pilot certifications issued by the Federal Aviation Administration has decreased more than 60% since 1980 making this mismatch of supply and demand a tremendous opportunity both for the students of Butler Tech, the City of Middletown, and the entire southwest Ohio workforce.

"We continue to be encouraged that our business partners, local educational institutions, the Mayor, and Middletown City Council recognize the potential impact of an expansion to the aviation education hangar in Middletown. We are eager to continue sharing our vision as a way to create a viable workforce for the foreseeable future."

The partnership between The City of Middletown Regional Airport and Butler Tech is significant for this region as it encourages growth and development in areas outside of traditional manufacturing. In addition, it offers regional students and prospective employees a number of opportunities in the aviation industry.

Middletown Police Department Honors Fallen Officers in Memorial



Middletown Police Department held their annual memorial ceremony to honor fallen Middletown Police Officers on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Police Memorial Woodside Cemetery.

Division of Police Chief David Birk spoke about the sacrifice that officers make daily as well as the ultimate sacrifice that can happen. Officers, Lieutenants, Detectives, Deputy Chief and administrative personnel looked on as the three shots pierced the silence.

Stay up to date with information on www.cityofmiddletown.org or Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

Fire Department Hosts Fire Camp for Students

Middletown Fire Department hosted a Fire Camp for Middletown City School students on May 19 and 20. The newly minted 6th graders had the opportunity to learn about the importance of fire safety, fire prevention, how firefighters and EMTs/paramedics train, how to aim and spray a firehose, how to locate a fire in a smoke-filled house, how to put out a gasoline-based fire, and the strength it takes to lift a person. In addition they met Scottie, the arson detection K-9. On Friday, students watched as the firefighters used the "jaws of life" and other necessary tools to cut open a car to remove a victim of a mock accident. Following, the students witnessed the Premier Health Miami Valley Hospital Flight Care Team land in the field behind headquarters. The pilot and medical professionals aboard the helicopter explained to the students when and why they might bring the flight care team to an accident or the emergency incident. They allowed the kids to sit in the helicopter and ask questions about it. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain a better understanding and respect for what firefighters, EMTs/paramedics, and medical teams experience on a daily basis.



The RFQ has been released for the design of the new firehouses. More information and a time line to come for the buildings in the very near future.

Police Department Host K-9 Regionals

Middletown Division of Police hosted The United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) the Region Five Certifications May 15 through 19. The competition and certifications consist of Detector Dog Certifications and Patrol Dog 1 certifications.



Three of the Middletown K-9 officers and their handlers won awards during this certification and competition. Koda and Dennis Jordan earned the top spot in Narcotic Detection Grand Total as well as Narcotic Vehicle category. Additionally, they placed second in Narcotic Room Area category. Maverick and Lindsey Schwarber placed second in the overall competition with Bear and Anthony Gibson placing seventh, Maverick and Schwarber placed first in Overall Obedience and Overall

Agility and ninth in Evidence Search. Bear and Gibson placed eighth in Overall Obedience and Evidence Search, fourth in Overall Agility. Suspect Search was a close finish for two of the Middletown teams with Maverick and Schwarber taking fifth place and Bear and Gibson following very closely behind in sixth place. Maverick and Schwarber finished sixth in Criminal Apprehension. Nationals will be held in Valdosta, Georgia in September, which Maverick/Schwarber and Bear/Gibson both qualified for nationals. This was a fantastic showing for the Middletown K-9s and their handlers. For more pictures, visit



Middletown Police Department and Middletown Fire Department Speak to Leadership Club at Community Center



Middletown Police Department and Middletown Fire Department hosted community students in the Leadership Club on Wednesday, May 4, at the Sonny Hill Community Center. MPD and MFD members offered the 13 to 14-year old students a better understanding of their jobs and how they interact in the community. Students gained insight and perspective into the day to day activities of first responders and what it takes to be a police officer or firefighter/EMT. "It is an honor to mentor the youth of the community we serve. The Middletown Police Department prides itself on the partnerships we continue to build upon with the community," stated Chief Birk. MPD Chief Birk, Deputy Chief Crank, and Detective Wargo shared their experiences of being on the police department as well as things the students can do to better support their community. Det. Wargo showed the students how he collects fingerprints and other types of evidence on crime scenes. "The kids of Middletown are our future, so anything we can do to help them is a bonus for us."

Likewise, members of the Station 81 platoon from MFD spoke with the students about what it's like to be a firefighter and paramedic in addition



to showing the students some of the items they use on emergency runs such as the heart monitor, an intravenous line with fluids, and chest compression tool in addition to providing access to the trucks. "It's very exciting to see our youth interested in a career in public safety. The Middletown Division of Fire continually works with Middletown City Schools and children to engage students for a career in the fire service," stated Acting City Manager and Fire Chief Paul Lolli.

Middletown City Council recently approved additional funds for the Leadership Club to continue at the Community Center. The money improves the quality of the programs and allows the opportunity for more community children to participate and gain important experiences.

New Fees for Online Payments

Beginning on July 1, 2022, InvoiceCloud will be charging a processing fee for all card transactions. The fee for card payments will be 2% of the amount being charged or \$1.50, whichever amount is greater.

To avoid the processing fee, you may elect to pay your water bill using an ACH payment. This is the only payment method that will avoid the processing fee and requires you to register for an InvoiceCloud account. If you are paying without logging into an account, you will be charged the processing fee.



Steps to Make an ACH Payment (No Fee)

- Register for an InvoiceCloud account. You will need your water account number and a valid email address.
- Sign into your InvoiceCloud account by clicking the Sign In link at the top of the web page.
- Once logged in, click on the My Profile > Payment Methods link.
- Click the Add a New Bank link.
- Fill out the form using the bank account you would like to use. (Be sure to click the default payment method box before submitting)
- Now when you are logged in and paying your water bill invoice, the bank account you added will be able to be selected during the payment process.

InvoiceCloud®

Invoice Cloud is kicking off a Global Sweepstakes on July 1st.

Customers may make their payments (for water) online and have the chance to win one of 90 prizes.

- 80 \$100 USD Amazon gift cards,
- five Apple Watches
- five travel vouchers valued at \$4,000 USD each.

Customers who pay online between July 1st and August 31st will be automatically entered. New and existing paperless billing customers are also eligible for a second entry.

Public Health Department Shares Guidance for Summer



The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day are when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Parents are the best line of defense by encouraging teens to:

- Buckle up. Every trip. Every time.
- Never drive impaired nor ride with an impaired driver.
- Limit distractions while driving - passengers, phones music, etc.
- Obey speed limits.

As we begin to experience higher temperatures, please be mindful of the following:

- Look Before You Lock! Children and pets should never be left in unattended closed vehicles in warm temperatures.
- Check on your neighbors and loved ones. Elderly, children, and people with health challenges can experience more stress due to heat exposure.
- Drink plenty of water. Note that alcohol can increase risk to heat-related illness.
- Keep food safe - cold food cold and hot food hot.

Heat affects everyone and puts all humans at risk for heat related illnesses. Be mindful of your surroundings and care during extreme heat. Have a fun summer!

Look for more good information at your City of Middletown Health Department's website: <https://www.cityofmiddletown.org/> or contact us at: 513-425-1818 with additional questions.

Mosquitoes:

- Live on all continents except Antarctica.
- Lay eggs in or near standing water-as little as one teaspoon or bottle capful of water.
- Of over 3500 species of mosquitoes, less than 100 species spread disease to humans.
- Hundreds of thousands of humans are infected each year with Zika, Chikungunya, and yellow fever each year.

Keep Mosquitoes outside!!

- Keep Screens on all windows.
- Repair holes in screens.
- Keep doors and windows shut.

Stop Mosquitoes from breeding!!

- Put away outside items that are not being used that can hold any standing water
- At least once a week empty, turn over, or cover anything that could hold water, such as: tires, buckets, toys, pools and pool covers, birdbaths, gutters, or pet dishes. Also, flush out water holding plants with a hose as some plants can hold water in their leaves.

Protect Yourself:

- Use insect repellent and treat all clothes and gear.
- Be mindful to follow all product instructions to avoid injury.
- Wear Long Sleeved shirts and pants.

What ARE mosquitoes good for?

- Mosquitoes are food for dragon flies, fish, amphibians, bats, adult flies, and spiders.
- Some mosquitos feed on nectar from flowering plants which makes them an important pollinator.