



Middleridge News

Reaching 578 Homes and Families

December 2009

Middleridge Civic Association

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Special points of interest:

- * Vandalism and other Concerns
- * Firefighters Meal
- * Holiday Decorating Competition
- * Luminary Display
- * Santa Visit

Catie's Comments

By Catie Morales,
MCA President

I bet you'd never guess I struggle with this letter month after month.

Truly ... every month I try to write something that will keep you as engaged and excited about Middleridge as I am ... but sometimes I just can't find the inspiration.

Dare I say ... there are times I find it difficult to do Middleridge stuff at all! I mean really, who has the time to volunteer their self when there are gifts to buy, parties to attend, trees to decorate, food to bake and a 24/7 job to focus on?

But when I get this way, I must remind myself that once I put just a little bit of ACTION into anything

Middleridge related ... it always ends up creating a whole bunch of Middleridge inspiration. What's that old saying "*The first 10 minutes of any task are the hardest ... after that the rest is gravy!*"

So while I may be struggling with finding the right words this month ... I want you to be assured your Middleridge Civic Association has definitely found its stride, and we're ready to close out 2009 and ring in 2010 with some awesome Community spirit!



"...we're ready to close out 2009 and ring in 2010 with some awesome Community spirit!"

Here are some dates you need to keep on that holiday calendar:

December 11th – The sand for the Annual Luminary Display will be delivered to the empty lot at Joshua Davis Court. Please feel free to take as much as you will need to participate in this "illuminating"

event. As you know, it's one of my personal favorites. Basic instructions on how to make a luminary are found later in the newsletter.

December 19th – Marks the date of our Annual

(Continued on page 14)

Neighborhood Concerns

During the recent vandalism, a neighbor noticed a New Testament Bible on the front seat of their car. They believe it was taken from one car and put into theirs. If anybody is missing a Bible, please contact the Middleridge President

and she will let you know where to pick it up. (Catie Morales president@middleridgecivicassociation.org or 703.278.9313)

Also, during the Fall Clean Up a Styrofoam cooler of unopened beer was found in the woods.

The good news is that somebody's party plans didn't happen. In addition a homemade "water pipe" found. Unfortunately these items remind us that there is some unwanted activities occurring in our woods.

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Fall Cleanup November 14, 2009

By Sarah Mayhew,
Middleridge Resident

Thank You Clean Up Participants

On Saturday, November , 2009, a half-dozen students needing service hours joined a half-dozen Middleridge families in a soggy, soggy clean up. Their efforts were astonishing. On the good side of things, the type of trash we are pulling from the woods and streams has changed. Beverage bottles and cans are littering the woods these days, with an occasional


wet newspaper in a plastic bag. That's a big improvement from the old tires and large debris we used to find.

If you run into these neighbors, please thank them for their efforts at keeping our entire neighborhood clean.

Linda Tabor, Jessica Benson, Dean Mularoni, Brooks Mularoni, Colton Mularoni, Jon Salata, Carol Salata, Kyle Salata, Kiki Salata, Chuck Dunne, Jason Dunne, Erin Kwon, Seyoung Oh, Nick Amatucci, Scott Sortridge,

Kim Shortridge, Kaleigh Shortridge, Caden Shortridge, Tim Harazin, Mike Harazin, Alan Hicks, Mary VanderMaten, Sarah





Middleridge Holiday Decoration Contest

Who: Middleridge & Keys Crossing residents who are Middleridge Civic Association members. Winners of an award from the last 2 previous years are ineligible for this year's awards but are encouraged to participate as judges for the contest.

When: Saturday, December 19, 2009, 6:00PM to 10:00 PM. Please have your light displays ready and working during these hours if you wish to participate in the judging contest. (Rain date will be Sunday, December 20, 2009, 6:00PM—10:00).

Judging Categories/Criteria:

Williamsburg Award—Decorations are in the classic Williamsburg style. All lights must be white—no colored lights. May use candles, evergreen (real or artificial), ribbons and fruit displays over doorways, windows, etc. Spotlights may be used to enhance the appearance of the evergreen or fruit displays. Figures are not included in this display category.

Traditional Award—Lights can be any color, any style and may frame the house, and/or draped over bushes, trees or other parts of the yard and home. Figures, like Santa, snowman, deer or other seasonal creatures may be used but not to excess. Spotlights may be used to enhance the display.

Wattage Award—Large, extensive display of colored and/or white lights and figures (animated or not). This can include lights on the house, roof, trees, bushes, fences, walkways, basketball hoops or other yard features. It is all about volume, with a touch of amazement.

Judges Special Award—Awarded to a home that uses a unique technique to achieve a special decorative, festive holiday display. This may include styles or themes that do not quite fit any of the above categories or may be a mixture of several categories.

Group Award—Awarded to a group of three or more houses that are similarly decorated and that present a consistent look for the Holiday spirit. Any tasteful decorating style can be used. Each house will receive recognition.

Community Award—Awarded to the house that the Middleridge Community voted as deserving recognition! **Be sure to place your votes on our homepage!** <http://www.middleridgecivicassociation.org>.

Prizes—Each category will have one grand prize winner that will receive a lovely holiday gift, compliments of the Middleridge Civic Association. Group Award winners remain eligible for individual awards. Winners will be notified the night of judging and a sign will be placed in the front yard of the winning homes. This information will also be posted at the main entrances to Middleridge as well as on the website and the January Newsletter

No Tricks...Just Treats!

The Middleridge Halloween Parade was a SPOOKTACULAR success as a good 150 big and little ghosts, ghouls, goblins, princesses, dragons, Jedi and even eggs & toasts followed the MIDDLEWITCH through the community to a fun-filled party at Middleridge Park. Truly our Parade Committee, made up of an all teenage volunteer crew, out-did themselves ... even the police commented on how well organized and fun the event was! Kudos to Claire & Sophie White for a job well done ... and thanks to everybody who donated cakes, popcorn, drinks, tables and personal time so our children could enjoy the day!



I do believe Chef Russell had some help in frying up his eggs and buttering his toast!



Who says a Witch, a Wizard and a Cowboy can't have fun together?



Do you think this dastardly dragon has any hope of surviving those daring young, and brave knights in shining armor?



Traffic was halted for over 15 minutes on Paynes Church Drive as the parade made its way to the Park.



Even Harry Potter has some skeletons in his closet that don't seem to want to stay there!

(Continued on page 6)

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No Tricks...Just Treats!

(Continued from page 4)



Nothing beats winning a cupcake in the Halloween Cake Walk!



Fairfax Counties Finest decide to take a break and enjoy some punch and popcorn after they lead the parade!



Oh no ... it looks like this little Cinderella's chariot is already beginning to turn into a pumpkin!



Dressing up in a little Cow costume may be fun, but getting your face painted makes it even better!



Middlewich, Catie Morales, and the lovely Stephanie White, ensure everybody has enough free popcorn and punch!



Three Cheers for these incredibly talented teens who pulled this all together! Hip Hip Hurray ... Hip Hip Hurray ... Hip Hip Hurray!

Community News and Events

Community Service Chair

Welcome Patricia Yates! Patricia has volunteered as our new Community Service Chair. We appreciate her taking on this responsibility. You can reach Patricia at

comm_svc_dir@middleridgecivicassociation.org

Middleridge Playgroup

Are you interested in joining a neighborhood playgroup? Our playgroup is made up of children Pre-K and younger. We meet on Mondays from 10am-11:30am at homes of Middleridge moms on a rotating basis. Please contact Debbie Hobart for more information at hobarts@verizon.net

or 703-766-8479.



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Feed the Firefighters!

On December 19 we will provide a meal for the firefighters at the Burke Volunteer Fire Station. The board is providing the main dish and volunteers are providing appetizers, side dishes, and desserts.



If you are would like to contribute to this event, please let me know.

Thanks—Jessica Summer

davisjd74@hotmail.com or 703-934.4881

November Executive Board Meeting—November 5, 2009

Submitted by Tim Harazin,
MCA Secretary

Call to Order: 7:30pm

Members Present: Catie Morales (President), Al Melanson (Treasurer), Al Obuchowski (Membership Chair), Paul Armstrong (Webmaster), Mary Vander Maten (Vice President), and Tim Harazin (Secretary), Steve Morales

Minutes: from Oct 1, 2009

Treasurer's Report : read by Al Melanson motioned by Al Obuchowski and Mary Vander Maten

Earned \$120 from the "metal only" dumpster

Received \$343 towards the scholarship fund

Less bank interest due to the economy

Old Business

Membership Drive

397 members currently; we are trying to reach 400—we'll get there

Directory

- * discussion to accommodate two different e-mails
- * cover designed by Lauren Mitros (age 8)

Neighborhood Watch

- * Vandalism
- * Halloween decorations stolen
- * Bush Wackers--\$5000 worth of equipment (lawn mowers) stolen, egged home and broken window of car

Halloween parade and party

- * fun and successful event; at least 150 kids
- * Sophi and Claire (co-chairs) are putting together receipts decorations have been put in the MCA shed

Scholarship Chairperson

Cheryl Barrow—is almost sure she can take on this position

Community Service Chairperson

Patricia Yates (a junior at Robinson SS) has accepted the position

New Business:

Feed the Firefighters (Burke volunteer fire station) the next time will be in Dec.

Luminary Sand for holiday decorations—this year the order will be for 5 yards of sand

Santa Visit—Dec 20th

- * Jessica can ask about this when she talks to the chief about the meal
- * Sandi will pick up the candy for this event

Rebidding the contract for landscaping around signs and vacant lot—Al Melanson will handle the bidding process

Lights are going out at the entrance signs

- * LEDs have gone out but it is possible that it is just the batteries
- * Al Obuchowski will change batteries

Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program

- * two projects turned in for our community—more entrance signs and gazebo
- * the winners will be decided by end of Nov or early Dec—notified in Dec
- * must be done by the next year—Dec 2010
- * thanks to Catie for all of her work on these applications
- * Catie and Al M will work on this even after they are out of office

Easter egg hunt—Mar 28th

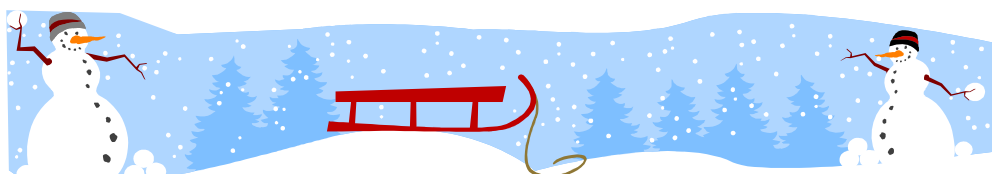
- * the White family is donating 1000 plastic eggs
- * this event will be on the Saturday before Palm Sunday (probably in the afternoon)
- * motion to have this event—motioned by Mary Vander Maten

Miscellaneous Discussions

- * discussion about having a document shredding day—rent a truck
- * Catie will check cost—(Steve will research this)
- * this may be held after tax day (April 15th)—late April or early May

Next Meeting—Dec 3rd
7:30pm location TBA

Adjournment at 8:44pm motioned by Al Obuchowski and Mary Vander Maten



Annual Middleridge Luminary Display

**December 24th
From Dusk till Dawn!
(If you can make them last that long!)**

**Sand available on Joshua Davis Court by
December 11th**

The Most Simple & Basic Luminary Display Recipe

- 1) Plan how many luminaries you will need in advance. Usually about 1 bag for every 5 or 6 feet of space. (Don't forget your driveway if you are going to include that as well.)
- 2) Purchase a pack of brown paper lunch bags from the grocery store or dollar store.
- 3) Purchase 1 candle for each luminary you wish to make. Votives and Tealights are best since they contain their flames well and usually won't end up burning up the entire bag. (Tealights last about 3 to 4 hours ... Votives last about 6 to 8.)
- 4) Take a trip to Joshua Davis Court and pick up enough sand to fill each bag 1/3 way full. (The sand is free so take as much as you need.)
- 5) When you're ready, fill each bag 1/3 full of sand and place the Votive or Tealight in the middle. Carefully light the candle and "Voila" you have your basic luminary.



The Most Fun You Can Have With Garbage!

For the second year in a row, Mother Nature blest Middleridge with perfect weather for our 2nd Annual Dumpster Day! The day was a huge success, thanks in part to all the volunteers who made it happen: The entire MCA Board, Steve Morales, Jessica Summers, Potomac Disposal Services and of course the Fairfax County Waste Management Facility. Middleridge actually received \$120 for scrap metal for all our hard work. One dumpster was filled to the brim with trash, debris and a life-sized stuffed giraffe, and the other with scrap metal. Lots of smiles and giggles came with all the garbage ... thanks to all!



PDS arrives promptly at 8:00am with the first of 2 dumpsters!



Our metal dumpster arrives shortly after the first one!



Don Proctor arrives bright and early to get his stuff in first!



Tim Harazin hams it up while he ensures there is no gasoline or oil in the discarded lawn equipment!



If there's a place for more trash, Tim is going to find it! By 12:00 noon this dumpster was filled to the brim!

(Continued on page 16)



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Catie's Comments

(Continued from page 1)

Holiday Decoration judging. (**Rain date is December 20th.**) Remember, there are 5 awards which you can compete in: *Williamsburg Award, Traditional Award, Wattage Award, Judges Special Award and the Group Award*. Check out the Middleridge Website for definitions of each award. You can find them at www.middleridgecivicassociation.org .. go to the bottom of the home page and click on "Decorations Judging".

Again, this year we will have the *Community Favorite Award* and **YOU** will be the judge of it. That's right, everybody gets to get in on the judging action again and vote for their favorite Middleridge holiday lights display. All you have to do is drive around the community and pick which house is your favorite ... then go to the Middleridge website and vote. There are no right or wrong categories here ... just vote for what you like the most. The winner could be a winner of the above categories too. The only restriction is the winner must be an MCA member. This was a blast last year and I know it will be a hit again!

December 20th – Don't forget to be home around the

2:00pm time frame to see Santa Clause hitching a ride from some of our favorite fire persons! It's always a special treat to see such a busy man take time out of his hectic December schedule to say "hi" to all of Middleridge!

December 24th – And of course, during the evening of December 24th we have the Annual Middleridge Luminary Display.

Hopefully these fun events will get everybody in the Holiday Spirit, whether you say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, or Happy Kwanza ... and be ready for a brand New Year.

In January we will be assembling the 2010 Middleridge Directory for all MCA members, and this year we will have some beautiful new artwork to grace its cover. The winner of the 2010 Middleridge Directory Cover Page goes to 8 year old **Lauren Mitros!** What a tough decision this was ... but ultimately we could only choose one. Lauren's artwork will be unveiled when the directory is released, but a big thank you to all the youngsters who sent in their pictures ... we certainly have some amazing talent in our Community.

Hopefully, by the time the next newsletter rolls around Middleridge will know if we've been granted some of the **Neighborhood En-**

hancement Project money. If we are one of the winners, we will definitely need to put into ACTION all those INSPIRATIONAL plans we hoped for. I must admit I still have every finger and toe crossed for our success. I can't think of a more deserving community ... can you?

But don't think these grant projects are the only items on the MCA's spring agenda! We've got 2 new events on the planning board and I'll be telling you more about them next month ... so stand by ... you're definitely going to want to hear about them!

Well, it looks like I found the motivation to get through another letter ... I have to laugh ... although I struggle with this job at times ... I get so much satisfaction from it. I thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.

May the Peace and Joy of this most beautiful Season bring each and every Middleridge resident (and their extended family here and abroad) Health and Happiness.

Peace,

Catie Monahan

"We've got 2 new events on the planning board..."



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The Most Fun You Can Have With Garbage!

(Continued from page 12)



No this isn't "road kill", or a poor Giraffe that got hit on route 123 ... it's just a stuffed animal that is losing its stuffing!!



We have to admit ... having the legs of a giraffe hanging over a dumpster made for some pretty crazy comments!



Late comers arrive to finish off the trash debris dumpster.



Looks like a lot of folks in Middleridge got rid of their old TV's. Hope this means there are a few neighbors with new Flat Screens!!



No more room ... time to head to the landfill!



Middleridge scrap metal being hauled away for recycling. Middleridge earned a little petty cash for separating out our metal items!

Yes... You Can Sell Your House Over the Holidays! In Fact, We Sold 3 in November!

We understand it's hard to imagine selling your home during the holidays; especially with all the parties, shopping, and family obligations ... who has time for open houses? Some Realtors may say it makes more sense to wait until the New Year, but not us ... we believe this is a missed opportunity.

Houses tend to show very well during the holidays, and conveniently, your home is usually most presentable at this time. After cleaning and sprucing up for impending house guests, your home is in perfect shape for those last minute showings and open houses. Homes decorated also have an inviting, family feel about them. It makes it easier for prospective buyers to imagine their own families living in the home.

Although the market slows down somewhat, the buyers out there tend to be more serious about purchasing a home. If they have to relocate their families mid year, they only have a small window of time in which to find a home and close the deal. Signing a contract by New Years could mean a move by spring break; perfect timing for families with school age children.

Some buyers deliberately shop for a home after the summer rush is over. Many have hopes of getting better pricing at this time, as well as weeding out the sellers who are simply testing the waters. People also have more time off during the holidays and it can be easier for both parties to meet for house showings.

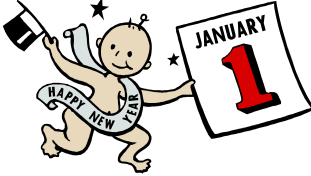
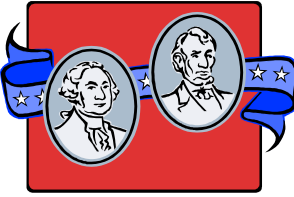
Since there are reduced housing inventories at holiday time, this means buyers are giving your home more attention. In fact, you may actually experience more showings during this time, compared to busier seasons.

If you're thinking of selling, maybe it's time to clean the walkway, decorate the house, give us a call and get our sale sign on your lawn.



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2009 MIDDLE RIDGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Luminary Sand Delivery, Dec. 11 Decorations Judging Dec. 19 Santa's Visit, Dec. 20, 2 pm Feed the Firefighters, Dec. 19, Contact Jessica Summer	 Directory Distribution		Spring Cleanup, TBD, Contact Sarah Mayhew Easter Egg Hunt, March 27, in Park, Time TBD
Every Month:			
MCA Board Meeting: 1st Thursday of the month		Neighborhood Watch: Friday & Saturday nights	
Newsletter Delivery: 5th of the month		Welcoming: as needed. Please notify Laura Jaumillot	

Middleridge Civic Association

Executive Board

- President—Catie Morales
- Vice President—Mary Vander Maten
- Secretary— Tim Harazin
- Treasurer—Al Melanson

Middleridge Mailing Address

P.O. Box 208
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-0208

Other MCA Contacts

- Webmaster—Paul Armstrong
- Newsletter Editor—Jessica Summer
- Distribution—Sandy Obuchowski
- Directory Editor—Paul Armstrong
- Membership—Al & Sandy Obuchowski
- Neighborhood Watch—Darric Milligan
- Community Service—Patricia Yates
- Welcoming Chair—Laura Jaumillot
- Middleridge Book Club—Liz Brown
- Middleridge Women's Club—Shirley Plunkett

Newsletter Administration

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www.middleridgecivicassociation.org

- Look for:
- List of MCA Officers
 - Committee Contacts
 - Photos of Events Past & Present
 - Past Newsletter Issues
 - Neighborhood Police Reports
 - Middleridge Map/Street Name History

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