

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8 – April 12

Grace Lawn Cemetery Cleanup

All personal items need to be removed no later than Sunday, April 7th. Any broken or items not removed will be placed in the trash.

April 19 – Hop Into Spring

Free event in the Library Community Room from 4-6pm.

April 20 – Arbor Day Celebration

Join our Middlebury Tree Board by volunteering to help plant trees. The celebration begins at Town Hall at 8am.

April 22 – April 26

Townwide Hydrant Flushing

Periodic “flushing” of fire hydrants is a preventative maintenance task.

May 2 – May 4

Middlebury Spring Cleanup

Drop off unwanted items at the Public Works Dept. located at 125 York Drive during the hours of 6:30am to 6:00pm on Thursday and Friday, and 6:30am to 1:00pm on Saturday.

May 4 – Ridge Run & Roll

5K walk, ride, or run with kids bike safety rodeo from 9am to 12pm.

May 7 – Primary Election Day

Get out and vote!!

May 17 & 18

Community Garage Sale Days

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 574-825-4300 for details.

May 17 – Flower Power

Free event from 4-6pm at Memorial Park. Mark’s Ark with live animals from 5-6pm.

May 26 & 27 – Memorial Day

Dusk-to-dawn vigil at Grace Lawn Cemetery on May 26. Parade & memorial events on May 27 at 10am.

June 21 & 22 – Summer Festival

Celebrate the first weekend of Summer at the Middlebury Summer Festival in our downtown parks.

Middlebury Matters

Spring 2024

A LETTER FROM YOUR TOWN MANAGER, MARY CRIFE, P.E.

Goodbye winter and hello spring!! We are looking forward to so many upcoming events and things happening in Middlebury this year. For upcoming activities in and around Middlebury, visit our Community Calendar on our website at <http://middleburyin.com/calendar.php>.

There is much going on with our Town Departments – Park Department is developing our Five-Year Master Plan and constructing the River Mill Trail, Water Department is finishing their water meter replacement project and gearing up for the improvements at the water treatment plant, Wastewater Department is working on the pre-treatment program for our commercial and industrial customers, Public Works Department will be cleaning Grace Lawn Cemetery, flushing hydrants, and organizing our Spring Cleanup event, and our Police Department continues to hold the line by serving and protecting our community.

A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to our many volunteers who assist in making Middlebury such a beautiful town. If you have extra time and enjoy spending time in our parks and trails, please consider being a volunteer and email our Park Department at parks@middleburyin.com.

NEW UTILITY RATES START ON THE MAY 2024 BILLING

Many improvements are needed with the Town’s existing water system. One of the most visible improvements included is the replacement of the 50-year-old, 300,000-gallon water tower on Lawrence Street with a new 500,000 gallon multi-leg water tower. Needed improvements at the Water Treatment Plant include a new detention tank with aerator, improvements to the existing detention tank, new clearwell tank, chlorine system upgrades, programming, and security. The improvements included are estimated to cost \$8 million.

	For Average 4,000 Gallons/Month (Estimated for Family of 4)		For 2,000 Gallons/Month (Estimated for 2-Persons)		For 6,000 Gallons/Month (Estimated for Family of 6)	
	Current	In May 2024	Current	In May 2024	Current	In May 2024
Water*	\$36.66	\$49.76	\$19.12	\$27.70	\$53.19	\$71.82
Sewer	\$44.72	\$49.15	\$29.18	\$33.15	\$60.26	\$65.15
TOTAL	\$81.38	\$98.91	\$48.30	\$60.85	\$113.45	\$136.97

*Excludes sales tax



JONES
PETE
RAFINESI

Proposed New Water Tower



Current Water Tower

COMMON CAUSES OF A HIGH UTILITY BILL

The new residential water meters recently installed are much more accurate than the old meters. The new meters can read accurately at low flows of 0.25 gallon/minute, which is less than a pencil stream. What does this mean for residents? It means that utility bills may increase some. However, larger increases in utility bills typically mean that there is a leak somewhere, which is usually due to a leaky toilet or issues with a water softener.

A continuously running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons a day or more depending on the volume flow down the drain. This can cause a terrible increase to a family's typical water use, so fix toilet leaks as soon as possible. Some leaks are easy to find, such as a dripping faucet or running toilet. You can usually hear a running toilet, but not always.







During the summer irrigation systems are a common source of high-water use. Watering times generally double during the summer months compared to the winter. Automated irrigation systems should be checked regularly to be sure they are functioning properly and have no leaks or broken sprinkler heads. If a sprinkler valve sticks on, it could waste an extremely large quantity of water. The irrigation timer may not be programmed properly, i.e., sprinklers are watering too often and/or for too long. Reprogramming may be necessary if the power has been off.

Customers with water softeners have higher water bills due to the regeneration or backwash cycles their systems go through. The systems are preset to regenerate or backwash on a regular basis. The systems will use water to clean the filter media and discharge the wastewater into the drain next to the system. There are times when these systems will get stuck in a cycle which will cause higher water use.

Here are some simple things to do to check these possible issues:

- Leaky Toilet - Remove the tank lid, then flush. After the flapper/tank ball drops and the tank refills, add several drops of dark food coloring. Wait at least 20 minutes. If any trace of color appears in the toilet bowl, there is a leak.
- Continuously Cycling Water Softener - Turn the bypass valve to set the water softener to bypass mode to stop the supply of softened water and turn off water softener. Most of the water softening systems have three separate modes: service mode, regeneration mode, and bypass mode. By putting it in bypass mode, it should stop the water softener if it is continuously cycling.

If you receive a bill that you feel is too high, check over the common causes listed above. This may help to pinpoint the source of the high bill. The Town can set up an appointment to send our Water Department staff out to check the meter and the possibility for a leak. If you feel that your bill is too high, contact the Town by calling (574) 825-1499. Town staff can help schedule for the meter reading to be rechecked. If the meter reading is checked and found to be accurate, you may need to contact a plumber or other professional to help determine the source of a leak. Property owners are responsible for all private service water lines from the curb stop to the residence and for leaks inside the home.

Leak Size		Gallons Per Day	Gallons Per Month
	A dripping leak consumes:	15 gallons	450 gallons
	A 1/32 inch leak consumes:	264 gallons	7,920 gallons
	A 1/16 inch leak consumes:	934 gallons	28,300 gallons
	A 1/8 inch leak consumes:	3,806 gallons	114,200 gallons
	A 1/4 inch leak consumes:	15,226 gallons	456,800 gallons
	A 1/2 inch leak consumes:	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons

Parks Update

The Parks Department will be opening the bathroom and drinking fountains at Krider Garden Park as well as the new drinking fountain at Riverbend Park on April 1.

Check Parks Facebook for updates on upcoming projects and events.

Parks Five-Year Master Plan for 2025-2029

The Middlebury Park and Recreation staff and board are formulating a Five-Year Master Plan for 2025-2029. This plan is a necessity when filing state and federal grant applications to fund new projects. We want to accurately represent your interests. Join us at our two public focus group meetings scheduled on Wednesday, April 17 at 1:00 pm and Monday, April 22 at 7:00 pm. Both meetings will take place at Middlebury Town Hall located at 418 North Main Street.

MEMORIAL DAY VIGIL & PARADE

Join our American Legion Post 210 for their Dusk-to-Dawn Vigil at Grace Lawn Cemetery on Sunday, May 26th in honor of those who gave their lives for our Country. On Monday, May 27th, come and enjoy the Memorial Day Parade beginning at 10:00am. The route will begin at Middlebury Elementary School and will proceed to Memorial Park. At Memorial Park, there is a 30–45-minute service, with music provided by the Northridge High School band. After the service, the veterans continue their march to Grace Lawn Cemetery where the names of all veterans laid to rest are read aloud. These Memorial Day events are a genuine remembrance. We hope to see you there!!

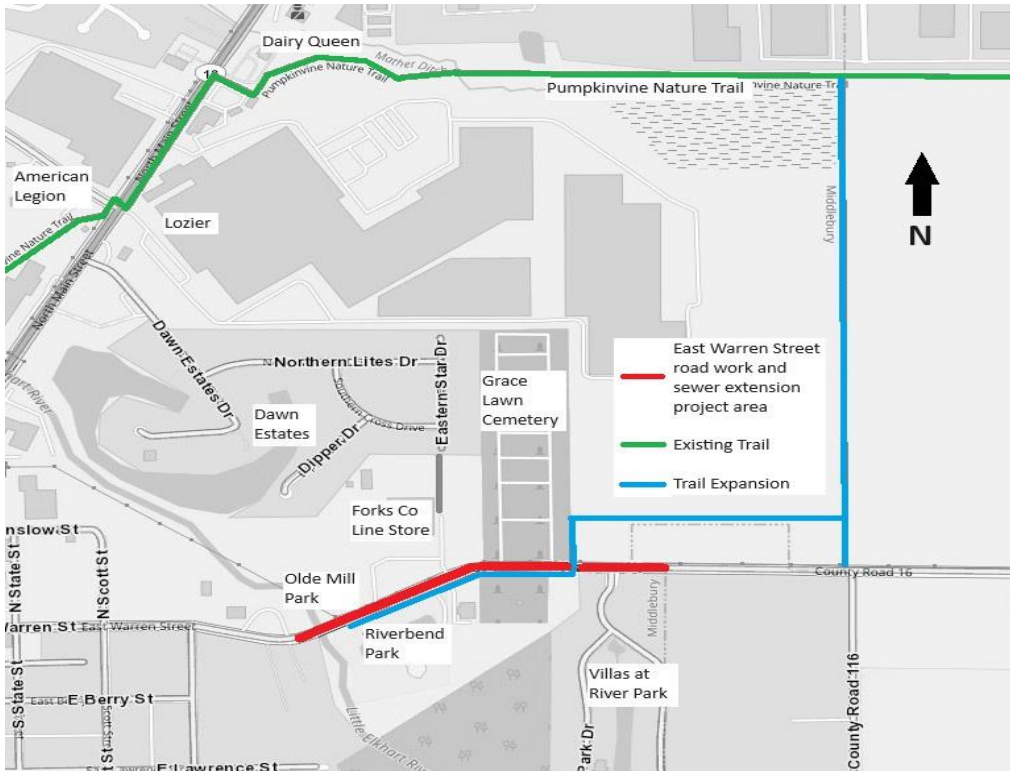


EAST WARREN STREET PROJECTS

Two construction projects will occur this year along the East Warren Street corridor. At times, traffic flow may be limited to one-lane with temporary traffic signals on each side of the construction site. Updates will be posted on the Middlebury Facebook page.

Construction of the River Mill Trail will begin this Spring to connect Riverbend Park to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Rieth-Riley Construction plans to begin clearing and tree removal near the Mather Ditch, where a new pedestrian bridge will be constructed. The

pedestrian bridge construction will be more readily seen from the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The River Mill Trail is a one-mile hard surface trail that will connect two Town Parks (Riverbend and Olde Mill Parks), the Villas of River Park neighborhood, Grace Lawn Cemetery, and several local businesses to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Construction completion is anticipated in early Fall.



Construction of the sanitary sewer extension along East Warren Street from the entrance drive into Riverbend Park to the Town limits just east of River Park Drive will begin this Spring. Niblock Excavating was the lowest bidder with a bid of \$687,554.85. Roadway reconstruction and the uneven pavement areas will be repaired as a part of this project.

The Town is excited to see these improvements come to life on the East side of town!

Town Hall

418 N. Main Street
574-825-1499
Open 8:00am-4:30pm
Monday thru Friday

Emergency Number
9-1-1

Police (non-emergency)
574-533-4151

Council Members

Miranda Cripe, Council President
miranda.cripe@middleburyin.com

Mike Holloway, Council Member
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Karl Miller, Council Member
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Chuck Teall, Council Member
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Jeremy Yahwak, Vice President
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ChaLi' Kuiper, Clerk-Treasurer
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Mary Cripe, P.E., Town Manager
townmanager@middleburyin.com

Chris Crow – Water Department
Tom Enright – Parks Department
Cole McClain – Wastewater Department
Robert Miller – Public Works Department

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www.middleburyin.com

Follow us at:
www.facebook.com/middleburyin

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – VOTE!!

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 7th!! Registered voters of Elkhart County can choose any one of the 29 vote center locations throughout the county to cast their vote from 6am to 6pm. Voters also have the option of early voting. The closest vote center to Middlebury is at the Middlebury Church of the Brethren located at 507 Bristol Avenue. For more information about voting, please visit www.clerk.elkhartcounty.com/en/voters/about-voting/.

The deadline to register to vote or update a registration due to a change of address or name for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election is Monday, April 10, 2024. For more information, please visit www.clerk.elkhartcounty.com/en/voters/about-voting/voter-registration/.

GRACE LAWN CEMETERY CLEANUP

Our Public Works Department will begin Cemetery Spring Cleanup will begin on Monday, April 8, 2024, and will run through Friday, April 12, 2024. Please remember to pick up any personal items by Sunday, April 7th. Any items remaining will be discarded. Items can be placed in the cemetery starting Saturday, April 13th.

2024 SPRING CLEANUP

Spring Clean Up Days for Town residents ONLY (those with either 3- or 4-digit address - **ID'S WILL BE CHECKED**) will be at Middlebury Public Works located at 125 York Drive on the following dates and times:

Thursday, May 2 - 6:30am - 6:00pm
Friday, May 3 - 6:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, May 4 - 6:30am - 1:00pm

Items **NOT PERMITTED** include (but not limited to) the following:

- Appliances with coolant (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.)
- Batteries (car, rechargeable, lithium, etc.)
- Electronics (computers, laptops, TV's, gaming systems, etc.)
- Propane tanks
- Tires
- Microwaves
- Paint
- Car fluids (motor oil, antifreeze, etc.)
- Pesticides/Insecticides including household cleaners



Town Office Closures

Due to the holidays, all Town Offices will be closed on the following dates:

March 29 – Good Friday
May 27 – Memorial Day
July 4 – Independence Day

MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC MEETING DATES

Town Council

All meetings held at Town Hall at 6:00pm

April 1 & 15
May 6 & 20
June 3 & 17

Redevelopment Commission

All meetings held at Town Hall at 7:45am

April 25
May 23
June 27

Park Board

All meetings held at Town Hall at 4:00pm

April 17
May 15
June 19