



City of Middletown

The Heart of Louisville

City Officials

2019-2020

Mayor J. Byron Chapman

Commissioner Mark Stigers

Commissioner Ron Wolf

Commissioner Paul Zimmerman

Commissioner Amy Oliver

Middletown Commission Has Worked Hard The Past Two Years

From the Desk of
Mayor J. Byron Chapman

During the past two years, your City of Middletown Commission has worked extremely hard to keep our heritage while expanding services and meeting the growing needs of our citizenry. Along with myself, your Commission members are Amy Oliver, Mark Stigers, Ron Wolf and Paul Zimmerman. These individuals devote numerous hours each month to make Middletown a wonderful place to live and do business.

Below are just some of the important and significant accomplishments your Commission has achieved. Please know this is not an all-inclusive list, but rather the major items:

Middletown Police Department

In less than three years, the City of Middletown, which did not have a police department, now has our own full-time department with officers patrolling and protecting our citizens 24 hours a day seven days a week. We have 14 officers on staff. Early in 2020, the Middletown Police Department received accreditation from the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. Only 20% percent of all police departments in Kentucky are accredited. We are extremely fortunate to have the experience, expertise, and professionalism these officers provide every day.

Community Center Facelift

The City of Middletown Community Center, 11700 Main Street, home to a branch office of the Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk and the Middletown Museum, received significant exterior attention in 2019. (continued next page)

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

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Several areas of this historic facility were rundown and dilapidated. Plexiglass coverings were placed on the exterior of the stained-glass windows; extensive brick work was completed; new windows were installed throughout the entire facility, and more. Now when you visit or drive by, this facility is much more attractive and efficient.

New home for the Middletown Library

In 2019, Louisville Metro Government closed the Middletown Library branch in the East Government Center. Since that time, the City of Middletown has sought other locations for the Middletown Library to call home. Earlier this year, the current tenant of City of Middletown property, located at 12556 Shelbyville Road, informed us she would be closing her business. With this city-owned property now available, the City of Middletown has offered this location to the Louisville Free Public Library for the Middletown Library branch for no rent for 10 years. This facility is larger than the space of the current Middletown Library. Our lease agreement has been sent to Louisville Metro to sign. Once approved, work may proceed to renovate this space for the Middletown Library with the hopes they will open to the public before the end of 2020.

Construction of new maintenance building

In 2019, the City of Middletown set aside funds for the construction of a maintenance facility for our Public Works personnel and equipment. Construction was started in early 2020 and the facility is now completed.

CARES Act reimbursement - \$560K+

As part of the federal government's CARES Act, which passed Congress earlier this year, city and county governments in Kentucky have been allocated federal dollars for reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses. The City of Middletown has an allocation of \$569,139. The Commission and staff have completed the paperwork to make application for these funds, which will expire December 30, 2020. We believe we will qualify to receive this entire allocation by year's end.

KLC Investment Pool

In 2019, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation allowing cities and counties to invest a portion of local funds in expanded investment options other than traditional certificates of deposit. These include approved Money Market Funds, Government Bond Funds, Corporate Bond Funds and Equity Funds. These investments, while fiscally conservative in nature, have the potential of returning higher yields than what the City of Middletown

has experienced in the past. We are trying hard to get the most out of every tax dollar we receive.

City of Middletown Infrastructure

Each year in our budget, we allocate funds for maintenance and improvements in our city streets and sidewalks. The past two years, these streets have been resurfaced: Eastbridge Ct., Beckley Woods Dr., Winding Oaks Trail, Meadow Lane, Glen Rd., Summit Ct., Edenwood Dr., Vale Rd., Blackthorn Rd., Blackthorn Trace, Kirkham Rd., Kirkham Trace, Kings Lane, a portion of St. Clair Dr., Easternwood Ct., Wooded Falls Rd., Intersection of Madison & Main, Mason Rd., Ledges Dr., Ledges Ct. and Marengo Dr.

Regarding sidewalks, the City of Middletown applies for grants for sidewalk construction. These grants are funded on an 80/20 split, meaning the state will pay 80% of the costs while the City of Middletown contributes the remaining 20%. Over the past two years, we installed a sidewalk on Kratz Lane and have been approved for sidewalk funding for Wetherby Avenue, Bliss Avenue and South Madison Avenue.

Property Taxes

The City of Middletown Commission has not raised your property tax rate in over 10 years. That rate is \$0.135 per \$100 of assessed value. In addition, we have not raised the Insurance Premium Tax rate in the same period. Your City of Middletown Commission has been an exceptionally good steward of your tax dollars while increasing services and fulfilling your needs. Your commissioners are committed to providing you the best services possible. If you see your commissioners, please let them know how much you appreciate their service.

Speaking on behalf of your City Commission, we were so saddened not having our summer Concerts in the Parks this year, due to COVID-19 concerns. Please know all the entertainers we had scheduled to appear have agreed to perform in 2021. In addition, not having our Middletown Family Fun Festival is equally disappointing. This early-September tradition is like a family reunion for many of us. You should know we are making plans to host a Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 7th plus our annual Light Up Middletown in late-November/early December. We will keep you informed of the status of both events.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Jason Nemes

This past session was unlike any other, and it interrupted what was building on recent economic progress: More Kentuckians were working in every county than ever and our state revenues were returning significant surpluses. Then the pandemic hit. Traditionally the legislature passes a two-year budget. But due to the unknown impact COVID-19 would have on our state's economy, we passed a one-year, \$11.4 Billion budget for the first time in history. Therefore, an additional one-year budget will be necessary next year.

I am happy to report that as part of the enacted budget Louisville received a higher share of spending than ever. One of the reasons I ran for office was to bring Louisville more of its fair share of state tax dollars. And as the only person from Louisville who serves on the budget committee, I am happy that we increased the amount we get from state government.

The enacted budget also funds public education, Medicaid, and programs designed to lessen the spread of COVID-19. The dismal post-pandemic budget projections underscored the need to invest in areas that would move the state forward. It was difficult, but we were able to squeeze dollars to invest in a few things I want you to know about. First, we fully funded teachers' retirement and healthcare, which is only the second time in 20 years that had been done. Also, Kentucky was the first state to fund pediatric cancer research in 2018, and this one-year budget continued such funding at \$2.5 million per year. That isn't a great deal of money considering the vast needs, but we were the catalyst to other states following suit and both UofL and UK have used these funds to elicit private contributions.

We also helped save healthcare services for tens of thousands of our citizens by helping UofL meet its priority of saving Jewish Hospital and other healthcare resources. We funded school safety and mental health professionals at \$21.5 million, which is designed to help protect our schools by, among other things, identifying at-risk kids and getting them the help they need. And we funded the Family Scholar House and the Healing Place.

Outside of the budget, we passed two crucial pandemic-related bills. SB 150 provided relief for workers who had lost their jobs or had their hours cut because of COVID-19. The measure removed the waiting period for unemployment benefits and extended benefits to self-employed individuals. SB 177 helped school districts to pay for teachers, staff, and programs – including school

nutrition programs.

Another priority measure passed was HB 2, which increased resources available to human trafficking victims and provided significant support to law enforcement working human trafficking cases.

The legislature also took a step in addressing the youth vaping epidemic by passing Senate Bill 56. This bill prohibits the sale and use of tobacco products, including vapor products to anyone under 21.

And, in what was perhaps the issue I was contacted about most, soon you will be able to directly order wine to your home. HB 415 allows beverage producers to ship products directly in and out of Kentucky to consumers. The packages must be clearly labeled and delivery signed for by someone 21 or older. Residents of Middletown overwhelmingly supported this measure, so I was glad that it finally passed.

Finally, in addition to voting for candidates this November, we will be voting on two constitutional amendments. SB 15, known as Marsy's Law, would provide constitutional protections and rights for crime victims. Over 70 percent of Jefferson Countians voted in favor of this constitutional amendment in 2018, but the Supreme Court required a new vote based on a ballot technicality. So we present it to the voters again. And HB 405 is designed to improve the judiciary by, among other things, requiring district judges to be attorneys for at least eight years prior to running for office.

I am honored to represent Middletown's interests in Frankfort. If you want a periodic legislative update, e-mail me at Jason.Nemes@lrc.ky.gov. And feel free to contact me via email or on my cell phone at (502) 648-8418 to let me know what you think or how I can help you.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

I must start off by saying what an unusual time we are experiencing now with the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued social reform movement, the future is being shaped before our eyes. From the perspective of the police department, we are doing the best we can to continue to provide the best customer service that we are able to with the various restrictions being placed on our ability to interact with the public. But rest assured the men and women of the Middletown Police Department will respond to

Get to know your neighbors ...

your calls for service and diligently patrol your city to detect and deter criminal activity. We have implemented our new detective unit and will now investigate most all of the crime that is occurring in the city and provide crime prevention techniques to help reduce those incidents. While we are on the topic of crime, the top preventable criminal activity that is taking place in our city is the theft of items from unlocked vehicles. I encourage all our citizens to take the extra moment to ensure you have not left any valuable items in your vehicle and that you keep your vehicle locked and don't keep valuable items in view.

We have viewed many videos from our residents that show the thieves are coming in the early morning hours and checking your vehicle door handles, if the

vehicle is locked the thieves move on, if unlocked they enter and remove most anything of value. So, the best crime prevention tip is to keep you vehicle locked and don't keep valuable items in view.

Another crime tip is keep your property properly lit at night, make sure the lights are in good repair and the bulbs are working. Motion sensing lights are also a great crime deterrent. I love watching the videos of thieves running away when the lights turn on. Ring camera door bells and video surveillance systems are coming down in price and are an excellent way to fight crime. Our detective loves to review video from our residents to help solve some of these crimes; might be a good investment in the near future as the gift giving holidays are fast approaching.

While talking about crime prevention, a topic I would like to suggest is getting to know your neighbors. I grew up in a time period where everyone knew everyone on the block, as a young boy you could not get away with anything before the whole block knew you were in trouble.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Lock all doors and windows
- Don't leave any valuables in your car and keep it locked
- Install motion detecting lights on your property
- Call the Police if you see suspicious activity



We have gotten away from this type of in person social interaction that generates so many positive results. By knowing your neighbors, you buy into techniques to help reduce those incidents. Lastly, I would like to address the topic of traffic in our city. I have noticed that in our fast paced world people are increasingly disregarding traffic laws, which are leading to increased traffic collisions and the rise in insurance rates. Take the time to drive with due regard for yourself and the other motorist on the road because the alternative is a pricy autograph from one of our officers in the form of a criminal citation. Be patient, be safe.

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 or comments please feel free to let me know. I wish you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday Season.



Chief Rob Herman

*Middletown Police Department
11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
www.middletownkypd.org*

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

911 for Police Emergency

**Call 574-5471 to Report a
Non-Emergency Crime**

**Call 365-1900 for general questions
for the Middletown Police**



Winds of Change at the Middletown Chamber of Commerce

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

The pandemic has precipitated all kinds of changes and the ramifications – both positive and negative – are incalculable. On the bright side, many of our chamber members have reported that they have learned how to operate more efficiently and more creatively. For example, one member stated they learned that they can operate with one-half the staff that they had previously, even though sales during the pandemic only dropped by 20%. Other members reported how virtual meetings have saved time and travel expenses, and facilitated multitasking (e.g., working on other tasks during redundant or irrelevant meetings)

On the less fortunate side, we have lost a dozen or so members whose businesses did not survive the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. We realize that entrepreneurs often take tremendous risks in hopes of providing jobs for others, offering very special services or products, and fulfilling their vocational dreams. We grieve for the ones who have lost so much; our thoughts and prayers go out for these wonderful people.

We have felt the ramifications of change here at the chamber, too. Our beloved *Executive Director*, Freda Chapman, decided to retire and the precipitating factor that led up to this unfortunate event was the health risk posed by SARS-CoV-2. Freda birthed and nurtured the growth of the Middletown Chamber of Commerce, up to nearly 500 members in 5 short years! We are very thankful for Freda and her work, wish her the very best in her retirement, and hope to see Freda at future chamber events.

Going forward, Laura Wright, who is no stranger among our members and who was the *Assistant Executive*

Director, is now the *Acting Executive Director*. We will wholeheartedly support Laura, who has tremendous enthusiasm for our chamber. Laura has some terrific ideas for the next, future chapters of our chamber.

In spite of the fact that we cannot meet face to face right now, we will continue to conduct virtual events. When it is safe, we will conservatively start with small face-to-face group meetings in guarded settings. Right now we have very capable leaders conducting virtual specialized *Affinity Groups* (*Electronic Media & eCommerce, Housing & Hospitality, Nonprofit, Banking & Finance, and Insurance*). The goals of these *Affinity Groups* are to 1) provide encouragement and camaraderie, 2) exchange relevant information and ideas, 3) and develop supportive business acquaintances, friends, or buddies (perhaps not even in the same or complementary industry). If you want to join one or more of these groups, please contact us at 245-0404 www.middletownchamberofcommerce.com.

We are your chamber and our mission is to *connect* people to each other, *advocate* for local businesses, and *promote* the business activities of our members (CAP). We look forward to continuing serving the businesses and residents in this Middletown area. We want to simulate a forceful, positive breeze in the face of stormy winds and weather. *Assuredly, brighter days are ahead.*

Our beloved Executive Director, Freda Chapman, decided to retire. We are very thankful for Freda and her work and wish her the very best.

Middletown Chamber
of Commerce
502-245-0404
Executive Director, Laura Wright



**Middletown Lions Club
Drop off Food Drive
non-perishable**

**Sunday September 13, 2020
10-5:00**

**In front of Middletown City Hall
11803 Old Shelbyville Road
Middletown KY 40243**

Will stay in community



**Feeding the
Community**

RECYCLE PICK UP

***North of
Shelbyville Road***

*Friday, Sept 11
Thursday, Sept 24
Thursday, Oct 8
Thursday, Oct 22
Thursday, Nov 5
Thursday, Nov 19
Thursday, Dec 3
Thursday, Dec 17
Thursday, Dec 31
*1 day delay

***South of
Shelbyville Road***

Thursday, Sept 3
Thursday, Sept 17
Thursday, Oct 1
Thursday, Oct 15
Thursday, Oct 29
Thursday, Nov 12
*Friday, Nov 27
Thursday, Dec 10
Thursday, Dec 24
*1 day delay

Historic Middletown

COMMISSIONER MARK STIGERS

Fire Damages County Landmark

September 12, 1940, The Jeffersonian: Fire Damages County Landmark - Middletown apartment house at Middletown scene of heroic flame fighting Sunday.

The apartment house of L.P. Wetherby of Middletown was destroyed by fire Sunday. The St. Matthews Fire Department answered the call and made record time in reaching the scene. Middletown certainly turned out as volunteer workers (men and women alike) did what they could to assist the fire department as they worked valiantly to save the endangered property. It was reported that one of the firemen was overcome by smoke.

The house, reportedly 150 years old, is one of the town's landmarks and is known to the older residents as the "Davis Place". One of the stories in connection with its history is that Lafayette once stopped there. The building is now divided into seven apartments and the fire is said to have started when one of the lodgers on the second floor started to light her stove. Mr. Wetherby acquired the home about 50 years ago. Sunday's loss is estimated at about \$5,000.00.

In an interview with Mrs. Wetherby, she stated: "We are thankful to everyone who assisted us. Too much praise cannot be made of the St. Matthews fire department who did their work well". Also, several who were assisting told us that the most outstanding efforts were made by Fulton Tyler, an employee at Middletown Garage. How he braved the many risks he took can only be described by those who witnessed them. His anticipation of the proper move to do next was instrumental in keeping the loss low as it is. Fulton is a hometown boy and has had an experienced mind from a little boy. He has been a businessman since the days he engaged in childhood games. However, for being such a young man, his long business career has not made him inconsiderate or selfish. He is public spirited and proved his civic pride in his efforts to save property that seemed doomed to be ravaged by fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler, with their little children, live off Ellingsworth Lane south of Middletown.

(Local thoughts of the fire's origin have been that the fire was because of a lightning strike, but as can be seen by the above story, that is not the case. Fire damage to the roof framing can still be seen today).

WHEN YOU VOTE

MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE THE PROPER BALLOT

Tuesday, November 3rd is Election Day in Kentucky and across the country. Currently, we do not know for certain how the voting will take place due to COVID-19 restrictions. No matter the voting method, when you do vote, please make sure you have the proper ballot so you can vote for your Middletown Commissioners for the next two years.

The City of Middletown
has 11 voting precincts.
They are:

F153	V117
F158	V118
F166	V119
F167	V120

residents in V118 could reside in the City of Middletown or the City of Woodland Hills.

What do you need to do to receive the proper ballot? When you vote in person, please inform the poll workers that you are a resident of the City of Middletown and you wish to receive a Middletown ballot. If you vote by absentee ballot, be sure you ask for a City of Middletown ballot.

The staff of the Jefferson County Clerk's office has the proper documentation available to verify you are a resident of the City of Middletown. If your precinct is in the City of Middletown, your precinct number on your ballot will be followed by MID. For example, F158-MID, V120-MID, V124-MID. It is your responsibility to request the City of Middletown ballot prior to casting your vote.

To determine which precinct you live in, you may go to the Jefferson County Clerk's website: <http://jeffersoncountyclerk.org/wheredoivote/>. Enter your address then click "Search" and you will be given all the information you need regarding your precinct number, voting location and more.

Of the 11 precincts serving the City of Middletown, three serves only Middletown. They are:

F158, V120, V124

The remaining eight precincts are "split precincts." Split precincts are a normal outcome of every redistricting process.

When the General Assembly draws district lines, split precincts are created. In such a precinct, all voters do not vote for the same offices. For example, the

Should you have additional questions about voting procedures, please feel free to contact the Jefferson County Clerk.

**Election Center
701 W. Ormsby
Suite 301
Louisville KY 40203
502.574.6100**

**Main Office
527 W. Jefferson St.
Louisville, KY 40202
502.574.5700**

**Main Office Hours
M-F 8:00 – 5:00**

September

- 7 City Hall Closed for Labor Day
- 10 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.

October

- 8 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.

November

- 11 City Hall Closed for Veterans Day
- 12 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
- 26 City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27 City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving

December

- 4 Light Up Middletown @ 6:00 p.m. (tentative)*
- 10 City Meeting @ 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 11803 Old Shelbyville Rd.
- 24 City Hall Closed for Christmas Eve
- 25 City Hall Closed for Christmas
- 31 City Hall Closed for New Years Eve



School News

EASTERN HIGH

Principal Kaelin Retires After 11 Years

 “To succinctly communicate the legacy of a leader is *almost* as challenging as being a leader of her caliber. A former English teacher, Eastern’s principal, Lana Kaelin made certain that academics and career readiness were

the core of our daily commitment to students. Unquestionably, Ms. Kaelin’s favorite part of leading our school is working directly with students. Whether it is an enthusiastic sales pitch in the High School of Business program or a musical performance from the choir, cultivating students’ passions while providing innovative tools are paramount to Ms. Kaelin’s success as an educator.

Ms. Kaelin has the uncanny ability to anticipate problems before they arise; from overseeing a major building renovation to continuing traditions like Holiday Care-a-Van, she can always be counted on to provide guidance and support. Always the hardest working staff member in the building, Mrs. Kaelin makes us all want to work harder and strive for “one better,” a familiar Kaelinism to strive to surpass expectations.

A lasting legacy is created when leaders put their people into a position of success without their guidance. Mrs. Kaelin has created a school that will continue her dedication to excellence, uncompromising professionalism, and respect for one another. The staff at Eastern High School is grateful for the opportunity to grow as educators under her leadership.”

Message was originally shared with all JCPS high school principals during a tribute to Principal Kaelin. Credit to EHS counselor Jaime Fitch.



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/

Museum Moment

Middletown Museum 11700 Main Street

We are not sure how the COVID-19 virus will be affecting us by the time this newsletter is mailed. At this point, we can only hope things are resolving and getting much better. In the meantime, we really miss opening the museum and greeting each visitor. Our volunteers are missed too.

If you are organizing your “things” as most of us are, don’t throw away any “treasures”. Save old photos or any item with Middletown history for the museum.

When we can open our doors, we look forward to your visit. We miss you and remember keep your mask on and keep social distancing to help eradicate this terrible virus.

Museum Hours

Thursday: 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Saturday: 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

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

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www.middletownkypd.org
Follow us on twitter: [citymiddletownk](https://twitter.com/citymiddletownk)

PRSTD STD
US POSTAGE
LOUISVILLE KY
PERMIT #1259

PAY YOUR 2020 CITY OF MIDDLETOWN TAXES ONLINE!

LOOK FOR YOUR 2020 CITY OF MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY TAX BILL IN THE MAIL IN MID-SEPTEMBER 2020. PAY BY NOVEMBER 1st TO RECEIVE A 15% EARLY PAY DISCOUNT! INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR NEW ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM THROUGH CITYOFMIDDLETOWNKY.ORG WILL BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR BILL!