

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1

Public Restrooms Open

The public restrooms along the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail at Krider Park will open on April 1.

April 14– April 18

Grace Lawn Cemetery Cleanup

All personal items need to be removed no later than Sunday, April 13th. Any broken or items not removed will be placed in the trash.

April 19

Arbor Day Celebration

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

May 1 – May 3

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 5 – May 9

Townwide Hydrant Flushing

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

May 16 & 17

Community Garage Sale Days

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

May 25 & 26 – Memorial Day

Dusk-to-dawn vigil at Grace Lawn Cemetery on May 25. Parade & memorial events on May 26 at 10:00am.

June 27 & 28

Summer Festival

Celebrate the first weekend of Summer at the Middlebury Summer Festival in our downtown parks. The parade and a 5K/1-mile run on June 28.

Town Office Closures

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

April 18 – Good Friday

May 26 – Memorial Day

July 4 – Independence Day

Middlebury Matters

Spring 2025

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

Goodbye winter and hello spring!! It is a much-needed time of year for residents to start spending time outdoors without having to bundle up with multiple layers of clothing and provides opportunities to go out and explore. A couple of suggestions would be the new boardwalk installed within the trail system in the woods of Riverbend Park, trails at Corson Woods and at Bonneyville Mill County Park. Hopefully within the next couple of months, the new River Mill Trail will be complete and will provide a connection from River Bend Park to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

Another new fixture installed over the winter months was the new electronic sign at the Middlebury Township Fire Department. This electronic message center will be the location for various events and announcements to be posted during the year. The informational sign in Memorial Park will remain in place for now.

As for the first sign of Spring, we have grown to know that the appearance of construction cones and barricades means that Spring has sprung!! There are several construction projects happening this year, and the Summer edition of the Middlebury Matters will include the construction map with the project descriptions. So, stay tuned for additional information!! In the meantime, please slow down and stay alert when travelling through construction areas so that everyone goes home safely to their families.



With the recent site developments occurring in downtown Middlebury and the removal of the parallel parking along Main Street/SR 13 when the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) reconstructs the roadway in 2028, many have wondered how the lost parking spaces will be replaced. In October 2024, the Town Council approved a contract with the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) to study the existing parking conditions and work with businesses and residents to determine the downtown parking needs.

On January 30, 2025, a meeting was held at the Middlebury Public Library with MACOG representatives and Middlebury businesses to review the initial findings from MACOG. In their preliminary findings, 72% of downtown parking is currently utilized, which means it is time to look at and determine our next steps with regards to adding parking.

MACOG prepared a questionnaire for businesses and a questionnaire for residents to help determine the parking needs. The information gathered from the surveys will further MACOG with the downtown parking study. The questionnaire inserted in the center of this newsletter can be filled out by residents and submitted to the Middlebury Town Hall or the QR code can be used to submit your input electronically.

Middlebury offers several great small-town family-owned businesses with many unique items that are not always found in chain retail stores. Middlebury is small town shopping at its finest and brings in visitors from all over. When they arrive, it is not only important to have adequate parking available for them, but parking for the Middlebury residents, who regularly support shopping local. We want to know your parking needs – bicycle parking, horse and buggy parking, as well as parking for vehicles. We look forward to your input!!

Middlebury Wastewater Department



Left to right - Front row: Ricky Lloyd, AJ Weiss, and Cole McClain
Left to right - Back row: Jody Nihart and Steve Streeter

When you flush your toilet or drain the water from the sink, have you ever wondered where does that grey water go? Well, it ends up with our crew at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 121 York Drive. Many would consider this line of work to be included in the "Dirty Jobs" series on the Discovery Channel where Mike Rowe performs difficult, disgusting, or messy occupational duties alongside the job's current employees. However, our WWTP crew works hard and takes great pride in how the grey water gets treated so that clean treated water can be released to the Little Elkhart River.

Treating wastewater is a 24-hour a day and 7-days per week type of job, since there is a continual flow being sent to the WWTP. On an average day, our WWTP accepts and treats approximately 600,000-800,000 gallons of sewer water. During the winter months, the work can be a little more challenging with the colder temperatures and freezing wastewater, especially if repairs are needed to the equipment. The crew is required to work in extreme wind, cold temperatures and snowy conditions. There are no snow days for them (even though they would like to have one)!!

Energy consumption is one of the largest expenses in operating the wastewater treatment plant. A typical NIPSCO electricity bill is \$25,000-30,000 per month. The cost of chemicals used to treat wastewater is estimated at \$8,000.00 per month, along with the costs of hauling sludge to the landfill of \$4,250.00 per month.

The town has two class 2 wastewater operators that are certified to operate the plant – Superintendent Cole McClain and Operator Steve Streeter. The other three laborers – Jody Nihart, Ricky Lloyd, and AJ Weiss – have passed the first test and are working towards setting for the exam to move into a Class 2 Wastewater Operator, which means they would also be certified to operate our WWTP. Middlebury is VERY fortunate to have employees who desire to be licensed and are willing to dedicate their time to taking classes and studying, as these tests are not easy to pass. We are fortunate in Middlebury to have team members with dedication to their professions along with their hearts of true public servants.

ITEMS THAT SHOULD NOT BE FLUSHED INCLUDE:

- **Feminine Hygiene Products** - Tampons, pads, and other feminine hygiene products can expand when wet, causing blockages in your plumbing and sewer systems.
- **Diapers** - Diapers are designed to absorb and hold moisture, leading to expansion and potential clogs.
- **Wipes (including "flushable" wipes)** - Even wipes marketed as "flushable" often don't break down easily and can contribute to clogs and sewer problems.
- **Paper Towels** - These are designed to absorb liquids and remain intact, unlike toilet paper. They don't break down readily and can cause blockages.
- **Cotton balls, swabs, and Q-tips** - These items don't dissolve in water and can build up in pipes, leading to clogs.
- **Dental Floss** - Dental floss can wrap around pipes and cause significant damage to pumps and other equipment.
- **FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)** - Cooking grease and oil solidify when cooled, causing clogs in sewer pipes.
- **Medications, needles, and pharmaceuticals** – Flushing these items pose a significant risk to our operators and public health.
- **Condoms** - Condoms are non-biodegradable and can cause significant plumbing problems and damage to sewer pipes.
- **Cigarette butts** - Cigarette butts contain harmful chemicals and don't decompose quickly, potentially causing blockages and polluting water sources.
- **Chemicals (paint, oil, pesticides, etc.)** - These substances can damage pipes, create hazardous fumes, and pollute the environment.

Do You Know the Three P's to Flush? Answer - Pee, Poo, and Toilet Paper

Flushing anything other than the "3 Ps" (Pee, Poo, and toilet Paper) can lead to very expensive repairs and a range of negative consequences, impacting your plumbing, the town's sewer system and treatment plant, the environment, and even potentially your wallet. Sewer systems are **not** designed to handle these items.



FOG – Fats, Oils, & Grease

FOG (fats, oils, and grease) comes from meat fats in cooking and food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, sour cream and other foods high in fat. FOG significantly impacts sewer systems, causing blockages, overflows, and a range of other concerns. When FOG is poured down drains, it clings to the inside of sewer pipes, creating a buildup that restricts flow. As this buildup continues, it can cause complete blockages, leading to sewer backups and overflows. These overflows can release raw sewage into homes, yards, streets, and even waterways, posing a significant health and environmental hazard. FOG can contribute to the corrosion of sewer pipes, especially in areas with high concentrations of FOG buildup. The buildup can create a breeding ground for bacteria and other microorganisms that lead to unpleasant odors and accelerate the corrosion process. FOG buildup can also contribute to increases in sewer rates by causing blockages, overflows, and increased maintenance costs for the Town's sewer collections and treatment systems.

How can you help?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system. Through education and by adopting certain habits, it is easy to minimize FOG sources at home.

- In the kitchen, fats, oils and grease (FOG) comes mostly from pre-rinsing dishes or washing pots and pans. Pour cooled fats, oils and grease into a container and put the container in the trash. If you don't have a container, place tin foil into a coffee cup or similar, add FOG, allow to cool and dispose.
- Before washing, use a paper napkin or paper towel to wipe FOG from dishes and dispose of it in the trash.
- Use sink strainers to catch food waste.
- Put food scraps in the trash, not through the garbage disposal.



The best way to handle grease and fats is to scrape them off or pour them into containers and dispose of them in the trash. Never put fats or grease down the sink drains or into the toilet. We provided a grease scraper with brief instructions printed on them as a reminder, in hopes you will do your part to help keep our sewer system flowing!

RAGS AND WIPES CLOG PIPES!!

Flushable wipes and rags do not break down like toilet paper in sewer systems. Many flushable wipes are made from materials like polyester or synthetic fibers that are not designed to disintegrate in wastewater systems. They clump together, forming large masses that can clog pipes, pumps, and other critical infrastructure. Blockages caused by wipes can lead to sewage backups, overflowing into homes and streets, creating a public health hazard and causing property damage. Municipal wastewater treatment systems must spend significant resources on clearing blockages, repairing damaged equipment, and increasing maintenance due to the buildup of wipes. In many cases, municipalities need to invest in upgrades to their wastewater treatment facilities to better handle the increasing number of wipes entering the system. Pictured is our Wastewater crew cleaning rags and wipes off a pump at the Antler Lift Station on Orpha Drive. The rags and wipes become entangled, and our staff must physically remove the buildup and repair damaged equipment. While the term "flushable" may be used, it is crucial to recognize that "flushable" wipes and rags are not compatible with sewer systems and cause significant problems for municipalities and the environment. So please do your part and keep the rags and wipes out of the pipes!!



Pictured from left to right: Steve Streeter, AJ Weiss, Ricky Lloyd, and Jody Nihart after pulling entangled rags, wipes, and other foreign materials.

So please do your part and keep the rags and wipes out of the pipes!!

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

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Tom Enright – Parks Department
Cole McClain – Wastewater Department
Robert Miller – Public Works Department
Derrick Otto – Water Department

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GRACE LAWN CEMETERY CLEANUP

Our Public Works Department will begin Spring Cemetery Cleanup on Monday, April 14, 2025, and will continue through Friday, April 18, 2025. Please remember to pick up any personal items by Sunday, April 13th. Any items remaining will be discarded. Items can be placed in the cemetery again starting Saturday, April 19th.



2025 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 1 - 6:30am - 6:00pm
Friday, May 2 - 6:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, May 3 - 6:30am - 1:00pm




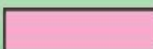
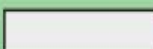
Items **NOT PERMITTED** include (but not limited to) the following:

- 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



Know what's below.
811 before you dig.

COLOR CODE FOR UTILITY MARKINGS

	ELECTRIC
	GAS-OIL-STEAM
	COMMUNICATIONS
	WATER
	SEWER
	RECLAIMED WATER
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

Visit Indiana811.org or call 811
two full working days before you dig.



MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC MEETING DATES

Town Council

All meetings held at Town Hall at 6:00pm

April 7 & 21
May 5 & 19
June 2 & 16

Redevelopment Commission

All meetings held at Town Hall at 8:15am

April 24
May 22
June 26

Park Board

All meetings held at Town Hall at 3:00pm

April 16
May 21
June 18