



# NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MARCH 2016

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## What You Need to Know for 2016

### A Word from our DPW Director:

We are preparing for spring maintenance in the Village. The Department of Public Works plans to collect **yard waste the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday** of the month from **April 11, 2016 through September 19, 2016** weather permitting. Grass, leaves, and other yard waste must be in **biodegradable paper yard waste bags**. Yard waste put out for collection must be free of trash, household wastes, tree root balls and stones. Each bag should contain no more than 50 pounds each. **Bag pick-up will continue through September 19, 2016.** After which time, the Department of Public Works will begin vacuuming all yard waste typically placed in the biodegradable paper yard waste bags until the last day of leaf pick-up on **November 7, 2016.** Brush pickup during the calendar year 2016 will occur one day per month, the **4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month**, from April through September. For the month of Octo-

ber, brush pickup will be the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.** Brush must be placed at the curbside all stacked in the same direction. **Brush** should not cover the sidewalk or interfere with pedestrian traffic, nor protrude into any part of the paved roadway.

**Brush and tree limbs** will be collected, if less than 6 inches diameter and less than 10 feet long, on the **4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month starting April 25, 2016.** Please make note of the adjustment to the regular schedule as **the last day for brush pickup will be October 10, 2016.**

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming yard waste and brush collection season, please feel free to contact Village Hall at (269)795-3385.



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### WHAT DOES COMMODITY, DEBT AND READINESS MEAN?

For clarification purposes, **Commodity** means amount of water used per customer. **Readiness** is the “readiness to serve” recurring charge billed quarterly based on the size of meter that services your property. Readiness means the water system can provide water at any moment. It is in place for the system capacity that is on standby for emergency pur-

poses and operational flexibility. This charge applies even if you used no water during the billing period. **Debt** fees support debt payments on the common infrastructure (lift stations, main lines, water towers, transmissions) needed to accommodate existing sewage needs and the delivery of water to homes. This charge applies even if you used no water during the billing period.

### “FLUSHABLE” WIPES CAUSE PROBLEMS!!

Many disposable wipes such as personal wet wipes, moistened towelettes, baby wipes and disinfecting wipes are being advertised as flushable. Recent research has revealed that this label, in most cases, is inaccurate. Many of these wipes do not properly break down in the sewage system, and this results in obstructed sewer lines and clogged pumps within the collection system. The wipes can float along in the sewer main coming in contact with grease and fats from cooking, ultimately creating a mass of grease and wipes that can build up to a point that they could potentially clog the sewer main. Once the sewer main becomes clogged, the sewer can back up causing the sewage to enter into homes and businesses. This is becoming a larger and larger problem not just here in Middleville but across the U.S. This is why we are asking our residents who use these wipes to limit or stop flushing these wipes when possible.



### Annual Spring Clean-Up One Day Only April 23, 2016

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Village residents may begin placing items at the edge of a Village street abutting their own residence on April 16, 2016. All items must be placed at the curb by 9:00 PM on April 22, 2016. The private hauler will make only one sweep through the Village beginning at 7:00 AM on April 23, 2016. Please visit our website at [www.villageofmiddleville.org](http://www.villageofmiddleville.org) for complete details regarding those items accepted.





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## CODE ENFORMCENT UPDATE

Please be aware the Village will be proactive in the enforcement of common violations. As warmer weather approaches this spring, the grass and weeds will grow fast. **Sec. 34-8** of the Code of Ordinances requires any owner, possessor or occupant of lands in the Village not to allow grass to exceed **6 inches** in height, and all noxious weeds shall be require to be cut down. Code Enforcement will closely monitor and contact those determined to be in violation.



Code Enforcement will continue aggressively enforcing vehicle storage violations. **Sec. 78-25** of the Code of Ordinances does not permit any **unlicensed, dismantled, partially dismantled or inoperable motor vehicle** to be stored on any parcel of land for a period of more than 30 days in one calendar year, unless the same is kept in a completely enclosed private or public garage. If you have any questions, please contact the Village Hall at 269-795-3385.

### Special Points of Interest:

- *Water Commodity Rates increased 2.5% which means an \$0.05 increase on average per 1000 gallons of water consumed in a quarter. Debt & Readiness had a 3% change.*
- *Sewer Commodity Rates increased 1% which means a \$0.04 increase on average per 1000 gallons of water consumed in a quarter. Debt & Readiness was 0% change.*

If you have questions regarding your water and sewer bill, please do not hesitate to contact Village Hall at (269) 795-3385 during regular business hours of 9 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Our staff will be happy to assist you.

### Is your water/sewer account information up-to-date?

Do you have a phone number on file with the Village so that we are able to contact you in case of emergency? **If you feel we may not have your most recent contact information, please contact Village Hall and update your contact information with us!**

### How can I avoid having my water shut off?

Contact Village Hall at (269)795-3385 **before** the water *shut-off date* indicated in the water *past due letter*. This is the letter sent out after payment is not received by the *due date* on your *water/sewer bill*. We will be able to arrange a payment plan with you so that extra fees are not incurred and water is not shut-off.

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS/ ON-LINE PAYMENTS

Residents can pay water/sewer bills on-line. Simply go to the Village of Middleville website at [www.villageofmiddleville.org](http://www.villageofmiddleville.org)

- ◆ click on the *Internet Tax and Utility Billing Services* link and follow the steps.
- ◆ There is a charge to use credit and debit cards. See *the fee structure within this newsletter*.
- ◆ Credit card payments are also accepted at Village Hall, 100 E. Main St.

### Fee Structure for Credit Card payments are as follows:

**Property Taxes:**  
 3% with a minimum of \$1.50.  
 For e-check transactions, there is a \$3.00 flat fee.

**Water/Sewer Bill:**  
 0-\$50.00.....\$1.50  
 \$50.01-100.00.....\$3.00  
 \$100.01-200.00.....\$6.00  
 Each additional \$100 add \$3.00. After \$300, a percentage is charged.

These rates apply both on-line and at the counter in Village Hall.



### Village of Middleville

### Utility Billing Schedule for 2016

<u>Next Meter Read</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
end of March	April 30th
end of June	July 31st
end of Sept.	Oct. 31st
end of Dec.	Jan. 31, 2017

Cut me out and save!

