

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL VISION FOR 2025 October 5, 2008

Historic Middleburg, surrounded by green pastures and farmland, is a vital, thriving village alive with the activity of area residents, town citizens, and visitors. The historic business district reflects the dedication of Town leaders and citizens alike in honoring our past and anticipating our future. Through active planning the Town maintains its reputation as the Heart of Horse country, a leader in conservation and preservation, and a village of involved residents, while remaining a center for unique shopping, dining, and lodging. Sound infrastructure, responsive and dedicated leadership, a vital business core, and a friendly, caring population make Middleburg a distinctive model of small town living that others seek to replicate.

The Town achieves its Vision by focusing its efforts on the following priorities:

Preservation of Our Rich, Historic Character

The preservation of our history has long been a priority. Our heritage is rich with events predating the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Middleburg is a national leader in the preservation of land and historic character. Walking down our tree-lined streets, one is struck by the architectural integrity of the Town true to its original historic design. The combined efforts of the Town Council, Planning Commission, Historic District Review Committee, and Streetscape Committee have resulted in our designation as a Preserve America Community. We are invested in remembering our past and planning for our future.

Economic Strength

Middleburg's identity is based on its history as the foxhunting capital of the United States and its reputation as the leader in equestrian sports. Our carefully planned core business district centered on that identity is the backbone of our strong, balanced economic presence within the region. The historic retail district offers a healthy mix of independently owned shops, personal services, restaurants, and lodging facilities that provide basic services as well as experiences that are unmistakably Middleburg. Community events such as Christmas in Middleburg showcase our community. Area residents and Town citizens work and shop within our corporate limits, creating a sustainable economy. Our comprehensive economic development plan and cooperation with regional partners afford us a revenue stream that minimizes the tax burden on businesses and residents, allowing both to flourish. The Middleburg Foundation provides the Town with the opportunity to promote economic stability by serving as a catalyst for new businesses, safeguarding existing businesses, and keeping business ownership in Town.

Livability

Middleburg is a safe, walkable environment enjoyed by both residents and visitors. Traditional neighborhoods that are connected to open spaces, shopping, dining, and town facilities are easily accessed through a pedestrian network. Middleburg is a great place to live. New families, retirees, and in-betweens find a wide range of architectural styles and affordable choices. Our police department and emergency management plan assure Middleburg citizens of a safe and secure environment. Our public and private schools, along with a vibrant community center and parks and recreation department, offer a wide range of activities and opportunities for young and old. A defined edge between town and country provides Middleburg with a sense of place that ties us to both our small town image and agricultural heritage.

Community Stewardship

Middleburg is a healthy active community built on the foundation of citizen involvement that reaches beyond Town boundaries. Private citizens, business owners, community leaders, and area residents contribute their time, talent, and resources to form the bedrock of our community. The Community Center, local charities, church groups, community service organizations and individuals provide vital services to promote health, safety, and life enhancing activities to all area residents. We claim proudly that all our citizens and area residents, from Council Members to school children, enrich our community through volunteering.

Communication and Citizen Input

Middleburg residents have access to their Town government through dynamic communication systems. Significant citizen input is the result of commitment by Town leaders to seek interaction with citizens aided by the applications of these media. Citizens and businesses are notified of important information through instant communication. The Town bolsters its ability to reach visitors through on-line tours and uses virtual modeling to assist in its decision-making processes. Council and Town employees recognize the important role of all members of our community and welcome honest discussion of issues and ideas. Middleburg fosters an atmosphere of open, transparent and courteous communication among Council, staff members, volunteers and the public.

Green Environment

Middleburg is a leader among small towns in the green conservation movement. Through the efforts of area residents, Town citizens and leaders we have achieved recognition for creative and cost saving approaches to educating our citizens about environmental stewardship and the application of green technologies, while maintaining our historic character. Middleburg's economy, agricultural infrastructure, and food supply are locally sustained by an active commitment to "buy local, buy fresh."

Future Sustainability and Infrastructure Planning

Middleburg's effective capital planning ensures that the Town has state of the art public utilities, public buildings that reflect the character of the Town, and cost-effective services. Middleburg residents and businesses enjoy high water quality and benefit from well-established water conservation policies. Traffic control and pedestrian safety allow easy, safe movement through Town. Middleburg residents enjoy a vivid night sky as a result of well-designed and useable walkways with directed lighting. Middleburg has successful partnerships with Loudoun and Fauquier counties as well as state agencies to protect the quality of life and safety of its residents and visitors.