



THE VILLAGE OF
Middleville
=MICHIGAN=

The Town Crier

Informing Village of Middleville Residents | Spring 2024 Edition

WELL ROUNDED. PERFECTLY CENTERED.

Stay Connected!

VILLAGE HALL



100 E. Main Street,
Middleville, MI 49333

The friendly staff at Village Hall is dedicated to serving you!

Village Hall is open
Monday-Thursday
8:00 am until 5:00 pm,
Friday 8:00 am until noon

(269) 795-3385
www.VillageofMiddleville.org
@VillageofMiddleville

MIDDLEVILLE DDA

(269) 241-1170
www.MiddlevilleDDA.org
@MiddlevilleDDA

THORNAPPLE TWP. HALL

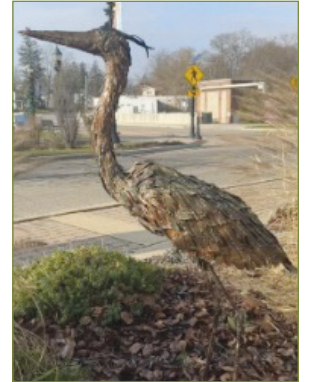
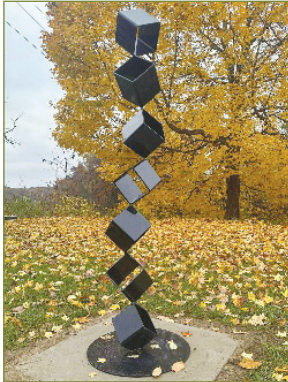


200 E. Main Street,
Middleville 49333

Office hours
Monday-Thursday
9 am until 4 pm
Friday only by appointment.

(269) 795-7202
www.thornapple-twp.org
@ThornappleTownship

Art Walk Project



In an effort to embrace place making, the DDA began projects in 2022 to add public art and an amphitheater. The amphitheater seating was completed late spring of 2023 and has been used for numerous events including the Riverbank Music Series.

During the Fall of 2023, the DDA, with the help of many generous sponsors and grant assistance, was able to place five sculptures in the Downtown Riverwalk area of Middleville.

Art Sculptures made possible by donations from the Cove family, Left Field, the family of Cheryl and Ray Peters, and Community West Credit Union.

Project Updates

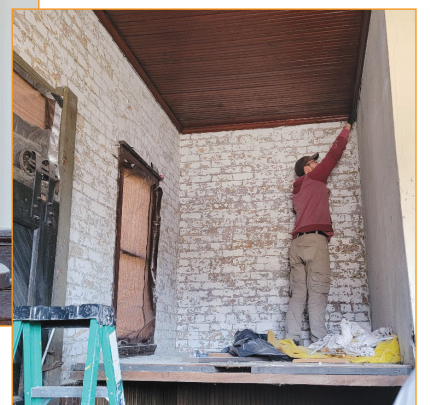
Train Depot Restoration

The exterior restoration was completed in 2023, and the interior restoration is underway and scheduled to be completed this summer.

In 2022, the National Register of Historic Places and the State of Michigan placed the Village of Middleville Train Depot on the Historic Register. The Train Depot was one of the stops on the railroad line from Grand Rapids to Jackson, Michigan. The rail service started in 1869 and ended in 1972.

The track was abandoned in Middleville in 1983. The ownership of the Depot transferred to Thornapple Township in 2002 and the Village of Middleville acquired it in 2017.

Special thanks to Don Williamson for his research and historical knowledge regarding the Train Depot.



Upcoming Construction Projects

THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TWO MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THIS SUMMER—THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HIGH STREET AND A SECTION OF DEARBORN STREET ALONG WITH THE COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION ALONG THIRD STREET

High Street Reconstruction Project

High Street between Main and Washington is a major street in the Village and has long been a major route for residents and employees of businesses in our industrial park, primarily Bradford White. In addition to the road surface, there is an aging water and sewer infrastructure that needs to be replaced. This project will include all of these items in addition to storm drain and sidewalks. During this project, we will also replace all of the water services that may have been connected to a lead water line.

The construction cost of this project is \$1.349 million which is coming from an MDOT grant for \$250,000, the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) committed to \$750,000, and the Village is spending \$349,000.

Dearborn Street Reconstruction Project

Dearborn Street reconstruction began on April 8, 2024, and will continue through June 2024. The reconstruction of Dearborn Street is needed to replace an outdated water main, rebuild the street foundation, replace a culvert under the road, and add a sidewalk to the south side of the road. In the fall of 2022, the water main on Dearborn had a significant break, causing the road to buckle in about a 100ft section. Completing this project will improve the overall reliability of the Village water system, replace a culvert under the road, and add a sidewalk to help connect the Village sidewalk system and to improve the walkability and pedestrian safety in the Village.

The total cost for this project is \$673,519.50.

Third Street Reconstruction Project

The reconstruction of Third Street started in August 2023 and completion is planned for early summer of 2024. This project consisted of updating and improving the existing roadway, water main, sanitary sewer, and storm drain. The road and water main are undersized to properly serve our residents. Several lead or galvanized service lines were also replaced during this project. The west end of the street was very narrow so that was widened to 30 feet to conform to village standards, improve stormwater drainage, and serve the community better. The sanitary sewer was upgraded and replaced as well, which will enable the Department of Public Works to clean sewer lines on an annual basis, rather than monthly.

The Village worked collaboratively with TK Schools to add an access drive to the south end of McFall Elementary to assist with traffic flow during parent pick up and drop off.

The total cost for this project is \$765,033.

The Village Department of Public Works looks forward to the upcoming construction season to help improve all our systems. Thank you to all of the residents for your patience during these projects while we continuously work to improve our community and provide a safe and quality place for you to work and live. Please reach out with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you out and about this summer.

Meeting Schedule

Engaged citizens are a vital part of our local government and all meetings are open to the public.

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

2nd Monday of the month @ 7 pm

VILLAGE COUNCIL

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
7:00 pm

VILLAGE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1st Tuesday of the month
4:30 pm

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Tuesday of the month
7:00 pm

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

3rd Tuesday of the month
6:00 pm

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY (LDFA)

Quarterly at 5:00 pm
January 18 | April 18
July 18 | October 17

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Meets twice a year: the next 2024 date is July 18 at 6:00 pm

Village Manager Spotlight

CRAIG STOLSONBURG



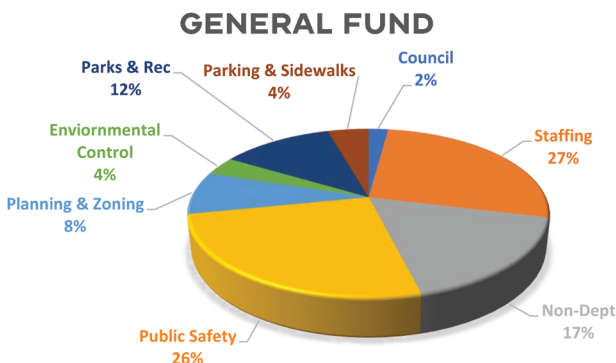
Over the past several years, the Village Council has been focused on improving infrastructure throughout the village. Infrastructure can include things like sanitary sewers, municipal drinking water, roads, sidewalks, etc. Over the past year, the council has focused its efforts on replacing all the old lead water service lines and improving internet and security throughout the downtown area. The Village received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which we have used to add security cameras to our buildings and downtown park areas along with replacing water service lines as mandated by the state.

Recently the Village Council has engaged the Michigan Municipal League in some leadership training and followed up with a strategic planning process which they are currently working through. They were intentional to include members of the council, village staff, Thornapple Township officials, Thornapple Kellogg Schools, Parks and Recreation, and the Downtown Development Authority in their discussions. Once completed, we will publish the strategic plan on our website with printed copies available to anyone if they stop by the village office.

The Council is also interested in knowing the thoughts of their neighbors, the residents of Middleville. The Village Council meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7 pm for their regular meetings along with every 1st Tuesday at 4:30 pm for its committee of the whole. The public is welcome to speak during public comment at any of our posted meetings. If that doesn't work for you, you are always welcome to speak to me directly. I am normally found at the Village Hall during regular office hours but can also be reached at stolsonburgc@villageofmiddleville.org or 269-795-3385. You might also find me at a variety of sporting events throughout the year. Feel free to stop me and say hi.

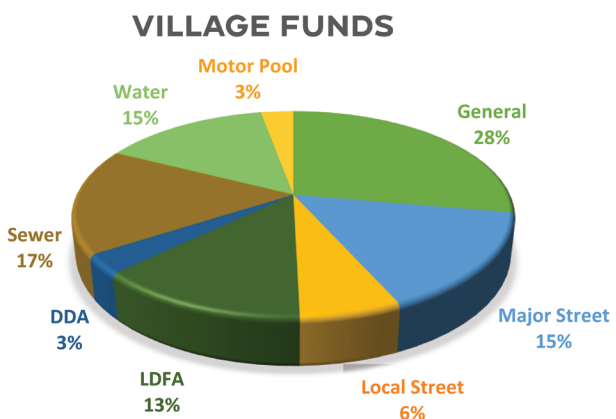
Thank-You for making Middleville your home and if we don't know each other I look forward to meeting you soon.

2024 VILLAGE BUDGET & FUNDS OVERVIEW



The average resident in the Village of Middleville pays \$39.69 per month for Village amenities like parks and trails, police, leaf pickup, holiday lights, street plowing, and DDA special events.

To learn more about this year's budget, visit www.villageofmiddleville.org/finance/budget.



The Sewer (17%) and Water (15%) Funds are called "enterprise funds" because they support themselves as a business would. They do not depend on tax dollars. This year's increase in the Sewer Fund is because of the bond for the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. The WWTP had to be upgraded to accommodate the recent growth in the Village.

The Major (15%) Street Funds monies come from both Act 51 (gas tax) and residents' taxes, while the Local (6%) Street Funds come from just Act 51. Divided across the state, cities and villages get 21.8% of each penny of gas tax to pay to maintain local streets.



Meet Our New Trustees

STEVEN BALDRY

My family moved to Freeport in the mid 60's where I lived until graduating from TK. I have lived in Freeport and Thornapple Township area, and for the last 25 years in the Village of Middleville.

My three children Josh, Beth, and Quinn all graduated from TK, and my wife retired from TK Middle School after 25 years. My wife, Patti, and I will be married for 52 years this summer, and we have 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

My profession was Automated Machinery that included working in all 50 states, as well as, other countries. I am now semi-retired.

I have been on the Council since November 2023. I wanted to be more involved with our Village development, day-to-day operations and be part of the process as we grow in the future. Middleville is a great place to live as anyone who lives here knows. I am excited and proud of our Village. That is why I wanted to serve on the Village Council and serve our Village residents.

ROBERT BISHOP

I moved to the area when I was 6 and lived at a Hastings address but attended Thornapple Kellogg schools. I moved to Hastings for 10 years to be closer to my primary place of employment, but still worked in Middleville for the family business. I moved back to Middleville in 2013 and have been here ever since. I have two younger brothers that serve in the US Air Force as a Lt. Colonel and a Major.

I have several pets including a dog, a dove, an axolotl, and a musk turtle. I like to tell people that my hobby is trying other people's hobbies. I have been active with Scouts BSA for over 25 years. I earned Eagle rank as a youth and then served as Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee Member for the Troop for 11 years after earning Eagle. I got back into scouting to help save the local Cub Scout Pack and served as Cubmaster, Commissioner, and Committee Member, and Pack Trainer. I attended the advanced leadership training, Wood Badge, in 2019 and received my Vigil Honor in 2021.

I am a big advocate for servant leadership and, having earned a B.S. in political science, have been looking for an opportunity to use what I have learned to better my community. I would love to see more people become active participants in the community. I welcome the opportunity to speak with the people of the village to hear from them how we as a council can better serve them.

Village Staff Members

- CRAIG STOLSONBURG**, Village Manager
- GLORIMAR AYALA**, Finance Director/Treasurer
- RHONDA VAN POLEN**, Village Clerk/UB Clerk
- DOUGLAS POWER**, Planning/Zoning Administrator
- ALEC BELSON**, DPW Director/Assistant Village Manager
- KIM DANNENBERG**, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk
- ROBERT PERGLER**, Code Enforcement Officer

Village Council Members

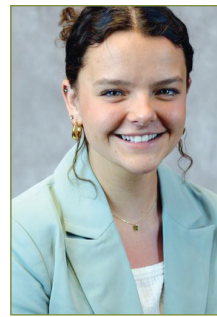
- MICHEAL CRAMER**, Village President
- KEVIN SMITH**, President Pro-Tempore
- ROBERT BISHOP**, Trustee
- ANN WILLIAMS**, Trustee
- MAKENZI PETERS**, Trustee
- RICHARD HAMILTON**, Trustee
- STEVEN BALDRY**, Trustee

Meet Our New DDA Director

My name is Gretchen James, and I was hired as DDA Director in the summer of 2023. I am a Barry County local as my hometown is Hastings, Michigan.

Prior to working for Middleville DDA, I worked for the Barry Community Foundation. I am a Grand Valley Alumni who has a background in public and nonprofit administration, and anthropology. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, bouldering, generally anything outdoors, and playing euchre.

Since taking this role, what I have enjoyed most is getting to hear from the people of Middleville. I'm excited to help bring the foresight of the DDA Boards' goals and projects to life. I encourage any community member who can be more involved with the Downtown of Middleville to come to a DDA meeting or inquire about becoming a volunteer.



DDA Board Members

KIM JACHIM
Chair

ERIC SCHAEFER
Vice-Chair

JUSTINE KING
Secretary

DEREK DEAN
Member

KORTNEY LULL
Member

MICHEAL CRAMER
Member by virtue of Council office

VOLUNTEER

Interested in becoming a volunteer? The Downtown Development Authority is always looking for volunteers to assist with planning upcoming activities, helping with events, or applying to be a member of the DDA board.

Contact Gretchen James, DDA Director, for more information on how you can get involved.

Call 269-241-1170 or email gretchen@middlevilledda.org. You can also visit our website at Middlevilledda.org and click on "Volunteer" to sign up.

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Township Elected Officials



ERIC SCHAEFER
Supervisor



LAURA BOUCHARD
Treasurer



CINDY ORDWAY
Clerk



CURT CAMPBELL
Trustee



ROSS DEMAAGD
Trustee



SANDY RAIRIGH
Trustee



KIM SELLECK
Trustee

Township Staff



BILL RICHARDSON
Fire Chief



AMY BROWN
Deputy Clerk



DENISE PIERING
Deputy Treasurer



LANA QUIST
Office Coordinator



PHIL GENSTERBLUM
Zoning Administrator



DAN SCHEUERMAN
Assessor

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



Thornapple Township is well served with a highly trained professional staff of approximately forty-five members who work full-time, part-time or paid-on-call. The station is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with two firefighters/paramedics and an additional ambulance staffed 12 hours daily to maintain operational integrity. If you are interested in becoming part of our team, please inquire at the station! We are always looking for more firefighters.

The highly trained personnel, paired with Engine 52, which was put in service last May, has allowed the department to broadly meet the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1720 standard for structure fires. The department responds to various emergencies including, but not limited to, fires, auto accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous materials, and technical rescue incidents.

The department has two fire engines, a tanker, a brush rig, a UTV, and four ambulances to serve the community. The newest unit in our fleet is Bravo 54, which is a 2024 Crestline type III basic life support ambulance. This unit can be upgraded to advanced life support, the highest level of prehospital care, when staffing allows. Our community is blessed to have six local paramedics who work for the department and respond to calls off duty, allowing for greater coverage to the citizens we serve. Some of the advanced skills paramedics perform are cardiac monitoring and electrical therapy, administering emergency medications, establishing intravenous therapies, and providing advanced airways.

All the equipment and apparatus the department currently has is compliant, but Thornapple Fire Department has a replacement schedule for large purchases to make sure we are able to serve the community effectively. The next fire engine will be purchased in 2031 but must be ordered in 2029. The new fire engine has an anticipated purchase price of \$1.8 million, which is more than twice the cost of our last engine purchase. We also replace our ambulances every 3-4 years at a current cost of \$200,000.

Maintaining these standards will allow us to get our department re-evaluated by ISO, the company who evaluates and rates fire departments. Some of the departmental changes over the last two years should allow the community members to see an appreciable decrease in their homeowner's insurance rates once we are reclassified by ISO anticipating the re-evaluation in the next 6-12 months.

Thornapple Fire Department has also increased its educational offerings to provide the community CPR and First aid classes every three months. The department will also be hosting Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes this fall, call or email us for more information.



Where Do My Tax Dollars Go?!?!

We've all heard the old saying, "There are only two guarantees in life: death and taxes." No one, absolutely no one, likes to pay property taxes. Since we do have to pay them, however, the expectation is always that those tax dollars be spent wisely by those charged to collect and safeguard them.

Thornapple Township is the collection agent for seven entities:

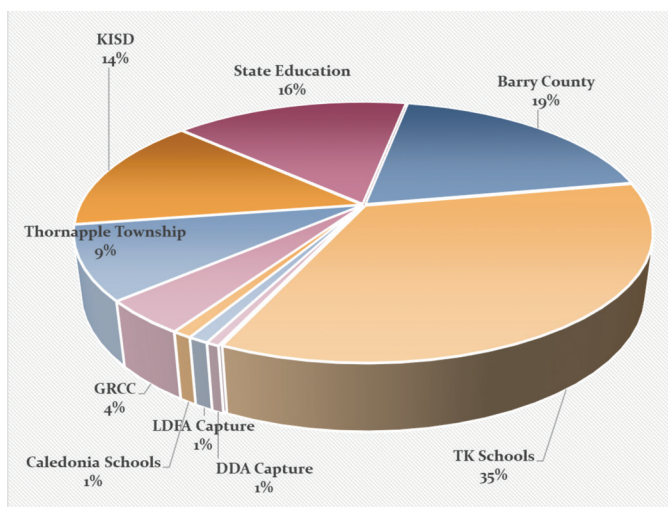
State of Michigan, Barry County, KISD, GRCC, TK Schools, Caledonia Schools, and Thornapple Township. Our total tax roll for 2023 was approximately \$15.6 million. While most folks know we are charged with the responsibility of collecting those tax dollars, the misconception is that all those \$15.6 million dollars are kept and spent by the Township. Instead, we are charged with properly collecting and redistributing those funds. Approximately 9% of the tax dollars collected remain at Thornapple Township, with the remaining portion redistributed to the entities listed above.

Please refer to the related graphs to see how your tax dollars are allocated. As you will see, more than half of the Township's tax dollars are restricted for use to operate emergency services within the Township (fire department and ambulance service, equipment and capital improvement).

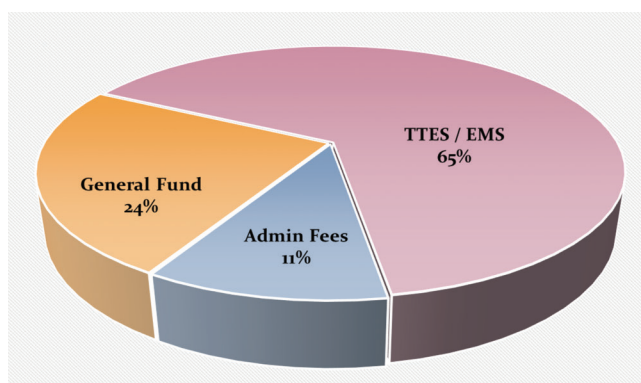
The administration fees generated from property taxes help to fund both the Assessing and Treasury Departments at the Township, as both "assessing" and "tax collection" are two of the Township's statutory duties (along with "elections").

The dollars allocated to general operating are exactly that, the funds necessary to staff the township, help pay for roads, our cemeteries, street lighting, and the general day-to-day expenses necessary to operate the Township and Hall efficiently. A portion of our general operating dollars are "captured" by and paid to the Village's DDA (Downtown Development Authority) and LDFA (Local Development Finance Authority). The Township's elected officials, as well as the staff, try their best everyday to do and provide more for Thornapple Township residents at the lowest possible cost.

THORNAPPLE TWP. 2023 PROPERTY TAXES



THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BREAKDOWN OF TOWNSHIP PORTION FOR 2023



2024 ELECTION INFORMATION

IMPORTANT VOTING DATES

**AUGUST 6
PRIMARY
ELECTION**

**NOVEMBER 5
GENERAL
ELECTION**

For information regarding what's on the ballot, where you go to vote, or other commonly asked questions, go to mvic.sos.state.mi.us for more details.

For questions on Absentee Ballots, go to www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting, or stop by at your local Township Clerk's department.

2024 SUMMER CONCERTS

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT,
JUNE THROUGH JULY, 6:30-9:00 PM
AT THE AMPHITHEATER AT SESQUICENTENNIAL PARK.
ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC BECAUSE OF OUR
GENEROUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



Riverbank MUSIC SERIES

JUNE 7
Skeletones

JUNE 14
Lighting Matches

JUNE 21
Grumpy Old Men

JUNE 28
The Blue Catz

JULY 12
Silent Bark

JULY 19
Fat Animals

*Special Thanks to our
DDA Partner Program Sponsors:*

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

ADVANCED STONE

BRADFORD WHITE

COMMUNITY TRAILBLAZER

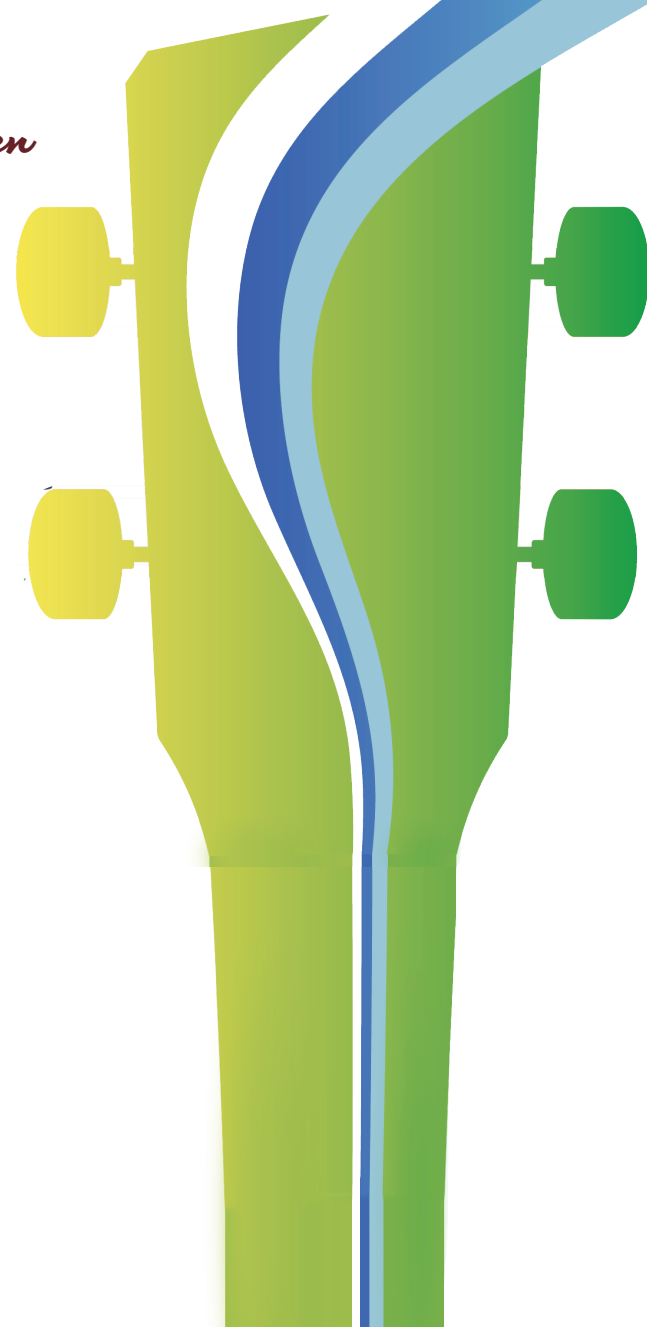
THORNAPPLE CREDIT UNION

COMMUNITY INNOVATOR

CARVETH VILLAGE

FIRST REHAB SPORTS & PHYSICAL THERAPY

THORNAPPLE EYECARE



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Middleville Farmer & Artisan Market

Come support local artisans and farmers each Friday starting May 31 - August 16 (excluding July 5) at the downtown Pavilion from 3-7pm! Interested in being a vendor? Visit Middlevilledda.org for more information!

Independence Day Celebration

JULY 4, 5 PM - 8 PM

Come downtown for a hot dog roast, children's activities and more. Head to the soccer fields at 8:00pm for live music, games, food trucks, and fireworks. This is organized by the Middleville Lion's Club.

Middleville Heritage Day

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 IN DOWNTOWN MIDDLEVILLE!

Heritage Day is a celebration of the history of Middleville and the friends and neighbors who make this community so special. Attractions include a parade, the Charlie Pullen Memorial Car Show, games, a maker's market, athletic competitions, live music, food trucks, and more!

Fall Color Tour

OCTOBER 23 (RAIN DATE OCTOBER 24), 11 AM - 3 PM

Enjoy a golf cart ride along the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail! Sesquicentennial Park (Pavilion), 91 E Main Street (across from Village Hall).

Middleville's Christmas on the River

DECEMBER 12 AND 14

December 12th is business night with free family fun and December 14th is the tree lighting and parade. Come join us for unforgettable Yuletide festivities and family fun!

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