# MIDDLEBURG MEMO

10 W MARSHALL ST. PO BOX 187 MIDDLEBURG, VA 20118-0187 | MIDDLEBURGVA.GOV | (540) 687-5152 | INFO@MIDDLEBURGVA.GOV

# Fire Hydrant Tampering - If You See Something, Say Something

If you look closely, you'll see something is wrong with this picture. Fire hydrants are the property of the Town of Middleburg and should only be accessed by Town utility operators (currently Inboden Environmental Services - IES), by emergency personnel, or by approved general contractors that have been inspected by the Town.

If you see someone connecting to a fire hydrant, please call us right away at 540-687-5152 (Town Office) or 540-687-6633 (Police Department). We will make sure they are authorized.

If they are not authorized, the Town has the authority to fine them under the Town Code.

#### Why does this matter?

We take our water quality (safety) and aesthetics (color and smell) seriously. If someone improperly connects to a fire hydrant, they can introduce untreated water or pathogens into the water system. Residual levels of chlorine should act to neutralize any bacteria; however, we don't want to take any chances!

In addition, when someone improperly connects to a fire hydrant, it can "stir up" water in the nearby water mains, causing temporary discoloration of the water. This discoloration comes from

naturally occurring elements that are generally suspended in the water and are unseen. Over time, these elements (iron and manganese) may settle on the bottom of a water main and are removed when the Town conducts hydrant flushing. However, if someone opens up a fire hydrant and causes a significant volume of water, it will "scour" the mains and result in the elements being introduced back into the water and looking brownish. While the water remains safe (due to prior treatment and residual chlorine levels), it is not pleasant for anyone to see brownish water coming out of their faucets.

(read more on Page 2..."Fire Hydrants")



Most people admire English Ivy because it stays green all year and can cover up a lot of things, so it appears harmless. BUT...English Ivy is slowly killing our trees, not only in Town, but throughout our entire community. With the help of Estee LaClare and Mark Metzger, the Town's Streetscape Committee is launching a new program to better inform us all that English Ivy is Middleburg's Aggressive Invader and action needs to be taken.

We hope the following information will help everyone to better understand the English Ivy issue as well as offer simple solutions for removal. The Streetscape Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at the Town Office at 8:30 AM and everyone is welcome. So, if you have ivy/tree/shrub questions or issues, please come to the meetings as we are here to help you.

### **Information**

English Ivy (Hedera Helix L.) was introduced to America by European colonists back in 1727. It is an evergreen climbing vine that attaches to the bark of trees, brickwork as well as other surfaces by way of small rootlike structures which secrete a sticky substance that helps the vines hold onto different surfaces. It is an aggressive invader and has made the State of Virginia's Invasive Plant Species List.

(read more on Page 2...."English Ivy")



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Stay up-to-date with Notify Me® online at middleburgva.gov/alerts.

- May 17th May 21st
- "Doc Week" at Middleburg Community Center
- Friday, May 20th
- American Legion: First-Hand Tales of Aviators and POWs
- **Hunt Country Music Fest**
- Saturday, May 21st
  - Boy Scouts: Art of the Run 5K
- Art in the Burg
- Hunt Country Music Fest





#### TOWN OF MIDDLEBURG

10 W. Marshall St., PO Box 187 Middleburg, VA 20118-0187 middleburgva.gov (540) 687-5152

#### MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL

Trowbridge M. Littleton, Mayor

Morris "Bud" Jacobs Cindy C. Pearson

Peter Leonard-Morgan, Vice Mayor

Chris W. Bernard Darlene Kirk

J. Kevin Daly Philip M. Miller MIDDLEBURG MEMO Pg. 2

# What's Happening With the Town Hall Project?

The pad site of the new Town Hall is complete, with footers and foundations being poured in May. We anticipate the steel structure to be erected in June/July, with the roof being installed in August.

Recently, the Town added a new sewer main in West Marshall Street for the new Town Hall and to serve adjacent properties. There is no known main in this section of road, so this project will serve the overall community with more consistent sanitary sewage conveyance.

To stay up-to-date, visit: http://www.middleburgva.gov/townhall

### English Ivy (from Page 1)

While the listing only puts English Ivy at a medium level of invasiveness, based upon its threat to natural communities and native species, it threatens all levels of vegetation and grows along the ground as well as in the forest canopy. The ivy can displace native plant species, reduce wildlife habitat, and completely alter ecosystems. English Ivy vines, when they climb up tree trunks, spread out and engulf the tree canopy blocking out sunlight and impeding photosynthesis. The decline of the tree can take many years to occur, and the weight of the vines can make the tree susceptible to blowing over in storms. Additionally, the vines can potentially pass along harmful plant pathogens.

#### **Elimination and Prevention**

- 1. Manual, mechanical, and chemical control methods are all effective in removing and eliminating English Ivy. Oftentimes, it is a combination of methods that achieve the most success and may reduce potential impacts to native plants, animals, and people.
- 2. Individual vines can easily be removed from moist soil by hand. The vines can also be uprooted using landscaping tools (rake, pruning snips/clippers, cutting tools, and mowing).
- 3. If the tree is encircled/engulfed in ivv, cut the vines around the base of the tree, being careful to not cut the tree itself. Using the same technique, cut another circle around the tree at around shoulder level, which will then severe the ivy in two locations and its flow of nutrients.
- 4. Monitor the area for new growth and remove ivy if it begins to come back.
- 5. Herbicides should be used as an alternative or last resort when attempting to eliminate English Ivv. English Ivv.'s leaves contain a waxy barrier that is difficult for products to infiltrate. It is exceedingly difficult to kill the ivy with herbicides alone and can require a combination of manual, mechanical, and chemical control methods for successful elimination.

#### Recipe for Environmentally Safe Weed Killer

it: Vinegar, Dish Soap, and Salt. For one batch of weed killer, you will need a gallon container of white vinegar, 1/4 cup of dish soap, and two cups of Epsom or regular salt. Instructions for mixing these ingredients:

- 1. Pour the salt into your container.
- 2. Add the vinegar.
- 3. Shake the salt and vinegar together. Allow to dissolve.
- 4. Add the dish soap.
- 5. Combine all ingredients.
- 6. Pour into a spray bottle of your choosing.

## **TOWN PROJECTS:**

- The Town will be repaving Pinckney Street in mid-May and Chinn Court in July. We will reach out to impacted residents before the work begins.
- The Town will be sandblasting and recoating the water tower on E. Marshall Street over the summer. More information will be shared with adjacent property owners in the coming weeks.
- The Town of Middleburg is updating its gateway "Welcome" signs, pedestrian directional signs, and street name signs throughout Town. Watch for crews working in June.

# Only three ingredients are needed for an environmentally safe product that can be applied to English Ivy to eliminate

# Fire Hydrants (from Page 1)

The Town has invested significant dollars into improving its water system to reduce instances of discolored water. Nonetheless, there are multiple times each year that unapproved contractors have accessed Town hydrants and caused discolored water in residents' homes.

You can help – please keep your eyes open and let us know if you see anything suspicious!!

# Proposals for Annexation/BLA into the Town of Middleburg

The Town of Middleburg has been approached by two property owners interested in annexation of their land or portions of their land into the Town through a process formally called a "Boundary Line Adjustment." Before taking any formal steps, the Town Council feels it is important to present the details of the proposals to the Middleburg community, get input and feedback from residents, and answer any questions.

The Town Council held a Public Information Session on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. The video of the meeting is available online. In addition, a "Frequently Asked Questions" is provided online.

The latest information can be found at http://www.middleburgva.gov/bla

