

“BIG PAYOUT OVER HERE!”

Sue Davis

Similar language was heard frequently, on February 7, when the Legends Civic Association sponsored a Monte Carlo Casino Night at the Middletown Volunteer Hose Company. The games included blackjack, craps, Texas Hold'em, a Big 6 Wheel, a roulette wheel and slot machines. All the games had lots of participants. Throughout the evening, 50-50 raffle tickets were sold.

Prior to the Monte Carlo night, committee members canvassed Middletown businesses for advertisements and prizes. Participants won "funny money" from all the events (except in Texas Hold'em) and were able to use their winnings to purchase raffle tickets for one or more of the 50 prizes. The biggest prize was a limousine trip to Atlantic City for an evening of fun with "real money". Bill Weber, a resident of the Legends, was the lucky winner.

By all accounts, those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Civic Association realized a profit of \$4,500 from the evening after all expenses were paid. We learned a lot about such events and hope that next year's event will be bigger and better. We plan to have next year's Monte Carlo night on April 16, 2005. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the fun next year.

Ed Colaprete was chairman of the Casino Night. Committee members were Michael Castoria, Sue Davis, Mauro DePalma, Keith McGrath, Pat McTiernan, Jim Townsend, Theresa Townsend, Bill Weber and Ed Cialella.

LANDSCAPE UPDATE

Request for Proposals for landscape maintenance have been sent to 11 landscape contractors. Bids are due back by April 5. The RFP covers cleanup and maintenance of the medians and the rotaries plus the mowing of the grass on the rotary on the west side. The town of Middletown will cut the grass on the east side rotaries. They cannot cut the west side until the streets have been turned over to the town.

Don Loesch met with Mayor Branner to discuss landscape issues. Mayor Branner said that he has been assured by the developers on the west side that they will be laying the top coat on the streets shortly after the asphalt plants open in April. Mayor Branner also said that he will investigate the possibilities of aeration of the water in the retention ponds.

Double-S has agreed help fund the cleanup of the rotary on the west side. They have also removed the "derelict" mailboxes on the east side at the request of the Civic Association.

On a slightly different subject Mayor Branner said that the purchase of the golf course from Frog Hollow is still pending. It does not appear that DNREC will approve the additional spray irrigation area that the town required as a requisite for the current offer. If that is the case, the parties will have to go back to the negotiating table.

ELECTIONS IN MAY

The terms of Board Members Roseann Cialella, Michael Castoria and Joanne Jackson will expire at the end of May. Roseann will not be running for an additional term since she and her husband, Ed, will be moving at the end of the summer. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Monday, May 10 for three positions on the Board with terms of three years. If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors contact Ed Colaprete, Nominations Chairman, at 449-0273.

TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Are you 65 or older? If so, you may be eligible for a School Property Tax Credit. You must be 65 prior to July 1 of the fiscal year for which you are applying for this credit. You must be the owner of the property and it must be your principal place of residence. If approved, this credit could provide a 50% reduction in your School Tax bill up to a maximum of \$500.

The County Assessment Division strongly urges residents 65 and older to submit applications as soon as possible so they can be processed before tax bills are sent in July. For further information contact the Assessment Division at 395-5520.

You are also eligible to have your Middletown real estate tax waived (all of it). Just go to Town Hall at 216 N. Broad St and fill out a form. This should also be done prior to July.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Legends Newsletter:

I would like to thank all of my supporters from the Legends who voted for me in the recent Town Council elections. Although I did not win, I believe that my candidacy brought some awareness to the problems facing Middletown's future.

Once again, my heartfelt thanks to all who helped in my campaign.

Sincerely,

Ed Colaprete

COMMENTS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

There are two recurring subjects that come up when talking with people in The Legends – cars and dogs.

Some cars moving through The Legends do so at a rate of speed that is somewhat beyond safe. With the exception of delivery vehicles from a local pizzeria, most of the offenders are Legends residents. With spring upon us, keep in mind that there will be more children bicycling, skate boarding, and just being in the streets (many of whom don't bother to look when they run or ride across). Please slow down!

Dogs should not be allowed to roam at large. And, if you are walking your dog, please pick up after them.

MEMBERSHIP

We're finishing up the first year of The Legends Civic Association. Dues for 2004 are due in May. A dues billing will be mailed to all residents of The Legends.

The Board is working to add an intrinsic value to your membership by working with local merchants. The idea is to provide something like the entertainment book, whereby merchants would offer discounts or packages (e.g. 2 for 1) to members. Members would be provided with a membership card which would be presented to the merchant. More information will be available by the May meeting and newsletter.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

We have expanded the ad sizes available in the newsletter. Member prices are \$25 for business card per issue or \$75 for 4, \$50/\$175 for ¼ page, \$100/\$300 for ½ page, and \$150/\$450 for a full page. Non-member prices are \$35 for business card per issue or \$140 for 4, \$70/\$210 for ¼ page, \$140/\$420 for ½ page, \$175/\$525 for a full page. Anyone interested in advertising should contact Gary Olsen at 376-1575 or Don Loesch at 376-7955.

GET INVOLVED

Check out Middletown's community information guides web site: <http://townofmiddletown.com/> Get info on Middletown's revitalization program and the Middletown historical society.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Get ready to clean out the basement, the closet and the garage. Your Civic Association will sponsor a community wide yard sale on Saturday, June 5, from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Your Civic Association will handle the newspaper advertising and signs. All you have to do is put out your stuff. Remember – one person's junk is another person's treasure.

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