

THE VISION

A VISION STATEMENT ISN'T ABOUT WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS TODAY BUT INSTEAD, IT IS ABOUT WHAT THE TOWN WANTS TO DO OR BECOME IN THE FUTURE.

New Middletown will continue to be a place that is loved by everyone. Residents and visitors will be greeted by welcoming people, well-maintained places, and quaint neighborhoods. New Middletown will thrive by leveraging what makes it special and unique - our residents and local history. The town will rally together to preserve New Middletown's rural living and neighborly charm that will spark incremental growth and foster community pride for the future of the town.

BIG IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE!

PLACEMAKING

1. **Community Events:** Increase resources and volunteers to facilitate community events by partnering with the school, fire department, and local churches.
2. **Gateways:** Provide well-marked, inviting entrances into the town.
3. **Volunteerism:** Initiate a recognition program to celebrate people's contribution to New Middletown.
4. **Newsletter:** Establish a seasonal newsletter that educates and informs residents about the local history and events.
5. **Community Beautification:** Organize a seasonal community cleanup day.

PARKS AND RECREATION

1. **Recreational Facilities:** Explore the creation of a public park for town residents that includes a playground, splashpad, and full-sized basketball court.
2. **Facility Programming:** Partner with the South Harrison Community School Corporation to utilize the New Middletown Elementary school gym and outdoor recreational facilities for programming for all ages.
3. **Expanded Amenities:** Secure funding for additional park features such as picnic tables and seasonal lawn games and activities (corn hole, chess, etc.).

LAND USE

1. **Agriculture Preservation:** Encourage and foster development that minimizes impact on existing agricultural areas outside of town limits.
2. **Variety of Housing Options:** Advocate for development of additional single-family, multi-family, and senior-living housing options.

UTILITIES

1. **Septic Maintenance:** Protect groundwater and surface water quality from inadequate or failing septic systems.
2. **Sewer System:** Determine the feasibility of providing sewer utilities to existing and future development areas.
3. **Broadband Development:** Work with the county to provide high-speed and high-quality internet access.
4. **Broadband Access:** Provide free public access to WIFI hotspots around the elementary school, Memorial Park, or town hall.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **Sidewalk Connectivity:** Extend the sidewalk network along New Middletown Road SE and Fire Lane SE.
2. **Crosswalks:** Improve crosswalk visibility to increase safety.
3. **Streetscape:** Expand the street tree program along Main Street and other key roads within town limits.

HOUSING

1. **Housing Support:** Provide opportunities for new housing to sustain the local school and support business needs.
2. **Grant Programs:** Utilize state grants to establish a housing repair program.
3. **Blight Removal:** Rehabilitate or demolish poorly maintained and neglected properties.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1. **Fitness Programming Partnership:** Partner with the school corporation and/or other organizations to provide a walking program for all ages in the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. **Redevelopment:** Redevelop the commercial building on the corner of Main Street and Third Street to encourage small-scale development that preserves and enhances the town character.
2. **Financial Incentives:** Promote the existing programs offered through the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to encourage building improvements and business development, such as the Small Business Loan Program, Commercial Rent Subsidy Program, and low-interest loans.
3. **Childcare Services:** Publicize local and state financial programs to parents and potential providers that supports the creation of new in-home and traditional childcare programs.
4. **Early Childhood Education:** Work with the Harrison County Public Library, Boys and Girls Club, Harrison County Community Foundation, and New Middletown Elementary School to expand and publicize early childhood educational programs.

