

July 14, 2026 Agenda Item 6.6 – Renaming Middletown Park

My name is Linda Diehl-Darms and I was one of the community members that created Middletown Area Town Hall (MATH). December 2006 MATH became a MAC. Please consider voting in favor of renaming the Middletown Park based on a vote at MATH in May and the following history:

In Sept. 2011, ground was broken by Lake County for the complex that would house the Middletown Senior Center, Library and conference rooms. At the same time MATH was making plans with the County Reps regarding the park. MATH designed the park and it was approved by the County.

A great majority of the work that created the park was done through community donations and community volunteers and included the following: The onsite well needed to be re-established and updated and a stone building was erected to house the well; the sprinkler system was trenched, piping purchased and installed; and forming up the sidewalks and center area, having cement brought in and concrete finished and sidewalks stamped. My husband and I provided lunch and drinks on several occasions for the volunteers.

The County installed and paid for the fencing, grass, gazebo, and outdoor restroom (just installed in the last few years).

MATH was told that they could officially name the park and that there needed to be a temporary name to designate the park and the County gave it a name – Middletown Square Park. We made it clear that we did not want a sign at the park stating Middletown Square Park as it was temporary.

On May 12, 2026, MATH voted for park names, the names to choose from were Middletown Library Park, Middletown Square Park and Middletown Gateway Park. Middletown Gateway Park received the most votes.

You each represent communities in your Districts and are aware that each has a distinct identity, personality and history. Middletown is no different. Middletown Gateway Park speaks to Middletown and what the park and facilities stand for in our community. Gateway to Learning – Library; Gateway to Senior Services – Senior Center and Gateway to Community – Weekly Farmers Markets. As well as known by community members as Middletown being the Gateway to Lake County.

Historically, Middletown has been known as the Gateway to Lake County as Hwy 29 goes right through Middletown. Attached are articles from the Weekly Calistogan - May 1922, Press Democrat- July 1952 and May 1958 and the Oakland Tribune - June 1965 referring to Middletown as the Gateway to Lake County. (see attached)

Attached is a picture of a Billboard that was located south of town in the 70's and early to mid 80's located on what is now the Adventist Health Clinic property stating 'Welcome to Middletown the Gateway to Lake County'. When the billboard existed, the property had a building used to distribute information on Lake County with volunteers manning it. The property was sold to Adventist Health in the early to mid 80's and the billboard was removed.

Attached is a picture of an article from Lake County.com dated 2016 referring to Middletown as the Gateway to Lake County.

Attached is a picture of a banner that is currently on the fence of the park calling it Library Park advertising the Community Farmer's Markets.

The name of the park is not clear to the Middletown community.

I am requesting that the Board of Supervisors honor the vote made at the MATH May meeting and vote in favor of renaming the park Middletown Gateway Park to reflect the personality, identity and history of Middletown.

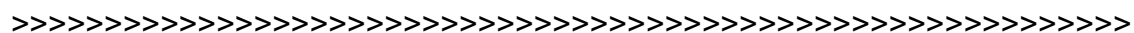
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Middletown, May 2.-The Middletown Chamber of Commerce held an open meeting on Monday, May 1st. at which there were about 150 people assembled. President Ned Burgher, presiding, talked of the activity of the various Chambers of Commerce in other sections of the county, and of the necessity of wide publicity concerning the varied advantages of this section. Rev. George H. Whiteman emphasized that Middletown is the gateway to Lake county, and our need of a reading room, a club room, a good auto park and other utilities. -

Press Democrat, Volume 95, Number 242, 31 July 1952:

MIDDLETOWN The "Gateway to Lake County" is buzzing with activity these summer days. Resorts in the nearby mountains are reporting hundreds of vacationers now that the warm weather is here. The biggest influx is expected when deer season opens Aug. 9. -

Press Democrat, Volume 101, Number 164, 4 May 1958



Oakland Tribune, Volume 179, Number 164, 13 June 1965:

. "Mountain Mill House was the last stop for stages in their drive to the 'gateway to Lake County.' -

Billboard South of Town 1970's to Early to Mid 1980's



Article Dated June 2016

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The 'Gateway to Lake County' starts in Middletown

June 2, 2016

After the Valley Fire, Middletown's doors are officially open again

One of the hardest hit communities in the

Sign Currently on Fence at Middletown Park

