

# middle TOWN NEWS letter

April 2017

## Town Meeting 2017 Official Election Results

**Town Ballot Articles:** All town articles 2 through 10 passed, with the exception of Article 7, the proposed ATV ordinance, which failed by a roughly two-to-one margin.

**Non-Profit Funding Articles:** All of the funding requests for non-profit agencies passed with the exception of Article 30, Big Heavy World, which failed by a roughly three-to-two margin.

**Town Officials:** All unopposed races were won handily.

- Kimberly Mathewson, Town Moderator
- Terry Redfield, Selectboard 2-year
- Randy Kniffin, Lister
- Patty McWilliams, Library Trustee
- Diane Rosenmiller, Library Trustee
- David Munyai, Grand Juror
- Dan McKeen, Copeland Church Fund
- Hilary Solomon, Planning Commission 2-year
- Tom Hurcomb, Planning Commission 3-year

In the one contested race, Herb Childress retained the 3-year seat on the Selectboard with 57% of the votes.

At the March 23 Selectboard meeting, the following appointments were made:

- Carl Haynes, Health Officer (3 years)
- Glen Moyer, SWAC Representative (1 year)
- Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman and Sarah Grimm as Auditors (one 3-year and one 2-year term to be determined)
- Lois Dansereau and Beth Miller as Trustees of Louis Fund and Other Public Monies (one 3-year and one 2-year term to be determined)
- Terry Redfield, Herb Childress, and Chris Fenton sharing the role of Fence Viewer (1 year)

### Middletown Springs School Board

- Article 2, the school budget, passed at 61%
- Article 3, moving \$35,000 to the Capital Maintenance Fund, passed at 66%
- All three unopposed races (Chris Smid for Board 2-year, Sarah Haley for Board 3-year, and Kimberly Mathewson for Moderator) were won easily.

### Middletown Springs/Wells School Consolidation

- Article 1, asking to approve the merged Wells Springs district, passed at 70%. However, the merg-

er failed in Wells by ONE VOTE (recounted and verified), so the consolidation remains uncertain.

- All uncontested races for the unified district board were won handily.
- Meredith Morgan won the at-large seat for the unified district board by a narrow margin.

## Open Town Positions: *Is It Your Turn?*

The Selectboard would like you to know that there are still a number of vacancies in both elected and appointed positions, and would like to encourage YOU to take up civic service. Specifically, there are at least the following openings:

### Elected positions

(To be filled by appointment until Town Meeting)

- Town Agent
- Town Constable

### Appointed positions

- Service Officer
- Emergency Management Director
- Representative to Rutland Regional Transportation Council
- Conservation Commission, several seats

There is no end of ways to be engaged in community service, but these are some specific areas of need. Your town needs you. Step up. The Selectboard would love to hear from you!

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Act 46 Update - page 2

Community Basketball - Thurs. & Sun.

Poetry Event on April 24 - page 3

Library Bookmarks - page 3

Death Cafe on May 10 - page 3

Memorial Day Parade - page 4

Gardening Festival - page 4

Homestead Declaration due April 18 - page 4

Large Dumpster Day on May 6 - page 5



## Four School Districts Hang On As Wells Reconsiders

Four of five school districts in the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and Rutland Central Supervisory Union voted to approve their Act 46 merger on Town Meeting Day. Poultney, Proctor, and West Rutland voted to become a PreK-12 district called the Quarry Valley Unified Union School District (QVUUSD) with a combined enrollment of 988 students. Quarry Valley was one "side" of the Act 46 merger proposal. The other "side" of the merger proposal was the Wells Springs Unified Union School District (WSUUSD) which would merge the school districts of Middletown Springs and Wells with a combined enrollment of 273. The vote in Middletown Springs passed by a wide margin, but the vote in Wells lost - 146 "Yes" votes to 147 "No" votes.

The merger plan is to have Quarry Valley UUSD and Wells Springs UUSD be "side-by-side" in a newly merged supervisory union with a minimum of 1260 students, thereby spreading the central office costs out over as many districts and students as possible. While the Quarry Valley UUSD is large enough to constitute their own supervisory union without Wells Springs UUSD, they would have to bear the central office costs on their own, and submit a whole new merger proposal to the state and voters. The Wells Springs UUSD is not large enough to create its own supervisory district, and needs to join with a K-12 merger in a side-by-side to be viable. A "Yes" vote in all five districts is needed to move the current merger plan forward.

A number of Wells voters have petitioned to hold a reconsideration vote on Article 1 (the merger agreement between Middletown Springs and Wells School Districts). A Community Forum was held on March 29th and was well attended. The reconsideration vote has been warned for Thursday, April 13. A public hearing will be held the night before, April 12, at 6:30 pm in the Wells multipurpose room.

In the meantime, Poultney, Proctor, West Rutland, and Middletown Springs are in limbo until the Wells vote on April 13. If the reconsideration vote is successful, the mergers of Quarry Valley Unified Union School District and the formation of the Wells Springs Unified Union School District will be organized by the Vermont Secretary of Education within 60 days of the vote. The newly formed districts will become operational on July 1, 2018. Should the vote fail, the Act 46 RCSU/RSWSU Study Committee will be disbanded and each of the five school boards will need to determine whether

they will begin a new study or submit an "alternative" plan to the Secretary of Education. Under current law, the Secretary of Education will assign merger partners to school districts that do not have a voluntary merger plan approved by voters before July 1, 2017.

If the Quarry Valley and Wells Springs mergers are successful, and a new supervisory union is created from the two existing SUs, there is the possibility that Ira and Rutland Town would be assigned to the new supervisory union, helping diffuse the central office costs even further. Ira does not operate a school for any grades and is currently in the RSWSU with Wells, Poultney, and Middletown Springs. Rutland Town operates K-8 with 9-12 choice, and is currently in the RCSU with Proctor and West Rutland. Neither district was able to find a merger partner with similar operating structures. The newly created SU would be a logical home for them, but that decision will ultimately be made by the State.

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## A Maple Thank You

The Maple Festival was fun for all!

A lot went on at the 29th Annual Maple Festival and it takes a lot of hands and hearts to make it a fun time for everyone. The Trustees of the Middletown Springs Historical Society are grateful for the outpouring of support to bring about the successful event. Thank you! The money raised will be used to maintain the Community House and the Mineral Springs Park.

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## FOL Notice

Friends of the Library will meet at the Library on **April 18, at 7pm**, for their regular monthly meeting and to discuss plans for their upcoming Gardening Festival. All interested are welcome to attend.

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## Community Basketball continues through APRIL

### Pick-up Basketball: 4-6 pm Sundays

All ages and abilities.

Children under 10 should bring an adult or a responsible older sibling.

### Pick-Up Basketball: 6-8 pm Thursdays

15 years old and up.

**All games at the MSES Gym**

Contact Justin Hier for info, 235-1297 or [justinhier@hotmail.com](mailto:justinhier@hotmail.com)

# Library Bookmarks

**Poetry in the Library:** April is National Poetry Month and the Library is celebrating. Books of poetry are on display. Check them out and perhaps discover a new voice that speaks to you.

On **Monday, April 24, at 7 pm**, come listen to the **Gossamer Stone Poets** as they read from their works. The Gossamer Stone Poets began in October of 2012, and in May of 2015 they self-published *Border Lines: a poetry collection*, which represents the poetry of six of the eight Gossamer Stone Poets. The poets are from southwestern Vermont and over the border into New York State, hence the name of their book. They come together twice a month for Reading and Writing meetings, enjoy getting away together for writing retreats to monasteries and Montreal, and are in demand for *The Poet Is In* events. Although diverse in their poetry forms and styles, they share a passion for poetry that's been a beacon in their creative lives. Come hear the different styles of these local poets.

**Library Hours Extended:** Saturday's hours at the Library will be extended to 1pm for a trial period of **April and May**. The Library will be open from **10 am-1 pm**.

Let us know if you think this change will make a difference in your Saturday routines by sending an email or, better yet, stopping in at the Library on a Saturday.

At the end of May, the Trustees will reassess. Thanks for your ongoing support of the Library.

**Knitting Circle:** **First Monday of the month 7-9 pm, October-May**, at the Library. Novice to experienced knitters welcomed. Come for inspiration, technical support, and quiet conversation.

**NEW Titles** in all sections including:

*Hollywood Daughter* by Kate Alcott  
*Fifth Petal* by Brunonia Barry  
*Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson  
*Girl Before* by JP Delaney  
*Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman  
*A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline  
*If Not For You* by Debbie Macomber  
*Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders  
*Today Will Be Different* by Maria Semple  
*A Certain Age* by Beatriz Williams

**Death Cafe:** The Library's next Death Cafe will be on **Wednesday, May 10, at 7 pm**. We hosted two Cafes in 2016 which saw great attendance and prompted much discussion. As natural and inevitable as death is, we have much to talk about around it. From its website, Death Cafe operates

- With no intention of leading participants to any conclusion, product or course of action
- As an open, respectful and confidential space where people can express their views safely
- On a not-for-profit basis
- Alongside refreshing drinks, nourishing food, and cake!

Please join us!

**Seed Swap Ongoing:** Time to start seedlings, or think about what you want to plant! Please come peruse the seed packets in the Library - there are some delicious varieties donated from High Mowing, and plenty from the neighborhood. It is not a requirement that you bring seeds to swap in order to take some away.

Come in and celebrate spring!

**Downloadable**

**Audiobooks & e-Books:** After sampling two different platforms for access to downloadable Audiobooks & e-Books, the Library has chosen to remain with Green Mountain Library Consortium's Listen Up Vermont. Use the free OverDrive app and your library patron number to borrow e-Books and audiobooks.

OverDrive app is available for Android, Chromebook, iOS (iPhone, iPad, iPod touch), Kindle Fire tablets, NOOK tablets, Windows 8 & up, and Windows Phone. OverDrive is also available for Windows and Mac users. Go to <https://gmlc.overdrive.com> to get started. Additional directions will be available at the Library or on the Library's website.

Access to OneClick is no longer available. Questions? Contact Kimberly at the Library, 235-2435 or [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)

**Toddler Time:** Stories, songs, and a snack for our youngest patrons and their caregivers at the Library. **Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am, April 5, and April 26-May 31.**

Come to one, or come to them all!

## Who Loves a Parade?

After countless years of leadership of the Memorial Day Parade, the stalwart Grange members have had to step down. Much appreciation to Alice Hoisington and Cheryl Manning for heading it up the past few years!

The Creative Economy committee, the Planning Commission, and members of the Selectboard and Fire Department will take on the responsibilities of organizing for the parade, and are committed to making it an exciting and wholesome event. EVERYONE is invited to attend a meeting at the Library on **Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00 pm**.

Many hands will make lighter work for all - your enthusiasm and energy are important. Please come!

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## REMINDER: File Your VT Homestead Declaration

The Board of Listers wants to remind residents to file their homestead declaration with the Vermont Tax Department by April 18, 2017.

The Vermont Property Tax Adjustment assists many Vermont homeowners with paying their property taxes. The maximum property tax adjustment you can receive is \$8,000. Eligibility requirements:

- The property must be declared as your homestead.
- You were domiciled in Vermont for the entire 2016 calendar year.
- You were not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer.
- You owned the property as your principal residence on April 1, 2017.
- You meet the household income criteria of \$141,000 or less.

Click on <http://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/2017-HS-122-Instr.pdf> for more detailed information about your circumstances.

You may file online at [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov). Forms HS-122, HI-144. Contact any Lister if you have any questions. Sally Achey, Chair -2434, Randy Kniffin -2620, or Patricia Hemenway -2421.

### *Milestones*

#### DEATHS:

Winsome Lin Moran  
March 19, 2017

## Gardening Festival

Despite some recent weather to the contrary, spring and summer really are coming – actually pretty soon. The Friends of the Library have started to prepare for their 3rd Annual Gardening Festival on Saturday, May 20, 8 am-noon. In particular, they are looking for donations. Perhaps you can help!

If you are starting plants indoors from seed, please consider starting a few extra plants to donate - flowers or veggies, or both.

If you are going to be cleaning out a garden shed in the next few weeks, please think of setting aside used but serviceable tools, supplies, or equipment for the Friends to sell at the Festival.

If you are planning to divide perennials this year, please consider potting some up for the Friends to sell. (If you have an invasive weed in your garden such as gout or Japanese knotweed, please do not donate.)

Folks come from miles around to buy healthy, local plant divisions.

Later in April the Friends will put out a call for volunteers to help set up, sell, and take down the Festival, as well as for a couple of bakers to donate fresh baked muffins to be sold with hot coffee during the sale.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library. For more information call Judy Robinson at 235-1070.



photo by Emmett Francois

# Calendar of Events

## April

Planning Commission	Mon 3	4 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 3	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 4	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Wed 5	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 6	7 pm	MSHS
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 11	6:30 pm	Firehouse
<b>Parade Planning</b>	<b>Wed 12</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
School Board	Thurs 13	6 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 13	7 pm	Town Office
First Response	Sun 16	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 18	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Friends	Tues 18	7 pm	Library
Building Committee	Thurs 20	7 pm	Library
<b>Poetry Event</b>	<b>Mon 24</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 25	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 26	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 27	7 pm	Town Office
Book Group	Thurs 27	7 pm	Library

## May (partial listings)

Planning Commission	Mon 1	4 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 1	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 2	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Wed 3	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 4	7 pm	MSHS
<b>Green Up Day</b>	<b>Sat 6</b>		
<b>Oversized Trash/Metal</b>	<b>Sat 6</b>	<b>6 am-noon</b>	<b>Transfer Station</b>
<b>Death Cafe</b>	<b>Wed 10</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Gardening Festival</b>	<b>Sat 20</b>	<b>8am-noon</b>	<b>MSHS</b>

*Calendar Events – subject to change.*

*When in doubt, please check with the organization for details.*

## Oversize Trash & Metal Collection Day Saturday, May 6 (Green Up Day)

The large waste collection and metal collection day will be conducted at 577 West Street. Furniture, toys, small amounts of construction and demolition items are acceptable.

**NO CONTRACTORS, please. Hours are 6 am - noon.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Metal waste can be deposited without fee. Large non-metal waste will be collected free on Green Up Day, but a fee of \$5 per vehicle load will be charged for large trash on the October large waste day. ALL items containing refrigerants (fridges, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc) will be collected at Fort Dumpster only on those two dates, and will be assessed a disposal fee for handling refrigerant material.

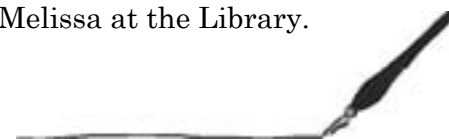
## TOWN NEWSLETTER

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted to FPF or the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

**Questions:** Call 235-2435, or email [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com) to reach Kimberly & Melissa at the Library.



### Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library  
PO Box 1206  
Middletown Springs, VT 05757  
[middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)

Deadline: 25th of the month  
for inclusion in upcoming issue.

