

# middle TOWN NEWS letter

## July 2017

### New School Districts Launched Quarry Valley and Wells Springs

After more than two years of studying and discussions, the school districts of Poultney, Proctor, and West Rutland merged into the Quarry Valley Unified Union School District (QVUUSD), and the school districts of Wells and Middletown Springs merged into the Wells Springs Unified Union School District (WSUUSD) on Tuesday, June 27. The organizational meetings were warned by the Secretary of Education to have new Board members sworn into office, elect a moderator, clerk, and treasurer for the first year of operation, and to determine an annual meeting date.

Residents of Wells and Middletown Springs were asked to meet at the Middletown Springs Elementary School multipurpose room at 5:30 to participate in the organizational meeting. Residents of Poultney, Proctor, and West Rutland are asked to meet at the Poultney High School library at 7:00. Once organized, the Boards of the two new school districts will spend the upcoming year establishing policy for the new districts, creating budgets for fiscal year 2019, and negotiating contracts with teachers and support staff. At the same time, the five current district Boards will oversee all of the operations of existing districts.

In August, the school districts of Ira and of Rutland Town will meet with the Vermont State Board of Education to ask that they be added as "sides" (an Act 46 term) to the newly formed sides of Quarry Valley and Wells Springs. This can be allowed as a result of some recent legislative modifications to Act 46 now known as Act 49. Ira and Rutland Town have been unable to find partners with which to merge as a result of their grade configuration and tuitioning options. They have made every attempt and were active members of the Act 46 study committee.

Since the seven school districts bridge two supervisory unions, Rutland Central Supervisory Union and Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union will ask the State Board to be merged effective July 1, 2018. Assuming this is approved by the State Board, seven school districts will have merged into

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### MSVFD Open House Friday, July 28 at 6:00 pm

The community members raised the questions and ideas, and we are making it happen! At the Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department a Community Dinner in February, community members in attendance asked about information on solar panel safety in an emergency situation, downed power lines safety, and fire extinguisher inspections and recharging. There was also a conversation about an open house.

The members of MSVFD will host an Open House on Friday, July 28 at 6:00 pm. The MSVFD Open House will have a fun and informational agenda. The MSVFD has invited representatives from Green Mountain Power to present information on the safety of downed power lines. Green Mountain Power will explain the do's and don'ts of downed power lines, what to look for with trees on wires, and live wires. Another representative with expertise on solar photovoltaic safety will present on the dangers to homeowners and firefighters regarding solar panels. Community members will learn the importance of locating emergency shut-offs. We are in communications with a company that inspects and recharges extinguishers. Our hope is that community members in attendance will have the opportunity to drop off their residential fire extinguishers for inspection and recharging. The MSVFD will label the extinguishers with your name and have the extinguishers inspected and recharged if necessary.

The MSVFD will also be holding a raffle. The grand prize includes two Telescope Casual Furniture chairs with a side table, a 30 inch steel fire pit, a cast iron charcoal grill, and a cooler. Winners need not be present to win the grand prize. Raffle ticket prices are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Raffle tickets can be purchased from a member of MSVFD,

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**Happy  
Independence Day**

## New Districts

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four, and two supervisory unions into one.

We wish to thank our communities for their patience as we understand all of the requirements and nuances of Act 46, and now Act 49. These are complex laws still being interpreted by the Agency of Education and by school districts. It has been a challenging and time-consuming process for all. Should you have questions, please call the superintendents of Rutland Central Supervisory Union (Dr. Debra Taylor) or Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union (Dr. Joan Paustian through June 30 and Superintendent Judy Pullinen after July 1).

Board Members for Quarry Valley UUSD will be Mary Jo Teetor, Rebecca Cook, Linda Smith, and Kristen Ross from Poultney; Art Saceric, Andy Shaw, and Lisa Miser of Proctor; and James Mumford, Tom Callahan, and Blake Cushing from West Rutland. Wells Springs Board members will be Meredith Morgan, Clarence Haynes, Sarah Haley, and Chris Smid of Middletown Springs; and Courtney Bishop, Laura Burch, and an appointed member from Wells.

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## MSVFD

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a member of the MSVFD Board of Trustees, and Grant's Village Store. Anyone attending the open house will be entered to win several prizes throughout the evening. Prizes will include a \$25 gift certificate from Gilmore's Home Center, a beverage dispenser from Williams Hardware, an outdoor fountain from Aubuchon Hardware in Fair Haven, a BBQ gift basket from Vermont Country Store, three 2.5 lb. residential fire extinguishers, \$25 gift card from Vermont Country Store, and more!

The Open House includes food and beverages, a turnout gear race (can you beat a firefighter?), live fire demonstrations, vehicle extrication, proper use of fire extinguishers, and more! The community members will have the opportunity to put out a fire with an extinguisher. Children are also invited to participate. A child can learn when to call 911 and save a home. Children will learn the importance of knowing their physical address and important landmarks near their property.

The members of MSVFD invite one and all to this event! Not only are there some great prizes to win, you will have a night of information, live fire, and a summer night packed with fun! We hope to see you there! If you have questions, please contact Karen Castle [chiefcastlegirl@aol.com](mailto:chiefcastlegirl@aol.com) or 235-2160.

## Property Tax Bills

### Note from the Town Treasurer

Coming Soon! - Property Tax Bills for the new fiscal year 2017/2018.

Calculations for our New Property Taxes are in process.

Our Listers are currently at work on completing the Grand List of the home values of our properties, upon which the tax rate is based.

Once completed, the tax rate for 2017/2018 will be calculated based on the Grand List and the Town & Highway Budgets that we approved on Town Meeting Day March 2017.

Once the tax rate is calculated, the SelectBoard will discuss and approve it.

The rate is then applied to the value of your property to produce your share of taxes due.

Concurrently, the state will provide us with a tax rate for the School Taxes and that rate will also be applied to the value of your property to produce your share of school taxes due.

Finally, the State of Vermont will download a list of Homestead rebates that will be applied to your tax bill, if you are eligible. If you have any questions regarding the status of your homestead rebate, contact the Vermont Department of Taxes at: [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov)

This is a process that takes several weeks to complete. We expect the new property tax bills for 2017/2018 to be mailed early to mid August 2017. Your first payment for the new year will be due on or before September 15.

**IMPORTANT:** If your mailing address has changed, please contact Sally Achey, Lister Chair, ASAP. She will update your address so that your tax bills are sent to the correct address. Please contact her at [mtslisters@vermontel.net](mailto:mtslisters@vermontel.net) or 235-2220.

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## Community Calendars

It is almost time to send in your updates for the Community Calendar. Between the calendar pages for June & July there is a [reorder form](#). Send it in **by August 1** and help the Library Trustees complete their tasks of the Calendar updating and reprinting for 2018. All proceeds benefit the Town Library.

Don't have a 2017 calendar? Pick up a FREE one at the Library!

# Library Bookmarks

## Summer Programs

### **Tie-Dye Day: Saturday, July 1**

Stop in and learn from a master tie-dyer. Bring a white t-shirt, handkerchief, or other fabric item to the library on Saturday, between July 1, 10 am-2 pm and Jen Dattoli will be here to help you tie & dye! Hearts, stars, and peace signs are her specialty, or go for a free-form riot of color. Rain or shine on the Library Lawn (under a tent if need be).

### **Lego Club: July 10-July 24**

#### **Mondays, 10-11:30 am**

Open to Lego Builders of all ages. Stop in and build with other Lego enthusiasts. A Duplo corner will also be available for the youngest builders. Under 6, please bring a responsible assistant builder. Snack provided.

### **Library Hour: July 12-August 2**

#### **Wednesdays at 9:30am**

An AWESOME hour of stories & fun things to do... and a snack! Designed for kids ages 4-8; younger children are welcome with a responsible caregiver.

### **Deconstruction Junction: (Sat, July 15)**

#### **Pre-Registration Required**

Ever wondered what is inside your dvd-player, laptop, phone, toaster or electronic toy? Now is your chance to take one apart and see. Children under 8 should have a responsible adult in tow. Safety glasses and tools provided.

### **Big Rig Day: Saturday, July 29**

Stop in at the Library between 10-12 for trucks, tractors, and more, to climb on, take a selfie with, and explore. The Library will be open with a large display of books on rigs, buildings, and our world to check out and we will be serving refreshments.

### **Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Tues, Aug 1**

Drop off between 2-7 pm. Return the next day for pick up and to see photos of all the fun the animals had. Join your stuffed animal for our **Teddy Bear Breakfast at 9 am on Wednesday, August 2** and stay through for Story Hour. Mini muffins and fruit are sure to be on the menu. Alternate pick-up option is between 2-7 pm. Stuffed animals should be confident sleeping away from their human for the night.

## Borrow a Pass

**State Parks & State Historic Sites:** Borrow the library's pass for a day of adventure and get free entry for up to eight people in one car at any of the Vt. State Parks or Historic Sites. [www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com), [www.historicsites.vermont.gov](http://www.historicsites.vermont.gov)

**Shelburne Farms Pass:** Free walk-in entry for 2 adults and their children (under 18). Enjoy the walking trails and Children's Farmyard on the scenic shore of Lake Champlain in Shelburne, VT. [www.shelburnefarms.org](http://www.shelburnefarms.org)

**Vermont's History Museum:** Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm, next to the State House in the Pavilion Building, Montpelier. Borrow the Library's Family Pass and take in some Vermont History. [www.vermonthistory.org](http://www.vermonthistory.org)

**ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Museum:** ECHO is on the Burlington waterfront and is open daily 10-5. Library Pass offers \$4 admission for up to 4 people. [www.echovermont.org](http://www.echovermont.org)

**DCF Award Books:** For kids in grades 4-8. Dive into the coming year's nominations for the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award. Read five (5) or more by next April and vote for your favorite. Books available after June 8.

Summer Program Theme:

**BUILD A  
BETTER  
WORLD**

## Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday	Wednesday	2-7 pm
Friday		10 am-2 pm
Saturday		10 am-12 pm

235-2435

[middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)

# Calendar of Events

## July

<b>Tie-Dye Drop In</b>	<b>Sat 1</b>	<b>10-2 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
Planning Commission	Mon 3	4 pm	Town Office
<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>Tues 4</b>		
Historical Society	Thurs 6	7 pm	MSHS
Lego Club	Mon 10	10-11:30 am	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 11	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Hour	Wed 12	9:30 am	Library
School Board	Thurs 13	6 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 13	7 pm	Town Office
<b>Deconstruction Junction</b>	<b>Sat 15</b>	<b>1-3 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
First Response	Sun 16	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Lego Club	Mon 17	10-11:30 am	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 18	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Hour	Wed 19	9:30 am	Library
Building Committee	Thurs 20	7 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 25	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Hour	Wed 26	9:30 am	Library
Library Trustees	Wed 26	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 27	7 pm	Town Office
<b>Big Rig Day</b>	<b>Sat 29</b>	<b>10-12 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>

## August

<b>Stuffed Animal Sleepover</b>	<b>Tues 1</b>	<b>2-7 pm (drop-off)</b>	<b>Library</b>
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 1	6:30 pm	Firehouse
<b>Teddy Bear Breakfast</b>	<b>Wed 2</b>	<b>9 am</b>	<b>Library</b>
Library Hour	Wed 2	9:30 am	Library
<b>Stuffed Animal Pick-up</b>	<b>Wed 2</b>	<b>2-7 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>
Building Committee	Wed 2	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 3	7 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 7	4 pm	Town Office
Building Committee	Wed 5	7 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 8	6:30 pm	Firehouse
School Board	Thurs 10	6 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 10	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 15	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 15	7 pm	Library
Building Committee	Thurs 17	7 pm	Library
First Response	Sun 20	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 22	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 23	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 24	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 29	6:30 pm	Firehouse

*Calendar Events – subject to change.*

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

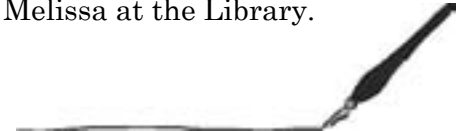
## TOWN NEWSLETTER

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.

