

middle TOWN NEWS letter

August 2017

Buxton, Iowa: The Town that Vermonter Ben Buxton Built

Author Rachelle Chase will present a multimedia program, "Buxton, Iowa: The Town that Vermonter Ben Buxton Built," at the Middletown Springs Historical Society on Saturday, August 5, at 3 pm.

In 1900, at a time when Jim Crow laws, segregation, and the Ku Klux Klan kept blacks and whites separated, Vermonter Ben C. Buxton, a superintendent for the Consolidation Coal Company, established Buxton, Iowa.

Buxton was a thriving coal mining town where African Americans and Caucasians lived, worked, and went to school side by side. African Americans—miners, teachers, business owners, doctors, lawyers, and more—made up more than half of the population for the first 10 years and remained the largest ethnic group until 1914. By 1922, Buxton was a ghost town.

Using rare photographs and audio clips from former residents, "Buxton, Iowa: The Town that Vermonter Ben Buxton Built," highlights Ben Buxton and shows how Buxton differed from other mining towns and how it became the largest unincorporated town in Iowa.

Rachelle Chase is a senior business analyst for Fortune 500 companies, model, and published romance and nonfiction author, who has hosted successful talk shows and appeared on local and national television and radio. Her latest book, *LOST BUXTON*, was released January 9, 2017 by Arcadia Publishing. For more information: <http://rachellechase.com>.

Refreshments will be served and museum exhibits on Middletown Springs history will be on view during the afternoon from 2 pm. Admission is free and the building is handicap accessible.

For more information about the call David Wright at 235-2376.

1st Quarter Property Tax Due Friday, September 15

Drop off at the Town Office or mail checks, post-marked on or before 8/15: TOWN TREASURER, PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Library Event

Does your stuffed animal want to spend the night in the library??

Drop off is between 2-7 pm on Tuesday, August 1. Register your stuffed friend with the librarian on duty. Once the library closes for the night, the fun begins. Your stuffed animal will play games with the other stuffed animals, read stories, and have pizza! Return the next day for pick up and to see photos of all the fun the animals had - we'll also post photos of the animals' antics to the Library's Facebook page.

A NEW Pick Up Option!

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 Wednesday, August 2 between 2-7 pm.

Stuffed animals should be confident sleeping away from their human for the night. For more information, call 235-2435 or email middle-townspringslibrary@gmail.com

Building Committee News

It's been a busy spring and early summer for the Building Committee and it's time to catch you all up on our activities.

Recent accomplishments include the hiring of a team of engineers, energy professionals, and an estimator to work with us on getting to the design development stage. This is the next BIG step toward getting a building on the corner. At this point in time these folks are working with the architect and the committee to come up with all the parts and pieces we need in place to produce a reliable project cost and the plans to carry out building construction.

As a kick-off to this process and with the help of a grant from Efficiency Vermont, on May 31 we held an Energy Charrette (a meeting of the minds, so to speak) with all these professionals, facilitated

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by Efficiency Vermont. It was a very helpful day-long workshop that allowed each of the professionals to meet with us to discuss the most practical ways to move forward on this project and to achieve the goal of a net-zero building that the town can afford to build and maintain into the future. Notes from this meeting are posted on the town's website <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/town-departments/building-committee/>

We have visited new town offices in Middlebury, Waitsfield, Moretown and Waterbury. These visits help the committee to get a sense of how plans work out for the good, and not-so-good. We intend to continue to visit new town offices as we move through the process. Next on our list is Castleton.

On July 11 a few members of the committee met with engineers from Green Mountain Power to go over the goals for the project and to put this project on their radar. The meeting was very productive and we will continue to keep them apprised as the building's energy loads and plans develop.

As a reminder, the Building Committee meets twice a month at the library – the first Wednesday and third Thursday. We welcome guests and questions at a meeting or by phone or email.

And lastly, as we move closer to actual building construction, we will be doubling down on finding ways to raise money outside of tax dollars – whether through grants, fundraising events, or volunteer efforts. If any of you have expertise in this type of creative funding and would like to help us out, we'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for your support of this important project. It's been a long haul so far with much more work to do, but we are buoyed by this recent spurt of progress.

Until next time,
Patty Kenyon
Building Committee Chair

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 15** 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!

Food Scraps! Now Accepted at Transfer Station

As of July 1, we have been accepting food scraps at Fort Dumpster in compliance with Act 148, Vermont's Universal Recycling Law. More information [about that law] can be found on the town's website at <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/town-departments/transfer-station/>.

What does that mean for you? It means that you can now separate food scraps from your trash (including meat, bones, and eggshells) and dispose of them for free in the collection bin at the transfer station. Keeping your food scraps out of your general trash can save you money on trash disposal as it can significantly cut down on the volume of trash you generate. It also means you do not need to tend to your own backyard compost system: instead you can contribute your scraps to a local composting facility. The added bonus is that these bigger composting facilities take ALL food scraps, so there is no need to separate out meat and bones and other items that can draw unwanted guests to your backyard for a tasty treat.

If you have questions about where to find these bins at the transfer station, just ask Glen, he'll point you in the right direction. Happy Composting!
by Patty Kenyon on behalf of the Selectboard

Town Treasurer Note

Property Tax Bills for the new fiscal year 2017/2018 are planned to be prepared and mailed the first week of August.

The Tax Rate for the Town and Highway is very close to last year's rate.

The School Tax Rate for Residents is much lower than last year.

Homestead tax reduction notices have been sent by the state and they have been downloaded into our town database. If you qualify, your tax bill will indicate your reduction. If you have questions regarding your homestead tax rebate, please contact the Vermont Department of Taxes directly.

Mark your calendars now – the first of four quarterly installments of your Property Tax is due and payable by September 15!

If you have any questions you can contact me at 235-3256 or mtstreasurer@vermontel.net

Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer

Library Bookmarks

Summer Programs

Story Hour: Wednesday, August 2

The last summer Story Hour's theme is Hats. We will read stories and decorate our own paperbag hats (& one for a stuffed animal as well)... and have a snack! Designed for kids ages 4-8; younger children are welcome with a responsible caregiver. Story Hour starts at 9:30 am. Come early this week for a Teddybear Breakfast which begins at 9 am.

Tie-Dye Day #2: Saturday, Aug 19

Tie-Dye Day #1 was such a big hit we are doing it again. Stop in and learn from a master tie-dyer. Bring a white t-shirt, handkerchief, or other fabric item to the library on Saturday, August 19, 10 am-1 pm and Jen Dattoli will be here to help you tie & dye! Hearts, stars, and other designs 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: We had a blast. Lego enthusiasts of ALL ages came and built. We also had a Duplo corner for the youngest of builders. Watch for periodic return of Lego Club. MANY THANKS to all who donated the Lego. We can definitely call ourselves a Lego-rich Library!

Deconstruction Junction: MANY THANKS! to all who donated formerly functioning electronics. We spent the afternoon dismantling and discovering. Later this year we will host a corollary program in which participants can make 3-D art from the electronic remains. More info to come.

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Downloadable Audiobooks & e-Books

Check out FREE audiobooks & e-books from Green Mountain Library Consortium's Listen Up! Vermont. Use the free OverDrive app and your Middletown Springs Library patron number to borrow e-books and audiobooks. Titles available for kids, teens, and adults!!

Go to <https://gmlc.overdrive.com> to get started. Additional directions will be available at the Library or on the Library's website.

Questions? Contact Kimberly at the Library, 235-2435, or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

New & New-To-Us BOOKS

You Don't Have to Say You Love Me

by Sherman Alexie,

Britt-Marie Was Here by Fredrik Backman,

If I Run by Terri Blackstock,

If I'm Found by Terri Blackstock,

Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler,

At the Edge of the Orchard by Tracy Chevalier,

First Comes Love by Emily Giffin,

Threads of Suspicion by Dee Henderson,

Secrets of the Tulip Sisters by Susan Mallery,

Nutshell by Ian McEwan,

Mercy by Jodi Picoult

Allegiance by Kermit Roosevelt,

Improbability of Love by Hannah Rothschild,

Handsome Man's De Luxe Café

by Alexander McCall Smith,

Many NEW Picture & Children's Books, too!

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday 2-7 pm

Friday 10 am-2 pm

Saturday 10 am-12 pm

235-2435

middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

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, 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

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

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

Calendar of Events

August

Stuffed Animal Sleepover	Tues 1	2-7 pm (drop-off)	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 1	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Teddy Bear Breakfast	Wed 2	9 am	Library
Library Story Hour	Wed 2	9:30 am	Library
Stuffed Animal Pick-up	Wed 2	2-7 pm	Library
Building Committee	Wed 2	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 3	7 pm	MSHS
Buxton Talk	Sat 5	3 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 7	4 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 8	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Selectboard	Wed 9*	7 pm	Town Office
School Board	Thurs 10	6 pm	School
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
Tie-Dye Day #2	Sat 19	10 am- 1 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

* Regular Selectboard meeting for Thursday, August 10 has been rescheduled to Wednesday, August 9.

September

LABOR DAY	Mon 4		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 5	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Wed 6	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 7	7 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 11	4 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 12	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Selectboard	Wed 14	7 pm	Town Office
School Board	Thurs 14	6 pm	School
Property TAX	Fri 15		Town Office
MSHS Annual Meeting	Sun 17		MSHS
First Response	Sun 17	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 19	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Thurs 21	7 pm	Library
Library Lawn Sale	Sat 23	9 am-1 pm	Town Green
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 26	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 27	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 28	7 pm	Town Office

Calendar Events – subject to change.

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

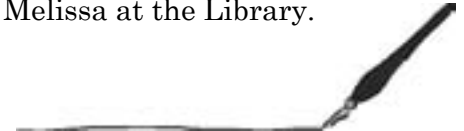
TOWN NEWSLETTER

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 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

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

