

middle TOWN NEWS letter

January 2018

If You Don't Like the News, Go Out and Make Some of Your Own!

That was the tagline of long-time San Francisco reporter Wes "Scoop" Nisker. Now it can be yours, too. Town Meeting is soon approaching on March 5 & 6, and that makes January a busy month of preparation. You can visit the Vermont Secretary of State's elections website at <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections.aspx> to see the calendar of deadlines coming up in January. But your Select Board would like to put a special focus on two deadlines in particular:

January 18 is the last day to submit a petitioned ballot item to be considered by the voters in March. Petitions must contain signatures of at least 5% of the registered voters in the municipality; we currently have 625 on the voter rolls, so 5% would be thirty one and a quarter voters: assuming you can't find that last fourth of a voter, go ahead and get at least 32 signatures of persons registered to vote in the Town. The Board is ready to work with you on the language of anything you hope to put on the ballot—not to advise you or persuade you one way or another, but simply to help you get the language right so that your proposed measure will stand up to questions and challenges.

January 29 is the last day to turn in a nominating petition for you to run for a town elected office, and to sign your consent to appear on the ballot. According to the Secretary of State, "A nominating petition must be signed by 30 voters or one percent of the legal voters, whichever is less." Again, be conservative, and assume you need at least seven signatures. "Nominating petitions must contain the candidate's name as it appears on the voter checklist. The consent of candidate may contain any nickname a candidate wishes to appear on the ballot."

So make some news! Run for an office, or put your petitioned idea onto the ballot. All petitions are due at the Town Clerk's office by the end of business on their respective deadlines.

School News

The students have returned from holiday break and are ready to dive back into learning. On the Tuesday before break, fourth through sixth grade students visited the Mountain View Nursing Home in Rutland City. The students sang holiday songs to a larger-than-expected crowd of residents in the community room. They also caroled down the hallways for residents who couldn't leave their rooms. I believe that building a connection between the residents of the nursing home and the students in our school will benefit everyone. While they were in Rutland, the students also went to see the movie *Wonder*. The movie tells the inspiring story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters fifth grade, attending a mainstream school for the first time. The focus of the movie was extremely relevant to the important issue of bullying.

MSES will once again be offering a Winter Sports Program. The program will run for six weeks, with students having the opportunity to ice skate at Georgetti Rink or learn to ski or snowboard at Pico Mountain. Students will be leaving around noon on Mondays starting on January 22. We are very fortunate to have received a grant from Pico's parent company to cover a significant portion of the lesson, rental, and busing costs. It is important that all students have an opportunity to participate in the program, enjoying a sport that could become a lifetime activity. We do not want cost to be a factor in a student not participating. Our parent-community group, Friends for Education, will also be supporting the program through scholarships to make the experience available to all.

On behalf of all of us at MSES, I'd like to extend best wishes to you in the New Year.

Rick Beal, Principal

Sunday Basketball Open Gym is back!

Sundays November 19 - April(ish)

4 - 6pm

MSES Gymnasium

All ages and abilities welcome

Contact Justin Hier for more info
235-1297 or justinhier@hotmail.com



Old Cemetery Task Force Update

In May of this year the Selectboard issued a call for volunteers to serve on an Old Cemetery Task Force. The members of the task force were charged with making recommendations for a maintenance and restoration plan that will help sustain this important historical site while responsibly managing allocated financial resources. The Selectboard asked the task force to develop a maintenance plan that would offer advice on:

- priorities for annual work on monument repair and restoration;
- special needs for monuments of military veterans;
- recommendations for non-monument maintenance (entrances, signs, grounds, trees, etc);
- recommendations for annual funding and management of the reserve fund;
- recommendations on qualified monument-restoration contractors.

John Arsenault, David Wright and Nora Rubinstein volunteered to serve and were appointed at the Selectboard meeting on June 8, 2017. The members of the task force agreed to assess the condition of the cemetery and report back to the Selectboard by the end of October. The task force met approximately twice a month and met with experts at other times including sponsoring a demonstration project for the Selectboard on the repair and straightening of stones with the help of Tom Giffin of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. In addition, members of the task force met with other cemetery experts to discuss the current status of the old cemetery and to determine best practices with respect to cemetery care. Progress was made on the items identified by the Selectboard but several issues remain to be resolved and the immediate priorities have shifted from care of the stones to addressing major safety concerns. The task force submitted its report to the Selectboard at a meeting on December 14, 2017. That report will be posted to the town website.

Community Birthday Calendar

If you ordered a Community Birthday Calendar but have not received it please stop in at the library. If you didn't order and would like one, we have a few extras. Calendars are \$10. All proceeds go to support the Public Library.

Thanks for your support!
Kristal Hier, MSPL Board of Trustees



Did you ever wonder what the Town Treasurer does?

If so, read on; if not, read on anyway.

Here's a general overview:

1. Works with Selectboard to create annual town budget
 2. Works with Selectboard to create annual tax rate
 3. Pays town bills
 4. Generates town employee pay checks
 5. Generates employee W-2s, 1099s
 6. Files federal & state tax reports
 7. Maintains town accounts - consistent input and balancing
 8. Works with town listers, auditors, town clerk, delinquent tax collector, Road Commissioner, and Highway Foreman
 9. Tracks special town projects and grants
- And,**
10. Processes and mails annual property tax bills – based on property assessment and town budget
 11. Collects Current Year taxes
 12. Maintains the town tax administration file – including tax check input and regular bank deposits of checks
 13. Fields regular tax payment update requests from attorneys, title searchers and taxpayers

The Town Treasurer position is a part time position in Middletown Springs. It's a pleasure to serve you.
Respectfully, Jenny Munyak

Town Phone Directory

Reminder: Please send new listings and changes the new issue of the Town Phone Directory.
Residential Listings - email Pat Hemenway at ladyh@vermontel.net or call 235-2421.
Business Listings - email Kathy Letendre at kathy@letendreassociates.com or call 235-1369.
Advertising Section - email Leslie Silver at lsilver@vermontel.net or call 235-2335.

Printing and distribution of the Directory are paid for entirely through advertising fees.

Thank you for supporting our town Directory!
- The Directory Volunteers



Calendar of Events

January

New Year's Day	Mon 1		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 2	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Historical Society	Thurs 4	7 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 8	4 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 8	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 9	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 10	7 pm	Library
School Board	Thurs 11	6 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 11	7 pm	Town Office
MLK, Jr Day	Mon 15		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 16	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Ballot Item Petitions Due	Thurs 18		Town Office
Building Committee	Thurs 18	7 pm	Library
First Response	Sun 21	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 23	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Auditors	Wed 24	7:30 pm	Town Office
Selectboard	Thurs 25	7 pm	Town Office
Nominating Petitions Due	Mon 29		Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 30	6:30 pm	Firehouse

February

Historical Society	Thurs 1	7 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 5	4 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 5	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 6	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Wed 7	7 pm	Library
School Board	Thurs 8	6 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 8	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 13	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Valentine's Day	Wed 14		
Building Committee	Thurs 15	7 pm	Library
First Response	Sun 18	6:30 pm	Firehouse
President's Day	Mon 19		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 20	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Selectboard	Thurs 22	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 27	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 28	7 pm	Library
Auditors	Wed 28	7:30 pm	Town Office

Calendar Events – subject to change.

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

Join Front Porch Forum ... to know what is happening

Middletown Springs' Forum started January 1, 2011. Since then, 374 members from our 320 households have made 4150 **postings**.

It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

Check it out at <http://FrontPorchForum.com/>

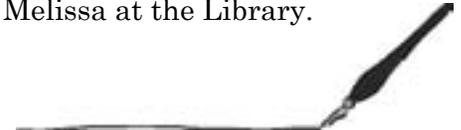
TOWN NEWSLETTER

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 and 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.

