

middle TOWN NEWS letter

January 2019

It's YOUR Turn: A Call to Local Office

Adapted from The Vermont Institute for Government

Hearing the Call

Nobody can talk you into serving in local office, but there may come a time when somebody asks you if you'll serve. Don't say no without thinking about the idea. Promise yourself you will serve only a term, and then decide whether you like it. You don't have to spend your whole life in local public office or in a single office. Think of it as giving something back to the town. These units of government have the hardest job of all, making ends meet with limited resources, keeping you safe in your home and the roads clear in winter.

Seven Bad Excuses For Not Serving

1. I can't make a difference.
2. It's just a waste of my time to try. Nobody would want me.
3. Local government is small potatoes. What it does is not important.
4. I haven't lived in this town long enough.
5. It's all so boring.
6. I don't have enough experience.
7. It really needs younger [older] people.

What's In It For You

You may not change the world. You won't become a celebrity. You'll just do your work, and feel good about it at the end of the evening. That will be the reward. That will suffice. It will be your duty. It's your town. It's your turn.

What Positions are open?

See page two for a list of positions to be voted this March. For descriptions & details about local offices and what they do, visit [Secretary of State's website](#).



News from the School

Middletown Springs Elementary School

Last month, the schools in the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union participated in the Vermont Agency of Education's Integrated Field Review (IFR). Teams comprised of teachers, administrators, and Vermont department staff came and observed what was happening in the classrooms and interviewed students, parents, and staff. The focus was on the Vermont Educational Quality standards (EQS) and evidence of the school's progress towards them. The IFR evidence from all of the schools in the supervisory union is used to create a report for the SU including areas of achievements and recommendations. From a conversation I had with the team members, they were impressed by what they observed and by the thoughtful reflections of our students, parents, and staff.

MSES 3rd - 6th grade students caroled for the residents at Mountain View Nursing Home in Rutland in December. The students sang in the community room for one group and then walked the halls singing to those in their rooms. It was very evident that the residents enjoyed having our young people take the time to visit. After caroling, 3rd and 4th graders went to the Wonderfeet Museum while 5th and 6th graders visited the Chaffee Art Center. Both activities were wonderful hands-on learning experiences that were enjoyed by the students.

Our school was very fortunate to have both a WWII Veteran and a Vietnam Veteran visit the school. Each of them gave a heartfelt presentation to the students about their military experiences which resonated with the students, helping them to truly understand the significance of Veterans Day. The students presented both men with cards thanking them for their service, which meant a lot to both of them.

It is the start of basketball season again. The school has two teams this year; 3rd/4th and 5th/6th. We would welcome all community members to come to the games and support the players on both teams. The basketball game schedule is posted on the school's website. Friends for Education (FFE) will be selling refreshments at the games to support student enrichment opportunities here at MSES.

Wishing you a happy new year,
Rick Beal, Principal

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 4 & 5, 2019, 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. But your Select Board would like to put a special focus on two deadlines in particular:

January 17 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 a little over 700 on the voter rolls, so 5% would be be thirty five and a little bit: go ahead and get at least 36 signatures of persons who are 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 28 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 eight 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."

More information can be found on the Vermont Secretary of State's website. There is a FAQ regarding [running for local office](#) as well as information on [petitioning an article](#). There is a whole section on elections at <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections.aspx>.

Town Report Deadline!

Town officers and committee heads: please send all articles and budgets for the Town Report to Beth Miller at millrams@vermontel.net no later than January 7, 2019. Word Doc format preferred. Don't hesitate to contact her by email or 235-2734 if you have any questions. Thank you for your timely response and for all the good work you do for this town.

Want to Run?

Here are some of the offices up for election this March. While in some cases the incumbent may be planning to run again, all seats are open for nomination:

Town Moderator (1 year)
Town Agent (1 year)
Delinquent Tax Collector (remaining two years of a three-year term)
Selectboard (2 year)
Selectboard (3 year)
Lister (3 year)
Auditor (3 year)
Library Trustee (3 year)
First Constable (2 year)
Grand Juror (1 year)
Town Agent (1 year)
Trustee of Public Monies (3 year)
Planning Commission (3 year)
Planning Commission (remaining two years of a three-year term)
Copeland Cemetery Fund (1 year) three seats
Copeland Church Fund (1 year) three seats
Trustees of Louis Fund and other public monies (remaining two years of a three-year term)
Trustees of Louis Fund and other public monies (3 year)

In addition, although it's an appointed rather than elected position, the town is really in need of a new **Emergency Management Director**. Herb Childress has done it on an interim basis this year, and we were able to meet the legal minimums of the work, but it really ought to be done by someone with sufficient capacity to dig deeper. Doing the work right would enable the town to qualify for higher levels of post-emergency reimbursement, and enable better coordination with other towns in larger regional disasters. For more information about this position contact Herb at herb.childress@gmail.com or 235-2093, or go to [Vermont Public Safety](#) website.

Welcome to our World

Liam Ethan Carter
born to Ken and Amanda McKeen Carter
December 16, 2018

Food Shelf

The Poultney Food Shelf serves the residents of Middletown Springs as well as Poultney, and Hampton, NY. The Food Shelf is located in the Stonebridge (at the northeast corner of Rte. 30 and Main Street), and is **open Tuesdays, 3-5 pm**. Please be prepared to show ID and verify your town of residence (driver's license, utility bill, etc.).

Donations of non-perishable food and fresh produce are always welcome. The Poultney Food Shelf is a 501(c)3 not-for profit. For more info, call 287-9558.

FOL Meeting

Friends of the Library will meet at the Library on **Tuesday, January 8, at 7 pm** for their regular monthly meeting. All interested are welcome to attend. More info - call Ashley at 235-3000.

Snowshoes at the Library

SNOWSHOES at the Library?
Check them out!!!

The Library has 4 pairs of adult shoes (2 men's & 2 women's, 4 pairs of poles) and 6 pairs of children's snowshoes to circulate. They go out for three days at a time like the park passes. The person checking them out must be 18+ and is responsible for any pairs checked out. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Knitting Circle

Join novice-to-experienced knitters the **first Monday of the month (7-9 pm), October through May**, at the Library for inspiration, technical support, and quiet conversation. Other fiber arts are welcome: bring your crochet, felting, stitchwork, etc. More info - call Lois at 235-2374.

Toddler Time at the Library

Join Melissa & Martha for Stories and Songs on **Mondays at 10:30 am**.

5-week session:

Jan 7 - Feb 11 (not 1/21)

For little children and their caregivers, come to one, come to them all! Free and open to the public. More info: 235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com



PIE for Breakfast!

Put this special day on your calendar: the Library's Pie for Breakfast is **Saturday, March 10, 2017, from 8 - 11 am**. The trustees will be serving up all you can eat PIE for breakfast with tea, coffee, or juice. The slices are cut thin so it is easy to try many different varieties. Pies are both sweet (such as pumpkin, apple, berry, chocolate) and savory (such as quiche, pot pies, pizza).

This delicious annual event is so popular that it outgrew the Library building and the Historical Society, and will be held again at the Elementary School. Same scrumptious pies, hot coffee, and fine conversation, with plenty of elbow room. There will also be a basket-type raffle with over 30 prizes, including maple syrup, books, craft items, housewares, and gift certificates from local businesses.

\$7 for adults; \$4 for children 5-12; under 5 FREE. All proceeds benefit the Middletown Springs Public Library.

Would you like to contribute to the success of this event and donate a pie? Contact Alida at 235-2323 or randatarbell@vermontel.net and let her know.

For more information, contact the Library at middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 235-2435.

New Titles at the Library

How Money Works by Katherine Hennessy

Winter in Paradise by Elin Hilderbrand

The Collector's Apprentice by B.A. Shapiro

Beauchamp Hall by Danielle Steel

The Global Economy As You've Never Seen It
by Thomas Ramage

Tony's Wife by Adriana Trigiani

New Teen & Children's Graphic Novels

Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol

Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang

Scrabble Night at the Library

Join other Scrabble players at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 22 at the Library. We hope to continue with Scrabble nights through the winter, and those who attend the first one can help set the schedule. Watch got Family Game Nights as well. For more information: 235-2435 or email middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

Library Hours

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

235-2435

middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

January

New Year's Day	Tues 1		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 1	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Wells Springs Board	Wed 2	6 pm	MSES
Building Committee	Wed 2	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 3	7 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 7	4 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 7	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 8	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 8	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 10	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 15	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Ballot Item Petitions Due	Thurs 17		Town Office
Building Committee	Thurs 17	7 pm	Library
First Response	Sun 20	6:30 pm	Firehouse
MLK, Jr Day	Mon 21		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 22	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 23	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 24	7 pm	Town Office
Nominating Petitions Due	Mon 28		Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 29	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Auditors	Wed 30	7:30 pm	Town Office

February

Planning Commission	Mon 4	4 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 4	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 5	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Wells Springs Board	Wed 6	6 pm	WES
Building Committee	Wed 6	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 7	7 pm	MSHS
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 12	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 12	7 pm	Library
Valentine's Day	Thurs 14		
First Response	Sun 17	6:30 pm	Firehouse
President's Day	Mon 18		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 19	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Thurs 21	7 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 26	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 27	7 pm	Library
Auditors	Wed 27	7:30 pm	Town Office
Selectboard	Thurs 28	7 pm	Town Office

Calendar Events – subject to change.

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

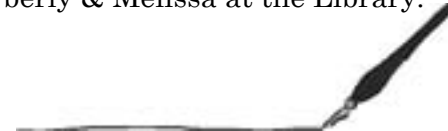
TOWN NEWSLETTER

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 e-mail 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 e-mail 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.

Town Meeting 2019 Mark your calendar now!

Wells Springs District Annual Meeting
Wednesday, February 27, 7pm at the School

Informational Meeting

Monday, March 4, 6:30 pm at the School Note: start time!

Town Meeting Vote

Tuesday, March 5, 7 am - 7 pm at the Historical Society

