



The

Middletown Magnet

"News that sticks in Middletown Springs"



Building Committee Informational Meeting and Soup Tasting!

Saturday, February 2 from 2 - 4pm
At the Elementary School
Multipurpose Room



Come learn about the Building Committee's progress so far, what to expect as we move forward, and share your ideas and a hot bowl of homemade soup! There will be a brief presentation, and manned information stations that will address specific topics like funding & budget, brownfields, site history, town records storage, and much more.

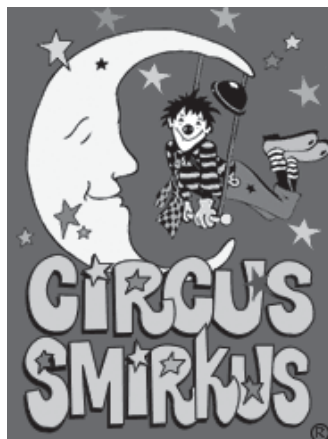
Share a Saturday afternoon with us and learn about the work of the Building Committee – Revitalizing Our Village Center. If you'd like to bring a pot of soup to share, please let us know. A space for children is being planned, with inside and/or outside activities. If you know someone who'd like to help with this, please contact us. Contact: Patty Kenyon at pmhkneyon@vermontel.net or 235-2707.



Photo by Emmett Francois

Cynthia Thurston of the U.S. Postal Service explains the changes in hours and delivery to the residents of Middletown Springs during a meeting on January 9th at the Post Office.

Circus is Coming to Town



**Save the Date:
Friday, Feb. 8**

Dinner and Performance: Please join us for an evening of great food and a "rousing, rip-roaring all-school circus performance" with the students of Middletown Springs Elementary School, directed by Vermont's own Circus Smirkus.

Come on over to the school on **Friday, February 8th** for a tasty meat or vegetarian chili dinner (or mac and cheese) from 5:30-6:30 and enjoy the show, at 7 p.m.

Suggested donation for dinner and show: \$8 per adult, \$4 per child, \$24 maximum per family, kids under 3 are free. For show only: \$4 per adult, \$2 per child (ages 3-12). Note: There is no charge for student performers if they attend the show only.

Seniors lunch and performance: on Friday, February 8th at lunchtime, all senior citizens from the community are invited for a mid-day performance and lunch with the students. Personal invitations will be mailed out later this month.

Any questions or for more information, please call Kathy Doyle at 235-2098

Town Meeting Dates to Remember!

January 24 (Thursday) - Last day for receipt of petitioned articles to be added to the town meeting warning. (Petitions must have been signed by five percent (5%) of the legal voters of the municipality.)

January, 28 (Monday) - Nominating petitions for town offices must be filed with the municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. (sixth Monday before the election). A nominating petition must be signed by 30 voters or one percent of the legal voters, whichever is less.

Town Meeting - Is it Your Turn?

Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 5. Below are the positions up for election and the name of the person currently holding that seat. Nominating petitions can be picked up from the Town Clerk during normal office hours.



Town Moderator – 1 Year (*Vacant*)
 School Treasurer – 1 Year (*Jenny Munyak*)
 Town Agent – 1 Year (*Vacant*)
 Tax Collector – 1 Year (*Laura Castle*)
 School District Clerk – 1 Year (*Laura Castle*)
 School Moderator – 1 Year (*Vacant*)
 School Director – 3 Years (*Clarence Haynes*)
 School Director – 2 Years (*Steve Letendre*)
 Selectmen – 2 Years (*Chris Larson*)
 Selectmen – 3 Years (*Mike Lamson*)
 Lister – 3 Years (*Vacant*)
 Auditor – 1 Year (*Vacant*)
 Auditor – 2 Years (*Vacant*)
 Auditor – 3 Years (*Vacant*)
 Library Trustee – 3 Years (*Jenny Munyak*)
 Town Grand Juror – 1 Year
 Trustee of Copeland Church Fund – 1 Year
 (*Nan Gilmour*)
 Trustee of Copeland Cemetery Fund – 1 Year
 (*Nan Gilmour*)
 Trustee of Louis Fund & Other Public Monies – 3 Years
 (*Shirley Moyer*)
 Planning Commission – 3 Years (*Vacant*)
 Planning Commission – 4 Years (*Vacant*)



Fountain of Youth

Start a new tradition this new year. On the last Wednesday of every month meet other seniors at the Young At Heart Senior Center, Furnace St., Poultney. The Site opens at 11 AM and homemade soup and coffee will be served. Dinner is served at 12 noon. This month meet on

January 30 for Oven Chicken Breast, Mashed Potato with Gravy, Steamed Broccoli and Cookies. Reservations are required – call Mary Thomas at 287-9200 to make yours. Suggested price is \$3.25 for seniors 60 years and older. Cost for others is \$4.25. Hope to see you there!



Walt & Annie Pepperman
Innkeepers

Twin Mountains Farm, Inc.
 549 Coy Hill Road
 P.O. Box 1234
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Tel. 802-235-3700
 Fax. 802-235-3701
 email. tmfbb@vermontel.net
 www.twinmountainsfarmbb.com

Get the Latest News at www.middletownsprings.vt.gov



Don't forget to visit the town website's Latest News tab which is continually updated with interesting news and events happening in and around the community.

This feature will help you keep up to date on all the news at your fingertips, no need to scour the house for the last issue of The Magnet, just hop onto the website and take a look. Speaking of The Magnet, back issues are also available on the town website.

To keep us current and relevant, please send items to be posted on this news feed to Kimberly Mathewson at kimberly@mtslibrary.comcastbiz.net. New items will be posted weekly and it's a great resource for those last minute events that might have missed The Magnet. We hope that you will use this service and help us to keep it up to date with the latest information.

As always, if you have suggestions for additional content, comments, observations, etc. about the Town Website please let us know. This is YOUR resource for information and news happening around town, we are counting on you to help make sure it fits your needs.

Visit the site at www.middletownsprings.vt.gov



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 802-236-0407 (cell)



Library News

New series of Story Hours – Travels & Tales from around the World
4th Saturday of the month at 10am.

(Jan-Apr) Begins Jan. 26 with Greek Myths.

Story Hour is designed with children 3-6 years old. Younger children are welcome with a responsible adult. Join Martha Heitkamp for stories, songs, activities, crafts and a snack.

Book Group: Meeting the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:15pm for discussion, the library book group is open to all. Join us for one or for many; no commitment necessary. Books are available for loan 4-weeks prior to the discussion.

Feb. - *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder

March - *I know This Much is True* by Wally Lamb

April - *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

New to the Collection: some of the new titles waiting for you....

Books

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis

The Racketeer by John Grisham

Sweet Tooth by Ian McEwan

Sutton by J. R. Moehringer

In Sunlight and in Shadow by Mark Helprin

Alone Together by Sherry Turkle

Live by Night by Dennis Lehane

Paradise City by Archer Mayor

Wanted Man by Lee Child

Movies

Lord of the Rings (II & III)

Batman Begins

Night at the Museum (I & II)

Flushed Away

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Monsters vs. Aliens

Library is open 21 hours a week.

Mon, Tues, Wed 2-7pm

Fri 10am-2pm

Sat 10am-Noon



School News

I would like to thank everyone who attended our Winter Concert on December 12th. Both our students and Mr. Klami worked very hard preparing for the musical performance. That night's performance

was only the second time that all the students came together as a group to sing and play the songs. I was very proud of how well the students performed and represented our school. I would like to recognize Mr. Klami for bringing his enthusiasm and passion for music to our students. It was evident in the musical selections performed. I look forward to future performances as the students gain even more experience in playing instruments and singing.

If you have been to our school within the past year, I am sure you have noticed some changes, such as the exterior painting of the original school building as well as some room improvements. One building issue that needs to be addressed is replacing the original slate and asphalt shingles on the roofs of the old and new structures. The roofing materials on both are showing deterioration; especially the slate roof on the original building. Middletown Springs Elementary School is very fortunate to be the recipient of a \$20,000 matching grant from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation. The money will be used to help replace the old slate roofing material with matching slate material. These funds will provide important assistance in helping to maintain the school for our community.

Mark your calendars now for Friday, February 8th. Circus Smirkus will be at the school for a week-long artist residency with our students; teaching them circus performance arts. The week will culminate with two opportunities for community members to see the students perform. At lunchtime on the 8th, all senior citizens from the community are invited for a mid-day performance and lunch with the students. Personal invitations will be mailed out later this month. In the evening, all are invited to join us for a tasty chili (meat or vegetarian) dinner from 5:30-6:30, and to stay and enjoy the show, starting at 7:00PM. Hope to see you there.

Rick Beal
Principal



www.friendsinadoption.org

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Your Decision*

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Available 24/7 - The Town Website
www.middletownsprings.vt.gov
All the Latest News and
In-Depth Information
At Your Fingertips

A Note of Thanks...

On October 15th, 2012, our three year old daughter, Dylan Dickerson came home from school not feeling like herself. We brought her to the Rutland Regional Medical Center's ER that evening showing very few symptoms other than extreme discomfort when touched. Dr.



Stephanie Briggs examined Dylan thoroughly and made a quick, insightful decision to have her transferred to Fletcher Allen in Burlington where she could receive the attention and care she needed. This first step ordered by Dr. Briggs could have saved Dylan's life. In the very least, it allowed Dylan to get the help she needed and begin her miraculous recovery. Dylan was first diagnosed as having Stephen Johnson's Syndrome, then later her diagnoses was changed to Staph Scalding Syndrome. (Both have similar symptoms, yet the latter burns less deep, does not affect the organs and can usually be cured more quickly with less chance of scarring and a significantly lower fatality rate). Dylan spent 8 days in pediatric ICU at Fletcher Allen hospital, and then came home a perfectly happy and healthy little girl. You can read about our entire experience here: <http://www.caring-bridge.org/visit/dylandickerson/journal>

But this article is not about Dylan. It is about selfless people, amazing leaders, and a town to hold in your heart with great pride. When you are fighting for the life or comfort of someone you love, everything else in life blurs away. There is no energy left to think about bills, time off, responsibilities, etc. Mayor Chris Louras and Chief of Police James Baker must have known this to be true. Before we could even anticipate our own needs, a plan was being made to meet them. What a blessing to work for leaders who engage their hearts, minds and service to the people they govern.

My husband, Jon Dickerson, is one of the newest members of the Rutland City Police Department. He initially transferred to the Hartford, VT Police Department in early 2011 after a 14 year career with HPD in Houston, Texas, and then joined RCPD in September of 2012. The fact that Jon had not forged many personal friendships yet did not stop the Chief, the City of Rutland or the department from lavishing our family with love and support. I am not talking about token, impersonal donations. What this city gave to us was deeply personal, empathetic engagement in our daughter's well

-being. Many city employees donated their own personal time off to Jon so that he could be with Dylan at the hospital. So many in fact that we only needed about a tenth of the time donated. Jon received a call from Chief Baker at least every other day just checking on him and sending his support. Calls, cards, donations, visits, acts of service poured over us from Rutland City, Rutland Town, Poultney, our precious hometown Middletown Springs, and all over the state and country for days and days on end. The thoughts of love and earnest prayers were tangible in a way that our family has never experienced before.

Now that things have settled we are all back to life as usual. But please know that every hospital bill that finds its way to our mailbox is opened with great gratitude and joy. It is a reminder of overflowing love from our community, competent and gentle doctors, selfless service from our neighbors, strong caring leaders, and a mighty God who brought our family here and plopped us in the middle of a place filthy with awesomeness. We are humbled and proud to be part of such a place. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Jon, Jody Kay, Ty, Jack
and most of all Dylan Dickerson

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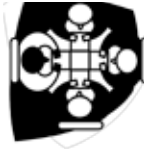
Vicki Arsenault, Proprietor (802) 235-2251

Middletown Springs Building Committee

The regular meeting times for the Building Committee are 7 pm at the Town Office on the **first Wednesday** and the **third Thursday** of each month.

All meetings are open to the public.

Select Board Regular Meeting November 29, 2012 - Approved



CALL TO ORDER: C. Larson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

BOARD PRESENT: Shirley Moyer, Chris Larson, Jim Webber, Mike Lamson, Carl Haynes

PUBLIC PRESENT: Gary Kupferer, Bill Reed, David Munyak, Tony Lamberton, Patty Kenyon

Riedinger Lawsuit/Ventrella Lawsuit/Garron Road

- J. Webber moves to enter into executive session and invite Gary Kupferer, attorney representing the town, to discuss the legal issues. C. Larson 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]
- Enter executive session 6:06
- J. Webber moves to exit executive session 6:55. S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried] Move out of executive session 6:55. No action taken.

Approval of Minutes of 11/8

- J. Webber moves to approve the 11/8 regular meeting minutes as presented. C. Larson 2nd. [C. Larson – aye, S. Moyer – aye, M. Lamson – aye, J. Webber – aye, C. Haynes – aye - motion carried]

Public Comments

- Tony Lamberton – discuss engineer findings regarding possible catch basin and grading. T. Lamberton expresses that the water infiltration appears to be due to water running off the road and inquires who may be responsible to pay for it. Per Tony, Mark McManus feels there may be funds available. C. Larson feels the responsibility most likely falls to the town and fire department. D. Munyak inquires if the Church owns the road behind the Church. T. Lamberton confirms it is owned by the Church and there is an agreement to allow the Fire Dept to use the road. Discussion of catch basins. C. Larson feels the town and Fire Dept should split the cost of the study. C. Larson moves to pay half of the cost of the elevation study estimated at \$850 total to be completed by Frank Parent pending contributions by the Church or Fire Department. C. Haynes 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

Parker Property

- Building Committee – for increased Public Relations – priced vinyl banners to be placed on the site or building on the former Parker property to increase public awareness of the site's redevelopment. C. Larson moves to authorize \$200 expenditure to purchase a sign for the former Parker property pending design. [all in favor, motion carried]
- Informational meeting – Building Committee is anticipating some costs to prepare materials for the informational meeting (\$200 - \$300). C. Larson moves to authorize \$200 budget for the

Building Committee informational meeting. M. Lamson 2nd. [C. Larson – aye, S. Moyer – aye, M. Lamson – aye, J. Webber – nay, C. Haynes – nay - motion carried]

- Building Committee inquires about an overall budget for fiscal year 2013 to give the town the ability to complete studies/design/site work etc. to redevelop the site which the Building Committee assumes will be a new town office. P. Kenyon inquires if a municipal facilities fund can be reestablished into the town budget or already exists. Discussion of adding a separate article to the ballot requesting funds from the taxpayers. Building Committee will check with treasurer to determine if a restricted fund is in place.
- Design issues – Building Committee requests permission to work with Frank Parent directly to determine potential well/septic locations.
- C. Larson moves to allow Ron Dufour to remove scrap metal which the Building Committee has piled on the town property. S. Moyer 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]
- Building Committee would like to attempt to sell the sign and light post on the site. C. Larson moves to authorize the Building Committee to price the signage and attempt to sell them. M. Lamson 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]
- Trees Inc. have offered to chip the brush on the site free of charge.
- Discussion of covering the basement holes in front of the building with jersey barriers which Bill will be able to complete.
- The Building Committee has organized site visits to introduce redevelopment to state representatives.

West Street Project/Reimbursement

- The reimbursement will be submitted however there is a slight discrepancy in the totals which Bill is resolving with Eric House with the State District 3. J. Webber moves to authorize C. Larson to sign reimbursement forms as necessary for submittal. C. Haynes 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

Solid Waste/Fort Dumpster

- Lyle welding has not completed the fence repair. M. Lamson will contact.

Road Commissioner Report

- Right of way work application from Marley Louka to move driveway to access her property off Route 140 (former Norton property). Per Bill the driveway will be moved approximately 10 yards and will not affect drainage. C. Larson moves to approve the application for right of way work. J. Webber 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]
- C. Haynes moves to enter into executive session to discuss the highway employment applicants and invite Bill Reed. [all in favor, motion carried]

continued on page 6...

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Joseph P. Donohue, DC
Linda O'Brien, MT
Lisa M. Donohue, MA, LMT
Paul Colletti, MT

continued from page 5...

- Enter executive session 8:55.
- C. Larson moves to exit executive session. S. Moyer 2nd.
- Move out of executive session 9:25
- C. Larson moves to offer employment to Mike Telfer at \$11 to start. S. Moyer 2nd. Discussion of offering a probationary period to allow for experience and reevaluation of wage. [C. Larson – aye, S. Moyer – aye, M. Lamson – aye, J. Webber - aye, C. Haynes – aye - motion carried] Carl will contact Mike Telfer.

Financials/Board Orders

- J. Webber moves to approve the board orders as presented. C. Larson 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]

Correspondence

- Letter from Fire Department requesting to park laddertruck in the barn on the Parker property. Discussion of structural integrity of concrete floor which has partial basement and is most likely not suitable for this.
- People's United – Cramton Fund paid out approx. \$6000 over last 12 months. Request to convert trust to a total return trust.
- VTRANS transportation funding opportunity – on/off road trails, SRTS etc., environmental mitigation, stormwater control.
- VLCT Fall planning and zoning forum
- VLCT News
- Pretrial schedule from G. Kupferer

Other Business

- Budget meetings will be warned for 12/6 and 12/20.
- J. Webber inquires if we need to sign off on the work VTel did in town. C. Larson does not think that is necessary.

Adjourn -Meeting adjourned 10:02 pm.

Mike Lamson, Clerk



Select Board Special Meeting December 6, 2012 - Approved

CALL TO ORDER: C. Larson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

BOARD PRESENT: Jim Webber, Chris Larson, Mike Lamson, Carl Haynes, Shirley Moyer

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jenny Talke Munyak

Route 140 Repairs

- Mike accepted employment at \$11/hour. Drug screening needs to be completed prior to starting.
- Will also need updated medical exam card. Carl will follow up.
- Line of Credit extension. Jenny will coordinate with the bank. No penalty. C. Larson moves to authorize the extension and modification to the line of credit. J. Webber 2nd. [all in favor, motion carried]
- Bill met with Tom Roberts and Eric House regarding reimbursement for Route 140 repair. Anticipating 100% reimbursement for everything except the paving. Total reimbursement of \$330,461.08.
- C. Haynes moves to approve the highway salary board order as presented. C. Larson 2nd. S. Moyer - nay

FY 2012/2013 Budget

- The board worked on the 2013/2014 budget.

Other Business

- None

Adjourn - Meeting adjourned 8:31 pm.

Mike Lamson, Clerk



Where Passions Take Flight

LiHigh School is an approved independent high-school in Poultney that blends classroom seminars with real-world learning.

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New Year - New You

Have you ever thought about taking a yoga class? In my 25 years of teaching yoga, I've heard all of the excuses for why not: "I'm too old, I'm too inflexible, my back hurts, and I'm too busy"...if those are words you have thought about when someone has mentioned yoga then read on! Yoga is for everyone!



We can't prevent aging, but yoga can make growing older a more graceful process. Practicing yoga can improve the range of motion in our spine and joints, allowing us to continue to be able to do routine things as we age. Yoga can also improve balance which often diminishes with age and results in more falls and injuries.

Can't touch your toes? All the more reason to practice yoga! A beginning yoga class starts with gentle stretches that wake up the body and begin to teach awareness of what needs to stretch and relax.

A regular practice of yoga can often relieve backaches and reduce tension around neck and shoulders. Yoga has been shown to have a therapeutic effect on many types of aches and pains.

Feeling stressed because of too much to do? Numerous studies have shown yoga can reduce blood pressure and anxiety. Yoga gives us an opportunity to be still and go inside, allowing us to live a more peaceful and stress-free life.

So if you are thinking about improving your health and well-being in this New Year or just want to try something new, consider yoga. It just might be what you're looking for.

Call Leslie for class information @ 235-2335

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Jerry

A Note of Thanks...

Dear Friends,



We would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you who has supported our family through the devastating loss of our home. From the moment we learned that our world was falling apart, the entire Rutland County began the astounding unselfish task of trying to pull our lives back together.

To the family and friends who rushed to the scene to care for us and ensure our immediate well-being - we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

To the many Fire Fighters who risked their personal safety to try to save our home - there are no words to describe our deepest gratitude.

To the ladies at the Community Church and Children First Advocacy Center - we thank you for putting our family first during a time of year that you must have been overwhelmed yourself.

To Poultney High school, Mill River Union High School, and Middletown Springs Elementary school your generosity and genuine concern is second to none.

To the many individuals, co-workers, organizations, leagues, teams, groups, businesses, stores, and churches who donated, collected donations on our behalf, and offered housing - Please know that each of you has had a significant effect on the healing process for our family. You have made this loss something our family will be able to overcome.

Yes, we have lost our home and all of our material belongings, but we thank God everyday for what we are able to take away from this tragedy. Our family is safe and we truly know that it is family and friends that are most important in our lives.

Sincerest Thanks,
The Blanchard Family

RSVP Bone Builders
at the Community Church

Monday & Wednesday at 8:30am



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New Independent School Open in Poultney

LiHigh School, a new approved independent high-school in Poultney, is now in its second year of operation, and they are now accepting applications for next year's classes.

LiHigh School offers a progressive curriculum where students pursue their education through a combination of classroom seminars and real-world experiences. The school builds individual learning plans for each student based on the student's passions and interests, and then connects the student with mentors and internships in their field of interest.

If you are a student who wants to love what you do every day, or a parent who wants your teenager to wake up every day excited to go to school, or a mentor who wants to share your skills with the next generation, then you'll want to attend one of their upcoming informational sessions: Monday, Jan. 14th, at the Pawlet Library at 6:30 PM, or Thursday, Feb. 7th, at the Middle-town Springs Elementary School at 6:30pm.

Additionally, the school administrators are considering starting a new middle school. Parents interested in how the LiHigh School curriculum can be modified for middle schoolers should attend the session as well.

For more information, visit www.lihighschool.org or "Like" the school on Facebook.



Thank you for your support in 2012

We wish you a healthy
and prosperous 2013



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RAFFL Seeks Landowners and Farmers

The Rutland Area Farm and Food Link (RAFFL) is recruiting private landowners interested in making their land available to farmers for agricultural production and farmers seeking land to farm. In partnership with Land For Good, a non-profit serving New England based in Keene, NH, the organizations will provide one-on-one advising services to eligible landowners and farmers.

The goal of the partnership is to connect landowners seeking to landowners with farmers seeking land, helping alleviate one of the primary barriers faced by beginning farmers and helping to maintain Vermont's working landscape and farming culture.

If you are a landowner interested in learning more about leasing land to farmers, or if you are a farmer seeking land to lease, please contact Garland Mason by emailing garland@rutlandfarmandfood.org or by calling 802-417-1528.



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Building Committee News

You may be looking for minutes of the Building Committee in this Magnet and not finding them. Sorry. The BC has been hard at work over the last weeks.

We've had regular or special meetings on 12/5, 12/12, 12/20, 1/2 and 1/8. Unfortunately, with the holidays intruding on our work, we haven't had a quorum at our most recent regular meetings and so were unable to approve the minutes. Allow us to provide a recap here.

On November 17, sixteen people volunteered their time to clean up the property on the four corners. They picked up trash and recyclables, gathered scrap metal, cut down overgrown trees and brush, mowed, raked, weed whacked, and secured the building. The trash, metal and recyclables were removed and someone is lined up to chip the brush. The effort helped to spruce up the corner.

The existing signpost and light fixture are for sale and have been listed on Craigslist and on Front Porch Forum. If anyone is interested, please contact David Muniak.

On December 5 three BC members traveled to Rutland to attend a workshop sponsored by the USDA-Rural Development office. The workshop was geared towards educating the attendees about grants and loans offered by the USDA. The group came home with good information and made a few contacts in the process.

During the week of December 10 we had two briefings for our legislators and other guests. Present were Senators Mullin, Flory and Carris, along with Representative Malcolm. In addition we had Jon Michael Muise from the USDA-Rural Development office, Ed Bove of Rutland Regional Planning Commission, and Pat Menduni of Congressman Welch's office. Our guests were given a packet of information, told about the need for a new facility that properly safeguards our town records, and given a tour of the current office and the new site. They all seemed interested and supportive and several have forwarded useful information.

During the same week the committee had two field trips to visit other town offices that have recently been built or renovated. On December 10 a group of three traveled to Mendon to view their new facility and then on to Pittsfield where they saw a recently renovated building that houses a town office on one level and a library on the other. Later that week another group of



three traveled to Chittenden where they viewed a church that had been converted into a town office.

Most recently, on January 10, a group of nine; six BC members and three library representatives, made the trip to New Haven's town office which was completed two years ago and includes both a town office and library. While there, a few split off to visit Monkton where they spoke with the chairman of the building committee about their efforts to construct a similar combined facility.

These visits were informative and have provided valuable information on things such as multi-use buildings, space requirements, sound control, building layout, budgeting, project timing, public involvement, and others. We are attempting to learn what others have done right and, more importantly, what they have done wrong so we can avoid making the same mistakes.

The Selectboard and BC are both anxious to erect a sign on the new property to convey the message that the town now owns it and positive things are happening. Members of the committee researched sign costs and determined that a banner type sign would be most economical while being visually appealing. The Selectboard approved the committee's design and the sign has been

continued on page 10...

Men's Community Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 8 am / January 26

Middletown Springs School

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continued from page 9...

made and will hopefully be in place by the time you read this.

The BC has held several special meetings to plan for an upcoming **Informational Meeting to be held on Saturday, February 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm** at the school's multipurpose room. This meeting will be our first chance to speak directly with you about the project and gather your feedback. There will be a number of information stations set up focused on individual topics. You will be able to go from one to another, chat with the committee member or Selectman on hand, ask questions or get information. There will also be a soup tasting, so come ready to sample some home made soups!

Meanwhile, research is being done on well, septic and engineering issues, and some recommendations were made to the Selectboard about creating and funding a reserve fund for the project so there will be money for engineering and other work that needs to be done during the design phase.

Finally, the pieces are falling into place for Brown-fields cleanup on the site. The site is considered a Brownfield since it was formerly a service station and there are soil contaminants remaining. There must be a state approved Corrective Action Plan (CAP) in place prior to any work being done. That CAP is being prepared now. The town has applied for and been awarded a sub-grant of EPA petroleum cleanup funds from Southern Windsor County which will bring in approximately \$35,000 to remove the two in-ground tanks and begin soil cleanup. A separate application was submitted to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development which also has cleanup funds that can help to finish any

remaining soil remediation as well as clean up lead and asbestos. The award of this grant cannot be made until the CAP is completed but the representative at ACCD is enthusiastic.

Please come to the **Informational Meeting on Saturday, February 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm** to learn more about this project!!



Fire Department News

The following are the winners of Middletown Springs Fire Association Membership Drive Raffle, drawn at the annual meeting that was held on Jan. 9, 2013 at the Firehouse.

Sarah Grimm / maple syrup

Aldo Coppelli / \$50 Grant's store gift card

Gary & April Kanew / antique chair

Pat & Don Hemenway / \$50 Grant's store gift card

Congratulations to the winners and we appreciate everyone supporting our membership drive.

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Information For Seniors

Information & assistance for older adults (age 60+) living in Rutland and Bennington counties is easily accessible by calling the Senior HelpLine at the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging. Callers are connected to a real person who can answer questions on a variety of programs and services: transportation, housing, home care, meals on wheels, Medicare and Medicare D, prescription assistance, care-giver supports, financial assistance, assisted living, senior groups, recreation, etc. This is a free service of the Council on Aging, a non-profit agency serving Seniors and their families since 1974. Contact the Senior HelpLine at 802-786-5991 or 1-800-642-5119; or visit the website at www.svcoa.org.



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PEGTV Rutland expands

PEGTV broke ground for a new 1,500 square foot addition to its headquarters in building #24 at the Howe Center. The addition will provide for new office space, storage and a garage for the PEGTV van.



PEGTV signed a new 10-year lease on the soon-to-be expanded facility.

The Giancola family, owners of the complex, is facilitating construction. Upon completion of construction, scheduled for spring 2013, PEGTV will invite the public to an open house.

"The terms of this lease assures that Rutland County's information stations can continue to grow and serve Rutland County for many years to come," says PEGTV's Board President, Carl Anderson.

PEGTV is comprised of Channels 15 (public programming), 20 (education programming) and 21 (government programming) and is available to all cable subscribers throughout Rutland County. Streaming programming, video on demand services and hyper-local weather forecasts are also available online at www.pegtv.com. For more information, contact PEGTV at (802) 747-0151.

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Join the Friends of the Library

Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library is a newly incorporated and state-registered organization that supports the viability and vitality of the Library. Its vision and mission statements, bylaws, ethics policy, and memo of understanding with the Middletown Springs Library were presented at an organizational meeting last month. There was a good turnout and lots of enthusiasm for supporting our small, vibrant library. Application for 501c(3) is complete, and we anticipate acceptance as a nonprofit status.

The first annual meeting was held November 27 at the Library, when the officers and executive committee were elected. The executive committee is: President, Patty McWilliams; Vice President, Lois Dansereau; Recording Secretary, Ursula Smith; Membership Secretary, Maureen McCormack; Treasurer, Pat Hemenway; and two At-Large members, Judith Robinson and Marie Louka.

Membership dues for 2013 were set very low to encourage everyone who wants to support the library to do so at whatever level is comfortable. Please consider becoming a member. Just complete the form and leave it with us today, or you can drop it off with your payment at the Middletown Springs Library or mail it to 39 West St., Middletown Springs. Checks should be made to Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library.

Thank you for your interest and support!

I want to join The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- ☐ \$5.00 Individual
☐ \$50.00 Contributing (individual or family)
☐ \$10.00 Family
☐ \$50.00 Business

Yes, I would like to volunteer:

- ☐ Baking for Events
☐ Behind the Scenes (book processing, etc.)
☐ Book Sale
☐ Building & Grounds
☐ Circ. Desk
☐ Movie Nights
☐ Tech Projects



Legislative News

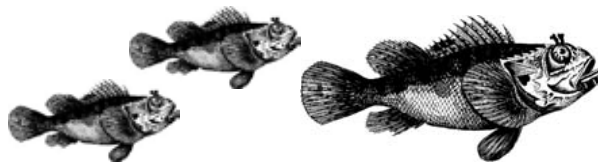
The new session of the Vermont Legislature will start on January 9 with the usual formalities of the election of a Speaker and a Clerk of the

House, the adoption of the Rules of the House, the administration of the oath of office to the Representatives, the Governor, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, and Attorney General and the inaugural address of the Governor to the Joint Assembly of Senators, Representatives and the public. Also with in the first days, the Speaker announces the House Committee assignments for the next two years as well the Chair, Vice Chair and Ranking members of the 14 committees. The individual committees within themselves select a clerk who works with legislative counsel and committee assistants to process bills assigned to them and to schedule testimony and discussion.

One of the first issues the Legislature addresses is fiscal midyear adjustments to the state budget that started July 1. Projections and assumptions made several months ago will be adjusted to reflect new information and new realities of the status of the many facets of the Vermont state budget, Federal finances and the Vermont, U.S., and global economy. Work on the new Fiscal year budget 2014 has already started and legislators will hear the Governor's address on his budget later in January.

My legislative priorities continue to be a strong Vermont economy and job opportunities through good education and workforce training, good transportation and telecommunication infrastructures. I look forward to progress on health care reform, local scale renewable energy and weatherisation projects, and local agricultural and forest products businesses. I intend to continue to advocate for the unique perspective of the five southwestern Vermont towns that I represent.

Please contact me with your priorities, your concerns, questions and ideas at JMalcolm@leg.state.vt.us, 325-3424(home) 800 322-5616(statehouse) and 1822 Rupert Mountain Road, Pawlet, VT 05761. Thank You!



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Hospice Volunteer Training

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (RAVNAH) will offer a free 8 week volunteer training course for individuals who wish to become hospice and palliative care volunteers in Rutland County, Dorset and Rupert.

The course, "Sharing the Journey" consists of eight 3-hour classes beginning **February 20, 2013**. Topics include Death and Dying, Family Dynamics, Spirituality and Bereavement, Privacy and Confidentiality, Care and Comfort Measures, Communication Skills and Boundary Issues. The sessions will be held at RAVNAH, 7 Albert Cree Drive in Rutland. Contact John Campbell, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 770-1683 or email jcampbell@ravnah.org.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast

Middletown Springs Community Church
Fellowship Hall 8:00 am
Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013
Questions? Call Virginia 235-2348



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Writing Contest



Hildene is again offering the Lincoln Essay Competition for Vermont eighth graders, with February 12, 2013 deadline. First place \$1000, second \$750, third \$500, and honorable mentions \$200.

Schools and public libraries are welcome to participate. Application materials are available at <http://www.hildene.org/schools.html>

For more details, contact Stephanie Moffett Hynds, Programming Director of Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, Direct line: 802-367-7960, stephanie@hildene.org

Northern Harmony World Music Choir



February 27 - Tinmouth Community Church

Northern Harmony, the unique world music vocal ensemble based in Vermont will perform Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 at Tinmouth Community Church. Admission at the door is \$15, \$10 for students. For more information call 802-426-3210 or look for more details in the next edition of *The Magnet*.



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Calendar

January

Fire Dept. Training	Tues. 15	6 pm	Fire House
Building Committee Meeting	Thurs. 17	7 pm	Town Office
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Mon. 21		
BINGO!	Mon. 21	7 pm	Fire House
Last Day to Petition Articles	Thurs. 24	5 pm	Town Office
Select Board Meeting	Thurs. 24	7 pm	Town Office
Women's Breakfast	Sat. 26	8 am	Comm. Church
Men's Breakfast	Sat. 26	8 am	School
Story Hour	Sat. 26	10 am	Library
Last Day to Petition for Office	Mon. 28	5 pm	Town Office
Fire Department Meeting	Tues. 29	7:30 pm	Fire House
Fountain of Youth	Wed. 30	Noon	Poultney Center

February

Magnet Deadline	Fri. 1		
Bldg Comm. Information Mtg	Sat. 2	2 - 4 pm	School
Knitting Group	Mon. 4	7 pm	Library
Planning Commission	Mon. 4	7 pm	Town Office
BINGO	Mon. 4	7 pm	Fire House
Library Trustees Meeting	Wed. 6	12:30 pm	Library
Building Committee	Wed. 6	7 pm	Town Office
First Response	Thurs. 7	6:30 pm	Fire House
LiHigh School Presentation	Thurs. 7	6:30 pm	School
Historical Society Trustees	Thurs. 7	7:30 pm	Hist. Soc. Bldg.
Circus Smirkus & Dinner	Fri. 8	5:30 pm	School
BINGO!	Mon. 11	7 pm	Fire House
Friends of the Library Meeting	Tues. 12	7 pm	Library
Conservation Commission	Tues. 12	7 pm	TBA
Book Discussion	Wed. 13	7:15 pm	Library
Happy Valentine's Day			
School Board	Thurs. 14	6 pm	School
Select Board	Thurs. 14	7 pm	Town Office

*Calendar Events - subject to change
When in doubt, please check
with the organization for details.*

Messages to The Magnet:

Mailing Address: *The Magnet*, PO Box 1134,
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Thank You!

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Hemenway for their donations, along with our
advertisers and contributors. We couldn't do this
without you!

If you would like to be a part of the dynamic
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**Building Committee
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