

# middle TOWN NEWS letter

## September 2019

### To the Moon & Back - TWICE!

We made it! The Library's reading-fueled rocket blasted off on on June 15. Over 41 people turned in 96,049 pages read by the August 31 deadline. Every page propelled the rocket 10 miles closer to our destination. (96,049 pages = 960,049 miles)

The distance to the moon is 238,900 miles: we took **two** round trips to the moon this summer, with 4,890 miles to spare! A big THANK YOU to our Reading Astronauts for participating in the Library's summer challenge.

**Celebrate our travels! Splash Down Open House:** Stop in the Library on **Saturday, September 7, 10 am-noon**. We will be serving Tang, moon pies, and other lunar delicacies. Come color our space banner. Enter the drawing to win a lunar souvenir.

**Everyone** is invited, regardless of whether you participated in the Library's Reading to the Moon Challenge.

### Friends for Education

Friends for Education (FFE) meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month. The first of the school year is Wednesday, September 11, at 7 pm at the School. Parents and interested community members are invited to attend. For more info, contact Ashley Fioretti at 235-3000 or [vtlittleflower13@gmail.com](mailto:vtlittleflower13@gmail.com)

### Toddler Time

Toddler Time will begin again soon. In past years we have met on Mondays at 10:30 am. The Library has heard that this may not be the best day for a number of families. Whether you've come in the past or not, if you are interested in attending, please email or call to let us know what mornings of the week are good for your family! 235-2435 or [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Property Tax Due Monday, September 16

Drop off at the Town Office or mail checks,  
postmarked on or before 9/16

Town Office Hours	Town Treasurer
Mon & Tues 9-12 & 1-4	PO Box 1022,
Fri 1-4 Sat 9-12	Middletown Springs, VT
	05757

### Historical Society Annual Meeting

The **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** of the Middletown Springs Historical Society will convene at **2 pm on Sunday, September 15**, at the Historical Society Building. Following a delicious dessert buffet, there will be a brief business meeting, including a review of the year's accomplishments and plans for the future. Also on the agenda is the election of new trustees for the 2019-2020 term.

After the business meeting, historian Philip Crossman will give a presentation, "Frisbie's Fourth Lecture: Things Left Out of the History of Middletown, Vermont, 1867."

In February and March of 1867, Judge Barnes Frisbie delivered three lectures to the citizens of Middletown which were published later that year as the *History of Middletown, Vermont*. At 52 years old, Barnes was too young to have been part of the first settlement himself but he was well-connected and observant enough to collect stories from elderly living settlers or from their descendants and friends.

Phil Crossman's imaginative PowerPoint "Fourth Discourse" will introduce a few things that Barnes Frisbie decided not to tell us, didn't have time to tell us, didn't know we would want to know, or didn't know himself. For example, what was his relationship to the "Frisbie" that we all played growing up? And how did Middletown miss getting a Presidential Library by one vote in 1852?

Philip Crossman has spent most of his career teaching the humanities to high school and college students. His interest in Middle Eastern history was sparked by several years he spent working in Jerusalem. Upon his return to Vermont, he completed a master's degree in Islamic-Western Relations at Norwich University and went on to pursue a Masters in Education in Educational Technology at the University of Toronto. He currently works as an administrator at Community College of Vermont (CCV) and teaches part-time at CCV and at Norwich University.

Mark your calendars for the Historical Society **Open House on Sunday, October 6, 2 - 4 pm**. We will share more details in the October Town Newsletter.



## Community Calendar

It's the time of year to (re)subscribe to the Community Calendar! The "birthday calendar" is a long-standing tradition that lists many residents' birthdays as well as notices of the town's boards and committee regular meetings. Subscribers have the option of including all family members' birthdays and anniversaries. Advertising sponsors underwrite the production costs of the calendar and their ads highlight many of the businesses in town.



Library Trustees will be reaching out to current and new residents, as well as local businesses. If you do not hear from someone or want to save them a call, please contact a Trustee with your calendar information, or use the [re-order form](#) in the calendar and drop or mail it to the Library.

Calendars are \$8.00 in advance OR \$10.00 once it is printed. All calendars must be pre-ordered. Birthday and anniversary listings are included in price (optional but encouraged).

**NEW & RETURNING** sponsors: Please support the Middletown Springs Community Calendar with an ad. Your payment includes an advertisement block on the calendar visible for all 12 months, and one copy of the calendar. Also included: your family's birthdays and anniversaries (optional).

The **DEADLINE** for all submissions is September 23, 2019.

Contact People:

Alida Tarbell 235-2323 [randatarbell@vermontel.net](mailto:randatarbell@vermontel.net)  
Beth Miller 235-2734 [millrams@vermontel.net](mailto:millrams@vermontel.net)  
Patty McWilliams 287-4030 [hermithill12@gmail.com](mailto:hermithill12@gmail.com)  
Diane Rosenmiller 235-9429 [drosenmiller@vermontel.net](mailto:drosenmiller@vermontel.net)  
Kristal Hier 235-1297 [kristalhaynes@hotmail.com](mailto:kristalhaynes@hotmail.com)

The calendar helps strengthen our community and the funds raised will be used to support the town library, its collection and programming. Thank you!

## Friends' Lawn Sale

Annual Friends of the Library Lawn Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28, 8 am-2 pm**. Great bargains on a wide range of items, generously donated to the Friends. All proceeds support the Friends of the Library and their work on behalf of the Town Library.

Cleaning out the garage or basement? Have good stuff that you want to give away? Please save it for the Friends of the Library Lawn Sale. **Donations may be dropped off at the Green on Friday, September 27, 3-6 pm**. Please, no clothing, large furniture, or appliances. All items should be clean and ready for their new homes. Thank you!

## Planning Commission News

With Select Board approval, the Planning Commission has been expanded to five members versus the previous three commissioners.

Currently there are four members as noted below and we are actively seeking a fifth. This change is designed to add more depth and diversity to the commission. If you have an interest in town affairs and in planning for the future, the planning commission may be of interest to you.

If you have an interest, we welcome you to join us at our September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at 4:30 at the town office. Additionally, you can review the current town plan approved by voters in 2017. That plan is available on the town's web site: front page, left side bar.

For more information, please feel free to contact any one of the current members.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Tom Hurcomb, Chair  
Peter Blekis, Secretary  
Hilary Solomon  
Sara Young

## Treasurer's Note

Property Tax Installment #1 for the new tax year of 2019/2020 is due before or on **Monday, September 16, 2019**. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday this year, you have an extra day to submit your tax payments.

The Town Treasurer will be in the office on September 16, 9 - noon and 1 - 4 pm to accept payments. Payments made prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> are gratefully accepted.

Via mail: PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs 05757, **or** leave in the drop box in the Town Office during posted open hours. Tax checks can be post dated for 9/16/19.

**Remember**, if checks are postmarked after 9/16 or are dropped off at the town office after 9/16, interest will be assessed.

Thank you.

## Note of Gratitude

I want to thank the dozens of people in both Middletown and Tinmouth who helped me and my son, Jan Fischer, during his August effort to empty and turn over his father's house in Tinmouth. Special thanks go to Vicki Arsenault for sustained patience and problem solving. Generous, responsive, and good-humored folks, I miss you so so much.

Thank you, *Jane O'Reilly*

## 2019 Vermont READS

The Vermont Reads 2019 selection is the graphic novel *March: Book One*. It is the first of a trilogy written by civil rights icon John Lewis, in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and award-winning graphic artist Nate Powell. This is the first time in the 17-year history of the Vermont Reads program that the Vermont Humanities Council (VHC) has chosen a graphic novel, a format that combines prose with narrative drawing. The format will engage many current fans of Vermont Reads and also attract a new audience who have not yet participated in the program. It is the hope of VHC that after reading *March: Book One*, readers will be inspired to keep exploring, reading about, and discussing this seminal time in our country's history.

Lewis was chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and was considered one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement. He has served in the US Congress since 1987 and was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2011.

*Book One* tells of Lewis's childhood in rural Alabama, his desire as a young man to be a preacher, his life-changing interactions with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the nonviolent sit-ins he joined at lunch counters in Nashville as a means of undermining segregation.

The narrative continues in subsequent books to tell of the 1963 March on Washington (*Book Two*) and the march across Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965 (*Book Three*). All three volumes illustrate the story of Lewis's commitment to nonviolent protest in the pursuit of social justice. All three volumes are in the Library's collection.

As in past years, our **Library has received 25 copies** of the book which will be circulated as broadly as possible during the months of September and October. Stop in at the Library and pick up a copy to read. Return it as soon as you are finished so it can circulate widely. We're still working out final details for the activities listed below; details will be forthcoming on Front Porch Forum, October's Town Newsletter, and posters around the village.

For more information, contact the Library at 235-2435 or [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com).

"**How & Why to Read a Graphic Novel**" talk with discussion by Jon Mathewson, local historian and avid collector of graphic novels. There are many assumptions made about the graphic novel genre by readers, teachers, parents, and grandparents. It is a conversation we have often with patrons in the Library. This talk and discussion will help open the door to the world of graphic novels and sequential art. The tim-

ing will be towards the beginning of Vermont Reads to encourage reluctant graphic novel readers to take the plunge. (Date & time TBA)

**Inter-generational Book Discussion:** This near-annual event is anticipated by both old and young; There will most definitely be cookies! as well as a hearty discussion. If past trends hold, the insights shared from the various age-related vantage points will be both unique and inspiring. All are welcome. (Date & time TBA)

**Movie & discussion:** The Friends of the Library would like to host movie discussion event(s). Selma is an obvious choice although they are exploring other options. Events will happen at the library where we have a projector and screen. Several Friends have academic backgrounds and plan to pre-watch and prepare to lead the discussion. And there will be cookies! (Date & time TBA)

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## New at the Library

### Fiction

*Trust Exercise* by Susan Choi  
*Black Swan Green* by David Mitchell  
*Ghostwritten* by David Mitchell  
*Number 9 Dream* by David Mitchell  
*Slade House* by David Mitchell  
*Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris  
*Henry, Himself* by Stewart O'Nan  
*Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips  
*Normal People* by Sally Rooney  
*Nickel Boys* by Colin Whitehead  
*Golden Hour* by Beatriz Williams

### Non-Fiction

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*  
by Anne Fadiman  
*The Pioneers* by David McCullough  
*Zora and Langston* by Yuval Taylor

### Children's Books & Graphic Novels

*Invisible Emmie* by Terri Libenson  
*Just Jaime* by Terri Libenson  
*Positively Izzy* by Terri Libenson  
*Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls* by Dave Pilkey  
*Phoebe and Her Unicorn* by Dana Simpson  
*Pigeon Has to Go to School!* by Mo Willems



## Knitting Circle

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

Recycling Myths & Facts sourced from **NERC – Northeast Recycling Council**

Myths	Facts
<p>You create more environmental harm by recycling plastic bottles than throwing them out. So, don't try to recycle them.</p> <p>There is no way to recycle plastic bottles in the United States; it all gets exported to Asian countries. And, since China shut its doors, the U.S. is dumping its plastics on other Southeast Asian countries.</p> <p>Plastic containers collected for recycling are being thrown out because it costs as much as \$200/ton to recycle them. This is happening all over the US.</p>	<p>According to a recent Life Cycle Analysis of recycled plastic vs. virgin plastics, which include all of the consumptions and energy uses and emissions, recycling is vastly superior in every category to disposal. This includes total energy, greenhouse gas generation, waste water, water consumption, solid waste, and other air pollution.</p> <p>There is a vibrant and economically thriving plastic bottle recycling <i>here in the U.S.</i> In fact, we don't collect enough plastic bottles in recycling programs to take full advantage of existing recycling capacity. This isn't new. It was true well before China decided not to take our plastic.</p> <p>Plastic bottles are a very valuable commodity – people are not paying to have them recycled, they are being paid <b>for</b> them. PET Bottle exports to China have actually declined steadily from a 2008 high of over 57% to 16% as of 2017. This is presumably significantly lower in 2018 and 2019.</p>
<p>Our recycling efforts have been harming the ocean, adding significantly to the ocean plastic crisis. When the Chinese couldn't recycle something they dumped it into the oceans as a common way of handling the material.</p>	<p>The Chinese have not been simply dumping plastic bottles into the ocean. People all over China are drinking bottled water (and using plastic bags, and other plastic packaging, just as we do), but ironically, China – like much of Southeast Asia – does not have a widespread solid waste and recycling infrastructure, so the plastic gets thrown out, or littered. The plastic gets washed into streams and rivers. The vast majority of the ocean plastic is coming downstream from streams and rivers in Asia, from individuals and communities, not from plastic recyclers dumping plastic into the ocean.</p>
<p>In order for plastic containers – such as peanut butter jars – to be recycled they have to be tripled rinsed in hot water.</p>	<p>They shouldn't be full of peanut butter, but the usual leftovers on the sides just isn't a problem for recyclers. What <b>is</b> a problem are bottles full of liquids, half-full food containers, kitchen waste, and dirty diapers.</p>
<p>Recyclables are piling up or being landfilled all over the U.S. There's a very good chance that your recyclables are being landfilled.</p>	<p>When the China refusal of our refuse was first announced there was certainly some stockpiling and some instances of landfilling; this situation resolved after a few months and is no longer true. Recycling programs shifted to send materials to domestic recyclers and found new buyers for the materials.</p>

Middletown Springs Transfer Station, managed by Glen Moyer, is open Saturday & Monday, 6 am - noon for trash disposal and Zero-Sort recycling. The trash disposal is on a "Pay-As-You-Throw" system. The Zero-Sort recycling is FREE for recycling products. Electronics and small household batteries (less than 9 lbs.) may be recycled anytime at no charge. If you have questions, talk with Glen next time you are at the Transfer Station.

# Calendar of Events

## September

Fire Dept. Training	Tues 3	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Wells Springs Board	Wed 4	6 pm	MSES
Building Committee	Wed 4	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 5	7 pm	MSHS
<b>Splash Down Celebration</b>	<b>Sat 7</b>	<b>10 am - Noon</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Batik &amp; Sip Fundraiser</b>	<b>Sat 7</b>	<b>6 - 9 pm</b>	<b>MSHS</b>
Planning Commission	Mon 9	4:30 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 10	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 10	7 pm	Library
Friends for Education (FFE)	Wed 11	7 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 12	7 pm	Town Office
<b>MSHS Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Sun 15</b>	<b>2 pm</b>	<b>MSHS</b>
First Response	Sun 15	6:30 pm	Firehouse
<b>Property Tax Due</b>	<b>Mon 16</b>		<b>Town Office</b>
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 17	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Thurs 19	7 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 24	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 25	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 26	7 pm	Town Office
<b>Lawn Sale Drop Off</b>	<b>Fri 27</b>	<b>3 - 6 pm</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>Friends' Lawn Sale</b>	<b>Sat 28</b>	<b>8 am - 2 pm</b>	<b>Green</b>

## October

Fire Dept. Training	Tues 1	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Wells Springs Board	Wed 2	6 pm	WES
Building Committee	Wed 2	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 3	7 pm	MSHS
<b>MSHS Open House</b>	<b>Sun 6</b>	<b>2 - 4 pm</b>	<b>MSHS</b>
Planning Commission	Mon 7	4:30 pm	Town Office
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
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
<b>Halloween Rest Stop</b>	<b>Thurs 31</b>	<b>5 - 7 pm</b>	<b>Library</b>

*Calendar Events – subject to change.*

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



back to school!

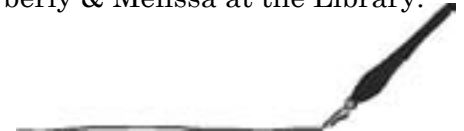
## TOWN NEWSLETTER

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](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.

