

middle TOWN NEWS letter

November 2019

Town Facilities Financing VOTE November 19

The Selectboard has set a **town vote for Tuesday, November 19, 2019**, to authorize borrowing for much-needed Town facilities: a Town Office and Library; a replacement for the Firehouse; a Highway Garage and salt storage; and the relocation of the Transfer Station.

The Selectboard is asking the Town's permission to obtain financing up to a set limit for each project, once those projects are technically and fiscally ready for construction. None of these projects is yet ready to build; some are closer than others, but they all need further design work and fund-raising. We do, however, expect to be able to complete them all within the five-year window provided for by the vote. If a project has not begun construction within five years, the voters' financing permission will expire, and any projects that haven't been started by that sunset date will require new borrowing approval.

The Selectboard has chosen this model of a one-time financing vote for three reasons. First, we are facing significant shortcomings in all of our Town facilities, which need to be upgraded for effectiveness, safety, and environmental responsibility. Second, we believe that planning for all of the projects together will help the community come together, rather than having the projects compete with one another. We are a TOWN, and the Town has collective needs that we should address together. And third, the Town has budgeted for these projects in recent years, and continues to budget additional funding in support of each of these projects. The accumulated savings will reduce the borrowing we need for each project.

Along with the November 19 election (7 am-7 pm at the Historical Society), the Selectboard will hold an **informational meeting** at the MSES multi-purpose room at **7 pm on Wednesday, November 13**, with far more detail about financing and tax implications than posts here or on Front Porch Forum can provide.

For those interested in further details on the buildings themselves, the Selectboard, Building Committee, Volunteer Fire Association, and Highway Department will hold site visits at each of the three locations on **Saturday, November 2**. From **9 am-noon** on that morning, you will be able to **visit any**

of the sites (the Four Corners, the Firehouse, or 577 West Street), or all three, to discuss the projects in more technical detail.

It's important to remember, though, that this vote is NOT about what any of these particular projects might look like, or about their construction details, or about any of the thousands of technical questions that will certainly arise. This vote, if approved, does one thing: it allows the Selectboard to move forward on borrowing once a project has met its private fund-raising goals and once its design and permitting are sufficient for construction.

The warning of this election, which includes details about borrowing limits for each project, is posted at the Town Office, the Post Office, Grant's Village Store, the Library, and the Transfer Station, as well as on the Town's website.

Important Dates

Site Visits	Saturday, Nov. 2 9 am-noon
Info Meeting	Wednesday, Nov. 13 7 pm
VOTE: Polls Open	Tuesday, Nov. 19 7 am-7 pm



Voter Registration

New to town or newly 18? Register to vote. Voter registration forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, at the Library, and online. There will also be a voter registration table at Grant's Village Store on November 2, 9 am-noon, the same day as the site visits to the locations of proposed town facilities.

You can register to vote even on the day of the election, but we would encourage you to be registered BEFORE so that you can come in and vote without delays. You will need a photocopy of one of the following forms of identification: valid photo ID (driver's license or passport), current utility bill, current bank statement, and/or other government document.

More information about voting in Vermont is available on the Secretary of State's website. <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/voters/registration.aspx>

Planning Commission News

With Selectboard approval, the Planning Commission has been expanded to five members versus the previous three commissioners, and we are actively seeking a new member.

If you have an interest in Town affairs and in planning for the future, the Planning Commission may be of interest to you. We are currently reviewing the Energy Section of the Town Plan and considering an update to that section of the plan. The review will take several months and continue into next year. We will be considering the role of solar and other alternative energy sources and energy efficiency for residential and town buildings and transportation.

We welcome you to join us at our November 4 meeting at 4:30 pm at the Town Office. Additionally, you can review the current Town Plan approved by voters in 2017. That Plan is available on the front page, left sidebar of the Town's website.

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

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Tom Hurcomb, Chair

Peter Blekis, Secretary

Hilary Solomon

Sara Young

Craft Fair

The 25th annual Holiday Craft Fair will take place on Sunday, December 8, at the Elementary School, 10 am-3 pm. The multi-purpose room will be chock full of a wide variety of artists, artisans, and local producers, guaranteeing that you'll be able to get a good jump on your holiday shopping while supporting our local economy. There will be hot lunch and goodies for sale, with funds supporting the Memorial Day Parade.

If you are interested in vending at the Fair, please contact Maureen Labate by phone or email: 287-9408 or labatem@myfairpoint.net.

Christmas in the Park

Celebrate the season at the annual *Christmas in the Park*, to be held on **Sunday, December 8, at 6 pm** on the Green in Middletown Springs. Join us for the live Nativity followed by caroling and the lighting of the Christmas tree. All are welcome to take part as shepherds or angels. Then warm up by the fire and enjoy some delicious treats and good conversation. Donations of cookies always appreciated. For more information, contact Rita at 235-2436.

New & New-to-Us at the Library

Adult Fiction

Big Sky by Kate Atkinson

Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

The Night Strangers by Chris Bohjalian

Outfox by Sandra Brown

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Home by Harlan Coben

Run Away by Harlan Coben

The Late Show by Michael Connelly

The Wrong Side of Goodbye by Michael Connelly

Labyrinth by Catherine Coulter

The Which Way Tree by Elizabeth Crook

Bomber's Moon by Archer Mayor

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

The Ghost Clause by Howard Norman

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

The 19th Christmas by James Patterson

The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware

Adult Non-Fiction

An American Sunrise: Poems by Joy Harjo

Code Girls by Liza Mundy

Fear by Sandra Dee Owens

Should by Sandra Dee Owens

This Land Is Our Land by Jedediah Purdy

Teen/Young Adult

How (Not) to Ask a Boy to Prom by S.J. Goslee

Children's Books

My Football Book by Gail Gibbons

The Hermit Crab by Carter Goodrich

Let it Snow by Holly Hobbie

An A to Z of Monsters and Magical Beings

by Bob Hodgson & Aidan Onn

The Escape of Robert Smalls

by Jehan Jones-Radgowski

The Call of the Wild/White Fang by Jack London

Class Trip to the Cave of Doom by Kate McMullan

Trials of Apollo #4: Tyrant's Tomb by Rick Riordan

Phoebe and Her Unicorn in Unicorn Theater

(graphic novel) by Dana Simpson

Unicorn Bowling (graphic novel) by Dana Simpson

The Unicorn Whisperer (graphic novel)

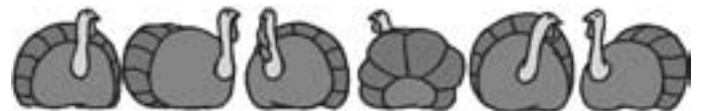
by Dana Simpson

What Stinks? by Marilyn Singer

Guts (graphic novel) by Raina Telgemier

A Farm through Time by Eric Thomas

Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson





School News

Through Act 77, all Vermont schools are moving toward proficiency-based learning, which has students demonstrate the desired learning outcomes through flexible and personalized pathways. These opportunities are intended to be provided through all grade levels. Students not only gain the skills, abilities, and knowledge required in an area of study, but more importantly this skills necessary to be successful in college, career, and civic life, such as collaboration and problem solving. There is an excellent Vermont-produced YouTube video titled, "What's the Deal with Proficiency-Based Learning?" This brief video explains, in a clear way, the reasoning behind the move to proficiency-based learning and the benefits to both students and society. Here is the link to access the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV91CVslmU>. Our school is always willing to share what we are doing to move toward proficiency-based learning.

MSES was again fortunate to have the use of a trailer load of mountain bikes for a week from Local Motion in Burlington. Use of the bikes was incorporated into the physical education curriculum during the week. The students also had use of the bikes during recess and the after-school program. The 4th-6th graders and 2nd-3rd graders were able to experience riding on the Slate Valley Trails in East Poultney. The students would like to thank the Slate Valley Trail members who worked with them to further develop their mountain biking skills.

A reminder: MSES has a new phone system with voicemail capability that allows messages to be left for individual staff members. The **school's new phone number is 802-855-5155**. The old number will continue to be operational during this transition period, but we ask that you use the new number when possible. Thank you,

Rick Beal, Principal

23rd Annual

Spaghetti Dinner

Friday
November 8
5 to 7 pm



Middletown Springs Elementary School
Support the 6th Grade Class Trip to D.C.



Property Tax Reminder

Payment for the 2nd Quarter is due on or before **Monday, December 16, 2019**.

Please ensure your tax payments are postmarked and/or submitted on or before December 16, 2019. Payments made or postmarked from December 17, 2019, on will be considered late and will generate monthly interest until paid.

For your convenience, post-dated checks for the 16th will be accepted and not deposited before the 16th.

Thank you,

Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer

D.C. Trip Spaghetti Dinner

The Middletown Springs 6th grade is planning their annual class trip to Washington, D.C. This trip marks the end of grade school, with middle school/junior high on the horizon when our students will attend different schools. They will travel by train to Washington where they will visit the Capitol, Senator Leahy's office, museums, the zoo, Arlington Cemetery, and much more. The kids will actively participate in navigating public transportation, enjoy different dining experiences, and take a nighttime bus tour of the monuments. It promises to be a memorable and meaningful trip.

Join the 6th grade on **Friday, November 8, 5-7 pm**, for their annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu consists of salad, bread and butter, spaghetti, homemade meatballs, and dessert. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available. The 6th graders will serve the meals. Donations are \$8 adults, \$5 kids, under 5 free. Take-out orders are available. All the money raised will help support the trip.

If you'd like to support the MSES 6th grade trip but cannot make the dinner, check out donorschoose.org to find the project set up for donations to support the cost of train tickets. The funds for this will only be received if the goal is met by November 16.

Thank you for your support. For more information contact Jeanne Arsenault at tishen_noodle@hotmail.com.



Fire Safety & MSVFD News

Fall is officially here, and the nights have turned much colder. Please check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Please take the time to change the batteries in your detectors. It is that time of year to start firing up your woodstoves and heat sources. Please clean your chimney and furnaces. We understand the cost of wood, heating fuel, propane, and pellets are a large expense this time of year, but they are so much safer than small portable heaters. Small portable heaters are a large cause of house fires. If you have questions regarding your heat source, home detectors, fire extinguishers, etc., please contact MSVFD. We want everyone to be safe and warm this season.

October is **Fire Safety Month**, providing a reminder that anything can happen to any of us in an instant. It is important for all of us to know how to react and know what to do if the time arises. Not only do we need to know what to do in our own homes, but we also need to know what to do out in public places and on the roads. In public places, be aware of locations of fire alarms, AED equipment, emergency exits, and fire extinguishers. On the roads, please be aware of drivers with hazard lights on, pedestrians walking, and road conditions. Many things on the roads, especially in winter months, are out of our control, but one thing is very important. If you do have to call 911, be very specific when giving the location. Look for the nearest number on a mailbox or house and give the correct street name and correct town. Your call goes to dispatch centers that may not be familiar with our area. Being specific, speaking clearly, and giving important information will make the response times much more efficient for all responding agencies.

Halloween is just around the corner, and MSVFD will be hosting Halloween at the Firehouse again this year! The Firehouse will be decorated. Hot cider will be served, and treats will be in abundance! Stop by with your ghosts and goblins! We love seeing everyone!

The MSVFD has three fund-raisers set for the last few months of the year. The **bus trip to New York City** will be held on Saturday, November 30. The bus trip is currently sold out. We are looking forward to a fun day in the city! The MSVFD gun raffle is currently underway. The MSVFD is selling raffle tickets for a **Browning .308 rifle**. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Tickets can be purchased at Grant's Village Store or through any MSVFD member or Board of Trustees member. Lastly, MSVFD will be hosting **Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 7, at 9 am** at the Elementary School. This is always a fun and tasty event for all ages.



FOL Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library will be holding their Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 3, at 4 pm in the Historical Society Dining Room.

Everyone is invited to attend and we hope that many members will come to elect new officers, celebrate the many accomplishments of this past year, and share ideas for next year. We also hope folks will bring a story (past or present) about an experience or experiences with a library to share with everyone. Please join us after for dinner, prepared by members of the FOL Executive Board.

For more information, contact Ashley Fioretti at 235-3000 or vtlittleflower13@gmail.com.

Free Indeed

Christmas Free Indeed Event will be held on Saturday, December 7, 9 am-noon at the Middletown Springs Community Church. For those of you not familiar with Free Indeed, we collect donated items all year long, set things out like a giant tag sale, and then give it all away. Yes, everything is "Free Indeed."

Free Indeed will be accepting donations on two Saturdays, Nov. 2 & Nov. 23, 9 am-noon, at the back door. We are now accepting winter and Christmas items. All items should be clean, in working condition, and ready to be gifted. (Any presorting by size or type of garment would be greatly appreciated.) Because of space limitations and difficulty in recycling, please call before donating furniture, TVs, computer equipment, VHS tapes, or cartons of books.

For more information, contact Sally Achey at 235-2434 or lskayaks1@gmail.com.

Toddler Time

Toddler Time has moved to Tuesdays! Join Melissa & friends for stories, songs, and a snack. Tuesdays at 10:30 am through November 12. Designed for tots and toddlers and their caregivers.

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



Knitting Circle

Join novice-to-experienced knitters on **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.

Calendar of Events

November

Facility Site Visits	Sat 2	9 am-Noon	details pg. 1
Planning Commission	Mon 4	4:30 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	MSES
Building Committee	Wed 6	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 7	7 pm	MSSH
Spaghetti Dinner	Fri 8	5-7 pm	School
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 12	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 12	7 pm	Library
Informational Meeting	Wed 13	7 pm	School
Friends for Education (FFE)	Wed 13	7 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 14	7 pm	Town Office
First Response	Sun 17	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Special Town VOTE	Tues 19	7 am-7 pm	MSSH
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	TBA	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	TBA	7 pm	Town Office

December

Knitting Circle	Mon 2	7 - 9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 3	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Wells Springs Board	Wed 4	6 pm	WES
Building Committee	Wed 4	7 pm	Library
Historical Society	Thurs 5	7 pm	MSSH
Breakfast with Santa	Sat 7	9 am	MSES
Christmas Free Indeed	Sat 7	9 am-Noon	MCCC
Holiday Craft Fair	Sun 8	10 am-3 pm	MSES
Christmas in the Park	Sun 8	6 pm	Green
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
First Response	Sun 15	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Property Tax Due	Mon 16		Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 17	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Building Committee	Thurs 19	7 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	TBA	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	TBA	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 26	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	TBA	6:30 pm	Firehouse

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.

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

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

Check it out at

<http://FrontPorchForum.com/>

