

# middle **TOWN NEWS** letter

## February 2020



### Pre-Vote Informational Meetings

The School & Town Informational Meetings no longer happen on the same night. Since the school district merger with Wells, the school portion of “town meeting” is held on a separate evening, alternating towns each year. This year the school meeting is in Wells on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 pm. The town portion remains the Monday before the first Tuesday in March, this year: Monday, March 2, at 6:30 pm.

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### Wells Springs School District Annual Meeting: School Budget Wednesday, February 26 7 pm Wells Village School

[Wells Springs UUSD Warning](#) is available on the town website in the left sidebar.

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### Town Meeting Informational Meeting Monday, March 2 6:30 pm *Note the starting time!* Middletown Springs Elem School

[Town Warning 2020](#) is available on the town website in the left sidebar.

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### Town Meeting Food Sale

*Too hungry to attend Town Meeting??*

Let the 6<sup>th</sup> grade feed you dinner  
Hot entrees and sweet desserts

**Monday, March 2, at MSES**  
**Food available 5:30-7:30 pm**  
(Note: Meeting starts at 6:30 pm)

*Fill up on Dinner & Local Democracy*

All proceeds benefit the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to DC!

## VOTE! Town & School

**Tuesday, March 3**  
Polls are open 7 am - 7 pm  
at the **Historical Society**



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### Town Report

Published each year in February, mailed to residents and [posted to the town website](#), the Town Report is a handy booklet includes current reports and budgets from the Select Board, School Board, Town committees and officers as well as the previous year's Town Meeting results and current warnings for articles to be voted on at the March Town Meeting. Coming soon to your mailbox.

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## Pie for Breakfast

### Saturday, March 7, 2020

8 - 11 am, at the School

Benefits the Library!  
More details on page 3.



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### 3rd Quarter Property Tax

*more info on page 2*

### Due Monday, March 16

Jenny Munyak will be in the Town Office that day  
9 am -12 pm & 1 - 4 pm

Or mail checks, postmarked on or before 3/16:  
Town of Middletown Springs  
attn: TOWN TREASURER  
PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

# 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.

### *Seven 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?*

The list of Candidates for Office below includes all of the positions up for (re)election this March. It's too late to have your name added to the ballot, but write-in candidates or post-election appointments are still an option. For descriptions & details about local offices and what they do, visit [Secretary of State's website](#).

## Candidates for Office

Auditor (3 year)	vacant
First Constable (1 year)	vacant
Library Trustee (3 year)	Clare Heitkamp
(2 seats)	vacant
Lister (3 year)	Randy Kniffin
Planning Comm. (3 year)	Maynard Yost
(2 seats)	vacant
Selectboard (2 year)	Sean Ruck
	Neil Russell
Selectboard (3 year)	Heather Grier
Town Agent (1 year)	vacant
Town Grand Juror (1 year)	vacant
Town Moderator (1 year)	Kimberly Bushnell
Trustee of Public Monies	vacant
(2 - 3-yr seats)	vacant



Trustee of Copeland Cemetery Fund

(1 year) vacant

(1 year) vacant

Trustee of Copeland Church Fund

(1 year) Dan McKeen

(1 year) vacant

(1 year) vacant



## Town Treasurer

### Reminders:

**1. 3rd Quarter Property Taxes** are due next month, on or before Monday, March 16, 2020. Taxes can be mailed with a postmark of March 16 or earlier to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs 05757.

Taxes can also be remitted in person at the Town Office - they can be dropped in the lock box during open hours, or they can be remitted on March 16 from 9 am - noon and 1 pm - 4 pm. If you are paying in cash, please bring exact change.

If you are mailing taxes or are using the lock box and you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Any taxes remitted or postmarked after the 16<sup>th</sup> will immediately incur a 1% interest charge.

**2. Income Taxes** are due April 15, as you know. Generally, the tax information required includes your Property Tax bill. Your Property Tax bills were mailed to you in August 2019. Please make the effort to locate that bill from your files in anticipation of filing your income taxes.

Also, please know that it is not the responsibility of the Town Treasurer to submit property tax bills to your tax preparer.

**3. Finally**, as you prepare your income taxes, remember that you need to include your **homestead declaration for the state**. Your declaration will affect your new tax rate for FY20/21, and failure to comply on time may incur penalties.

For more information regarding the homestead declaration, please contact the Vermont Department of Taxes at (802) 828-2505 or visit their website at:

<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

Thank You!

## Planning Commission March Meeting

The March Planning Commission Meeting has been rescheduled from March 2 to March 9. The meeting is scheduled for 4:30 pm at the Town Office. The Commission welcomes all citizens to attend our meetings.

## PIE for Breakfast!

The Library's Famous Pie for Breakfast is **Saturday, March 7, 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). Yum!!

This delicious annual event 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.

\$8 for adults; \$4 for children 5-12; under 5 are 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](mailto:randatarbell@vermontel.net) and let her know.

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

## Library Seed Swap!

Annual Seed Swap is open for business! There are lots of delicious varieties from local gardeners. The Seed Swap is made even more abundant with recent donations from Biondi's Florist & Greenhouses and High Mowing Seeds.

Contributing your extra seeds is great, but not required. Simply take what you think you will use and drop off any extra seeds you have to share.

## New at the Library

### Books

*Twisted Twenty-Six* by Janet Evanovich

*The Guardians* by John Grisham

*Agent Running in the Field* by John Le Carre

### DVDs

*Downton Abbey: The Royal Visit*

## Library Hours

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

235-2435

[middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)

## Winter Tracking Workshop

The last of Friends of the Library's three-part kid-led or -inspired series, Saturdays at the Library, will take place at the library at **2 pm on Saturday, February 15**. Local Game Warden Dustin Circe will offer a winter wildlife tracking workshop. This event is free and open to the public. We will have refreshments! Anyone under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a responsible individual. For more information please contact Ashley Fioretti at 235-3000.



## Pie Safe Raffle

The **Friends of the Library** will be conducting a raffle for a beautiful pie cabinet hand-crafted and donated by Matt and Trish Peschl. The piece is made of pine and maple wood harvested from their land here in Middletown Springs, and the front of the chest is made of punch tin art. The raffle tickets are on sale now through the **drawing on June 21**. The pie chest will be on display at the library, and tickets can be purchased there, as well from any member of the FOL board and at several town events this spring. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. All proceeds from the raffle will go to benefit our beloved library.

For more information please contact Wendy Herick at 235-3999.



## Blind Date with a Book

Opening up a new book can be like going on a blind date. From **now until February 21** stop by the Library and select your "date" from the display of wrapped books. While you are pondering the selection enjoy a sweet treat provided by the Trustees and Friends. Check out your "date" sight unseen and don't unwrap it until you get home! Give your "date" a chance by reading at least 50 pages. If there is chemistry read the whole thing! If not, there will be no hard feelings; it's just a book after all. Simply return it.

Each book comes with a rating card on which to score your date. Everything from "I love this book so much, I want to marry it!" to "DNF = Did Not Finish: escape-the-restaurant-through-the-bathroom-window level of awful." Every **score card returned by February 29 will be entered in a raffle** for a box of chocolates.

Books are available for readers of all ages: adults, teens, kids, and tots.

Take a chance ... who knows, you might just fall in love!



## Maple Festival

Maple lore & demonstrations, sweet treats from local kitchens, a raffle and a silent auction featuring local artists and craftspersons, merchants and professionals highlight the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maple Festival at the Middletown Springs Historical Society on **Sunday, March 15 from 1-4 pm.**

For more information, call David Wright at 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at 235-2421.



## Historical Society Pursues Strategic Planning

Since September the Historical Society has been working with a museum consultant to create a 5-year Strategic Plan for the Historical Society with the goals of analyzing and improving the efficiency of our operations, gaining community support, assuring the financial future of the Society, and fulfilling our mission.

Under the direction of esteemed consultant Anne Ackerson of Troy, NY, the Strategic Plan is being developed over a five-month timeframe into Spring 2020. The process began with information gathering that included surveys, interviews and self-assessment of strengths and weaknesses by board committees. Results of this research were presented at a retreat on January 11 led by Ms. Ackerson, with current and past board members, community stakeholders, and representatives of several other local historical societies.

The next step in the process is to draft a strategic plan framework that will develop into the actual Strategic Plan. We will use accepted success measures to guide prioritization and decision-making in finalizing the plan, and we will review and follow up continually to keep the process moving forward over future years.

We will report on further developments in writing and carry out the MSHS Strategic Plan.

### 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/>



## FFE's Artist in Residency Fundraiser



Watch for Friends for Education's (FFE's) High Mowing Seeds fundraiser February 23 - March 2. High Mowing is a Vermont seed company that specializes in organically grown seeds. All proceeds will go toward this year's Artist in Residency program. If you would like to support the arts in the school by purchasing high quality seeds, please contact Ashley Fioretti at 235-3000.



## Town Phone Directory

**Extra copies of the 2018-2020 Town Directory** (with the light blue cover) are still available at the

Library. If you are new to town, please stop by for your complimentary copy. If you have already received a copy but would like another, additional copies may be purchased for \$2.

While the next edition of the Directory will not come out for several years, Kimberly at the Library continually accepts changes and updates.

## 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.

## Homebound Service

The Library provides **delivery service of books and movies** to those who are unable to visit the Library, whether on a temporary or a permanent basis. Large print and audiobooks are also available. Call the Library at 235-2435 or E-mail [middletownspring-library@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspring-library@gmail.com) to place a request. The [Library collection](#) can be viewed online at the Library's website (<https://middletownsprings.wordpress.com/>).

Not sure what you want? Talk with Melissa or Kimberly and they will help connect you with something new to read or watch.

# Calendar of Events

## February

Planning Commission	Mon 3	4:30 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 3	7 - 9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 4	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Wells Springs Board	Wed 5	6 pm	WES
Historical Society	Thurs 6	7 pm	MSHS
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 11	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 11	7 pm	Library
Friends For Education (FFE)	Wed 12	7 pm	School
Selectboard	Thurs 13	7 pm	Town Office
First Response	Sun 16	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 18	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 19	7 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 25	6:30 pm	Firehouse
<b>School District Annual Mtg</b>	<b>Wed 26</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Wells School</b>
Selectboard	Thurs 26	7 pm	Town Office

## March

<b>Town Meeting Food Sale</b>	<b>Mon 2</b>	<b>5:30 - 7:30 pm</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Town Meeting Info Mtg</b>	<b>Mon 2</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Town Meeting VOTE</b>	<b>Tues 3</b>	<b>7 am-7 pm</b>	<b>MSHS</b>
Friends of the Library	Tues 3	7 pm	Library
Wells Springs Board	Wed 4	6 pm	MSES
Historical Society	Thurs 5	7 pm	MSHS
<b>Pie For Breakfast</b>	<b>Sat 7</b>	<b>8-11 am</b>	<b>School</b>
Planning Commission	Mon 9	4:30 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 9	7 - 9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 10	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Selectboard	Thurs 12	7 pm	Town Office
<b>Maple Festival</b>	<b>Sun 15</b>	<b>1 - 4 pm</b>	<b>MSHS</b>
First Response	Sun 15	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 14	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends for Education (FFE)	Wed 15	7 pm	School
<b>Property Taxes DUE</b>	<b>Mon 16</b>		
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 17	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 24	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 25	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 26	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 31	6:30 pm	Firehouse

*Calendar Events – subject to change.*

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

## Town Meeting 2020

### Wells Springs District Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 7 pm at the Wells Village School

### Informational Town Meeting

Monday, March 2, 6:30 pm at the School Note start time!

**Food Sale - Dinner & Desserts 5:50 - 7:30 pm**

### Town Meeting Vote

Tuesday, March 3, 7 am - 7 pm at the Historical Society

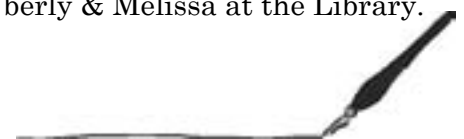
## TOWN NEWSLETTER

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.

