

middle TOWN NEWS letter

March 2020

Maple Fest Offers Sweet Fun

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

The event will feature a demonstration of early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire by Phillip Mahar. Local sugarmaker Ryan Mahar and historians David Wright and Jon Mathewson will give a presentation on maple sugaring history and current practice using examples from the Historical Society collection.

Homemade soup and chili from Sissy's Kitchen, delicious maple desserts created by Historical Society members, and Vermont maple products and new 2020 syrup will be available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar on snow, pancakes and syrup, and maple cotton candy are always favorites.

Acoustic music by Paul Morgan & Friends and kids' activities enliven the free afternoon event. Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown continuously.

The silent auction offers include golf passes; 100 gallons of heating oil; genealogical research; a wine and cheese basket; a Vermont Country Store gift basket; craft items, lessons and services by local professionals; homemade pies; maple syrup; dining gift certificates and other donations from area businesses.

A raffle drawing with many prizes including \$100 and \$50 in cash, maple syrup and maple products, craft items, and gift certificates from local businesses will be ongoing during the festival.

Exhibits on Middletown Springs history in the Museum are on view during the festival. Admission is free and the building is handicap accessible.

For more information about the Maple Festival call David Wright at 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at 235-2421.



Town Meeting 2020 Unofficial Election Results

The Middletown Springs 2020 Town Meeting had a moderate turnout of 75 to 80 in attendance at the Monday informational meeting, but a whopping 452 voters participating in Tuesday's election. This is the largest single election turnout in years, beyond even the 2016 presidential election. Thanks to all for coming out and making your positions known.

National

In the Democratic Party primary, Bernie Sanders won roughly half of the total vote, with Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren as distant seconds.

- Bernie Sanders—129 of 259 total Democratic votes cast
- Joseph Biden—44
- Elizabeth Warren—42
- Michael Bloomberg—28
- No others over 10

In the Republican Party primary, Donald Trump ran roughly unopposed, and received 87% of the total 135 votes in that race.

Wells Springs School District

Clarence Haynes ran unopposed for the available Middletown Springs seat, and won overwhelmingly. There was no named candidate for the Wells seat, and the school district board will consider the write-

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Pie for Breakfast

Saturday, March 7

8 - 11 am, at the School

More details on page 3



3rd Quarter Property Tax

Due Monday, March 16

more info on page 2

The Treasurer 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

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ins that they have received.

The school district budget passed narrowly, 344 yes to 305 no.

Middletown Springs Town Officers

There was a single contested race in Middletown Springs, the 3-year Selectboard seat. That seat was won by Neil Russell, with 258 votes to Sean Ruck's 153. The 2-year Selectboard seat was uncontested, and Heather Grier received 282 votes, with Bill Reed receiving 97 write-in votes.

All other standing candidates were elected easily: Randy Kniffin (Lister), Clare Heitkamp (Library Trustee), Maynard [Bud] Yost (Planning Commission), Dan McKeen (Copeland Church Fund Trustee), and Kimberly Bushnell (Moderator). A number of other positions received meaningful numbers of write-ins, and the incoming Selectboard will begin to contact those vote leaders to determine their interest in serving.

Middletown Springs Town Articles

There were really only two articles that were in question.

- Article 8, the question of whether to continue the Rutland County Sheriff's Department patrol, passed with roughly 54% of the vote, 235-202.
- Article 9, the question of whether to move forward with the petitioned Town Office plan, failed with roughly 22% of the vote, 99-341.

In top-to-bottom detail, expressed in Yes/No, and not counting blanks:

- 2: Auditors' report—370/59
- 3: Ratification of 2019 Election—324/83
- 4: Town general budget—274/161
- 5: Town highway budget—304/136
- 6: Tax Stabilization fund—324/108
- 7: Surplus to Town Facilities fund—287/136
- 8: Sheriff's Department— 235/202
- 9: Town Office—99/341
- 10: MS Fire Department—309/130
- 11: Poultney Rescue Squad—384/54
- 12: MS First Response—396/45
- 13: RAVNA—358/80
- 14: VT Green-Up Day—361/63
- 15: Rutland Mental Health—304/118
- 16: SW VT Council on Aging—321/104
- 17: BROCC—282/138
- 18: VT Center for Independent Living—309/112
- 19: VT Rural Fire Protection—318/103
- 20: Poultney Community League—268/149
- 21: Rutland Regional Ambulance—350/71
- 22: NewStory—298/127
- 23: Rutland County Humane Society—330/94
- 24: RSVP/Volunteer Center—257/163

25: Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District—274/149

26: NeighborWorks—247/173

27: ARC—276/146

28: Rutland County Parent/Child Center—281/143

29: VT Association of the Blind & Visually Impaired—321/118

30: American Red Cross of VT/NH—332/104

31: Mentor Connector—236/196

32: Child First Advocacy Center—319/118

33: Pleasant View Cemetery Association—342/97

34: Rutland Regional Marketing Initiative—233/206

35: Front Porch Forum—309/129

36: Big Heavy World—225/210

Thanks to a great team of election workers for a tightly-run day under remarkable pressures of voter turnout.

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 16th 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!

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.

Many thanks in advance to all the pie bakers!

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



Library Seed Swap!

Annual Seed Swap is open for business! The 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.

Blind Date with a Book



More than 50 people participated in this year's Blind Date with a Book. We had more than a few happy readers who found a book they would not have otherwise read. Of course there were also a few "why did I ever think this would work out?" moments. AND, two happy winners of the raffle for a box of chocolates.... Pacifique Holliman and Kelley Beckwith.

Library Hours

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

235-2435

middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

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.

New at the Library

NEW in the ADULT COLLECTION

The End is Always Near by Dan Carlin

Thief of Tales by S.A. O'Hungerdell

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim Michele Richardson

NEW in the CHILDREN'S ROOM

A Tiger Like Me by Michael Engler

The Good Egg by Jory John

Good Boy by Sergio Ruzzier

Moon A Peek-Through Picture Book

by Britta Teckentrup

Because by Mo Willems

NEW MOVIES on DVDs

Bombshell

Harriet

Judy

Joker

The Lighthouse

Little Women

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Parasite

Rocketman

Toy Story 4

Toddler Time

Toddler Time is ongoing. Join Melissa & friends for stories, songs, and a snack. Tuesdays at 10:30 am, thru April 7 (not 3/31), and April 28 - May 19. Designed for tots and toddlers and their caregivers.

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

Calendar of Events

March

Town Meeting Food Sale	Mon 2	5:30-7:30 pm	School
Town Meeting Info Mtg	Mon 2	6:30 pm	School
Town Meeting VOTE	Tues 3	7 am-7 pm	MSHS
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 3	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 3	7 pm	Library
Wells Springs Board	Wed 4	6 pm	MSES
Historical Society	Thurs 5	7 pm	MSHS
Pie For Breakfast	Sat 7	8-11 am	School
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
Conservation Commission	Thurs 12	5:30 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 12	7 pm	Town Office
Maple Festival	Sun 15	1-4 pm	MSHS
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
Property Taxes DUE	Mon 16		
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
Rabies Clinic	Sat 28	10:30-11:30 am	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 31	6:30 pm	Firehouse

April

Wells Springs Board	Wed 1	6 pm	WES
Historical Society	Thurs 2	7 pm	MSHS
Planning Commission	Mon 6	4:30 pm	Town Office
Knitting Circle	Mon 6	7-9 pm	Library
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 7	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends For Education (FFE)	Wed 8	7 pm	School
Conservation Commission	Thurs 9	5:30 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 9	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 14	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Friends of the Library	Tues 14	7 pm	Library
First Response	Sun 19	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 21	6:30 pm	Firehouse
Library Trustees	Wed 22	7 pm	Library
Selectboard	Thurs 23	7 pm	Town Office
Fire Dept. Training	Tues 28	6:30 pm	Firehouse

Calendar Events – subject to change.

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

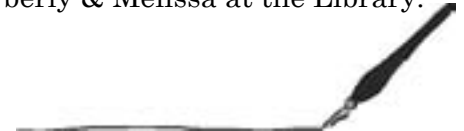
TOWN NEWSLETTER

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.

Rabies Clinic

Saturday, March 28

10:30 - 11:30 am

at the Middletown
Springs

Town Office "Annex"

\$15 per animal

Representatives from the Fair Haven Animal Hospital will vaccinate your beloved cat or dog. All dogs must be leashed and all cats must be in an appropriate carrier/crate.

Town Clerk will be available to issue dog licenses which are required by Vermont State Law with an April 1 deadline.

