

middle TOWN NEWS letter

October 2020

Guidelines For Voters

The Board of Civil Authority is sharing these guidelines to ensure your vote is counted.

Ballots should be arriving in your mailbox. They have been sent directly from the Secretary of State's office based on the town checklist. The ballots are due to voters between September 21 and October 1.

You can check your REGISTRATION STATUS and get other information at: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

If you have NOT RECEIVED a ballot and believe that you are registered to vote in Middletown Springs, contact the Town Clerk or any member of the Selectboard or Board of Civil Authority. Ballots can be delivered to those who have not received them and to those who are not able to get to the town clerk's office because of illness or disability.

If you are NOT CURRENTLY REGISTERED but you are a resident and legal voter in Middletown Springs, and you want to vote on November 3, contact the Town Clerk, or the Secretary of State's office at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Voter Registration forms are also available at the Library.

IMPORTANT STEPS – READ CLOSELY!

- The ballot has two sides to fill out.
- Use a black pen or pencil to fill in the bubble beside the name of the candidate you are voting for.
- For write-in candidates, fill in the bubble next to the name you have written.
- SEAL THE BALLOT IN THE ENCLOSED BALLOT ENVELOPE.
- SIGN YOUR NAME on the ballot envelope or your vote will NOT be counted.
- Put your RETURN ADDRESS on the outer mailing envelope so we can register that your ballot has arrived.

Again, you should be able to check on the status of your ballot (received or not) on the Secretary of State's website here: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>.

Mail your completed ballot from the post office or deliver it to the Town Clerk who will put it in a sealed box for safe-keeping until election day. The Town Clerk's office is open as noted below.

If you are voting by mail, please be sure to get your ballot to the post office by OCTOBER 24.

Ballots may be returned directly to the Town Office until the polling place closes at 7 pm on November 3, but you are encouraged to DELIVER YOUR BALLOT IN PERSON OR BY MAIL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

Additional information on the election is available at the Secretary of State's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/> and there is a very valuable page of Frequently Asked Questions: <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/voter-faqs/#q17>.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Town Clerk - Laura Castle: 235-2220

Chair of Selectboard and Board of Civil Authority -

Terry Redfield: 235-2084

Selectboard Clerk - Patty Kenyon: 235-2707

Selectboard Members

Heather Grier: 236-7643

Carl Haynes: 235-1264

Neil Russell: 786-9239

Board of Civil Authority Members:

Elizabeth Cooper: 235-1406

Martha Heitkamp: 235-2342

Pat Hemenway: 235-2421

Nora Rubinstein: 235-2093

Leslie Silver: 235-2335

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday and Tuesday 9 am-12 pm & 1 pm- 4 pm

Friday 1 pm- 4pm Saturday 9 am-12 pm

Large Dumpster Day

Saturday, October 3
6 am-12 pm

Details on page 2

Large Dumpster Day

The Town of Middletown Springs will be conducting our semi-annual Large Dumpster Day this coming **Saturday, October 3, 6 am-12 pm**. The event will be held at the 577 West Street property across from Parker Water Wells.

Masks are required to be worn to help ensure the safety of our staff members working on Saturday, and all Social Distancing standards will be observed. Items accepted at Large Dumpster Day include the usual bulky furniture items (sofas, chairs, old mattresses), larger children's toys, small amounts of your construction/demolition debris, and other unwanted items. **NO CONTRACTORS**, please.

Hazardous materials such as waste oil, paints, car batteries and the like are **NOT** accepted here. These items must be disposed of at the periodic SWAC-sponsored events held elsewhere in Rutland County.

Old tires will **NOT** be accepted.

There is a \$5 per vehicle load charge, with an additional \$5 charge for tow-behind trailers.

Household refuse is **NOT** accepted at the West Street location. It and clean, dry boxboard/cardboard material, along with glass bottles, rinsed cans, and recyclable materials need to be taken to the Fort Dumpster location. Metals-only loads will be accepted at no charge; we ask that mixed loads of metals and discardable items be separated as much as practicable to aid in the disposal process.

Large appliances such as stoves, washing machines, and dryers may be disposed of here. Other appliances containing refrigerants such as freezers, refrigerators, air-conditioners, de-humidifiers, and the like need to be brought to the Fort Dumpster location and are subject to a \$20 per item fee.

THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGES THAT MAY OCCUR DURING THE LOADING OR UNLOADING PROCESS.

Spark Grants Available

Spark Connecting Community grants, from the Vermont Community Foundation, put building and nurturing community front and center. They aim to support grassroots work that builds social capital, the connective tissue of our communities. Social capital can be described as the value developed from working together, connecting across social networks, and sharing common place-based experiences. The more social capital a community has, the stronger

and more resilient those communities will be, providing desirable places for us to live, work and play. Higher levels of social capital are correlated with better health outcomes, higher educational achievement and increased civic engagement.

- ✓ They are looking to fund projects throughout Vermont.
- ✓ They are looking for projects where a small grant can make a big difference.
- ✓ They want to collect stories and share them widely, to help create even more sparks that inspire more philanthropy.

This grassroots grantmaking model focuses on strengthening community connections that lead to action and impact. This is a grant round for local champions who are collaborating with others; we want to help you turn your idea into a reality! The second round of 2020 Spark grant funding will prioritize applications whose efforts:

- ✓ demonstrate creative strategies for keeping people engaged and connected to each other and to their communities while maintaining physical distancing as appropriate;
- ✓ propose thoughtful strategies to educate communities on topics of racial equity and justice; and/or
- ✓ facilitate local conversations on topics of diverse and welcoming communities.

For more info, contact grants@vermontcf.org.

Vermont Unused Medication Take-Back

Pick up a mail-back envelope at the Town Library. Visit www.healthvermont.gov to learn more about the program, including what can and cannot be mailed.

Milestones

If you have a Milestone, such as news of a birth, marriage, or death that you would like recognized here, please send it to middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

Time to Replace Your Face Mask?

Even the best cloth masks don't last forever. Middletown Springs has received 190 cloth face masks from VT Emergency Management. They're available for free at the Town Office, Library, and Grant's Village Store.

Cultural Relief Grant

The Historical Society Board has received a \$5,000 Cultural Relief Grant. The grant program is a partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities Council to provide rapid-response funding to arts and humanities organizations facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants are made possible with federal funds distributed through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Among the intended uses of the funding are operating expenses, including utilities, security, insurance and building maintenance, that normally would be paid by revenue from fundraising activities like our Maple Festival and Strawberry Festival, which were curtailed or cancelled this year. Some of the funds are being used to repair the roof on the springhouse in the Mineral Springs Park, which is owned and maintained by MSHS.

In accordance with the terms of the grant we are asked to state that this grant award is *“supported in part by the Vermont Humanities Council”* and that *“Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent those of Vermont Humanities Council.”*

Community Calendars – Last Call

It's time to send in your orders, payments, and updates for the Community Birthday Calendar. Between the calendar pages for June & July there was a [re-order form](#). Send it in now to be included in the 2021 calendar. All proceeds benefit the Town Library.

Don't know what we're talking about? Stop in at the Library and we will show you this year's calendar. It is a long-standing tradition as well as a fund-raiser for the Library.

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

Be the FIRST to Know!

Keep up to date on the news, events, and newest titles at the Library. Sign up for the Library's periodic E-News at <https://mailchi.mp/2cab7316f313/librarynewssignup>.

We need your permission to add your email to the list of *Library News* subscribers which you can provide by following the link above or by calling or [emailing](#) the Library.

Library News

The Library is currently open for walk-in service, as well as no-contact porch pick-up.

Monday 2 pm - 5 pm

Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm

Wednesday 2 pm - 5 pm

Friday 10 am – 2 pm ... or by appointment

For walk-in service, protocols include masks required, and one household at a time. Call 235-2435 or [email](#) your questions or book requests. For porch pick-up, we will contact you when your order is ready.

Returns: All returns are quarantined for at least 72 hours before being checked back in and shelved.

Inter-Library Loans: Inter-Library Loan (ILL) allows patrons to have access to the collections in all Vermont Libraries. Most items arrive within 7 to 10 days. Take a look at the [CLOVER Catalog](#). You will not be able to place requests directly; [email](#) or call the Library and we will do it for you.

BYO...Books!

Join in a new monthly gathering of book lovers. Pour your beverage of choice and meet us on Zoom for an hour to talk about books. Kimberly will be there to highlight some of the new books to the Library's collection. Bring a book or two that you've recently read to tell others about!

We will take notes on all the books that are mentioned and that list will be sent out by email to any library patron who subscribes (so even if you don't like Zoom you can still participate).

Scheduled for 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Please sign up in advance. A new link will be sent each month. If you like the idea but not the date, let us know that too as there may be some other options. Lastly, if you would like the book list delivered to your inbox, tell us that too. 235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

Lively Library Lunchtimes

The Library is developing a Short Story Discussion series. The stories will be selected by the librarians and available on the internet. The group will meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm on Zoom. Take a break from your day, grab your lunch, and join us. Interested? Please contact the Library at 235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com for more information.

Calendar of Events

In response to Governor Phil Scott's order to minimize gatherings, the Middletown Springs Select-board has encouraged all Town boards and committees to meet only for urgent decisions. This may mean that some regularly scheduled meetings are cancelled or postponed, while others are held at their normal time and place but with electronic participation rather than in-person attendance. Please check with the following people to see whether a meeting will be held at its usual time and place, and the preferred method for remote participation.

Regular Meeting Schedule & Chair or Contact Person

Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs	Elizabeth Cooper
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues	Joe Castle
First Response	3 rd Sun	Carl Haynes
Friends for Education (FFE)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Tues	Ashley Fioretti
Historical Society	1 st Thurs	David Wright
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Peter Blekis
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	Terry Redfield
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	Terry Redfield
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed	Clarence Haynes

When public meetings do occur, those present must wear masks or facial covers and meeting organizers must set up the meeting space so that the recommended six feet of distance is maintained between participants.

The Vermont Secretary of State has updated, temporary guidelines for boards & committees to comply with **Vermont Open Meeting Laws**. You can find more information at <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretary-s-desk/commentary/updated-covid-19-impacts-and-considerations-for-open-meeting-law/>.

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 (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email 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.

Have questions? Call 235-2435, or email: middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com to reach Kimberly and Melissa at the Library.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
PO Box 1206
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly. Check it out at <https://frontporchforum.com/>.