

middle TOWN NEWS letter

February 2021

Maple Festival Raffle

This year's Historical Society's Maple Festival will be limited by the Covid-19 pandemic. The traditional in-person events have been cancelled - there will be no maple sap boiling demonstration, no maple desserts, cotton candy or sugar on snow. Due to common sense restrictions on large gatherings, there will be no display of antique maple artifacts and no lecture on sugar-making technique, antique and modern.

But we **will** still hold the Maple Festival Raffle, with a twist. It will be a "targeted" raffle where participants can "bid" on specific items. Here's how it works:

MSSH will soon be distributing a list of numbered raffle items and printed pages of tickets, five to a page. Tickets cost \$5 dollars each or \$20 for a page. Soon you will be able to go to our website, www.MiddletownSpringsHistoricalSociety.org, to see images of most of the raffle items and tickets you can download and print. Or contact us to have those photos, as well as tickets, sent to you.

To bid on a specific item, write the item number on the ticket and return it to MSSH with your payment. You can bid as many tickets on an item as you like or spread them over several items.

Mail your raffle tickets to us with your payment of \$5 per ticket, or 5 for \$20, postmarked **no later than Saturday, March 20**. Soon after that, we will draw winning tickets for each item on the list. We will notify the winners and arrange for delivery. If you have questions, call or email David Wright, 235-2376, montvert@vermontel.net; or Pat Hemenway 235-2421, ladyh@vermontel.net. Your donations to the Maple Festival Raffle are most appreciated!

All are welcome to join the Historical Society. Dues start at \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family.

Best wishes,

David Wright, President



Middletown Springs maple sugar camp, c. 1900, Kirby Kelley photo. MSSH collection

Drive-by Pie

Drive-by Pie will take the place of **Pie for Breakfast**, Middletown Springs Public Library's beloved annual fundraiser. For the last fifteen years, pie and library lovers have come together on the Saturday after Town Meeting to indulge in eating pie for breakfast. This year the Library trustees are offering whole pies for sale for \$18, **on Saturday, March 6**. These are by pre-order only. Pie orders may be placed online <https://forms.gle/rzQDrLjHuWYUffG98> or by calling the library (802-235-2435). **Orders are due by Wednesday, February 24**. Our crew of seasoned volunteer bakers will roll out their rolling pins and be ready to bake! Pie in March in Middletown Springs is the most delicious way we support our local Library. For more info, call or email the Library, middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 235-2435.



TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting Warning 2021 is available on the [town website](#) and posted around town.

Town Report for FY 2019-2020 has gone to the printer and will be mailed out later this month. A PDF copy has been posted to the [town website](#).

Town Informational Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1. It will be held virtually on Zoom. Guidance from the state indicates this is the best way to hold our informational meeting in order to safely allow everyone to participate.

Details will follow about how the meeting will run and how to join by computer, tablet, smartphone, or landline.



Town Meeting Voting: The Polls will be open on Tuesday, March 2, at the Historical Society building, from 7 am - 7 pm. Masks, social distancing, and the other Covid safety protocols from the last two elections will be in place. As always, early and absentee voting will be available. NOTE: unlike the general election, ballots will **not** automatically be sent to all registered voters. They must be requested.

To request **Absentee Ballots:** go to My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>) on the Vermont Secretary of State's webpage to log in and request that an absentee ballot be sent directly to you. If you cannot access My Voter Page, reach out to Patty Kenyon (pmhkenyon@vermontel.net) or Heather Grier (hgselectboard@gmail.com) for technical support.

Register to Vote: To register to vote in Vermont for the first time, go to <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>. Register online by Friday, February 26 to make sure your name appears on the Town checklist. Online registration is preferred. To register in person, make an appointment to go into the Town Office, or stop at the Library during open hours.

You must be a registered voter of Middletown Springs to vote at Town Meeting. To double check that you are, go to My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>). There is no deadline to register to vote! You may register to vote up to and including the day of the election.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

[Wells Springs Unified Union School District Warning](#) has been posted to the Middletown Springs website.

Watch for More Information: The WSUSD Board plans to mail additional information to district residents in mid-February. When the WSUSD Annual Report becomes available, it will be uploaded to the school district and town websites. Hard copies will be available by request.

As it becomes available, additional information about Town Meeting will be distributed via:

- Special Edition Newsletters (virtual & print)
- [Front Porch Forum](#)
- [Town Website](#) & [School District Website](#)

Annual District Informational Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2021. This Informational Meeting will be held virtually at the following link and serves as the Public Hearing.

- Link: meet-google.com/rhj-pzyq-mup
- or via phone: (US)+1 413-398-0250

(PIN: 478 471 336#)

Voting by Australian ballot will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Registered voters will vote in their respective towns. The polls will be open as follows:

Town of Middletown Springs, 7 am – 7 pm at the Historical Society Building.

Town of Wells, 10 am – 7 pm at Wells Town Hall.

Blind Date with a Book becomes... Arranged Marriage?



The Library had put this popular program on hold for 2021, since inviting people to handle wrapped books in the building was antithetical to our Covid protocols. But people let us know that they'd miss it, so we offer this:

February 10 – 20, there will be children's and adult (mostly fiction) books available both at the Library and at Grant's for you to take home and keep, as a **Valentine's gift**. These are newer, interesting, and compelling titles we've pulled from donations to our book sale.

Still blind: they're wrapped, so it's anybody's guess what's inside. But this year you get to keep your book (or donate it back when you're finished!).

Property Tax Reminder

Payment for **third quarter property tax** is due on or before **Monday, March 15, 2021**. Again, due to the Covid pandemic, taxes cannot be accepted in person inside the Town Office.

Remittance OPTIONS:

- **Mail** tax payments with a postmark of March 15 or earlier to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs 05757.
- **Drop** payments in the OUTDOOR black lock box on the Town Office building on or before March 15.
- If you would like a **receipt**, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Any taxes remitted or postmarked after the 15th incur a 1% interest charge, and will accrue monthly interest until paid.

Personal Income Tax Info:

Typically, tax preparation requires your Property Tax bill. Property Tax bills were mailed to you in August 2020. Please make the effort to locate that bill from your files in anticipation of filing your income taxes. Also, please note it is not the responsibility of the Town Treasurer to submit property tax bills to your tax preparer.

When filing income taxes, you'll need to declare your HOMESTEAD status in Vermont. Your declaration will affect your new tax rate for FY '21/22, 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) 828-2865 or visit their website at: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>.

Stay Healthy.

Jenny Talke Muniyak, Town Treasurer

LIBRARY NOTES

We continue to explore various options for service which balance keeping our building open to the public and staff/patron health and safety. We will keep you posted. If in doubt, call before you come.

No/Low Contact Pick-Up: We encourage patrons to call ahead with their requests and pick up with little or no contact. Library Catalog may be accessed at <https://middletownspringslibrary.org/>

Sometimes you just need to browse! We are still open for **walk-in patrons**, with these Covid-preventing protocols which must be followed.

- Masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing
- Maintain physical distance from the staff at all possible times.
- Maximum of 4 patrons at a time in the building.
- Visits are limited to 15 minutes.
- All returned items are quarantined for at least 4 days.

Inter-Library Loan service is available, increasing access to nearly all Vermont libraries' collections.

Current Hours: The Library is open for walk-in service, as well as no/low-contact pick-up.

Monday 2 pm - 6 pm

Tuesday 2 pm - 6 pm

Wednesday 2 pm - 6 pm

Friday 10 am – 2 pm

or by appointment

Unexpected Closings: The weather and other circumstances occasionally keep us from opening the Library during our regular hours. If in doubt, please call before you come.

Be well and stay safe, Kimberly & Melissa

NEW & New-to-us Books at the Library

These titles were added to the Collection in January. Books designated with an (*) were purchased with a generous donation from the Friends of the Library. Others were donated by readers in the community. Thank you kindly!

Adult

It Happened in Vermont by Mark Bushnell

This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell*

Conversations with RBG by Jeffrey Rosen

Detective Inspector Huss by Helene Tursten

Just for Fun Classic Rock Ukelele

Children's

One Yellow Sun by Michael Arndt*

Kindness Makes Us Strong by Sophie Beer*

Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats by

Alicia Potter*

Calendar of Events

In response to Governor Phil Scott's order to minimize gatherings, the Middletown Springs Selectboard 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 of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti
Historical Society	1 st Thurs	David Wright
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Hilary Solomon
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/secretarys-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/>.