

middle TOWN NEWS letter

April 2021

Under Construction: Updated 2021-2023 Town Directory

Please help make the 10th Edition of the Middletown Springs Phone Directory as accurate and complete as possible! The goal by summer is to provide every household in town one free copy, and we need your help.

RESIDENTIAL Phone Listings & Changes: New in town? Change your number, name or address? Know someone who has moved? Send us your CHANGES and NEW RESIDENTIAL listing.

Please refer to the current directory to determine if changes need to be made to your listing or to create a new one. If you don't have a copy, just stop by the Town Office or the Library.

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit your name, street/road, and phone number. **Questions?** contact: Pat Hemenway (Ladyh@vermontel.net/235-2421) or Kimberly Bushnell (kimberly.bushnell@icloud.com/235-9626).

Free! BUSINESS & SERVICES Listings: Add/change a business listing for your Middletown Springs-based business or service. Just review the current directory and use it as a guide, then click the link below to send in your information, or call us to help you develop your listing(s). Please note that if your business does not generally fit into any of the existing categories, we can create a new one. Middletown Springs businesses only, please!

[CLICK HERE](#): to list your business name, your name, up to 6 words of description, and phone number. **Questions?** Leslie Silver (lsilver@vermontel.net/235-2335) or Kathleen Feeley (kbf44@icloud.com/235-2131).

ADVERTISING: In addition to the free listing, consider including a paid ad in the ADVERTISING section for greater visibility and long-term exposure for your Middletown Springs business. The printing and distribution of the directory are paid for entirely through advertising fees. Ad fees remain the same for 2021. Watch FPF for details soon, or contact us.

Thank you! *The Phone Directory Volunteers*

Got Poetry?

April is Poetry Month, and the Friends of the Library encourage folks to submit a favorite poem (maybe even written by yourself) to Front Porch Forum or post to our [Facebook page](#). Also, if anyone is interested in participating in a Zoom poetry share, please let Ashley Fioretti know at vtlittleflower13@gmail.com.

Gratitude for the Support of So Many

The Historical Society thanks everyone who participated in the 2021 Maple Raffle!

Thanks to the businesses, members, and other supporters in town (and from as far away as Florida), who donated the 96 items we offered for targeted mini raffles and a general raffle.

You can still see the items at the website <https://www.middletownspringshistoricalsociety.org/>. And thanks to all who bought raffle tickets.

You are important to the ongoing success of the Museum, the Mineral Springs Park, and the Historical Society!

Green Up Day

Mark Your Calendar!
Celebrate spring, community and our state! Pick a road, grab a bag and do your part! Green Up Day is **Saturday, May 1**. Help pick up roadside litter and make our state shine.



Green Up bags will be available beginning Monday, April 26 at the Town Office and the Library. On Saturday, May 1, 8 am - 12 pm, Conservation Commission members will be on the Green right near Grant's Store with bags and sign up. You may sign up early by emailing naturewalk@vermontel.net or call 235-1406.

The Library Fondly Remembers



Ursula A. Smith, 87, passed away at her home on February 25, 2021, after a year of declining health. She was born January 3, 1934, the second of four daughters to Jules F. Bertero, MD, and Mary L. (Connolly) Bertero of Santa Maria, California.

After teaching briefly, she married James F. Smith, settled in San Jose and later in Bozeman, Montana, and devoted her years thereafter to the duties—and joys—of motherhood.

She was divorced in 1987 and began a new period of her life with Linda (Sellers) Peavy, with whom she founded P.S., A Partnership, a writing and editing business. Along with her four-decade editing career, she began researching and writing with Peavy, co-authoring numerous articles and books primarily devoted to western women's history. Their unique tandem-dialogue style gave voice to the women whose stories they presented on the Humanities Speakers Bureau circuit.

With Peavy, Smith moved to St. Louis in 1992 and then to Middletown Springs.

Ursula Smith is survived by Linda Peavy, her loving partner of thirty-plus years—and caregiver of the past year—and by her six children and their spouses, and by her six grandchildren. She also leaves behind a loving circle of friends in Middletown Springs.

Ursula's love of books was a constant in her life, and donations can be made in her name to Middletown Springs Public Library, P.O. Box 1206, Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757 or online at <https://middletownspringslibrary.org/>.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

News from the Town Clerk

Dogs! A Reminder and Pricing Correction

2021 licenses for dogs 6 months or older were due on or before April 1. The costs this year have increased and are as follows:

- \$9 fee for a neutered male or female
- \$13 fee for a non-neutered male or female

New Dog License Information: Because we are in an official state of emergency due to COVID-19, late fees are currently waived. You have a bit of a reprieve, but please do still come in as soon as you can to register your dog. If you are not comfortable coming in person, you can mail your check and your current rabies certificate to the town office at PO Box 1232, MTS 05757 and I will register your dog by mail. Tags will be returned to you with your receipt.

Thanks for being a responsible pet parent.

Reminder about New Office Hours!

The Town Office is open from 9 am - 4 pm on Monday and Tuesday and 1 pm – 4 pm on Thursday and Friday. There are no longer regularly scheduled Saturday hours. Please plan accordingly, but know that I am available for appointments outside of regular hours when necessary. We ask all researchers to make appointments ahead of time. To make an appointment, call or email the Town Office: 235-2220, middletown@vermontel.net.

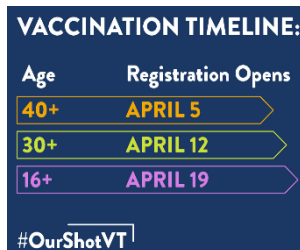
Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk

Vaccination Information

[Vermont Department of Health](#) (VDH) has up-to-date and accurate information about Covid-

19 and vaccinations. Vaccination appointments are currently available for Vermonters age 50+, as well as several other groups of people. Sign up on the VDH website.

The New York Times published this interactive tool to help you decide [What Can You Do Once You're Vaccinated?](#) The article does mention repeatedly that it is ultimately up to you and the level of risk you're willing to take.



Notes from the Town Treasurer

Town Treasurer Contact Information: Email is still the preferred, most expeditious method of communicating with the Town Treasurer, as we continue to limit Town Office access due to Covid.

Email: mtstreasurer@vermontel.net

Mail: PO Box 1022

Phone: 235-3256 (direct line to the treasurer)

Homestead Declaration: For questions about the Homestead Declaration to include in your Income Tax remittals, contact the Vermont Department of Taxes directly:

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

802-828-2505

Need Property Tax info for your Income Taxes?

Use the copy of the Property tax bill that was mailed to you in August, or, if you're a new property owner, use the copy that was provided to you during your closing.

Helpful Hint: when you receive your new property tax bill for FY21/22 in August – hang on to it for use in next year's Income Taxes. It is your responsibility to forward your tax bill to your tax preparer.

Notice: The 2020 Homestead Declaration is due at the same time as Federal and State taxes, May 17.

Library News:

NEW & New-to-us Books!

Adult Fiction

The Law of Innocence by Michael Connelly

Finlay Donovan is Killing It by Elle Cosimano

**The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

**The Vineyard at Painted Moon* by Susan Mallery

Eight Perfect Murders by Peter Swanson

Adult Non-Fiction

**Black is the Body* by Emily Bernard

Under a Fig Tree by Sandra M. Levesque

Young Adult Fiction

**Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas

Kid Chapter Books

**Alone* by Megan E. Freeman

**Rowley Jefferson's Awesome Friendly Adventure* by Jeff Kinney

**Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid* by Jeff Kinney

Picture Books

**Catch That Chicken!* by Atinuke

**I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes

**The World Needs More Purple People* by Kristen Bell & Benjamin Hart

**Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry

**Where Happiness Begins* by Eva Eland

**The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson

*These books were purchased with the support of the Friends of the Library.

Public Library's Virtual Resources

These resources are available with a Middletown Springs Public Library library card. **Don't have a card?** Stop in the Library or email and we can sign you up for one. **Don't know your library card number?** We will look it up for you. If you have questions, comments, or need help, please [contact us](#).

[Universal Class](#)

[Learning Express Library](#)

[Vermont Online Library](#)

[Free Audiobooks & e-books](#)

Keeping the Building Open

No/Low Contact Pick-Up: We encourage patrons to call ahead with their requests to 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 COVID-preventing protocols which must be followed.

Library HOURS: 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 - 7 pm (newly extended)

Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Saturday 10 am – Noon





Library Seed Swap

The annual seed swap is open for business! With donations from Biondi's Florist and Greenhouses and High Mowing Seeds to supplement our swap, we have a wide selection of varieties to share across the community. We have envelopes for you to divide packets into, to make it easy for you to take what you will use. Still time to start tomatoes and peppers!

Contributing your extra seeds from the past couple of years is great, but not required. We welcome any seeds you have to share.



As of July 1, 2020, Vermonters were required to divert their food scraps from the trash. Our team is hosting virtual workshops to discuss the ins and outs of backyard composting as well as other options residents

have. The workshop is designed to inform folks on new ways of thinking about our 'wasted' food. Whether you are composting for the first time or an experienced gardener, you'll be sure to walk away with a few new tips and tricks. Facilitated by Brian Sales (RCSWD). Contact the Rutland County Solid Waste District at (802) 775-7209 x 206 or the Solid Waste Alliance Communities at (802) 342-5701 for more information. [Registration link](#). Wednesdays: April 14 – 9 am, April 21 – 12 pm, April 28 – 3 pm.

Sole Proprietor Stabilization Grant Program

A second round of [sole proprietors' grants](#) from the VT Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) was recently announced. This additional funding will offer grants of between \$1,500 and \$10,000 to qualifying sole proprietors on a first come, first served basis. The application for this new round of funding will open on Monday April 5.

Milestones

Please [send in](#) the major events in your life. A birth, a death, a marriage, new job, or graduation. We will list them here.

Ready to Get Money Smart?

[Money Smart Week 2021](#), a national educational initiative coordinated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and American Library Association, begins **April 10** with daily short presentations and webinars. All events are **free** and open to the public. Register online.

- Day 1: Talking Cents
- Day 2: Savings: A Little Can Make a Big Difference
- Day 3: Bank On It: Finding Safe & Affordable Bank Accounts
- Day 4: Understanding the Basics of Federal Student Loans
- Day 5: Tax-Related Fraud + Identity Theft
- Day 6: Managing Personal Finances During Covid-19
- Day 7: Housing Protections + Resources
- Day 8: Tips for Managing Money Ups and Downs

Health and Wellness

Information from Vermont Department of Health

Take Care of Your Emotional and Mental Health

If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:

- Call your [local mental health crisis line](#).
- Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
- Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255.
- For more info visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.
- Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
- Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).

Food resources

If your financial situation has recently changed, you may now qualify for Vermont nutrition and food programs, including the WIC program (Women, Infants and Children) and 3SquaresVT/SNAP. Contact the [Health Department](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), or call 2-1-1 for more information.



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 virtually. 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 (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues	Joe Castle (235-2160)
First Response	3 rd Sun	Carl Haynes (235-1264)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1 st Thurs	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed	Clarence Haynes (235-2505)

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? Contact Kimberly and Melissa at the Library, middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 235-2435.

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/>.