

middle TOWN NEWS letter

June 2021

Strawberry Festival Returns on June 20!



The Historical Society Strawberry Festival will continue its 45-year tradition on Sunday, June 20, from 2-4 pm. Strawberry shortcake is the main event, with Dutton's Vermont berries, home-made biscuits and Stewart's vanilla ice cream. Music, crafts, and a painting demonstration by Peter Huntoon are also planned. Quarts of fresh berries will be available.

Come and enjoy a summer taste treat and be a part of this afternoon of fun!

Bloomin' Thanks!

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library would like to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who participated in this year's annual plant sale. We could not have done it without folks donating and purchasing plants. This was our most successful plant sale yet! Thank you everyone for helping us have a successful fundraiser to support our library.



Summer 2021 at the Library

Animal Story Time

Join Teacher Heather Heitkamp-Brown outside under the big shade tree, for stories with a snack! Weekly on Wednesdays at 10 am, June 23 – July 21.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

& Teddy Bear Breakfast Story Hour

Back by popular demand! Drop off is Tuesday, July 27, 2-6 pm. Pick-up at Story Time Wednesday, July 28 with music by Melissa. Watch for more details.

Plus, these ALL-AGE Activities

Take & Makes:

1. Pet Projects – learn to make your own pet toys, participate in the library's pet food drive, and other "pet projects."
2. Backyard Habitats – build a bug hotel, bird feeder, and a butterfly puddler to attach birds and pollinators to your backyard.

Town-wide SCAVENGER Hunt

Pick up a scavenger list (after June 15). Get out and explore the town. Gather items or take snapshots to the answers to the clues. Return the completed list to the library and win a prize.

Grab a new experience by the Tail!

Borrow a brand-new activity kit from the library. Purchased with a grant from Stewart's with the help of the Friends of the Library, each kit circulates for one week. Descriptions are listed on page 5. Available beginning June 15!

Stop in at the library, email or call for more info: middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com / 235-2435.

A Note from the Town Treasurer

Property Tax payments for the 4th and FINAL Quarter of Fiscal Year 20/21 are due on or before **Tuesday, June 15, 2021.**

Tax payments will be accepted as follows:

1. MAIL to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 (with a 6/15/21 or earlier postmark.)
2. **DROP BOX on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office** by the end of the day of 6/15/21.

Please DO NOT remit taxes to the Town Clerk.

There are NO exceptions for late taxes – **An 8% penalty will be imposed if taxes are received or postmarked after June 15** and will be forwarded to the Delinquent Tax Collector, Debra House, for collection.

Additionally, 1% interest fee will be charged for the first 3 months of delinquency, and 1.5% interest per month will be charged thereafter.

If you have any questions regarding tax payments, please contact mtstreasurer@vermontel.net

Thank you for your cooperation.

Jenny Talke Munyak

Nearly Last Call for the Town Directory

If you have not done so already, now is the time to submit additions or corrections to the town phone directory. If you are new in town, stop by the town office or the library and pick up the current edition to see what we are talking about. And then, send in your information! The Directory is only as complete and as accurate as you help make it.

RESIDENTIAL phone listings & changes: submit your name, street/road, and phone number online or contact: Pat (Ladyh@vermontel.net/235-2421) or Kimberly (kimberly.bushnell@icloud.com/235-9626).

Free! BUSINESS & SERVICES listings: submit the business name, your name, up to 6 words of description, and phone number for your Middletown Springs-based business or service listing online or contact Leslie (lsilver@vermontel.net/235-2335) or Kathleen (kbf44@icloud.com/235-2131).

Time is of the essence: please do it today!

Milestones

Births

Brennan Lloyd Fowler
born May 8, 2021
to Kaylie & Scott Fowler

June Pamela Rose Heering
born May 28, 2021
to Elizabeth Carmody & Matthew Heering

Deaths

Urban Bishop Ruitter
April 30, 2021 96 years

Clarence K. Haynes
May 21, 2021 70 years

Howard N. Robinson
May 17, 2021 88 years

Marriages

Thomas W. P. Slatin & Amelia P. Desertsong
May 24, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS to these High School Graduates

Fair Haven Union High School: Hailey Bourn

LiHigh School: Eugene King

Long Trail School: Soren (Erik) Ericksen, Henry Harding, Emma Luikart

Poultney High School: Aaron Haynes (& Stafford Technical), Hannah Noble, Christopher Ray

Mill River High School: Rachel Clark, Matthew Haskins, Olivia Jones, Emily Macias, Rose Tarbell, Galen Trapeni, John Verdon

Please [send in](#) the major events in your life: a birth, a death, a marriage, new job, or graduation. We will list them here. If you send a longer announcement we may need to edit for space but will do our best to keep the tone.

Howard Nolan Robinson

Howard Nolan Robinson passed peacefully at his home on May 17, 2021, just 12 days shy of his 89th birthday. He was born and grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma. His attendance at the University of Oklahoma was interrupted with his service in the U.S. Army in 1953, during the Korean War. His unit was sent to Germany where they guarded a then-top-secret atomic cannon, dubbed "Atomic Annie." He enjoyed the opportunity to travel throughout western Europe during his leaves.

After completing his military service, Howard returned to OU, graduating with a degree in English literature. In college, he spent his summers playing the piano with an old-time jazz group in Estes Park, Colorado, and after graduating he continued his jazz piano career full time in Denver, at times playing an upright piano that he wired up himself with different colors of Christmas tree lights attached near the top, each light wired to a different key, so people could sit at a distance and "see" all the notes he was playing.

Howard met his wife, Judy (Kelly), in 1963 in Boulder, Colorado; they were married a year later. He began a second career working in restaurants, with a goal of owning one himself. In 1976, they purchased a restaurant in Paonia, Colorado. He soon brought in a piano so he and other local musicians could have jam sessions on weekends. It was never clear who was having the most fun: Howard, or the restaurant patrons. They left Paonia in 1982 for Missoula, Montana, so that Judy could study economics at the University of Montana. Howard decided to go back to school himself to become a nurse. After transferring to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Howard graduated in 1987 with his second bachelor's degree and thus began his third career, in psychiatric nursing.

Throughout all these career changes, Howard was also helping raise three sons. He was a devoted husband to Judy and father to their boys, always loving, patient and kind, with an unflinching humility, grace and sense of humor. In 2001, Howard and Judy moved to Middletown Springs when Judy accepted a faculty position at Castleton University, and Howard continued his career as an RN in the psychiatric unit at Rutland Regional Hospital. Colleagues and patients

remarked on his compassion and ability to make his patients feel at ease through laughter. He retired in 2017.

He enjoyed the company of friends in town and helping out at community events. By then, the piano playing was purely recreational. He last played for his family just a few weeks before he died.

Howard is survived by his wife, their three sons and four grandchildren. Son David, his wife Gina and their children David and Isabella live in Middletown Springs.

Howard Robinson will be most remembered for his kindness, patience, generosity of spirit and unflinching sense of humor. Each of his three careers were all about serving others – he entertained them, he fed them, and he cared for those who were ill. He took life as it came; even in his final days he was quick to find the humor in things. A memorial celebration of his life will be held at the family home in June. All friends and acquaintances are invited. Commemorative donations may be sent to VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region at VNAHSR Philanthropy, 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland, VT 05701 or online at www.vermontvisitingnurses.org/donate.

Clarence K. Haynes

Clarence K. Haynes, 70, died Friday May 21, 2021 surrounded by his family, following a long illness. He was born July 21, 1950, the son of C. Ralph and Caroline (Kelley) Haynes. He graduated from Mount Saint Joseph Academy and from Vermont Technical College with a degree in Agribusiness.

Clarence married Sharon Snow in 1973. They were happily married for 47 years, building their home and family in Middletown Springs.

He worked for many years in agriculture in Rutland county, servicing farm equipment all around the area. He then spent more than 30 years as a rural letter carrier in the Wallingford, Poultney and Hampton, NY area. He retired from the USPS in 2009.

In his retirement, he maintained many of his civic duties, enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, and worked at various part-time jobs and on projects at home.

continued on next page

Clarence was very committed to serving his community his entire life. As a life-long resident of Middletown Springs, he held membership and leadership roles on the Volunteer Fire Dept, the Grange, the Select Board and the School Board. He also served as Assistant State Steward for the Vermont Rural Letter Carriers Association.

He was particularly committed to his work on behalf of the students and schools in Middletown Springs and surrounding areas. He was a member of the Middletown Springs Elementary School Board, as well as the newly formed Wells Springs School Board. He also served for years both as member and president of the Supervisory Union Board, as well as on the Vermont State School Board Association, serving as Chairman for a period of time, and was the Vermont delegate to the National School Board Association. He served as a mentor and a resource for board members, administrators and parents, and his presence and knowledge will be missed.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, son Daryl (Elaina) and their son Aaron, daughter Kristal (Justin) Hier and their daughters Molly and Bailey, Eric (Angela) and their children Max and Allie, and Kara and her children Hunter and Baby S, all of Middletown Springs; brothers Robert, Earl and Ray of Rutland and Carl of Middletown; sisters Alice Hoisington of Tinmouth and Susan Langdon of Tennessee, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, his grandparents Clarence and Alida Haynes and Kirby and Katherine Kelley, and brothers Mark and John (both of whom died in infancy), all of Middletown Springs.

The burial took place on Wednesday May 26 in the Pleasant View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, and in recognition of his years of tireless work to support students, please send memorial donations to:

Clarence Haynes Memorial Scholarship Fund
% GRCSU
16 Evelyn St., Rutland, VT 05701

Kid's Camp at the Church

Step right up to the one and only Wonder World Funfest! There's so much fun for everyone! Games, crafts, and snacks! Meet Vinny the Vendor and Hamilton the Pig! But what's most amazing is what we'll find in God's Word. That's where we'll learn about our truly spectacular, extraordinary Savior, Jesus! Come one, come all!

Middletown Springs Community Church Kid's Camp, July 19–23, from 9am–12 noon. Ages 5-12 welcome. To register your child, contact Rita at rjrjs5h@gmail.com or [235-2436](tel:235-2436).

One-and-done J & J Clinic

There is a FREE Covid vaccination clinic at the Pawlet Fire Department **Saturday, June 11, 4-7 pm**. Schedule an appointment by calling the Rutland County Free Clinic 802-775-1360 ext. 1. Walk-ins welcome as long as supply lasts (make an appointment to be sure). Johnson & Johnson one-and-done for 18 years and older, with no insurance required. Vaccinations performed by Vermont Dept. of Health. rutlandcountyyfreeclinic.org



Wells Springs Unified Union District is looking for a person who lives in Middletown Springs to fill a vacancy on the board. If you are interested in education and students in our community, please email Superintendent Christopher Sell (Christopher.Sell@grcsu.org) with a letter of interest.

Other Middletown Springs members of the Wells Springs Unified Union District are Meredith Morgan, Ryan DeCelle, and George Gonda. Talk to one of them about what being a school board member entails.

NEW & New-to-us Books at the Library

Adult Fiction

Afterlife by Julia Alvarez

Three Hours in Paris by Cara Black

The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Of Women and Salt by Garbiela Garcia

Whereabouts by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner

Sadie by Courtney Summers

One By One by Ruth Ware

Adult Non-Fiction

Complete Cat Care Manual by Andrew Edney

Handmade Soap by Tatyana Hill

The Book of Difficult Fruit by Kate Lebo

Homeopathy by Dr. Andrew Locke

The Spy and the Traitor by Ben Macintyre

Wildlife and Habitats by Susan Morse

Breath by James Nestor

Kid's Non-Fiction

Ogden Nash's Zoo by Etienne Delessert

Breaking Into Print by Stephen Krensky

Picture Books

I Heard it From Alice Zucchini by Juanita Havill

Sloth and Squirrel in a Pickle by Cathy Ballou Mealey

Zoe Gets Ready by Bethanie Deeney Murguia

The Enchanter's Spell by Gennady Spirin

I Love You, Little One by Nancy Tafuri

just maybe the fairies will come and join you. Learn about fairy houses as well as how to make delightful fairy food from the books included in this kit.

- **Checkmate** – Learn to play chess with this chess set and illustrated lesson book.
- **Catch a Falling Star** – Explore the night sky with these stargazing binoculars. Kit includes a stellascope, red LED flashlight and several books on the night sky, geared to various ages though adult.
- **Shapes and Colors** – Explore with the colorful Gemen Pattern Blocks (age 3+), shape stencils, and a box of 96 crayons. Kit includes drawing paper and a number of related picture books.
- **What's THAT?** – Learn more about tracks & scat identification. Kit includes Animal Tracks! game and field guides for all ages (through adult) as well as ink stamps of various animal footprints.
- **Hands Down Fun** – All you need is your hands for these fun & games. Kit includes fingerprint drawing with 10 colored ink pads, speed cups, cat's cradle, and more. Learn secret handshakes and sign languages as well!
- **Microscopic Explorations** – Check out this beginner's microscope and 48 pre-mounted slides and let your inner scientist out.

Have questions? Contact Kimberly and Melissa, middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 235-2435.

Check out an Activity from the Library

Purchased with a grant from Stewart's with the help of the Friends of the Library, each kit circulates for one week. Available beginning June 15!

- **The Circus is Coming to Town** – Brush up on your circus skills with juggling sticks, a Diablo, spinning plates, and more. Circus stories and how-to books included.
- **Abracadabra** – Learn some new magic tricks using playing cards and everyday objects; try out the magic tricks included in the Melissa & Doug Deluxe Magic Set. This activity kit includes several easy-to-follow books for all ages of would-be magicians.
- **Fairy Tea Party** – Set out the tea set, dress up in a set of wings, wave the magic fairy wand, and

Read for a Champlain Valley Fair ticket!

The Champlain Valley Exposition and the International Association of Fairs and Expositions are pleased to offer the 2021 Read & Win summer reading program for children (K-8) to read three (3) or more books this summer.

Who can't read three books in eight weeks?

1. Come register at the library.
2. Read a minimum of 3 books.
3. Get a ribbon that gives the reader free entry to the fair!

Program runs June 19 through August 15, 2021 (8 weeks).

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	Meredith Morgan (235-2059)

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.

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/>.