

middle TOWN NEWS letter

July 2021

Stuffed Animal Sleepover



Stuffed Animal Sleepover returns! On **Tuesday, July 27**, 2-6 pm, drop off your stuffed animals for a library overnight of games, pizza, and stories just for them. Stuffed animals should be confident sleeping away from their human for the night.

Return the next day (Wednesday, July 28) for pick up and to see photos of all the fun the animals had. Join your stuffed animal for our Teddy Bear Breakfast & final Story Hour, at 10 am. The alternative pick-up option is 2-6 pm during Library open hours.

School Board Needs YOU!

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.

Strawberry Thank You's

It was a beautiful day and a great day at the Strawberry Festival! People were happy to be outdoors enjoying themselves, tasting the delicious strawberry shortcake, listening to Paul Morgan and Jack McChesney make music, watching Peter Huntoon paint, enjoying the flowers, playing cornhole, and buying from local craftspeople.

This wonderful day would not be possible without the many volunteers who contributed so much to make it a success. We are grateful for each and every one and for all of those that attended this fun event! Thank you! MSHS Trustees



Sunday Soccer!

Sunday Soccer has returned for the summer! Sunday Soccer is fun, pick-up soccer for all ages. The time is 3 pm, Sunday afternoons, at the Middletown Springs Elementary School soccer field.

While we had to take a break for a couple years, Sunday Soccer has been a Middletown tradition for around 40 years, and we are excited to continue the multi-generational fun!



Note from the Town Treasurer

Property tax bills for the new fiscal year 2021/2022 will be mailed to you by mid-August. Calculations for our new property tax rate are in process and will take several weeks to complete.

Property taxes are a combination of the town/highway tax rate approved by the Select Board, and the school tax rate, calculated by the State of Vermont. For your interest, following is how our Property Taxes are created:

1. Our Listers compile the Grand List of the home values of all of our properties in town.
2. Then, the tax rate is calculated based on the total Grand List and the town and highway budgets that we approved on Town Meeting Day in March 2021.
3. At the end of July, the town/highway tax rate is calculated for Select Board review and approval.
4. The rate will then be applied to the value of your property to produce your share of town/highway taxes due.
5. Concurrently, the State of Vermont provides us with an educational tax rate and that rate is applied to the value of your property to produce your share of school taxes due.
6. Finally, the State of Vermont will download to Middletown Springs, a list of homestead rebates that will be applied to your tax bill, if you are eligible.

If you have any questions regarding **the status of your homestead rebate**, contact the Vermont Department of Taxes at: www.tax.vermont.gov

Mark your calendar. Your first payment for the new tax year will be due on or before September 15, 2021.

IMPORTANT: If your mailing address has changed, please advise. Also, If you have not received your new bill by mid-August, please email mtstreasurer@vermontel.net (or call 235-3256) and confirm your name, parcel address and mailing address.

Thank you,
Jenny Talke Muniyak

Milestones

Births

Daniel Robert Finnegan

Born June 9, 2021

to Elizabeth Carter & Alex Finnegan

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.

Kid's Camp at MSCChurch

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 9 am - 12 pm. Ages 5-12 welcome. To register your child, contact Rita at rjrjs5h@gmail.com or 235-2436.

NEW & New-to-us Books at the Library

Adult Fiction

Hour of the Witch by Chris Bohjalian

Perestroika in Paris by Jane Smiley

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

Adult Non-Fiction

No-Dig Gardening by Charlie Nardozzi

The Only Child of an Atomic Engineer by Thomas Slatin

Children's Books

Too Crowded by Lena Podesta

The Box Turtle Vanessa Roeder

Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library by Barb Rosenstock

We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone

Should Know by Traci Sorell

Freaky, Funky Fish by Debra Kempf Shumaker

What Makes a Rainbow? by Betty Schwartz

Thomas Jefferson For Kids by Brandon Marie Miller

Summer 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.



Town-wide SCAVENGER Hunt

Pick up a [scavenger hunt list](#) from the Library. All clues can be found without using the internet - in fact, the idea is for you to have fun getting out and about in Middletown Springs. Gather info and items, snap pics, and complete activities to “answer” the clues. Team up with family or friends! Return your sheet to the library by August 16 for a prize and a standing ovation! Answer 25 or more to be entered to win the grand prize of a simple-to-manuever kite with a tail!

The Games People Play

Did you know there are games to check-out from the library? Below is a list of the newest ones. We have many more to choose from. All games circulate for two weeks. NEW games include:



Dinosaurs floor puzzle
Farm Friends floor puzzle
Goodnight Moon
Inchimals
Pete the Cat Meow Match
Picture Charades

For a complete list of available games go to Library's [online catalog](#) and search by Call Number [GAM]. You will find 31 games for kids, families, and adults!

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.

- **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.
- **Abacadabra** – 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 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.
- **Brain Games!** – Learn to play chess with this chess set and illustrated lesson book. Kit includes other great brain games.
- **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. Adult supervision required, recommended for age 8+.

Tour de Slate



The 4th annual Tour de Slate fundraising bike ride will be held this year on **Saturday, August 7**. This event raises money for Teen Challenge Vermont in support of their efforts to help end addiction.

Visit www.tourdeslate.org or email info@tourdeslate.org.

Library Book Sale

Will there be one this year? That question has been on many people's minds including the Library Trustees'. At their recent meeting, it was decided they'd try for a fall book sale. That said, they also decided to put **a moratorium on book donations**. Having not had a sale since June 2019 and receiving donations during much of that time, the basement is bursting with books.

The one exception is children's books. The Library gives away children's books, used and in good condition, at multiple occasions though out the year which means there is always a need for more.

Consider being a book sale volunteer. There are many jobs and plenty of opportunity to work with your neighbors on behalf of the Library. The jobs include promotion, book sorting, set up and take down, as well as working at the sale itself. Best of all, book sale volunteers are invited to a Friday night preview sale with refreshments. If you are interested in becoming involved in the book sale, or would like more details, please contact Kimberly at the Library, 235-2435, middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

Golden Dome Book Award Nominees

The Vermont Golden Dome Book Award (formerly the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award) are here!



Kids, get a jump on reading from the new list this summer. Set a personal challenge of how many books you'll read from the list. Read at least five to be eligible to vote next spring.

Each year since 1957, Vermont students in grades 4-8 have selected their favorite book from the list of nominees. The year's nominees:

1. *Cinders and Sparrows* by Stefan Bachmann
2. *The Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling
3. *Fighting Words* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
4. *King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender
5. *Cub* by Cynthia L. Copeland
6. *My Life in the Fish Tank* by Barbara Dee
7. *Wink* by Rob Harrell
8. *Lupe Wong Won't Dance* by Donna Barba Higuera
9. *BenBee and the Teacher Griefer* by K.A. Holt
10. *When Stars are Scattered*
by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed
11. *When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller
12. *Snapdragon* by Kat Leyh
13. *Millionaires for the Month* by Stacy McAnulty
14. *Birdie and Me* by J.M.M. Nuñez
15. *Bloom* by Kenneth Oppel
16. *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park
17. *Things Seen from Above* by Shelly Pearsall
18. *Here in the Real World* by Sara Pennypacker
19. *Trowbridge Road* by Marcella Pixley
20. *Black Brother, Black Brother*
by Jewell Parker Rhodes
21. *Land of the Cranes* by Aida Salazar
22. *The Way Back* by Gavriel Savit
23. *Chance: Escape from the Holocaust*
by Uri Shulevitz
24. *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat
25. *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Happenings

Library Story Hour	Wednesday	July 7	10 am	Library
Library Story Hour	Wednesday	July 14	10 am	Library
Church Kid's Camp begins	Monday	July 19	9 am-12 pm	MSCC
Library Story Hour	Wednesday	July 21	10 am	Library
Stuffed Animal Sleepover	Tuesday	July 27	2 -6 pm	drop off at Library
Teddy Bear Breakfast & Story Hour	Wednesday	July 28	10 am	Library
Tour de Slate	Saturday	August 7		Town Green
Scavenger Hunt closes	Monday	August 16	6 pm	Library

Regular & Reoccurring

Conservation Commission	2nd Thurs /TBA	TBA	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30 pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2nd Wed / 7 pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7 pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 7 pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1st Mon /	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2nd & 4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1st & 3rd Thurs / 7 pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1st Wed	MSES/WES	Meredith Morgan (235-2059)

For more information about the possibility of joining any of these meetings virtually, please call the contact person listed.

Submit News & Events to:

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

Deadline: 25th of the month

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.

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/>.