

middle TOWN NEWS letter

February 2022



Blind Date with a Book

Stop in at the library February 1-14 and pick up your blind date. Festively wrapped children's and adult (mostly fiction) books are the library's valentine's gift to you. We've selected newer, interesting, and compelling titles from donations to our book sale. They're wrapped, so it's anybody's guess what's inside. Take a chance, who knows? You might just fall in love! If not, there won't be any hurt feelings (it's only a book, after all).

Happy Valentine's Day from the Library

Outdoor Story Time

Join Melissa and friends for an outdoor story time, with lots of movement, singing, and a book or two. Designed for our younger patrons but all are welcome.



This session will run Wednesdays at 10:30 am, through February 23. Put on your warm clothes and boots and join the fun. If it's nasty weather, we'll skip that week. Call or text Kimberly (287-0168) if you are unsure.

Saving a seat for you on the bunny bench!

Town Meeting 2022

Helpful links, dates, and other helpful reminders begin on page 2.

Drive-By Pie

The second annual Drive-By Pie will take place on Saturday, March 5, **by pre-order only**. This event is the library's famous Pie For Breakfast, reimagined with current Covid-protocols. The trustees are offering whole, fresh-baked and homemade pies for sale. These whole pies are \$18, with all proceeds supporting the library's annual operating budget.



For the last fifteen years, the library trustees have timed their pie fundraiser to land in early March. Between cabin-fever and town meeting, it's a great time to eat pie! Buy one for yourself, your neighbor, or as an unexpected surprise for someone.

Pie orders are due by Wednesday, February 23 and may be placed [online](#) or by calling the library (802-235-2435). Their crew of seasoned volunteer bakers are standing by and are ready to bake! Ordering pie(s) is a most delicious way to support the library. For more info, contact the library: middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 802-235-2435.

New Benches for Library Events!



Thanks to the ingenuity of the Derrendinger family!

TOWN MEETING - 2022

Town Meeting VOTING happens on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The polls are open 7am–7pm at the Historical Society dining room, where Covid-19 protocols will be in place.

The [Town Report for FY '20-21](#) is on the town website, and will be mailed to property owners and voters (one per household) once they arrive. There will be a few extra copies at the town office.

The [Town Warning](#) is in the Town Report and on the town website, and posted at the library, Crossman's, and the post office.

Town Meeting – Virtual INFORMATIONAL Meeting Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:30pm.

The link is on the Town Warning which can be found in the town report and on the town website's left sidebar (<http://middletownsprings.vt.gov>). The meeting can be accessed by computer, smartphone, tablet, or by calling in on the telephone.

How to access the virtual meeting:

- By land line telephone: Dial 1-929-436-2866 (charges may apply). When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 4383450591#, Passcode 15920.
- By computer: Join meeting by clicking here <https://zoom.us/j/4383450591?pwd=UkRKbnI2c28xcDhmcWJlTmE3UENkZz09> You may be prompted to enter a Meeting ID: 4383450591, Passcode 15920.
- By smartphone, tablet, or other device: download and open the Zoom meeting app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. **Select the option to join meeting** and enter the Meeting ID: 4383450591, Passcode 15920.

Please sign into Zoom early. The "doors will open" beginning at 6pm to avoid a long line at meeting time. Once you're in and situated, you can finish what you were doing and be ready when the meeting begins promptly at 6:30pm.

To help facilitate the meeting, please consider sending your questions on the specific articles to the Moderator (mtsmoderator@gmail.com) in advance of the meeting. There will be opportunities to ask questions during the meeting as well.

School Board Informational Meeting

The Wells Springs Unified Union Board of School Directors will hold its Annual Meeting virtually as follows:

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 7pm.

Remote: Join with Google Meet

<http://www.meet.google.com/pab-gdgg-iau>

Join by phone - 209-426-0994 PIN: 197 379 079#

The Board will present the proposed school budget to the public and will be available to answer questions. Please join us in support of your schools!

If you would like to review the annual report ahead of the meeting, please contact your local school, town office, or library. Additionally, the annual report will be made available online at <http://www.grcsu.org>.

In order to ensure a smooth annual meeting, we are encouraging community members to submit their questions in advance. These questions will be answered during the annual meeting. Your questions can be submitted to Kristine McGuiness at kristine.mcguiness@grcsu.org.

The [School District Warning](#) can be found on the town website.

The ballots will contain the question listed on the [town](#) and [school](#) warnings as well as candidates for office as follows:

Office	Candidate(s)
Town Moderator (1 Year)	Kimberly Bushnell
Selectboard (3 Years)	Carl P. Haynes Patty Kenyon
Selectboard (2 Years)	Heather Grier
Lister (3 Years)	Patricia Hemenway
Auditor (3 Years)	Juanita Burch-Clay
Library Trustee (3 Years)	Beth Miller
Library Trustee (3 Yrs/1 Yr Remain)	Alida Tarbell
Library Trustee (3 Yrs/2 Yr Remain)	Kristal Hier
Library Trustee (3 Yrs/2 Yr Remain)	Haley Kenyon
Trustee Copeland Church Fund (1 Year)	Rita Hansen
Trustee Copeland Cemetery (1 Year)	John Weatherhogg
Trustee Louis Fund & Other Public Monies (3 Years)	_____
Trustee Louis Fund & Other Public Monies (3 Yrs/1 Yr Remain)	David Carr
Planning Commission (3 Years)	_____
Planning Commission (3 Years)	_____
Planning Commission (3 Yrs/1 Yr Remain)	_____
Planning Commission (3 Yrs/2 Yr Remain)	_____

TOWN MEETING 2022– continued

2022 Absentee Ballot Requests

If you are planning to vote absentee, request an absentee ballot for 2022 elections now. To add your name to the list of people who will receive absentee ballots by mail in 2022, you need to complete an absentee ballot request form. State law allows for voters to request absentee ballots for a single election or for a full calendar year. **You must submit a new form each calendar year.** Here's where to obtain a request form:

- On the [town's website](#)
- On the [state's website](#)
- Through [Vermont's Online Portal](#)
- Pick up or request a form from the town clerk's office.

If you are not sure if you are on the absentee ballot list for 2022, check your status at <https://mvp.vermont.gov> or connect with Patty Kenyon, the town clerk.

The town clerk's office is open Monday & Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and Thursday & Friday from 1pm to 4pm. Town office phone: 802-235-2220; town clerk's email: middletown@vermontel.net


Register To Vote

To register to vote in Vermont for the first time, go to <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>. Register online by Friday, February 25 to make sure your name appears on the town's voter checklist. Online registration is preferred. To register in person, stop in the town office or 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 registered, go to [My Voter Page](#).

There is no deadline to register to vote! You may register to vote up to and including the day of the election. If you cannot access My Voter Page, you can check your registration status at the town office (802-235-2220 | middletown@vermontel.net).

For more information about TOWN MEETING: contact the Town Clerk, 802-235-2220, middletown@vermontel.net.



Late on your bills due to the pandemic?
Vermont's Homeowner Assistance Program
is now accepting applications

Learn more at vermonthap.vhfa.org **vhfa**

Register Your Dog

Vermont state law requires that all dogs or wolf-hybrids be licensed with the Town Clerk each year on or before April 1. All license fees add to funds required for the state's rabies and spay/neuter programs.

Licensure requires that all dogs or wolf-hybrids over the age of 3 months have a current rabies vaccination. Certification of vaccination must be on file with or presented to the Town Clerk at the time of registration.

Neutered or Spayed - \$9.00

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$13.00

If you are not comfortable coming into the town office to register your animal or if your schedule just doesn't fit the clerk's office hours, you can still get your pet registered. You can mail your payment and rabies certificate to the Town Clerk at PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs 05757 and I will complete the registration and mail you back the license and tags.

Clerk's office is open on Monday & Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and Thursday & Friday from 1pm to 4pm. Office phone: 802-235-2220 | Clerk's Email: middletown@vermontel.net

Please register your dogs!

Patty Kenyon

Town Clerk

MSHS Spring Raffle

With over 30 items, each valued at \$100 or more, the Historical Society kicks off its 2022 Maple Festival Raffle. Raffle items include original works by local artists and craftspeople, a gift certificate for 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy, a Killington Resort ski package, gift cards from local and regional stores and restaurants, and several Vermont gift baskets.

Participants can enter their tickets in individual item raffles, increasing their chances of getting what they want. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100. Tickets and payments must be returned by mail, postmarked by March 19. For a list of raffle items, tickets, and instructions, visit <http://www.MiddletownSpringsHistoricalSociety.org>.

For more information contact David Wright at 802-235-2376 or montvert@vermontel.net.

Efficiency Vermont Offers Rebates

If you're planning on improving the efficiency of your home or apartment this year, take a look at Efficiency Vermont's 2022 residential rebates list below. All offers are subject to availability and eligibility. Visit <http://www.encyvermont.com/rebates> for the most up to date listing.

Air Sealing and Insulation

- Comprehensive Weatherization: 50% off project costs, up to \$3,000 (completed by an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor)
- DIY weatherization: \$100 back on select do-it-yourself projects

Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating

- Air-to-water Heat pump: Up to \$1,000/ton rebate + \$500 income bonus
- Ducted Heat pump: \$1,000 off + \$200 income bonus
- Ductless Heat pump: Discount starting at \$350 + \$200 income bonus
- Ground source Heat pump: up to \$2,100/ton + \$500 income bonus
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$300-\$600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces & boilers: \$6,000 rebate
- Wood and Pellet Stoves: \$200 discount at select retailers

Appliances

- Heat Pump Clothes dryers: \$200-\$400
- Dehumidifiers: \$25-\$40

Electric Vehicles

- Federal tax credit: up to \$7,500
- State incentive: up to \$4,000
- Electric Utility incentive: \$500-\$2,500
- Income-eligible Vermonters can get up to \$5,000 more on a used EV through <http://MileageSmartVT.org>

Lighting

- Discounts on select ENERGY STAR LED fixtures at participating retailers
- LEDs for indoor growing: \$100 rebate for qualifying fixture

Income-Based Assistance

Additional help is available in the form of free lighting, appliances, energy consultations, and more. To find out if you are eligible, go to <http://www.encyvermont.com/free-products>.

New & New-to-us Books at the Library

Fiction

The Crossing Places by Elly Griffiths
The Skeleton's Knee by Archer Mayor
The Book of Form and Emptiness by Ruth Ozeki
Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral by Kris Radish
This Is Happiness by Niall Williams

Non-Fiction & Memoir

Pickled Pantry by Andrea Chesman
Find a Way by Diana Nyad
Taste: My Life Through Food by Stanley Tucci

DVDs

Home on the Range
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep
Call the Midwife - Season One
Call the Midwife - Season Two
Ceremony
Imax: Born to Be Wild

Children's Books

The Day It Rained Hearts by Felicia Bond
Love From the Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Bonaparte Falls Apart by Margery Cuyler
Valentine's Day by Gail Gibbons
The Magic & Mystery of Trees by Jen Green
How to Make Friends with a Ghost by Rebecca Green
Over, Bear! Under, Where? by Julie Hedlund
What's Inside a Flower? by Rachel Ignotofsky
Too Tall Houses by Gianna Marino
A Fish Out of Water by Helen Palmer
The Thankful Book by Todd Parr
Eastern Sun, Western Moon by Gary Paulsen
Cat Kid Comic Club: Perspectives by Dav Pilkey
Pluto Gets the Call by Adam Rex
School's First Day of School by Adam Rex
Fox and Hen Together by Beatrice Rodriguez
Der Huhnerdieb (The Chicken Thief)
by Beatrice Rodriguez
Gladys the Magic Chicken by Adam Rubin
Happy Birthday to You! by Dr. Seuss
Dr. Seuss's Sleep Book by Dr. Seuss
Someone Builds the Dream
by Lisa Wheeler and Loren Long
Opposites Abstract by Mo Willems
Everybody in the Red Brick Building by Anne Wynter
The Longest Storm by Dan Yaccarino

Calendar of Events

February

Outdoor Story Hour	Wed. 9	10:30am	Library
Blind Date with a Book ends	Mon. 14	6pm	Library
Outdoor Story Hour	Wed. 16	10:30am	Library
Drive-By Pie – Orders DUE	Wed. 23		Library (or online)
Outdoor Story Hour	Wed. 23	10:30am	Library
School District Informational Meeting	Wed. 23	7pm	Virtual (see page 2)
Town Informational Meeting	Mon. 28	6:30pm	Virtual (see page 2)

March

Town Meeting Day – VOTE!	Tues. 1	7am -7pm	Historical Society
Drive-By Pie – Pick up orders	Sat. 5	10am-12pm	Historical Society
Property Tax DUE	Tues. 15		Town Office
MSHS Maple Raffle – ends	Sat. 19		

Calendar of Regular Meetings

<u>Regular Meetings</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs /TBA	TBA	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Association	2 nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	George Gonda (235-2535)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Tues / 7:15pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1 st Thurs / 7pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4 th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1 st Mon /	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	Meredith Morgan (235-2059)

Front Porch Forum

Join [Front Porch Forum](#) to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local.

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 \$7 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Crossman's Store, and the library.