

# middle **TOWN NEWS** letter

## April 2022

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### Consider Filling a Vacant Seat

Town business works best when town citizens pitch in. Middletown Springs needs YOUR help! Seats on the **Planning Commission** and the **Trustee of Louis Fund and Other Public Monies** are open. Please contact Heather Grier, Selectboard Chair at 802-236-7643 or [hgselectboard@gmail.com](mailto:hgselectboard@gmail.com). Anyone and everyone is invited to join the Select Board on Zoom or in person for a regular meeting. The next one is on Thursday, April 14 at 7pm.

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### Many Thanks from the Historical Society

The Historical Society is grateful to all members of the Middletown Springs community who came together in a big way to support the 2022 Maple Festival Raffle!

Thanks go out to the many artists, artisans, individuals, and businesses who donated items or gift certificates for the 36 raffle prizes, each of which was valued at \$100 or more. Thank you to the many who purchased raffle tickets, bringing in over \$4,000! A special thank you to Peter and Aileen Stevenson, who won the Johnson Energy 100 gallons of heating oil, for donating it to the Historical Society!

As with all donations to MSHS, the proceeds from the raffle will go towards the care of the Museum collection, maintenance of the Adams House, and grooming of the Mineral Springs Park.

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### Pre-Kindergarten Screening

#### Middletown Springs Elementary School

Middletown Springs Elementary School is seeking Middletown Springs' resident children who will be three or four years of age by September 1, 2022, in order to arrange for screening and registration of these children for our free public Pre-K program.

Screening is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6. THE PRE-K PROGRAM WILL NOT BE OPERATING ON APRIL 6 SO THAT SCREENING MAY TAKE PLACE.

If you have a child or know of a child in Middletown Springs in this age group, please call the school at 802-855-5155 or email: [susan.rosso@grcsu.org](mailto:susan.rosso@grcsu.org) (Admin. Asst.) or [kristina.severance@grcsu.org](mailto:kristina.severance@grcsu.org) (Pre-K Teacher) to schedule a screening appointment. Thank you.

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### Friends of the Library News

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a **Paint and Sip fundraiser**, Friday, April 29 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Middletown Springs Historical Society. The Paint and Sip will cost \$20 per person, which gets you one basket and all of the supplies necessary to decorate it, plus appetizers.

The baskets are a range of sizes and styles, and were generously donated by Nita Burch-Clay. Additional baskets will be available for a small fee. This is a bring your own beverage event, and masking is optional. All proceeds go to benefit our local library. Due to limited space, we are only able to host 25 people. To sign up for the event, or if you have any question, please contact Ashley Fioretti at [vtlittleflower13@gmail.com](mailto:vtlittleflower13@gmail.com) by April 27.

**Coming soon:** our newest Book Walk celebrating National Poetry Month. April's Book Walk will feature poems written by local Middletown Springs youth, along with some favorite poems of the Friends and Library Trustees. Thank you to everyone who submitted an original work.

Stay tuned for news about our annual Plant Sale, as it will likely be different due to the fact that the invasive jumping worm has made its way into our area. Also, stay tuned for more information about a Tea & Conversation presentation about this invasive species, given by our very own Nita Burch-Clay to be held in April at our lovely local library.

## Notes From the Select Board

WELL, WE MADE IT!!

Winter is officially over, and Spring has arrived, although we shall not be naïve enough to state that the possibility of accumulating snow is completely behind us. Thanks to the fine efforts of our highway crew, we have survived another plow season and now look forward to mud, black flies, and then the dust that is sure to follow.

As most folks probably know, our Highway Department found themselves shorthanded just before the onset of winter. Kudos for the exceptional work of Bill Reed, Richie Miller, and Joe Castle for stepping in and helping keep our roadways safely plowed, sanded, and open for travel throughout another unpredictable winter season. The good folks at Tarbell Enterprises also pitched in and helped with the plowing of a few sections of roadways, which freed up our own road crew to complete other tasks.

As folks get out and about and begin the process of spring cleanup, the Select Board wishes to remind people that some lawn damage/clumps of sod and stone debris are VERY likely and in fact are almost inevitable wherever your property abuts the shoulder edges of the traveled portion of the roadway. Taken directly from our *Policies and Ordinances* manual is the following statement: "Lawn damage within the ROW [right-of-way] can occur, and is, in fact, likely to occur whenever the mowed/maintained edges abut the traveled portions of the roadway."

Our highway personnel do their best to minimize any lawn damage while striving to maintain the safety and integrity of the highway for the general public. As such, the highway crew cannot be expected to repair any such damage unless it is determined to be particularly egregious or excessive by the Select Board. Please help us out by reporting any such "excessive damage", plugged culverts, dangerous trees, or other road hazards by completing a *Service Request Form* developed for this purpose. This form is available on the town website.

## Vermont Reads: *We Contain Multitudes*



This is a novel in letters. It tells the paired stories of two very different teenage boys who are initially reluctant to participate in a pen-pal assignment from their high school English teacher, but ultimately grow well beyond the boundaries of the school project to share earth-shattering revelations about themselves and their families. Written for older teens and adults, this book contains mature themes.

The library has 15 copies to circulate during April (& beyond). There will be a **book discussion** on Wednesday, May 4 at 7pm, at the library.

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## LAST CHANCE to 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](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net)

**Please register your dogs!**

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk

## Property Tax How-To

Below are the roles and responsibilities:

### Treasurer

- Mails out property tax bill once a year in August
- Collects and processes current year property tax payments

### Property Owner

- **Pays** property taxes
- **Saves** property tax bills (even if their mortgage company pays taxes)
- **Gives** property tax bill **directly** to:
  - accountant/tax service
  - mortgage company
  - refinance company
  - new homeowner or closing attorney

### Purpose of Property Tax Bill

- Provides billing amount for quarterly payments
- Required for homestead rebate application at income tax time
- Necessary for refinancing and property sale

### Town Clerk

- Does **NOT**: Collect property tax payments

### Delinquent Tax Collector

- Collects unpaid property taxes

If you have any questions or need clarification on the above, please contact me directly.

Thank you.

Jenny Talke Munyaiak

Town Treasurer

[mtstreasurer@vermontel.net](mailto:mtstreasurer@vermontel.net) or 802-235-3256

## Friends for Education

Thanks to everyone who participated in our latest fundraiser with High Mowing Organic Seeds. We were able to raise close to \$400 to help us supplement programming at the elementary school: **scholarships for the Winter Sports program and Girls on the Run!**

We are still trying to raise funds to build an **outdoor classroom** at the elementary school. Anyone interested in donating materials, time, or money towards this endeavor please contact Ashley at [vtlittleflower13@gmail.com](mailto:vtlittleflower13@gmail.com).

Lastly, stay tuned for more information about the **Strawberry Jam Fun Run** fundraiser which will take place later this spring.

## 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

### April

Pre-K Screening	Wed. 6	by appt.	School
Outdoor Story Hour	Wed. 6	10:30am	Library
Outdoor Story Hour	Wed. 13	10:30am	Library
Paint and Sip (FOL)	Fri. 29	6:30-8:30pm	sign up in advance

### May

Vermont Reads Discussion	Wed 4	7pm	Library
Memorial Day Parade	Sun 29	3pm	Town Green

## Calendar of Regular Meetings

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

## 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.

## Front Porch Forum

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

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### Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library  
[middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)  
 PO Box 1206  
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month