

middle TOWN NEWS letter

October 2022

General Election

November 8, 2022

Polls open from 7am to 7pm

What do you need to know about this year's General Election? Here are a few answers:

1. Every registered voter will be mailed a ballot directly from the state of Vermont.
2. Ballots will be sent out from the Secretary of State the week of September 26.
3. The easiest way to cast your ballot is right from your own home! Fill out your ballot and place it in the certificate envelope, complete the certificate envelope, seal it, insert it into the postage paid return envelope, and drop it into your mailbox for pick up.
4. To check the status of your ballot, you can log into <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> to see if your ballot has been issued or received by the town clerk.
5. You may also vote in person on November 8 from 7am to 7pm at the Middletown Springs Historical Society dining room. **Please bring your ballot with you if you choose to vote in person.**
6. If you did not receive a ballot and you believe you should have, check in with the town clerk.
7. If you need to register to vote, you can do that online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/> or at the town clerk's office. You can even register to vote on election day at your local polling place.

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9am to 4pm |

Thursday & Friday 1pm – 4pm

802-235-2220 | middletown@vermontel.net

Large Dumpster Day

Saturday, October 1

6 am-12 pm

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xgzlZrN9uVQBE8maJKoQvTYAk5YO0O-P/view?usp=sharing>

Annual Open House at MSHS

Archivist Dr. Orson Kingsley will be the guest speaker at the Middletown Springs **Historical Society's Annual Open House** on **Sunday, October 9, 2pm – 4pm**. His presentation, ***What's the Story: Archives Shed Light on Museum Collections***, will be followed by behind-the-scenes tours of the museum's collection and archives.

Many New England historical societies are filled with fascinating artifacts, oftentimes used for exhibits. According to Kingsley, outside of some research and descriptive text, these artifacts unfortunately only comprise a part of the story. Kingsley offers his perspective as an archivist with a museum background on curating exhibits. He will discuss how breaking down barriers between artifact collection management and archives focused on documenting history can be intertwined to create a narrative that enhances exhibits.

Kingsley, a native of Whitehall, NY, has been the Head of Archives & Special Collections at Bridgewater State University (MA) since 2011. Prior to this he was the Assistant Director at the Slate Valley Museum in Granville, NY, after working as their collections manager. He began his career as the Archivist at the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History in Middlebury.

The Annual Open House at the Middletown Springs Historical Society has for several years provided visitors with the opportunity to understand what it collects and how the all-volunteer organization cares for the collection. Anyone interested in serving on the collections management committee can contact collections manager Mary Lou Willits at 802-235-2376.

In addition to this year's presentation and behind-the-scenes tours, visitors can view the current exhibit, ***Fancy Goods: Hats and Fashion Accessories, 1850-1950***. The open house is free, and refreshments will be provided.

News from the Firehouse

MSVFD wrapped up a **Pampered Chef Fundraiser** on August 28. Thank you to all that supported the fire department and participated in this fundraiser.

MSVFD will be hosting the **Balls of Fire Golf Tournament** on Sunday, October 2. Tee time will be at 8am at Lake St. Catherine Country Club. The first-place team will be awarded 4 green fees to Lake St. Catherine. The second-place team will be awarded gift cards. Many prizes will be available such as YETI koozies, sets of golf balls, golf gloves, and more. Gimme strings and mulligans will be available for purchase. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the event, along with the 50/50 raffle. We still have room for teams. You may register the morning of the event or contact Karen kmc3265@gmail.com or Lisa lvb617@gmail.com.

The **MSVFD Hunter's Raffle** is also underway. The drawing will be on November 1 at 7pm. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$20 and can be purchased at Crossman's General Store or through any fire department member. The Winchester 30-30 lever action is valued at \$800 and was donated by Don and Pat Hemenway.

Halloween At The Firehouse will be on October 31 at 5:30pm. All ghosts, ghouls, goblins, and anything in between are welcome to stop by for tasty treats, hot cider, and a few scares. Trunk or Treat participants are welcome at the firehouse. Come and set up your vehicle in the parking lot with your favorite Halloween setting. Anyone is welcome to join us for the event!

October is Fire Safety Month. Each Tuesday in October, the members of the Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department will be on hand to answer questions and offer information on a different fire safety theme. On **Tuesday, October 4**, at 6:30pm, the theme will be **fire extinguishers**. Do you have an old fire extinguisher at home? Do you need a new one? Do you need an extinguisher serviced/inspected? How many extinguishers do you need? Where should a fire extinguisher be placed in a home? How do I use a fire extinguisher? All questions will be answered. MSVFD will be happy to help in any way. Live demonstrations on fire extinguishers will take place.

Thank you for your continued support!

Friends of the Library

Join the Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library in **celebrating the freedom to read** by purchasing a custom silk-screened canvas bag that states, "Warning: This bag may contain banned books!" for \$8. The bags can be purchased at the library while supplies last. All proceeds from the sale of the bags will go to support our lovely Middletown Springs Public Library. Thanks for helping us celebrate and supporting the library.

The Friends would like to extend a big thank you to all vendors and donators to our **First Annual Community-wide Lawn Sale!** Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and it was a fun and successful event for all.

Last but not least, there is a new book for our **Book Walk**. This month's book is Julia Sarcone Roach's *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*. The walk starts behind the elementary school's basketball court and ends up at our library. Fall is the perfect time to take a walk and read a book!

Book Walk

Go For a Walk - Read a Book



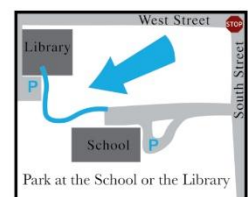
This month We're reading:

*The Bear Ate Your
Sandwich* by
Julia Sarcone-Roach



Brought to you by The
Friends of the Library

Follow this map to find
the Book Walk in
Middletown Springs



Park at the School or the Library

Halloween at the Library

On Halloween Night, the library will once again be handing out books for trick-or-treaters to keep. Stop by the library on your trip around town on Monday, October 31, 5-7pm.

Enter from the back, up our beautiful rebuilt rear stairs and exit out the main door for a one-way traffic flow.

We save up nearly-new donated children's books all year to be ready for this event. We look forward to seeing your goblins and ghosts

Outdoor Story Time Returns

Melissa and Kimberly are looking forward to singing, moving, and reading stories with children of all ages again this fall! On **Mondays at 10:30am** we will meet outside the library for story time, every week we can. If it's nasty pouring rain, we'll skip that week. Put on your warm clothes and boots and let's get together! Mondays: **October 17 – November 14.**

Community Calendar 2023

LAST CALL - The final deadline for all submissions AND payment is October 7, 2022. The calendar helps strengthen our community and the funds raised are used to support the town library, its collection and programming.

Thank you, *Library Trustees*



Wells Springs Unified Union School District



The Wells Springs UUSD board values public input and invites community members to participate in a quick survey that will provide feedback for the next fiscal year budget.

<https://forms.gle/9GbfUuaoutyQUy5b7>

New & New-to-Us at the Library

YOUNG ADULT / TEEN

The Inheritance Games (series) by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

KID CHAPTER

The Magic Misfits (series) by Neil Patrick Harris

EARLY READERS

The Fabled Stables (series) by Jonathan Auxier

Our Friend Hedgehog by Lauren Castillo

Zoey and Sassafras by Asia Citro

Meet Yasmin! by Saadia Faruqi

Snail and Worm (series) by Tina Kugler

Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol by Andres Miedoso

Princess Cora and the Crocodile by Laura Amy Schlitz

The Story of Diva and Flea by Mo Willems

KID GRAPHIC

Star Scouts (series) by Mike Lawrence

Mr. Wolf's Class (series) by Aron Nels Steinke

End Games by Ru Xu

MOVIES

Cedar Cove Complete Series

Luca

FICTION

A Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers

A Prayer for the Crown-Shy by Becky Chambers

Fellowship Point by Alice Elliott Dark

Every Summer After by Carley Fortune

It Ends with Us by Colleen Hoover

To Kill a Troubadour by Martin Walker

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow
by Gabrielle Zevin

NON-FICTION

How to Make Hand-Drawn Maps by Helen Cann

Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard

Entropy by Thomas W. P. Slatin

VERMONT COLLECTION

History of the State of Vermont by Ira Allen

Outsiders Inside Vermont Travelers' Tales of 358
years by T.D. Seymour Bassett

Forest Trees of Vermont by Trevor Evans

In the Clearing by Robert Frost

Vermont Heritage A Picture Story
by Barrows Mussey

Town Office Update

The Select Board is pleased to report that you should see some preliminary construction activity on the corner lot within the coming month. We expect to have some site preparation work, excavation, and concrete footings (frost walls) poured before winter; these will then be well-insulated and covered during the winter months until the 'real' construction takes place next spring.

We have recently signed a GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) contract with Naylor and Breen so that the project may begin in earnest, such as negotiating and ordering materials and locking in some of the various subcontractor phases (plumbing and heating, electrical, etc.). We are certain that this will surprise exactly no one, but the projected costs of the new building have risen dramatically since voters gave their approval for us to borrow the funds to construct this building. Thank COVID-19, supply chain disruptions, dramatic shifts in the workforce, labor costs, and Russia's war in Ukraine contributing to record high oil prices and resulting inflation.

FINANCES: (These are ROUND NUMBERS) Much to our dismay, the cost of the new Town Office project has risen from about \$900,000-\$950,000 to \$1.3 million. Although many costs have stabilized "somewhat", we all believe that now is still the best time to "pull the trigger" and get this done (finally!) rather than take a gamble and hope for lower building costs in the future. In round numbers, which are reported above and below for information purposes, the Select Board remains confident that we have the appropriate financial resources to complete this project.

Voter approval allowed us to secure a loan in the amount of \$800,000 from the National Bank of Middlebury earlier this year. (No funds have been drawn on this account as of yet). Additionally, thanks to the foresight of the former Building Committee and the wisdom of previous Select Boards and Middletown Springs taxpayers, we have approximately \$330,000 in the "municipal building" fund that we can utilize for this purpose. Also, federal ARPA funds are available for projects such as this, and \$170,000 of these funds would get us to the \$1.3 million threshold that we need. (Please remember that these are rough round numbers for illustrative purposes only. We DO have enough funds available to build the new town office).

Our goal has always been to build a new town office without raising your property taxes. Thanks to the prior planning in approving and setting aside \$50,000 each year for the past several years expressly for this purpose, we have gotten to this point in time where the combination of the loan and available funds will enable us to actually complete this project. The continued annual \$50,000 appropriation will cover the loan repayment over the next 20 years.

We will continue to report on progress at the corner lot and will offer our thanks to some of the key individuals with our next report.

Highway Maintenance Crew Member

The Town of Middletown Springs is **accepting applications** for a full-time Highway Maintenance crew member. The successful candidate must hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) and a current DOT physical exam card. Experience in operating a variety of vehicles -- plow/dump trucks, sander/salter, backhoe, front end loader -- is desired. The ability to lift up to 75 pounds consistently and perform manual labor duties is required. Candidate must live within 45 minutes response time to Middletown Springs. Candidate must be willing to work a flexible schedule and long hours as situations arise. Mechanical ability is a plus.

This is a full-time position (40 hours per week), with wages based on experience. This position offers health insurance, retirement contributions, sick and vacation leave. Successful candidates must pass a pre-employment drug screen and must continue to comply with the Town's Drug and Alcohol Policy and Personnel Policy throughout their employment.

Applications for this position, as well as a copy of the Town's Drug and Alcohol Policy and Personnel Policy, may be obtained from the Middletown Springs Town Office or on the town's website <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/town-departments/highway-department/>.

All applications should be submitted to the Middletown Springs Town Office, in person, by mail (PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs VT 05757), or by email at middletown@vermontel.net. Contact Middletown Springs Town Clerk, Patty Kenyon with any questions at 802-235-2220, or email middletown@vermontel.net.

The Town of Middletown Springs is an equal opportunity employer.

Upcoming EVENTS

Large Dumpster Day	Oct 1	Sat	6am-12pm	West Street
Balls of Fire Golf Tournament	Oct 2	Sun	8am	see page 2
MSVFD: Fire Extinguishers	Oct 4	Tue	6:30pm	Firehouse
Community Calendar Deadline	Oct 7	Fri	2pm	Library
Open House	Oct 9	Sun	2-4pm	Historical Society
Outdoor Story Hour begins	Oct 17	Mon	10:30	Library
Halloween Book 'n' Treat	Oct 31	Mon	5-7pm	Library
Halloween At The Firehouse	Oct 31	Mon	5:30pm	Firehouse
MSVFD Hunter's Raffle	Nov 1	Tue	7pm	Firehouse
Election/Polls Open	Nov 8	Tue	7am-7pm	Historical Society

Calendar of Regular Meetings

<u>Regular Meetings</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Conservation Commission	3 rd Thurs /5:30pm	Library	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Association	2 nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	Art Castle (235-2351)
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 /TBA	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Heather Grier (236-7643)
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	
Wells Springs Community Comm.	2 nd Wed / 7pm	virtual only	

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.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library

middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

PO Box 1206, Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Milestones

What can be published as a *Milestone*? Any major event in your life, such as: a birth, a death, a marriage, a new job, or a recent graduation. If you have something you'd like to announce, please send us an [email](#) and we will include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

If you send a longer announcement, we may need to edit for space but will do our best to keep the tone.