

middle TOWN NEWS letter

January 2023

Wells Springs UUSD – School District Budget Community Forum Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6 pm

At Wells Village School and virtually on Google Meet
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/pas-ihmm-zoy>
or dial: 1-515-758-8371 PIN: 581 247 825#

There will be a community forum where the following will be discussed:

Budget Recommendations

Inviting taxpayers of the Middletown Springs and Wells community to an open forum to ask questions and express preferences on the upcoming school budget. There is projected budget increase due to rising costs in salaries, increased secondary enrollment, health insurance, supply costs, and maintenance.

Budget is projected (not finalized) to N increase of 6.45%. Based on state estimates and information we have today. This would translate to no increases in taxes. *

The board is looking at potentially changing the following programs:

- Food Services: Changing from in-house food preparation to a federally licensed vendor. Going to bid with other GRSCU schools with a food vendor is estimated to save \$70,000 per year, which would amount to a 1.3% drop or approx. \$20 in taxes per \$100,000 in assessed value. *

- Transportation: Eliminating bus service at Wells or going down to one bus could result in a savings of \$45,000-\$90,000, which would amount to a 0.8% - 1.6% drop or approx. \$12 - \$24 in taxes per \$100,000 in assessed value. *

- After-School and Summer Programming: Asking parents to cover the full cost or a high percentage of cost (90%) of after school and summer programming is projected to save \$45,000, which would amount to

a 0.8% drop or approx. \$12 in taxes per \$100,000 in assessed value. *

Please join us and help guide the board to a decision.

* Amounts presented do not include credits received in homestead declaration and property tax credit claim.



Tea & Travels at the Library

Sunday, January 8, 2:30pm

Emery Letendre spent the spring semester of her junior year of college in Argentina. She lived in Buenos Aires and studied Spanish at UCA (Pontificia Universidad Catholica Argentina). Argentina is the second largest country in South America and is about as long as the United States is wide. While she was there, Emery traveled around the country exploring different regions of Argentina from Patagonia to the desert, from wine country to the epic Iguazu Falls. Emery will share slides and stories of her time there.

Come with your curiosity and your questions. Refreshments will be served.

News from MSVFD

The Christmas week was very busy for the Middletown Springs Volunteer Fire Department and all emergency services, law enforcement, and power companies working in the area. Please take a moment to thank these men and women who worked long hours and continued to work through their holiday. Most of us were able to stay home, but these men and women spent many hours out in the dangerous winds and freezing temperatures to help anyone in need.

As we all know, we are going into the coldest months of winter. The financial burden of increased heating costs is very worrisome for many of us. Electric and propane heaters and wood stoves are being used to help with the increased expenses. With this, structure fires are on the rise throughout the state. **Please be sure to check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.** Make sure your family has an escape route planned. Most of us have cell phones. It is recommended to set an alarm on your cell phone to shut off the small heaters and check your wood stoves before leaving your homes. Please do not overload outlets and be aware of any abnormal odors. Please do not hesitate to call the fire department if you have an odor in your home. It is better to be safe rather than sorry. If you have questions or concerns regarding fire safety, please reach out to the fire department or stop by on a Tuesday evening.

The MSVFD wrapped up its 5th and final fundraiser of the year on November 20. The last two fundraisers were the Fall Hunter's Raffle and the Thanksgiving Dinner Raffle. Thank you to everyone who has supported the MSVFD throughout the year!

MSVFD would like to wish everyone a happy and safe new year in 2023!



Town Office Under Construction

Photographs by Emmett Francois



Call for Town Report Submissions!

Committee members, elected officials, trustees of town trust funds, town organizations: please note that your submissions for the 2023 Town Report should be completed and sent on **by January 10, 2023.**

The 2023 Town Report is being compiled by Steve Harrington this year. Please send your submissions to him and to the town clerk so that they are on file at the town office as well as with the designer.

We are also looking for pictures for the inside of the report which makes things a bit more interesting. If you have a great photo with good image quality (300dpi or greater), we would love to add them to the mix.

Submissions go to: ohungerdell@gmail.com and middletown@vermontel.net.

Photos should be good quality, interesting and come with a caption. Send those to the above emails as well.

Reach out to the town clerk with any questions. 802-235-2220 or middletown@vermontel.net.

2023 Absentee Ballot Requests

Now is the time to request an absentee ballot for 2023 elections. If you'd like to add your name to the list of people who will receive an absentee ballot by mail in 2023, you will 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. Here's where you can obtain a request form.

- On the town's website at

<http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/vtabsenteerequestgeneric-fillable.pdf>

- On the state's website at <https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Elections%20Division/voters/vtabsenteerequestgeneric.pdf>

- Through Vermont's Online Portal at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>

- Pick up or request a form from the Town Clerk's office.

If you are not sure whether you are currently on the absentee ballot list for 2023, you can check your status at <https://mvp.vermont.gov> or connect with 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

Serve our Town - Run for Elected Office!

Now is a great time to run for elected office! It is a chance to get involved and give back to the community.

Annual town meeting election of officers is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The deadline to file a petition to run for town office is Monday, January 30, at 4pm (close of business).

You may pick up a nominating petition and Consent of Candidate form from the town clerk or download them here:

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/candidates/local-office-candidates/>

Positions Open for Election 2023

This list does not reflect whether the incumbent intends to run for re-election. Current elected office holders can be found on the Town Website.

<http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/town-government/town-officers/>

Elected Office	Term Length
Selectboard Member	2 Years
Selectboard Member	3 Years
Town Moderator	1 Year
School Director (Wells Springs)	3 Years
Lister	3 Years
Town Auditor	3 Years
Planning Commission	3 Years
Library Trustee	3 Years
Library Trustee	3 Years
Trustee Copeland Church Fund	1 Year
Trustees Copeland Cemetery Fund	1 Year
Trustees of Louis Fund ...	3 Years
Trustees of Louis Fund ... (2 years remaining)	3 Years

2023 Town Meeting Calendar

Thursday, January 19 – Last day to file a petition to place an item on the town meeting ballot.

Petition needs signatures of 5% of registered voters (currently = 35).

Monday, January 30 – Last day to file a Candidate Petition & Consent of Candidate form to run for local office. Need signatures of 1% of registered voters (currently = 7).

Wednesday, February 1 – Last day to withdraw Candidate Petition.

Wednesday, February 15 – Ballots must be available for early voting.

Wednesday, March 1 – Wells Springs School District Informational Meeting at Wells Village School & virtually, at 7pm.

Monday, March 6 – Last day for absentee ballot requests – close of business (4pm).

Monday, March 6 – Town Informational Meeting – 6:30pm – Place to be determined, Zoom options available.

Tuesday, March 7 – Town Meeting Day

Polls open 7am - 7pm – Voting in Middletown Springs Historical Society dining room. All ballots must be in by close of polls.

For more information call or email the Town Clerk (802-235-2220 | middletown@vermontel.net)

Dog Registrations are now OPEN

Please register your dogs!

Vermont state law requires all dogs or wolf-hybrids 6 months or older be licensed with the town clerk **on or before April 1** of each year or within 30 days of acquisition. The fees include funds required to be sent to the state for its rabies and spay and 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 be presented to the town clerk at the time of registration.

Registration Fees

Neutered or Spayed - \$9

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$13

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY DOG?

1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal, but would still need immediate medical attention, 3) if your dog bites an animal or person – which could result in quarantine or possible euthanasia to test for infection, and 4) helps pay for VSNIP, which addresses the animal population situation in Vermont.

Most importantly, when someone finds a loose or injured dog, the first place they call is the town office. If I have your information, I can help to reunite you. I get countless calls where I have no good information to help get a pet back home quickly. Please help me to help you and make the time to get your dog registered.

NOTE: If your schedule just doesn't fit the clerk's office hours, you can still get your pet registered. You can mail your payment, rabies certificate, and other pertinent information to the town clerk at PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs 05757 and I will complete the registration and mail you back the license(s) and tag(s).

Clerk's office is open on Monday & Tuesday from 9am-4pm, Thursday & Friday from 1pm-4pm.

802-235-2220 | middletown@vermontel.net

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk

Outdoor Story Time Returns

Melissa and Kimberly are getting back to singing, moving, and reading stories with children of all ages. On **Mondays at 10:30am** we will meet outside the library for story time. If it's super cold, we'll move around outside and then read indoors. Put on your warm clothes and boots and let's get together! Mondays: **January 23 – February 27.**

Middletown Springs U Coming Soon!

Announcing the very first Middletown Springs University!

On March 8 through March 15, everyone in town is invited to attend a free class. Or a few!

Calling all interested instructors: here's an opportunity for you to share your knowledge and skill. Please send your name and what you'd like to teach to others in a class to the MSU committee at middletownspringsU@gmail.com. You don't have to be a professional teacher to share what you know!

In this first year, the idea is that you would teach one class. But if you're bursting with love of your topic, feel free to offer more than one class: say it's bird calls one time and bird identification another.

The committee is Mary Lamson, Laura Derrendering, Leslie Silver, Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman. Meetings are ongoing – it's not too late to join the committee.

Knitting Circle

NOTE: **Date change for January meeting**, on account of New Year's Day (observed), will be **Tuesday, January 3, 7-9pm.**

Join novice-to-experienced knitters at the library the first Monday of the month from **7-9 pm, October through May**, for inspiration, technical support, and quiet conversation. Other fiber arts are welcome: bring your crochet, felting, stitchwork, etc. For more info, call Lois at 235-2374.

Calendar of EVENTS

School Board Budget	Jan 3	Tues 6pm	Wells Village School & virtually
Knitting Circle	Jan 3	Tues 7-9pm	Library
Tea & Travels	Jan 8	Sun 2:30pm	Library
Petitions for Warning due	Jan 19	Fri	Town Office
Petition to run for office due	Jan 30	Mon	Town Office

Calendar of REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2rd Thurs /5:30pm	Library	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Association	2nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	Art Castle (235-2351)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2nd Tues / 7:15pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1st Mon /TBA	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2nd & 4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Heather Grier (236-7643)
Wells Springs School Board	1st Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	

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



Let It Snow!

SNOWSHOES at the Library? Check them out! The library has 4 pairs of adult shoes (2 men's & 2 women's, 4 pairs of poles) and 6 pairs of children's snowshoes to circulate. They go out for three days at a time (like the park passes). The person checking them out must be 18+ and is responsible for any pairs checked out. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis.