

middle TOWN NEWS letter

March 2023

Town Meeting 2023

Yesterday's Town Meeting had a fairly small turnout of 259 in Middletown Springs, and a combined 478 for the Wells Springs school vote. The detailed results can be viewed at the Town Office, and by Thursday on the Town website; this is an unofficial summary.

SCHOOL. The budget was approved by a vote of 262-208. Amanda Weeden and Matt Herring were elected to three-year terms on the school board. And the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund was approved by a vote of 311-155.

TOWN OFFICERS. All unopposed candidates won their seats comfortably, with no significant write-in opposition. Herb Childress was elected to a three-year term on the Select Board, receiving 158 votes to Neil Russell's 95, and Terry Redfield was re-elected for another two-year term. Thanks to Neil for three years of Board service, and hopefully he'll continue to be a vigorous part of Town planning.

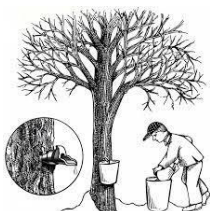
TOWN BALLOT ARTICLES. All the ballot articles were approved, most of them by significant margins. Following on the discussion at Monday's informational meeting, the Sheriff's Department funding did pass, by a vote of 148-106.

Thank you to everyone who participated in yesterday's election, as poll workers and as voters!

Property Tax Due

Friday, March 15

Details on page 3



MSHS Maple Festival

March 19

details page 2



MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS
U·N·I·V·E·R·S·I·T·Y

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

There is still space in many classes; you can register [here](#). Click [here](#) for the website to see the class schedule, the teachers and the locations.

With utmost thanks to the teachers, MSES, MS Historical Society, the library, and Brigid's Crossing for hosting our classrooms!

14th Annual

Pie for Breakfast

Saturday, March 11
8AM - 11AM

At the Middletown Springs School

\$10.00 adult 13+
\$5.00 Children 5-12
under 5 Free

Sweet & Savory

A detailed illustration of several different types of pies on a platter. There is a whole pie, a slice of pie, and a pie with fruit on top. The platter is green and white.

Benefit for the Middletown Springs Public Library

Maple Festival Offers Sweet Fun



Visitors learn the art of boiling maple syrup at a recent Maple Festival

Maple lore and demonstrations, sweet treats from local kitchens, a maple raffle featuring 35 items valued at \$100 or more highlight the Historical Society's Annual Maple Festival, **Sunday, March 19 from 1-4 pm.**

The event will feature a demonstration of early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire. Local sugarmaker Ryan Mahar and historians David Wright and Jon Mathewson will give a presentation on maple sugaring history and current practice using examples from the Historical Society collection.

Homemade soup, chili, mac n' cheese and delicious maple desserts as well as Vermont maple products and new 2023 syrup will be available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar on snow, blueberry pancakes and maple syrup, and maple cotton candy are always favorites. Acoustic music and kids' activities enliven the free afternoon event. Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown continuously.

The grand prize item in the maple raffle is the winner's choice of a gift certificate for 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy or the cash equivalent, around \$400. For a full list of all the raffle items, downloadable tickets and instructions, visit www.mshsvt.org. The raffle drawings will occur at 4 pm at the festival - you do not need to be present to win. Museum exhibits on Middletown Springs history are on view during the festival. Admission is free, and the building is accessible.

For more information call David Wright at 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at 235-2421.



Sugarmaker Ryan Mahar discusses current maple sugaring techniques

Message from the Board of Listers

The Board of Listers is required to determine fair market value of all real property as of April 1st each year. Therefore, we ask that property owners notify us of major renovations, additions of any size or new construction. Also notify us of any major depreciation or removal of any additions or structures. Your support is appreciated. Contact: Sally Achey (235-2434) Pat Hemenway (235-2421) or Randy Kniffin (342-1306).

Henderson Fund Scholarships for Graduating Seniors

Attention! Students from Middletown Springs who are graduating (or recently graduated from) high school and are going on to pursue higher education: you are eligible to apply for scholarship funding from the town's Henderson Fund. The fund now offers a minimum of \$500 in one-time funding to each successful applicant. For more information or to initiate the application process, please contact Eric Montbriand, Chairman, Wells Springs UUSD at eric.montbriand@grcsu.org.

Questions may also be directed to Steve Harrington with the MS Trustees of Public Monies at 802-235-1043 or ohungerdell@gmail.com, but please note that the application process itself goes through the district.

Strawberry Jam 2023!

A Call for Volunteers

Last year's first annual 5k run/walk was a huge success thanks in part to our wonderful volunteers. The race raised money for Friends for Education (FFE) which directs funds for school programming such as artist-in-residency, the winter ski program, the outdoor classroom fund and much more. We are bringing the race back on **June 18** and looking for volunteers.

Last year, volunteers staffed water and food stations, blocked traffic at the four corners, blasted music and encouraged runners up the hill on North Street, worked the registration table, timed runners at the finish, and helped with planning the event. Anyone interested in volunteering this year should reach out to Matt Herring or Heather Thomas at strawberryjamrun@gmail.com



Deadline Coming April 1!

2023 Dog Licenses

Vermont state law requires all dogs or wolf-hybrids be licensed with the town clerk each year on or before April 1. All license fees include funds required to be sent to the state rabies and spay/neuter programs.

Registration Information

Animals adopted & registered on or before 4/1/23:

Neutered or Spayed - \$9.00

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$13.00

If registered after 4/1/23, late fees apply:

Neutered or Spayed - \$11.00

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$17.00

If your schedule doesn't fit the clerk's office hours, you can still get your pet registered. If we don't already have your information on file, you can mail your rabies certificate, license fee and any other pertinent information to PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs 05757 and the town clerk will complete the registration and mail you back the license and tag.

Property Tax Due

Property tax payments for the 3rd quarter of 2022/2023 are due on or before Wednesday, March 15. Tax payments made out to "Town of Middletown Springs" will be accepted as follows:

- 1. MAIL** to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 (with a 3/15/23 or earlier postmark.)
- 2. DROP BOX on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office** by the end of the day of 3/15/23.

Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt.

Tax payments received or postmarked after March 15, 2023, will incur a late fee of 1% for 3 months and 1.5% thereafter until paid.

Remember, when you file your income taxes, you will also be required to file your annual Homestead Declaration and your Property Tax Assistance request. You will need the copy of your property tax bill that was sent to you in August 2022. Please provide this directly to your accountant or tax service as it is not the responsibility of the town treasurer or town clerk to submit this document to your accountant/tax service.

If you have questions about homestead declaration/property tax assistance, please contact the Vt Dept of Taxes:

<https://tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit>

or (802) 828-2865

Thank you!

Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Tuesday from 9am-4pm Thursday & Friday from 1pm-4pm

TOWN CLERK

Patty Kenyon

802-235-2220 middletown@vermontel.net

It's Seed Swap Time

With thanks to the Biondi family and High Mowing seeds, the library will be hosting its annual seed swap, just in time to get those onions, leeks, melons, tomatoes and peppers started. There is a wide selection of seed packets; come browse and shake out the number of seeds you think you'll use - we have envelopes galore. If you have seeds you want to offer to the swap, that's a really fun way to spread garden love, but it is not necessary for you to "shop".

New in the Library

DVDs

Tar

Elvis

Everything Everywhere All at Once

The Banshees of Inisherin

The Fabelmans

Benjamin Franklin

The Homesman

Where the Crawdads Sing

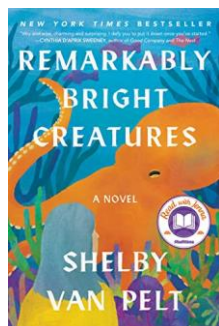
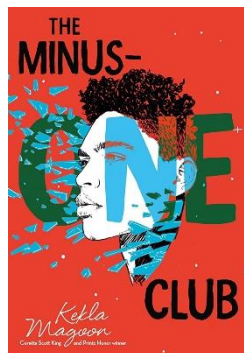
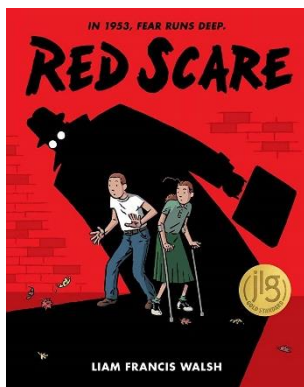
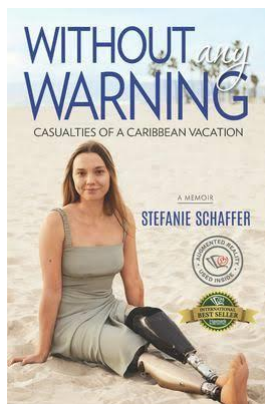
Books

Remarkably Bright Creatures Shelby Van Pelt

Without Warning Stefanie Schaffer

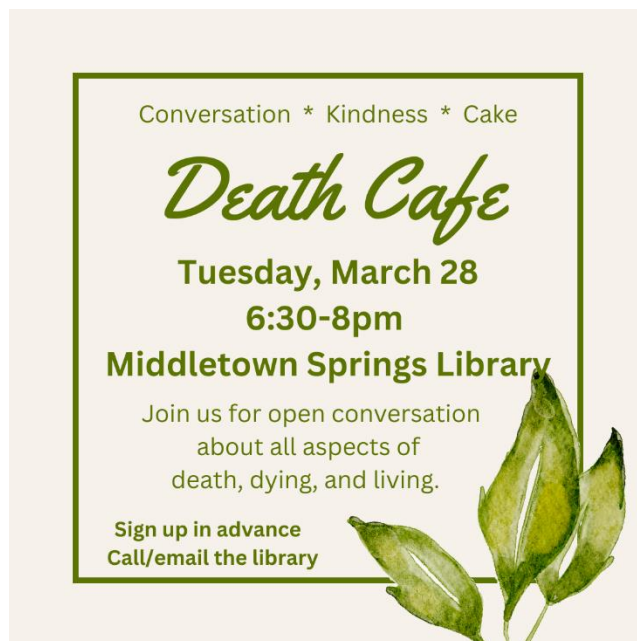
The Minus-One Club Kekla Magoon

Red Scare Liam Francis Walsh



Knitting Circle

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



The Palace Project (Audio & e-books)

The Middletown Springs Library is piloting a new service from the Department of Libraries. It is an eBook and eAudiobook service which is available to all public libraries in the state, at no cost. The statewide collection includes eBooks and eAudiobooks for all ages and in multiple languages.

Our library will also continue to subscribe to Libby/Overdrive. Both services, Palace and Libby, will be available at no cost to all members of the community. To [get started with Palace](#), download the app to your smartphone or tablet and follow the prompts to set up virtual card and password. To [access Libby](#), download the app and use your Middletown Springs Library barcode, and your last name for the pin.

Call the library for more information or stop in and Kimberly will walk you through.it.

Calendar of EVENTS

School District Info Meeting	Mar 1	Wed 7pm	Wells Village School & virtual
Town Info Meeting	Mar 6	Mon 6:30pm	virtual
Town & School Vote	Mar 7	Tues 7am-7pm	Historical Society
School Board Reorganization	Mar 8	Wed 6pm	Wells Village School
Middletown Springs U	Mar 8-15		
Pie For Breakfast	Mar 11	Sat 8-11am	MSES
Property Taxes Due	Mar 15	Wed	by mail or outside lock box
Maple Festival	Mar 19	Sun 1-4pm	Historical Society
Death Café	Mar 28	Tues 6:30-8pm	Library
Dog Licenses DUE	Apr 1	Sat	Town Office

Calendar of REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2nd 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	
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.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
 PO Box 1206,
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757
Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

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