

middle TOWN NEWS letter

April 2023

Bears are Becoming Active -- Take Steps to Prevent Conflicts

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department asks Vermonters to take the following proactive steps for coexisting with bears:

- Take down birdfeeders between late March and December
- Store garbage in bear-proof containers or structures—trash cans alone are not enough
- Follow the steps on our web page for composting in bear country
- Use electric fences to keep chickens and honeybees safe
- Request a bear-proof dumpster from your waste hauler
- Feed your pets indoors
- Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally

Vermont Fish and Wildlife also asks for reports of bears engaging in potentially dangerous behavior such as targeting bird feeders and garbage, feeding on crops or livestock, or investigating campgrounds. Reports can be submitted on the department's [Living with Black Bears web page](#). The data help biologists keep track of bear incidents and provide early interventions to head off conflicts.



A security camera captured this image of a bear attempting to enter a Vermont homeowner's outbuilding where garbage was stored.

←



Building damage caused by a bear that had become comfortable around a Vermont residence and attempted to access the kitchen. →

Turning the Page

It is with regret that we officially announce that Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman is retiring from her position as assistant librarian. Melissa has worked at the library since 2015. She first came on as a temporary hire and proved so valuable that the trustees offered her a permanent part-time position. Working in tandem with library director Kimberly Bushnell, we have seen the library's programming, services and collection grow and diversify during the last eight years. Their synergy has made a team more than the sum of its parts. Melissa has been a strong advocate for the role the library plays in the community. She has personally hosted countless musical story times for toddlers and for kids of all ages. She has also been responsible for cataloging new acquisitions, and co-editing/proofing the town newsletter. In 2020, Melissa was stalwart in her commitment to keeping library services available for the community. As soon as we were able to offer curbside service, she volunteered to be on duty in the building to make that happen.

We are deeply grateful to Melissa for all the care and commitment she put into her role as assistant librarian. She is leaving some big shoes to fill.

On behalf of the trustees, staff, and volunteers,
Kristal Haynes Hier
Chair of the Library Board of Trustees

Oversize Trash & Metal Collection Day

Saturday, May 13, 2023
6am-12pm

Details on page: 2

Outdoor Story Time

This is the last regular series before we take a break until our summer library programs, and the final series Melissa will lead in her role as assistant librarian.

Melissa leads singing and moving and reads stories with children of all ages on Mondays at 10:30am. We meet outside the library for story time, in the spring sun. If it's nasty pouring rain, we'll move inside that week. Let's get together! Mondays: April 10 – May 15.

Maple Flavored Thanks

It was a lively maple festival for so many people who braved the cold for this annual community event, with abundant and delicious food; the maple history talk was well attended, and many browsed the museum.

The 35 maple raffle items donated by local businesses, artists and friends drew abundant bids during the festival. Congratulations to the winners!

The Middletown Springs Historical Society is grateful for all the people who helped make the Maple Festival a success. We could not have done this without you! Thanks to the raffle donors, raffle ticket and food purchasers, and the volunteer cooks, servers, and clean-up crew.

Special thanks to the Mahar family for their help in setting up and maintaining the outdoor sugar-making demonstration, and to Richard Green of Green's Sugar House for refurbishing our vintage cotton candy machine!

All proceeds from the festival go towards maintaining the Community House, the Mineral Springs Park and the care of the museum collection.



Library Plant Sale - Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27

Get ready for the annual Friends of the Library plant sale, with all proceeds supporting our town library.

Plant donations: Community donations are at the heart of our sale, including annuals, perennials, vegetable starts, shrubs, and even house plants. If you are donating plants, please start preparing them now, and bring them to the library on Thursday May 25 (all day) or Friday May 26 (in the morning).

! Please! Do not bring plants if your garden has invasive plants like goutweed, or invasive worms.

Plant sales: The plant sale will open Friday, May 26 in the afternoon and continue on Saturday, May 27. (Exact times to be announced.) We always have a great selection, including many culinary and medicinal herbs, and our resident UVM Extension Master Gardener will be there to answer questions. We hope to see you there! More info and reminders will be posted on Front Porch Forum.

Oversize Trash & Metal Collection Day

Large waste and scrap metal will be collected on **Saturday, May 13** from 6 am to noon. Furniture, toys, and small amounts of construction and demolition items are accepted. **NO CONTRACTORS**, please.

Large waste will be charged a \$10 per vehicle and/or trailer fee; scrap metal may be disposed of free of charge. Large waste and scrap metal collection takes place at the Town property at 577 West Street. **NOTE:** The Town of Middletown Springs is not responsible for any damage that may occur during the loading or unloading process.

MSU Thanks

The maiden voyage of Middletown Springs University was successful, with only one evening's classes impacted by the snowstorm of March 14. The committee gratefully thanks the 17 "professors" and the 108 participants, and is already looking forward to 2024!

Second Annual Strawberry Jam 5k Walk/Run



Save the date for our second annual Strawberry Jam 5k Walk/Run to be held on June 18, 2023!

Strawberry Jam
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS, VERMONT

Interested in being a musician along the course to keep the spirits of our participants up and moving? Contact Ashley Fioretti / vtlittleflower13@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more information about sponsorship and registration.

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 Heering or Heather Thomas at strawberryjamrun@gmail.com.

All proceeds from the race will go to support **Friends for Education's** offerings of supplemental programming at Middletown Springs Elementary School, scholarship opportunities for students to participate in winter sports programs, and hopefully the construction of an outdoor classroom.

A Delicious Thank YOU!

Pie for Breakfast was a scrumptious success. Many thanks: to all who baked, ate, and raved about PIE! A special thank you to the school for being willing to host this event. We couldn't do it without everyone's help.

This was our first in-person Pie for Breakfast since March 2020. It was great fun to be serving up pie to so many enthusiastic breakfasters.

Ready to put Pie For Breakfast 2024 on the calendar? PFB is traditionally scheduled for the first Saturday after March Town Meeting. Next year, that date is **March 9, 2024**.

We are ever grateful for this community's support of the library.

-- The Library Board of Trustees

Register Your Dog – by APRIL 3!

Extended deadline:

Because April 1 falls on a Saturday this year, registrations received by the end of the day on Monday, April 3, 2023, will be considered on time. Late Fees will begin on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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

For animals adopted & registered after 4/3/23, these 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.

We Are Here to Hear from You

The Wells Springs Unified Union School District board of directors recognizes the importance of community input in relation to how the needs of our schools and students are met. Therefore, the board has formed a **Community Engagement Committee** tasked with reaching out and engaging our communities as a whole.

Please join us at 7pm on the second Monday of each month at the link below, come talk to us.

<https://meet.google.com/syk-zxjs-mzz>

Or dial: (US) +1 402-629-0202 PIN: 710 646 521#

Links to board and committee meeting agendas can be found at grcsu.org. For more information feel free to contact eric.montbriand@grcsu.org.

Calendar of EVENTS

Dog Licenses DUE	Apr 3	Mon	Town Office
Large Trash Day	May 13	Sat 6am-Noon	West Street Property
FOL Plant Sale	May 26-27	Sat/Sun TBA	Library Lawn
Memorial Day Parade	May 28	Sun 3 pm	Town Green
Strawberry Jam 5k Walk/Run	Jun 18	Sun	Town Green
Strawberry Festival	Jun 18	Sun 2-4pm	Historical Society

Calendar of REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2nd Tues / 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	via Zoom	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2nd & 4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	
Wells Springs Community Engagement Committee	2 nd Mon / 6:30PM		eric.montbriand@grcsu.org
Wells Springs School Board	2nd Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	eric.montbriand@grcsu.org

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.

Memorial Day Parade Sunday, May 28

The ad hoc committee will begin meeting to plan this year's parade – Middletown Springs' 54th!. All are welcome. Watch Front Porch Forum and this newsletter for updates.