

JANUARY, 2024

# middleTOWN NEWSletter



## 2024 Book Challenge

Librarians Kimberly & Haley invite you to join them with their 2024 Reading Challenge! The idea is to read a book a week, BUT if you feel overwhelmed by that, we encourage you to make the challenge your own! This is meant to be aspirational and fun, not punitive. The idea is to READ MORE this year and whether that's 12 books or 52, it is all okay.

We are using **The Booklist Queen's 2024 Reading Challenge** list to nudge us to try new genres and pick up books outside our regular reading. Take a look, and if you don't like some of the categories, change, or skip, them. It is even okay to double count books for multiple prompts. Do whatever you want to make this challenge your own.

Will you join us?!

<https://www.booklistqueen.com/wp-content/uploads/booklist-queen-reading-challenge-2024-printable-version.pdf>

## Library Happenings

### January is National Hobby Month!

It is a great time to pick up a forgotten project or try your hand at something new. Come in and check out our book displays for some inspiration and motivation.

### NEW Craft Night at the Library

Beginning in February, join us on the second Monday of the month (6-8pm) for Craft Night. Bring whatever you are working on (that fits in your lap) and spend a couple creative hours with friends and neighbors. Come for the tea, conversation, and inspiration. The first one is Monday, February 12, 6-8pm. Hope to see you there!

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## NEW News Email

We now have email address dedicated to town news!

**Going forward please send all middleTOWN NEWSletter emails to:**

**[05757news@gmail.com](mailto:05757news@gmail.com)**

## 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. All license fees include funds required to be sent to the state 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 presented to the town clerk at the time of registration.

### Registration Fees January 1, 2024 thru April 1, 2024

Neutered or Spayed - \$9.00

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$13.00

**WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY DOG?** Beyond the state law, 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. Please help me, help you by making 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 or drop your information into the "Clerk's Dropbox" outside the South Street entrance of the new town office and I will complete the registration and mail you back the license(s) and tag(s).

The town 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)

Patty Kenyon  
Town Clerk

**"Don't be pushed around by the fears in  
your mind. Be led by the dreams  
in your heart."  
— Roy T. Bennett**

## Department of Libraries Online Resources - Gale's Udemy



Gale's Udemy provides access to over 20,000 online courses across a rich variety of subjects: business, technology, personal development, and much more. Patrons can learn anything from how to play the guitar, how to code, and how to invest.

### Try These Courses:

- iPhone Photography
- German Language
- Communication Fundamentals
- Graphic Design for Beginners
- Time Management Mastery
- Art For Beginners

## FREE Covid Tests

Available for pick up at  
the Library and the Town  
Office.

# Presidential Primary Election & Town Meeting – What You Need to Know

For the presidential primary in March, voters are required, by State Statute, to choose the party’s ballot they would like to vote on when they check in at the entrance checklist, receiving only that ballot. This also applies when requesting an absentee ballot, for the presidential primary voters need to select the party ballot they wish to receive.

Statute 17 V.S.A. § 2704 reads: “A person voting at the primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter’s choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the secretary of state, to indicate the voter’s party choice. The names of all candidates on the ballot shall be listed in alphabetical order. Each voter may vote for one candidate for the presidential nomination of one party, either by placing a mark opposite the printed name of a candidate as in other primaries, or by writing in the name of the candidate of the voter’s choice. (Added 1979, No. 199 (Adj. Sess.), § 1, eff. May 6, 1980; amended 1995, No. 38, § 4; 2003, No.59, § 43.)”

The presidential primary is a separate election from town meeting and as such has different rules and procedures. In addition to having to select a party ballot, presidential primary ballots are available much earlier than town meeting ballots – this year primary ballots will be available for early voting on January 20, 2024.

Absentee ballot requests can be made now for presidential primary ballots and after January 1, 2024 for town meeting and any other election within the calendar year 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024.

You will find request forms online (see list below) or can pick up a request at the town office.

- On the town’s website at <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/vtabsteerequestgeneric-fillable.pdf>
- On the state’s website at <https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/Elections%20Division/voters/vtabsteerequestgeneric.pdf>
- Through Vermont’s Online Portal at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>

If you have any questions, please reach out. 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](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net)

## Need to register to vote?

Voter Registration forms are available at the library and the town office!

## Middletown Mom Hosts Two Events

Mom from Middletown Springs, Laura Derrendering, will host two events in January.

On Thursday January 11, 7:30pm join Laura on zoom to have a conversation with ACLU lawyer and autor of report: *Digital Dystopia: The Danger in Buying What the EdTech Surveillance Industry is Selling* | American Civil Liberties Union

<https://www.aclu.org/publications/digital-dystopia-the-danger-in-buying-what-the-edtech-surveillance-industry-is-selling>

On Saturday January 13, Laura will present the research and subsequent policy recommendations that formed legislation on the topic of children, digital and online products and how these products are used in schools. Manchester Public Library, Saturday January 13, 1pm to 3pm.

Contact [Laura.derrendering@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.derrendering@gmail.com) with questions.

## Open Position: Transfer Station Attendant

The Town of Middletown Springs is currently accepting applications for the position of part-time Transfer Station Attendant. Duties and responsibilities include the ability to handle a variety of tasks, including operating the solid waste compactor and the zero-sort recycling compactor, as well as constantly monitoring the status of these systems. The attendant must also learn the acceptable types of materials that may be disposed of at the transfer station, including the proper electronics procedures, battery storage and shipping protocols, and related activities.

The attendant will handle cash transactions and maintain appropriate financial records in addition to assisting patrons at the transfer facility. Basic mechanical skills and equipment maintenance are required, along with a positive public service attitude and the ability to maintain a neat and organized work environment. Please contact select board members Terry Redfield or Herb Childress for more information.

## Serve Our Town

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 5, 2024. The deadline to file a petition to run for town office is Monday, January 29, 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-inforesources/candidates/local-office-candidates/>

## Middletown Springs Town Officers Positions Open for Election 2024\*

- Town Moderator** - 1 Year
- Town Clerk** - 3 Years
- Town Treasurer** - 3 Years
- Selectboard Member** - 2 Years
- Selectboard Member** - 3 Years
- Road Commissioner** - 3 Years
- Lister** - 3 Years
- Delinquent Tax Collector** - 3 Years
- Planning Commission** - 2 Yrs Remain  
*3 Yr seat*
- Planning Commission** - 1 Yrs Remain  
*3 Yr seat*
- Planning Commission** - 3 Years
- Auditor** - 3 Years
- Library Trustee** - 3 Years
- Library Trustee** - 3 Years
- Library Trustee** - 2 Yrs Remain  
*3 Yr seat*
- Trustees of Louis Fund and Other Public Monies** - 3 Years
- Trustee Copeland Church Fund** - 1 Year  
*(1 seat elected, 3 trustees serve)*
- Trustees Copeland Cemetery Fund** - 1 Year  
*(1 seat elected, 3 trustees serve)*

**\* 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/>**

# Middletown Springs 2024 Town Meeting & Presidential Primary Calendar

**Thursday, January 18, 2024** – Last day to file a petition to place an item on the town meeting ballot

- Need signatures of 5% of registered voters (currently = 35)

**Saturday, January 20, 2024** – Presidential primary ballots available for absentee voting. **Voters must choose a party on absentee request.**

**Monday, January 29, 2024** – Last day to file a Candidate Petition & Consent of Candidate form to run for local office – office open until 5pm

- Need signatures of 1% of registered voters (currently = 7)

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024** – Last day to withdraw candidate petition

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024** – Ballots must be available for early voting

**Saturday, February 24, 2024** – Last day to post town meeting warning for informational meeting (3 places)

**Saturday, February 24, 2024** – Last day to distribute town reports

**Saturday, February 24, 2024** – Last day to post sample ballot (3 places)

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024** – Wells Springs School District Informational Meeting – Middletown Springs Elementary School, at 7pm.

**Monday, March 4, 2024** – Last day for absentee ballot requests – close of business (4pm)

**Monday, March 4, 2024** – Town Informational Meeting – 6:30pm – Place to be determined, Zoom options available.

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024** – Town Meeting Day & Presidential Primary

- Polls open 7am to 7pm – Voting in Middletown Springs Town Office – 5 South Street.
- All ballots must be in by close of polls

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

## Thank You, Glen!

As probably nearly everyone knows by now, our long-time Transfer Station Attendant, Glen Moyer, is no longer handling the town's so called 'Fort Dumpster'. Glen resigned his town position to take a full-time job at the RCSWD Gleason Road transfer facility in Rutland. While this is a great opportunity for Glen, it is certainly a loss for our town.

Glen served the Town of Middletown Springs in this capacity for some 20 years. He worked for some 13 years before leaving for a full-time job at Home Depot. He later returned to this position for the last 7 years. Glen did an exceptional job at the transfer station and we wish him nothing but the best in his new job. The select board is truly grateful for Glen's dedicated and reliable service to the town, and we encourage everyone to offer Glen a word of thanks when you see him in and around town.

-Terry Redfield  
on behalf of the select board

## Call For Maple Festival Raffle Donations

It's the new year and the historical society is planning for our annual Maple Festival Raffle!

Our in-person Maple Festival will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024, and the Maple Raffle, in conjunction with festival, features items and services donated by our members, friends and local businesses. Tickets will be sold during February and the raffle drawing will be held at the festival.

**We welcome your donation of an item or a service to the Maple Raffle.** We are seeking items that we can group together to create \$100 raffle baskets. We especially welcome gift cards, gift certificates, or items that we can group together to complete a basket.

### Here are some suggestions for raffle item donations:

- Themed baskets, or items for a themed basket, such as: Vermont products, gourmet food and beverages, restaurant dining, kitchen & cooking, pet care, gardening, auto maintenance, and crafts
- Gift cards or gift certificates for gas, groceries, hardware, local and chain stores, restaurants, or clothiers
- Cash to purchase gift cards or items to complete themed baskets
- Fine art, antiques and artisan craft items
- Recreation opportunities - tickets for golfing, concerts, museums, historic sites
- Services - lessons, genealogy research, gardening, home repair, professional services
- Travel and vacation - Airbnb, bed & breakfast, condo stays, vacation-home rentals

### Donations must be offered by Saturday, January 13 to be included.

We must finalize our raffle item list by January 13 in order to promote the raffle in February by mail, press release, social media, and website.

- Please email a description or photo of your donation with its value, for display on the MSHS website, to: David Wright, [montvert@vermontel.net](mailto:montvert@vermontel.net) or call 802-235-2376.
- We look forward to hearing from you! We appreciate your support in making the Maple Raffle fundraiser a success!

## Wells Springs School District Positions Open for Election 2024\*

**School Director (Wells) - 3 Years**  
**School Director (Middletown Springs)- 3 Years**  
**School Director (At Large) - 3 Years**  
**School District Moderator\*\* - 1 Year**  
**School District Treasurer\*\* - 1 Year**  
**School District Clerk\*\*- 1 Year**

*\*\* Elected from the floor at School Annual Meeting*

**\* 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/>

## Call For Photos

Do you have pictures of Middletown Springs that you want to share? The middleTOWN NEWSletter wants to see them!

Send us your photos of places and things (no people!) in Middletown and we may use them in a future issue of the newsletter (with credit).

Email all photos to:  
[05757news@gmail.com](mailto:05757news@gmail.com)

# Middletown Springs University 2024

Middletown Springs University (MSU) will "open" again this March and will soon accept course proposals.

MSU is a free, pop-up university that takes place in March right here in Middletown Springs. The town is the campus. Residents are the teachers. We all are the students!

Classes can range from archery to yoga, book making to yo-yo tricks. Are you a birder? Teach a class about native bird identification. Love to knit? There's someone who'd love to learn. Excel wiz? History buff? Musical instruments? Share your skills, passions, knowledge and know-how with your neighbors this March.

Class proposal will be collected in the coming weeks. A link will be posted on Front Porch Forum, Facebook, and the MSU website. Starting thinking today about what you can teach in March!

MSU runs on the power of community. Please contact Mary Lamson if you are interested in participating as a planning committee volunteer OR if you have questions/suggestions/ideas to share. [MiddletownSpringsU@gmail.com](mailto:MiddletownSpringsU@gmail.com)

**"The best way to predict the future is to create it."**

**— Peter Drucker**

## New at the Library

### Fiction - Children's

*Ride, Fly Guy, Ride* - Tedd Arnold  
*Fly Guy vs The Flyswatter* -  
Tedd Arnold

### Non-Fiction - Children's

*Birds & Birdwatching* -  
David Alderton

### Graphic Novels - Children's

*Anne of Green Gables* -  
Mariah Marsden

### Picture Books - Children's

*Duck For President* - Doreen Cronin  
*The Leaf Thief* - Alice Hemming  
*Beep Beep* - Petr Horacek  
(Board Book)  
*Goodnight, Little Monster* -  
Helen Kettermann  
*Forest* - Jane Ormes (Board Book)

### DVDs

*Barbie*  
*Oppenheimer*

## Town Newsletter

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, and the library.

## CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Time	Location	Contact
Conservation Commission	2nd Tues / 6pm	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	2nd Tues / 7pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7pm	MHSH	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1st Mon / 5:30pm	Via Zoom	Steve Harrington (235-1043)
Selectboard	2nd/4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Herb Childress (235-2093)
WellsSprings Community Engagement	2nd Mon / 6:30pm	MSES/WES	Eric.montbriant@grcsu.org
WellsSprings School Board	2nd Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	Eric.montbriant@grcsu.org

### Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library  
[05757news@gmail.com](mailto:05757news@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.

**“WINTER FORMS OUR CHARACTER AND BRINGS OUT OUR BEST.”  
 — TOM ALLEN**