

FEBRUARY, 2024

middleTOWN NEWSletter

FREE DVDs!

The library DVD collection has been culled to make it more useful to patrons. This means there are many DVD's looking for new homes.

FREE DVDs, first come first served, Saturday, Feb 3 - Saturday, Feb 10, during open hours.

The library still has 15+ shelves of DVDs for families and adults available for loan. All you need is a library card... AND a DVD-player!

Library Hours
Mon, Tues, Wed 2-6
Fri 10-2
Sat 10-12

Craft Night at the Library

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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Got News?

Please send all town events, milestones, photos, and happenings to:

05757news@gmail.com

Banner photo by Maureen McCormack

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 9am - 4pm and Thursday & Friday 1pm - 4pm.

Office phone: 802-235-2220

Clerk's email: middletown@vermontel.net

Patty Kenyon
Town Clerk

Highway Foreman Apprentice

The Town of Middletown Springs is seeking an individual to serve as the highway foreman's apprentice, during the final year of our current foreman's excellent service before his retirement. If the apprenticeship period is successful, our hope is that this person be prepared to take on the role of highway foreman in October 2024.

This is a supervisory position, reporting to the foreman but overseeing the work of other highway crewmembers. It also entails collaboration with other regional, state, and federal agencies; negotiating and contracting with vendors; writing funding proposals for grants; careful recordkeeping; and excellent communication with the public and with the selectboard. A valid Vermont-issued CDL Class B license or above is required.

Required skills include proficient operation and maintenance of a road grader, excavator, front-end loader, backhoe, and tandem plow truck.

The pay is competitive and dependent on qualifications. Benefits include: health insurance; paid time off; pension plan; and 12 paid holidays.

A full description of this position is posted on the town's website at <https://middletownsprings.vt.gov>

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact herb.childress@gmail.com or call 802-884-5560.

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 9am - 4pm and Thursday & Friday 1pm - 4pm.

Office phone: 802-235-2220;
Clerk’s email: middletown@vermontel.net

Highway Equipment Operator/Maintenance Worker

The Town of Middletown Springs is seeking an individual to serve as a highway equipment operator/maintenance worker. This is a full-time, year-round position.

Principal duties will include plowing snow, sanding, and salting roads, road construction and maintenance and other related duties. A valid Vermont-issued CDL Class B license or above is required. Candidates for this position will have experience operating a dump truck with plow, sander, loader and excavator, backhoe and/or grader. Good communication with the public and with the selectboard are expected. General knowledge of vehicle maintenance, fundamental roadway construction and maintenance procedures, equipment operation, and project recordkeeping are a plus. The pay is competitive and dependent on qualifications. Benefits include: health insurance; paid time off; pension plan; and 12 paid holidays.

A full description of this position is posted on the Town’s website at <https://middletownsprings.vt.gov>

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact herb.childress@gmail.com or call 802-884-5560.

Girl Scout Cookies Now Available!

The Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest entrepreneurship program for girls in the WORLD, is in full swing here in Vermont. When you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you help young entrepreneurs develop essential life skills including money management and goal setting.

And speaking of goals! The Daisies and Brownies (K–3rd graders) in Troop 63133 here in Middletown Springs have set a big goal for themselves! They are working hard to sell 1,000 packages and will use the proceeds for a troop camping trip, an outing to Sky Zone, and supplies to make craft kits for sick children.

If you know a Girl Scout in town, call her up! Or please reach out to troop leader Beth (802-235-1022) who will put you in touch with a Girl Scout who can take your order and deliver the cookies at no extra charge. Cookies are \$6 per package (yes, inflation), and 100% of proceeds stay local so that Girl Scouts can keep learning, giving back, and **HAVING FUN!**

Bonus Girl Scout trivia: Can you guess which Girl Scout Cookie is the country's favorite?

Answer: Thin Mints are always #1! Followed by Samoas. What's your favorite?

Learn more about Girl Scout Cookies at www.girlscouts.org/cookies.

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).

This month's banner photo was taken, and submitted, by Maureen McCormack.

Email all photos to: 05757news@gmail.com

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.

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact herb.childress@gmail.com or call 802-884-5560.

2024 Town Meeting Offices and Candidates

Town Offices

Town Moderator - 1 Year
No Candidate

Town Clerk - 3 Years
Patty Kenyon

Town Treasurer - 3 Years
Jenny Talke Munyak

Delinquent Tax Collector - 3 Years
Debra A. House

Selectboard - 3 Years
Carl P. Haynes

Selectboard - 2 Years
Sean Ruck
Neil T. Russell

Road Commissioner - 3 Years
No Candidate

Lister - 3 Years
Sally Achey

Auditor - 3 Years
No Candidate

Planning Commission - 3 Years
Steven A. Harrington

Planning Commission - 3 Years
(1 year remains)
No Candidate

Planning Commission - 3 Years
(2 years remain)
No Candidate

Library Trustee - 3 Years
Kristal Hier

Library Trustee - 3 Years
Glenn Tarbell

Library Trustee - 3 Years
(2 years remain)
No Candidate

Trustee Copeland Church
Fund - 1 Year
Rita Hansen

Trustee Copeland Cemetery
Fund - 1 Year
John C. Weatherhogg

Trustee Louis Fund & Public
Monies - 3 Years
John C. Weatherhogg

School (WSUUSD) Offices

School Director
Wells - 3 Years
Eric Montbriand

School Director
Middletown Springs - 3 Years
Mary E. Plunkett

School Director
At Large - 3 Years
Meredith Morgan
Heather Thomas

Middletown Springs Town Meeting Warning

Please click here to view a
PDF of the town meeting
warning.

Wells Springs Unified Union School District Meeting Warning

Please click here to view a PDF
of the school district meeting
warning.

Need to register to vote?

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

Middletown Springs University 2024

March 6 - March 16

Come, learn from your neighbors! Everyone in town is invited to attend a free class. Or a few!

A sampling of this year's classes:

Canning
Middletown Revolutionary War Narratives
Hula Hopping
Paper Air Planes
Crocheting for Beginners
Qigong (chee-gong)
Intro to Guitar
Sing Out!
Teen Cookie Gathering
Chair Yoga or Office yoga
Pruning trees and shrubs
Wild Game Cooking
Active workout to build leg and core strength
Discussing Difficult Topics with Teen and Tweens
Gardening Questions Answered...A Community Forum
Concepts and Practices of Green Woodworking
Tales from Botany: a history of plant chemistry

All Middletowners are invited to attend classes. All classes are taught by your friends and neighbors. All classes are free.

Visit <https://middletownspringsu.weebly.com/> to see the complete schedule and to sign up for a class or two (or more!)*

***2024 schedule and class registration will be posted after Feb 10.**

What is MSU?

MSU is a free, pop-up university, run by volunteers in Middletown Springs each March. The town becomes a campus; residents are the professors; and we are all the students. MSU is a fun opportunity for neighbors to share their know-how, and a way for each of us to learn something new. On a deeper level, MSU brings people together in a way that a Main Street would, and enables deeper connections between neighbors.

New at the Library

Children's

Claudia and the Bad Joke -
Ann M. Martin

Young Adult

Heartstopper #5 - Alice Oseman
This Winter - Alice Oseman

Fiction

The Book Binder - Pip Williams

Non-Fiction

Your Soul Knows - Gary Lindorff
Cloud Pieces -
Amelia Phoenix Desertsong
The Hundred Years' War on Palestine
Rashid Khalidi
Knitovation - Andrea Rangel

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?!

[Click here to download the list](#), or stop in the library to pick one up!

Note From the Treasurer

Plan ahead for April 2024 Income Tax filing.

You will be required to file your annual Vermont Homestead Declaration and your Property Tax Assistance request.

For this filing, you will need the copy of your property tax bill that was mailed to you in August 2023. Please take the time to locate your copy now.

You will need to provide this tax bill copy *yourself* to your accountant or tax service.

It is not the responsibility of the town treasurer (or even the town clerk) to submit this document to your accountant/tax service; we do not have the resources to again remit your bills.

If you have questions about homestead declaration/property tax assistance, please contact the VT Department of Taxes directly: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit> or (802) 828-2865

Thank you!
Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer

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 and more arriving any day from High Mowing. 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 to "swap" to "shop".

Tech Tuesdays

Having trouble with your new phone? Have a computer question? Want to stream on your tablet, but aren't sure how?

Stop by the library on any Tuesday during open hours and the librarians will be happy to help!

Tech Tuesday!

Every Tuesday, 2pm-6pm at the library.

Mark Your Calendars!



Pie for Breakfast Saturday, April 6!

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.

Winter in the Woods

The Conservation Commission warmly sends winter greetings and invites the community to explore the enchanting beauty of Sullivan Woods, located off Fitzgerald Road and open for public enjoyment throughout the year.

As the winter season continues, the pace of life in the woods has transformed: the forest is quieter, more open, and perhaps more mysterious. Winter invites us to bundle up, slow down, and immerse ourselves in the serene ambiance of the woods—to pause and admire the icicles, the sparkling snow, the wonders of nature.

But all is not quiet! Beneath the snow, voles, mice, and chipmunks create intricate tunnels in the subnivean zone, allowing them to forage for food while remaining hidden. The foxes and owls are not easily beaten, though, with their ability to hear prey beneath the snow from as far as 30 yards away!

Winter also unveils hidden treasures. Stripped of dense foliage, bird nests become more conspicuous, making it an ideal time for budding birders to start their journey. With fewer species present, it's easier to focus in on more recognizable ones like chickadees and nuthatches.

Woodpeckers diligently search for grubs sheltering under the bark, evergreen plants continue to draw energy from the sun, and neighbors remark that it won't be long before the sap begins to run.

Sullivan Woods, in its winter splendor, continues to be a haven for exploration, discovery, and a profound connection with the natural world.

The Conservation Commission, which is accepting new members, will meet next at the library on Tuesday, February 6, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

***“In February there is everything to hope for
and nothing to regret.”***

Patience Strong, poet
(1907-1990)

Save These Dates!

Seed Swap
February 1

Free DVDs at the library
February 3 - 10

Tech Tuesday at the library
February 6

Craft Night at the library
February 12

Town Meeting (Info Meeting)
March 4

Town Meeting (Voting)
March 5

Middletown Springs University
March 6 -16

Property Taxes Due
March 15

RRPC Community Open House
March 16

Maple Festival
March 17

Dog Registration Due
April 1

Pie for Breakfast
April 6

Eclipse Watch Party
April 8

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
 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.