

MARCH, 2024

middleTOWN NEWSletter



Pie for Breakfast 2016

PIE FOR BREAKFAST

The library is hosting our 15th annual Pie for Breakfast. On Saturday, **April 6, 2024, from 8am-11am**, library volunteers and trustees will be serving up all-you-can-eat PIE for breakfast with tea, coffee, or juice. The slices are cut thin so it is easy to try many different varieties. Pies are both sweet (such as pumpkin, apple, berry, chocolate) and savory (such as quiche, pot pies, pizza). There are also many gluten-free options!

This delicious annual event is held at the Elementary School. Come enjoy scrumptious pies, hot coffee, and good cheer, \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 5-12; under 5 are FREE. All proceeds benefit the Middletown Springs Public Library.

For more information contact the library at 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

This issue:

- [Pie For Breakfast.....1](#)
- [Maple Festival Raffle.....2](#)
- [Highway Foreman Apprentice.....2](#)
- [Transfer Station Hours.....3](#)
- [Solar Eclipse Party.....3](#)
- [Highway Equipment Operator.....3](#)
- [Information for Town Meeting.....4](#)
- [Transfer Station Attendant.....4](#)
- [Maple Festival.....5](#)
- [Changes to Library Hours.....5](#)
- [Craft Night.....5](#)
- [Middletown Springs University.....6](#)
- [New at the Library.....6](#)
- [Book Group.....6](#)
- [Note From the Treasurer.....7](#)
- [Tech Tuesday.....7](#)
- [Green Up Day.....7](#)
- [RRCP Open House.....8](#)
- [Seed Swap.....8](#)
- [Call for Photos.....8](#)
- [Dog Registration.....9](#)
- [Save These Dates.....9](#)
- [Calendar of Regular Meetings.....10](#)

Got News?

Please send all town events, milestones, photos, and happenings to:
05757news@gmail.com



Middletown Springs Historical Society Announces Maple Raffle

One of the items in the Middletown Springs Historical Society's Maple Raffle is a 5-hour rental for up to 30 people at the 1780's Reuben Wait Barn at Green Mountain Timber Frames in Middletown Springs. Photo courtesy of Green Mountain Timber Frames

With 37 items, each valued at \$100 or more, the Middletown Springs Historical Society (MSHS) kicks off its annual Maple Festival Raffle. The Grand Prize item is the winner's choice of a gift certificate for 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy or the cash equivalent, around \$400.

Other raffle items include gift cards from local and regional stores and restaurants, home and garden décor, specialty services, and even a unique historic barn venue for your group event. In addition, Middletown Springs residents offer their expertise in massage, natural history consulting, computer consulting, and connecting with horses. Participants can target their tickets for individual item raffles, increasing their chances of getting what they want.

Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100. Tickets and payments must be returned by mail, postmarked by March 13. For a list of raffle items, downloadable tickets, and instructions, visit the historical society's website at www.mshsvt.org.

Separate raffle drawings for each of the 37 items will be held during the **2024 Maple Festival on Sunday, March 17**, at the historical society building. Winners do not have to be present and will be notified to arrange for pickup or shipping. Winners will be responsible for shipping costs.

"We are sincerely heartened by the generous raffle donations we have received from MSHS members and friends, local businesses and regional stores," says Maple Festival Chair Pat Hemenway. All proceeds from the raffle support MSHS educational and historic preservation projects including the Mineral Springs Park, the MSHS Museum, and the historic Adams House. For more information contact David Wright at 802-235-2376 or montvert@vermontel.net.

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.

Transfer Station Hours

Operating hours of the 'Fort Dumpster' Transfer Station will soon be changing. Effective Saturday, March 16, the transfer station will ONLY be open on Saturdays, with expanded hours of operation from 6am to 2pm.

This means that the transfer station will be CLOSED on Mondays for the foreseeable future. While the selectboard regrets any inconvenience or hardships that this may cause for our customers, this change needs to be made at this time.

As most everyone should know, the Town of Middletown Springs is actively seeking a part-time transfer station attendant to serve in this capacity. Information and job description may be found on the town website and in this newsletter for any interested candidates.

Thank you for your understanding.

Solar Eclipse Party @ the Library Monday, April 8

Join us in the library's backyard for our Near-Total Eclipse Party!

We will have solar eclipse safety glasses, sunshine punch and cookies, and some solar-inspired crafts. We have some lawn chairs but you are encouraged to bring your own.

Being so close to the path of totality, we will see the moon will cover 98.86% of the sun! Unless of course it is cloudy then we will still have fabulous refreshments and stream NASA's broadcast of the eclipse.

A partial eclipse begins at 2:14pm as the moon starts to move in front of the sun. It will hit peak at 3:27pm when the total eclipse will darken Vermont's daytime sky, lasting about 3 minutes. The phenomenon will continue as a partial eclipse until 4:37 p.m.

So, avoid the crowds and join your neighbors to witness this stellar solar event! Vermont officials are now expecting up to 200,000 visitors to descend on Vermont seeking a good view of this extraordinary phenomenon.

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.

Information for Town Meeting March 5, 2024

Sample ballots are available on the town's website at <https://middlesprings.vt.gov/town-government/town-meeting-elections/>

The Town Report is now available on the town's website. You can find a link to it on the left sidebar or on the "Official Documents" page. Or access through this direct link: <https://middlesprings.vt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FY-2023-Town-Report.pdf>

The town and school candidate listing has been posted to the town's website at <https://middlesprings.vt.gov/town-government/town-meeting-elections/>

Warnings for all three elections (Town Meeting, School District Meeting, Presidential Primary) and other pertinent election information including voter registration and absentee ballot request forms are also on the Town Meeting & Elections page.

Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 5, 2024, with the Town Informational Meeting to be held on Monday, March 4, starting at 6:30pm at the Middletown Springs Elementary School. Remote attendance will also be available.

Polls will be open on Tuesday, March 5 from 7am to 7pm in the new Middletown Springs Town Office – 5 South Street.

Absentee ballots can be requested now through Monday, March 4 at 4pm (close of business). To receive an absentee ballot, you must 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. This year we are also holding the Presidential Primary on March 5, you must choose a party to receive that early ballot.

Again, absentee ballot forms and voter registration information can be found on the town's website <https://middlesprings.vt.gov/town-government/town-meeting-elections/>

The town clerk's office is open Monday & Tuesday 9am - 4pm and Thursday & Friday 1pm - 4pm. Town office phone: 802-235-2220; town clerk's email: middletown@vermontel.net

Please reach out with any questions.

Patty Kenyon
Town Clerk

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://middlesprings.vt.gov>

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

Middletown Springs Maple Festival Offers Sweet Fun

Maple lore and demonstrations, hearty lunch items, sugar-on-snow, maple “spun gold”, sweet treats from local kitchens, and a Maple Raffle featuring 37 items each valued at \$100 or more are the highlights of the 2024 Annual Maple Festival of the Middletown Springs Historical Society on **Sunday, March 17 from 1-4 pm**.

The event will feature an outdoor demonstration of early maple sugarmaking in a cast iron kettle over an open fire. Indoors, local sugarmaker Ryan Mahar and historians David Wright and Jon Mathewson will give a presentation at 2pm on maple sugaring history and current practice illustrated by artifacts from the historical society collection.

In the dining room, homemade soup, chili, mac’n’cheese and delicious maple desserts created by historical society cooks, as well as Vermont maple products and new 2024 syrup will be available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar-on-snow, blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, and maple “spun gold” cotton candy are always favorites. Acoustic music enlivens 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. Other raffle items include gift cards from local and regional stores and restaurants, artwork and collectibles, and even a rental of the historic Reuben Waite Barn at Green Mountain Timber Frame in Middletown Springs for you family or business celebration. Additionally this year, Middletown Springs residents offer their expertise in holistic arts, natural history, computer consulting, and connecting with horses.

Maple Raffle participants target their tickets for individual item raffles with 37 separate drawings, increasing their chances of getting what they want. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100. Tickets and payments may be returned by mail, postmarked by March 15 or purchased and turned in at the Festival. For a list of raffle items, downloadable tickets, and instructions, visit the historical society’s website <https://mshsvt.org/maple-raffle-2024/>. The raffle drawings will begin at 3pm at the festival and you do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified to arrange for pick-up.

Raffle items, maple history artifacts, and other Middletown Springs history exhibits are on view during the festival. **Admission is free and all are welcome**

For more information call David Wright at 802 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at 802 235-2421.



Maple Festival 2023. Photo Courtesy of the Middletown Springs Historical Society

Library Hours Changes!

Pre-pandemic the library was open for 21 hours a week. Starting March 1, we will add back the last three missing hours! Our hours are now:

Monday 2-6pm
Tuesday 2-8pm!
Wednesday 2-6pm
Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday 9am-Noon!

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 next craft night is **Monday, March 11, 6-8pm**. Hope to see you there!

Middletown Springs University 2024

March 6 - March 16

The Middletown Springs University '24 schedule is up and registration for classes is OPEN!

Nearly 30 free classes are offered this year, taught by our friends and neighbors. What classes will you take?

Active Workout to Build Leg and Core Strength
Brains And Screens: How do Screens Impact Our Brains?
Concepts and Practices of Green Woodworking
Chair or Office Yoga
Crocheting for Beginners
Discussing Sensitive Subjects with Teens and Tweens
Game Night
Health and Wellness: Why Supplementary Nutrition?
Gardening Questions Answered
Hula Hooping for Teens and Adults
Interactive Civics: How an Idea Becomes Law
Intro to Guitar
Knitting for Beginners
Learn to Crochet a Stuffed Animal
Middletown Revolutionary War Narratives
Middletown Springs Elected Officers: What Do All These People Do?
Make and Fly Paper Air Planes
Pruning Trees and Shrubs
Qigong
Sing Out!
Tales from Botany: A History of Plant Chemistry
Teen Cookie Gathering
Villanelle vs. Pantoum: Write the Difference
Wild Game Cooking
Y'all Know What Data Is?
Yoga Prana Shakti Floor Yoga

Visit MSU's website for class descriptions and the full schedule today!
<https://middletownspringsu.weebly.com/free-registration.html>

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. MSU brings people together in a way that a Main Street would, and enables deeper connections between neighbors.

New at the Library

Picture Books

The Truth About Max - Alice and Martin Provensen
Maybe A Whale - Kirstin Pendreigh
Big - Vashti Harrison
Night in the City - Julie Downing

Children

Amulet: Waverider - Kazu Kibuishi
InvestiGators: Off the Hook - John Patrick Green
InvestiGators: Take the Plunge - John Patrick Green
InvestiGators: Braver and Boulder - John Patrick Green
Skull - Jon Klassen
Dinosaur Club: Catching the Velociraptor - Rex Stone
Dinosaur Club: The Compsognathus Chase - Rex Stone

Young Adult

Red White & Royal Blue - Casey McQuiston

Fiction

The Bee Sting - Paul Murray
The Women - Kristin Hannah

Non-Fiction

My Promised Land - Ari Shavit
Alterknits - Leigh Radford
Zero at the Bone - Christian Wiman

Library Book Group

The March book is *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and the discussion will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 7pm at the library. At a later time (tba), we will watch the NEW musical movie together.

The book group is open and you are welcome to join us. Stop in the library to borrow a copy of the book. If you are interested or have questions, call or email the library, 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com.

Note From the Treasurer

1. Third Quarter Property Tax payments for 23/24 are due on or before Friday, March 15.

Payments can be made as follows:

A. MAIL to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 (with a 3/15/24 or earlier postmark.)

B. Deposit in the NEW black mail slot on the OUTSIDE wall of the town office (to the left of the South Street entrance door) by 7pm on 3/15/24.

Please do not remit tax payments to the town clerk, as she is not authorized to accept them.

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

Tax payments received or postmarked after March 15, 2024 will incur a late fee of 1% for 3 months and 1.5% thereafter until paid.

2. When you file your INCOME taxes in April, you will also 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.

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

Thank You!

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.

2024 Green Up Day is May 4th!

Please plan to join together as a community to clean up our roadsides. Do it with a friend or your family. Every little bit helps! We hope to see you on the day.

- MTS Conservation Commission

For more info:
greenupvermont.org

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.



Rutland Regional Planning Commission Community Open House

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN **2026**

Every eight years, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission updates its visionary plan for the future of the region. The strategies outlined in this plan guide decisions on how communities will grow and develop.

WHAT IS THE RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN?

A guide to shape a healthy, equitable and resilient region. It outlines strategies for achieving our collective goals as they relate to community economic development.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE?

Attend one or all of our events to help shape the future of our region. You have the answers to what is valued and what changes are needed to ensure our community remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

Visit rutlandrpc.org/plan2026 for more information about how you can help shape the future of the region.

Seed Swap

With thanks to the Biondi family and High Mowing seeds, the library is 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".

RRCP Community Open Houses

Castleton

Saturday, March 2
1pm-3pm

Village School, 47 Mechanic St.

Middletown Springs

Saturday, March 16
11am-1pm

Town Office, 5 South St.

Wallingford

Saturday, March 30
11am-1pm

Gilbert Hart Library, 14 S Main St.

Rutland City

Saturday, March 30
5pm-8pm

Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St.

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
Haley Kenyon

Email all photos to:
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 9am - 4pm and Thursday & Friday 1pm - 4pm.

Office phone: 802-235-2220

Clerk's email: middletown@vermontel.net

Patty Kenyon
Town Clerk

Save These Dates!

Town Informational Meeting
March 4

Town Meeting - Voting
March 5

MSU
March 6 -16

Library Craft Night
March 11

Property Taxes Due
March 15

RRCP Open House
March 16

Maple Festival
March 17

First Day of Spring!
March 19

Library Book Group
March 28

April 1
Dog Registration Closes

Pie For Breakfast
April 6

Solar Eclipse Party
April 8

Green Up Day
May 4

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.montbriand@grcsu.org
WellsSprings School Board	2nd Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	Eric.montbriand@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.