

middle TOWN NEWS letter

September 2023

Bicycling in Vermont, 1880-1920



You are invited to attend the 54th annual meeting of the Middletown Springs Historical Society on Sunday, September 17, at 2pm, at the Historical Society Building. Following a dessert buffet, there will be a brief business meeting, including a review of the year's accomplishments and plans for the future. After that, guest speaker, UVM **Professor Luis Vivanco** will present his slide program, *"Of Wheelmen, The New Woman, and Good Roads: Bicycling in Vermont, 1880-1920"*. In this lecture, Prof. Luis Vivanco explores the fascinating early history of the bicycle in Vermont, a new invention that generated widespread curiosity when it arrived here in the 1870s. During the 1890s, enthusiasm exploded statewide as bicycles became safer, women took to the wheel, roads improved, and retailers developed novel advertising techniques to draw in buyers.

On display at the Historical Society will be a restored High Wheel bicycle from the museum collection. The bike is a 56.6" Columbia by the Pope Manufacturing Co., Boston, patented in 1878. It belonged to the family of Dr. Emelie Perkins, well-known pediatrician in Rutland from 1950-1970.

For more information, call David Wright 235-2376.

REMINDER:

Property Taxes are due on or before **September 15th**, by mail or in the black drop box outside the town office.

Town Office Nears the Finish Line!

The new Town Office is coming toward completion. Furniture and files will be moved from the current Town Office to the new building at the end of September, and we anticipate being open for Town business during the first week of October. Naylor & Breen Builders and their numerous subcontractors have done terrific work to bring this building in on time and on budget, and we hope it will be a source of community pride for generations to come.

The Town Clerk and Selectboard will confirm the exact dates and details of the move, the tentative dates are September 29 - October 2. Once we've settled in, there will be a public gathering later in the fall, celebrating the new building and the many, many Middletowners who have come together over the years to make it happen.

Come See the Fairy Village at the library!



Thanks to the hard-working fairy helpers, it's now open for visiting!

Traffic Survey – Voice Your Opinion

On July 6, 2023, the Select Board of Middletown Springs established a volunteer traffic and safety committee to help identify and address traffic-related concerns in town. This temporary committee will serve for approximately four months. The committee's initial task is to survey residents to identify and assess needs as well as form ideas for helpful action steps. We appreciate your ongoing thoughts, and your participation in the survey!

In our first meeting we discussed multiple challenges and ideas, including:

- Speeding and the adequacy of current speed limit(s)
- Noise (engine and exhaust)
- Elementary School traffic control / cross walk / safety
- New types of traffic control, such as solar speed limit signs placed at the borders of MTS
- Increased presence of law enforcement

We need your help to fully assess and prioritize needs and develop strategies to address those needs! We know all of you have many experiences and strong feelings about safety for drivers, walkers, and bike riders, so we want to hear from you. We are asking for your help to complete a short survey.

The survey can be completed on-line at the following link: <https://forms.gle/9bqkrokDj1qzrLHa8> or you may fill out a hard copy of the survey at the post office, town clerk's office, library, or Crossman's Store.

Thank you!

Steve Harrington

MTS Traffic Safety Committee Chair

Save the Date: Partial Eclipse Oct 14

The Library will host a **Partial Eclipse Viewing Party** for all ages along with a special themed story time. We have 250 pairs of free ISO-certified viewing glasses to distribute. The eclipse begins at noon.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter and on Front Porch Forum. Mark your calendars now!

Summer Reading Challenges Closing

The library summer program is sadly coming to an end. But don't stop reading! Everything you read through Monday, September 4 still counts towards Reading Bingo and the Charms.

Come into the library through Monday, Sept 11 to get the last charms for your reading challenge necklace or keychain. Bring us your Summer Reading Bingo to enter to win one of our fabulous prizes!

Note: the library will be closed on Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day.

International Dot Day Story Time

Celebrate International Dot Day with a special story time with Rosemary Moser, on Saturday, September 23, at 10am. Inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' book *The Dot*, International Dot Day is a celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration!

Dress the part for a little extra fun, find some polka dots in your closet and join us.

<https://www.internationaldotday.org>

Office Space for Rent

Are you thinking of expanding or relocating your office-based business? Office space will be available in early October at the Middletown Springs Historical Society building, On the Green at 10 Park Ave. Rented as the Town Office since 1980, the 440 sq. ft. space was remodeled in 1998 and subdivided to create a secure room with an antique fire resistant safe.

The main room has built-in shelving and a mini-split heating and cooling system. Interior doors provide access to the building's accessible restroom and an alternate accessible entrance from the rear of the building. The office is wired for an optional security system through Countryside Lock and Alarm.

The monthly rent of \$500 which includes heat and electricity. A lease and security deposit are required.

For more information, call: Pat Hemenway (802) 235-2421; or David Wright (802) 235-2376.

Large Dumpster Day – October 7!

Fall 'Large Dumpster Day' will be held Saturday, October 7, from **7am – 12pm** at the town property (577 West Street), opposite Parker Water Wells. Please **note the NEW fall start time of 7am**. The sun rises later this time of year.

Middletown Springs residents may discard large unused or unwanted items such as furniture, mattresses, children's toys, and small amounts of construction/demolition debris that do not qualify as normal household trash. (NO CONTRACTORS, PLEASE). The charge is \$10 per vehicle OR trailer load; truck and trailer loads are \$10 each (or \$20). Metal-only loads may be disposed of for free.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- In the interest of staff safety and efficiency, all small items must be in contractor bags or some form of disposable container as much as reasonably possible.
- Non-conforming loads may be turned away at the Staff's discretion.
- Regular household trash and recyclable items, including electronics, MUST be taken to the Fort Dumpster facility.
- Items containing refrigerant (such as freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners) are subject to a \$25.00 fee per item and will be accepted at the Fort Dumpster site during this event only.
- Hazardous materials such as paints, oils, propane tanks, other solvents and the like are NOT accepted.
- TIRES are NOT ACCEPTED at this event.
- The work crew would greatly appreciate mixed loads that are separated as much as possible to simplify the unloading process.
- Please bring exact change or a personal check in the correct amount, payable to the *Town of Middletown Springs*.
- Please remain in your vehicle unless instructed otherwise.
- The Town of Middletown Springs shall NOT be responsible for any damages that may occur during the loading or unloading process.

3rd Annual Town Gathering

We hope you'll join what's becoming a wonderful tradition in Middletown Springs—the Annual Town Gathering!

What started as a way to come together emerging from the pandemic—and a special opportunity to welcome a small influx of newcomers—has evolved into a celebration of neighbors and neighborliness, no matter whether you're a remote-working newcomer or a tale-spinning old timer!

So, join your neighbors in Mineral Springs Park on Sunday, **September 24, 3:30-5pm** to have some fun, eat some delicious food and meet each other.

Want to help make the gathering a success? You can bring some finger food, pop into the planning meetings, and convince a shy neighbor or two to join the fun. Email towngathering@gmail.com to find out how to help.

See you on the 24th to rub elbows, swap stories, and do what we do best—eat food together!

Kindly, A few of your neighbors

Middletown Springs Annual Community YARD SALE



Saturday September 9th
9am-2pm on the green in Middletown Springs

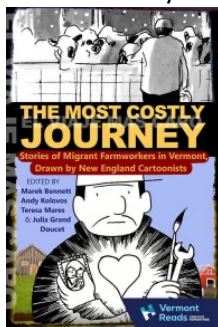
This event is brought to you by The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library

Please Note:

The tentative dates for the move to the new building include the Town Clerk's office hours on Sept. 29 & Oct 2 when the office will be closed.

Vermont Reads: *The Most Costly Journey*

The Vermont Reads 2022 choice was *The Most Costly Journey* (*El viaje más caro*). It tells the stories of 19 immigrant farm workers in their own words. Illustrated by New England cartoonists in a variety of styles, each short chapter describes aspects of their life in Vermont: crossing the southern border, struggling with English, adapting to winter, growing gardens, raising children, dealing with health crises, and working long hours.



Copies of the book will be circulating throughout town during the next two months. Join us at the library for a lively discussion on **Thursday, October 26, at 7pm**. A far-ranging conversation is sure to involve the themes of migration, farming, mental health, cartooning, family, labor movements, and the Latinx experience, among others.

For more information and to check a copy, stop in at the library, or contact us 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

Later in the year we will be participating in Vermont Reads 2023 (*Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo)

FFE Flowery Fundraiser



Please support the Friends for Education (FFE) and beautify your home and our community by placing an order for gorgeous spring bulbs, today!

Use the link below or scan the QR code to complete your order and payment. Online orders are shipped directly to shipping address starting September 15.

<https://dutchmillbulbs.com/friends-for-education-middletown%20springs-vt>



Questions? Please contact:
Ashley Fioretti
vtlittleflower13@gmail.com

Troop Accepting New Girl Scouts in K–3 First Meeting Sept. 27

You want a brighter, happier tomorrow for the girl in your life, and that's what we want, too! Studies show that being a Girl Scout improves girls' confidence and prepares them to handle life's challenges. Plus, the earlier a girl starts with Girl Scouts, the more likely she is to stick with it and achieve all sorts of positive life outcomes (college degrees, life satisfaction—really, we have the research to prove it!)

Not to mention, Girl Scouts make forever friends, learn a ton of skills, and have SO. MUCH. FUN! So, if you know a curious **kindergartener through third grader**, we can't wait to meet her!! Meetings take place at the Middletown Springs Elementary School every other Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30pm, and she doesn't have to live here or attend that school to take part! **Our first meeting will take place on September 27.**

Fees are low, and confidential financial aid is available. We're looking for grown-up volunteers, too! To learn more, call us at 235-1022 or visit girlscouts.org. Hope to hear from you!

Know someone in an older grade? It's not too late for her to join—visit girlscouts.org to find a nearby troop for her age group.

Beth and Brynn
Troop Leaders, Girl Scout Troop 63133



Daisy Girl Scouts Mabel and Evelyn sit atop a van full of Girl Scout Cookies

2024 Community Birthday Calendar

A TOWN TRADITION SINCE 1975 (ish)

Order Yours Calendar Now & Save!



All proceeds benefit **BOTH** Middletown Springs Public Library (MSPL) and Friends For Education (FFE)

NEW Partners!

Pre-paid orders by 9/12 - \$10.

After 9/12 - \$15.

Use this [form](#) or sign up online

<https://bit.ly/MTSCalendar2024>

Business Sponsor/Advertiser are critical for the success of this project. Display ads are visible all 12 months of the year and are available in three sizes: [½ block / \$25, full block / \$50, double block / \$100].

<https://bit.ly/MTSCalendarAdForm2024>.

Advertising Deadline is Sept 21, 2023.

Front Porch Forum

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

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

PO Box 1206

Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

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.

Calendar of EVENTS

Community Yard Sale	Sat, Sept 9	9am-2pm	Town Green
Property TAXES due	Fri, Sept 15		by mail or in the dropbox
MSHS Annual Meeting	Sun, Sept 17	2pm	Historical Society
Int'l Dot Day Story Time	Sat, Sept 23	10am	Library
Town Gathering	Sun, Sept 24	3:30-5pm	Spring Park
Girl Scouts K-3 / 1 st meeting	Wed, Sept 27	5:30-6:30	School
Large Dumpster Day	Sat, Oct 7	<i>NEW</i> 7am-12pm	577 West St.
Eclipse Viewing Party	Sat, Oct 14	12pm	Library
VT Reads Discussion	Thurs, Oct 26	7pm	Library

Calendar of REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2 nd Tues / 5:30pm	Library	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Association	2 nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	Art Castle (235-2351)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues / 6:30pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Tues / 7:15pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1 st Thurs / 7pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4 th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1 st Mon / TBA	via Zoom	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Herb Childress (235-2093)
Wells Springs Community Engagement Committee	2 nd Mon / 6:30pm		eric.montbriand@grcsu.org
Wells Springs School Board	2 nd Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	eric.montbriand@grcsu.org