

AUGUST 2025

# middleTOWN NEWSletter



An example of flower pounding, one of many arts and crafts that will be at the library art carnival.

## Art Carnival at the Library

It might be starting to feel like summer is winding down, but it's not over yet. The library is celebrating the summer program, Color Our World, with a final blow-out event!

Stop by the library on Saturday, August 9 between 10am-2pm for our first-ever Art Carnival!

There will be a variety of arts and crafts to try your hand at, including: flower pounding, tie-dye, henna, jewelry making, and MORE! The crafts are planned to appeal to all ages, kids, teens, and adults.

There will be light summery refreshments, and we will break out our lawn game collection.

Join in the fun, come create and play with friends and neighbors at the library.

If you would like to help out--or if you have any questions--please contact the library at [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com) or 802-235-2435.

Banner photo by Benjamin Riggins

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## Got News?

Please send all town events, milestones, photos, and happenings to:  
[05757news@gmail.com](mailto:05757news@gmail.com)

# Summer Reading at the Library

Summer isn't over yet. There's still plenty of time to get involved in summer reading at the library. Stop by and participate in our summer reading challenges today!

**Reading is Charming:** Set your own (repeatable) reading goal, and every time you meet it, come to the library and get a charm to add to your necklace/bracelet/keychain!

**Community Reading Challenge:** How many books can Middletown read this summer? Let's find out! Come and add your reads to our paper chain and see how many times we can wrap it around the library. Every book counts (including books you've listened to). The chain gets longer every day **but we need your help!**

Watch Front Porch Forum, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and the newsletter for updates.

# Community Yard Sale

Seeking Vendors for Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 6.

Do you have a house full of stuff you are ready to sell?  
Are you a maker and want a space to sell your wares?  
Do you want to hang out with your neighbors while making some money?

Do we have a deal for you!!!!

Sign up for a space at the Middletown Springs Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 6 from 9am-2pm. The space rental fee is \$25 and all proceeds go to the Friends of the Middletown Springs Library. If you are not interested in selling, we hope you put it on your calendar to come by the green and shop.

If interested in a space, please email [wendyherrick84@gmail.com](mailto:wendyherrick84@gmail.com) or stop by the library for a registration form.

Can't wait to see you there!

# Save These Dates!

- Tour De Slate  
August 2
- Gravestone Cleaning  
August 5
- Art Carnival  
August 9
- Gravestone Cleaning  
August 16
- Gravestone Cleaning  
August 19
- Gravestone Cleaning  
August 30
- Community Yard Sale  
September 6
- Community Gathering  
September 7
- Taxes Due  
September 15



The library's summer reading challenge paper chain wraps around the children section.

# Library Hours

**Reminder: The library has extended hours every Tuesday and Saturday.**

- Monday 2pm-6pm
- Tuesday 2pm-8pm**
- Wednesday 2pm-6pm
- Friday 10am-2pm
- Saturday 9am-12pm**

# Emerald Ash Borer

The Forest Health Team of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has notified the town that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been identified in Middletown Springs. An invasive beetle which destroys ash trees it was first seen in the US in 2002 and had spread to Vermont by 2018. Identifications in Rutland County in 2025 have also occurred in several other towns, including Clarendon, Pawlet, Tinmouth and Wallingford.

How can we help? Knowledge is the first step—learn to recognize ash trees. The drawing and photo you see here are from the excellent website [VTinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-Vermont](https://VTinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-Vermont).

The website also has slide shows and videos showing what infestation looks like. This basically starts with larvae boring into the inner bark and outer wood. Trees die within 3-5 years of infestation. Millions have died across the US.

It is recommended that if you have an infested or dying tree to leave it in place as long as it does not pose a threat of falling on a structure or roadway. If it is cut for firewood, do NOT transport the firewood out of the area as that will spread the EAB. Likewise, do not bring ash firewood purchased elsewhere into this area. Movement of infested material threatens un-infested forests. Ash bark is readily identifiable.

For more details on identification and treatment see the website link above. Also check online, [vtcommunityforestry.org](https://vtcommunityforestry.org) The conservation commission also has informative fliers provided by these organizations and will make them available to review in the library and the town office. Suspicious findings can be reported online at [VTinvasives.org](https://VTinvasives.org) using the Report IT function on the homepage. Or you may contact Middletown Springs Conservation Commission chair Steve Harrington via email [ohungerdell@gmail.com](mailto:ohungerdell@gmail.com).



Above and Left:  
Ash Tree  
Identification  
Below:  
Emerald Ash Borer  
photos provided



## 2025 Reading Goal Update

**Kimberly**

67/52 books

**Favorite July Read:**

*My Name Is Lucy Barton*  
by Elizabeth Strout

**Haley**

60/60 books

**Favorite July Read:**

*Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil*  
by V.E. Schwab

Follow along on [Facebook](#) to see how the librarians do with their reading goals, and chime in about your own goals and favorite reads of the year!





# A Note from the Town Treasurer.

New Property Tax Bills for fiscal year 25/26 have been mailed.

Take note that you will likely see an increase in your tax bill this year. The Town and Highway tax rate has an increase of .8% and the State Education Tax Rate for Homestead has increased 4.5% and non-Homestead has increased 4.9%.

**Your first tax payment will be due on or before Monday, September 15, 2025.** Mark your calendars to pay on time and avoid late fees. **Save your bill!!!!**

A yellow informational document has been included with your tax bill. It's worth taking the time to read and save it along with your bill.

**Exciting news! For your convenience, we can now accept secure online tax payments (for a small fee.)** Payment can be made by most Credit/Debit Cards, and Electronic checks. Details can be found on the yellow document in your bill, and on our town website:  
<https://middletownsprings.vt.gov/>

Regarding Homestead rebates: Contact the Vermont Department of Taxes with any questions:  
<https://tax.vermont.gov/property/property-tax-credit>

# Annual Community Gathering

Save the date! **The 5th Annual Community Gathering will take place on Sunday, September 7.**

This event welcomes new people who have moved to town, and offers everyone the chance to reconnect with neighbors who they may not see very often.

There will be activities, games, snacks, and a chance to meet town officials.

Everyone is welcomed and encourage to attend.

Time and place to be determined soon. Watch for announcements on Front Porch Forum in the coming weeks.

# New at the Library

## Children's Books

*The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* -Gennifer Choldenko  
*Flicker* - H E Edgmon  
*Unicorn Diaries #10* - Rebecca Elliott  
*Miss Camper* - Kat Fajardo  
*The Liars Society* - Alyson Gerber  
*Sunflower Hour* - Poppy Green  
*Swing it Sunny* - Jennifer L. Holm  
*Sunny Figures it Out* - Jennifer L. Holm  
*Paper Dragons* - Sioban McDermott  
*Click* - Kayla Miller  
*Averil Offline* - Amy Noelle Parks  
*The Creepening of Dogwood House* - Eden Royce  
*The Tryout* - Christina Sonntornvat  
*The Squad* - Christina Soontornvat  
*Marshmallow Pie #1* - Clara Vulliamy  
*Mouse Paints* - Ellen Stoll Walsh

## Adult Fiction

*Leave the World Behind* - Rumaan Alam  
*The Ministry of Time* - Kaliane Bradley  
*The Light Pirate* - Lily Brooks-Dalton  
*Infinite Country* - Patricia Engel  
*Booth* - Karen Joy Fowler  
*This Other Eden* - Paul Harding  
*To Be A Man* - Nicole Krauss  
*You Are Here* - David Nichols  
*The Berry Pickers* - Amanda Peters  
*Colored Television* - Danzy Senna

## Adult Non Fiction

*Love Stories* - Trent Dalton

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# Craft Night

Come to Library Craft Night!

Bring whatever you are working on, (knitting, crochet, needlework, rug hooking... anything that fits in your lap) and spend a couple creative hours with friends and neighbors.

Come for tea, conversation, and inspiration. The next craft night is **Monday, August 11, 6:30 -8pm.**

# Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning – August 2025

All events are weather permitting.

- Tuesday, August 5, 2025 – 6pm
- Saturday, August 16, 2025 – 10am
- Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – 6pm
- Saturday, August 30, 2025 – 10am

If you are interested in helping clean gravestones at the old cemetery, feel free to join us on any of these days or evenings. If you'd like to help out on another day and time, let me know and we can make some arrangements that work for you.

The town will provide buckets, soft bristle brushes and the cleaning solution. You should bring garden/work gloves, hydration, bug repellent and wear your old work clothes, it's pretty dirty work.

If you have questions, contact the town clerk.

If you'd like to be added to the email list for notification of these opportunities, please reach out and I'll gladly add you to the list.

Many thanks to those who have come out to help so far. We've made great progress, had some fun, and learned about some of our town's founding residents.

Patty Kenyon  
Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's regular office hours are Monday & Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and Thursday & Friday from 1pm to 4pm.  
PH: 802-235-2220 | Email: [middletown@vermontel.net](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net) |  
The town office is closed every Wednesday and all federal holidays



# Cyanotype Thank You

Many thanks to Sara Rodich for teaching a very successful cyanotype class at the library on July 26. **And a huge thank you to everyone who came out to learn and make art!**

We had many people of all ages packed into the library to learn about, and make, cyanotype prints.

Keep an eye out in the newsletter, and on front porch forum, for future cyanotype opportunities.



Cyanotype prints made at the library  
Cyanotype class taught by Sara Rodich  
on July 26

## 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 at the library.

## Tour de Slate: Bike Ride to End Addiction

The numbers don't lie—Vermont is in the middle of an addiction crisis. These are not just statistics. They represent real people: sons, daughters, parents, friends, neighbors, co-workers. There are so many stories. Everyone knows someone whose life has been impacted. Every number is a cry for help.

In Middletown Springs and throughout the neighboring Slate Valley, we've heard that cry. We believe there is a better way forward: one filled with freedom, transformation, and joy. Our story is about riding bikes to raise money for the recovery of these people caught in addiction. **The eighth annual Tour de Slate, "riding to end addiction", will take place on Saturday, August 2, 2025.**

"Tour de Slate changes lives," said event coordinator Stan Achey. "100% of the net proceeds go directly to cover the expenses of men, women and teens ready to turn their lives around and break the chains of addiction at Adult & Teen Challenge Vermont". Achey, an avid road cyclist, was inspired to combine his love for cycling with his desire to support Teen Challenge. Adult and Teen Challenge Vermont (ATC VT), never turns away anyone due to their financial situation. Since they receive no government funding, fundraising is vital. "God put this on my heart, and I thought 'I've gotta do it'," said Achey.

Travis Morehouse, a graduate of ATC VT, attests to the program's success. His life, once plagued by addiction, has been restored due to the program's skills and training. "Tour de Slate holds such a special place in my heart. I rode in the first year as a resident in the ATCVT program. I instantly felt like family because not only was the money being raised to support my stay at ATCVT, but they also allowed me to ride in the event with other riders. I felt so included that I fell in love with every aspect of this event, what it was accomplishing, and the people involved. I have been a part of the ride ever since."

The event will feature six routes to accommodate various cycling levels, including two gravel rides and a family-friendly rails/trails ride. All routes start and end in Middletown Springs and are fully supported with rest stops and SAG (support and gear) vehicles. In its seven years, the Tour de Slate bicycle ride to "end addiction" has raised an aggregate of almost \$250,000.00 to support the care, counseling, and educational services for residents at Adult and Teen Challenge Vermont.

Come ride with us. Add your story.

Register online at [www.tourdeslate.org](http://www.tourdeslate.org), where donations can be made. You can also mail your donation to Tour de Slate Inc., P.O. Box 1012, Middletown Springs, VT 05757. For more information, contact Stan Achey at [info@tourdeslate.org](mailto:info@tourdeslate.org) or call (802) 558-0934.

## Free COVID Tests!

The Town Office and the Town Library have a full supply of **free COVID tests**.

Please save yourself some money and pick up some tests to have on hand. You never know when you might need a test, and we have them here for the taking.

Stop by soon to stock up.

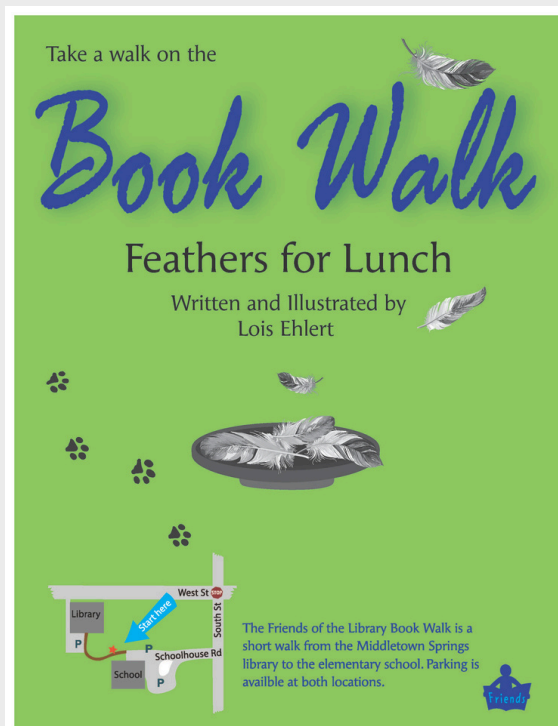
## Library Book Group

The August book is *The Speckled Beauty* by Rick Bragg.

The discussion will be held August 28 at 7pm at the library.

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](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)





## Legislative Update from Chris Prichard

For this update, I wanted to share the committee I was assigned to for this legislative session and how that process works.

The Speaker of the House determines committee assignments and determines what committee each of the House members will be assigned to. It is usually determined before the start of the session. This biennium was a little different as the Speaker's position was contested this year and the Speaker wasn't chosen until after all the House members were sworn in.

The current Speaker, Jill Krowinski (D), from Burlington, was challenged by Laura Sibilia (I), from Dover.

Shortly after the November Election, I received as did all the House members, a survey from both Speaker Krowinski and Representative Sibilia asking to list the top 5 choices for committees to be on and what contributions and related experiences and expertise you have that would be helpful to that committee. I received phone calls from both candidates. The conversation was mostly a introduction , welcome and congratulations. We spoke about the survey and committee preference, both conversations were pleasant and positive regarding the new session.

One of the first actions House members took after they were sworn in was to elect the Speaker. Each member was given a paper ballot for their vote, the ballot was collected and counted. Speaker Krowinski was re elected by a margin as I recall of 112-38.

Speaker Krowinski read all the appointments on the floor and at the close of the session for the day all the House members went to their respective committee rooms to meet all the members they would be working with for the next two years. I was appointed to serve on the Environment Committee.

The Environment Committee has jurisdiction over the following areas: Act 250 & Act 181, Conservation , Land Resources and Development, Wetlands, The Clean Water Act, Solid Waste Management, Climate Change Mitigation, and Fish and Wildlife Policies.

The committee spent the first 4-5 weeks reviewing and being educated in all these subjects. New bills were introduced almost daily during each House floor session. The Speaker assigned those bills to the committee that has jurisdiction in that area. Then the bill was posted on "The Wall" . The committee chair has sole discretion as to which bills will come off "The Wall" for discussion and consideration. This has been a point of frustration for myself and some other members on the committee.

*Continued on page 8*

## Sunday Soccer

The Middletown Springs 40+ year tradition of Sunday soccer continues at the Middletown Springs Elementary School field every Sunday at 3pm.

Sunday soccer is fun, pickup soccer for ages 6-99(ish). It is a chance for new or younger players to learn and also for more experienced players to challenge each other. It is good competitive soccer, with room to learn, and always a focus on having a good time together.

With a new game every Sunday, we all play hard, get some good exercise, laugh a lot, and have fun. We hope to see you there!

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## Pun of the Month

I've got a chicken proof garden. It's completely impeccable!

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## 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)

Legislative Update continued from page 7.

One example is H.217, a bill introduced by Representative Burt from Cabot, which relates to geoengineering and cloud seeding. Four members on our committee wrote a letter to Chair Sheldon asking for consideration to take up this bill and three others that were on “The Wall”. The request was granted. Each Representative was given 15 minutes to present their bill. After that, each of those bills were tacked back on “The Wall” and none have been revisited. It seems unlikely that they will be given any consideration in the second part of the session which would be most unfortunate.

It seems that discussion on geoengineering, eliminating the spreading of bio solids on farm fields and correcting the great financial harm that the three acre law will cause to Vermont families and businesses including The Vermont State Fair which has existed for over 170 years has not been made the priority some committee members had hoped for.

The 677 original names on the 3 acre list has grown to over 800 and will no doubt continue to grow. The estimated remediation and compliance cost for the original 677 names is 240 million dollars! Our committee has spent almost twice the amount of time on H.473 (A bill on performing a feasibility study to reintroducing cougars back into the State) than these other four bills combined.

Our committee was assigned 45 bills this session. Six were voted out of committee and four of those have become law. 39 still remain on “The Wall” and they will be joined by new bills introduced in the second half of the biennium. Any bills still on “The Wall” at the close of the session will be discarded and will have to be reintroduced when the new legislature is elected for the new biennium.

I will put a link to our committee home page at the end where you will be able to see all the members on the committee, their biographies, all the bills in and out of committee and all the testimony we took through the entire session. You will also be able to stream all the committee meetings and hearings we had throughout the entire session.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2026/12>

Respectfully,

Chris Pritchard

E-mail. [cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us).

Cell phone. 802-558-8918



# CAKE PICNIC

*A Celebration of Community, Connection, and the Sweetness of Summer!*

**AUGUST 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-3 PM**

**ST. RAPHAEL'S PARISH**

**OPEN TO ALL!**  
Homemade Cakes **Only**  
(One Cake per Household)

**1:30 PM - Cake Tasting**  
**2:00 PM - Cake Swap**

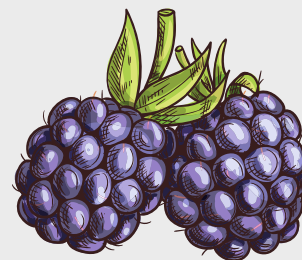
Suggested donation of **\$10**  
supports St. Raphael's  
Maintenance Fund.

**RSVP'S APPRECIATED**  
Email: [R.BeaupreWhite@gmail.com](mailto:R.BeaupreWhite@gmail.com)

**ST. RAPHAEL'S PARISH**  
Parish Hall: 21 East Main Street, Poultney

**YOUR HOSTS**  
Renée Beaupre White  
Kerry Devlin & Bob Williams

**No Cake  
No Entry!**



## GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORT PROGRAM

### What is it?

A program offering free day-use passes to Vermont State Parks and historic sites.

### Who is Eligible?

- Vermont residents at least 62 years of age, or
- Vermont veterans of the uniformed services.

### How Do I Get My Passport Card?

- Complete an application at your town office
- Submit a one-time \$2 fee
- Receive your Green Mountain Passport card - good for life! (non-transferable)

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/31019>

State of Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living  
HC 2 South, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-2020 802-241-2401  
www.DAIL.Vermont.Gov  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dailvt>  
(version date: May 2, 2018)



## CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS\*

Regular Meetings	Time	Location	Contact
Conservation Commission	3rd Mon/ 6pm	Town Office	
Fire Dept. Association	2nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	Art Castle (235-2351)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues / 6:30pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends for Education	3rd Tues / 7pm	MSES	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Friends of the Library	3rd Thurs / 7pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7pm	Adams House	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 6:30pm	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

\*Dates and times subject to change. When in doubt reach out to the contact person for confirmation.

### 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.

This digital newsletter is posted on FPF and the town website. It is sent via email to subscribers (to subscribe email [05757news@gmail.com](mailto:05757news@gmail.com)). It is also available in hard copy at the town office and the library, or delivered by USPS to those who subscribe for \$9 a year to cover postage.