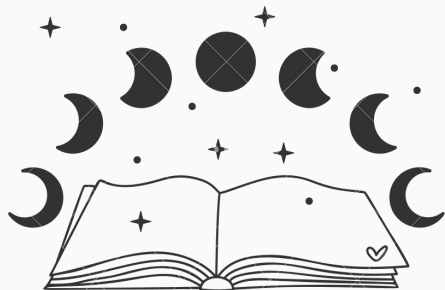


DECEMBER 2024

# middleTOWN NEWSletter



## Bedtime Stories at the Library

Join us on **Friday, December 13 at 7pm** for another Bedtime Stories event at the library. Claire Ericksen will read a few, specially selected, picture books that listeners are sure to love!

So, wear your comfiest PJs, bring your favorite stuffed animal and whatever else you need to get cozy and settle in for some stories.

Intended for ages 3-8, but anyone who enjoys a good bedtime story is welcome. Refreshments are a take home snack to be enjoyed later.

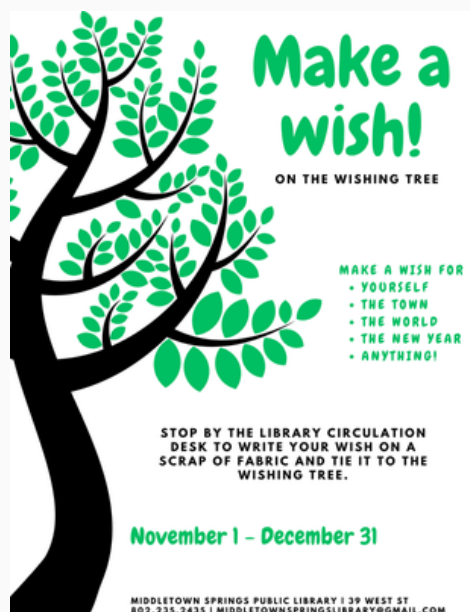
## Wishes for the New Year

Stop by the library, between now and the end of the year, to make a wish!

We have fabric strips at the circulation desk to write on and they will be added to our Wishing Tree in front of the library.

What kind of wishes? Perhaps one for yourself, or our town, or the world.

They will flutter in the wind and fill our town with positive, good wishes.



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## Got News?

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

Banner photo by Haley Kenyon

## Community Input Surveys

The Middletown Springs Planning Commission has created Community Input Surveys to inform the periodic revision of the Town Plan. The surveys are now available at the Library, Post Office and Town Office. For your convenience, the survey can also be reviewed and filled out at the following link: [Middletown Springs Community Survey](#).

The deadline for return of this survey is December 13, 2024. Please return filled out hard copies to the Town Office.

The Middletown Springs Planning Commission will soon update our town plan in accordance with Vermont state requirements and would like your input. We understand that thoughts, desires and concerns shift over time and we want our town plan to accurately reflect the current thoughts, desires and concerns of our community. Your opinions and thoughtful comments will help to create an updated town plan and will guide Middletown Springs into the future.

Copies of the current town plan are available at the Town Office and on the town website.

Please take a few moments to complete this survey. Your responses are very important. Please note that your answers to the survey are not binding; they are informative.

Please contact Steve Harrington at 802-345-8369 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Middletown Springs Planning Commission

## Free Indeed

Christmas is coming and so is the Free Indeed!

Everyone is invited to the **Middletown Springs Community Church on Saturday December 7, from 9am-12pm.**

What is *Free Indeed*? Is it a party? Well, sort of—you walk into the warmth of Christmas music and decorations.

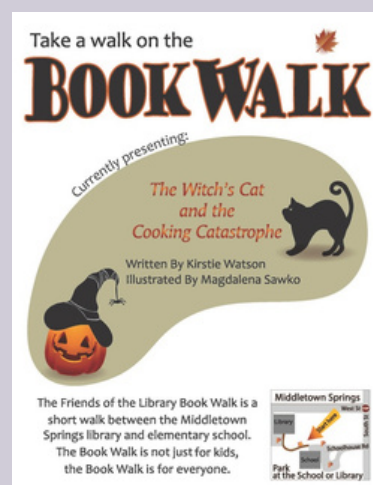
Is it a store? Well, sort of—you walk through rooms filled with displays of decorations, gifts, toys, games, clothing for all ages, collectibles, household items and much more.

What makes *Free Indeed* special? The church has collected donated items all year long and now they give everything away. **That's right—everything is indeed free!** Hope to see you there.

## Holiday Hours

**The Library will be closed  
December 24 - December 26 and  
December 31-January 1** in observance  
of the holidays

**The Town Office will be closed  
December 24-December 26 and  
December 31-January 1**  
in observance of the holidays



## Library Book Group

The December/January Book is *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Dorr

The discussion will be held **January 23 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)

## Property Tax Payment Reminder

The second installment for 24/25 property taxes is due on or before Monday, December 16.

Payments can be made as follows:

1. Mail to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 (with a 12/16/24 or earlier postmark.)
2. Deposit in the black mail slot on the outside wall of the town office (to the left of the South Street entrance door) by the end of the day of 12/16/24.

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

**Tax payments received or postmarked after December 16, 2024 will incur a late fee of 1% for 3 months and 1.5% thereafter until paid.**

Happy Holidays!  
Jenny Talke Munyak  
Town Treasurer

## Fundraiser for New Flag Pole

The Ad Hoc Memorial Day Parade Committee is kicking off a fundraiser to purchase and install a new flagpole on the green. We hope people will feel it is a worthy cause and help us reach our goal of \$10,000.

This will cover the cost of the flagpole with an internal halyard, lights, and accessories that will last many years. It will also help cover the base upgrade. Any surplus will go toward future flags and the Memorial Day Parade.

The Community Church Board of Deacons has given us the green light for this project and we are in communication with the board.

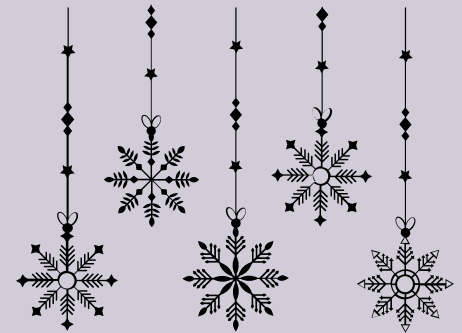
[Click here](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-install-a-new-flagpole-for-our-community-green), or go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-install-a-new-flagpole-for-our-community-green> to donate!

## Agency Funding Requests

Requests for appropriations funding need to be submitted to the selectboard prior to December 31, 2024. Please see the town's updated policy on Agency Funding on the town's website for more information.

## Save These Dates!

**Free Indeed**  
December 7  
**Holiday Craft Fair**  
December 8  
**Christmas in the Park**  
December 8  
**December Craft Night**  
December 9  
**Bedtime Stories**  
December 13  
**Taxes Due**  
December 16  
**Christmas Day**  
December 25  
**Agency Funding Request Deadline**  
December 31  
**New Years Day**  
January 1  
**Dog Registration Opens**  
January 2  
**Town Report Submission Deadline**  
January 10  
**January Craft Night**  
January 13



## 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**

## Christmas in the Park

Christmas in the park: Sunday, December 8 at 6-7pm on the green.



Christmas in the Park. Photo provided by Rita Hansen

O come, all ye faithful  
Come gather around.  
Down to the Green  
Where the manger is found.  
Warm your hands by the fire.  
Yummy treats will delight!  
Sing Carols of joy  
'Round the tree full of lights  
Hear the story of Jesus  
His wonderful birth.  
How he came as a baby  
To save us on earth.  
With family and friends  
We'll all be of good cheer.  
Sharing peace and goodwill  
Because Christmas is here!



## New at the Library

### Picture Books

*Roadwork* - Sally Sutton

### Children's Graphic Novels

*Robot Dreams* - Sara Varon

*Odd Duck* - Cecil Castellucci

*Timid* - Jonathan Todd

*Duck and Moose* - Kirk Reedstrom

*Gamerville* - Johnnie Christmas

*The Case of the Golden Bone* - Sara Varon

*The Babysitter's Club: Kristy and the Walking Disaster* - Ellen T. Crenshaw

*Plain Jane and the Mermaid* - Vera Brosgol

*Pizza Face* - Rex Ogle & Dave Valeza

*The New Girl* - Cassandra Calin

### Children's Chapter Books

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess*

- Jeff Kinney

### Adult Fiction

*The Wedding People* - Alison Espach

*The Blue Hour* - Paula Hawkins

*The Blue Sisters* - Coco Mellors

*The Throne of Glass Series (7 books)*

- Sarah J. Maas

*A Court of Thrones and Roses Series*

(5 books) - Sarah J. Maas

### Adult Non-Fiction

*Revenge of the Tipping Point*

- Malcom Gladwell

*Framed* - John Grisham & Jim McCloskey

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## 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.

## 30th Annual Middletown Springs Holiday Craft Fair

Local artists and crafter's wares, will be for sale on **Sunday, December 8 at the Middletown Springs Elementary School, from 10am-3pm**, during the 30th annual Holiday Craft Fair.

Organizers have brought together vendors of fine arts, crafts and culinary delights including David Munyak fine woodwork, Mahar Maple products, M&M Labate honey and beeswax products, Morgan Mountain Organics and Lifeline Botanicals as well as fabric artists, jewelers, woodland wreaths, cards and collages, knitted goods, and clothing accessories - this one-stop shop will enable you to cross lots off of your gift list.

Schedule in a little extra time to sit down with neighbors, friends and strangers to enjoy warming soups and stews, drinks and sweets as well. All proceeds from the kitchen will benefit Middletown Springs Historical Society.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday December 8 at the Middletown Springs Elementary School, from 10am-3pm**.

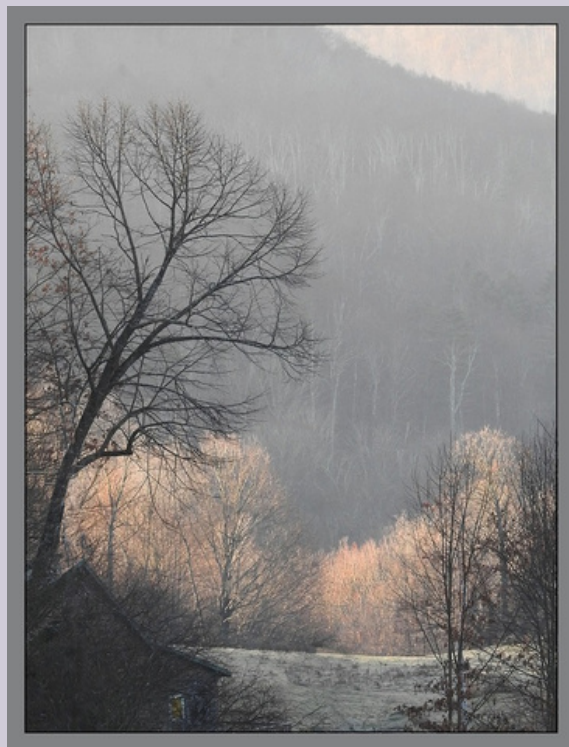
## Pleasant View Cemetery Gate Closed

**The entrance gate to the Pleasant View Cemetery is now closed for the winter season, effective December 1, 2024.** We try and leave the gate open as long as reasonably possible in order to allow for the placement of Christmas wreaths and remembrances on loved ones memorials around the Thanksgiving holiday. With the onset of the winter season and the increasing likelihood of snow and ice, visitor **access to the site must be limited to foot traffic due to public safety concerns.**

We encourage patrons to remove old and faded decorations, artificial flowers (which are not allowed), and dead or dying plants around their loved ones grave sites.

It is a big task to keep the grounds mowed and manicured in a presentable manner during the summer months, and we are grateful for the fine job that Green Mountain Boys Landscaping from Wells, VT, has done for us in managing this property.

We expect to work with the 6th grade class from Middletown Springs Elementary School again next April for assistance with the spring cleanup effort. Until then, enjoy a safe and healthy winter season, and the entrance gate will be open again on or around the first of May 2025, weather permitting.



Early Morning Light In Middletown Springs  
by Emmett Francois

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## 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.

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## Pun of the Month

People who take care of  
chickens are literally  
chicken tenders.

## Prepare for Town Meeting 2025

**Do you want to request an Absentee Ballot? You need a new request for the new calendar year.** There are a few ways to make your request:

- Log into your My Voter Page, <https://mvp.vermont.gov> and request your ballots online.
- Download an Absentee Ballot Request from the town's website.
- Call (802) 235-2220 or stop by the clerk's office to request that ballots be mailed to you.

### Do you want to register to vote?

- To register online, go to <https://olvr.vermont.gov> to register to vote.
- Download a Voter Registration form from the town's website. Return the completed form to the clerk's office.
- Stop by the clerk's office to complete the registration in person.

If you have any questions about anything town meeting related, please reach out to the town clerk at [middletown@vermontel.net](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net) or 802-235-2220.

## New Fees for Dog Licenses in 2025!

Dog Registration for 2025 opens on January 2, 2025. FEES have increased by \$2 across the board. Additional fees all go to the State of Vermont for animal welfare 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.

### For animals registered on or before April 1, 2025

Neutered or Spayed - \$11.00 Not Neutered or Spayed - \$15.00

### If registered after April 1, 2025, late fees apply

Neutered or Spayed - \$13.00 Not Neutered or Spayed - \$19.00



## 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)

## Town Meeting Open Positions for 2025

Are you ready to step in and serve your community? The elections calendar and list of offices to appear on the March ballot can be found on the town website or by clicking the following link.

[Middletown Springs Open Offices](#)

## Town Report Submissions

It's that time again! If your organization or town elected office provides reporting for the town report, now is the time to get those reports together. Submissions should be sent to the town clerk at [middletown@vermontel.net](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net).

Electronic submissions are preferred.  
**The deadline for submissions is January 10, 2025.**

## CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS\*

Regular Meetings	Time	Location	Contact
Conservation Commission	3rd Mon/ 6pm	Library	
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	3rd Thurs / 6:30pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7pm	MHSH	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 \$7 a year to cover postage.