

FEBRUARY 2025

# middleTOWN NEWSletter

Banner photo by [Thomas Slatin](#)

## 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, February 10, 6:30pm-8pm.**



## Meet the Candidates

Join us at the library--or via Zoom--to meet the folks running for office in 2025.

The candidates will have a chance to introduce themselves, and tell everyone a little about why they are running for office. In-person attendees will have an opportunity to ask brief questions.

Watch Front Porch Forum and Library Socials for finalized dates and evolving details.

## This issue:

[Meet the Candidates](#)

[Craft Night](#)

[Town Meeting 2025](#)

[Middletown Springs University](#)

[Maple Festival Raffle](#)

[Library Reading Goals](#)

[2025 Town Meeting Candidates](#)

[Bedtime Stories](#)

[New at the Library](#)

[School District Candidates](#)

[CEDRR](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

[Book Walk](#)

[Pun of the Month](#)

[Note from the Treasurer](#)

[Call for Photos](#)

[Blind Date with a Book](#)

[Tech Tuesday](#)

[Dog Licenses](#)

[Library Hours](#)

[Town Report](#)

[Book Group](#)

[COVID Tests](#)

[Calendar of Regular Meetings](#)

## Got News?

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

# Town Meeting 2025 Reminders

Town Meeting is fast approaching – **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** polls will be open at the town office from 7am - 7pm. The Town Informational Meeting will be held on **Monday, March 3, 2025** in the MSES multipurpose room and by Zoom starting at 6:30pm. Complete information is included in the official warning. For a direct link to the official warning [click here](#).

The Wells Springs Unified Union School District meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025** at the Wells Village School and by Google Meets starting at 7pm. Complete information is included in the official warning. For a direct link to the official warning [click here](#).

The slate of candidates has been set for both the town and school district. That information is available [via this link](#) or on pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter.

Warnings are posted at the library, town office and post office as well as on the town’s website. Sample ballots will be posted as they become available. Town Reports will go out around the 3rd week in February. **School reports will be available for pick-up only at the school, library, town office and post office.**

Are you planning to vote by Absentee Ballot? You need a NEW request for the new calendar year. Here’s how to request one

- 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 [here](#).
- 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>
- Download a Voter Registration form from the town’s website [here](#).
- Complete this form and return it to the clerk’s office.
- Stop by the clerk’s office to complete the registration in person.

If you have any questions, please reach out.  
Patty Kenyon  
Town Clerk

The Town Clerk’s regular office hours are:  
Monday & Tuesday from 9am - 4pm  
Thursday & Friday from 1pm - 4pm

PH: 802-235-2220 | Email: [middletown@vermontel.net](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net)  
The town clerk’s office is closed every Wednesday and all federal holidays

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS

pop-up

UNIVERSITY

Free Classes

March 5-15

The town is the campus  
Residents are the teachers  
We are all the students

With more to come!!

2025 Classes

Beer: Styles, Science, and Process - Plus Tastings

Beginning hand drumming

Qigong - calm energy workout

Automotive brake repair

EVs 101: Is an Electric Vehicle Right for You?

Homemade Pizza Making

Growing Micro greens

Stair building: basic construction

Beginner Guitar

Knitting

Sing Together Again

Winter Pruning

Learn to Twine

Cook with Your Kids!

Book making

RECONNECT! Are phones Weapons of Mass Disconnection?

Crocheting: intro/refresher

For registration, information or to teach a class, visit the website at:

<https://middletownspringsu.weebly.com>



## Middletown Springs Historical Society Announces Maple Raffle

With 35 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 barn venue for your family or group event. In addition, Middletown Springs residents offer their expertise in massage, natural history, computer consulting, and connecting with horses. Participants can target their tickets for individual item raffles, increasing their chances of winning what they want.

Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100. Tickets and payments must be returned by mail, postmarked by March 12. For a list of raffle items, downloadable tickets, and instructions, visit the Society's website at [www.mshsvt.org](http://www.mshsvt.org).

Raffle drawings for each of the items will be held during the **2025 Maple Festival on Sunday, March 16**, at the Historical Society where you can view all of the items. 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](mailto:montvert@vermontel.net).



One of the items in the Middletown Springs Historical Society's Maple Raffle is an event rental for up to 30 people at the 1780s Reuben Wait Barn at Green Mountain Timber Frames in Middletown Springs.  
Photo provided.

## 2025 Reading Goal Update

**Kimberly**

9/52 books

**Favorite January Read:**

*Somewhere Beyond the Sea*

-T.J Klune

**Haley**

9/60 books

**Favorite January Read:**

*The Winners*

Frederik Backman

Follow along here or 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!



# 2025 Town Meeting Officers and Candidates

Elected Office	Term Length	Candidates
Town Moderator	1 Year	Andrew Hayes
Delinquent Tax Collector	3 Years (2 years remain)	Heather L Grier
Selectboard Member	3 Years	Neil T Russell Isaac Yackel
Selectboard Member	2 Years	James P Mars JR Terry Redfield
Lister	3 Years	Patricia Hemenway
Planning Commission	3 Years	No Candidate
Auditor	3 Years	Juanita (Nita) Burch Clay
Auditor	3 Years (2 Years Remain)	No Candidate
Library Trustee	3 Years	Beth Miller
Trustees of Louis Fund and Other Public Monies	3 Years	No Candidate
Trustee Copeland Church Fund	1 Year	Rita Hansen
Trustee Copeland Cemetery Fund	1 Year	No Candidate

# Bedtime Stories at the Library

Come to the library on **Friday, February 7 at 7pm** for more Bedtime Stories 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 treat.

# New at the Library

- Picture Books**  
*All Around Bustletown Spring* - Berner  
*All Around Bustletown Summer* - Berner
- Children's Graphic Novels**  
*The Moth Keeper* - K. O'Neill  
*InvestiGators: Class Action*  
- John Patrick Green  
*Wings of Fire #8: Escaping Peril*  
- Tui Sutherland  
*Pearl of the Sea* - Anthony Silverston  
*Sheets Series (3 books)* - Brenna Thummler
- Young Adult Fiction**  
*Bianca Torre is Afraid of Everything*  
- Justine Pucella Winans  
*Chaos Theory* - Nic Stone  
*Dear Wendy* - Ann Zhao  
*Divine Rivals* - Rebecca Ross  
*Icarus* - K. Ancrum  
*Lake House* - Sarah Beth Durst
- Young Adult Graphic Novels**  
*Belle of the Ball* - Mari Casta  
*Brownstone* - Samuel Teer & Mar Julia  
*The Deep Dark* - Molly Knox Ostertag  
*The Hills of Estrella Roja*  
- Ashley Robin Franklin  
*If You'll Have Me* - Eunnie  
*Paper Planes* - Jenny Wood
- Adult Fiction**  
*A Darker Shade of Magic* - V.E Schwab  
*Carrie Soto is Back* - Taylor Jenkins Reid  
*Husbands and Lovers* - Beatriz Williams  
*Malibu Rising* - Taylor Jenkins Reid  
*The Magicians Series (3 books)*  
- Lev Grossman  
*Sipsworth* - Simon Van Booy
- Adult Non-Fiction**  
*The Anxious Generation* - Jonathan Haidt  
*The Bookshop* - Evan Friss  
*How to Tell When We Will Die*  
- Johanna Hedva  
*I Heard Her Call My Name* - Lucy Sante  
*Patriot* - Alexei Navalny  
*The Wide Wide Sea* - Hampton Sides  
*Who Could Ever Love You* - Mary L. Trump



# Wells Springs School District Candidates

Elected Office	Term Length	Current Office Holder
School Director (Wells)	3 Years	Sue Burke
School Director (Middletown Springs)	3 Years	George Gonda

# CEDRR Ballot Item

The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) has submitted a ballot item for Town Meeting in support of the County’s Regional Marketing Initiative. CEDRR is respectfully requesting a FY2026 appropriation in the amount of \$745. The Regional Marketing Initiative continues to be a Rutland County-wide collaboration between municipalities, the region’s business community, and our organization. The businesses in our region are essential to supporting our way of life. Our goal is to increase the County’s population, growing our skilled workforce, in support of economic and community growth.

Since 2021, we have assisted 234 people in becoming our newest neighbors within Rutland County. Already, 11 people are planning to relocate here in 2025. We expect this number to increase as it typically does throughout the year.

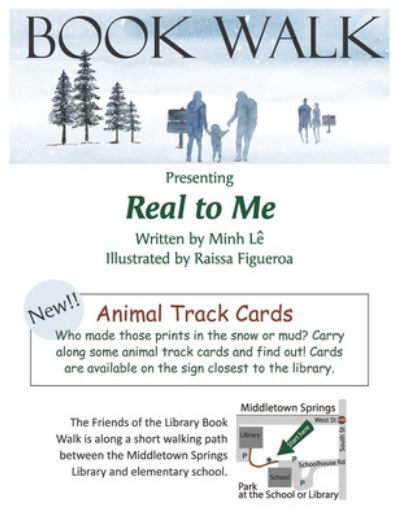
The Regional Marketing Initiative is entering year-nine and has an anticipated budget for 2025 of \$140,000. The Town of Middletown Springs’ previous and future participation has been and will be essential to the success of the program.

Learn more about our outreach efforts at [www.realrutland.com](http://www.realrutland.com) or contact Olivia at [Olivia@rutlandeconomy.com](mailto:Olivia@rutlandeconomy.com).



# Save These Dates!

- Blind Date with a Book**  
February 1-28
- Bedtime Stories**  
February 7
- Paint & Sip**  
February 8
- Meet the Candidates**  
February 19
- School Information Meeting**  
February 26
- Town Informational Meeting**  
March 3
- Voting Day**  
March 4
- Maple Festival**  
March 16
- Dog License Deadline**  
April 1
- Pie for Breakfast**  
April 12



# Pun of the Month

I recently got crushed by a pile of books, but I suppose I’ve only got my shelf to blame

## Note from the Treasurer

### Plan ahead for April 2025 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 2024. 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 Dept of Taxes directly:  
<https://tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit> or (802) 828-2865

Thank you!  
Jenny Talke Munyak  
Town Treasurer



Middletown Springs Church - photo by Edgar Cleveland

## 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)



## 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.

# Dog Licenses Available Now!

**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.

**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.

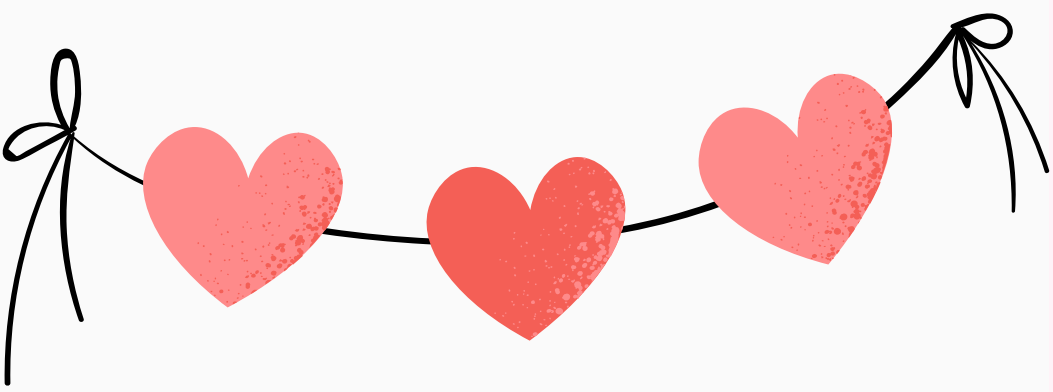
**Registration Fees January 1, 2024 thru April 1, 2024**  
**Neutered or Spayed - \$11.00**  
**Not Neutered or Spayed - \$15.00**

**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 the town clerk has your information, she can help to reunite you. Please help her, 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 PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs 05757 or drop your information into the "Clerk's Dropbox" outside the South Street entrance of the town office. The Town Clerk will process and mail you the license(s) and tag(s).

The Town Clerk's regular office hours are:  
Monday & Tuesday from 9am to 4pm  
Thursday & Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

PH: 802-235-2220 | Email: [middletown@vermontel.net](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net)  
**The town clerk's office is closed all federal holidays**



# 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**

# 2025 Town Report

The 2025 Town Report is here and will arriving in mailboxes soon. In the meantime, it is also available online [here](#).

# Library Book Group

The February book is *Malibu Rising*  
By Taylor Jenkins Reid

The discussion will be held **February 27 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)

# 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.

## 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 \$9 a year to cover postage.