

JANUARY 2025

middleTOWN NEWSletter



Future Home of the Library & Community Center



Since 2013, the Library has been actively exploring options to resolve issues of space and access. The possibilities explored include expanding the current building, moving to four-corners in a joint town office/library building, and finding a new location.

No viable options presented themselves until 2022 when St. Anne Church was closed and became available for purchase. Concurrently, several major grants for library infrastructure improvements were announced.

After design investigations and evaluations for suitability, a wait for a new Bishop to be installed, and successful grant applications to pay for the rehabilitation and construction, the purchase was completed in December 2024, with funds from several anonymous donors.

Now the fun AND the hard work truly begin!

If you have questions, feedback, or good wishes for the library trustees and staff, please take a moment to fill out their online survey. For that survey, and additional information about this project, you can go to the library website, or [click here](#).

This issue:

[Library Expansion Project](#)

[Dog Licenses](#)

[Craft Swap](#)

[Book Group](#)

[Town Meeting 2025](#)

[Puzzle Exchange](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

[FFE Bingo Night](#)

[Town Meeting Open Offices](#)

[Craft Night](#)

[New at the Library](#)

[COVID Tests](#)

[Wells-Springs Open Offices](#)

[Library Volunteers Needed](#)

[Bookwalk](#)

[Tech Tuesday](#)

[Pun of the Month](#)

[Town Meeting 2025 Calendar](#)

[Bedtime Stories](#)

[Call for Photos](#)

[Town Report Submissions](#)

[Maple Festival Raffle Donations](#)

[Library Calendar of Events](#)

[2025 Reading Goals](#)

[Calendar of Regular Meetings](#)

Got News?

Please send all town events, milestones, photos, and happenings to:

05757news@gmail.com

Banner photo by Haley Kenyon

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
The town clerk's office is closed all federal holidays

Craft Swap

Come refresh your craft supplies at the library!

The library will be accepting donations of craft supplies and tools between **Saturday, January 18 and Friday, January 24.** Then on **Saturday, January 25 we will swap!**

Stop by the library during open hours to peruse what was donated and take some new things home for yourself!



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



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

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 or 802-235-2220.

Library Puzzle Exchange - Seeking Donations

The library is looking to refresh our ongoing puzzle exchange!

If you have puzzles you loved doing but that are now just taking up space in your house, look no further. The library is accepting donations of gently used (no missing pieces please!) puzzles in all shapes and sizes for their ongoing puzzle exchange. This is a great way to clear some space on your shelves, and share your favorite puzzles with your community.

Looking for a fun new puzzle? The library has a great selection of puzzles for community members to borrow for as long as you like, no due dates or library cards required. They just ask that they eventually find their way back to us so that as many people can enjoy them as possible.

Save These Dates!

Dog Registration Opens
January 2

Library Open House
at St. Anne Church

January 4

Town Report Submission Deadline
January 10

FFE Bingo Night
January 10

Maple Festival Donation Deadline
January 13

Craft Night
January 13

Book Group
January 23

Craft Swap
January 25

Blind Date with a Book Starts
February 1



Middletown Springs Town Officers Positions Open for Election 2025

Elected Office	Term Length	Current Office Holder
Town Moderator	1 Year	Vacant
Selectboard Member	2 Years	Terry Redfield
Selectboard Member	3 Years	Patty Kenyon
Lister	3 Years	Patricia Hemenway
Planning Commission	3 Years	Aaron Anderson
Auditor	3 Years	Juanita Burch Clay
Auditor	2 Yrs Remain 3 Yr Seat	Vacant
Library Trustee	3 Years	Beth Miller
Trustees of Louis Fund and Other Public Monies	3 Years	Steve Harrington
Trustee Copeland Church Fund	1 Year (1 elected, 3 trustees serve)	Rita Hansen
Trustees Copeland Cemetery Fund	1 Year (1 elected, 3 trustees serve)	John Weatherhogg

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, January 13, 6:30pm-8pm.



New at the Library

- Picture Books**
 Roadwork - Sally Sutton
 Firsts and Lasts - Leda Schubert
 The Tale of Valiant Ninja Frog
 - Alastair Chisholm
 Butter Toast The Pirate Goat - Bree Gunter
 Knight Owl and Early Bird
 - Christopher Denise
- Children's Graphic Novels**
 Dogman: Big Jim Begins - Dav Pilkey
 The Night Librarian - Christopher Lincoln
- DVDs**
 Inside Out 2
- Adult Fiction**
 A Court of Thorns and Roses
 Series (5 Books) - Sarah J Maas
 Tunes and Tails
 - Amelia Phoenix Desertsong
 Sipsworth - Simon Van Booy
 The Arctic Fury - Greer MacAllister
- Adult Non-Fiction**
 The Serviceberry - Robin Wall Kimmerer
 Strangers to Ourselves - Rachel Aviv



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.

Wells Springs School District Positions Open for Election 2025

Elected Office	Term Length	Current Office Holder
School Director (Wells)	3 Years	Sue Burke
School Director (Middletown Springs)	3 Years	George Gonda
School District Moderator**	1 Year	Vacant
School District Treasurer**	1 Year	Tammy Holcomb
School District Clerk**	1 Year	Patty Kenyon

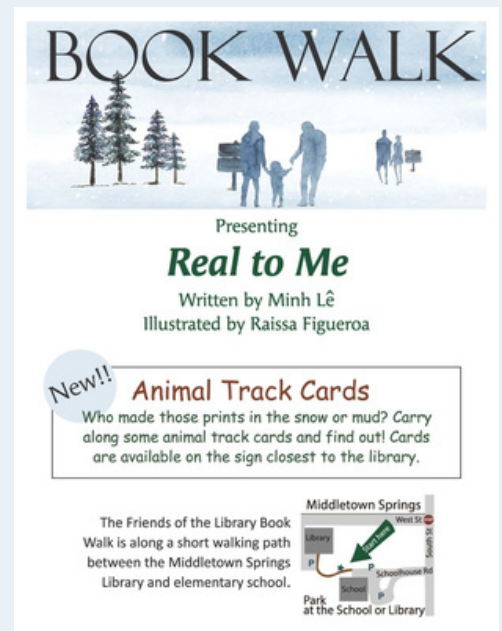
** Elected from the floor at School Annual Meeting

Seeking Library Volunteers

Have you ever wanted to volunteer at the library? Now is your chance!

The library is looking for volunteers to help with many different things including running the circulation desk, sorting books, and helping to plan and execute programming. We need it all!

If you are interested, please reach out to the librarians for an application or more information.



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.

Pun of the Month

Young snowmen are
called chill-dren

Middletown Springs 2025 Town Meeting Calendar

- Thursday, January 16, 2025** – Last day to file a petition to place an item on the Town Meeting Ballot
- Need signatures of 5% of registered voters (currently = 30)
- Monday, January 27, 2025** – Last day to file a Candidate Petition & Consent of Candidate form to run for local office – office open until 5pm
- Need signatures of 1% of registered voters (currently = 6)
- Wednesday, January 29, 2025** – Last day to withdraw Candidate Petition
- Wednesday, February 12, 2025** – Ballots must be available for early voting
- Monday, March 3, 2025** – Last day for absentee ballot requests – close of business (4pm)
- Tuesday, March 4, 2025** – Town Meeting Day
- Polls open 7am to 7pm – Middletown Springs Town Office | 5 South Street
 - All ballots must be in by close of polls

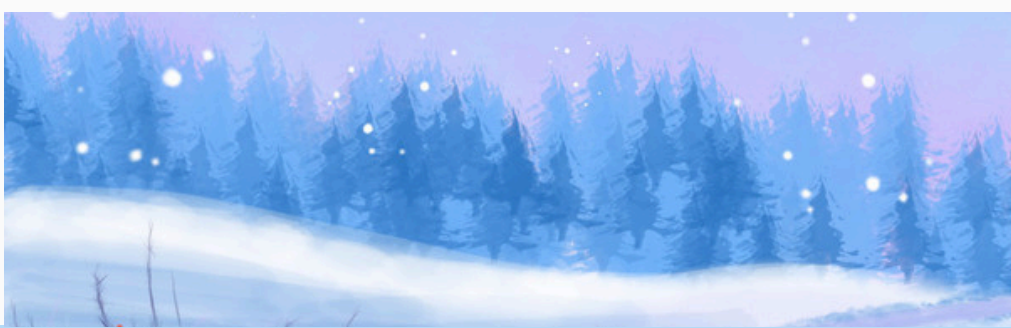
Questions on anything town meeting related, reach out to the town clerk at middletown@vermontel.net or 802-235-2220.

Bedtime Stories at the Library

Come to the library on **Friday, January 17 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.



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



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.

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

Maple Festival

It's the New Year and The Historical Society is already planning for our annual Maple Festival fundraiser!

Our in-person Maple Festival will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

We will again offer the Maple Raffle featuring items and services donated by our members, friends and local businesses. **The raffle drawing will be held at the event at 4 p.m.**

We welcome your donation of an item or a service to the Maple Raffle. All of our Maple Raffle items, or baskets of items, are valued at \$100 or more. We seek items that we can group together to create \$100 themed baskets. We especially welcome gift cards or cash donations with which we can purchase gift cards and other items to complete a basket.

Here are some suggestions for donations:

Themed baskets, or items for a themed basket: Vermont products, gourmet food and beverages, restaurant dining, kitchen & cooking, pet care, gardening, auto maintenance, crafts.

Gift cards or gift certificates for gas, food, groceries, hardware, clothing, etc. OR cash to purchase gift cards or items to complete themed baskets.

Fine art, artisan craft and unique items.

Recreation opportunities: memberships or tickets for golfing, concerts, theater, museums, historic sites.

Services: lessons, coaching, genealogy research, gardening, home repair, professional services.

Travel and vacation: certificates for Airbnb, bed & breakfast, condo stays, vacation-home rentals.

Donations must be received by Monday, January 13 to be included.

Please email a written description of your donation with its value, and with a photo of your item for display on the MSHS website to: David Wright, montvert@vermontel.net (802-235-2376).

We sincerely thank you for helping us make this annual Maple Festival fundraiser a success!

MSHS Board of Trustees: Beth Carmody, Clara Eden, Pat Hemenway, Kim Gaylord, Madeleine Hayes, Chris Hoyt, Theron Krouse, Maureen McCormack, Sharen Underwood, David Wright

All donations are tax-deductible, based on your estimate of value.



An example of raffle items from a previous maple festival.
Photo provided.

Library Calendar Of Events

Please follow [this link](#) for the winter-spring library calendar of events, or stop in to the library to pick up a hard copy.

2025 Reading Goals

2025 has started and the librarians have made their reading goals.

Follow along here or on [Facebook](#) to see how they do, and chime in about your own goals and favorite reads of the year!

2025 Reading Goals:

Kimberly: 52 books
Haley: 60 books

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
 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). 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.