

JULY 2024

# middleTOWN NEWSletter



Bud Krouse accepts the Gold-Headed Cane. Photo by Emmett Francois

## Bud Krouse presented with the Gold-Headed Cane on June 10

The gold-headed cane tradition began in 1907 when a town-wide celebration honored Alpheus Haynes on his 100th birthday on July 29. The affair was organized by members of the Baptist Church, where Haynes was a deacon for 70 years. This did include a band concert, speeches and a poem. Deacon Haynes was presented with a gold-headed cane inscribed "To the Oldest Person of Middletown Springs, Vt., in Trust". This cane was purchased from a \$90 fund raised for the day's expenses and it was understood that upon Deacon Haynes death the cane would be passed on to the oldest person. The tradition has continued ever since.

## This issue:

[Bud Krouse Presented with Gold-Headed Cane](#)

[Strawberry Jam](#)

[Gold-Headed Cane Recipients](#)

[State Primary Info](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

[Tour de Slate](#)

[Conservation Commission](#)

[Strawberry Festival](#)

[Summer Reading Program](#)

[NOFA Pizza Social](#)

[Note from the Town Treasurer](#)

[New at the Library](#)

[Museum and Parks Passes at the Library](#)

[Golden Dome Book Award](#)

## Got News?

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

Banner photo by Patty Kenyon



Photo by Thomas Slatin

## Strawberry Jam Recap

We can't thank you enough for joining us at our 3rd Annual Strawberry Jam Run, and making it such a berry special event. Whether you were running, cheering, volunteering, or sponsoring, your energy and enthusiasm truly made the day sweet. We couldn't have done any of this without you! A special thank you to the Volunteer Fire Department: Your help in blocking traffic ensured everyone stayed safe and sound. We appreciate your dedication and service!

We were able to raise \$4,700 for Friends For Education (FFE) to go towards building an outdoor classroom, school programs, and sports scholarships for the students at Middletown Springs Elementary School.



## Gold-Headed Cane Recipients

Deacon Alpheus Haynes  
1807-1908  
Judge Roswell Buel 1813-1910  
Marcena Willard Spaulding  
1819-1914  
Reuben Redmann Spaulding  
1835-1928  
Deacon Dyar Leffingwell 1836-1928  
Marshall Brown 1836-1928  
Sarah Amelia Clark Gray 1840-1931  
Fayette Spaulding 1842-1934  
James K. Buxton 1842-1935  
Fannie E. Richardson 1849-1939  
Chester A. Chase 1842-1942  
Amelia R. Woodard 1852-1945  
Margaret R. Maclean 1865-1945  
James Dudley 1860-1951  
Florence Spaulding Parker 1861-1958  
Wallace Spaulding 1866-1958  
Chauncey Sheldon Greene 1866-1963  
Carrie Spaulding 1868-1972  
Susan Spaulding Cairns 1874-1975  
Georgia Cobb Taylor 1880-1977  
Jesse Gardner Rogers 1882-1978  
Marguerite Norton Tracy 1884-1978  
Bernard Shattuck 1887-1983  
Ora Moyer 1889-1985  
Alice Gray Hickox (declined)  
1890-1985  
Nellie A. Smetana 1891-1985  
Mary O'Neil 1894-1988  
Jennie R. Powers 1894-1989  
Faustina Greene 1898-1991  
Margaret Anderson 1900-1995  
Herbert Davison 1904-2000  
Anna Fenton 1906-2000  
Donna White 1908-2009  
Elsie Norton 1914-2013  
Gwendolyn Wilder 1919-2020  
Mary Parker 1922-2020  
Wilma Wasburn 1924-2023  
Theron "Bud" Krouse 1932-

# State Primary Election Basics

Here's what you need to know about the upcoming primary election:

- Election Day – Tuesday, August 13, 2024
- Polls Open – 7am to 7pm at the town office
- Sample ballots and official warning are available on the town's website - <https://middlesprings.vt.gov/town-government/town-meeting-elections/> (fyi – webpage links do not work correctly on mobile phones.)
- Absentee ballots MUST be requested for this election
- Ballot requests can be made up until Monday, August 12 at 4pm.

**Requests can be completed:**

- By mail using an absentee [ballot request form](#)
- By phone 802-235-2220
- By email – [middlesprings@vermontel.net](mailto:middlesprings@vermontel.net)
- Online using My Voter page <https://mvp.vermont.gov>

**How to register to vote:**

- You can register to vote to and including election day.
- [Complete a voter registration application](#)
- At the town office anytime including election day.
- Online using <https://olvr.vermont.gov>

**Other things to remember for the primary election:**

- If you requested absentee ballots before town meeting for all elections in 2024, you do not need to complete a new request. You can check your status at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>
- If you are requesting an absentee ballot to be mailed to an out of state location, please be sure to allow enough time to receive and return your ballot by mail.
- If you requested an absentee ballot for the primary election, you will receive 3 ballots in the mail (1 per political party) but you may only vote ONE of the three. You must return all unvoted ballots in the proper envelope.
- Please read and follow the absentee ballot instructions on each envelope you receive in your absentee packet.
- Absentee ballots can be mailed or dropped off in the drop box outside the town office anytime up until 7pm on election day.
- You can check the status of your ballot request, or your ballot return anytime via <https://mvp.vermont.gov>

# Save These Dates!

Summer Story Time  
July 3

Fourth of July  
July 4

Craft Night  
July 8

Summer Story Time  
July 10

Tie-Dye and Kindness Rocks  
July 13

NOFA Pizza Social  
July 17

Book Group  
July 25

Tour de Slate  
August 3

Primary Election  
August 13

# Building a Readers' Wish List

The Library wants to hear from you!

We want our library collection to be a reflection of our community needs, and that means **we need your input!**

What books do you want to read that you wish the library had?

Which authors are your favorites??

Poll the other readers in your family, too.  
All ages and reading levels!

Send your lists (up to five books per reader, please) to [middlespringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlespringslibrary@gmail.com).

We will look for overlaps to help us make decisions about what to add to the collection. No promises, but we are looking forward to collaborating with you to make our collection the best it can be!



## Tour de Slate: Bike Ride to End Addiction

Addiction profoundly affects many lives, often too close to home. In Middletown Springs and throughout the neighboring Slate Valley, it's a tale of redemption. It's also a story of riding bikes to raise money to support the recovery of friends, family, and our own neighbors – at the seventh annual Tour de Slate, “riding to end addiction”. The event will take place on **Saturday, August 3, 2024**.

“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. “God put this on my heart, and I thought ‘I’ve gotta do it’,” said Achey.

Adult and Teen Challenge Vermont (ATCVT), never turns away anyone due to their financial situation. Since they receive no government funding, fundraising is vital.

Travis Morehouse, Donor Relations Supervisor, ATCVT, 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 fundraising campaign ever since.”

The event will feature six routes to accommodate various cycling levels, including two groad (gravel and paved) rides and a family-friendly rails/trails ride. All routes are fully supported with rest stops and SAG (support and gear) vehicles. The rides start and finish in Middletown Springs, VT.

In its six years of being held, the Tour de Slate bicycle ride to “end addiction” has raised an aggregate of over \$195,000. Last year, the donations totaled \$53,090. This year, the goal is \$60,000. All these funds support the care, counseling, and educational services for residents at Adult and Teen Challenge Vermont.

Register online at [www.tourdeslate.org](http://www.tourdeslate.org), where donations can also 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.

## Seed Swap

Seed Swap has an ever changing selection. Come browse and shake out the number of seeds you think you'll use - we have envelopes galore. If you have seeds you want to offer to the swap, that's a really fun way to spread garden love, but it is not necessary to “swap” to “shop”.

---

## 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.

---

## 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)

# Interested in Conservation, Stewardship and Teaching and Learning About Nature?

## Middletown's Conservation Commission Needs Your Energy and Ideas!

The Middletown Springs Conservation Commission (MSCC) is a 5-person town board first established in 2000 to steward Middletown's 14-acre Sullivan Educational Woods located on Fitzgerald Road.

Join the Conservation Commission and be part of the team that:

- Takes Care of Sullivan Educational Woods
- Organizes workdays, educational programs, and nature walks
- Coordinates Green Up Day
- Cooperates with Middletown Elementary School to use Sullivan Woods as a hands-on learning resource
- Works with the Middletown Springs community to learn about and sustain local natural resources

The Conservation Commission meets at 6pm at the library on the 3rd Monday of the month.

For more information contact:

Beth Carmody – [beth.carmody@gmail.com](mailto:beth.carmody@gmail.com)  
Steve Harrington - [ohungerdell@gmail.com](mailto:ohungerdell@gmail.com)  
Elizabeth Cooper – [naturewalk@vermontel.net](mailto:naturewalk@vermontel.net)



## Craft Night at the Library

Join us on the second Monday of the month (6-8pm) for Craft Night. Bring whatever you are working on (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, July 8, 6-8pm**. Hope to see you there!

---

## Library Book Group

The June book is *Weyward* by Emilia Hart.

The discussion will be held **July 25 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)

---

## Library Hours

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

## Feeling Grateful for the Successful Strawberry Festival.

The Strawberry Festival went off with barely a hitch. Despite the threat of rain and regional tornado warnings, folks came out to enjoy this traditional summertime event!

The Middletown Springs Historical Society appreciates everyone that helped in so many ways to support the ongoing activities of the historical society and its maintenance of the Adams House, the museum collection, and the Mineral Springs Park.

Thanks to all those who prepared the berries on Saturday, and worked Sunday setting up for the festival, serving, and cleaning up. We are grateful for the new volunteers this year and for the many who come back to help each year. Thanks to Paul Morgan for making music, to Mahar Maple and Rich Kniffin of Filthy Farmgirl Soap for braving the weather to offer their goods for sale. Thanks to Chere Tournet for the beautiful flower arrangement and Catherine Hunter and Linda Evans for leading the children's activities.

And thanks, of course, to all who came to enjoy the strawberry shortcake and to see Mary Lou Willits's new Dana Carpenter photography exhibit in the Museum.

The Museum is open every Sunday through the middle of October and by appointment. The Mineral Springs Park is open from dawn till dusk year-round. Visit our website, [www.MSHS.org](http://www.MSHS.org), updated monthly, for a comprehensive look at Middletown Springs Historical Society activities.



## ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY.

### Library Summer Program

**Summer Storytime** - Heather is back! Come to the library on Wednesday **July 3 & July 10 at 10am** for our final adventure themed storytimes and crafts. Geared toward those aged 3-7 but all are welcome.

**Tie Dye Your Own Adventure Bandana** - Come to the library at **10am on Saturday, July 13** to make your own tie-dye bandana with Jen Dattoli! Bandanas provided. All ages welcome.

**Kindness Rock Project** - Drop in to the library on Saturday **July 13 from 10am - 12pm** to paint a kindness rock! To learn more about the Kindness Rock Project visit:  
<https://www.thekindnessrocksproject.com/>

**Craft Nights** - Come to the library on the **second Monday of the month from 6-8pm** for crafting and conversation.

**Lawn Games** - Stop in on **Tuesday nights between 6-8pm** to play games on the library lawn! Or check one of our lawn games out to play at home!

**Summer Adventure Challenges for All Ages** Three levels to choose from! Stop in to pick up one of our summer reading challenges, complete one by August 31 for a chance to win a prize!

**Reading is Charming Summer Reading Challenge** - Set your own reading goal, keep track, and earn a charm each time you meet your goal. Collect as many as you can and make your own necklace, bracelet, or keychain.

**Sullivan Woods Adventure** - September 14.  
**Movie Nights** - TBD

# NOFA-VT Pizza Social at Naga Bakehouse

July 17, 2024 - 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Sliding scale \$15 - \$30; free for BIPOC



Join us for farm-fresh pizza and a celebration of Naga Bakehouse, a family-run wood-fired bakery, gristmill, and micro-farm in Middletown Springs. Committed to relocalizing the food system, owners Julie Sperling and Doug Freilich directly source grains and bakery ingredients from local organic farmers. With 2022 NOFA-VT Resilience Grant funds, Julie and Doug are creating a regional flour mill that brings delicious foods back to the grain shed and builds a vibrant, local economy. RSVP and enjoy dinner baked in NOFA-VT's wood-fired pizza oven, followed by a tour.

For more information and to register, please visit:  
<https://www.nofavt.org/events/pizza-social-naga-bakehouse-0>

## Note from the Town Treasurer

New Property Tax Bills for fiscal year 24/25 will be mailed to you by mid August.

Please save your bill for future reference. Even if your mortgage company pays your taxes, you will likely need this document when you file your April income taxes or refinance or sell your property.

Included on your tax bill will be a homestead rebate only if you applied and qualified for it. The State of Vermont determines if you are eligible for a rebate.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your homestead rebate, contact the Vermont Department of Taxes directly at: <https://tax.vermont.gov>

**Important:** If your mailing address has changed, please advise. If you have not received your new bill by mid-August, please email [mtstreasurer@vermontel.net](mailto:mtstreasurer@vermontel.net) (or call 235-3256) and confirm your name, parcel address and mailing address.

Your first payment for the new tax year will be due on or before Monday, September 16, 2024.

## New at the Library

### Children's

*My Shadow is Purple* - Scott Stuart  
*Sophie Mouse (6 books)* - Poppy Green  
*Zoey and Sassafras: Bips and Roses* - Asia Citro  
*Zoey and Sassafras: Wishypoofs and Hiccups* - Asia Citro  
*Mapping Sam* - Joyce Hesseberth  
*Mr. Bumble* - Kim Kennedy  
*Animation Lab for Kids* - Laura Bellmont  
*Just Add Glitter* - Angela DiTerlizzi  
*Red: A Crayon's Story* - Michael Hall  
*Unicorn's School Day* - Lucy Golden  
*Where's The Unicorn* - Ingela P Arrhenius  
*Adventures of Catherine Lake* - Karen E Velsor

### Young Adult

*Let's Talk About It* - Erika and Matthew Nolan  
*Sold* - Patrick McCormick  
*Tricks* - Ellen Hopkins

### Adult Fiction

*The Book of Lost Friends* - Lisa Wingate  
*The Echo of Old Books* - Barbara Davis  
*Hopeless* - Colleen Hoover  
*Good Material* - Dolly Alderton  
*Murder at an Irish Wedding* - Carlene O'Connor  
*Camino Ghosts* - John Grisham  
*The Secret Book of Flora Lea* - Patti Callahan Henry  
*Table for Two* - Amor Towles  
*Funny Story* - Emily Henry  
*Dear Edward* - Ann Napolitano  
*Frozen River* - Ariel Lawhon

### Adult Non-fiction

*Chronicles of Absurdia* - Amelia Phoenix  
*Desertsong* - Sebastian Junger  
*In My Time of Dying* - Sebastian Junger  
*Storey's Guide to Raising Pigs* - Kelly Klover  
*The Bill of Obligations* - Richard Haass  
*Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light* - Jo Harjo  
*Nomadland* - Jessica Bruder

### DVDs

*The Hobbit: The Battle of Five Armies*  
*The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*



## Park and Museum Passes at the Library

Available for three-day check-out to Middletown Springs residents.

- **American Precision Museum:** Free Family Pass.
- **ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain:** \$7 admission per person for up to four people.
- **Shelburne Farms Pass:** Free admission for two adults and their children, includes walking trails and Children's Farmyard.
- **Vermont Historic Sites Pass:** Free admission.
- **Vermont Historical Society Museum Pass:** Free admission to the Museum in Montpelier.
- **Vermont State Park Pass:** Free admission to Day Use Areas for up to eight people in one vehicle.
- **Wonderfeet Library Pass** Free admission for up to 5 people.

Visit individual websites for current schedules and information.

## Golden Dome Book Award

The Vermont Golden Dome Book Award (formerly Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award) is an award from the Vermont Department of Libraries designed to highlight excellence in children's literature.

Students in grades 4-8 who read at least five of the nominated books will be eligible to vote for the winner next spring.

The nominees have been announced and the books are in! Stop by the library to check them out today!

For more information about the Vermont Golden Dome Book Award, or to see lists of past winners. You can visit: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/vermont-golden-dome-book-award>

## Golden Dome Books 2024-2025 Available at the Library

*The Swifts* - Beth Lincoln  
*Hamra and the Jungle of Memories* - Hanna Alkaf  
*The Lost Year* - Katherine Marsh  
*The Lost Library* - Rebecca Stead  
*The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow* - Elaine Dimopoulos  
*Saving Sunshine* - Saadia Faruqi  
*The Fire, the Water, and Maddie McGinn* - Sally J Pla  
*Lasagna Means I Love You* - Kate O'Shaughnessy  
*You Are Here: Connecting Flights* - Ellen Oh  
*Simon Sort of Says* - Erin Bow  
*The Mona Lisa Vanishes* - Nicholas Day  
*Mexikid* - Pedro Martin  
*The Grace of Wild Things* - Heather Fawcett  
*Bea and the New Deal* - LM Elliot  
*Enemies in the Orchard* - Dana Vanderlugt  
*The Girl from Earth's End* - Tara Dairman  
*The Dreamatics* - Michelle Cuevas  
*Half Moon Summer* - Elaine Wickers  
*Farther than the Moon* - Lindsay Lackey  
*What Happened to Rachel Riley* - Claire Swinarski  
*No Matter the Distance* - Cindy Baldwin  
*Ghosts of Rancho Espanto* - Adrianna Cuevas  
*Two Tribes* - Emily Bowne Cohen  
*Not an Easy Win* - Chrystal D. Giles  
*The Windeby Puzzle: History and Story* - Lois Lowry





## CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Time	Location	Contact
Conservation Commission	3rd Mon/6pm	Library	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
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

### 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.