IULY 2025

middle**TOWN NEWS**letter



Summer Reading at the Library

It's officially summer! Stop by the library to take part in this year's summer reading challenges--and to find some great summer reads.

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, and help us meet our goal of 2025 books in Summer 2025. Every book counts (including books you've listened to). The chain gets longer every day but we need your help to reach our goal!

Keep an eye out for more arts and crafts themed programing as the summer progresses, including: how to events, art displays, origami, black out poetry and more!

If you have an art technique or a craft that you would like to teach to community members this summer please reach out to us!

Watch Front Porch Forum, Facebook, Instagram, and the newsletter for updates.



Banner photo by Patty Kenyon

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Please send all town events, milestones, photos, and happenings to: 05757news@gmail.com

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Summer Storytime

Our Summer Storytime series is underway. Miss Heather invites children aged 2-7 to come read stories, sing songs, and do crafts with her.

Every Wednesday at 10am. There are only 3 more story times this summer so make sure you don't miss them! The final story time will be on Wednesday, July 16.

Healthy snack is provided. All children must be accompanied by a responsible guardian.

Cyanotype Class at the Library

Join Sara Rodich of De la Luz Botanicals to make your own unique plant prints using the power of the sun.

In this class you will learn the basics of Cyanotype, one of the oldest photographic printing processes in the history of photography.

Every participant will create their own beautiful art to take home. All supplies will be provided but feel free to bring a rock, shell, piece of wood or natural fiber fabric to do a print on as well.

Saturday July 26 at 10am at the library. Rain date August 2.



Daffodil print by Sara Rodlich

Save These Dates!

Old Cemetery Clean Up
July 1

Summer Storytime
July 2

Independence DayJuly 4

Summer Storytime
July 9

Old Cemetery Clean Up

July 12

Craft Night

July 14

Old Cemetery Clean Up

July 15

Summer Storytime

July 16

Virtual Author Talk -Emily Cherkin and Nicki Petrossi

July 22

Cyanotype at the Library

July 26

Old Cemetery Clean Up

July 26

Virtual Author Talk -

Dr Victoria Dunckley

July 28

Old Cemetery Clean Up

July 29

Tour De Slate

August 2

Community Yard Sale

September 6

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

Strawberry Festival 2025 Thank You

Thanks go out to the many people from the extended community who celebrated a beautiful Father's Day at the Historical Society Strawberry Festival!

Thanks as well to the loyal volunteers who made it possible to serve the large turnout so smoothly! Over 370 servings of shortcake were served, a record number on the 50th anniversary of the 1976 initial event!

The new museum quilt exhibit, "Patterns and Provenance: Quilts of Middletown Springs 1840-1920", drew over 100 viewers who were impressed by the skill and patience shown in the 20 examples from six Middletown families. Children and adults alike tried their hand at quilt design, piecing paper quilt squares.

Visitors browsed the craft booths which featured maple products, hand crafted jewelry, home-made soap, kids' handicrafts, and even chair massage. They bid on a silent auction and enjoyed live acoustic music.

The quilt exhibit remains on view for the rest of the summer and fall, on Sundays 2-4 pm and at other times by appointment. Call Mary Lou at 802 235-2376

Library Receives Rural Libraries Grant

The Library was awarded a year-long Rural Library Grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF), a nonprofit based in Waterbury Center, VT.

The grant provides \$2,000 in new children's books for the public library; \$500 in new books for the local elementary school; two storytelling events for children at the local elementary school or library; a book giveaway for each child at the elementary school to take home; and funding for mini-grants that support family engagement over the course of the year.

Recognizing the increasing needs of small, rural libraries, CLiF recently expanded the grant to include a summer event [watch for details coming soon]; early childhood book kits for circulation in the library; board books for children ages 0-5; and \$1000 to spend on improvements to the children's area.

We are excited to be collaborating with the elementary school to bring books and storytelling events to our community.



Strawberry Festival 2025. photo by Emmett Francois

Town Clerk Summer Hours

Friday, June 27 – open 10am to 1pm instead of 1pm to 4pm Friday, July 4 – Closed Friday, July 11 - open 10am to 1pm instead of 1pm to 4pm Friday, August 1 - open 10am to 1pm instead of 1pm to 4pm

2025 Reading Goal Update

Kimberly
52/52 books
Favorite June Read:
The Berrypickers
by Amanda Peters

Haley 55/60 books Favorite June Read: Chosen Ones by Veronica Roth

Follow along on <u>Facebook</u> to see how the librarians do with their reading goals, and chime in about your own goals and favorite reads of the year!

Sunday Soccer

The Middletown Springs 40+ year tradition of Sunday soccer returns on Sunday June 1 at the Middletown Springs Elementary School field at 3pm, and each Sunday at that time throughout the summer.

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!

New Pastor at Community Church

Middletown's Community Church has a new pastor! Nate Kowallis and his family moved from the west coast in May, having served in Christian ministries for teens for over a decade. He hopes to continue the Community Church's legacy of connecting people to God through Biblical teachings, worshipful community, and prayer, and is passionate about building relationships. He aims to be at the church office Tuesdays and Thursdays, though it's best to call ahead to see if he's available: (802) 235-2386.

Nate and his wife Erryn have four young boys, three of whom enjoy climbing trees on the green and playing Sunday Soccer. The fourth—at two years old—mostly likes to run around, eat wild plants, and try to hug any visible creature, be it a bug, squirrel, or dog. They are all eager to learn the local flora and fauna, experience the seasons, and become part of the community.

The easiest way to connect with Pastor Nate and the family would be to come by the church for worship at 10am, or the casual gathering that follows.



Call For Photos

Do you have pictures of Middletown Springs that you want to share? The middleTOWN NEWSletter wants to see them!

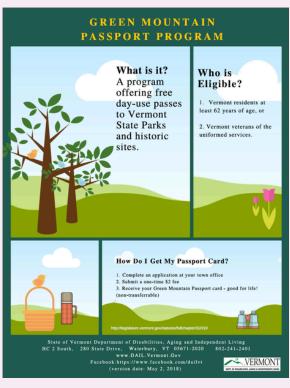
Send us your photos of places and things (no people!) in Middletown and we may use them in a future issue of the newsletter (with credit).

Email all photos to: <u>05757news@gmail.com</u>

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.



A Note from the Town Treasurer.

New Property Tax Bills for fiscal year 25/26 will be mailed to directly to each property owner 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 if you applied when you submitted your April Income taxes and if you qualified for it. The State of Vermont determines if you are eligible for a rebate. The State of Vermont will download rebates directly into our town tax system and reduce your tax burden accordingly.

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 by August 1, so that your tax bill is sent to the correct address. Also, If you have not received your new bill by mid-August, please email 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 15, 2025. Late fees for remittals or postmarks 9/16 or later will be applied – no exceptions. Please plan ahead.

Strawberry Jam Thank You

The Middletown Springs Friends for Education would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that participated either through sponsorships, volunteering, or running to support our Fourth Annual Strawberry Jam $5K/10k/youth\ run$.

It was a huge success, and we couldn't have done it without any of you!



Runners at Strawberry Jam 2025. Photo by Emily Slatin

New at the Library

Children's Books

Across a Field of Starlight

- Blue Delliquanti

The Cartoonists Club

- Raina Telgemeier Sunny Makes her Case

- Jennifer L Holm

Adult Fiction

Broken Country - Clare Leslie Hall Fagin the Thief - Alison Epstein Heart Be at Peace - Donal Ryan

Adult Non Fiction

Who is Government - Michael Lewis

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, July 14, 6:30-8pm.**

Strawberry Jam Finishers

5K		OVERALL	
Women's		Name	Time
	1	Katie Presau	19:54
	2	Cara Bailey	24:45
	3	Eva Friend	25:43
Men's		Name	Time
	1	Sam Filloramo	23:03
	2	Paul Sussman	26:24
	3	Ed McGann	30:53
10K		OVERALL	
Women's		Name	Time
	1	Zaley Deleonardis-Page	54:21
	2	Jessica Billingsby	57:26
	3	Nadia Tarbell	1:11:45
Men's		Name	Time
	1	Stephen Davies	52:01
	2	Ben Eden	56:24
	3	Matt Poi	56:35

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Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning – July 2025

All events are weather permitting.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 – 6pm to 8pm Saturday, July 12, 2025 - 10am to Noon Tuesday, July 15, 2025 – 6pm to 8pm Saturday, July 26, 2025 – 10am to Noon Tuesday, July 29, 2025 – 6pm to 8pm

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 repellant and wear your old work clothes, it's pretty dirty work.

In addition to cleaning, we will also be identifying stones that need repair and crosschecking names and stones with a newly compiled inventory. So, there are jobs for those who may not be interested in dirty work. This can also happen outside of the workdays, check in with the clerk for the details on that opportunity.

If you have questions, contact the town clerk during open office hours.

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.

Thank you!
Patty Kenyon
Town Clerk

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 office is closed every Wednesday and all federal holidays





Partial results of a cleaned gravestone during a recent old cemetery stone cleaning day.

Photo by Haley Kenyon.

Pun of the Month If you throw a book in the ocean you'll get a title wave



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 <u>www.tourdeslate.org</u>, 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 <u>info@tourdeslate.org</u> or call (802) 558-0934.

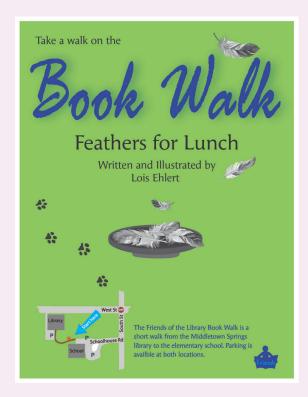
2025 Golden Dome

The Vermont Golden Dome Book

Award was created to honor
excellence in children's literature.
Since 1957, Vermont students in
grades four through eight have
selected their favorite book from a
list of nominees. It is recommended
that students read at least five of the
year's nominated titles before voting
in the spring each year.

This years nominees are available at library.

New Book Walk



Come check out the new Book Walk! Louis Eckhart's Feathers for Lunch, a book full of colorful birds and flowers to help kick off the Color Our World summer theme.

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Legislative Update from Chris Prichard

The first half of the biennium has come to a close. The Governor addressed the House Monday evening and the legislative session came to a close at around 9pm.

I wanted to take this time to share with you some of what was done during this past session and some of the bills that the House and Senate concurred on and sent to the Governor for his signature.

The House introduced 521 bills for consideration in the 1st half of the biennium, the Senate introduced 158 for a total of 679. Of that total, 97 were passed and 69 have become law. The Governor still has bills on his desk from the close of the session to consider signing into law. Nearly 80% of the bills introduced were never taken up and still remain on "The Wall". These bills can still be taken up for consideration in the 2nd half of the biennium at the discretion of each committee chair. Legislators can draft and introduce bills in the second half of the biennium and based upon the last several biennial sessions, I expect there will be another 500 to join the 500 that still remain on the wall. At the end of the biennium, any bills that have not passed or received consideration will be discarded, (nearly 1,000), and must be redrafted and reintroduced by legislators who are elected in the next biennial session.

During my orientation, new members were told that for each bill drafted by a member, there is an approximate cost of \$1,000.00 to the taxpayers of Vermont. The Vermont taxpayer will spend 1 million dollars on bills that will never receive consideration only to be discarded at the close of the biennium. I believe we need to look at this policy. Over the last 3 bienniums the legislature has passed approximately 250 laws each biennium from an average of 1,200 bills. Knowing that the body is only capable of handling 250 bills, it seems wasteful to draft so many additional bills that we will never even discuss especially knowing the cost.

H454, the Education Bill, was passed and sent to the Governor. The bill received bipartisan support with the majority of both Republicans and Democrats voting in favor and the Progressive Party voting against. It was supported by 2/3 of the house on a 96-45 vote with 8 members absent. The Senate passed it on a 17-12 vote with 1 absent. The bill is not perfect and as the Governor stated there are things in this bill for everyone to dislike. But the bipartisan consensus was that after dozens of studies costing hundreds of thousands of dollars and the ever increasing property tax burden, that continuing the Status Quo was no longer an option. Governance still needs to be established, maps still need to be drawn and that work continues and will continue when the legislature returns in January.

Continued on page 9



Beverly Parent, a longtime summer resident of Middletown Springs (1989-2002) passed on June 1, 2025 at the age of 97. Born in 1928 in Holyoke, MA, Beverly leaves behind her four children, 9 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren, who all loved her very sweet disposition.

Her youngest daughter Cynthia resides in town with her husband of 20 years T. Pepper Clayton.

Beverly's dream when she met Lou at 13 and married at 18, was to have six children and live on a farm. Her husband's dream was to have no children and live in the city. They compromised and chose the suburbs, raising their four children in Holyoke, MA. They worked their way up the ladder from the bottom rung, and ultimately had a successful engineering and manufacturing business in Springfield, Boston and Stamford, CT. They moved their business back to Holyoke with the construction of their new headquarters in Holyoke, MA.

After 40 years of marriage, LA passed at age 59 in 1988 and Beverly pursued her dream of country living. She discovered Middletown Springs on a very rainy, cold day in March of 1989, and fell in love with her new home on Buxton Ave., where her planning and renovations were quickly underway. Hosting extended family as well as her new friends in town throughout the summer was her passion, as was taking 'Sunday' drives a few times a week to 'get lost' on roads throughout the area.

Beverly was a talented seamstress and golfer. She excelled at interior design work and was a major inspiration and teacher for her daughter Cynthia. (She often said how happy she was to see the 'Hobbit House' design/build construction project completed by Cynthia & Pepper, and that she lived long enough to enjoy living like a hobbit for a while!) She was a deeply spiritual soul and loved reading books from all spiritual traditions, as her belief was, 'Many Paths, One Truth'.

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S45, the Right to Farm law was also passed and will provide benefits and protections for our family farms.

The legislature also passed a housing bill to address the housing shortage and the affordability of housing. I will share other bills that were passed in future postings throughout the summer.

I wanted to mention one more bill. H54 was a bill that I co-sponsored relating to cell phone free schools. It was really driven by a constituent from Middletown Springs that has worked tirelessly to see this through to the finish line. It was part of the miscellaneous Education bill and one of the last bills we passed before the close of the session. I supported it early during my campaign and Robin Chesnut-Tangerman also worked on and advocated for its passage during his time serving. I believe this is a big step forward in helping our children and reversing the mental health and bullying issues affecting our school children and the challenges and distractions it has created for our teachers.

I have attached two links that you can click on or copy and paste. The 1st will show you all the bills that I co-sponsored during the 1st part of this biennium, the 2nd is my voting record on all the votes I cast. Both links will allow you to open those bills to review. I was present for every single house session that was held and was present and voted on every roll call and voice vote on the House floor. I was also present for every one of my committee meetings with the exception of an excused absence of 2 hours the morning of May 1, (Folks that know me well will be able to make a pretty good guess where I was that morning!).

In closing, I just wanted to say Thank You to all my constituents who have supported me this session. I am grateful and humbled for the opportunity you have given me to serve and represent this district. Please reach out to me with any concerns you may have or if there is a problem that you think I may able to help you with. All the Town clerks for the 5 towns I represent have my contact info and I will list my E-mail address below.

Chris

E-mail cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us

 $\underline{https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/single/2026/40429\#sponsored-bills}$

https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/single/2026/40429#voting-record

Virtual Author Talks

Tuesday July 22 2:00 pm EST, opting out of school issued devices with Emily Cherkin and Nicki Petrossi

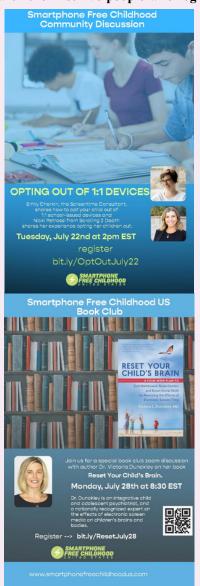
Register: <u>bit.ly/OptOutJuly22</u>

Free Book Give Away of Author Emily Cherkin's The Screen Time Solution with the first five people who register!

Monday July 28 8:30pm EST, Child & adolescent psychiatrist Dr Victoria Dunckley joins us live to discuss her book Reset Your Child's Brain

Register: bit.ly/ResetJuly28

Free Book Give Away of Reset Your Child's Brain with the first five people who register!



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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	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

<u>05757news@gmail.com</u>

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 <u>05757news@gmail.com</u>). 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.