

JUNE 2024

middleTOWN NEWSletter



This issue:

[Vermont Storyteller Tim Jennings](#)

[Book Sale](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

[Dana Carpenter Exhibit](#)

[Reader's Wish List](#)

[Green Up Day](#)

[Seed Swap](#)

[Tech Tuesday](#)

[Call for Photos](#)

[Strawberry Jam 5k](#)

[Craft Night](#)

[Book Group](#)

[Pleasant View Cemetery](#)

[Summer Program](#)

[Strawberry Festival](#)

[Dana Carpenter Continued](#)

[Note from the Treasurer](#)

[Calendar of Regular Meetings](#)

Got News?

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

Banner photo by Patty Kenyon



Vermont Storyteller Tim Jennings

Celebrate the End of the School Year & the Beginning of the Library Summer Program- Friday, June 7th!

At the elementary school, special guest, legendary Vermont storyteller, Tim Jennings will carry us along on irresistible folktale adventures. With patches of concertina music and splashes of old-time country vaudeville, it's sure to be a fun show for the whole family!

Homeschoolers and community members are welcome to join the students at the school for the 1:50pm show. Guests should arrive in time to enter in the front of the building and register in the office. This event is hosted by the Town Library and sponsored by FFE (Friends For Education)

Later that evening, the Library and FOL (Friends of the Library) will host **An Evening with Tim Jennings** as a joint fundraiser at the 1780's Reuben Waite Barn, which has been generously donated by Green Mountain Timber Frames for this event.

Doors open at 6:30pm for light refreshments, with the main event at 7pm. This is an evening for adults of all ages interested in the art and craft of storytelling. Tim will share elements of the craft, how he got started, and a tale or two. A \$15 suggested donation at the door benefits the town library. Light refreshments will be provided (BYOB).

The Reuben Waite Barn is at 430 West Street, Middletown Springs.

Middletown
Springs
Library

BOOK SALE

at Middletown Springs Historical Society

June 15 & 16

Sat 8-3
Sun 10-2

middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
802-235-2435



Library Book Sale

June 15 & 16
Sat 8-3
Sun 10-2

Stock up on summer reading for unbeatable prices. As always, there will be a wide selection of gently read books, movies, puzzles, and games. All proceeds benefit the library. The sale will be under the tent outside the Historical Society building, as well as in their dining room. For more information, contact the library at middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 802-235- 2435.

DONATIONS NO LONGER ACCEPTED. We will begin accepting donation again AFTER August 1.

Save These Dates!

Summer Program Begins
June 7

Tim Jennings
June 7

Craft Night
June 10

Lawn Games at the Library
Every Tuesday 6-8

Library Book Sale
June 15 & 16

Taxes Due
June 17

Strawberry Jam
June 22

Tie Dye at the Library
June 22

Strawberry Festival
June 23

Book Group
June 27

Fourth of July
July 4



Dana Carpenter Was a Man for All Seasons

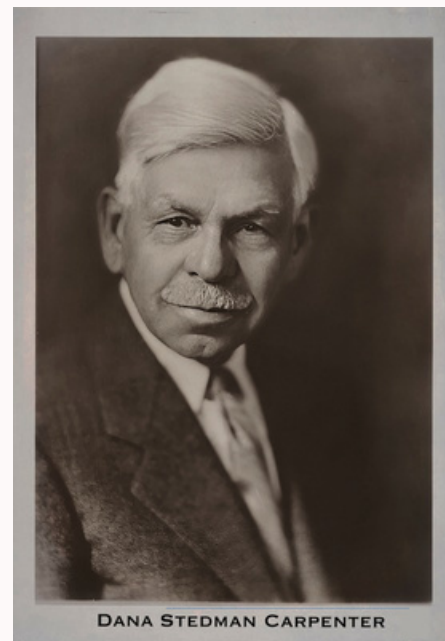
This year's museum exhibit, opening at the Strawberry Festival on June 23, explores the career and life of Dana Stedman Carpenter (1863-1940), business entrepreneur and popular resident of Middletown Springs from 1888 until his death in 1940. The Middletown Springs Historical Society museum collection includes a wealth of historical artifacts, photographs, books, documents, and paper records related to Carpenter, acquired over the past 50 years, including recent important acquisitions.

Dana Carpenter was a pharmacist, a well-known avocational botanist, the local photographer and printer, and the Middletown Springs Telephone Company's first manager and lineman. An active town citizen, he represented Middletown Springs in the State Legislature in 1902-1903 and 1929-1930. In local affairs, he served as Town Moderator for 20 years, Justice of the Peace, school board member, Town Auditor, Health Officer and trustee of the Public Library. He was a deacon of the Congregational Church and was active at the county and state levels in Christian Endeavor, an interdenominational Christian youth society.

Born in Westminster West and raised in Weston, Carpenter married Clara Curtis of Ira, whom he met in pharmacy training at Castleton Normal School, and in 1888, they moved to Middletown Springs. Dana and Clara opened the pharmacy in one of the shops at the Valley Hotel on East St., where they had a soda fountain with homemade ice cream. The town's first telephone exchange with its local operator was set up in the back room of the drug store around 1903.

When, c. 1905, the Carpenters were bequeathed the Horace Clark house on West St., they moved there from their previous home on West St. next to St. Anne's Catholic Church. Later Dana moved the pharmacy to a building next door to the Clark house, now known as Sissy's Kitchen. Upstairs, above the expanded pharmacy and general store, "Carp" had his printing shop and photography studio. Clara died in 1917, and Carpenter later married Aurora Stewart of Rutland. Together they raised two foster daughters, Harriet Kenyon and Thelma Day.

Continued on page 8



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 middletownspringslibrary@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!

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



Green Up Day Success

The Middletown Springs Conservation Commission welcomed some honorary junior members for Green Up Day 2024.

Three girl scouts from Middletown Springs' own Troop 63133 (plus one little sister) helped the commission host Green Up Day on May 4. With guidance from Elizabeth Cooper, Steve Harrington, and Beth Carmody, they handed out trash bags and treats—free stickers, cookies, and mini birdhouses. Plus, they showed community members how easy and fun it is to construct a “green bean teepee”.

The teepee pictured here was disassembled and relocated, but if you're interested in learning to build one yourself, Conservation Commission members would be happy to share instructions! Contact Elizabeth Cooper at naturewalk@vermontel.net or (802) 235-1406.

Thanks to the dozens of town folk who volunteered to pitch in and clean up miles of town roads and fill loads of Green Up bags.

To learn more about Girl Scouts, visit girlscouts.org or call Beth Carmody at 802-235-1022.

Strawberry Jam 5k

It's time for the Friends for Education's (FFE) third annual Strawberry Jam 5k Run/Walk! We have a new course this year featuring the Buxton Avenue loop, and this is a sanctioned USA Track and Field event. Strawberry Jam also has a new date: **Saturday, June 22!**

We are seeking volunteers to help and businesses to sponsor this event. If you are interested in doing either, please contact Matt Heering at matt.heering@gmail.com.

If you are interested in jamming somewhere along the course to liven up the run and keep folks motivated, please contact Ashley Fioretti at vtlittleflower13@gmail.com.

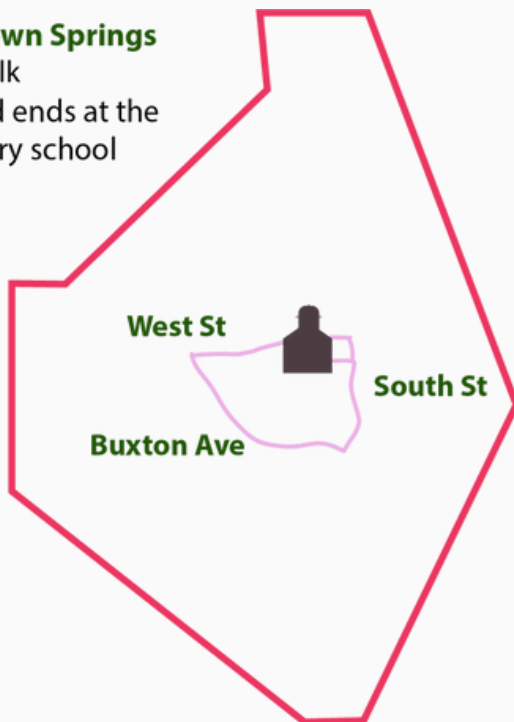
To register for this event please visit <https://www.active.com/middletown-springs-vt/running/distance-running-races/strawberry-jam-fun-run-2024>.

Thank you for supporting the FFE and our endeavors to provide supplemental programming to the students at the Middletown Springs Elementary School!



Middletown Springs

5k run/walk
Starts and ends at the elementary school



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, June 10, 6-8pm**. Hope to see you there!

Library Book Group

The June book is the current VT Reads book: *All the Children are Home* by Patry Francis

and the discussion will be held on **June 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

Library Hours

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

Pleasant View Cemetery News

The entrance gate of the Pleasant View Cemetery has been officially open to the public since the first of May.

The trustees are pleased to report that we were once again able to connect with the Middletown Springs Elementary School students and enlist their help with our annual spring cleanup efforts. Special thanks to Mr. John Carlson and especially the fifth and sixth grade classes this year for their interest and participation in raking and building piles of tree limbs and other debris for subsequent pickup and disposal.

At the end of April, the students spent a portion of an afternoon on this effort, and they really did a fantastic job cleaning up the many hundreds of small broken off tree limbs so mowing could begin. We greatly appreciate their assistance and cooperative effort in getting the cemetery back up to snuff. They did a wonderful job.

Special thanks to Art Castle for his assistance with raking and hauling away many pickup loads of debris. Thank you Art!

As you visit the grounds and take in the sight and sound of American flags flapping in the breeze, offer a 'thank you' to April Blair and Rich Baptie. They have completed the task of marking the gravesites of our military veterans for the last several years, and have donated a new large flag to fly at the cemetery entrance when needed. Thank you Rich and April!

The grounds are scheduled to be mowed every two weeks. Weed-whacking is scheduled with every other mowing, and we try to build the mowing schedule to coincide with the major memorial remembrances of Memorial Day and July 4 as best we can. It is a big job, and a challenging one, as there are obstacles galore! Green Mountain Boys Landscaping from Wells have done a wonderful job for us, and the end result is certainly worthy and deserving of the effort involved.

Lot holders are reminded to clean up and remove any old, damaged, or unwanted decorations from their plots as soon as possible. We try to pick up the leftover Christmas wreaths, old plants, and broken decorations as best we can, and lot holders can and certainly should help out in this regard. We welcome and encourage public utilization and enjoyment of this beautiful and peaceful setting. It is also a safe haven for pets to enjoy as well; we ask any and all responsible pet owners to be vigilant and to clean up any 'deposits' that may be left behind. Artificial flowers are NOT allowed in Pleasant View, and will be discarded. We prefer live plants which take up CO2 and produce oxygen in return.

Memorial contributions may be made at any time to Pleasant View Cemetery Association, 4 Colvin Road, Middletown Springs, VT.

Trustees:

Don Marcy, Emeritus Art Castle Terry Redfield Chris Ray
Jordan Martelle Bridget Tarbell

ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY[™] Library Summer Program Starting June 7

Storyteller Tim Jennings - June 7

Join Tim Jennings at the historic Reuben Waite Barn at 7pm. Tim will share elements of the craft, how he got started, and a tale or two. \$15 donation at the door.

Tie Dye Your Own Adventure Bandana -

Come to the library at 10am on Saturday, June 22 to make your own tie-dye bandana with Jen Dattoli! Bandanas provided. All ages welcome.

Summer Storytime - Heather is back! Come to the library for a series of adventure themed storytimes and crafts. Geared toward those aged 3-7 but all are welcome. Time and days TBD.

Sullivan Woods Adventure - TBD

Movie Nights - TBD

Kindness Rock Project - TBD

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.

Strawberry Festival Continues Classic Summer Tradition at Middletown Springs Historical Society

The 49th Annual Strawberry Festival continues a long summer tradition at the Middletown Springs Historical Society on Sunday, June 23, from 2 pm- 4 pm. The festival includes a craft fair, live music, a new exhibit about Dana S. Carpenter (1863-1940) business entrepreneur and popular citizen of Middletown Springs, and a related children's program.

Strawberry lovers are invited to the Historical Society building on the green in Middletown Springs for delicious strawberry shortcake made with fresh Vermont berries, homemade biscuits, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream, with a choice of iced tea, lemonade, or hot coffee. Berries will also be available for sale by the quart.

Local artists and craftspeople will display and sell their work, including maple products, jewelry, photography, knitted items, honey and beeswax products. There will be live music during the event, and a variety of items will be raffled off.

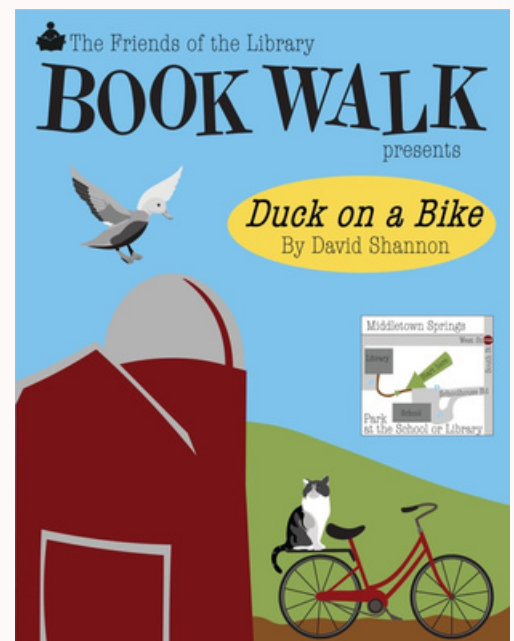
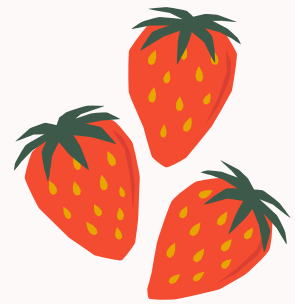
The festival marks the opening of a new exhibit in the Historical Society's museum, "Dana Carpenter, A Man for All Seasons, featuring photographs, artifacts, and written accounts of Carpenter's career as a botanist, pharmacist, photographer, and active citizen. A special program for children attending the festival will be creating botanical prints by pressing flowers and plant materials. Admission to the museum and the children's program are free.

For more information about the event, contact Pat Hemenway at 235-2421 or David Wright at 235-2376.

The museum is open on Sundays, 2- 4 pm, June through October, or by appointment. The famous middletown springs still flow every day, year round, in the Mineral Springs Park, located nearby. For more information about museum events and exhibits and the history of Middletown Springs, visit the new website at www.mshsvt.org.



Historical Society volunteers serve delicious strawberry shortcake at 2023 Strawberry Festival in Middletown Springs.
Photo by Emmett Francois



Dana Carpenter, continued from page 3

The MSHS collection documents Carpenter's business, professional, and avocational pursuits, as well as his community and family life. Many of these collection items will be on exhibit, including Carpenter's framed pharmaceutical degree certificate, shelving and apothecary bottles from his drugstore, botanical specimens and notebooks, glass plate photography prints and equipment, printing blocks and printed material from his shop, and personal photo albums and scrapbooks.

The exhibit will also include excerpts from newspapers and other publications, some written after personal interviews, that reveal more about Carpenter's personality and character. For example, the Autumn 1962 issue of Vermont Life featured an article by George Haig, son of the Congregational Church pastor, who remembered his Middletown Springs boyhood in the early 1900s. In 1962, Haig wrote:

"...the real point of interest for small fry was Dana Carpenter's drug store and ice cream emporium, and Dana Carpenter himself. The ice cream dispensary would have been popular in its own right, but its interest... was greatly enhanced by the presence of the village telephone switchboard, in full view and hearing of anybody who entered the store." Haig recalled that the village boys were always on the lookout for "Carp" on his bicycle as he rode around town to repair telephone lines strung from house to tree to barn to pole. "Carp had to be prepared to climb trees, scale barn roofs, or, if everything else failed, install a rickety pole to keep the system in operating order".

The exhibit, which runs through March 2025, will be augmented by public programs about botany and glass plate photography. The exhibit opening at the Strawberry Festival will feature a children's activity, creating botanical prints from the natural dyes of flowers, and plant parts.

A Note from the Town Treasurer

Property Tax payments for the 4th and FINAL Quarter of Fiscal Year 23/24 are due on or before Monday, June 17, 2024 – we have two extra days this year to remit, since the 15th falls on a Saturday.

Remit tax payments either via Mail (6/17/24 or earlier postmark,) to PO Box 1022, OR deposit them into the black Drop Box on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office by end of day 6/17/24.

PLEASE, do not remit taxes to the Town Clerk, as she is not authorized to accept them.

If you require a receipt, please include a self addressed, stamped envelope with your remittance.

Tax payments postmarked after 6/17/24 or received in the drop box after 6/17/24 are considered late and DELINQUENT and a penalty and late fee will be assessed as follows:

Penalty: 8 % on all FY 23/24 outstanding amounts, and Late fee: 1% interest for the 1 st 3 months of delinquency, and 1.5% interest per month thereafter on 4th quarter amount due. DELINQUENT taxes from FY 23/24 will be forwarded to our Delinquent Tax Collector, Debra House, for collection.

FYI – new tax bills will be mailed directly to all property owners in mid-August for FY24/25. Please save them as you will need them for tax payment, mortgage escrow, refinance, and annual homestead declaration. It is your responsibility to ensure that your mortgage company has a copy. If you have an update to your mailing address, please advise prior to August 1st.

Thank you.
Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer
802-235-3256
mtstreasurer@vermontel.net



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	2nd 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
 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.