

SEPTEMBER 2025

# middleTOWN NEWSletter



Banner photo by Benjamin Riffin

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## Got News?

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

Middletown Springs Annual Community

## YARD SALE



**Saturday, September 6**

**9AM - 2PM**

**On the Middletown Springs Green**

Interested in your own space at the sale?  
Contact: [wendyherrick84@gmail.com](mailto:wendyherrick84@gmail.com)

This event is brought to you by the Friends  
of the Middletown Springs Public Library

## Community Yard Sale

Where: Middletown Springs Town Green

Time: Saturday, Sept 6 from 9am-2pm. See you there!

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library invites you to shop and enjoy our many quality items for sale including but not limited to church benches, tools, quality clothes and shoes, jewelry, purses, fine pottery, framed art, small kitchen appliances, holiday items, fabric, and much more. Shop while enjoying baked goods (sold by FOL) and music by Paul Morgan, Gary Lindorff and friends. Restrooms available.

Reserve a 15 'x 15' space for selling: \$25 to the Friends of the Library.  
Email [wendyherrick84@gmail.com](mailto:wendyherrick84@gmail.com) if interested.

# 5th Annual Town-Wide Gathering

Join us at the 5th Town-Wide Gathering on Sunday, September 7. This is a chance to gather with neighbors new and old, meet new people, make connections and share what we love about this town.

This year we will be switching it up a bit. Gathering at the Town Green Park on Sunday, September 7, 2pm-5pm, with food and activities for all, young and old. There will be new mingle bingo cards, build a veggie critter contest, (bring one made or build one there), face painting, the human slot machine, (you will have to come to find out what that is), flower printing, the earthball and parachute, prizes and more!

Please consider donating homemade crafts, preserves, garden surpluses, and the like for door prizes. In addition, we'll present offerings to each new family that highlight the diversity of talents that abound here.

Bring a snack if you want or just show up and see what it's all about!

Want to help? Contact Leslie Silver: [lsilver.stretch@gmail.com](mailto:lsilver.stretch@gmail.com)

# Cookbook Club

Launching this fall!

Join us for some or all, when each month we explore a different cookbook. We will each make something from the same cookbook to share with the others. The cookbook will be available at the library. Stop in to select a recipe. We will photocopy it for you and add it to the menu.

On the chosen day, bring your dish to the library and share it with all who also cooked from the cookbook. Delicious fun, good food, and culinary conversation.

We are thinking the second Thursday at 6:30pm might work best for the schedule but we are open to suggestions. Be one of the first three people to express interest and help pick the night!

Upcoming themes:

- October – Tasty, Easy Cooking
- November – Thanksgiving Sides
- December – Cookie Swap
- January – Ladle & Loaf

# Save These Dates!

- Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning**  
August 30
- Labor Day**  
September 1
- Community Yard Sale**  
September 6
- Community Gathering**  
September 7
- Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning**  
September 13
- Taxes Due**  
September 15
- Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning**  
September 16
- MSHS Annual Meeting**  
September 21
- Summer Reading Ends**  
September 22
- Bedtime Stories**  
September 26
- Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning**  
September 27
- Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning**  
September 30
- Large Dumpster Day**  
October 4
- Indigenous Peoples' Day**  
October 13
- Bedtime Stories**  
October 21

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# 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**

## Summer Reading at the Library

Summer isn't over yet. There's still plenty of time to get involved in summer reading at the library. Stop by and participate in our summer reading challenges today!

**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. Every book counts (including books you've listened to). The chain gets longer every day **but we need your help!**

Summer reading challenges end on the first day of fall: Monday, September 22.

## Bedtime Stories

Bedtime Storytime is back!

Join us once a month this fall and winter for an after dark storytime.

Wear your PJs, bring your favorite stuffed animal or whatever you need to get cozy and enjoy specially selected stories read by Claire Ericksen.

Stories start promptly at 7 and last about 30-45 minutes, so we can get you home at a reasonable hour. A take home treat will be provided.

The fall storytime schedule is as follows:

Friday, September 26 at 7pm.  
Friday, October 17 at 7pm  
Friday November 14 at 7pm  
Friday December 12 at 7pm (Holiday stories!)

More dates to follow.



## Oversized Trash & Metal Day

Saturday, October 4 from 7am to Noon  
577 West Street (Town Property)

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## Local Author Publishes New Book

Middletown resident Emily Pratt Slatin has published a new book: *Dark Horse: The Diary of Emily Pratt Slatin*.

A copy will be available at the library soon for neighbors to borrow.

If you want to know more about Emily and her writing her website can be found at: <https://www.rescuegirl557.com/>

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## Notice to Town Groups and Organizations

The town has a new website and we need your help to make it as accurate as possible! Please click here or go to <https://middletownsprings.vt.gov/events/> to view the calendar of events and **make sure that your events and meetings are listed correctly!** If they aren't--or if anything is missing--please reach out to the town clerk or the library with any additions or changes and they will be happy to make those changes.

This is a great way to promote your event, as the town can send emails directly to subscribers about any news or upcoming events for your organization.

## A Note from the Town Treasurer.

Your Property Tax payment for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025/2026 is due before or on Monday, September 15. **Late payments will incur a fee – no exceptions – everyone has been given advance notification of due dates.**

Visit our new website for details regarding fees and penalties on late tax payments. Click Government/Property Tax tab, FAQ #7 and #8 or refer to the yellow information page included with your tax bill.

**New this year** – secure online tax payments! The town now accepts, Visa, Mastercard, Discover credit/debit cards and electronic checks (for a nominal fee assessed by the payment processing company.)

Visit our new website for details regarding online payments (as well as other payment methods.) Click Government/Property Tax tab, FAQ #5 or refer to the yellow information page included with your tax bill.

**You should have received a property tax bill by now. If not, please contact the Town Treasurer at [mtstreasurer@vermontel.net](mailto:mtstreasurer@vermontel.net) or 802-235-3256 and indicate your name, property ID and mailing address.**

**Please note:** for those of you who have still not received credit or notification of your homestead rebate or status, please pay the 1st quarter of your taxes as listed on your Property Tax Bill. Once the Town has been notified of your rebate by the State of Vermont, your taxes will be adjusted accordingly and you will be sent an updated property tax bill that will show a reduction for the Q2 payment.

If you have questions regarding your homestead status, contact the VT Department of Taxes directly, as our town does not execute decisions or calculations on this process. <https://tax.vermont.gov/> or 802-828-2865.

## More Library Programs Coming Soon!

The library has a lot of exciting things planned for the fall and winter. Keep your eyes peeled for more information about our upcoming programs, including:

Tween Zine Book Club  
Cyanotype Class  
Family Read Aloud Book Party  
BlackOut Poetry  
Take Home Crafts  
Themed Book Clubs  
Craft Swap

Watch our social media and Front Porch Forum for updates.

## New at the Library

### Children's Books

*Nightlights* - Lorena Alvarez  
*The Phantom Bully* - Jeffery Brown  
*Around the Farm* - Eric Carle  
*The Mystery of the Locked Rooms*  
- Lindsay Currie  
*Spy School The Graphic Novel*  
- Stuart Gibbs  
*Goodnight* - Chris Houghton  
*Little Owl Lost* - Chris Houghton  
*Well Done, Mommy Penguin*  
- Chris Houghton  
*Mallory and the Trouble with Twins*  
- Ann M. Martin  
*Heatwave* - Lauren Redniss  
*Ish* - Peter Reynolds  
*Leo's Lunch Box*  
- Raphael G. Warnock  
*First 1000 Machines*

### Young Adult Fiction

*Powerless* - Lauren Roberts

### Adult Fiction

*The Book Club for Troublesome Women*  
- Marie Bostwick  
*Typewriter Beach* - Meg Waite Clayton  
*A Marriage at Sea* - Sophie Elmhirst  
*The Frozen People* - Elly Griffiths  
*The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau*  
- Kristin Harmel  
*Fever Beach* - Carl Hiaasen  
*The River is Waiting* - Wally Lamb  
*It Can't Happen Here* - Sinclair Lewis  
*These Summer Storms* - Sarah McLean  
*Come & Get It* - Kiley Reid  
*Atmosphere* - Taylor Jenkins Reid  
*The Mirror* - Nora Roberts  
*The Mistborn Trilogy*  
- Brandon Sanderson  
*Tenth of December* - George Saunders  
*Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil*  
- V.E. Schwab  
*I Will Judge You By Your Bookshelf*  
- Grant Snider  
*The Best American Short Stories of the Century* - John Updike (editor)  
*The Body in the Back Garden*  
- Mark Waddell  
*So Far Gone* - Jess Walter  
*The Woman in Suite 11* - Ruth Ware

### Adult Non Fiction

*The Speckled Beauty* - Rick Bragg  
*Escape* - Carolyn Jessop



# Notice to Our Subscribers

As you may know, Middletown Springs has a brand new website! This website includes the ability to send notices directly from the website to subscribers--which alleviates several steps in the newsletter process. Due to this, newsletter staff have a few bits of housekeeping.

You have probably noticed that this newsletter was delivered to you a little differently than ones in the past, that is because you have been automatically subscribed to the newsletter on our new website. You have also been subscribed to "News Alerts" (which will notify you of any urgent happenings like road closures or weather alerts).

There are several other types of alerts you are able to subscribe to, including minutes and agendas from town boards and daily snippets (including fun facts, event notices, and history tidbits!). If you would like to be subscribed to anything in addition to the newsletter and news alerts please send us an email let us know what you would like to be subscribed to. If you are happy with your subscription as it is--you do not need to do anything.

All newsletter submissions, inquiries, and requests can still be directed to this email: [05757@gmail.com](mailto:05757@gmail.com).

The complete list of subscription options is as follows:

**Agendas and Minutes (any or all)**

- Selectboard
- Listers
- Library Trustees
- Auditors
- BCA & BTA
- Planning Commission
- Conservation Commission
- Trustees of Public Monies
- Copeland Trust Funds
- Town Meeting and Elections

**Recent News Notices (any or all)**

- Town Newsletter (Already Subscribed)
- Special Notices and Alerts (Already Subscribed)
- Daily Snippets

Middletown Springs has a  
NEW website!  
[Click here to check it out and](#)  
subscribe to receive  
email or text notifications.

# 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.

# Library Book Group

The September book is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

The discussion will be held  
September 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)


Take a walk! Read a book!

# Book Walk

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Library presents

**The Lion and the Little Red Bird**

**Written and Illustrated by**  
**Elisa Kleven**



Beginning at the Middletown Springs Elementary School, community members of all ages will enjoy a short walk to the library and a wonderful story!

Parking is available at both locations.

# Video Histories Premiere at MSHS Annual Meeting and Open House on September 21

The Middletown Springs Historical Society (MSHS) invites the community to a large screen premiere of four recently completed videos of the MSHS Video History Series. The screening and discussion with the videographers will be held as part of the Society's 2025 Annual Meeting and Open House on Sunday, September 21, from 2pm-4pm, in the historical society building on the town green. Admission is free.

The video series is part of a 2024-2025 video project designed to capture local history reflections from longtime Middletown Springs resident and MSHS President David Wright, a Society member since the early 1970s. Wright was asked to sit for informal, unscripted interviews over two 5-day sessions. The sessions were videotaped, edited, transcribed and indexed as archival material.

Multiple storylines were identified and four were selected for the video series: A Town Built on Agriculture; Crossroads: How Topography & Transportation Shaped a Vermont Town; Horse Power: The Story of A.W. Gray & Sons; and The Mineral Springs and Montvert Hotel. Following the presentation the four videos will be available for viewing on the MSHS YouTube channel, accessible via [mshsvt.org](https://mshsvt.org).

In selecting storylines, video series producers Sally and David Caras of Ferguson Caras, Middle Granville, N.Y., worked with MSHS Collections Manager Mary Lou Willits, to find the most compelling stories of significant local history that could be readily illustrated by visuals from MSHS collections and other sources.

Willits tapped the extensive MSHS photo & document collection while the producers shot village footage for the videos and sourced additional images from the Library of Congress, Poultney Historical Society, Vermont Historical Society, United States Department of Agriculture, Adirondack History Museum, and other collections.

"These are visually interesting, narrative videos that make Middletown Springs history and the project come alive," says Willits. "We're pleased that we could do this for many reasons. Anyone who has talked with David about this town and its past knows some of the great stories about Middletown he can tell".

The MSHS Video History archive of video footage, transcripts, and indexes joins other important resources in the Society's collection such as Barnes Frisbie's History of Middletown (1867), Frances Krouse's A Gem in the Hills (2002), and the museum's ongoing Timeline Exhibit by Jon Mathewson, which chronicles the history of the town from 1761 through 1961.

The Museum, including this season's exhibit, "Patterns and Provenance: Quilts of Middletown Springs, 1840-1920" will be open for viewing before and after the Annual Meeting program. Refreshments will be available before and during the meeting. For more information, contact Pat Hemenway at 802-235-2421 or [ladyh@vermontel.net](mailto:ladyh@vermontel.net).



The Middletown Springs Town Green Circa 1870.  
Photo provided.



## Pun of the Month

Someone stole my mood ring.  
I'm not sure  
how I feel about that.

## 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)

# Old Cemetery Stone Cleaning – September 2025

All events are weather permitting.

Saturday, September 13, 2025 – 10am  
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 – 6pm  
Saturday, September 27, 2025 – 10am  
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 – 6pm

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

If you have questions, contact the town clerk.

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.

Many thanks to those who have come out to help so far. We've made great progress, had some fun, and learned about some of our town's founding residents.

Patty Kenyon  
Town Clerk

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

PH: 802-235-2220 | Email: [middletown@vermontel.net](mailto:middletown@vermontel.net) |

The town office is closed every Wednesday and all federal holidays



# Subscribe to Official Town Postings and News Alerts

[Click here](#) to get email alerts of meeting agendas, minutes, daily snippets, news alerts and MORE! Subscriptions are customizable to what you want to see.

If you encounter an error message when subscribing please reach out to the library or town clerk with your preferences and they will make sure you are subscribed correctly.

## 2025 Reading Goal Update

**Kimberly**

79/52 books

**Favorite August Read:**

*Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory*  
by Caitlin Doughty

**Haley**

69/60 books

**Favorite August Read:**

*Voyage of the Damned*  
by Frances White

Follow along 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!

## 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.

## 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	Adams House	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.