



NOVEMBER. 2023

middleTOWN NEWSletter

Come Visit the New Town Office

The new Middletown Springs Town Office is now occupied, and aiding the Town's work even better than we'd hoped. **The Selectboard invites all of our neighbors to stop in for a look-around and some refreshments on Saturday, November 11, between 11am and 3pm.** All of the Town's residents have brought about this space, and all should share in its appreciation—this truly is the *Town's* Office.

Thanks to the remarkable work of our architect Geoff Metcalfe (Keefe & Wesner Architects, Bennington) and our general contractors John Crossman and Leo Fairbanks (Naylor and Breen, Brandon) and their subcontractors, we've seen the building come together within budget and within schedule. Special thanks goes to Peter Stevenson, the Town's volunteer construction liaison who's been on site nearly every working day to oversee work and consider small changes.

Come on out on Saturday, November 11 for some cider and a donut, and experience the Town's new point of pride.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Library invite you to our Annual Meeting **Tuesday, November 14 at 6pm** at the Green Mountain Timber Frames Reuben Waite Barn located at **430 West Street, in Middletown Springs.**

Potluck at 6 pm, BYOB, followed by our annual meeting.

Join us as we review our 2023 activities and accomplishments, and discuss our hopes and goals for the upcoming year. We hope to see you there!

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NEW News Email

We now have email address dedicated to town news!

Going forward please send all middleTOWN NEWSletter emails to:
05757news@gmail.com



Town Office Update

You have probably seen the lights on in the new Town Office on the corner. The Town Office moved over from the old digs in the Historical Society on September 29 and opened in the new space on October 3. While the new space is functional we are still waiting for final touches like the shelving system in the vault, enough chairs, and some non-wobbly tables. On Saturday November 11th, the Select Board has invited the community to an open house, to welcome residents to this wonderful new Town Office which finally meets our requirements for secure storage of records and functional dedicated spaces for the Clerk, Treasurer, and Listers and others.

This beautiful building has been a long time in the making, from multiple search committees looking for viable sites, visits to other towns, purchase and remediation of the Parker Service Station lot, design committees and design variations, several confirming town votes, voter authorization to borrow construction funds, selection of an architect, a construction management firm, sub contractors, and countless hours and generous gifts from town residents and elected officials.

The following figures are not final but will provide a close idea of the project costs.

Beginning in 2013 voters have approved putting \$50,000 a year into a reserve fund for construction of a new town office. This commitment was critical in proving town support for the project. With a final design from Geoff Metcalfe at Keefe and Wesner Architects and selection of Naylor and Breen as construction managers we were ready to go. The initial estimates for the building came in at \$973,000. On the strength of that estimate and voter approval in November 2021, the Town locked in an \$800,000 building loan from the Bank of Middlebury (at just under 3% interest!) with the balance to come from the Town Facilities Reserve Account.

Then came Covid-19 supply line breakdowns, a stunning scarcity of sub contractors, and skyrocketing material costs. The building estimate rose to \$1,543,081 with estimated additional costs of \$126,000 in architectural and engineering services, permits and fees, and costs for excavating and replacing “unsuitable soils”.

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Thanksgiving Week Hours

Town Office will be closed
Wednesday – Friday,
November 22-24. Regular
hours resume Monday,
November 27.

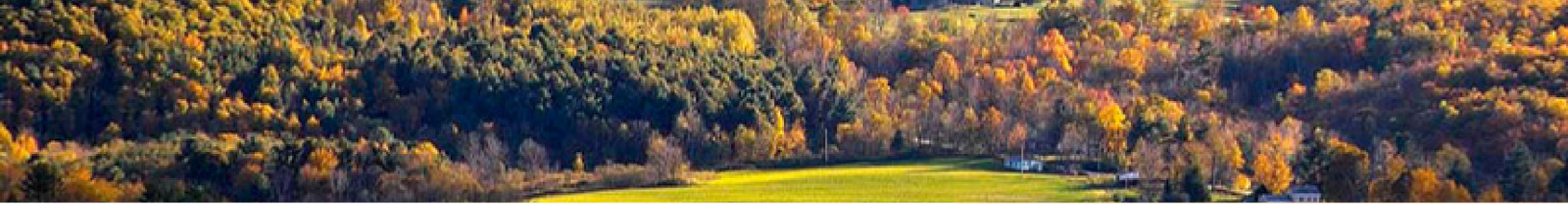
The Library will be closed
Wednesday- Friday
November 22-24, and
reopen Saturday,
November 25.

FREE Covid Tests

Available for pick up at
the Library and the Town
Office.

Town Newsletter

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$7 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Crossman's Store, and the library.



Town Office Update ... continued

Working with the architect and builders we pared down, cut costs, revised plans, beat the bushes for sub-contractors, extended the timeline and reduced the building cost down to \$1,126,990.90. This cost did not include the plumbing and heating bid which was still being revised, or items outside of the construction contract like vault storage, cabinets, shelving, and furniture, computer network and security system, and later additions like a secure drop box for tax payments.

The current cost of the building itself stands at \$1,207,533, with the building and all additional costs at \$1,245,539. This is not the “final figure” as a few more small bills will trickle in but it should be pretty close. All expenses are covered by the construction loan, money from the Town Facilities account, and a portion of federal ARPA funds allocated to the Town. The annual payment on the loan is very close to the \$50,000 allocation that the voters had already approved. Starting next year that allocation will be replaced by a loan payment of a similar amount.

We will provide follow-up information when the dust settles.

- Middletown Springs Select Board

Game Exchange at the Library

Donation Days
Nov 27-29 (2-6pm).

Drop off games ready for new players! Analog board, tabletop, and card games only, in good condition, with no missing pieces, etc.

Game Exchange:
Friday, Dec 1 (10-4)
Saturday, Dec 2 (9-12)

Stop by the library, select & keep **free**, new-to-you, games to help hit refresh on game night!

Feel free to participate in one or both ends of the exchange.

New at the Library

Fiction - Adult

The Exchange- John Grisham
Holly- Stephen King
Nobody's Fool - Richard Russo
Starling House - Alix Harrow
The Running Grave
- Robert Galbraith
Identity - Nora Roberts
The Cartographers - Peng Shepherd

Non-fiction - Adult

Elon Musk - Walter Isaacson

Graphic Novels - Adult

Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands
- Kate Beaton
I Must Be Dreaming - Roz Chast

Graphic Novels – Young Adult

Escape from Syria - Samya Kullab

Fiction – Young Adult

Foul Heart Huntsman - Chloe Gong

Fiction - Children

Wrecker - Carl Hiaasen
No Brainer (Diary of a Whimpy Kid)
- Jeff Kinney
Spy School - Stuart Gibbs

Graphic Novels - Children

Stacey's Mistake (Babysitters Club)
- Ann Martin/ Ellen Crenshaw
InvestiGATORS
- John Patrick Green

Picture Books

Turkey Trouble - Wendi Silvano
They All Saw a Cat
- Brendan Wenzel
The Stray Dog- Marc Simont
Don't Touch That Flower!
- Alice Hemming

New Town Sign

Many thanks to Barbie and David Carr and Cynthia and Pepper Clayton for our new sign!



Before and After photos by Emmett Francois

Free Indeed

Christmas is coming and so is the 2023 Christmas Free Indeed! Everyone is invited to join us at the Middletown Springs Community Church on **Saturday, December 2, 9am -noon**. What is "Free Indeed"? Is it a party? Well, sort of – you walk into the warmth of Christmas music and decorations. Is it a store? Well, sort of - you walk through rooms filled with displays of decorations, gifts, toys, games, clothing, household items and more. What makes "Free Indeed" special? We have collected donated items all year long and now we give everything away. That's right – EVERYTHING is indeed FREE! We hope to see you there.

If you would like to donate items to be "re-gifted" at this event, there will be two Saturday mornings when you can drop them off at the back door of the Community Church: Saturday Nov. 18, 9am-noon, and Saturday, Nov. 25, 9am-noon. Donations can also be made by appointment. If you have any questions, please call Sally Achey at 802-235-2434.

Have you tried the Palace Project app yet?



This easy app allows you to download eBooks and Audiobooks for free, with thousands of titles for all ages and interests in the state collection. The app is available for Apple and Android devices. Download the app, search for our library, and register as a user to begin borrowing. Ask at the library for more information! <https://thepalaceproject.org/app/>

Milestones

Deaths

Edward H. Ray
5.5.1937 - 9.26.2023

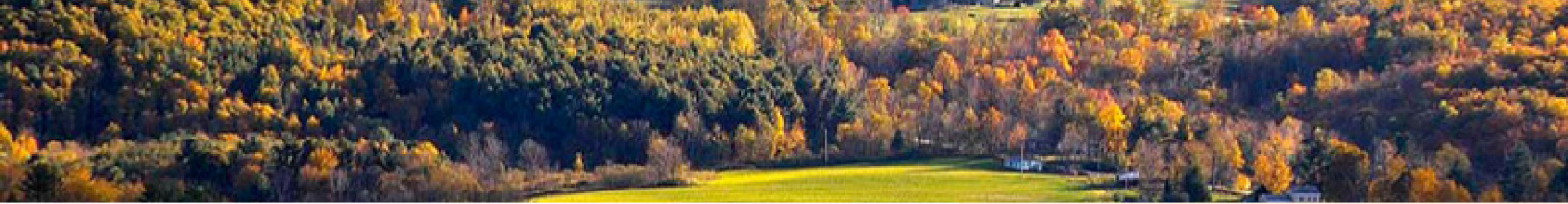
If you would like a milestone featured in the middleTOWN NEWSletter.

Please email it to us at
05757news@gmail.com

Tell Us What You Think

Thank you for all of your feedback so far!

Please send your ideas & feedback on our new format to:
05757news@gmail.com



No-Shave November at the Library



Seeking Proposals Town Report Layout

The selectboard of Middletown Springs is soliciting proposals for the layout and production of the 2024 Town Report. This work includes working with the Town Clerk and coordinating with numerous Town officers and non-profit bodies to collect annual reports and financial statements; graphic design to create an attractive and readable document, including collection and formatting of appropriate photographs; and coordinating with a printing contractor to deliver finished files and prepare completed copies for mailing no later than February 13, 2024. Any questions over the details of the work requested should be directed to the town clerk – middletown@vermontel.net or 802-235-2220.

Proposals should be sent to Town Clerk, Patty Kenyon at middletown@vermontel.net by **noon on November 21, 2023**. Proposals will be reviewed, and a decision made at the regular meeting of the selectboard on November 21, 2023.

Cookbook Exchange!!

Refresh your cookbook shelf at the Library’s Cookbook Exchange. Participate in either or both ends of the exchange.

Donation Days:
Dec 4-6 (Mon, Tues, Wed, 2-6)

Cookbook Exchange:
Friday, Dec 8 (10-4)
Saturday, Dec 9 (9-12)

NEW direct phone line for Town Listers

The Town Listers have a new direct phone line.

Going forward, please call 802-235-3217 to speak with the Town Listers.

A note from the Town Treasurer

Our new town office is open!

Any tax payments can now be deposited at the NEW BUILDING at 5 South Street. There is a secure black mail slot located on the outside wall to the left of the South Street entrance.

Use this drop box for 2nd quarter taxes that are **due on or before 12/15/23**.

Also, if you prefer, you can still mail tax payments to PO Box 1022, MTS 05757.

Thank you.
Jenny Talke Munyak

Autumn in the hills of Middletown Springs

Banner photo by
Emmett Francois



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Date	Time	Location
Visit the New Town Office!	Sat/Nov 11	11am-3pm	New TOWN HALL / 5 South Street
FOL Annual Meeting	Tues/Nov 14	6pm	Reuben Waite Barn/430 West Street
Game Exchange	Fri/Dec 1	10am-4pm	Library / 39 West Street
Game Exchange	Sat/Dec 2	9am-12pm	Library / 39 West Street
Free Indeed	Sat/Dec 2	9am-2pm	Community Church
Cook Book Exchange	Fri/Dec 8	10am-4pm	Library / 39 West Street
Cook Book Exchange	Sat/Dec 9	9am-12pm	Library / 39 West Street

CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2nd Tues / 5:30pm	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 (FOL)	2nd Tues / 7:15pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1st Mon / TBA	via Zoom	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2nd&4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Herb Childress (235-2093)
WellsSprings Community Engagement	2nd Mon / 6:30pm		eric.montbriand@grcsu.org
Wells Springs 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.