

SEPTEMBER 2024

middleTOWN NEWSletter

Middletown Springs Annual Community YARD SALE



Interested in your own booth at the sale?
contact: wendyherrik84@gmail.com

Saturday September 7
9am-2pm

on the green in Middletown Springs

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

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Got News?

Please send all town events,
milestones, photos, and
happenings to:

05757news@gmail.com

Banner photo by Patty Kenyon

Community Yard Sale

Please join the Friends of the Middletown Springs Library for the 2024 Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 7 on the Middletown Springs Community Church Green. This is a fun community event with food and music and lots of neighbors coming by to shop.

First Traffic Study Results

The Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task Force, in conjunction with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, had a traffic counter placed on East Street near Many Springs Drive back in May. We've now had a chance to examine that data, and the full report is available on the town website at <https://middletownsprings.vt.gov/town-departments/committees/>. Here's the summary.

In two weeks (May 7 to May 20), almost twenty thousand cars passed over that spot.

Peak traffic times (two vehicles per minute or more) were 7-9am and 4-7pm on weekdays, pretty much every hour from 10am to 5pm on Saturdays, and 10am-1pm on Sundays.

The speed limit in that area is 35 miles per hour. The average *inbound* speed toward town was 33-34 miles per hour, so people are slowing down as they approach more congestion. But the average *outbound* speed away from town was 50 miles per hour, with peaks of 73-74.

You've got to work pretty hard to get up to 50 miles per hour from the four corners to the first rise in the road, barely an eighth of a mile. Don't be in such a hurry to leave!!!

RRPC has had a similar traffic counter on South Street near Montvert Road recently, and that data will be available for us soon.

Craft Night Returns!

Have you heard? **Handcrafting is good for your health!** Some of the unexpected benefits of crafting, besides a sense of accomplishment, are improved mood, better sleep, and lower blood pressure, as well as improved mental agility and decreased cognitive decline. The expected benefits of Craft Night at the library are time out of your regular schedule to sit and enjoy the company of other crafters, easy conversation, and enthusiastic support for your efforts.

Join us on the **second Monday of the month** (6-8pm) for Library Craft Night! Bring whatever you are working on, (knitting, crochet, needlework, rug hooking, really 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, September 9, 6-8pm**. Hope to see you there!

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!

Library Book Group

The September book is *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* by Louise Erdrich.

The discussion will be held **September 26 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

Note from the Town Treasurer

Your Property Tax payment for the first quarter of 2024/2025 is due before or on Monday, September 16.

Please remit your payment as follows:

1. MAIL to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 (with a 9/16/24 or earlier postmark).

2. DROP BOX on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office by the end of the day of 9/16/2024.

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.

Treasurer Contact Information:

mtstreasurer@vermontel.net

802-235-3256 – **Kindly use only this office number to phone the treasurer**

Thank you.

Jenny Talke Munyak

Town Treasurer

“A sweater is like life, you
get nothing out of it that
you don’t put into it!” —
Marilyn Monroe

Save These Dates!

Summer Reading Challenges End
September 1

**Labor Day (Town Office/Library
CLOSED)**

September 2

Community Yard Sale

September 7

Town Gathering

September 8

Craft Night

September 9

Historical Society Annual Meeting

September 15

Conservation Commission Q&A

September 16

Taxes Due

September 16

Leafy Legends at Sullivan Woods

September 21

Book Group

September 26

Town Office Closed

The Town Office will be **closed**
on **Thursday, September 19**
and **Friday, September 20**.

August Primary Results

Middletown Springs has 710 registered voters. 226 came out to vote in the primary election on August 13 (32%).

Full results from the August Primary election can be found on the town website, or [by clicking here](#).

Discover Sullivan Woods!

Middletown's Conservation Commission invites you to join us for:

A Meeting and Q&A

Learn About Being a Part of Woods Stewardship
Share Your Energy and Ideas!

Monday, September 16

6-7pm at the library

Leafy Legends

A Family Woods Walk, Games and Activities
Sullivan Woods

Saturday, September 21

10am to Noon

For more information contact:

Beth Carmody – beth.carmody@gmail.com

Steve Harrington - ohungerdell@gmail.com

Elizabeth Cooper – naturewalk@vermontel.net



Library Card Sign Up Month!

Check out all the resources available to you at your town library. There is an ever evolving and expanding collection of books and movies; a growing collection of circulating “things” including: games, snow shoes, tools, and more; as well as free-access to e-books and audiobooks and passes to local attractions and parks. Borrow any of the items with a Middletown Springs Library Card!

Find out what you’ve been missing! Stop in the library and sign up for a card today. Library open hours are Mon & Wed 2-6pm, Tues 2-8pm, Fri 10am-2pm, and Sat 9am-12pm.

Craft Night at the Library

Starting Up, Again!

Join us on the second Monday of the month (6-8pm) for Craft Night. Bring whatever you are working on, (knitting, crochet, needlework, rug hooking, really 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, September 9, 6-8pm.

Hope to see you there!

Library Hours

Reminder: The library has extended hours every Tuesday and Saturday.

Monday 2-6pm

Tuesday 2-8pm

Wednesday 2-6pm

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 9am-12pm

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



4th Annual Community Gathering

When: Sunday, September 8 from 4pm-6pm

Where: The Mineral Springs Park

What: An opportunity to meet new neighbors and reconnect with others.

Join us at the Mineral Springs Park for snacks, door prizes, and conversation!

Bring your wildly imaginative vegetable creation for the veggie critter contest!!

Feel free to bring a finger-food snack to share.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Leslie Silver at: lsilver.stretch@gmail.com



Important Election Reminder

The Vermont Secretary of State's office will be mailing general election ballots to all active voters in the state. They will be exporting voter data for the mailing on or around September 2. As soon as possible, voters should go to their My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>) and confirm it lists a valid mailing address to ensure receipt of the general election ballot.

Ballots cannot be forwarded by the USPS, so voters who intend to be away on November 5 should go to their My Voter Page and update the mailing address for that election.

Check Out Our Lawn Games

The library has a growing collection of lawn games available for check out. They go out on three-day loan. We have:

- Corn Hole
- Bocce
- Croquet
- Badminton
- Stomp Rockets

The library is looking to add a few more games to the collection. If you have a particular game you'd like to recommend, please let us know! These games were purchased with a generous grant from the Stewart's Shops.

Are You Ready for the General Election?

General Election is November 5, 2024 – Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm

It's not too early to think about this year's general election; here's what you need to know *now*.

1. Every registered voter will be mailed a ballot directly from the State of Vermont.
2. To ensure you receive your ballot, please make sure your mailing address is up to date, either with the Town Clerk or through <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>
3. Ballots will be mailed in late September by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.
4. If you need your ballots mailed to an alternative location, you can request that by completing an absentee ballot request form, either with the town clerk or through <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>
5. You may also vote in person on Tuesday, November 5 from 7am to 7pm at the Middletown Springs Town Office at 5 South Street. Please bring your ballot with you if you choose to vote in person.
6. If you need to register to vote you can do that online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/> or at the town clerk's office. You can even register to vote on election day at your local polling place.

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk
Office Hours – Monday & Tuesday 9am to 4pm | Thursday & Friday 1pm – 4pm

Phone: 802-235-2220 | Email: middletown@vermontel.net |
Closed all Federal Holidays

New at the Library

Picture Books

All Around Bustletown (Winter, Nighttime, & Fall) - Rotraut Susanne Berner

Dogs - Emily Gravett

Blue Chameleon - Emily Gravett

Adult Fiction

Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light
- Joy Harjo

The Frozen River - Ariel Lawhon

This Summer Will Be Different

- Carley Fortune

Sandwich - Catherine Newman

Murder at an Irish Christmas

- Charlene O'Connor

Adult Non-fiction

From Here to Eternity - Catlin Doughty

Pun of the Month

**Naughty chickens lay
deviled eggs.**



RRPC Launches Second Phase of Public Engagement for 2026 Rutland Regional Plan September 2024

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is thrilled to announce the launch of Phase 2 of public engagement for the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan. In early September, we encourage you all to start providing feedback!

Phase 2, titled Report Back, invites you to see how your feedback from Phase 1, Learn and Assess, has influenced our draft plan policies. Thanks to the active participation of residents and stakeholders across all 27 towns in the Rutland Region, we've gained key insights on issues such as downtown growth, natural resource protection, affordable housing, childcare facilities, road maintenance, and job creation. Your input is helping to shape a collaborative guide for a healthy, equitable, and resilient region.

Running from September to November 2024, Phase 2 aims to achieve two main goals: 1) gather your reaction to what we learned from you in Phase 1 and 2) seek your thoughts on the plan's draft policies. Our robust Phase 2 engagement strategy includes town board presentations, pop-up events, hybrid feedback sessions, an online survey, and a video presentation to make it easy for you to participate.

Review the draft plan policies and provide your feedback to ensure the plan reflects the community's vision and needs. Your voice is crucial in creating a future that benefits everyone in the Rutland Region. Visit rutlandrpc.org/plan2026 or email us at plan2026@rutlandrpc.org to learn more and share your thoughts.

Let's shape the future of our Region together!

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.



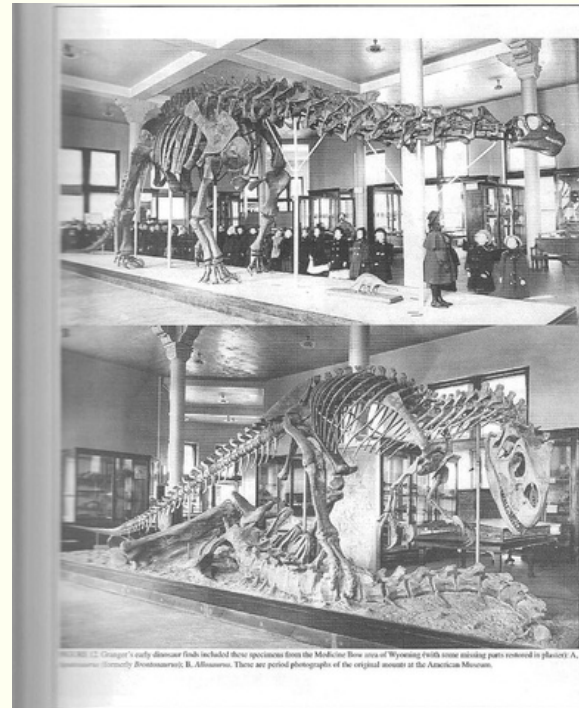
MSHS Annual Meeting And Program on Noted Middletown Springs Paleontologist

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Middletown Springs Historical Society will convene at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 15** at the Historical Society building at 10 Park Ave. Following a brief business meeting including a review of the year's accomplishments, plans for the new year, and the election of board members, we will welcome Jon Mathewson, Curator of the Dorset Historical Society and Middletown Springs resident, for a slide lecture on world-renowned paleontologist Walter Granger, who was born in Middletown Springs in 1872.

Mr. Mathewson will detail Walter Granger's early years in the Rutland area and his budding interest in the natural world, his acceptance as an assistant taxidermist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and his rise through the AMNH ranks to become a senior expedition leader. His love of fieldwork - the direct discovery of fossil specimens, excavation, and documentation - came in part from his Vermont boyhood experiences exploring the woods and fields, hunting, collecting, and preserving his finds. His life-long energy and enthusiasm led to career-boosting discoveries of ancient vertebrate fossils of early mammals, reptiles, and dinosaurs including a 60 ft. Brontosaurus still on display at the AMNH museum. His career took him through many expeditions of discovery in the American West, Egypt, China and Mongolia. His spectacular discoveries were widely reported in scientific publications but also in the newspapers, popular magazines, and early cinema newsreels. While Walter Granger was widely forgotten in the decades after his death in 1941, his reputation has been revisited in recent years and Granger has regained his proper place in the annals of natural science.

Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome to this handicap accessible event.

For more information, call David Wright at (802) 235-2376.



Dinosaur fossils found in Wyoming by Walter Granger in the 1920s, and still on display at the AMNH in New York

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	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
 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.