

NOVEMBER 2025

middleTOWN NEWSletter

Banner photo by Benjamin Riffin

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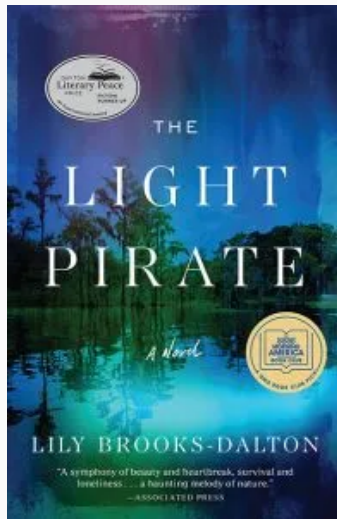
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Got News?

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



Vermont Reads - The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks-Dalton

The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks-Dalton is this year's Vermont Reads book and the Middletown Springs library is partnering with the Tinmouth Library to co-host a book discussion.

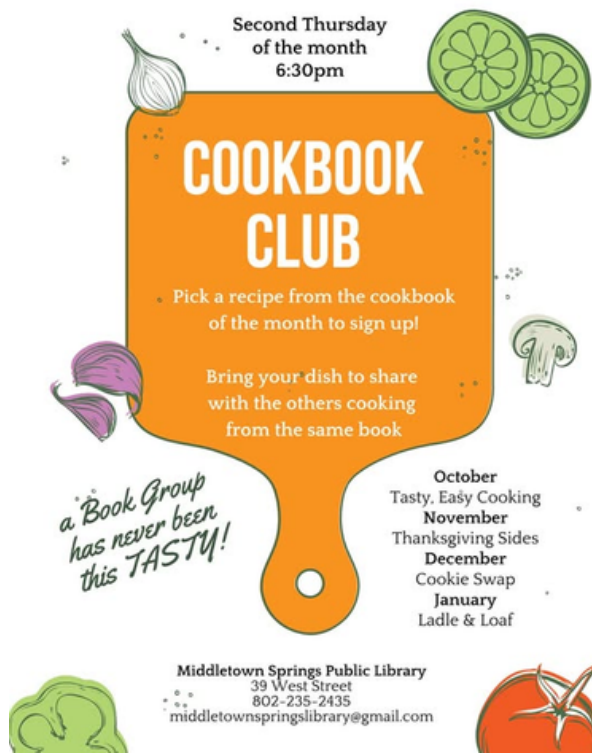
Thanks to Vermont Humanities, both the Middletown Springs Library and Tinmouth Library have copies of the book available to readers.

We will host a book discussion on Saturday December 6 at 1:30 at the Tinmouth Roadhouse. Remote attendance will be available; please contact the library if you would like to participate remotely. Our book discussion leader will be Marsha Cassel and delicious treats, tea and coffee will be served.

Books can be picked up at the Middletown Springs Library during open hours, or at the Tinmouth Library anytime the Tinmouth Town Office is open, or by contacting Cathy Reynolds by phone or text at 802-881-6775.

You don't have to come to the discussion to receive a copy of the book, but we hope you will. Please contact the Middletown Springs Library at 802-235-2435 or Cathy at 802-881-6775 with any questions. For more information about Vermont Reads and *The Light Pirate* please visit:

<https://www.vermonthumanities.org/programs/book-a-program/vermont-reads/vermont-reads-2025/>



Save These Dates!

Halloween
 October 31
Book & Treat
 October 31
Trunk-or-Treat
 October 31
Bingo Night
 November 7
Ten Minute Plays
 November 8 & 9
Veterans Day
 November 11
Veterans Day Lunch
 November 12
Cookbook Club
 November 13
Bedtime Stories
 November 14
Ten Minute Plays
 November 15&16
Sullivan Woods Walk
 November 16
Thanksgiving
 November 27
Family Book Club
 November 30
Book Club
 December 3
Vermont Reads
 December 6
Bedtime Stories
 December 12
Taxes Due
 December 15

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

Cookbook Club

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 second Thursday of the month, at 6:30pm, bring your dish to the library and share it with others who also cooked from the same certain cookbook. Delicious fun, good food, and culinary conversation.

November's theme is: Holiday Side Dishes and the cookbook is America's Test Kitchen's *Side Dish Bible*.

Upcoming themes – books to be announced
 December – Cookie Swap
 January – Ladle & Loaf

Sullivan Woods - Walk in the Woods

October's Walk in the Woods was a special Halloween edition, co-hosted by the Middletown Springs Conservation Commission and the Middletown Springs Public Library.

Families followed the ~0.7-mile trail, stopping at stations along the way for stories, crafts, treats, and riddles. Kids of all ages came dressed in costume, adding extra color and excitement to a beautiful fall afternoon.

A special thank-you to story reader Rosemary Moser, scarecrow Nelson Hernandez, and all the other volunteers, parents, and kids who made the event so special!

The monthly Walk in the Woods series invites everyone to enjoy the changing seasons, explore our town forest, and connect with neighbors and nature. All are welcome to join the next walk: Sunday, November 16, at 2:00 p.m.

Our November 16 walk will feature a dedication of the forest's loop trail in memory of Kathy Doyle, an original member of the Conservation Commission who passed away earlier this year. Please join us in celebrating Kathy's life as an ecologist, teacher, and community member - and as a steward of Sullivan Educational Woods.

Wanted: Your Opinions & Ideas!

The Library staff & volunteers are making plans about how the library will operate once we are in our new building. We are looking for your input and suggestions.

In three quick questions, we hope you will let us know your thoughts. Follow the link below or stop in the library.

<https://forms.gle/TD39qGSZh7AKCehS6>

- 1. When do you wish you could come to the library?
- 2. What do you wish the library would do more of?
- 3. What else do you want us to know, that we didn't think to ask?

Thank you!
We appreciate your time and thoughts!
Kimberly & Haley

NEW Activity Kits at the Library

This month, the Library will be adding three new kits to the collection of circulating activities.

- 1. Cyanotype Kit - all the supplies and directions of how to make "sun prints" at home.
- 2. Macarons - kit includes the specialty equipment, food dyes, and cookbook, French Macarons for Beginners: Foolproof Recipes with 60 Flavors to Mix & Match, so you can make these colorful and delicious cookies at home. You'll need to supply your own baking ingredients.
- 3. Cake Decorating - piping tips, turntable, and tools, plus Cake Decorating for Beginners: A Step-by-Step Guide to Decorating Like a Pro.

If you an idea about other activities you think members of the community might like to be able to check out from the library. Stop in or send an email to middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

Holiday Hours

- The Library will be closed** the following days in November:
- Tuesday, November 11** in observance of Veterans Day.
 - Wednesday, November 26** in observance of Thanksgiving.
- The Town Office will be closed** the following days in November:
- Tuesday, November 11** in observance of Veterans Day.
 - Wednesday, November 26 - Friday, November 28** in observance of Thanksgiving.

Author Visit at the School

Children and adults alike had a delightful time when Ashley Wolff, artist, author, and illustrator, visited the elementary school on Friday, Oct 3. Made possible by the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Rural Library Grant. Ms Wolff was engaging and inspiring, showing the children her first attempts at drawing in elementary school and telling them that if they focus on what they love to do they will get better and better at it, just like she did.

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

Middletown Springs was one of 12 public libraries in Vermont and New Hampshire to be awarded the grant this year. The Rural Library Grant is designed to help small-town libraries create excitement around literacy, update their collections, increase circulation, and strengthen connections with the communities they serve. The grant is also intended to fill funding shortfalls for libraries with extremely limited budgets, which is certainly true for here. More great things to come all year long.

Bedtime Stories

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 November 14 at 7pm

Friday December 12 at 7pm (Holiday stories!)

More dates to follow.



Author/Illustrator Ashley Wolff visits MSES.

Halloween at the Library

On Halloween night, the library will be handing out books and treats! Stop by the library as you trick-or-treat between 5pm-7pm.

Enter from the back up the rear stairs and exit out the main door for a one-way traffic flow.

We can't wait to see all your ghosts and goblins!

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

A Note from the Town Treasurer

Property Tax Payment Reminder:

Payment for the 2nd installment of property taxes is due on or before Monday, December 15th, 2025.

Payments can be submitted as follows:

- 1. Mail to PO Box 1022, MTS 05757.
- 2. Deposit in the black drop box on the South street side of the town office building, to the left of the entrance door.
- 3. Pay Online - The town 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.) www.middletownsprings.vt.gov click Government/Property Tax tab, FAQ #5 checks or exact cash are also acceptable.

Please ensure your tax payments are postmarked and/or submitted on or before 12/15/25. Payments deposited after 12/15/25 or postmarked from 12/16/25 on will be considered late and will generate monthly interest fees until paid.

Visit our new website for details regarding fees and penalties on late tax payments. www.middletownsprings.vt.gov Click Government/Property Tax tab, FAQ #7 and #8.

Mark your calendars now and be mindful of weather challenges.

Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer

Veterans Day Lunch at the School

The Middletown Springs Elementary School would like to honor our local veterans by inviting all Middletown Springs veterans and a guest to join their students and staff for a delicious homemade lunch on November 12.

Lunch will be served at 12pm, but feel free to arrive a little earlier to get settled in. The menu will include vegetarian harvest stew, salad, a biscuit, and dessert.

If you would like to attend please RSVP by Wednesday, November 5 by emailing angela.polizzi@grcsu.org.

Library Book Group

The November book is *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* by V.E Schwab

The discussion will be held
December 3 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

MSES WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO OUR MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS' VETERANS TO JOIN OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR LUNCH. A SPOUSE OR CAREGIVER IS ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND WITH EACH VETERAN.

MENU
VEGETARIAN HARVEST STEW
SALAD
BISCUIT
DESSERT

LOCATION
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
WEDNESDAY NOV. 12th
12:00-12:30PM

PLEASE RSVP TO THE SCHOOL BY EMAIL
ANGELA.POLIZZI@GRCSU.ORG
BY WEDNESDAY NOV. 5th

Pun of the Month

RIP boiled water. You will
be mist.

Family Book Club

Our first family book club meeting was fantastic! We made fun crafts, ate delicious snacks, and had a great discussion. We hope you will join us this month.

Join us at the library once a month to celebrate reading a chapter book as a family! We will have themed snacks, a craft or two, and easy discussion about the book. Reading aloud as a family has many benefits, even once your children become independent readers! Connection, increased empathy, expanded vocabularies-the list goes on. And its fun!

All books chosen will be family friendly for all ages. The book this month is *Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon. Copies are available the library. We will meet Sunday, November 30 at 1pm to celebrate!

Vermont Rescinds Statewide Ban on Debris Burning

Montpelier, Vt. – The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) has rescinded the September 22, 2025, order that required all Town Forest Fire Wardens to cease issuing burn permits. This order has now been lifted statewide.

Recent rainfall has helped reduce wildfire danger across Vermont. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports that much of the state remains in extreme or severe drought; however, the wildland fire danger forecast has dropped to Moderate statewide following more than two inches of precipitation in recent days.

“The recent rainfall has provided much-needed relief, saturating small, easy-to-burn fuels and thereby reducing the risk of wildfire,” said FPR Forest Fire Supervisor Dan Dillner. “This welcome precipitation follows nearly two months of dry weather, drought conditions, and higher than normal wildland fire activity throughout the state—primarily caused by escaped debris burns or unattended campfires.”

With the statewide debris burn ban lifted, Town Forest Fire Wardens once again have the authority to issue fire kindling permits. However, wardens may still restrict permit issuance based on local and daily conditions.

“Although the debris burn ban has been lifted, we continue to urge Vermonters to use great caution when burning debris or enjoying campfires,” said FPR Commissioner Danielle Fitzko.

FPR extends sincere appreciation to the public for their cooperation and restraint during this period of very high fire danger. The current fire danger forecast, along with additional information on fire safety and prevention, is available on the FPR website.

2025 Reading Goal Update

Kimberly
99/52 books
Favorite October Read:
The Husbands
by Holly Gramazio

Haley
81/60 books
Favorite October Read:
The Devils
by Joe Abercrombie

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	Steve Harrington (235-1043)
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	2nd Tues / 6pm	MSES	Jessica Billingsby (802-855-5155)
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
 PO Box 1206
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know
 what is happening between issues of
 the middleTOWN NEWSletter.
 It's free. It's local.

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