

FEBRUARY 2026

middleTOWN NEWSletter



Banner photo by Haley Kenyon



Storytime Get Together

Announcing a new storytime at the library!

Come to the library on Tuesday mornings from 9:30am-10:30am for stories followed by unstructured play.

Storytime Get Together is gear toward children under 5 and their caregivers, and is designed to help build friendships, community and early literacy.

The first Storytime Get Together will be on Tuesday, February 17 at 9:30am.

Please contact the library with any questions.

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Got News?

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

Cookbook Club

February's book is *Smitten Kitchen Keepers* by Deb Perelman. **The February meeting is on Thursday, February 12 at 6:30pm.**

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 cookbook. Delicious fun, good food, and culinary conversation.

The titles for March - May have been confirmed--stop by the library to check them out!

Watch Front Porch Forum for details, or send an email to Kimberly (mtslibrarydirector@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list of people who get direct emails about Cookbook Club.

Middletown Springs University

The fourth annual Middletown Springs University is happening Wednesday, March 4 to Saturday, March 14. This is a free event which offers a time to come together, and to learn from our neighbors as we share our skills and knowledge.

We have a variety of committed teachers so far with classes in drumming, pruning, grafting, book making, chair weaving, dosa making, flower arranging, tree identification, college prep, bracelet making for kids, electrical repair, singing, Qi gong, and more to come! A diversified start!

What knowledge can you share with your neighbors? There is still a bit of time left to sign up and teach a class here:
<https://forms.gle/4ddU28PpVuRQzuAdA>. **The deadline to sign up to teach is February 6.**

We are currently updating our website with workshop listings and descriptions and expect to be adding the schedule and registration the week of February 9. Check it out!
<https://middletownspringsuaweebly.com/>

This is a fun way to get to know your neighbors and learn something in the process. Questions? Contact middletownspringsu@gmail.com or Leslie Silver at lsilver.stretch@gmail.com

Save These Dates!

Bedtime Stories
February 6

Community Art Day
February 7

Sunday Sullivan Woods Walk
February 8

Valentine's Day
February 14

Family Book Club
February 15

Presidents' Day
(Library and Town Office Closed)
February 16

Tween Book Club
February 16

Storytime Get Together
February 17

Town Information Meeting
February 23

Voting Day
March 3

Middletown Springs University
March 4-14

Bedtime Stories
March 6

Sullivan Woods Walk
March 8

Maple Festival
March 15

Bedtime Stories

There are only two Bedtime Stories left of the season! Don't miss the last two after dark storytimes at the library.

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

Upcoming bedtime stories:

Friday, February 6 at 7pm

Friday, March 7 at 7pm

Ready Set Puzzle - At the Library!

Calling all jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts! Assemble your team of 2-4 people and compete in our Jigsaw Puzzle Speed Challenge. Each team will be given the exact same 500-piece puzzle and a two-hour time limit. The first team to complete their puzzle wins a prize!

Saturday, February 21, at 2pm at the library. Refreshments provided to fuel the puzzlers! Puzzlers of all ages are welcome.

Space is limited to 5 teams, so registration is required. Only one person from each team needs to register. Sign up today by emailing the library middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com



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.

Photos Wanted

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

Library Book Group

The February Book is *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry

The discussion will be held **Thursday, February 26** at 7pm at the library.

The book group is open and you are welcome to join us.

If you are interested or have questions, call or email the library, 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com



One of the items in the Middletown Springs Historical Society's Maple Raffle is a Peter Huntoon Framed Limited Edition Giclee Print, *Vermont Sunset, South Street, Middletown Springs* with a value of \$350.

Middletown Springs Historical Society Announces Maple Raffle

With 37 items, each valued at \$100 or more, the Middletown Springs Historical Society (MSHS) kicks off its annual Maple Festival Raffle. The Grand Prize item is the winner's choice of a gift certificate for 100 gallons of heating oil from Johnson Energy or the cash equivalent, around \$400.

Other raffle items include gift cards from local and regional stores and restaurants, home and garden décor, specialty services, and even a unique venue for your group event. In addition, Middletown Springs residents offer their expertise in massage, natural history, computer consulting, and connecting with horses. Participants can target their tickets for individual item raffles, increasing their chances of getting what they want.

Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five tickets for \$100. Tickets and payments must be returned by mail, postmarked by March 12. For a list of raffle items, downloadable tickets, and instructions, visit the Historical Society's website at www.mshsvt.org.

Raffle drawings for each of the items will be held during the **2026 Maple Festival on Sunday, March 16**, at the Historical Society building. Winners do not have to be present and will be notified to arrange for pickup or shipping. Winners will be responsible for shipping costs.

"We are sincerely heartened by the generous raffle donations we have received from MSHS members and friends, local businesses and regional stores," says Maple Festival Chair Pat Hemenway.

All proceeds from the raffle support MSHS educational and historic preservation projects including the Mineral Springs Park, the MSHS Museum, and the historic Adams House. For more information contact David Wright at 802-235-2376 or montvert@vermontel.net.

2026 Town Report

The 2026 Town Report has been uploaded to the Town Website! Here's a direct link to the PDF

<https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2026/02/2026%20Town%20Report%20Full%202.2.26.pdf> .

The report is currently being printed, and physical copies will be mailed out the week of February 16.

Pun of the Month

I asked a librarian if she had a book about Pavlov's dog and Schrödinger's cat.

She said it rang a bell, but she wasn't sure if it was there or not.

2026 Reading Challenge Update

Kimberly has read 7/60 books
Her favorite January read was:
Everything is Tuberculosis
by John Green

Haley has read 13/70 books
Her favorite January read was:
The Everlasting
by Alix E. Harrow.

Follow along on Facebook to see how the librarians do with their 2026 reading goals, and chime in about your own goals and favorite reads of the year!

Note from the Treasurer

New USPS postmark change and impact on tax payers.

Since The Town of Middletown Springs uses a postmark to determine if tax payments are on time or late, this could affect you.

If you typically mail your payment and depend on the postmark date, please take note of the following new USPS rule as it will affect your property tax payments going forward. USPS changed the postmark procedure in December 2025 and your mail could now be late based on the new system.

A USPS postmark no longer marks the date a letter is dropped off to a Post Office mailbox. A postmark NOW shows the date the envelope is processed, not the date you dropped it off to a postal mail box. With this change, it could take days for new mail to be processed and dated, and the postmark will be later than you expected. This policy can make time-sensitive documents like property tax payments seem late, leading to fees and penalties.

What to do for important deadlines:

- Go inside: Ask for a manual postmark at the Post Office counter for the actual date you handed it over.
- Mail early: Allow several extra days for delivery.
- Get proof: Purchase a Certificate of Mailing, Certified Mail, or Registered Mail for official evidence of mailing date.

Jenny Talke Munyak
Town Treasurer

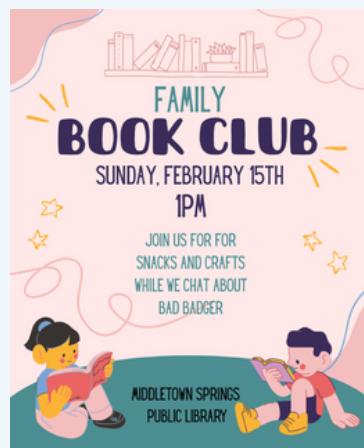
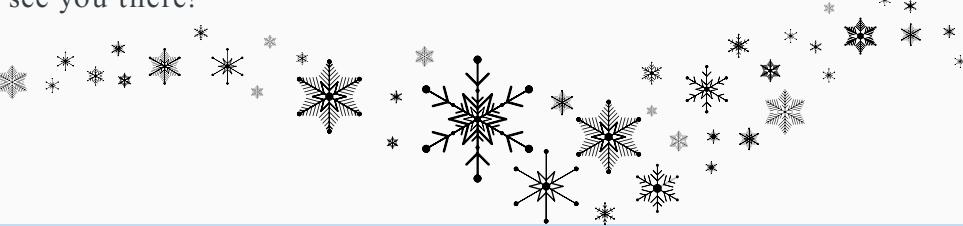
Tween Book Club

The library's Tween Book Club is geared toward kids aged 8-12. The book club meets once a month to discuss a book, do activities and eat snacks!

February's book is *When Stars are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson.

Tween Book Club meets on Monday, February 16 at 6:30pm. Tweens do NOT need a caregiver present to attend the book group.

If you have any questions please contact the library. We can't wait to see you there!



Family Book Club

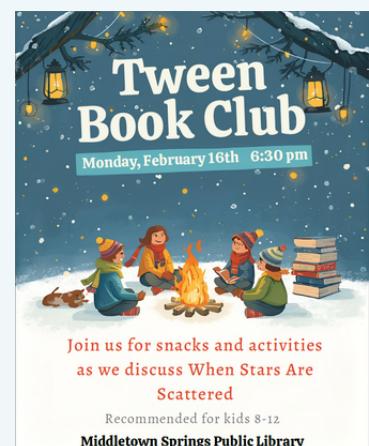
The library's Family Book Group toward families with kids of all ages. This book club promotes reading aloud, and reading together as a family.

The book club meets once a month to discuss a book, do crafts and eat snacks!

February's book is *Bad Badger* by Maryrose Wood

Family Book Club meets on Sunday, February 15 at 1pm.

If you have any questions please contact the library. We can't wait to see you there!



2026 Town Meeting Reminders

Town Meeting is fast approaching – **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** polls will be open at the town office from 7am to 7pm.

The Town Informational Meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026 in the MSES multipurpose room and by Zoom starting at 6:30pm. Complete Information is included in the official warning. Direct Link: <https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2026/01/2026%20Town%20Meeting%20Warning%20Signed%201.23.26.pdf>

The Wells Springs Unified Union School District Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 in Middletown Springs (MSES multipurpose room) and by Google Meets starting at 7pm. Complete Information is included in the official warning. Direct Link: <https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2026/01/WSUUSD%202026%20TM%20Warning%20Signed%201.16.26.pdf>

The **slate of candidates** has been set for both the town and school district. That information is available via this link.

<https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2026/01/2026%20Town%20Meeting%20Offices%20and%20Candidates-1.pdf>

Warnings are posted at the Library, Town Office and Post Office as well as on the town's website. Sample ballots will be posted as they become available. Town Reports will go out during the third week in February. School reports will be available for pick-up only at the school, library, town office and post office.

Are you planning to vote by **Absentee Ballot**? You need a NEW request for the new calendar year. Here's how to request one –

- Log into Vermont's Voter Information Page, <https://vote.vermont.gov/public/dashboard> to request ballots online.
- Download an Absentee Ballot request from the town's website at https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2026/01/vermont_absentee_ballot_request%201.5.26.pdf
- Call (802) 235-2220 or stop by the clerk's office to request that ballots be mailed to you.

Do you want to **register to vote**?

- To register online, go to <https://vote.vermont.gov/public/dashboard>
- Download a Voter Registration form from the town's website at <https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2025/07/Voter%20Registration%20Form.pdf> Complete this form and return it to the clerk's office.
- Stop by the clerk's office to complete the registration in person.

If you have any questions, please reach out.

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 | The town clerk's office is closed every Wednesday and all federal holidays

2026 Town Meeting Candidates

Town Moderator - 1 year
Andrew Hayes

Selecboard - 3 Years
Robin Chesnut-Tangerman

Selecboard - 2 years
Chris Fenton
Robert McMahon

Lister - 3 Years
Randolph Kniffin

Auditor - 3 Years
Tracy Weatherhogg

Auditor - 3 Years
(1 Year Remaining)
Meredith Morgan

Planning Commission - 3 Years
Holly Cronin

Planning Commission - 3 Yeras
(2 years remaining)
No Candidate

Library Trustee - 3 Years
Bree Gunter

Library Trustee - 3 Years
Tanya Humphreys

Trustee Copeland Church Fund - 1 Year
Rita Hansen

Trustee Copeland Cemetery Fund - 1 Year
No Candidate

Trustee Louis Fund & Public Monies
3 Years
No Candidate

Trustee Louis Fund & Public Monies
3 Years
No Candidate

School Director (Wells) - 3 Years
Amanda Weeden

School Director (Middletown Springs) - 3 Years
No Candidate

Library Building Update

The renovation of the former St Anne Church continues to be going well. Much of the interior framing work has been done and the rough-in work for the mechanicals, electrical, and plumbing is nearly complete. Sheetrocking has started and areas like the checkout desk area and the telehealth room are beginning to take shape.

As seen from the road, the exterior envelope is getting buttoned up. The old siding has been removed and a few areas of rot repaired. New windows were installed and the strikingly blue wrap applied to the exterior. The silver backed insulation is nearly all on, and the new siding is here, waiting its turn. These building envelope improvements are being covered by the grant the town/library received from the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.

Look for the library's report in the Town Report for details on the project and the funding streams. Pages 41-42.

<https://storage.googleapis.com/juniper-media-library/359/2026/02/2026%20Town%20Report%20Full%202.2.26.pdf>

We are still looking at moving into the new building sometime this summer, with a grand opening celebration in the fall. The library staff and volunteers are eagerly looking forward to more space and more options for ways the library can provide its services and greater connections to the community.

Please watch Front Porch Forum for periodic updates of major and minor milestones along the way. If you have questions, please ask Peter Stevenson, Kristal Hier, Glenn Tarbell, or Kimberly Bushnell. They will either know the answer, or be able to find out and get back to you.

As ever, the library board and staff are incredibly appreciative of the grant and community support behind this endeavour.

Kimberly Bushnell
Library Director



New library building in progress.
Photo by John Crossman, Naylor & Breen

Adopt an Author

Adopt an Author

...be the first to read
their newest book!

Middletown Springs
Public Library



Adopt an Author at the Middletown Springs Public Library and be the first to read their newest book!

Sign up for your favorite author or pick one from the library's wish list. The librarians will order each new release from your adopted author. Each book will have a plate recognizing your donation. They will notify you when it's ready, so you can be first!

You pay only what they paid, usually \$14-19, due when you return the book. This new program will help to expand the library's collection and stretch their budget for new books.

Consider adopting an author today! Adopt an Author for yourself or make it a gift to a loved one.



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

2026 Dog Licenses are Available Now!

Dog Registration for 2026 opened on January 2, 2026.

Vermont state law requires all dogs or wolf-hybrids 6 months or older be licensed with the Town Clerk on or before April 1 of each year or within 30 days of acquisition. All license fees include funds required to be sent to the state rabies and spay and neuter programs.

Licensure requires that all dogs or wolf-hybrids over the age of 3 months have a current rabies vaccination. Certification of vaccination must be on file with or presented to the Town Clerk at the time of registration.

Registration Fees January 1, 2026 thru April 1, 2026

Neutered or Spayed - \$11.00

Not Neutered or Spayed - \$15.00

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY DOG? Beyond the state law, when someone finds a loose or injured dog, the first place they call is the Town Office. If I have your information, I can help to reunite you. Please help me, help you by making time to get your dog registered.

NOTE: If your schedule just doesn't fit the clerk's office hours, you can still get your pet registered. You can mail your payment, rabies certificate, and other pertinent information to the Town Clerk at:

PO Box 1232,
Middletown Springs 05757

or drop your information into the "Clerk's Dropbox" outside the South Street entrance of the new town office and I will complete the registration and mail you back the license(s) and tag(s).

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's regular office hours are:

Monday & Tuesday from 9am to 4pm.

Thursday & Friday from 1pm to 4pm.

PH: 802-235-2220 | Email: middletown@vermontel.net

The town clerk's office is closed every Wednesday and all federal holidays

Winter Sparks Winter Walks

Join the Conservation Commission and members of the community for the **monthly "Second Sunday" walks** at Sullivan Woods. This all-ages event is a welcoming and friendly way to get outside, enjoy the season, connect with neighbors, and keep winter from feeling too long or too quiet. Sullivan Woods—located on Fitzgerald Road and marked with a large sign—is open to the public all year long.

As part of the Winter Sparks Series, hosted by the Middletown Springs Public Library, and sponsored by a Winter Placemaking Grant from AARP-VT, the library is pleased to be collaborating with the Middletown Springs Conservation Commission for the next four hikes. Join us February 8, March 8, and April 12.

Let's come together outside and enjoy the winter woodlands and the company of others.

The next Second Sunday Sullivan Woods Walk will take place on **Sunday, February 8**. Bundle up and meet at Sullivan Woods at **2pm**. Together we will walk the less than a mile loop.

We're on a roll! This will be our fifth monthly walk in a row!

Stay tuned for a pop-up "Snowshoe Sampler" sometime this winter. It will be a weather dependent, no-pressure way to try out snowshoeing whether for the first time or the first time in years!

More details to follow via Front Porch Forum and posted around town.



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.

This digital newsletter is posted on FPF and the town website. It is sent to subscribers by email directly from the town website. To subscribe visit the town website, or [click here](#). 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.