



TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

Middlefield and Rockfall

Volume 2, Number 2

Quarter 2 - 2025

First Selectman's Message

By Bob Yamartino

Dear Middlefield and Rockfall residents,

As you read this letter, we are kicking off the summer season. The Memorial Day events commemorating those that gave the ultimate sacrifice in protection of our freedoms will have taken place. I hope you had the opportunity to join us or remembered them in your own way.

Connecticut officials, along with British and French government officials recently honored our Connecticut's World War II veterans at a ceremony at the State Armory. Raymond Frank Larson and Charles J. Arrigoni were both recognized for their service to our country. It was an honor for me to join both of our WWII veterans and their families for the ceremony.

What better way to kick off the summer than the Old Home Days celebration. It's a great time to enjoy what a small town has to offer; friendship, community, food, fun, music and fireworks. Thanks go out to our Old Home Day Committee volunteers who pulled this event together. Come join in the fun! Who knows - if you have a good arm and keen aim, you might even be able to send me for a splash!



Thank you to all of you that took the time to come out to the annual town meeting. It was highly productive as we re-elected folks to our Board of Education, BOE Finance Committee and DMIAAB Board of Directors. Our town budget was unanimously approved as well.

As Public Works transitions from spring clean-up to summer road work, please drive carefully in construction zones – both locally and as you travel to summer destinations. We also ask you to keep the streets clear as we chip seal the Beseck Lake area.

Plenty of opportunity to get involved in helping our town be the best it can be – don't hesitate to volunteer – especially as we kick off the 250th Anniversary of our country.

Enjoy the summer,

Cheers,

Bob

Stay Informed: Don't Miss an Issue!

We're thrilled to share that residents have given us very positive feedback on the Town Hall Newsletter! It will be continued to be published quarterly, with issues arriving in your mailbox during the **first week of March, June, September, and December**.

You can also access the newsletter directly from the homepage of the town's website at www.middlefieldct.org — or simply scan the QR code!

To receive an email or text notification (with a link) when it is published, sign up on the town's website:

- Click on "Notify Me" located on the blue bar toward the bottom of the page.
- Log in or create an account.
- Subscribe to "Town Hall Newsletter" and any other notifications you'd like to receive.

If you haven't received your newsletter by the **second week** of the month, **PLEASE** contact the Office of the First Selectman at 860-349-7114 x0 so we can follow up with the post office and resolve the issue.



Meet Our Recently Re-Elected

At the May 12th Town Meeting, several residents were re-elected to serve on various town boards. We extend our sincere thanks to each of them for volunteering their time and committing to another term of service.



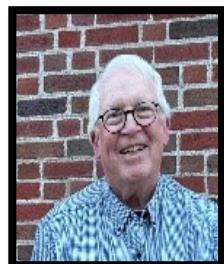
Lucy Petrella
Board of Education



Dr. Linda Darcy
Board of Education



Nick Faiella
Board of Finance
Committee of the
Board of Education



Glenn McNamara
DMIAAB*



Howard Weissberg
DMIAAB*

*Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board for the Transfer Station

Dr. Sydney Leggett Appointed Superintendent of Regional School District 13



At a special meeting on **April 9, 2025**, the RSD 13 Board of Education unanimously appointed Dr. Sydney D. Leggett as Superintendent, effective July 1. A Connecticut native with extensive regional experience, Dr. Leggett is known for her student-centered leadership and commitment to collaboration and academic excellence.

She currently serves as Superintendent in Plainfield and Cornish, NH, and her background supports Region 13's priorities, including the Memorial School project and strengthening community trust.

The Board thanks Dr. Patricia Charles for her service as interim superintendent. A welcome reception for Dr. Leggett is planned this spring.

Honoring Our WWII Hometown Heroes

On **May 19**, two Middlefield residents were honored at the State Capitol for their courageous service during World War II—defending our freedom and democracy with extraordinary sacrifice and unwavering determination.

Charles Arrigoni, a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army Air Forces, served in the 492nd Air Service Operations from December 10, 1945, to January 20, 1947, both in the European Theater and within the United States. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal for his honorable service.

Raymond Frank Larson, Machinist's Mate Third Class in the United States Navy. He reenlisted and ended up serving honorably from November 21, 1944, to March 8, 1954, aboard the USS *Diachenko*, USS *LCS*, and USS *Botetourt*. For his service, he was awarded the Victory Medal, the American Theatre Medal, and the Asiatic Pacific Medal with One Star.

It is both a solemn duty and a great privilege to recognize the brave individuals among us who wore the uniform during such a defining time in history. In their honor, a proclamation was presented declaring **May 19, 2025**, as **World War II Veterans Appreciation Day!**



L to R: Charles Arrigoni,
Raymond Frank Larson,
Bob Yamartino



L to R front: Sandy Larson, Raymond Frank Larson, Dorothy Larson; Back: Kevin Larson, Bob Yamartino



Charles Arrigoni;
Back L to R: Roger & Cindy
(Arrigoni) Kindschi,
Bob Yamartino

Tax Collector

Tax Time Reminder

July is right around the corner, and both the Tax and Assessor's Offices are working hard to ensure your tax bill is delivered accurately, on time, and to the right address.

The address that appears on your bill is provided to the DMV by you and then shared with our offices. The Assessor and I are not allowed to change your mailing address until the bill is returned to my office as undeliverable. We do our best to ensure accuracy, but if you believe you should have received a bill and have not received one, please contact my office or email Tax1@middlefieldct.org.

Reminder – per State Statute 12-130: “Failure to send or receive a bill does not exempt the taxpayer of the requirement to pay the tax or the interest that will accrue.”

Also, if you are no longer escrowing your real estate taxes, PLEASE notify the tax office immediately. Banks are just now starting to send their lists. They do not notify the Tax Office when your mortgage is paid off. If you receive a release document without a volume/page number, contact the Town Clerk to ensure it's been properly filed with the town.

Key Dates - 1st installment of your Real Estate and Personal Property Tax is due on July 1, 2025.
Motor Vehicle Taxes are due in full on July 1, 2025. You have until August 1, 2025 before they become delinquent.

How to Pay:

- By mail (check only; include self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a receipt).
- In-person: 393 Jackson Hill Rd.
- Drop box: Cash or check only.
- Online: www.middlefieldct.org (fees apply).
- No credit card payments at the office.

Registering a Vehicle

If you need to register a vehicle and you have delinquent motor vehicle taxes and you need a DMV release you MUST pay in cash or by bank check at the office or in the drop box for an immediate release. Payments made online will not be released until 5 business days after I receive the file which is the day after you make your payment. Checks for payment at the counter or in the mail go to the bank on Thursdays and are then released on the following Thursday.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Anne L. Olszewski, @ 860-349-7117

Tax1@middlefieldct.org

Tax Collector July Office Hours

Monday: 9 am to 5 pm; Tuesday thru Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm; Friday: 9 am to 3 pm

June is Dog Licensing Month!

Make sure your furry friend is licensed - it's their ticket home if they ever get lost!



Licensing Requirements:

- Puppies must be licensed within 30 days of turning 6 months old.
- Adult dogs must be licensed within 30 days of acquisition.

Rabies vaccination must be current.

If it has expired since last year's license, updated proof from a veterinarian is required. Spay/Neuter documentation must be provided if applicable.

License Fees:

\$19 for an unaltered dog

\$8 for a spayed or neutered dog

A \$1 per month late fee applies for renewals after June 30th

How to Register:

- In person at the Town Clerk's Office
- By mail – include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, payment, and required documents (all will be returned).

Applications are available online: <https://middlefieldct.org/220/Dog-Licenses>

Renewals: Dog licenses must be renewed each June. Reminder postcards are mailed at the beginning of the month.

Transfers: Transferring from another CT town? Move to Middlefield and transfer your dog's license for \$0.50

New owner of a CT-licensed dog? Transfer the license for \$1

Lost Tags: A replacement can be obtained for \$0.50

Tonya Hogan, Town Clerk @ 860-349-7116

THogan@middlefieldct.org

South Central Health District

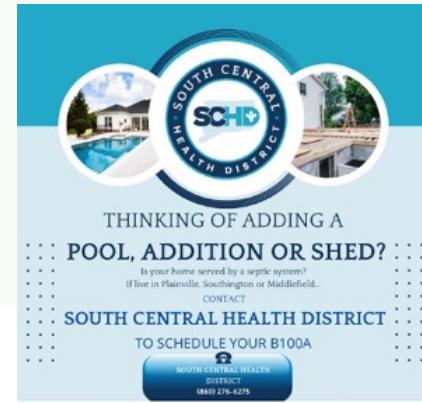
Coming in June

Middlefield land use files will be publicly accessible online! Visit schd-ct.org to access the new database, updated forms, and all your health department needs.

Life-Saving Skills Matter! Friends & Family CPR courses will be offered this summer. Stay tuned for dates!

- Facebook: @southcentralhd • Instagram: @southcentralct

Hours: Wednesdays - 9 am to 1 pm (Community Center).
Susan Lonczak, Director of Health @ 860-276-6275
lonczaks@southington.org



Middlefield Public Safety Facility Project Referendum Explanatory Text

The Middlefield Board of Selectmen and Middlefield Board of Finance each unanimously approved a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$14,500,000 for the Middlefield Public Safety Facility Project (the “Project”) and the issuance of bonds and notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$14,500,000 to finance said appropriation (the “Bond Resolution”). The Town Charter requires that the Bond Resolution, after having been approved by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, be submitted to the registered voters and property owners of the Town at referendum. A copy of the Bond Resolution in its entirety is on file and available for public inspection at the Town Clerk’s office during bu

Schedule of Referendum

The referendum is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025** in the Middlefield Community Center from **6 am to 8 pm**. A **Yes vote** will approve the Bond Resolution and authorize the expenditure of monies for, and the financing of, the Project. A **No vote** will oppose the Bond Resolution and reject the expenditure of monies for, and the financing of, the Project. The Project consists of design, renovation, repairs, reconstruction, improvements and/or remediation work associated with the conversion of the current Middlefield Volunteer Fire Station located at 406 Jackson Hill Road to a new Middlefield Public Safety Facility.

Description of the Project

The Project includes the following elements:

- Design and construction of an approximately 14,300 square foot addition to the Fire Station.
- The addition will include the construction of five (5) new apparatus bays.
- The renovation and expansion of the existing apparatus bays and the existing Fire Station building.
- The construction of an emergency management office, a resident state trooper's office, a fire marshal's office and other public safety staff and administrative offices.
- The construction of an emergency operations center with coordinated communication, Information technology and dispatch capability.
- The construction of fire fighter decontamination facilities and the installation of showers and locker rooms.
- The construction of conference rooms and public meeting rooms.
- The repair and renovation of existing rooms and space.
- Future sleeping quarters, bathrooms, a kitchen, storage space and other rooms and support areas.
- Structural upgrades to building to satisfy storm and seismic activity standards.
- Elevator installation and ADA code compliance upgrades
- Road, parking and grounds improvements, landscaping and other on-site improvements
- Elevator installation and ADA code compliance upgrades
- Road, parking and grounds improvements, landscaping and other on-site improvements.

What is the estimated cost to taxpayer of the Project?

The Town of Middlefield has thus far received \$2.25 million in grants for the Project and has applied for additional grant funding that will allow completion of the Project without having to finance the entire \$14.5 million cost of the Project. The chart to the right shows the estimated tax impact to the median home in Middlefield utilizing 2 different bond amortization schedules: 20-year term and 30-year term.

SHEET 1 OF 1

Official Ballot
Public Safety Facility Referendum
Middlefield, Connecticut
June 10, 2025

Town of Middlefield Public Safety Facility Project Debt Service Implications					
Assumptions:					
1.) Debt Service Begins in September, 2026					
2.) Total Debt \$12,250,000 Net of the Anticipated Federal Grant					
3.) Median Home Market Value \$285,928					
4.) FY 2025/2026 Proposed Mill Rate 29.70					

Explanatory Text Continued

The term of the bonds has not yet been determined. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance will work closely with the Town's financial advisor prior to selecting the duration of the bond amortization schedule.

Unlike a home mortgage where the monthly P&I payment is constant, in the two projected bond maturity schedules presented to the right, there is a relatively constant annual principal payment and the total interest paid for the year will be less the following year. For a 20-yr bond, 5% of the debt (1/20th) is retired each year. For the 30-yr bond, 3.3% of the debt (1/30th) is retired each year.

After the annual increased cost peaks in 2028, reflecting the first full year of debt repayment, the annual debt service due on the bonds declines every year after that.

For the 30-yr schedule, the median homeowner in Middlefield is estimated to pay \$202 (\$16.85/month) the first year, \$252 (\$21.00/month) the second year, and reducing each year thereafter until paying \$107 (\$8.92/month) the final year of 2057. This results in an average payment of \$180 per year (\$15.00/month.)

A taxpayer can use the average per \$100k of market value to estimate one's cost. If one estimates its property is worth \$300k, the estimated tax for the 20-yr schedule would be $3 \times \$118 = \354 per year/average (\$29.50/ month.) The estimated tax for the 30-yr schedule would be $3 \times \$63 = \189 per year (\$15.75/month.)

Assessor

Property Inspections Happening NOW!

The Town of Middlefield Assessor's Office has begun working on the October 1, 2026, Revaluation of Real Property. Under Connecticut General Statute 12-62, towns are required to implement a revaluation of all Real Property once every five years. Towns are required to "fully inspect" all Real Property once every ten years. The 2026 Revaluation is a "full inspection" revaluation.

The town has hired Lawrence LaBarbera to perform property inspections and data collection for all Real Property located in Middlefield and Rockfall. Larry will be collecting interior data, measuring and listing all residential, commercial and industrial structures within the town.



Larry will have a town issued ID badge and carry a letter of authorization from the Assessor's Office. **He drives a Dark Grey Hyundai with Massachusetts license plates 4ELS 84.** Please extend him your courtesies as he conducts his appraisals.

Additional information about the revaluation will be available on the town's website at a later date.

Pam Deziel, Assessor @ 860-349-7111
pdeziel@middlefieldct.org

Land Use / Building Dept.

Nancy Davidson, Administrative Assistant

@ 860-349-7123 or ndavidson@middlefieldct.org

Mon.: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, Tues. - Thurs. 8:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Building Official @ 860-349-7123 or www.middlefieldct.org

Randy Bernotas, Inland Wetlands Officer

@ 860-349-7123 or rbernotas@middlefieldct.org

Tues. - Thur. 9 am - 12 pm

Office Closed on Fridays

Renters Rebate Program

A person renting an apartment or a room in a dwelling may be eligible for a partial rebate of rent and utility (heat and electric) bills. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale. An applicant's eligibility is based on the following criteria:

1. The renter and/or their spouse is at least 65 years old as of the December 31st preceding the filing period OR is at least 50 years old and the widow or widower of a previously approved applicant, OR is totally disabled and has a Social Security Award Letter or an SSA-1099 with Medicare premiums,
2. OR has proof of benefits under a program which contains requirements comparable to those of the Social Security Administration.
3. The applicant may have rented elsewhere in Connecticut for all or some portion of the year preceding the year of filing, but must file in the town in which they reside during the filing period.
4. Income limits are determined annually by the State of Connecticut. "Income" is defined as income derived from all sources, including tax exempt interest and Social Security. For the 2025 application period, 2024 income from all sources is considered. The income limits for the 2025 application period are \$55,100 for married applicants and \$45,200 for single applicants (the same as for the Homeowners Program). The income limits are adjusted annually if there is a cost-of-living increase to Social Security.

Applications must be filed in the Middlefield Assessor's Office between **April 1st and September 30th**. Applicants must provide the following:

- Proof of Rent and utilities paid during the preceding calendar year and;
- An original or copy of their federal income tax return (if filed and);
- An original or a copy of their Social Security SSA-1099.
- If federal income taxes are not filed, statements of all income sources (pensions, interest income, dividends, etc.) must be provided. Applications for the Renters Rebate Program must be filed annually.

Pam Deziel, Assessor @ 860-349-7111
pdeziel@middlefieldct.org

Public Works

The Public Works Department has been busy with several projects over the past couple of months. The first major spring project was the installation of 175 feet of new drainage and underdrains on Miller Road near Pond Meadow.

This project will be completed with the addition of new curbing, paving, and final grading. In addition, we have been sweeping and mowing along town roadways to help maintain clear visibility at intersections. The annual brush pickup has also been completed for the season.



Road Closure Alert!!

Chip Seal is Coming!!!

We are now preparing to apply chip seal to various roads in the Lake Beseck area. This includes all roads between Mattabeseck Road and Baileyville Road, as well as Lower Kickapoo Road, Huron, and Chicopee. This work is scheduled to **begin in late May or early June** and is expected to take approximately **three days to complete**.

During this time, please make every effort to remove any obstacles, debris, or parked vehicles from the roadways. Temporary delays and road closures should be expected during the process. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.



Saturday, June 7 Old Home Days Parade



Cherry Hill (from St. Colman Church) to Main St to a portion of Strickland Road will be closed from **10 am to 12 pm on June 7.**

Please plan ahead and use alternate routes!

Middlefield Volunteer Fire

Company - Turnout Gear Grant Award

We're proud to announce the arrival of 21 brand-new sets of turnout gear, made possible primarily through funding from a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). This critical upgrade significantly improves both firefighter safety and on-scene performance.

A major advancement in this new gear is that it is PFAS-free. PFAS, commonly known as "forever chemicals," have traditionally been used in turnout gear for their water and stain resistance. However, growing research has linked PFAS exposure to increased cancer risks among firefighters. By switching to PFAS-free gear, we're making an essential investment in the long-term health of our members and reducing their exposure to one of the most pressing health risks in the fire service today.

You'll also notice a new look - we've transitioned from tan to a traditional black outer shell. Backed by research and field testing, this change improves visibility and contrast in various environments, helping our firefighters remain visible to one another and to drivers on scene.

The Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company remains committed to advancing firefighter health, safety, and effectiveness through continued innovation, research, and grant-supported investments.

125 Calls for Service

(January 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025)

Fires: 16	Rescue & EMS: 72	Service Calls: 14
False Alarms: 9	Good Intent Calls: 4	Hazardous Conditions (no fire); 10

Mutual Aid Response: Haddam Brush Fire

On Easter weekend, the Middlefield Fire Department provided mutual aid to Haddam for a reported structure fire that rapidly grew into a large-scale brush fire. Crews worked tirelessly over two days alongside multiple agencies to contain the blaze.



Our new brush truck played a key role in the response, successfully navigating rough, remote terrain that other apparatus couldn't access.

We are proud to support our neighboring towns and deeply appreciate the outstanding teamwork displayed by all responders throughout this extended operation!

The Town Times

If you'd like a copy, a limited number are available each Friday at Town Hall and the Community Center.

High School Teaching Recognition

For the past two years, the Middlefield and Durham Volunteer Fire Companies have proudly partnered with RSD 13 to offer a Fire Science course at Coginchaug Regional High School. This course provides students with valuable insights into fire and emergency services, blending cognitive learning with hands-on training - all with a strong focus on safety.

On Tuesday, May 13th, both departments arrived at Coginchaug with apparatus to assist with a routine fire drill. But instead of alarm bells, we were met with a surprise celebration from students, school administrators, town officials, and a representative from the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

We were honored to be presented with the **2025 "Distinguished Friend of Education" award**, a highly competitive recognition given to organizations that make exceptional contributions to education across the state.

The nomination was submitted by Coginchaug staff, and highlighted our support of the Fire Science course, participation in the Cog Carnival, Project Graduation, and escorts for sports teams through town.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this meaningful recognition and look forward to continuing our partnership with RSD 13 for years to come.



Become a Middlefield Firefighter!



No experience? No problem. If you're motivated, eager to learn, and ready to make a difference – we'll help you get the training you need.

Scan the code or visit: middlefieldfirect.org/join

Peter Tyc, Fire Chief/Fire Marshall @ 860-349-7124 or ptyc@middlefieldfirect.org

National Night Out

National Night Out is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make a more caring places to live.

This event enhances the relationship between neighbors while fostering a true sense of community. It also provides a great opportunity to bring police, first responders, and community together under positive circumstances and provide access to services that families can benefit from.

More information, and registration forms, and be found in the "news" on the town's website. Check back often for updates.

Registrar of Voter

Mark your calendar!



The next Referendum is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 10**, from 6 am to 8 pm.

Voters will decide on the proposed Public Safety Complex.

Middlefield introduced its new voting tabulator during the May Referendum. Connecticut was the 46th state to upgrade from its outdated ballot-counting system to a modern, secure solution.

These new tabulators are already in use in about 35 other states and have proven reliable and efficient. Like our former system, they are not internet-connected, cannot be tampered with, and are considered secure against fraud.

The improved technology includes a touchscreen that assists voters by flagging any issues with the ballot—such as when the required oval is not properly filled in. As always, the oval must be filled in completely, but the process remains simple. Tabulator Tenders will be present to help while ensuring voter privacy is respected.

At upcoming Referendums and Elections, an Election Official will be available to demonstrate the new tabulator to any voter who wants assistance. Voters who feel confident with the system may bypass the demonstration and go directly to vote.

Attention!

If there is a Republican or Democratic Primary, the final day to switch party enrollment is **Monday, June 9**.

To vote in a party's primary, you must be enrolled in that party.

Anne Malcom, ROV @ 860-349-7119

Lori Helmedach @ 860-349-7119

voter@middlefieldct.org

Janine Skelps, ROV @ 860-349-7119

Carol Schilling @ 860-349-7119

JSkelps@middlefieldct.org

Church Exploratory Committee

The Committee is continuing its work, keeping our responsibility to the town and taxpayers fully in mind. We have just received an appraisal from the independent appraiser we hired and are reviewing it. Our next steps will be to meet with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to present our findings to them. If we are all in agreement, we will submit a letter of intent to the Church.

Our plans at that point will be to have an independent inspection done and if that is acceptable, proceed with an open house and public hearing. We are working diligently to make sure that whatever our final recommendation is, it will be in the best interest of the town.

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, August 5th, 2025

5:00PM - 8:00 PM



Durham/Middlefield's 2nd Annual National Night Out!
Come Enjoy a Night Out with Our Communities!



Durham Community Center
144 Pickett Lane, Durham

Local organizations interested in participating, please fill out the registration form and send to: durhammiddlefieldnno@gmail.com



Beseck Lake Environment Committee

Submitted by Rick Santos, Chairman

As boating and fishing season returns to Beseck Lake, the Environment Committee is hard at work launching our 2025 water quality monitoring program.

In early May, All Habitat, our lake management team, conducted the first round of water/algae testing of the Lake. Results from the laboratory analysis are expected soon. These tests measure critical indicators of lake health, including total phosphorus levels, total nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, pH, and other tests which provide insight into the health of our lake.

Importantly, the water tests also include samples for cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae. Under certain conditions, these algae can produce visible blooms on the surface of the water. SOME species of cyanobacteria/algae produce toxins that can pose risks to both humans and animals.

From May through September, All Habitat will continue regular sampling and analysis of water quality and cyanobacteria levels to ensure our lake remains safe and healthy.

The Environment Committee is also working with EutroPHIX, a specialist in large lake restoration and a partner of All Habitat. Sediment samples from the lakebed have been sent to SePRO Laboratories for testing. These tests will help determine existing phosphorus levels in the lakebed - possibly a legacy of past septic systems before sewer installation.

Results are expected in mid-July, at which time EutroPHIX will collaborate with the Environment Committee to explore potential lake restoration strategies.

Coming up in June, we will also conduct our annual aquatic plant survey. The survey will map the native aquatic plants in the lake, as well as identify any unwanted aquatic invasive plants.

Finally, we kindly remind all lake users - whether at the town beach or boat launch—to clean up after themselves.

Help us keep glass, plastic, Styrofoam, and other trash from getting into the lake waters!



Pix Courtesy
Heidi Holtz

WPCA Important Notice

The Beseck Lake Sewer District has recently experienced a rise in grinder pump repairs and failures - many of which are caused by cooking oil being poured down household drains. These blockages not only disrupt your home's sewer service but also increase maintenance costs for the entire community.

To help prevent these issues, **please do not pour cooking oil down the drain**. When oil cools, it hardens and can clog your pipes as well as the sewer system's tanks and pumps.

Instead, let the oil cool, place it in a sealed container, and dispose of it with your regular household trash. Your help in keeping our system running smoothly is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gregory Makuch, WPCA Chairman



CT Trails Day Registration is OPEN!

Join the nation's largest celebration of trails on Saturday & Sunday, **June 7-8** for **Connecticut Trails Day!**

200+ FREE guided hikes, walks, and!

Sign up today and hit the trail!
<https://trailsday.org/>



Join us at the

Durham Middlefield Giving Garden

for a series of

Free Saturday Garden Talks

Garden opens at 10am | Talks begin at 11am

May 17th- Kitchen gardens, container planting, herbs

June 7th- Garden themed paper crafts- bring a glue stick!

July 26th- The Buzz on Bees (10-11am) and

Seed Saving (11-12pm)

Aug. 9th- Garden to Table Cooking

Aug. 23rd- Flower Pounding (bring a hammer!)

Sept. 6th- Preserving jams and jellies

Sept. 13- Monarch butterfly release

Everyone welcome! Please join us at the garden behind the Middlefield Community Center. Bring a chair!

For questions, call Betsy St. John (860.349.9174)



Senior & Social Services

Food Bank Needs! Our Shelves are Empty!

Let's Come Together to Support Our Community

As the warmer months approach, so does the need for essential items. You can make a real difference!

We're especially in need of:

- * Snack foods
- * Shampoo, deodorant, body soap
- * Laundry care & cleaning supplies
- * Sponges, dish & dishwasher detergents
- * Pasta, sauce, rice
- * Coffee, tea, and condiments
- * Paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels)
- * Baking items and gluten-free options

The need is very real - too many local families are struggling to meet even the most basic needs. No one should have to go without. Your generosity can help ensure no table goes empty and no family feels forgotten.

Summer Picnic – Celebrate Summer with Us!

Wednesday, June 18 at 12 pm

Join us for an afternoon of great food, fun, and festivities! Enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, special guest *celebrity chefs*, games, and entertainment by the one and only **Howlin' Hound Dogs!**

Reservations required!

Suggested donation: \$5.00

Don't miss this summer tradition – it's going to be a blast!



Celebrate National Ice Cream Day!

Friday, July 18

Join us for lunch and stay for dessert!



Christmas in July Celebration: **Wednesday, July 23 noon**: Grab Bags and a visit from some special guests. Reservations required.

Join the Fun!!! Fitness for Everyone!

Mobility for Life - Feel Stronger, Move Easier
Join us for a fun and functional fitness class that focuses on gentle, full-body movements to help you stretch, stabilize, and improve your range of motion. This low-impact program is designed for all fitness levels, with easy-to-follow modifications to meet you where you are.

Led by Jennifer Gawlak – certified personal and group fitness trainer. **Mondays at 1 pm & Fridays at 11:15 am**

Senior Lounge

Chair Yoga -Gentle Movement, Big Benefits

Discover the power of movement from the comfort of a chair. This uplifting class helps improve flexibility, balance, posture, and digestion - while also strengthening your legs, calves, ankles, feet, and upper body. A great way to reduce stress and move with ease.

Tuesdays at 10:45 am

Community Center Auditorium (*Note location change*)

Sue D'Orvilliers, Director @ 860-349-7121
sdorvilliers@middlefieldct.org

Ongoing Services & Programs

Senior Lunches - Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Come enjoy a warm meal and great company! We're excited to announce a new partnership with Futures Inc. and Senior Resources to bring you a fresh and flavorful lunch experience. Futures Inc. empowers individuals with disabilities to lead independent lives - and now they're helping us serve up delicious, varied meals that nourish both body and spirit.

Make new friends, catch up with familiar faces, and join our cheerful lunch bunch!

Monthly Foot Care Clinic(s)

- Friday, June 20, July 18 & August 15 - 9 am to 12:30 pm

Blood Pressure Clinic (s)

- Wednesday, June 18, July 16 & August 13 - 10 am – 12 pm

In partnership with the Levi E. Coe Library the Senior Book Club meets at **2 pm on the second Tuesday of each month**. Register at Levi E. Coe Library at 860-349-3857.

Knit2gether – Middlefield Senior Lounge

Thursday mornings at 9:30 am. Bring your knitting and crocheting supplies here at the Center. Novice to skilled, all are welcome. Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Come and meet us!

Sewcial – Middlefield Senior Lounge

Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm. Sewing, knitting, embroidery, quilting - all levels of needlework, bring your projects or learn a new one!

Mid-Lea Garden Club

The Mid-Lea Garden Club's annual plant sale, held on Saturday, **May 3**, was a great success thanks to the continued support of Middlefield residents and neighboring communities.



Proceeds from the sale help fund seasonal beautification efforts around Middlefield and enable us to provide a scholarship to a deserving Coginchaug senior pursuing a degree in environmental sciences.

Interested? We gather on the third Monday of each month from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Middlefield Community Center.

New members are always welcome, and annual dues are just \$20.

Middlefield Needs You!

Looking to make a real impact? Join the passionate community members who help shape and support our town's future.

Opportunities available in the following areas:

- Inland wetlands & Watercourses Agency
- Middlefield Housing Authority
- Municipal Veterans' Representative (liaison to the RiverCog Regional Veterans' Committee)
- Regional Planning Agency Representative
- Regional Agricultural Council

Contact the First Selectman's office:

Judi Rand, Executive Assistant @ 860-349-7114
jrand@middlefieldct.org



June 6 - 7, 2025

Lions Club Sausage w/Peppers & Onions Grinder, (Friday only) Coleslaw, Watermelon, Hot Dogs, Soda, Water
K-Club Homemade Golumpkies, Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, (Saturday only) Potato & Cheese Perogies, Rye Bread, Meatball Grinder, Appetizer Platter.

American Legion Post #192 Sausage Patties, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Tacos & Salsa

Independent Day School Maple Syrup
Middlefield Republicans Strawberry Shortcake
Victory Church Milkshakes



Artisan Marketplace

Arctic Bites Freeze-dried candies, fruits, and herbs.

Angel Wing Crafts Custom onesies, crocheted creations, and wind spinners.

Ronnie's Candles Soy candles in a variety of scents.

MicMac Macrame Macrame decor and accessories.

Joanne Conti Handmade jewelry, "Tree of Life" art, and crystal sun catchers.

Sue's Jams and Crafts Delicious jams, bucket hats, and reusable towels.

Zavery's Slime Slime, bracelets, and fun handmade creations.

AirGrownNomucs Glass lawn art, air plant terrariums, and sun

catchers.

Mary Harris Handcrafted jewelry and framed puzzle art.

Royal Angel Creations Wire-wrapped jewelry, crocheted plush toys, fashion accessories, and baby blankets.

Baubles, Beads & More Themed scrabble racks, scarves, necklaces, aprons, keepsake boxes.

Glassy Girls Mosaic lanterns - new and upcycled.

Lynn's Crystal Healing Crystal healing trees and wellness items.

Trees

Murray Newton Handcrafted woodwork.

Middlefield Democrats Middlefield and Rockfall-themed t-shirts.

Coginchaug Football Basket raffles.

Old Home Days Committee \$5 special edition nostalgic calendar.

Community Connections

♦ **Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company & Resident State Troopers**

Helpful safety tips, local resources, and community outreach.

♦ **Middlefield Historical Society**

Learn how our town's story is being preserved - past, present, and future.

♦ **Durham & Middlefield Youth & Family Services**

Toss some bags at the cornhole station and pick up valuable youth and family resources.



Small Town America

Old Home Days

Peckham Park

WELCOME TO OLD HOME DAYS!

We're proud to welcome back this beloved tradition - a chance to relive the carefree joy of childhood and celebrate the heart of our community.

After a brief pause, Old Home Days returns - stronger than ever - thanks to the hard work and heart of our dedicated committee. Look for the friendly faces in yellow shirts and be sure to say hello!

A heartfelt thank you to the advertisers in our nostalgic Old Home Days calendar. Their generous support helped bring this keepsake to life. So grab a lawn chair, relax, enjoy the music and festivities, and don't forget to share your memories: www.facebook.com/middlefieldOHHD2025

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

5:30 p.m.

Lions Club Dinner - Pavilion

5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Tasty Eats and Treats** A variety of delicious food options to satisfy every craving. (Vendor lineup on back)

5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Artisan Marketplace** Browse handcrafted goods from local artisans. (Vendor lineup on back)

5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Middlefield Children's Center Bake Sale** (Friday only) Sweet treats in support of a great cause!

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Ellen Doyle Brook Bluegrass Band** - Main Stage - Enjoy live bluegrass at its best!

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **6th, 7th & 8th Grade Dance** - Middlefield Federated Church - A fun night just for the middle school crowd! (Pizza included!)

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Beth & The Boys** - Main Stage - An energetic band blending Country, Rock, Folk, and Blues into one unforgettable performance!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Old Home Days 'Strut Your Stuff' Parade**

Route: St. Colman's Church to Cherry Hill to Main Street to Peckham Park

Tasty Eats and Treats A variety of delicious food options to satisfy every craving. (Vendor lineup on back)

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Artisan Marketplace** Browse handcrafted goods from local artisans. (Vendor lineup on back)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 *continued*

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Opening Ceremony - Main Stage**

- Welcome Remarks - Carrie Anderson, 2025 Old Home Days Chair.

- National Anthem - Performed on trumpet by Mr. Ken Hamilton.

- "God Bless America" - Vocal performance by Ms. Morgan Messner.

- Greetings & Grand Marshal Recognition - First Selectman Bob Yamartino honors Mr. Jon Brayshaw & Mr. Vin Cahill.

12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Old Home Days Beer Tent**

Cheers to community and celebration!

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Kid Zone** - Buzzing with action - sack races, balloon tosses, and a variety of exciting games for all ages!

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Dance Central** - Main Stage - Get your groove on with family-friendly dance fun.

12:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Dunk Tank** - Take your shot and soak a local celebrity (proceeds benefit The Bench Warmers)

Magic of Christopher - Kid Zone

The Mick Louis Band - Main Stage - A lively fusion of 70s Southern Rock and today's Modern Country.

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Bingo Bonanza: Candy Edition** - Kid Zone

A sweet spin on a classic favorite.

Rubber Duck Derby - Cheer your duck to victory - meet at the covered bridge!

The Ultimate Tug o' War - Middlefield vs. Rockfall: Could it be the K-Club vs. Rovers going head-to-head? One rope. Two teams.

Susan Peak - Kid Zone - An interactive kids' music show with songs, movement, and lots of energy!

Dave Kenna - Main Stage - Enjoy the charm of live acoustic music.

No Hangups - Main Stage - Relive rock's golden era of timeless hits.

Ultimate Ice Cream Challenge - Kid Zone

Shaded Soul - Main Stage - A dynamic mix of Motown, smooth Jazz, Swing, and retro dance classics.

Spectacular Fireworks Show

Shaded Soul - Main Stage

A Small Town America Celebration



Middlefield Historical Society

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally accepted the Declaration of Independence, a document written by Thomas Jefferson declaring the thirteen American colonies independent from Great Britain.

Although the vote for independence had taken place on July 2nd, the 4th is celebrated as the day the declaration was officially announced and adopted.

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

America 250 is a nationwide celebration recognizing the 250th anniversary our nation's founding - a time to reflect on our history, honor the diverse voices that shaped it, and inspire future generations to uphold the ideals of freedom, democracy, and unity.

As part of the **America 250** initiative, on **April 18, 2025**, the **Middlefield Historical Society** recognized the famous Midnight Ride of Paul Revere. Although no horse was involved, we had a couple of "Paul Revere's" around town. One was stationed at the Old North Burying Ground where a costumed Marc D'Orvilliers stood with his lantern greeting travelers on Jackson Hill Road. The second location was the Community Center Green where Laura Zajac stood patriotically with a flag and lantern. The lanterns were left in place at each location for the remainder of April, but positive feedback was such that we decided to leave the lanterns in place for the summer months as a reminder of the historical moment.

"One if by Land, Two if by Sea"



On April 16, 1775, Paul Revere began to gather tips that a raid was planned on the city of Concord, Massachusetts. With this information, Revere began making plans to alert the surrounding countryside by horseback as the redcoats would be arriving to take their military supplies.



There were two possible routes the British soldiers would travel. The first was by land traveling through the Boston Neck and second was by sea. The plan was to alert everyone with a light signal, those being lanterns. The final place for the signal was the Old North Church in Boston's North End. At that time, it was the tallest building in Boston.

Even today the steeple is visible from far away.

The MHS is open **every 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 am to 2 pm**. Extended **summer hours** will include a **Thursday 3pm to 6 pm opening** beginning in June and throughout the summer.

John Lyman School Visits the Middlefield Historical Society

On **May 15, 16, and 19**, the second graders of John Lyman Elementary School enjoyed a field trip to the Middlefield Historical Society (MHS). The event included a one-hour guided, interactive tour of the museum where students learned about life in Middlefield during the 1800's, including manufacturing, farming, and the building of industries.

Classroom activities included creating a map identifying the four (4) original schools built in Middlefield and Rockfall, and designing a quilt by using an example of the many cherished quilts donated to the MHS. The students learned about daily life and school life in the 1800's. Smaller items were provided to children to examine, feel and guess its purpose. A favorite among many was a doll house replica of the original Otis Smith home on Main Street, Rockfall.

Educator, Carole Sibiskie arranged for the tour provided by MHS volunteers. First Selectman Bob Yamartino was there each day to greet the students and staff, offering his words of community spirit while encouraging students to learn about the history of Middlefield.

This first field trip to the MHS in many years provided a hands-on learning experience blended with classroom projects and lots of time to ask questions. A good time was had by all!

Fran Gudelski, Curator @ 860-349-0665
www.historicalsociety@Middlefieldct.org

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

On **April 19, 2025**, as part of the **America 250** Service Project, members of the **Middlefield Historical Society** planted 74 daffodils at the Old North Burying Grounds - one for each of the 74 children laid to rest there.



The cemetery's last burial took place around 1864. The children ranged in age from just a few minutes old to fifteen years, with most being infants or toddlers.

During that time, illnesses such as tuberculosis (then known as consumption) and pneumonia claimed many young lives, as modern medicine and antibiotics were not yet available.

The daffodil, a symbol of rebirth and hope, was chosen for its ability to return and multiply each spring - offering a gentle tribute to the lives lost. In addition to the daffodils, volunteers cleaned the cemetery sign and planted other spring flowers to brighten the space.

Levi Coe Library

Summer Hours: Monday – Thursday 10 am to 7 pm

Summer Events Schedule

June to August 2025

Registration required for most events

Levicoelibrary@gmail.com 860-349-3857

Check our Facebook page and website for updates and more information.

Summer Reading Program Kickoff

June 16 - Family Concert featuring Susan Peak

⌚ Lawn games begin at **5:30 pm**

Taste Test Tuesdays: June 17, 24 & July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Sample treats from around the world – all day!

Children's Programs

Where in Middlefield Storytime

- **June 4, 11, 18 & August 6, 13 at 10:30 am**

Twinkle Toes Dance Program

- **June 25 & all Wednesdays in July at 10:30 am**

Little Scientists - **July 10 at 10:30 am**

Furry Scaly Friends Presentation - **July 17 at 1:30 pm**

Playtime in the Children's Room

- **August 20 & 27 at 10:30 am**

Incoming Kindergarten Social at Peckham Park

- **August 25 at 5:30 pm**

Family Night Activities - All events begin at 5:30 pm

BINGO, cake decorating, and more!

June 23, 30 & July 7, 14, 21, 28 & August 4, 11

Family Ukulele Lesson - **June 26**

Family Yoga - **July 10, 17, 24, 31 & August 7, 14, 21**

Teens & Adults - Take-Home Craft Pickup

Sign up via Facebook to reserve your kit!

Pickup Dates: July 2, 16, 30 & August 13

Upcycled Flowers w/Pat Dellaripa - **June 18 at 6:30 pm**

Sea Glass Birds Shadow Boxes - **June 25 at 5:30 pm**

Paint Ceramic Garden Gnomes - **July 9 at 5:30 pm**

Pressed Flower Votive - **July 23 at 5:30 pm**

Diamond Painting Compacts - **August 6 at 5:30 pm**

Pressed Flower Frames - **August 20 at 5:30 pm**

Book Clubs

- Mental Health Book Club - June 24, July 29, Aug 26 at 6 pm

- Thursday Book Club, "Olga Dies Dreaming" by Xochitl

Gonzalez - **June 26 at 5 pm**

- Silent Book Club - **July 8 & August 12 at 5:30 pm**

- Thursday Book Club (title TBD) - **July 24 at 5 pm**

- Senior Center Book Club, "Nothing To See Here" by Kevin

Wilson - **August 12 at 2 pm**

*On behalf of the Staff and Board of the Levi Coe Library,
have a super fun and safe summer, everyone!*

Jess Lobner, Library Director @ 860-349-3857

LevicoeLibraryJess@gmail.com

Adult & Teen Summer Reading Prize Program

Runs **June 16 – August 21**

Read a book **or** attend a library program to earn an entry into a drawing for local gift cards!

Participating Businesses:

- Country Flower Farm
- Rich Farm Ice Cream
- Lyman Orchards
- Trackside
- Perrotti's Country Barn



Community Connections: Middlefield Human Library

What is a Human Library?

The Human Library is an innovative concept that originated in Denmark in 2000, where "books" are actual people with unique stories and experiences to share. The concept is beautifully simple: readers "check out" human books for private individual one-on-one conversations, creating a safe space for dialogue that challenges stereotypes and prejudices through respectful conversation.

This event is organized by the Human Library Committee of Middlefield, and we're thrilled to announce that we will be hosting its first Human Library event in town. It is officially sanctioned by the original Danish Human Library Organization and funded through the "Common Ground Grant." Our goal is to build understanding and strengthen community bonds through authentic human connection.

Become a "Book" in Our Human Library

We are currently seeking volunteer "books" who are willing to share their personal stories and experiences. As a human book, you represent a unique perspective that may help others better understand different life experiences, identities, professions, or beliefs.

What does being a "book" involve?

- Preparing a personal "title" and "description" that represents your unique story or perspective
- Being available for 20–30-minute conversations with individual "readers" during the event
- Answering questions and engaging in respectful dialogue about your experiences
- Contributing to a community atmosphere of openness, respect, and understanding

Examples of potential "book titles" include:

- "Living with Autism: Beyond the Stereotypes"
- "Refugee Journey: Finding Home in a New Country"
- "Breaking the Glass Ceiling: A Woman in STEM"
- "Life After Recovery: My Path from Addiction"
- "Serving My Country: A Veteran's Perspective"
- "Balancing Faith and Modern Life"
- "Navigating Life as a Third Generation Farmer"

What Happens at the Human Library?

On the day of the event, readers will browse a catalog of available "books" and their descriptions, then they will select ("check out") someone whose story they'd like to hear. At that point, the book and the reader engage in a private conversation, with the reader asking questions and the book sharing their experiences.

Our trained facilitators will be present throughout to ensure a safe, respectful environment for everyone involved. The experience is designed to be meaningful for both the books and the readers, creating opportunities for genuine understanding across differences.

Why Become a "Book"?

- Share your story and perspective with others who want to listen and learn
- Challenge misconceptions about your identity or experiences
- Be part of a global movement promoting dialogue and understanding
- Help build community connections in Middlefield

Event Details

Date: October 18, 2025

Location & Time: TBD

How to Volunteer:

If you're interested in becoming a "book" for our inaugural Human Library event, please contact:

Jess Lobner, Library Director @ 860-349-3857

LevicoeLibraryJess@gmail.com

We welcome people from all walks of life, backgrounds, and experiences. Together, we can build bridges of understanding in our community, one conversation at a time.

The Human Library concept was created by the Human Library Organization in Denmark. "Community Connections: Middlefield Human Library" is officially sanctioned by this organization and funded by the Common Ground Grant.

Hosted by the Human Library Committee of Middlefield: Carol Busfthis, Linda Darcy & Jess Lobner

Strong Communities are Built Through Connection and Creativity

DMYFS CARES ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The mission of Durham Middlefield Youth & Family Services is to empower children and families, foster a healthy community, and build resilience by decreasing risk factors and increasing protective factors through prevention, intervention, treatment, and community-building strategies.



Reflect and respond to any of the following prompts through whatever creative medium feels right!

What does mental health mean to you?

What does addiction mean to you?

What does mental wellness mean to you?

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!
WE CANNOT WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!**



SUBMISSIONS CAN BE ANONYMOUS!

EXPRESSIONS OF HEALING: A MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SHOWCASE

Now more than ever, we need spaces that bring us together, encourage expression, and remind us that we're not alone. That's what Expressions of Healing is all about.

DMYFS is inviting people of all ages and from anywhere to submit original artwork, writing, music, or performance pieces that explore mental health, addiction, and mental wellness. Your voice matters, and your creativity can help spark understanding and healing in someone else.

Submissions will be featured in a professionally printed art book and displayed at a community-wide exhibition on **June 4th** at the Durham Community Center. Performers (poetry, spoken word, music) will have the opportunity to share their work live during the event!

Deadline to submit: June 2, 2025

Drop-off at DMYFS, Levi Coe Library, or the Durham Public Library
All artwork **MUST** be submitted in person to be featured!

Come support local voices, feel inspired, and be part of a growing movement of healing through art. This is more than an art show—it's a celebration of strength, hope, and community.



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**LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER**

TOWN HALL

393 Jackson Hill Road / P.O. Box 179

Robert C. Yamartino – *First Selectman*

Carol Bufithis – *Selectwoman*

Jim Irish – *Selectman*

Judi Rand – *Executive Assistant*

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Mary Ann Zieminski – *Treasurer*

Tyna Kollar – *Accounts Payable*

Pam Deziel – *Assessor*

Anne Olszewski – *Tax Collector*

Tonya Hogan – *Town Clerk*

Kim Garvis – *Assistant Town Clerk*

Jason Wickham – *Public Works Supervisor*

Bruce Villwock – *Tree Warden*

David Chowaniec – *Animal Control Officer*

Myriah Saucier – *Assist. Animal Control Officer*

MIDDLEFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER

405 Main Street

Ed Diamond – *Building Inspector*

Nancy Davidson – *Land Use Assistant*

Randy Bernotas – *Inland Wetlands Agent*

Robin Newton – *Town Planner*

Zoe Chatfield – *Zoning Enforcement Officer*

Hannah Malcolm – *Park & Recreation*

Anne Malcolm – *Registrar of Voters (D)*

Janine Skelps – *Registrar of Voters (R)*

Susan D'Orvilliers – *Senior & Social Services*

Rob Poturnicki – *Emergency Management,
Facilities Manager, WPCA*

TPR Caleb Stevens – *Resident State Trooper*

MIDDLEFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

406 Jackson Hill Road

860-348-7124 / www.middlefieldfirect.org

Peter Tyc – *Chief*

Steven Tyc – *Deputy Chief*

Jeffrey DiCostanzo – *Assistant Chief*

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 19	PROPERTY INSPECTIONS Ongoing
JUNE 2-30	DOG LICENSE DUE Delinquent after June 30
JUNE 6-7	OLD HOME DAYS
JUNE 7	OLD HOME DAYS PARADE -10AM
JUNE 9	DEADLINE TO SWITCH PARTY ENROLLMENT
JUNE 10	REFERENDUM Public Safety Complex Building
DUE JULY 1	TAXES DUE Real Estate, Property & Motor Vehicle
AUG 6	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
SEPT 30	DEADLINE FOR RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM
Every 3rd SAT	HISTORICAL SOCIETY Open House – 11A-2P

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD

393 Jackson Hill Rd.

P.O. Box 179

Middlefield, CT 06455

860-349-7114

www.middlefieldct.org



Website



Facebook