



TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

Middlefield and Rockfall

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Supplement ~ Quarter 1 - 2025

First Selectman's Message

By Bob Yamartino

Happy Spring Everyone,

The next couple months have many important items coming to fruition at the same time. This supplemental issue of our Town Hall Newsletter is to inform you of some late breaking news, important events and some critical votes as it relates to the town budget, the Public Safety Facility, board appointments, and the RSD-13 budget. Over the next 2 months, there will be 1 public hearing/information session, 2 town meetings and 2 referendum votes. The schedule displayed highlights the most important dates where you can be informed and participate in these important events.

Public Safety Facility

The prior Newsletter had a schedule for approval and referendum based on anticipated funding through USDA. Upon initiating the application process, it became apparent that the funding (although we would qualify) would not be available. We therefore needed to pivot to a bonding initiative to secure the funding. Bonding completely changed the funding horizon and has compressed the timeline.

In order to secure bonding, both the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance must approve the bonding initiative and the Board of Selectmen must call a town meeting in order to set the date and time of the referendum.

Annual Town Meeting

The annual town meeting will be held on Monday, May 12. At this town meeting, we will vote to adopt our municipal expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year and vote to appoint two Board of Education members, two members to DMIAAB's Board of Directors, and two Board of Education Finance Committee members.

Old Home Days

And finally, as we work together through these critical events, we will also take a break to reconnect as a community and celebrate Old Home Days, for the first time since Covid. This a terrific opportunity for us all to see old friends, meet new neighbors and enjoy the spring weather in our town's lovely Peckham Park. I look forward to seeing you all!

Cheers,

Bob

Important Dates

APRIL 29 Tues	PUBLIC HEARING INFO SESSION Public Safety Facility
MAY 1 Thurs, 7p	BOARD OF SELECTMEN & BOARD OF FINANCE - JOINT MEETING Public Safety Facility: Financing Authorization and Call Special Town Meeting
MAY 6 Tues, 6a-8p	REFERENDUM RSD13 Budget for FY25-26
MAY 8 Thurs, 7p	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Public Safety Facility: Schedule Referendum for Bonding Resolution
MAY 12 Mon, 7p	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Adoption of FY25-26 Town Budget, Appointment of Commissioners, other Town Business TBA
JUNE 6-7 Fri-Sat	OLD HOME DAYS
JUNE 10 Tues	REFERENDUM Public Safety Facility: Approval for Bonding

OLD HOME DAYS!

Summer Starts Here!

We are excited to give you a *preliminary* lineup for this year's Old Home Days, happening **Friday and Saturday, June 6–7, 2025!** It is a magical time where old friends reunite, live music fills the air, and the good vibes are nonstop. With plans shaping up for two days of food, fun, and community spirit, you will not want to miss a moment!

We will celebrate the heart of **Small-Town America** - honoring our shared heritage and the strong sense of community that makes Middlefield and Rockfall so special. **Mark your calendars and be a part of the memories!**

Friday Night, June 6

The **festivities kick off at 5:00 pm** with a delicious **Lions Club** dinner, featuring sausage and peppers, hot dogs, and more - a wonderful opportunity to relax, enjoy great company and experience the charm of our **Small-Town America** community.

Following dinner, bring your lawn chair or blanket and settle in for an evening of music. The **Ellen Doyle Brook Bluegrass Band** takes the stage from **6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**, bringing their lively rhythms and infectious energy! Then, the fun continues as **Beth & The Boys** hit the stage from **8:00 pm to 10:00 pm**, delivering a performance that will keep you dancing all night long!

Saturday, June 7

We'll start the day with a beloved hometown tradition - the infamous **Old Home Days Parade!** Kicking off at **10:00 am** from **St. Colman's Church** and making its way to **Peckham Park**, the parade will feature classic cars, creative floats, and spirited entries from local businesses, school groups, and community organizations. It's the

perfect way to celebrate and kick off a day full of fun!

Craft Fair: After the parade, stroll through the many **Craft Vendors** displaying their handmade goods and art – this is a wonderful opportunity to support local makers and small businesses. Don't forget to treat yourself to something tasty from a selection of **local food vendors**.

Entertainment: Live performances and **dance acts** will take place on the main stage throughout the day, creating a lively, relaxed atmosphere for guests to sing along, dance, or simply enjoy the show.

Kid Zone: The **Kid Zone** will offer **plenty of activities for the younger crowd**, including a **duck race**, **magic show**, and **face painting** - just to name a few. And if you've been thinking about adding a furry friend to the family, stop by **Dog Star Rescue**, who will be on-site with adoptable dogs looking for a loving home.

Feeling bold? Take your shot at the **dunk tank** and challenge a friend (or town official!) to take the plunge.

Special Attractions: Don't miss our **first-ever Bed Race!** The **Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company** has officially challenged neighboring fire, police, and EMT departments to race to victory in themed rolling beds. Cheer on the teams as they compete for fun and quirky honors, including:

- **Bed Rocket** – fastest to the finish
- **Best Dressed Bed** – most creative design
- **Fluffiest Team Vibes** – best team spirit
- **The Snooze Button** – slowest but most entertaining

And the best part? **100% of the entry fees will benefit the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.**

The rivalry heats up once again with the crowd-favorite **Middlefield vs. Rockfall Tug o' War!** The ropes are ready, the teams are fired up - who will claim this year's bragging rights

and hometown glory? Come cheer them on and be part of the action!

Later in the day, get ready for an unforgettable experience with a classic **Polish dinner** prepared by the **K-Club** – truly a taste of tradition! Enjoy beloved favorites like **kielbasa with sauerkraut, pierogies, and golumpki**, all made with care and heart. For the younger guests, a special kids' menu will be available, featuring a **hot dog with mac and cheese** – guaranteed to please even the pickiest eaters! Then, kick back and relax with live music that'll keep the vibe going strong. From **6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**, **No Hang-Ups** will bring energy with their signature sounds, followed by **Shaded Soul** from **8:00 pm to 11:00 pm**, delivering smooth grooves that'll have you dancing the night away. Sip on a cold beer, unwind, and soak in the lively tunes under the stars!

The evening reaches its grand finale with a **dazzling fireworks**



display at 9:15 pm, lighting up the sky and closing out the Old Home Days tradition with a bang. It's the perfect way to wrap up two days of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories!

Get Your Special Edition Calendar!

A commemorative Old Home Days calendar will be available for a **\$5.00 donation**, with **all proceeds benefiting this event**. If you would like to support the tradition and join the local businesses that have already secured an ad, please contact **Laura Zajac at 860-983-4948**.

Watch Your Mailbox!

A detailed itinerary of events will be mailed to residents in early May! We can't wait to see everyone for this beloved annual tradition. Let the countdown begin!

MIDDLEFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

The Town of Middlefield CT is seeking to construct a public safety complex on the site of the current Middlefield Fire House.

The project consists of renovation to the current firehouse and apparatus bays as well as a new expansion that will provide construction of:

- Five new apparatus bays and the renovation and expansion of the existing apparatus bays at the Fire Station
- Resident State Trooper headquarters
- Offices, including an emergency management office, a fire marshal's office and other public safety staff and administrative offices
- An emergency operations center
- Conference rooms, public meeting/training rooms, locker rooms, sleeping quarters, bathrooms, a kitchen, storage space and other rooms and support areas
- Repair and renovation of existing rooms and space
- Decontamination facilities, the installation of showers and the making of other related system improvements to treat personal protective equipment (PPE) and personnel
- Structural upgrades to building to satisfy storm and seismic activity standards
- Elevator access to second floor, ADA code compliance upgrades to doors, bathrooms, and other building areas



- Building code compliance upgrades

The new facility will be 100% ADA compliant and will meet the toughest standards for Storm and Seismic Activity.

Project costs are estimated to be \$14.5 million.

How You Can Help

You're invited to participate in the public hearing and info session on April 29. Your input is important.

The public safety facility special town meeting on May 8 is to approve the time and date of the referendum.

\$650 per Square Foot is the Lowest Cost of the Most Recent Ongoing Projects in CT

The Public Safety Facility Committee chose to pursue a design-build construction method, where a single team is responsible for both the design and construction of a project. Design-build promotes collaboration between architects, engineers, and builders to shorten the project timeline and ensure more accurate project costs.

The total estimated cost for the new public safety facility is \$14.5 million: \$650 per sq ft at 22,295 sq ft. This is lower than similar firehouse renovations in neighboring towns, as shown in the table below.

Estimate	Year	Total Sq/Ft	Total Cost	Cost Per Sq/Ft	Stage
Lisbon Fire Station	2021	18,600	\$14,830,000	\$797.31	Construction
Bristol Fire Station	2023	8,700	\$6,760,000	\$777.00	Construction
Deep River Fire Station	2024	12,742	\$9,900,000	\$776.95	Design
Clinton Fire Station	2025	25,000	\$29,000,000	\$1,160.00	Design
Avon Fire Station	2025	6,050	\$6,500,000	\$1,074.00	Design
Killingworth Fire Station	2025	19,800	\$23,000,000	\$1,161.62	Design

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mark your calendars! The Annual Town Meeting is happening on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the auditorium of the Community Center, 405 Main Street. We welcome all residents to join us and take part in shaping our local government - *it's your town, your voice!*

Budget

The Board of Finance hosted a public hearing on Thursday, April 24th, and at the time of this writing, the proposed town budget was \$19,598,647. Key highlights include:

- Total municipal expenses down -0.4%
- RSD13 budget up 4.4%
- Grand list down \$6.5 million

Budget Expenses

The total budgeted expenses are forecast to increase by \$572,213 (3.0%) from \$19,026,434 to \$19,598,647. This includes a \$22k (-0.4%) decrease in total municipal expenses and a \$595k (4.4%) increase in Middlefield's share of RSD-13 expenses.

Top Budget Increases:

- RSD-13: \$657,506 (4.4%)
- Health/Life Insurance: \$59,985 (25.7%)
- Public Works-Payroll: \$19,319 (5.8%)
- Levi E. Coe Library: \$18,732 (5.2%)
- Pension-Municipal Employees: \$17,895 (17.5%)
- DMIAAB Operations: \$15,000 (7.3%)

Top Budget Decreases:

- Capital/Nonrecurring Fund: -\$143,485 (-11.3%)
- Police Department-Payroll: -\$27,448 (-9.2%)
- Youth & Family Services: -\$21,162 (-30.9%)
- Cyber Liability Coverage: -\$15,000 (-100%)
- Old Homes Day Fund: -\$15,000 (-100%)
- Public Works-Overtime: -\$9,866 (-26.1%)

Grand List

Since the State Legislature passed Public Act 42-1, taxes on motor vehicles and privately owned trailers (livestock trailers, boat trailers, RV trailers, utility trailers, campers, etc.) have been significantly reduced or eliminated. As a result, Middlefield's grand list, the total value of taxable property, has decreased by \$6.5 million.

RSD13

Middlefield's share of the Regional School District #13 budget is increasing by approximately \$595k, a 4.4% rise from last year, contributing another 4% to the mill rate.

Get Updates

To check for any updates from the April 24th meeting and to view the final version of the town budget, head over to the town's website at www.middlefieldct.org.

Board Appointments

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any and all electors wishing to hold a position; current board members are eligible for re-appointment. Each nominee will have a chance to share their qualifications. All registered town voters are eligible to vote — your vote truly makes a difference!

Appoint Board of Education (BOE) Members: There are two seats up for appointment on the BOE for the term from July 2025 to June 2028. Lucy Petrella and Dr. Linda Darcy terms are expiring.

Appoint Board of Education (BOE) Finance Committee Members. There are two openings on the BOE Finance Committee. One elector is needed to fill a vacancy (July 2024 to June 2026). The other seat open is for a full term (July 2025 to June 2027); Peter Neidhardt's term is expiring.

Appoint DMIAAB (Durham Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board) Members: There are two positions up for appointment on the DMIAAB for the term July 2025 through June 2027. Glenn McNamara and Howard Weisberg terms are expiring.