



# TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

## Middlefield and Rockfall

Volume 3 Number 3

Quarter 3 - 2025

### First Selectman's Message

By Bob Yamartino

Dear Middlefield and Rockfall residents,

A very busy and fun filled summer is behind us and an equally busy fall is shaping up.

The town celebrated Old Homes Day; a weekend of parades, music, fireworks, and community pride. It was a great time to rekindle friendships, meet new folks, relax and enjoy all that makes Middlefield so wonderful. We are in the works planning for next year's extra special Old Home Days when we will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of our nation. We need your ideas or assistance to help make this a true celebration of our country's and town's history! Feel free to reach out if you would like to help with this event.

Lt Governor Bysiewicz and State Legislators joined us in recognizing our Vietnam Era Veterans' service and sacrifice at a special Welcome Home Celebration. A highly decorated Vietnam Era Veteran and local resident, Bill Currin, who has dedicated his life to serving other veterans, gave welcome home remarks. He emphasized that it doesn't matter where you served during the Vietnam War – that was the luck of the draw, what matters is that you took the same oath to defend our country and if necessary, give your life for our country, "and I am proud to have served with you". Please join us on Veterans' Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. on the town green as we recognize, remember, and thank all our veterans for their service to our country.

There have been many improvements around town. The Conservation Commission has removed many of the invasive species from the Coe Hill property, clearing the way for increased passive recreation and further development of a Stewardship Plan. At Peckham Park, there is a new basketball court and Pete Cabelus has done an excellent job in creating an expanded picnic area in the shady grove behind Ed Bailey's memorial. At the Community Center, Public Works has installed a new above ground oil tank feeding the new (2-year-old) boiler and have repaired and resurfaced many more of our town roads.

As we move into fall, there is a lot of excitement! In addition to soccer games and football, we are all getting ready for the Durham Fair this month. The municipal Elections will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Early voting begins on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Check out the Human Library or bring your children to the TRUNK OR TREAT event on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. The Historical Society is hosting an open house on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar for the Christmas Tree lighting on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. So much to do and see!

Schools are open and the students are back in the classroom and getting on and off busses. As a reminder, please drive carefully and watch out for children and stop for the buses. Reckless driving and speeding have increased in town - please set the example and drive the speed limit.

Be safe and have fun!

Cheers,

*Bob*



# Meet Our Recently Appointed

We are delighted to welcome the newest members to Middlefield's boards and commissions. Thank you for volunteering to serve and for the contributions you will make to our Town.

## BUILDING OFFICIAL

*Robert Boender*

Robert A. Boender has been hired as Middlefield's Building Official. In his role, Rob will be responsible for verifying the safe construction for occupancy of structures and for the protection of investments in real property by assuring structures meet or exceed building code requirements and related standards. This is accomplished by the research and application of state building code in force and effect within the Town. Compliance is achieved through the permit review process, inspections, and enforcement of the building code, the review of applications and associated site, structural and other required construction plans.

Rob, a Connecticut Certified Building Official and Electrical Inspector, has worked in those roles in both New Haven and Stamford CT. He is a licensed master electrician in six states, with experience in evaluating construction projects from residential to very large commercial installations. Rob also teaches building and electrical code compliance on-line and in several national geographies. Robert is of Dutch descent and loves traveling with his wife Jill, visiting the Netherlands and the rest of Europe as much as possible!

Rob started work with Middlefield August 18<sup>th</sup>. He can be reached via e-mail at [Rboender@middlefieldct.org](mailto:Rboender@middlefieldct.org), or at the land use office at 860-349-7123.

## MIDDLEFIELD MUNICIPAL VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVE

*Steven Taylor*

Steven has been appointed as Middlefield's **Municipal Veterans Representative**, a position established by State Statute (Title 27, Chapter 506, Section 27-135) requiring every town to have a point person to help veterans access the services and benefits they've earned. Steve will be assisted in this role by **Bill Currin**, a long-time resident and active member of multiple local veterans' organizations.

A veteran himself, Steve served with the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, headquartered in New Haven,

and completed two deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. As a First Lieutenant, he led an Infantry Platoon during his first tour (2006–2007) and served as Executive Officer for an Infantry Company on his second tour (2009–2010).

Steve brings firsthand knowledge of veterans' programs -he used the GI Bill to complete his BS in Finance at Central Connecticut State University and MBA at Arizona State University, and the VA Home Loan Program to purchase his home. He and his wife Donna live in the Harvest Woods section of town.

We are fortunate to have Steve take on this important role, ensuring Middlefield's veterans are supported and connected with the benefits and opportunities available to them.

He can be reached [staylor@middlefieldct.org](mailto:staylor@middlefieldct.org) or by phone at 480-220-2954 (cell) or 860-349-7123

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Jeremie Ozyez*



Jeremie is an avid outdoorsman and a hunting advocate. His interests and experiences will be an asset to the commission.

Jeremie, his wife, and family enjoy living in Middlefield. We thank him for stepping up to serve in town.

## MIDDLEFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY

*Jason Ruffino*

We extend a warm welcome to Jason for his willingness to serve on the Middlefield Housing Authority.

## American Flag Retirement Drop Box



Worn flags should never be thrown away. Drop them in the collection boxes at Town Hall or the Community Center for respectful disposal.

# ELECTION DAY

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

### 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. - Community Center

State of Connecticut Official Ballot		Middlefield, Connecticut		Municipal General		November 4, 2025				
***SAMPLE***										
OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PARTY	First Selectman Vote for One	Selectman Vote for One	Town Clerk Vote for One	Tax Collector Vote for One	Town Treasurer Vote for One	Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for up to Two		Board of Finance Vote for up to Three		
Democratic Party	1A	<input type="radio"/> 2A Susan McNamara	<input type="radio"/> 3A Tonya Hogan	<input type="radio"/> 4A Anne Olszewski	5A	<input type="radio"/> 6A Barbara Nadeau	7A	<input type="radio"/> 8A Patrick Olszewski	9A	10A
Republican Party	<input type="radio"/> 1B Robert Yamartino	<input type="radio"/> 2B Doug O'Rourke	<input type="radio"/> 3B Tonya Hogan	4B	<input type="radio"/> 5B Kathleen Kokoszka	<input type="radio"/> 6B Nancy Curtin	7B	<input type="radio"/> 8B Lee Matterazzo	<input type="radio"/> 9B Jeanine Connelly	<input type="radio"/> 10B Carmie Anderson
WRITE-IN VOTES	<input type="radio"/> 1C	<input type="radio"/> 2C	<input type="radio"/> 3C	<input type="radio"/> 4C	<input type="radio"/> 5C	<input type="radio"/> 6C	<input type="radio"/> 7C	<input type="radio"/> 8C	<input type="radio"/> 9C	<input type="radio"/> 10C

### EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

Location: Community Center – Suite One

Dates: **Monday, Oct. 20, 2025 – Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025**

Daily Hours: **10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** (including weekends)

Extended Hours:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 28 – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Oct. 30 – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Same-Day Registration will be available during most Early Voting hours.

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Beginning **Thursday, Oct. 3, 2025**, absentee ballots will be available. To apply, please contact Tonya Hogan, Town Clerk, @ 860-349-7116.

You are eligible to vote by absentee ballot if:

- You are an active member of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- You will be out of town during all voting hours on Election Day.
- Illness prevents you from voting in person.
- Religious beliefs prevent you from voting in person.
- You are performing duties as an election official at a location other than your own.
- You have a physical disability that prevents you from voting in person.
- For more information and links to the application, visit [myvote.ct.gov](http://myvote.ct.gov) or scan the code.



### VOTER REGISTRATION

**Paper registration forms are available at:**

- Registrar's Office, Middlefield Community Center
- Middlefield Town Hall
- Levi E. Coe Library

Completed forms can be mailed to the Middlefield Registrar's Office or dropped off in person at either the Registrar's Office or with Tonya at Town Hall.

### REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE HOURS

- **Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Need another time? Please call the Registrar of Voters Office to arrange a special appointment.

### INDEPENDENT VS. UNAFFILIATED – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

- **Unaffiliated** means you are not registered with any political party - you may be undecided or simply prefer not to have a party affiliation.
- **Independent** refers to the **Independent Party**, which is an officially recognized political party in Connecticut.

Janine Skelps, Registrar of Voters @ [JSkelps@middlefieldct.org](mailto:JSkelps@middlefieldct.org)  
Carol S. Schilling, Deputy Registrar of Voters @ 860-349-7119 or [CSchilling@middlefieldct.org](mailto:CSchilling@middlefieldct.org)



Pictured is Ken Hinsch, Moderator. Testing the tabulators before every election is an important part of ensuring the tabulators are working properly when you cast your vote.



So, why do we ask you to say your STREET, NUMBER, LAST NAME, FIRST NAME when you check in to vote?? *Simple, our official checklist is in alphabetical order by street, so that is the important first step in identifying you as a voter.*



# Assessor's Office

## PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATIONS

Notice is hereby given to all owners of taxable personal property in the Town of Middlefield that they must file their personal property declaration in the Assessor's Office on or **before November 3, 2025**, in accordance with CGS Section 12-41.

Also due on or **before November 3, 2025** are applications for the exemption of Newly Acquired Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment and of certain Commercial Trucks in excess of 26,000-lbs gross weight used exclusively for the transportation of freight for hire and trucks over 55,000-lbs.

The personal property declaration shall include, but is not limited to, all furniture, fixtures, tools, machinery and equipment of commercial and industrial businesses, as well as unregistered motor vehicles, horses and farm machinery owned by them on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October. **Failure to declare results in a 25% assessment penalty.**

Declarations will be mailed to all known owners of Personal Property located in the Town of Middlefield and Village of Rockfall. Declaration forms, exemption applications and assistance in filing these forms will be available at the Middlefield Assessor's Office and the Town of Middlefield website on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Detailed information and Frequently Asked Questions are available on the Town of Middlefield website on the Assessor's page at [middlefieldct.org/180/Assessor](http://middlefieldct.org/180/Assessor).

*Pam Deziel, Assessor @ 860-349-7111 or [pdeziel@middlefieldct.org](mailto:pdeziel@middlefieldct.org)*

# Tax Collector

## COLLECTION AGENCY TO COLLECT DELINQUENT TAXES

The Middlefield/Rockfall First Selectman, Finance Office and the Tax Office have entered into an agreement with Taxserv Capital Services LLC to aid in the collection of delinquent Motor Vehicle and Personal Property taxes.

**If you have delinquent taxes, now is the time to consider paying your taxes.**

As of **October 1, 2025**, all delinquent tax bills will be turned over to Taxserv. All delinquent bills given to Taxserv will be assessed an additional 15% charge for collection. If you have questions, please call the Tax Office at 860-349-7117 **Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** or email at [tax1@middlefieldct.org](mailto:tax1@middlefieldct.org)

# Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's been a busy few months for the Fire Company, marked by leadership changes, community outreach, and exciting progress on the new public safety facility.

At the June meeting, the Fire Company elected its officers for **2025–2026**. Continuing in their roles are:

- Chief **Peter Tyc**
- Deputy Chief **Steven Tyc**
- Assistant Chief **Jeffery Dicostanzo**
- 1st Captain **Nicholas Tyc**
- 1st Lieutenant **Chris Orts**

Newly promoted are **Eric St. Amand** to 2nd Captain and **Trevor Anderson** to 2nd Lieutenant.



A special thank-you goes to **Richard Greenbacker** for more than 20 years of service as Company Foreman.

His dedication to equipment and apparatus upkeep has saved the company and taxpayers thousands of dollars. **Simon St. Amand** has been elected to step into this important role.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Fire Company remains committed to connecting with the community. Recently, members participated in a **Touch-a-Truck event** hosted by The Victory Church and visited RSD13's **Extended School Year Program** at Brewster Elementary, giving students a hands-on look at fire service.

## PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

The Fire Company sincerely thanks the community for its support in approving the **Middlefield Public Safety Facility Project**. This new facility will enhance public safety services, improve firefighter health and wellness, and add a much-needed **Emergency Operations Center**.

## JOIN MIDDLEFIELD FIRE!



Looking for a way to give back? Become a volunteer firefighter or EMT! No experience needed – just a willingness to learn and serve. Scan the QR code to learn more and apply or email [middlefieldfirect.org/join](http://middlefieldfirect.org/join). *Ethan Bufford-Cournoyer* @ [ebuffordcournoyer@middlefieldfirect.org](mailto:ebuffordcournoyer@middlefieldfirect.org)

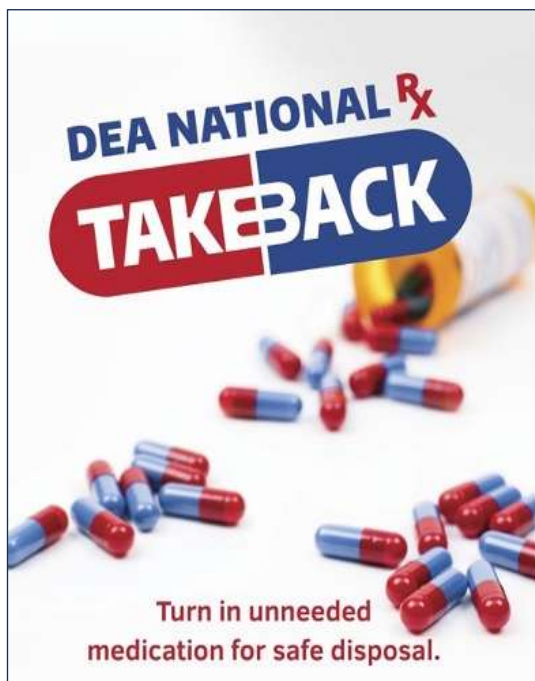
# Resident State Trooper

## DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The Resident State Trooper's Office is participating in **Drug Take Back Day** - a biannual DEA-led event where you can safely and anonymously dispose of unused or expired prescription medications in partnership with local law enforcement and community organizations.

Prescription medications will only be accepted during the DEA Drug Take Back Program events on **Saturday, October 25, 2025** and **Saturday, April 26, 2026**.

**Please do not leave medications unattended at this location or deposit them at the front door without notifying the Connecticut State Police.** This office connects to the Community Center Theater, which hosts many groups and events, some of which may include children. The unauthorized disposal of medications poses a significant safety risk.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Resident Troopers Office

Middlefield Community Center  
Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications may be disposed of, including:

- Capsules      - Ointments
- Creams       - Vials
- Inhalers     - Non-aerosol sprays
- Patches
- Liquids (must be in their original containers)
- Pet medication is also accepted

The Middlefield Resident Trooper Office is **not** a 24/7 continuously staffed office.

## DROP OFF LOCATIONS AVAILABLE

Prescription Drug boxes are located at the following:

- Cromwell Police Dept., 5 West St., Cromwell, CT
- Meriden Police Dept, 50 West Main St., Meriden, CT
- Middletown Police Dept, 222 Main St., Mtn, CT
- Local CVS and Walgreens
- Troop F, 315 Spencer Plains Rd., Westbrook, CT

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe and secure environment.

*Trooper Caleb Stevens @ 860-399-2100*

## Animal Control

The Town Kennel has been busy this summer with a steady hustle and bustle of activity. We currently have one dog in our care whose owner, unfortunately, has not come forward to claim. If you are interested in adopting or arranging a meet-and-greet, please contact our Animal Control Officers directly at 203-535-9072 or 860-982-1467.

We're excited to share that work has begun on our new outdoor, fenced exercise area - a safe space where dogs can stretch their legs and enjoy the fresh air. Special thanks to our town crew for clearing the space and making this possible! In addition, we'll soon be making state-mandated upgrades to our existing interior and exterior kennel fencing. After more than 30 years of diligent upkeep, we're looking forward to these improvements that will make our facility even better.

## PET FOOD DONATION PANTRY

This is another new initiative in the works; we will be accepting donations of bagged and canned dog and cat food from the community to help local pet owners in need. Food will be stored onsite, and those seeking assistance will be



able to apply online for approval, then pick up food at no cost on designated days. Once we've collected enough donations to begin, we'll send out a notice. This is

truly a community effort to help both people and pets.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER!** All kennel animals are on special diets. We kindly ask that no one feed them.

Thank you!

*Myriah Saucier, Assistant Animal Control Officer*  
*@ 860-349-1333.*

# Public Works

## ROAD WORK IMPROVEMENTS SEASON WRAPS UP

Our Public Works crew has been hard at work this spring and summer on road work improvements. They have successfully repaired and / or chip sealed about 5 miles of Middlefield town roads. Over the past two years, they've made great strides in improving our roadways:

- One-third of Middlefield's roads - about 12 out of 35 miles - have been repaired or chip sealed over the last 2 years.
- The Beseck Lake resurfacing project was completed this spring.
- Over the summer, the team laid 500 tons of asphalt to prepare for 36,000 square yards of chip sealing.
- In June and July, another 600 tons of asphalt was laid, paving the way for an additional 43,000 square yards of chip sealing.
- Widened the Community Center parking lot entrance to allow for 2-way traffic in advance of the traffic pattern change when construction begins on the Public Safety Facility.

## COMMUNITY CENTER HEATING OIL TANK REPLACEMENT



We are finishing up the installation of the new 2,000 gallon above ground heating oil tank for the Community Center. This project required the removal

of an underground 8,000-gallon tank that had reached its end of life. Cahill Excavating was used for the tank removal and disposal. Town employees acted as a general contractor for this project, resulting in over **\$25,000 in cost savings.**



## LAKE SHORE DRIVE FENCE REBUILT

The fence for the Lake Shore Drive culvert has been repaired to like new condition after an accident earlier this year destroyed a large portion of it. Rockland Fence of Middlefield performed this work for us.

## WORK ZONE = SAFE ZONE



To the motoring public, PLEASE make an extra effort to slow down for crews working on our roads. Every worker deserves to get home safely at the end of the day.

*Jason Wickham, Supervisor of Public Works*  
@ 860-349-7118 or [jwickham@middlefieldct.org](mailto:jwickham@middlefieldct.org)

## Conservation Commission HUNTING SEASON REMINDERS & RECREATION BEST PRACTICES

Fall hunting seasons are approaching:

- **Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>** - Small game
- **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>** – Archery & Deer
- **Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Oct 31<sup>st</sup>** - Turkey firearms
- **Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** - Deer firearms

Peak activity is early mornings and late afternoons. To stay safe, the Commission and CT DEEP recommend:

- **Wear blaze orange** or other **high-visibility clothing**
- **Use a bell** (also great for dogs and horses)
- **Call out to hunters** if you see one

## COE HILL OPEN SPACE RESTORATION PROJECT

This spring, the Conservation Commission cleared invasive scrub brush at Coe Hill Open Space, opening up previously inaccessible areas for easier foot access. To guide future care, Connwood Foresters has been hired to access the property and draft a stewardship plan, expected by the end of October.

Community input is encouraged as we set management goals, and volunteers will soon be needed for projects like clearing paths and removing invasive vines. Residents interested in helping or sharing suggestions are invited to contact the Commission directly @

[Bdumas@middlefieldct.org](mailto:Bdumas@middlefieldct.org)

## COGINCHAUG GREENWAY PROPERTY

The Commission is considering hunting permits for the Coginchaug Greenway. This could expand recreation, improve access to the State Wildlife Management Area, and help keep the habitat healthy by managing deer populations and protecting native plants. Questions or comments? Email [Bdumas@middlefieldct.org](mailto:Bdumas@middlefieldct.org) or join us at our monthly meeting, held the **third Monday at 7:00 p.m.** at the Community Center.

*Brian Dumas, Chairman, @ [Bdumas@middlefieldct.org](mailto:Bdumas@middlefieldct.org).*



## WPCA - STEAP GRANT FOR WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) continues to make progress on critical wastewater infrastructure improvements funded through the Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant.

As part of the first phase, the WPCA's consulting engineering firm, Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates prepared plans, specifications and bid documents for improvements to the Brookside Drive Pump Station. This station, in operation for approximately 47 years, pumps wastewater from the Brookside Drive Sewer District (Zygo) to the City of Middletown's sewer system. Following the bidding process, Tucker Mechanical submitted the lowest base bid at \$326,000.

The second phase of the STEAP Grant will focus primarily on improvements to the Mattabesock Road Pump Station, which serves the Lake Beseck Sewer District.

*Gregory Makuch, Chairman, @  
Gmakuch@middlefieldct.org*

## Beseck Lake Environmental Committee

The Environment Committee continues to review lake water quality data. All Habitat, our lake management team, has completed three monthly tests measuring total phosphorus and Chlorophyll a (an indicator of algae growth). July showed the highest readings, especially near the north inflow pipes. Sampling is done monthly at six sites around the lake.

Some cyanobacteria can produce toxins harmful to people and animals. To monitor this, Western CT State University tests weekly for Microcystin at the Town Beach. So far, all readings remain well within safe limits, with weekly reports sent to the Town and Committee.

In June, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station completed its aquatic plant survey. While concerns about invasive Curly-Leaf Pondweed proved unfounded, Vasey's Pondweed—a state-protected native species - has expanded significantly over the past three years. Large dense patches, especially along the western shore, have become a nuisance. As one lake manager noted, "just because plants are native doesn't mean they're always beneficial." This plant naturally dies back in late summer after its reproductive cycle.

*Rick Santos, Chairman, @Rsantos@middlefieldct.org*

## National Night Out

On August 5, 2025, Durham and Middlefield came together for **National Night Out** at the Durham Community Center.

From 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., families enjoyed games, safety demonstrations, and interactive booths while connecting with State Troopers, EMS, and Firefighters in a friendly, non-emergency setting.

National Night Out is an annual campaign held the first Tuesday of August to strengthen police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Coordinated by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), National Night Out fosters safer, more connected communities.



*L-R. Mike Olszewski,  
Ethan Bufford-Conoyer,  
Darren Bullock*



*Jess Lobner,  
Pam Wooding,  
Vicki Berry*



*Betsy St. John, Tina Gossner, Tisha Zawisky,  
and friend*

The Town of Middlefield will host next year's National Night Out the first week of August.

## Lake Drawdown NOTICE

The Beseck Lake drawdown will begin on or near **October 1**, with a target drawdown of **6 feet by November 1**. This level will be maintained through **January 31, 2026**.

Starting **February 1**, the lake level will be managed at approximately **3 feet drawdown until March 1, 2026**, after which it will be allowed to refill naturally in preparation for the spring recreational season. Actual water levels may vary due to weather and other uncontrollable factors.

### PLAN AHEAD

If you plan to use the **State boat ramp** to remove your vessel, please plan ahead and don't wait — delaying could leave your boat **stuck or stranded**.



# WELCOME HOME!

## Homecoming Celebration & Veterans Recognition Ceremony for Vietnam Era Veterans of Middlefield, Connecticut



On August 26, 2025, Middlefield's Vietnam Era Veterans and their families were welcomed to a moving **Homecoming Celebration and Veterans Recognition Ceremony** at the Lyman Orchards Golf Tent. This event, hosted by state and town leaders, was filled with reflection, gratitude, and heartfelt recognition. The ceremony opened with The **Posting of the Colors** by the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company Color Guard, followed by a stirring rendition of the **National Anthem** performed by 8<sup>th</sup> grader **Lily Cate Waterman**.



MVFC Color Guard



Lily Cate Waterman

Attendees then stood together for the **Pledge of Allegiance**, honoring both country and community. First Selectman Robert Yamartino welcomed all in attendance and shared:

*"The end of the Vietnam war was a 1/2 century ago and the welcome you received coming home was very different from those who served in other wars throughout our history. Bob Bascilicato, one of my close friends and a fellow Middlefield resident served in Vietnam. Upon his arrival at LAX, he was ordered to help quell the Watts riots and ordered "If anyone crosses that intersection, you are to shoot to kill." After the officer the magazine, cleared the chamber, and pocketed the ammo. He told me he would not shoot an American. Like you, Bob served his country in a time of great upheaval and change, disagreement and animosity. Like you, he served heroically, and honorably. And like many of you, he settled in Middlefield, raised his family, and despite his poor reception, continued to serve his community. As I look at you sitting here,*

*I recognize many of you who continue to serve our community in so many ways; helping light a Christmas Tree, opening restaurants and businesses in town, volunteering on the Fire Company, the library, DMIAAB, Park and Rec, P&Z, working with veterans and in so many other ways.*

*So therefore, please accept my very heartfelt "Thank you for all the service you have and continue to provide us". Welcome home!"*

Bob then gave a touching **Memoriam** for **John "Jack" Malcolm**, featuring **Ken Hamilton** on trumpet performing TAPS. A memorial plaque will be placed at the **Middlefield Community Center** beneath the oak tree in memory of **Jack**, honoring his service and his place in the heart of our town.



### In Memory of Sgt. John "Jack" Malcolm

This oak tree is dedicated to the enduring legacy of Sgt. John "Jack" Malcolm, a son of Middlefield who gave his life in service to his country during the Vietnam War.

May its roots honor his courage, its branches carry his memory, and its shade offer peace to all who remember.

Born April 24, 1950 – Killed in Action August 25, 1970

Dignitaries then shared remarks that spoke to sacrifice, resilience, and the importance of recognition, including Lt. Governor **Susan Bysiewicz**, Connecticut Veterans Affairs Commissioner **Ron Welch**, **William Currlin**, Manager of Veterans Advocacy and Assistance with CT Veterans Affairs **John Carragher**, and State Senator **Jan Hochadel**.

Lt. Governor Bysiewicz's words resonated deeply with all in attendance: *"As Lt. Governor, it has been my privilege to host ceremonies honoring Vietnam-era veterans across our state, and I am especially proud to be hosting a ceremony in Middlefield. When the troops returned home from Vietnam, they did not receive the welcome home that was deserved. Quite the opposite. They were met with harsh judgment, despite answering the call to honorably serve their country,"* said Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz. *"Each time I meet a Vietnam veteran, I am struck by their sacrifice, grit, and all that they endured without so much as a complaint.*

*I hope that by taking a moment to honor our Vietnam Veterans, we are able to convey even just a small amount of how grateful we are for them and their service."*

Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz then moved through the audience with a microphone, giving several veterans the chance to share their stories and reflect on their experiences.



Each veteran received a lapel pin and certificate of recognition from the State of Connecticut, along with a proclamation from the Middlefield Board of Selectmen, a U.S. flag lapel pin, and a Middlefield key chain featuring the town seal presented by the Town of Middlefield.

### Bill Currllin Receives His Recognition Award



*L-R: Veteran's Affairs Deputy Commissioner Joseph Danao II, State Sen. Jan Hochadel, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, William Currllin, Middlefield First Selectman Robert Yamartino, and State Rep. Craig Fishbein*



Representative Craig Fishbein (left) read an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly (see page 19), which will be proudly displayed at Town Hall.

## MIDDLEFIELD VIETNAM ERA VETERAN HONOREES

Christopher Aiello  
Michael Augeri  
Michael Bald  
Randolph Bernotas  
John Betta, Jr.  
Clifford Birdsey  
Robert Brayshaw  
Geoffrey Brayton  
Cameron Brown  
Vincent Bystrek  
John Capega, Jr.  
Theresa Chickering  
David Cichon  
James Copperthite  
James Crete  
William Currllin  
Joseph Damiata, Jr.  
Steven Del Vecchio  
James Dowling  
Robert Elder  
George Ennever, Jr.  
Ross Fontanella  
Charles Footit

Allan Miller  
George Miller  
Freddy Miller  
Robert Monthei  
Jeanne Monthei  
Edward Morettini  
Kevin Morgan  
John Nelson  
Robert Ogorzalek  
Donald Oneill  
Thaddeus Papciak  
Edward Pernel  
Frank Petrella  
Leonard Pinz  
William Poulin  
Nelson Prue  
Martin Rabis  
Stephen Rand  
Howard Randlet  
Alan Reed  
Lawrence Rosa  
Robert Salafia  
Charles Schmaltz

## VIETNAM ERA VETERAN HONOREES

Larry French	Steven Shonta
Joseph Fulmine	Roy Smith
Edward Giesbrandt, Sr.	Donald Smith
William Glueck	Joseph Snyder
John Greening	Robert Story
Kenneth Jay	Harry Swanson
Walter Karatkewicz, Jr.	Lewis Swiridowsky
Leslie Kestenbaum	Clark Tewksbury
John Keurajian	Glenn Tewksbury
Richard Kszystyniak	Ruth Tewksbury
Stanley Kurek, Jr.	Joseph Thibodeau, Jr.
Edward Lang	John Tischio*
Peter Larsen	Edward Tulinski, Jr.
Howard Lowrey, Jr.	Paul Valvo
Robert Lyon	Thomas Yantosh
Robert Macdonald	Marc Youngquist
Robert Malcolm	Francis Zehren
Michael Mattei	Richard Zingle
Philip McGuiness	<i>*Passed 7/21</i>

*Do you know a Vietnam Veteran missing from this list?  
Please reach out to Judi Rand @ 860-349- 7114 ext. 0 or  
Jrand@middlefieldct.org*

**SPONSORS** - We are deeply grateful to the following for their generous contributions honoring our veterans:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| - Lyman Orchards Golf Club                 | - Magner Magee Company                 |
| - The Brayshaw Family Businesses           | - TMAN Services                        |
| - Bozzuto Refuse Bros, Refuse Services     | - Tony's Lakeside Liquors              |
| - Connwood Foresters Inc.                  | - Wavecrest LLC                        |
| - Dey Smith Steel LLC, Attorneys           | - Nathan Roden                         |
| - Girgenti Landscaping                     | - Santaniello Family Trust             |
| - LDD Interiors/Lisa Davenport Designs     | - Middlesex Auto Center                |
| - State Representative Craig Fishbein      | - Landscape Maintenance & Construction |
| - Northeastern Communications & Electrical |  |

We also gratefully acknowledge *Joe Liseo of Harvest Woods Audio, Lily Cate Waterman, Ken Hamilton, and Valley Shore Communications* for volunteering their services in support of our veterans.

## CEREMONY'S VIDEO AND PICTURES

To watch the **video**, scan the QR Code or go to:  
www.vsctv.com > click the Video on Demand button>  
Local Events or via the following link: <https://reflect-vsctv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/5908?site=1>

It can be watched using the "VSCTV" app for Apple TV, Roku and Fire TV for streaming services.



Recipient and event **photos** can be viewed at:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/cthouaserepublicans/albums/72177720328630230/with/54748796875> or by scanning the QR Code the left.



# Middlefield-Rockfall Old Home Days 2025

The Middlefield-Rockfall Old Home Days, held



*Fran Gudelski, Sue D'Orvilliers, and Barbara Torza, Historical Society*

June 6 - 7, once again united our town for a weekend filled with tradition, fun, and hometown pride. Though Saturday afternoon brought a brief spell of rain, spirits were undampened - proving that this beloved celebration is

about more than the weather; it's about community. The parade, floats, children's games, crafts, food booths, live entertainment, and fireworks all went on as planned, drawing families, neighbors, and friends along the parade route and culminating at Peckham Park.

Congratulations to the **Middlefield Historical Society** for capturing first place in the parade!

This year's Co-Grand Marshals, Vin Cahill and Jon Brayshaw, were warmly recognized by First Selectman Bob Yamartino during the Opening Ceremony—an honor well-deserved for their dedication and service to our town, with Bob also recognizing the Old Home Days Committee, chaired by Carrie Anderson.



*Bob Yamartino, Jon Brayshaw, Vin Cahill*

Friday night featured a **Lions Club Dinner**, live music from the **Ellen Doyle Brook Bluegrass Band** and **Beth & The Boys**, and the ever-popular 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance at Middlefield Federated Church.



Saturday brought family favorites like the **Kid Zone**, **Rubber Duck Derby**, and live performances by **The Mick Louis Band**, **Dave Kenna**, **No Hangups** and **Shaded Soul**. There was plenty of laughter as both Middlefield First Selectman **Bob Yamartino** (above) and Durham First Selectman **Brendan Rea** took turns braving the **dunk tank**.

By evening, the skies cleared just in time for a dazzling fireworks display that lit up the night sky and could be seen for miles.

We were also honored to welcome **Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro**, who stopped by to show her support for the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Department and our community.

## Old Home Days

success was made possible thanks to the dedication of local businesses, organizations, and volunteers -



*L-R: Gabby Weronick, Trevor Anderson, Jake Layman, Chris Orts, Mike Olszewski, Ryan Crowell, Pete Tyc, Adam Padilla, Steven Tyc, Nicholas Tyc*

especially our sponsors, calendar ad supporters, and behind-the-scenes helpers who gave their time and energy to make it happen. A heartfelt thank you to the 28 calendar ad supporters, whose generosity raised over **\$5,000 in ad sales** to support this year's celebration.



After a brief pause in past years, Old Home Days returned stronger than ever - thanks to the hard work and heart of the dedicated committee. We're proud to carry forward this beloved tradition, a chance to relive the carefree joy of childhood and celebrate the heart of our community.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Linda Stankiewicz	Fran Gudelski
Chris Hulbert	Lori Helmedach
Kaitlin Cahill	Ken Hamilton
Joe Liseo	Carrie Anderson
Donna Liseo	Laura Zajac

## JOIN THE OHD COMMITTEE!

We have a robust schedule ahead! Join a fun, energetic group dedicated to keeping this beloved tradition strong - there's a role for everyone. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm, and community spirit.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, as we plan for next year's Old Home Days - a **Star-Spangled Celebration** set for **May 29-30, 2026**.







# Levi E. Coe Library

It's been a busy and memorable summer at the Levi Coe Library, and we're so grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make our programs a success!

## Step Into Someone Else's Story: Human Library

*Come with Curiosity, Leave with Perspective*

On **Saturday, October 18, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, the **Levi E. Coe Library in Middlefield** will host a **Human Library** - a powerful and unique event designed to break down barriers, spark understanding, and foster meaningful conversations.

**Why Attend?** The Human Library is unlike any other reading experience. Instead of borrowing books, you “check out” people - real individuals who serve as “human books” by sharing their lived experiences. This creates an open space for dialogue, questions, and reflection. The goal is to challenge stereotypes, build empathy, and create connections across differences. Some of the titles available at our circulation desk will be: Growing up in Low Income Housing, Haitian Immigrant, After Incarceration, Caretaking for a Terminal Spouse, Autism Insight, and many more. Whether you're curious about another person's culture, profession, or life journey, the Human Library gives you the chance to learn directly from their perspective. It's a safe, respectful environment where difficult questions are welcomed and mutual understanding is encouraged.

**What to Expect:** When you arrive, you'll see a catalog of available “books” - community members who have volunteered to share their stories. You can select a book that interests you, then sit down for a 20 - 30-minute conversation. Every story is unique, and every exchange offers an opportunity to listen, ask questions, and gain new insight. The event is informal, welcoming, and designed for people of all ages. Whether you stay for one conversation or several, you'll leave with a deeper appreciation for the richness of human experience.

**What You'll Take Away:** Participants consistently leave the Human Library with:

- A new perspective on experiences different from their own.
- A deeper sense of empathy and understanding.
- Connections with people they might never have met otherwise.
- The inspiration to carry openness and curiosity into everyday life.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Are you someone with a story to tell? The Human Library has room for a few more volunteers to serve as “books.” If you have a perspective, identity, or life experience that could help others better understand the world, consider stepping forward. Training and support will be provided.
- Would you like to serve as a ‘Librarian’? You will assist with the circulation desk, escort readers to their books, and/or help with set up and break down of the event.

*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 Middlefield Common Ground Grant.*

Jess Lobner @ 860-349-3857 or [LevicoeLibraryJess@gmail.com](mailto:LevicoeLibraryJess@gmail.com)

## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Storytime - **Wednesdays** starting  
**September 3, 2025 – 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**



Upcoming events: Puppet Storytime, Family Bingo, Sweet Success: Family Cake Decorating, and Family Movie Nights! We're inviting patrons to stop by the library and share why they love living in Middlefield on video - you may be featured in our community gratitude reel!

## ADULT DEPARTMENT

Journal Writing Class

Saturdays: **Sept. 13 • Oct. 11 • Nov. 8 f**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Mini Journal Craft with Rosalie

**Mondays: Oct. 20 & Oct. 27 at 6:00 p.m.**

Ct Cryptid Program

**Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m.**

Marty Gitlin's “A History of Huskies Hoops”  
**Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

# Levi E. Coe Library continued



## SCARECROWS AT THE LIBRARY

Show off your creativity! Families, businesses, and community groups can display scarecrows on the library lawn all month long. Go classic, silly, spooky, or literary - it's up to you!

Call 860-349-3857 to reserve your spot.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GINGERBREAD VILLAGE

This exciting tradition returns right after Thanksgiving — the perfect time to start dreaming up your gingerbread house masterpiece!

## LEVI E. COE LIBRARY – NOW IN YOUR POCKET!

We're excited to announce our new Levi E. Coe Library app! Getting started is easy:

1. Search for **Libraries Online** in the App Store.
2. Download the app.
3. Select **Levi E. Coe Library**.

Use the app to access your card, browse the catalog, place holds, track loans, create reading lists, and more—right from your phone or tablet!

## FYI

Thank you...to everyone who took part in our **Love You Like a Rock** program! Visit our labyrinth and enjoy the beautiful display.

## Park & Recreation

### HONORING HANNAH (MALCOLM) GAUDET'S SERVICE TO MIDDLEFIELD

The Town of Middlefield and its Parks and Recreation Commission proudly recognize the outstanding service and contributions of Hannah Gaudet, who has officially stepped down as Director of Parks and Recreation effective **September 12, 2025**.

Hannah began with Middlefield Parks and Recreation in 2008 as a Camp Counselor, Camp Director, and Lake Beseck Lifeguard - roles that sparked her passion for service and leadership. Appointed part-time Director in 2016, she has since guided a decade of growth and innovation.

Under Hannah's leadership, the department saw major advancements:

- Implementation of an online registration system
- Creation of the popular **TRUNK OR TREAT** event

- Revitalization of the summer camp program
- Restoration of Strickland Skating Pond
- Upgrades at Peckham Park and Beseck Lake beach
- Renovations to the pavilion and basketball courts
- Hiring, mentoring, and managing more than 70 staff members

Hannah often credited her early mentorship under the late First Selectman Edward Bailey, and later the ongoing support of First Selectman Bob Yamartino, for helping her grow into a leader who put service and community first.

Her decision to resign comes at a joyful new chapter in her life. Hannah recently married Nicholas Gaudet, and the couple looks forward to welcoming their first child, a daughter, in January 2026. While stepping away from her role in Middlefield, Hannah will continue serving the public as a Health and Physical Education Teacher with the New Haven Board of Education, while also pursuing advanced degrees in School Health Education and Public Administration.

The Board of Selectmen and Parks and Recreation Commission extend heartfelt gratitude for Hannah's years of service, her tireless energy, and her personal commitment that has left a lasting impact on our community.

We wish Hannah, Nicholas, and their growing family much happiness, health, and success - and look forward to seeing her enjoy Middlefield's parks and programs in the years ahead.

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Date: **Saturday Oct. 18, 2025**

Time: **2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

(Trunk set up from 11 - 1:15)

Location: Peckham Park



## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Date: **Sunday, November 30, 2025**

Time: **5:30 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.**  
(when Santa arrives)

Location: Town Green

## In Remembrance



Fran Pac, 85, passed on August 4, 2025. She served Middlefield for 30 years as Executive Assistant to the First Selectman, retiring at age 78 under Edward Bailey. Beloved for her dedication and warmth, Fran left a lasting mark on Town Hall.

Services are private; donations may be made to the Westfield Fire Department, 53 East St., Middletown, CT 06457.



## Durham-Middlefield Giving Garden

It's all hands-on deck at the Durham/Middlefield Giving Garden as volunteers work hard to keep the garden thriving and the harvests coming in. Harvesting began in early June, with fresh vegetables delivered to the Senior Lunch Programs in both towns. Deliveries have expanded to include Sugarloaf and Maura Meadows senior housing. The garden has also been a hub for learning this summer, hosting **Saturday Talks** on "All Things Gardening."



Marilyn Keurajian



Allan Poole

In July, Marilyn Keurajian introduced visitors to the art of seed saving while Allan and Nancy Poole shared their expertise on bees. August featured *Cooking with Herbs* with Rosalie Lampier on August 9 to *Flower Pounding* with Joy on August 23.

September promises to be just as exciting, with:

- **September 6, 11:00 a.m.**  
*Preserving Jams and Jellies* with Tina Gossner.
- **September 13, 11:00 a.m.**
- *Monarch Butterflies* with Judi Rand followed by a live monarch release in the garden.

## Congratulations Graduates!

From heartfelt reflections and the Salutatory Address by **Paige Kaliszewski & Tessa Lussier** to the Valedictory Address by **Annika Liss**, the ceremony was filled with pride and inspiration. Cheers to the graduates as they go far and shine bright!



### Middlefield & Rockfall Graduates - Coginchaug High School Class of 2025 June 13, 2025

Shiloh Aceto	Noah-Camron Levesque
Tammy Baker	Alexandra McInvale #
Josephine Belisle	Madison Miller
Hayden Brady	Elizabeth Nick ‡†
Hannah Bugai	Nicholas Piscitelli
Gianna Caramanella	Brooke Quincy
Morgan Cesario	Alec Rodrigue
Colton Climie	Devin Rojas
Kieran Conway	Isaias Rosario
Alexandra Corona	Jessica Rybak
Rachel Dills	Natalia Serrano Smith
Ariana Eddinger	Charity Skinner
Ashlee Hebert	Kason Walden
Yusha Hossain	Isabelle Weissberg
Marissa Inglis	Chase Willett
Brooke Konefal *†	Matthew Yale
Sophie Kulas *†	Logan Young
Lauren Kurtin*	

\* Honors with Distinction Graduate

‡ Honors Graduate

† National Honor Society Member

# Honors and Distinction Community Service Hours

*May Your Future Be as Bright as Your Dreams!*



# Senior & Social Services

## PREPARED & EMPOWERED

### 5-Part Series: Get Organized – Not Overwhelmed

with Lynn McPhelimy, Life Organizer & Coach, founder of Moving & More, LLC

Take control of life's clutter and challenges with practical strategies—without feeling overwhelmed! Each session runs **Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** at the Durham Community Center, followed by Q&A.

Schedule & Topics:

- **Sept. 11** – Too Much Stuff  
Tackling clutter: *Where do I start?*
- **Oct. 9** – Organize Your Life  
Organizing documents and passwords
- **Nov. 13** – Stay Safe Online  
Protect yourself and avoid scams
- **Dec. 11** – Your Day, Your Way!  
Having essential conversations about end-of-life wishes & finances
- **Jan. 8** – Ready, Set, Move  
Moving preparations (without the stress)

*Sponsored by: Coginchaug Valley Educational Foundation (CVEF)*

### **CREATIVE CORNER** - Wednesday sessions:

- **Sept. 17** – Make Your Own Broom with Brenda Vynalek – **6:00 p.m. Senior Lounge** – fee \$45.00
- **Nov. 12** Wreath making in time for the holidays -  
*Time and cost TBA*

## FESTIVITIES



Annual Friendsgiving, Senior Café

- **Wed., Nov. 19 @ 12:00 p.m.**

Annual Holiday Party

- **Fri., Dec. 12 @ 12:00 p.m.**

## EXERCISE

**Zoom Fitness – M/W/F, 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

(call for link)

**Mobility for Life – Mon. 1:00 p.m. & Fri. 11:15 a.m.**

**Chair Yoga – Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.**

### **VACCINE CLINICS – MCC\***

**Wednesday, Oct. 1 - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** and

**Wednesday, Nov. 5 - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

\*See page 19 for a list of available vaccines.

**MEDICARE BOOT CAMP-** Turning 65? Discover the ins and outs of Medicare – also perfect for reviewing your current coverage.

- **Oct. 1 – 6:00 p.m.** – registration required

**LUNCH & LEARN** - Parkinson Disease: *presented by the Parkinson Assn.*

- **Wednesday, Oct. 8 – 12:00 p.m.** – Senior Café, MCC\*

**AARP CAR FIT EVENT** - Older drivers buckle up more and drink less, but their physical fragility makes crashes more dangerous. Adjusting your vehicles “fit” can help reduce injury risk.

- **Saturday, Oct. 18 – 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** – MCC

## ONGOING SERVICES & PROGRAMS

### **Senior Lunch Program – M/W/F**

Join us for lunch three days a week! Our new provider, Futures Inc., partners with Senior Resources to offer delicious, varied meals while supporting opportunities for individuals with disabilities to live independently in their communities. Call 860-349-7121 to join our happy lunch bunch.

**Foot Care Clinic** – By appointment 860-349-7121

Cost: \$35 | **Fridays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

- **Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>**

## CLUBS & HOBBIES

- **Book Club** – Levy E. Coe Library –  
**2nd Tuesday of each month @ 2:00 p.m.** Call 860-349-3857 to register.
- **Knit2gether** – **Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.** in the Senior Lounge.
- **Sewcial** – **Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.** in the Senior Lounge.

*\*MCC: Middlefield Community Center*

**FOOD BANK NEEDS** - Our shelves are low, and the need is great. We especially need: snack foods, shampoo, deodorant, soap, laundry care, cleaning supplies, sponges, dish detergent, pasta & sauce, rice, coffee & tea, condiments, toilet paper, paper towels, baking items, and gluten-free products. Every donation helps support local families in need.

*Susan D’Orvilliers, Director/Municipal Agent for the Elderly @ 860-349-7121 or [sdorvilliers@middlefieldct.org](mailto:sdorvilliers@middlefieldct.org)*


# DMYFS – Durham-Middlefield Youth and Family Services

*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.*

## NICE OR NOTHING, THEN SOMETHING

**KIND CAMPAIGN** is funded in part by the **Community Foundation of Middlesex County/GSB Grant Making Fund, and the Herb Ellen Patterson Memorial Fund.** Taken from the adage, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all,” DMYFS, in collaboration with the Paper House Productions and the Girl Scouts of America, is creating a **Kindness Coalition** that focuses on teaching healthy communication skills for in person and online etiquette. The Kindness Coalition is part of the Durham Middlefield Local Wellness Coalition.

## STEPS TO JOINING OUR KINDNESS COALITION

1. Please click on the QR code and answer the questions.
2. Please watch the 3 videos of healthy communication techniques at the end of the survey.
1. “I” Statements, 2. Active Listening, and 3. Meta Moments Rewatch as needed. More videos are provided on the DMYFS website under resources, along with examples.
3. Be on the lookout for one of DMYFS’s Kindness Coalition trainings.
4. Please make a commitment to practicing kindness and being your best self, both online and in person.
5. Please spread the word by following DMYFS Instagram (@dmyfs\_ct) and Facebook (Facebook.com/dmyfs) and repost our healthy communication posts.
6. After 2 months we’ll send you the next link to the final survey.
7. Sign the NICE OR NOTHING PLEDGE to join THE KINDNESS COALITION at the bottom of the survey.
8. Please be on the lookout for our Pledge Celebration in **May 2026!** THANK YOU!

## INCREASING PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Protective factors are characteristics associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or that reduce a risk factor’s impact. Protective factors enhance resilience in the face of adversity. As I work in my office at the Middlefield Community Center and listen to Paper House Production practicing for their marathon musicals, I am gleefully reminded of the great work all around us in our community that increases protective factors for our residents in our community.

Building relationships and making connections with others is paramount for our mental health. Groups like Paper House Productions, Girl Scouts, Scouts, Parks and Recreation, sport teams, senior community lunches, along with a multitude of other local groups create opportunities for our community members to thrive through these connections.

If you are involved in a community group, chances are you are increasing protective factors, and we want to know about it!

Claudia White @ 860-349-0258 or [cwhite@dmyfs.org](mailto:cwhite@dmyfs.org)



### Recurring Events

**T.U.M.M!**

Towns United through Meals and Mentoring

Durham + Middlefield + Rockfall =  
1 Community

**T.U.M.M.** is a unique program giving town youth the chance to learn cooking skills from a local professional chef, with guidance and support from community seniors. This intergenerational initiative is made possible through a partnership with Social Services from both towns.

**FIRST THURSDAY  
OF THE MONTH**

*Mental Health*  
**BOOK CLUB**

Past books include:  
The Anxious Generation  
Atomic Habits  
When The Body Says No  
Quiet

**LAST TUESDAY OF  
THE MONTH**

**COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATIONS**

Past discussions include:  
1. Opioid Use Disorder & Overdose Awareness  
2. Suicide  
3. Vaping



Dmyfs.org

**QUARTERLY**

## DMYFS Upcoming Events Sept. – Dec. 2025

- Sept. 26 – 28** *Durham Fair DMYFS Apple Crisp Booth*
- Sept. 30** *Mental Health Book Club: Quiet, Part 2*
- Oct. 2** *T.U.M.M. @ Durham Community Center*
- Oct. 4** *Healthcare Heroes Storytime @ Durham Library*
- Oct. 25** *National Drug Take Back Day*
- Oct. 28** *Mental Health Book Club*
- Nov. 4** *We Can Make a Difference Storytime @ Levy Coe Library*
- Nov. 6** *T.U.M.M. @ Middlefield Community Center*
- Dec. 4** *T.U.M.M. @ Durham Community Center*

## 2025 Expressions of Healing Showcase Reviewed

On **June 4, 2025**, Expressions of Healing: A Mental Health & Wellness Showcase brought together community members for a moving celebration of art, expression, and mental health awareness. The event was hosted by DMYFS.

- The event welcomed **134 attendees**
- 9 wellness resource tables and featured over **140 creative works**

This is just the beginning – mark your calendars!! The next Expressions of Healing will take place on **April 24, 2026**. Featured below is one of the unique pieces showcased in the exhibit.



### Love Child by Libby Kroll

*"I sculpted this whilst pregnant with my first son. I realized somewhere during my pregnancy that the baby I was cradling in this piece was actually me. I had a realization that learning to love myself would be the most important first step to being a good mother."*

## Be on the Lookout for the DMYFS 2025-2026 Focus Areas

- Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention
- Healthy Coping Skills for Stress and Mental Health Struggles
- Healthy Communication
- Healthy Body Image and Relationship with Food
- Healthy Relationships

## DMYFS AND MIDDLEFIELD ARE TAKING ACTION TO FIGHT STIGMA AND SAVE LIVES

[www.dmyfs.org](http://www.dmyfs.org)

*DMYFS is partnering with Middlefield to make free Narcan and training available in public buildings because everyone deserves the chance to recover.*

*We all know someone affected by addiction. Together, we can be the community that helps them heal.*

Interested in learning more about this initiative, or upcoming events?





# Historical Society

## MIDDLEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO LEAD AMERICA 250 EFFORTS

The Middlefield Historical Society is proud to take the lead in planning our community's commemoration of **America 250** - the nation's 250th Anniversary in 2026. This milestone offers a unique opportunity to reflect on our town's rich history while also connecting to the broader story of America's founding and its evolving democratic ideals. The Historical Society's programs will be aligned with The America 250 | CT Commissions' four key themes:



Hear the voices too often left out - from Indigenous peoples to immigrants, women, and others whose stories deserve recognition.



Honoring the local landmarks, homes, schools, cemeteries, and landscapes that define our community.



Explore how Middlefield and Rockfall residents contributed during the Revolutionary War and beyond.



Celebrate the spirit of service, volunteerism, and community that has always strengthened our town.

Look forward to lectures, exhibits, and events celebrating diverse voices. Volunteers are invited to join in and help shape how Middlefield shares its story during this historic celebration. A special highlight will be the **2026 Old Home Days**, merged with **America 250** for a town-wide celebration of history, tradition, pride, and a few surprises! Be sure to follow us on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/middlefieldhistoricalsociety/> for scheduled events Together, we will make America 250 a celebration that truly reflects the heart of Middlefield and Rockfall.

**NEIGHBORS, HISTORY, COMMUNITY – GET INVOLVED!** - The Middlefield Historical Society is growing and welcoming new members! From preserving our town's stories to planning engaging community events, we're busier than ever - and we'd love for you to join us! While we pause in September due to Durham Fair participation, meetings are regularly scheduled for the **second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.** at the Community Center.

## THE STORIES THEY COULD TELL...

### *Tales from the Cemetery by Ken Twombly*



*Ken's final submission is a true gift to Middlefield. He didn't just preserve our history - he loved it, and made sure we could all share in that connection. His words reflect the heart he gave to this town, and his legacy will continue to inspire and connect generations. Ken passed on June 7, 2025.*



*Godspeed Ken, thank you for everything you gave to Middlefield. (To view Ken's obituary, scan the QR code.)*

Jedediah Colcord Safford was born in Morrisville, Vermont, on Feb 15, 1844. He was the son of Norman H. Safford and Hannah P. Quimby. His education consisted of that which was available to the youth of the time and locality. His father's health was poor, forcing Jedediah to shoulder many of the family burdens which he served well. His father passed on in 1862 and, shortly afterward, he was offered a position by Moses Terrill, a native of Morrisville, to come to Middlefield and work at the Metropolitan Washing Machine Factory of which Terrill was a partner with David Lyman.

The factory was located in Baileyville at the current site of the Blackbird Tavern. He went to New York state in 1864 to farm for a brief time with his brother-in-law, a position which he found less than satisfactory. He returned to Middlefield to his position at the Washing Machine Factory.

In 1870, Jedediah was appointed station master for the Middlefield station. In 1884, he transferred to the Rockfall station where he also had one half interest in a general store with the firm of Safford & Francis. On Sept 8, 1863, he married Eunice M. Metcalf with whom he had 3 daughters; Annetta, Mary, and Grace, all of whom are also buried in Middlefield Cemetery. He was a member of the Methodist church in which he held several prominent offices. Having been recognized for his trustworthiness, he was elected First Selectman, which he served for 4 years, and tax collector for 6 years. He then served in the State Legislature.



He made his home in Rockfall where he died on March 5, 1921. More information can be found in "Biography of Middlesex County, Large Volume".

## Town Receives Rebate

### INSURANCE PROGRAM MEMBER REBATE

Middlefield received a member rebate check for \$5,563 from CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) which is our insurance provider.

The coverage is available to us as a member of the Connecticut Council of Municipalities. The monies are a distribution to Middlefield of member equity, given a lower than planned liabilities experience.



## Reminder - PROPERTY REVALUATION IS STILL UNDERWAY

The Assessor's Office is still in the process of the October 1, 2026, full inspection revaluation of all real property in Middlefield and Rockfall, as required by state law.



Licensed inspector Lawrence LaBarbera will be visiting properties to collect data, measure, and list structures. He will carry a town-issued ID badge, a letter of authorization, and drive a dark grey Hyundai (MA plates 4ELS 84).

Please extend him your courtesies.

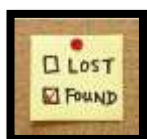
## 2025 Old Home Days Media

Check out the Old Home Days Facebook page for photos, videos, and community highlights from this year's celebration. Stay connected for behind-the-scenes looks, important announcements, and sneak peeks as we start planning next year's event - bigger and better than ever!

<https://www.facebook.com/Middlefield.OHD2026>

## We'd Love Your Feedback!

How can we make the Town Newsletter better? Whether it's new features, community stories, or helpful updates you'd like to see, please share your suggestions with Judi Rand at 860-349-7114 ext. 0 or email Laura at [Lzajac@middlefieldct.org](mailto:Lzajac@middlefieldct.org)



**Tackle Box** – if you lost a few months ago, it is sure to be missed. Call Judi @ 860-349-7114 ext. 0 to describe and claim it

## Veterans Day Ceremony

Join us in honoring all who have served. Veterans, military families, and community members are warmly welcome.



Date: **Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

Time: **11:00 a.m. @ Town Green**

## Community Vaccine Clinic

Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main Street

**Wednesday, Oct. 1 - 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, Nov. 5 - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**



### Vaccines Available

Flu (Highdose, Flublok, & Regular), RSV, TDAP, Pneumonia, and Shingles.

## Official Citation

From the Connecticut General Assembly, presented by Rep. Craig Fishbein at the Vietnam Veterans ceremony.





**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  
 Al Rusilowicz - Finance Director  
 Mary Ann Zieminski - Treasurer  
 Tyna Kollar - Accounts Payable  
 Pam Deziel - Assessor  
 Anne Olszewski - Tax Collector  
 Tonya Hogan - Town Clerk  
 Kim Jarvis - 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

Robert Boender - Building Official  
 Nancy Davidson - Land Use Assistant  
 Randy Bernotas - Inland Wetlands Agent  
 Robin Newton - Town Planner  
 Zoe Chatfield - Zoning Enforcement Officer  
 Hannah Gaudet - 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.middlefieldfire.org](http://www.middlefieldfire.org)

Peter Tyc - *Chief*  
 Steven Tyc - *Deputy Chief*  
 Jeffrey DiCostanzo - *Assistant Chief*

## IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 20	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2 PM</i>
Oct. 1	<b>VACCINE CLINIC</b> <i>Middlefield Community Center 12PM – 5PM</i>
Oct. 3	<b>ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE</b> <i>Town Clerk</i>
Oct. 18	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2 PM</i>
Oct. 18	<b>TRUNK OR TREAT</b> <i>Peckham Park 2PM – 4PM</i>
Oct. 18	<b>HUMAN LIBRARY</b> <i>Levi Coe Library 10AM – 2 PM</i>
Oct. 20 Thru Nov. 2	<b>MUNICIPAL ELECTION - EARLY VOTING -</b> <i>Middlefield Community Center</i>
Oct. 25	<b>DRUG TAKE BACK DAY</b> <i>Middlefield Community Center 10AM – 2PM</i>
Nov 4	<b>MUNICIPAL ELECTION</b> <i>Middlefield Community Center 6AM – 8 PM</i>
Nov. 5	<b>VACCINE CLINIC</b> <i>Middlefield Community Center 10AM – 2PM</i>
Nov. 11	<b>VETERAN DAY CEREMONY</b> <i>Town Green 11AM</i>
Nov. 15	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2PM</i>
Nov. 30	<b>TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY</b> <i>Town Green 5:30PM – 6PM</i>

### TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD

393 Jackson Hill Rd.  
 P.O. Box 179  
 Middlefield, CT 06455  
 860-349-7114



Website

[www.middlefieldct.org](http://www.middlefieldct.org)



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