



# TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

## Middlefield and Rockfall

Volume 2 Number 4

Quarter 4 - 2025

### First Selectman's Message

By Bob Yamartino

Dear Middlefield and Rockfall Residents,

As we enter the winter season, I am happy to share the latest edition of our Town Hall Newsletter with you.

We have had a very eventful fall. In November, we came together for the **Veterans Day Ceremony**, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who have served our nation. Thank you to all who attended and helped us honor their courage and commitment. In addition, there was a ceremony marking 911 at the Green, Trunk-or-Treat at Peckham Park, paper shredding at the community center, and Durham-Middlefield Night at the Elks which celebrated Jen Huddleston for her involvement in the community.

Election Day is a foundational and cherished right of our democracy. We celebrated this right with the **swearing-in of our newly elected municipal officials**, marking the start of a new chapter in our town's leadership with some new faces stepping into important roles. During the ceremony, we also acknowledged the services and talents that our outgoing elected officials so unselfishly shared for the benefit of all of us. Their years of service and hours of work were highlighted at the ceremony; acknowledged in proclamations you can read on the town website. On a personal note, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the trust you have placed in me to serve as your First Selectman.

Lastly, we were joined by Federal, State and local officials at the **groundbreaking of our new Public Safety Facility**, a milestone achievement that reflects our town's commitment to enhancing safety and emergency response for all residents. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a vital resource for generations to come.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May this time of year bring joy, peace, and cherished moments with family and friends.

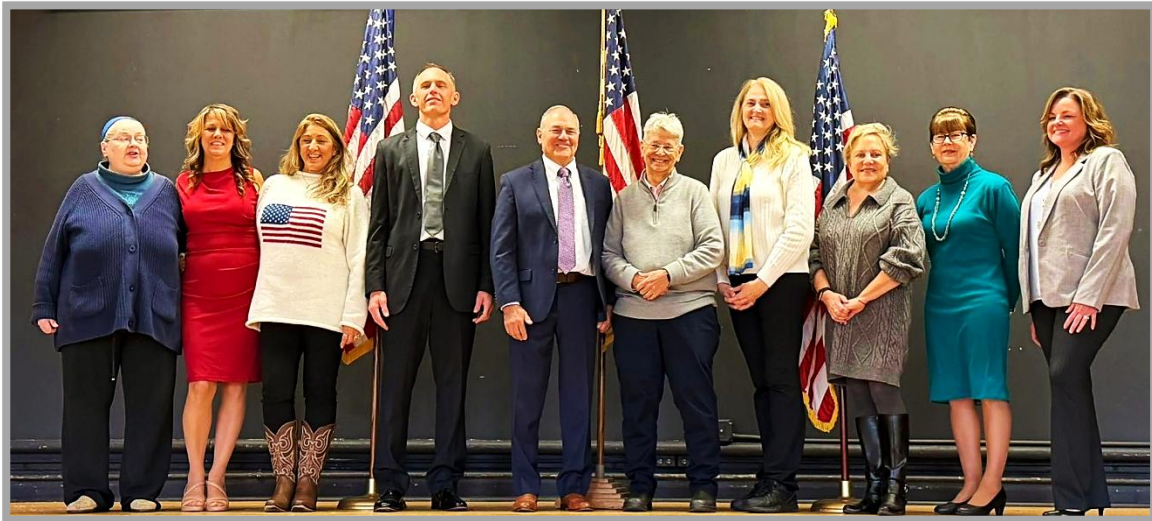
My best wishes for the holidays and into the new year,

*Bob*



*L to R: Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Charles Footit, Sgt Vinny Bystrek, Master Chief Don O'Neill*

# Meet Your Elected Officials!



L-R: Kathy Kokoszka-Treasurer, Carrie Anderson-Board of Finance, Jeanine Connolly-Board of Finance, Doug O'Rourke-Selectman, Bob Yamartino-First Selectman, Sue McNamara-Selectwoman, Lee Matterazzo-Board of Finance, Barbara Nadeau-Board of Assessment Appeals, Anne Olszewski-Tax Collector, Tonya Hogan-Town Clerk.  
Absent: Nancy Currilin- Board of Assessment Appeals

Middlefield's newly elected Town Officials were sworn into office on Sunday, **November 16, 2025**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Middlefield Community Center. The ceremony honored more than 150 years of local government, first established in 1866, and welcomed the officials who will continue that legacy of service. The administration of the Oath of Office was given by the Honorable Judge Phrances Szewczyk to Tonya Hogan, Town Clerk. Administration of Oath of Office was then given by Town Clerk Tonya Hogan to those newly elected. Thank you to everyone who joined in to witness this special civic occasion.

First Selectman Bob Yamartino reflected on the many past elected officials who have given their time and talent to Middlefield. Each of the honorees below received an official Town Proclamation in appreciation of the countless hours, thoughtful leadership and steady commitment they brought to their roles throughout their years of public service.



Images documenting all officially read proclamations are archived and made available on the town website at <https://www.middlefieldct.org/321/Proclamations> or by scanning the QR code.

2025 Election Results			
First Selectman	<b>Robert C. Yamartino</b>	<b>(R)</b>	<b>876</b>
Board of Selectman	Susan McNamara	(D)	543
	Doug O'Rourke	(R)	601
Town Clerk	Tonya Hogan	(D)	543
	Tonya Hogan	(R)	601
Tax Collector	Anne L. Olszewski	(R)	841
Town Treasurer	Kathleen Kokoszka	(R)	827
Board of Finance	Patrick Olszewski	(D)	602
	Lee R. Matterazzo	(U)	640
	Jeanine Connelly	(R)	746
	Carrie L. Anderson	(R)	751
Board of Assessment Appeals	Barbara Nadeau	(D)	597
	Nancy Currilin	(R)	675



*Jim Irish*



*Carol Bufithis*



*Mary Ann Zieminski*



*Melissa Kowal*



*Kevin Boyle*



*David Lowry*

Photo credit: Representative Craig Fishbein



# And Our Most Recent Appointees!



## Director Of Park and Recreation

*Mary Farnsworth*

The Town of Middlefield is pleased to announce the hiring of Mary Farnsworth as its new Director of Parks and Recreation, following the resignation of Hanna Malcom-Gaudet.

Mary brings more than 20 years of experience in public service, nonprofit leadership, and community programming. She will oversee recreational activities—including summer camps, sports, family programs, and special events—while ensuring that Peckham Park, Beseck Lake Beach, and the dog park remain safe and welcoming spaces for all residents. A strong advocate for community engagement, Mary previously served as Director of Strategic Planning at the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and earlier led wellness, arts, and recreation programs through the Community Health Center in Middletown. A Middlefield resident for nine years, Mary and her husband Dominick Grant formerly ran Old River Farm, a local organic CSA. She holds a Master's in Public Administration and has two children in Regional School District 13 — Louisa (13) and Benjamin (9). Mary officially began her role on **November 3rd** and can be reached at [ParkRec@middlefieldct.org](mailto:ParkRec@middlefieldct.org) or 860-836-0531.



## Resident State Trooper

*TPR Molly Vaughan*

Trooper Vaughan graduated from the University of New Haven with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Investigative Services. She joined the Connecticut State Police in 2021 and served several temporary assignments in Middlefield before officially becoming the town's evening shift resident trooper in October of this year.

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## Seeking Commission Volunteers

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Under Connecticut law, every municipality with a zoning commission must also maintain a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). While the Zoning Commission adopts land-use regulations, the ZBA provides an important balance by considering exceptions - known as variances - to those regulations. This board plays a critical role in our community. ZBA members are responsible for:

- Providing relief to property owners when the strict application of zoning regulations creates an undue hardship for a specific property
- Protecting the interests of the entire community by ensuring that variances are granted only when hardship truly exists and when the request aligns with Middlefield's overall plan of development.

The ZBA helps maintain fairness and flexibility in land-use decisions, ensuring our zoning system serves both individual needs and the long-term vision of the town.

The board meets once a month, and there are currently two vacancies. If you are interested in serving or would like more information - please contact: First Selectman Bob Yamartino @ [ryamartino@middlefieldct.org](mailto:ryamartino@middlefieldct.org) or 860-349-7114.

*Christopher Champagne, Chairman, Middlefield ZBA*

### Conservation Commission

The Town of Middlefield is seeking an alternate member to serve on the Conservation Commission. This board plays a vital role in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the town's natural resources and open spaces. The Conservation Commission is responsible for:

- Overseeing the stewardship and maintenance of town-owned open space
- Promoting responsible use of the trails, forests, and waterways
- Supporting wildlife habitat and invasive plant management efforts
- Encouraging community engagement in environmental protection and outdoor recreation

Alternate members participate in discussions, stay informed on matters before the Commission, and vote when regular members are unavailable — making this an excellent way to get involved, learn, and support Middlefield's long-term environmental goals.

If you are interested in serving or would like more information - please contact: First Selectman Bob Yamartino @ [ryamartino@middlefieldct.org](mailto:ryamartino@middlefieldct.org) or 860-349-7114.

# Tax Collector

## Taxes Due January

The second half of your Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are due **January 1, 2026** by **February 1, 2026**. Motor Vehicle Supplement taxes, vehicles you purchased after **October 1, 2024**, are also due **January 1, 2026**

## Delinquent Taxes

Please be advised that the Town of Middlefield/Rockfall is now under contract, with the approval of the First Selectman's Office and the Tax Collector's Office, with TaxServ Capital Services to aid in the collection of delinquent Motor Vehicle and Personal Property Taxes.



You will be receiving a letter from TaxServ if you have tax bills delinquent from 2008 to 2023. When you receive your letter, you **MUST** contact TaxServ to discuss your account and arrange payment. If you do call the Town of Middlefield Tax Office or the Assessor's Office; you will be directed to call TaxServ. TaxServ Capital Services LLC can be reached at 860-724-9100. Their website is <https://www.taxserv.com>.

Anne Olszewski, Tax Collector @ 860-349-7117 or [tax1@middlefieldct.org](mailto:tax1@middlefieldct.org)

# Public Works

The Middlefield Public Works Department is working on getting the fleet ready for snow season. We should have everything ready to go by Thanksgiving. We are also continuing with brush cutting around town in spots where the brush and limbs encroach into the roadway. This is done for better visibility and to reduce any damage to our plow trucks when plowing.



## Reminder About Snow and Leaves

We would like to remind all resident to refrain from leaving or blowing snow into the road due to the hazardous condition that it creates for the traveling public and for our plow drivers if one of the frozen piles is impacted. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.



## New Member Joins Public Works



The Department would like to acknowledge its newest team member, Maintainer II Mike Agostinucci who came on board in **June 2024**.

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

# Middlefield Volunteer Fire Co.

The final quarter of 2025 has been a busy and productive time for the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company. From honoring dedicated members, to advancing the Public Safety Building project, to new training opportunities and community holiday traditions, our volunteers continue to serve with pride and excellence.

## Annual Appreciation Night

On **October 18<sup>th</sup>**, the Fire Company held its annual Appreciation Night, recognizing the commitment and contributions of our members and their families. This year, **135 combined years of service** were honored across seven members - an impressive milestone for our community.

## Service Awards

- Firefighter Robert Fowler – 50 years
- Chief Peter Tyc – 30 years
- Lori Helmedach – 25 years
- Captain Nicholas Tyc – 10 years
- Firefighter James Crompton – 10 years
- Lieutenant Trevor Anderson – 5 years
- Firefighter Darin Bullock – 5 years

## Life Saving Awards and Unit Citations

During a recent medical emergency, Middlefield Firefighters arrived to find a patient in cardiac arrest with CPR in progress. Firefighters rapidly took over care and worked seamlessly with paramedics and EMTs from Middlesex Hospital and Hunter's Ambulance. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of all involved, the patient made a full recovery and was discharged soon after.

### Life Saving Awards

- Chief Peter Tyc
- Captain Eric St. Amand
- Lieutenant Chris Orts
- Lieutenant Trevor Anderson
- Firefighter Jay Wickham

### Unit Citations

- Firefighter Darin Bullock
- Firefighter Bob Carle
- Firefighter Roy Smith
- Firefighter Gabby Weronik

## Public Safety Building Project & New Equipment

Through local and grant funding, the Fire Company also acquired several new pieces of life-saving equipment:

- A full set of battery-powered hydraulic extrication tools, improving mobility and response capability at motor vehicle accidents.
- A new battery-powered ventilation fan, enhancing the department's ability to ventilate structures during fire incidents.

These improvements ensure our volunteers remain equipped with modern, reliable tools to protect the community.



## Live Fire Training with Region 2 Burn Trailer

This quarter offered a unique training opportunity as Middlefield hosted the **Region 2 Burn Trailer**, a state-provided asset that allows for multiple live-fire scenarios in a controlled environment.

Volunteers trained both during regular Monday drill nights and additional sessions, often alongside mutual aid partners from the Durham Fire Company and the Westfield Fire District. These exercises help ensure our firefighters remain well-prepared for real-world emergencies.

## Join Middlefield Fire!

Looking for a meaningful way to serve your community?

The Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company is seeking new volunteer firefighters and EMTs. No prior experience required - just a willingness to learn, train, and serve.

Learn more and apply at: [🔗 middlefieldfirect.org/join](https://middlefieldfirect.org/join)

Ethan Bufford-Cournoyer @

[ebuffordcournoyer@middlefieldfirect.org](mailto:ebuffordcournoyer@middlefieldfirect.org), Nicholas Tyc

@ [ntyc@middlefieldfirect.org](mailto:ntyc@middlefieldfirect.org)

## SANTA EXPRESS RETURNS!

Santa is once again visiting Middlefield aboard a fire truck! The annual Santa Express will deliver holiday cheer throughout town this season.

Registration closes **December 5th**.

Santa will make his rounds on **Sunday, Dec. 7th** and **Saturday, Dec. 13th**.



To register or learn more, visit:  
[middlefieldfirect.org/santa-express](https://middlefieldfirect.org/santa-express) or email  
[Santa@middlefieldfirect.org](mailto:Santa@middlefieldfirect.org)

## Middlefield Public Safety Facility – Groundbreaking

The Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company proudly marked the groundbreaking of the new Public Safety Facility on Friday, **November 14<sup>th</sup>** - a major milestone made possible through the hard work and collaboration of many partners.



We are deeply grateful to our federal, state, and local agencies, as well as our taxpayers, for their steadfast support, guidance, and shared commitment to advancing public safety in our town.

This project is a true testament to what we can accomplish when we come together with a common purpose. We look forward to the improved service, responsiveness, and protection this facility will provide to the Middlefield community for many years to come.



Public Safety  
Facility Committee  
Paul Pizzo



U.S. Rep. Rosa  
DeLauro



U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal  
(right) and guests



L to R: Commissioner Ronnell  
Higgins, DESPP, Senator Christine  
Cohen, First Selectman Robert  
Yamartino



L to R: Middlefield Fire  
Chief Peter Tyc and  
Deputy Chief Steven Tyc



L to R: Selectwoman Carol Bufithis, Public Safety Facility Committee Paul Pizzo, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro, Middlefield First Selectman Bob Yamartino, Middlefield Fire Chief Peter Tyc, State Senator Christine Cohen, State Representative Michael Quinn

# Conservation Commission

## Coe Hill Forest Stewardship Plan

The commission has recently received the completed Forest Stewardship Plan for the Coe Hill property from our consulting forester. This ten-year plan provides a comprehensive overview of the property, its current condition, and provides management recommendations for maintaining the health of the forest, improving wildlife habitat, and ensuring that Coe Hill remains a resilient and enjoyable natural area for future generations.

The plan will be posted on the Town website for residents who are interested in learning more about the property and the stewardship goals. The Town hopes to develop similar stewardship plans for additional properties in coming years.

If you have questions or comments after reviewing the plan, we encourage you to share your thoughts with the commission.

## Responsible Use of Town Open Spaces

The commission would also like to remind residents that **motor vehicles are not permitted on Coe Hill or any other Town open space**, except where clearly posted otherwise. This policy is in place to help protect trails, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and other natural features, and to ensure that these properties remain safe and enjoyable for all users.

## Vacancy

Our commission was recently granted two alternate seats by the board of selectmen and have one seat still open that we would like to fill in 2026.

Serving on the Commission is a meaningful way to get involved in local government, learn more about land use and conservation, and help guide decisions that affect our open spaces, wetlands, and natural resources. Alternates play an important role by participating in discussions, staying informed on projects, and stepping in to vote when regular members are absent.

If you are interested in learning more about the role, responsibilities, and requirements of Commission members, please reach out to the Chairman of the Conservation Commission or the Selectman's Office for additional information.

## Ongoing Community Feedback

As always, the Conservation Commission is interested in hearing from residents. If you have concerns, observations, or suggestions related to the Town's open spaces, trails, wetlands, or other natural resources, we encourage you to reach out. Community feedback helps us identify emerging issues, prioritize projects, and better understand how residents use and value these areas. *Brian Dumas, Chairman, @Bdumas@middlefieldct.org*

# Middlefield Leadership's Response to 2023 Townwide Survey



A "Preferences" survey was conducted in the summer of 2023 to hear what Middlefield residents felt about some 50 different activities that the town could take to affect/improve the quality of life in our community.

The web-based survey had 50 questions and asked residents to indicate if each idea was a high priority to be pursued, a low priority, or if they were neutral about the idea.

A total of 283 folks completed the lengthy survey, and over 100 additional comments were offered beyond the survey answers - giving a significant sampling of community desires for Middlefield.

Preferences to ideas were scored by a "preference ratio" of the number of those who agreed the idea should be pursued vs. those who disagreed.

For example - for the question "Middlefield should pursue as a high priority: Fire House Emergency Management Building Renovation" - 189 folks agreed - 42 disagreed.  $189/42 = 4.5$ . In other words, there were 4.5 folks in favor for everyone against.

Among the top priority preferences were:

- Improve communications in town
  - Implemented the Town Hall newsletter 01/01/2024
- Establish an Overall Vision for Middlefield's Future
  - Townwide Joint Board and Commission meeting
- Reduce Beseck Lake invasive plant and algae blooms
  - Herbicide treatment completed
- Protect and maintain our open spaces
  - Coe Hill Reclamation, invasive species removed
- Enhance the current fire house
  - Construction underway

The town has accomplished/made major progress on many of the initiatives. The full summary of actions taken (or not) on the 50 ideas is posted on the Middlefield Town website: (<https://www.middlefieldct.org/DocumentCenter/View/901/2023-Summer-Survey-Status-Oct-2025?bidId=>



**Save the Date for the - Jan. 29, 2026** for the Townwide Joint Board and Commission meeting.

*Jim Irish, Selectman*

## SLOW DOWN MIDDLEFIELD-ROCKFALL!

Speeding on our local roads is a growing concern. A resident-led group is forming to promote safer driving and encourage everyone to respect posted speed limits without relying on state police.

Interested? Contact Nancy Winship Poole at [nancywinshippoole@yahoo.com](mailto:nancywinshippoole@yahoo.com).





# WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority, Middlefield, CT – 860-349-7123

## SEWER SYSTEM USE AND CARE

The proper use of the sewer system and conservation will help to control operating and maintenance costs!

NEVER PUT THESE **PROHIBITED ITEMS** DOWN A DRAIN OR TOILET:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cat litter</li><li>• Cigarettes</li><li>• Cloth</li><li>• Dental Floss</li><li>• Diapers</li><li>• Food – peels, bones, etc.</li><li>• Glass</li><li>• Grease* – cooking (keep a grease cup/jar/can near your sink)</li><li>• Metal</li><li>• Oil* – cooking (keep a grease cup/jar/can near your sink)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oil – lubrication, gasoline, etc.</li><li>• Q-Tips</li><li>• Plastic objects (toys, utensils, etc.)</li><li>• Rags</li><li>• Sanitary napkins</li><li>• Tampons</li><li>• Socks</li><li>• Wipes – adult, baby, cleaning, disinfecting, facial hand, “flushable” (<i>they are not!</i>)</li></ul> |
|---|--|

\* **Please do not pour cooking oil/grease down the drain. It is one of the major causes of pump repairs!** As it travels down the drain, it cools, then hardens – clogging your house plumbing as well as the sewer system’s pumps and/or pipes. Instead, place it in a cup/jar/can container, let it cool, then dispose of it in your regular household trash.

## ...BESECK LAKE SEWER AREA...

The Beseck Lake sewer area is different from most public systems as it relies on pumps to convey all the wastewater. Most other public sewer systems have the benefit of utilizing gravity flow to move most or all of their wastewater. The Beseck Lake sewer area relies on grinder pumps throughout the entire collection system to pump wastewater to the central pump station located at the top of the Mattabeseck Road. From this pump station, the wastewater is pumped to Meriden’s sewer collection system.

**The WPCA’s largest expense is the maintenance and replacement of grinder pumps.**

Wipes are a major cause of pump failures. All wipes, including wipes as advertised as “flushable”, **will clog a pump.** Another major cause of pump failures is the pouring of cooking grease/oil down the drain. Please do not pour cooking grease/oil down the drain. These costly repairs are not necessary if everyone does their part to protect the sewer system.

### **ALARM / EMERGENCIES**

Each grinder pump has its own control box which has a red light and audible alarm. This control box may be located on the outside of your house, in your yard, or on a neighboring property. **If the light and/or alarm sounds, please follow these steps:**

1. Restrict water usage for 30 minutes (the flow into the pump chamber may exceed the pumping capacity).
2. If the red light does not go out, contact: Williamson Pump, **617-884-9200**.
3. If there is no response from Williamson after one hour, and the problem continues, call the WPCA's 24-hour telephone number: **860-982-1465**.

## HARVEST WOOD RD / SUNRISE RIDGE SEWER AREA

### **GRINDER PUMP ~ ALARM / EMERGENCIES**

The control box is in/on your house which has a red light and audible alarm. **If the light and/or alarm sounds, please follow these steps:**

1. Restrict water usage for 30 minutes (the flow into the pump chamber may exceed the pumping capacity).

If the red light does not go out, you can call Williamson Pump, **617-884-9200**, or a **contractor of your choice**.

The WPCA is not responsible for any costs incurred.

## Residents of the Beseck Lake Sewer Area

It is unfair to the many residents of Beseck Lake who pay, through their sewer use fees, for the few residents who misuse the sewer system.



Be advised that anyone who causes damage to the sewer system will be held liable for the cost of repairs. The WPCA will invoice the owner of the property from which the damage occurred. Please note that these repairs typically run into the thousands of dollars. Be cognizant of what you put down the drain or toilet. The WPCA thanks you for your proper use and care of your sewer system.

*Gregory Makuch, Chairman @ [Gmakuch@middlefieldct.org](mailto:Gmakuch@middlefieldct.org)*

## Beseck Lake Environmental Committee Update

In October/November, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), coordinating with the Beseck Lake Environment Committee and the Town of Middlefield, processed a 6-foot water drawdown. The State of CT owns Beseck Dam (and the boat ramp). (DEEP) is responsible for maintaining and repairing Beseck Dam. The dam is constructed with a drain, spillway, and weir board mechanism to control the water level. The DEEP technicians use the components of the dam to set the water level for the drawdown.

The drawdown allows the lakefront residents to repair docks, maintain the lakebed area around docks (rake and remove leaves, remove tree branches and any trash). Also, lakeshore walls can be maintained. In addition, the lower water level will dry the lakebed and expose the roots of the invasive plant Eurasian Milfoil to cold conditions that can kill the roots of the invasive plant.

The water and plant surveys are completed for 2025. The Environment Committee is working on preparing requests for proposals for the management of the lake for 2026.

Beyond the typical water and plant studies we want to identify water management companies that have processes in place to control excess aquatic plant growth, and to treat invasive plants. Also, a big question is how can blue-green algae blooms be controlled and treated in a cost-effective way.

*Rick Santos, Chairman @ [R.santos@middlefieldct.org](mailto:R.santos@middlefieldct.org)*

## Durham-Middlefield Giving Garden

### From Sugar Pumpkins to Sweet Potatoes

This season, at the Durham/Middlefield Giving Garden, found the volunteers interested in experimenting with a few new crops. Not a big yield for sugar pumpkins but they were turned into a delicious pie and muffins. Sweet potato seedlings were provided by a fellow gardener and surprisingly yielded 16 pounds despite very dry conditions. Nothing goes to waste, green tomatoes and fallen peaches make excellent relish and jams.



*Patrick McDermott*



*Tina Gossner*

This season the garden provided 1,229 pounds of produce and many flower jars for the Senior lunch programs and housing areas in both towns. This completes the seventh season for the garden and many of our volunteers have been contributing every year. It is always amazing to see what 7 to 10 pairs of hands can accomplish in 2 hours.

There is so much chatter a person might wonder how anything gets accomplished! We love to spread all things gardening so come and join us next season, no experience necessary!

*Betsy St. John, Durham-Middlefield Giving Garden*

## Durham-Middlefield Composting Program

**Join Middlefield's Food Scrap Composting Program This Winter!** Holiday Special: 50% Off Compost Starter Kits Through January 2, 2026

The holiday season is here—a time for cooking, celebrating, and, let's be honest, generating *lots* of food scraps. From turkey bones and vegetable peelings to cookie dough trimmings and leftover side dishes, the holidays produce the perfect materials to kickstart a composting habit.

Middlefield's Food Scrap Composting Program is already diverting **about one ton of food waste every month**, and this winter we're inviting more households to join in. Your participation helps reduce waste, cut disposal costs, and support a greener, more sustainable community.

Why Your Participation Matters - Every pound of food scraps dropped off at the Durham-Middlefield Transfer Station



reduces the total weight of trash our towns pay to dispose of. Because tipping fees are based on tonnage, separating out food waste directly supports long-term savings for Middlefield.

Food scraps make up 25–40% of typical household garbage. When diverted, they avoid the incinerator and instead head to Quantum Biopower in Southington, where they're transformed into clean energy and nutrient-rich compost. The more we collect together, the greater the environmental and financial benefit for our community.

The holidays are an especially high-waste season - making this the ideal moment to begin.

**Holiday Special: 50% Off Starter Kits** - To make it even easier to get started, the program is offering a special seasonal discount: Compost Starter Kits – 50% off through **January 2, 2026**. Each kit includes:

- A countertop food scrap pail
- A transport bin
- A roll of 25 certified compostable bags

This simple setup lets you start collecting scraps immediately—no backyard composting experience required!

**Discounted Compostable Bags** - Refill rolls of 25 compostable bags are now just \$2.50 per roll, a 50% discount. These durable, certified compostable bags keep the collection clean and convenient, even during busy holiday cooking.

#### How the Program Works

1. Collect scraps in the provided compostable bags.
2. Drop off at the DMIAAB Transfer Station during open hours.
3. Feel great knowing your scraps become renewable energy - not trash.

The program accepts nearly all food waste, including:

- Meat, bones, and dairy
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Grains, breads, and cookies
- Leftovers and plate scrapings

**Help Us Grow Beyond Ton a Month** -We're proud of the progress so far—but we're aiming higher. Increasing food-scrap diversion means:

- Lower waste-disposal costs for Middlefield
- Fewer greenhouse gas emissions
- A cleaner, more sustainable future for our town

Even one new participating household makes a measurable difference. Imagine the impact if dozens more join during this high-food-waste season.

#### Ready to Start?

Starter kits and discounted bag rolls are available at:

- The Transfer Station
- The Middlefield Land Use Department (Community Center)
- Durham Town Hall, First Selectman's Office



If you already use the Transfer Station, you're ready to participate - simply pick up a kit and begin collecting. This holiday season, turn your kitchen scraps into a community gift! Let's work together to reduce waste, save money, and make Middlefield a model for practical, community-driven sustainability.

*Carol Bufithis, Selectwoman*



## HEALTH DISTRICT UPDATES

**OFFICE HOURS: EVERY WEDNESDAY, 9AM – 1PM  
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

### **A Message from the District**

The staff of the South Central Health District is committed to supporting the health, safety, and quality of life of Middlefield residents. Over the past several months, our team has continued to strengthen public-health services, modernize systems, and expand community engagement across all three towns. We value our partnership with Middlefield's municipal leaders, residents, and community organizations, and we are pleased to share the following update highlighting recent work and upcoming initiatives.

### **Epi's World - Coming Soon!**

Prepare for Epi's World, SCHD's animated health education platform for kids, featuring Epi, the "Disease Detective." It offers lessons on germs, hygiene, safety, nutrition, and mental health. The full website launches soon, and residents should share it with young learners. Epi's World will be available next year in schools, libraries, and community spaces across three towns. Stay tuned for updates and participation opportunities!



**File Of Life** SCHD provides free File of Life magnets for Middlefield residents to store essential medical information on refrigerators. Residents can pick up a magnet at the office or Homebound residents may contact SCHD at 860-276-6275 for mail or delivery options.



Explore our website and social media accounts to discover upcoming programs!



# Park and Recreation

## Hello From Your New Parks and Recreation Director

Hello Middlefield neighbors, I'm delighted to be stepping into the role of Parks and Recreation Director for our town.

In the coming months, my goal is to simply get to know our parks, our programs, and the people who enjoy them. You'll likely see me around town – listening, learning, and meeting families as I settle in to my role and gather ideas for the year to come. If you see me out and about, please feel free to say hello! – I look forward to meeting you.

*Warmly, Mary*

*Mary Farnsworth @ 860-836-0531 or*

*ParkRec@middlefieldct.org*

## FEATURED PROGRAM

### Adult Table Tennis – New Players Welcome!

Looking for a fun, social weeknight activity? Join our Adult Drop-In Table Tennis group, meeting most **Thursday evenings** from **7:30–9:30 p.m.** in the Middlefield Community Center Auditorium (lower-level entrance). This free, year-round program is geared toward beginner to intermediate adult players - no instruction, just friendly games and great company.

To join the weekly mailing list, contact group leader **Neil Burford** at **neil\_burford@yahoo.com**. He sends a quick email each Wednesday to confirm if enough players are available for that week's session.

With 3 tables and a welcoming group of regulars, we'd love to see a few new faces come out and play!

## Help Shape Middlefield Parks & Recreation!

Here are some ideas we are considering launching this Winter!

- **Ski and tubing** clubs, lessons, meet ups (kids or adults)
- **Swim lessons** (indoor)
- **After-school programs** (arts, theater, dance, sports, Ukelele...)
- **Safety courses** (lifeguard training, CPR, babysitter training, ServeSafe, etc.)
- **Baby/Toddler/Caregiver Programs**
- **Friday Night Teen Outings** (Rock climbing, roller skating, bowling...)

Tell us what you want to see. Scan the QR code to share your ideas for new programs, events, and activities or by emailing [parkrec@middlefieldct.org](mailto:parkrec@middlefieldct.org).



**Help us keep our parks beautiful and safe.** See something that needs repair? Report an issue quickly using the QR code or by emailing [parkrec@middlefieldct.org](mailto:parkrec@middlefieldct.org).

## Annual Tree Lighting – November 30<sup>th</sup>, 5PM - 7PM

Join us at the Community Center Auditorium for Middlefield's beloved Tree Lighting! Santa arrives by fire truck at **5:30 PM** to help light the tree and take photos. Enjoy free food from the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company, plus hot chocolate and goodie bags from Parks & Recreation. Caroling throughout the evening. At **7:00 PM**, DMYFS and the Levi E. Coe Library will lead a peaceful contemplative walk in the Library's Labyrinth. All are welcome!



## Stay in the Loop!

Find out about Middlefield Parks and Recreations programs, events, and updates through:

- Our NEW Facebook page: Middlefield Park and Recreation
- Our NEW Instagram Page: MiddlefieldParksNRec
- Our Email List: <https://www.middlefieldct.org/list.aspx>



The Connecticut State Police "Stuff a Cruiser" event is a beloved annual tradition that spreads holiday cheer to families in need. During December, Troop F will collect new, unwrapped toys for children from infants through age 18 at the following drop-off locations:

- Tree Lighting Ceremony - Nov. 30
- Resident Trooper Office - Middlefield Community Center
- Middlefield Town Hall, 393 Jackson Hill Rd
- Troop F Headquarters - 315 Spencer Plains Rd., Westbrook

For more information call Judi at 860-349-7114

## Old Home Days May 29-30, 2026

The Committee has officially launched planning for the **2026 Old Home Days – An America 250 Star-Spangled Celebration!** It's shaping up to be one of our most exciting hometown celebrations yet, with fireworks sponsorship opportunities coming soon to help us light up the sky. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Middlefield Community Center — new members welcome!

## America 250

Stay tuned for a full lineup of America 250 programs and events — including Historical Society talks, school contests, cemetery tours, a time capsule, Liberty Tree planting, a White Dress Party, and more — all building toward the **2026 Old Home Days America 250 Star-Spangled Celebration!** Follow the Middlefield Historical Society and 2026 Old Home Days on Facebook for updates and volunteer opportunities.



# Senior & Social Services

## Food Bank Needs

- Shampoo, deodorant, body soap
- Laundry supplies, cleaning products, sponges
- Dish detergent & dishwasher tabs
- Pasta & sauce, rice, snack foods
- Coffee, tea, condiments
- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Baking items
- Gluten-free options

The need is real - many neighbors are struggling to meet basic food needs. No individual or family in our community should be food insecure.

## Upcoming Senior & Social Services Events

### Annual Holiday Party



**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 12PM – 2PM**

Celebrate the season at this cheerful annual gathering - a great chance to connect with our community. *RSVP: 860-349-7121*

### National Soup Day Celebration



**Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – 12PM**

Enjoy a trio of favorites: Pasta fagioli • Vegetable • Chicken noodle - Served with homemade bread!

### Share The Love Lunch

**Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – 12PM**

Enjoy lunch & special Valentine desserts!



### AARP Income Tax Program



**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>**

Registration required: 860-349-7121

### AARP Safe Driver Course

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Time TBD**



### Annual St. Patrick's Day Party (tentative)



**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> - Time TBD**

## Prepared & Empowered: Get Organized - Not Overwhelmed

This five-session program will help you and your family manage life's major transitions with confidence. With Lynn McPhelimy, Life Organizer and founder of Moving & More, LLC, you'll gain practical strategies for:

Each 60-minute session includes step-by-step strategies, actionable tools, Q&A, and helpful take-home

materials. Upcoming sessions held from **6PM – 8PM** at the Durham Community Center, 144 Pickett Ln., Durham

- **Thursday, December 11** – *Your Day, Your Way!*  
Navigate difficult conversations about money and end-of-life plans
- **Thursday, January 8** – *Ready, Set, Move!*  
Preparing for downsizing and moving.

*Funded by the Coginchaug Valley Educational Foundation (CVEF).*

## Ongoing Services & Programs

### Senior Lunch Program

Join us for lunch on **M/W/F**! We're excited to partner with Senior Resources and Futures Inc., which supports individuals with disabilities in building independent, fulfilling lives. Enjoy delicious meals and lasting friendships. To join our happy lunch bunch, call 860-349-7121.

*Monthly Foot Care Clinics* - Cost: \$35.00

By appointment only - call 860-349-7121

Clinics run **9:00AM – 12:30PM** on the following Fridays:

- **December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- **January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Exercise Classes* - **M/W/F** from **7:30AM – 8:30AM**

via Zoom and led by Sue Schade. Call 860-349-7121 for the Zoom link or for additional information.

- Mobility for Life: **Mondays at 1:00PM & Fridays at 11:15AM** (Senior Lounge)
- Chair Yoga: **Tuesdays at 10:30AM** (Community Center Auditorium)

*Book Club* - In partnership with the Levi E. Coe Library, the Senior Book Club meets at **2:00PM** on the **second Tuesday of each month**. To register, call 860-349-3857.

*Knit2gether* - **Thursday mornings at 9:30AM** in the Senior Lounge - bring your knitting or crocheting (supplies available). All skill levels welcome, including beginners! Come join us.

*Sewcial* - **Thursday afternoons at 2:30PM** in the Senior Lounge—sewing, knitting, embroidery, quilting and more. Bring your project or learn something new!

*Susan D'Orvilliers, Director/Municipal Agent for the Elderly @ 860-349-7121 or sdorvilliers@middlefieldct.org*

# Levi E. Coe Library

The Levi E. Coe Library is proud to recognize Head Children's Librarian **Vicki Berry**, who is celebrating **20 years with the library** this month!

*Celebrating*  
— 20 YEARS —

Known affectionately as Miss Vicki by children and parents, she began her career at the library in 2005 as the Assistant Children's Librarian and became Head of the Children's Department in 2007. Her lively Wednesday morning story times are a beloved tradition, complete with laughter, songs, and the occasional messy sensory table experiment.

Miss Vicki also created the popular Story Trail at Peckham Park and is always bringing new energy to the Children's Room with creative programs, new materials, and playful rearrangements of furniture and toys.

To mark her milestone anniversary, we asked Miss Vicki to reflect on her two decades of inspiring young readers:



Miss Vicki

How does it feel to be celebrating 20 years at the library?

*It's very exciting but also a little odd! Twenty years sounds like a long time, but it really hasn't felt like a long time at all.*

What do you enjoy most about your job?

*Watching the kids grow up.*

What has changed the most since you started?

*Both the library and the community have grown more vibrant and connected. There's so much more programming, energy, and collaboration now, not just here, but across Middlefield. The library works closely with Youth and Family Services and other local groups. It's a much more supportive, positive community.*

And what hasn't changed (and you're glad it hasn't)?

*The kids still love books. They love reading, and that makes me so happy.*

What are you most proud of?

*Definitely storytime. It's so much fun for everyone; the adults connect, the kids make friends, and some of those friendships have lasted for years.*

Do you remember your first big project?

*Yes! It was sorting the Easy Readers by reading level. Chris Davis, the Reading Specialist at John Lyman, gave me a guide to help me get started.*

What keeps you motivated after all these years?

*There's always something new to try and new people to meet. No two days are ever the same.*

Is there a patron interaction that stands out in your mind?

*Not one in particular, but I remember sitting at the kitchen table one night with my family and telling them a story about some kid and I said, "This kid is my favorite" and my kids just rolled their eyes and were like, "You say that about ALL of them!"*

Any favorite stories about library life?

*Once, a crow actually tried to come in the door! There it was, tapping on the glass with its claw like, "Hey, can someone help me out here?"*

What advice would you give to someone starting a career in libraries today?

*Keep your focus on the people and respond to what they need.*

What's your favorite book to recommend?

*Zen Shorts by Jon Muth. I think every human would have a better life if they read that book - it's funny, wise, and truly uplifting.*

If you weren't a librarian, what do you think you'd be doing?

*Probably bookkeeping or accounting. That's actually what I was heading towards - I was planning to get my certificate from Middlesex so I could work flexible hours while my kids were young.*

How do you like to spend your time when you're not at the library?

*Outdoors, definitely. I love hiking, gardening, and helping my husband Peter with the wood for our house. We've been trying to source as much of our food locally as possible and it's like a fun challenge between the garden, the CSA, and preserving food for winter. And if we get some snow this year, I'll be out snowshoeing!*

If you had an unlimited budget, what would you do?

*More space for programs, study areas, and displays and maybe some really spectacular programs, like bringing raptors to the library. How cool would that be?*

What do you hope for the library's future?

*That it continues to partner with community groups to support and strengthen Middlefield. And I hope storytime is still going strong! Maybe by then I'll be here for the Senior Book Club.*

What does the library mean to you personally?

*I'm so lucky to work here. This job allowed me to support my family and be there for my kids, while also being part of so many other families' lives. The library is a haven; for staff, for children, for parents, grandparents, and the elderly. It has given me such a high quality of life, and I'm deeply grateful for that.*

Jess Lobner, Library Director @  
[levicoelibraryjess@gmail.com](mailto:levicoelibraryjess@gmail.com) or 860-349-3857



# A Powerful Day of Connection at Middlefield's First Human Library

Middlefield's very first **Human Library**, held on **October 18th** at the Levi E. Coe Library, was nothing short of inspiring. Over the course of four vibrant hours, our small-town library became a place of extraordinary conversations, heartfelt storytelling, and community connection. Forty-five readers of all ages came through the doors, eager to "check out" one of ten Human Books - neighbors who generously shared deeply personal experiences to help challenge assumptions, expand empathy, and foster understanding.

From the moment readers walked through the front doors - greeted by welcoming volunteer librarians, bright banners, and the inviting scent of coffee and snacks - the atmosphere buzzed with curiosity and openness. Families, retirees, young adults, and longtime residents all found themselves drawn into the unique rhythm of the day: sit, listen, ask, reflect, and grow.

## Books that Open Hearts and Minds

The event featured ten Human Books, each with a powerful story. Some shared lived experiences around identity - *Muslim*, *Black Woman*, or *Growing Up in Low-Income Housing*. Others spoke about journeys through health challenges such as *Dementia Positive* or *Pregnancy-Related PTSD*. Topics like *Healing, Dying: Whose Rules?*, and justice-involved experiences also invited readers to explore complex, often misunderstood life paths.

By the end of the day, our Human Books had participated in over **50 individual readings**, with some receiving as many as nine eager readers. Their reflections painted a vivid picture of impact: bonding with fellow community members, connecting with young people who shared similar histories, and hearing readers say things like, "Wow, I never knew PTSD could be related to pregnancy."

Every reader left having learned something new - and in many cases, having reconsidered assumptions they didn't even realize they held. Readers Reflect: "I Was Moved." "Inspired." "Changed." Reader feedback was overwhelmingly enthusiastic:

- People appreciated the honesty and vulnerability of the Books, calling conversations "life-changing," "eye-opening," and "a privilege."

- One reader shared, "I loved being able to ask any question, no matter how personal or inappropriate."
- Another said, "This is the best community-wide event."

Nearly all readers reported learning new things about their topics, feeling more comfortable asking questions by the end of their reading, and leaving more open to engaging with unfamiliar perspectives in everyday life.

Several expressed a wish that they had arrived earlier so they could read even more Books - a sure sign that the Human Library resonated deeply.

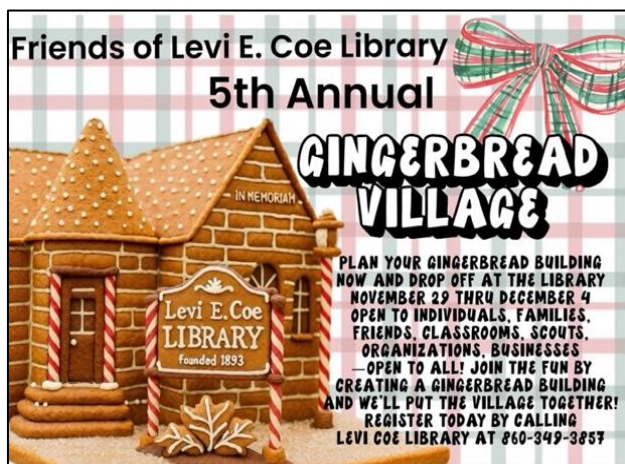


## Community Hopes for the Future

Readers also offered suggestions for future Book titles—ranging from *LGBTQ+ identities* to *Caregiving*, *Mental Health*, and *Aging*. The community's message was clear: "Please host this event again".

And with such enthusiastic participation, heartfelt exchanges, and shared commitment to understanding one another, it's safe to say that Middlefield's Human Library has already become a beloved new tradition. *Carol Bufithis, Selectwoman*

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



The Levi E. Coe Library will once again feature its **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread House Village** throughout December, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



# Durham-Middlefield Youth and Family Services

## Every Creation Belongs in Expressions of Healing. No Experience Needed

"Expressions of healing gave me more of a purpose other than just my everyday life, it helped me over come the fear of showing my art, it made me feel seen, important and that I wasn't alone in my struggles."  
- Andraea Cenotti

### Expressions of Healing

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ART BOOK & SHOWCASE

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!



visit: [www.dmyfs.org/expressions-of-healing](http://www.dmyfs.org/expressions-of-healing)

## SUBMISSIONS CAN BE ANONYMOUS!

### EXPRESSIONS OF HEALING: A MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SHOWCASE

"DMYFS has made yet another powerful impact on the community in creating the Expressions of Healing event and book. I was moved by the submissions from all ages and felt a sense of connection at the gallery. As a high school teacher in the district, I see students navigate mental health challenges daily, and this showcase gave many of them a chance to express their experiences—and to see their experience shared by others when they engaged in the gallery. The fact that all ages were represented in the gallery further emphasizes the need for openness, discussion, awareness, and resources surrounding mental health. From the soul-baring submissions of art and writing to the local wellness organizations with tables at the event, Expressions of Healing is the approach to mental health that we all need and can appreciate."  
- Rebecca Suchy

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: **MARCH 27**

DROP-OFF AT DMYFS, OR THE LIBRARIES (DPL, LCL)

ALL ARTWORK **MUST** BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON WITH A SUBMISSION FORM TO BE FEATURED!

GALLERY AND SHOWCASE **ON APRIL 24TH**



Durham Middlefield  
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

## NICE OR NOTHING

...then something kind

Inspired by the saying, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all," DMYFS, together with Paper House Productions and the Girl Scouts of America, is launching the Kindness Coalition to promote healthy communication and online etiquette. The Coalition is part of the Durham Middlefield Local Wellness Coalition.

### STEPS TO JOINING OUR KINDNESS COALITION

#### Step 1

Answer the questions at this link

#### Step 2

Watch the 3 videos on...

- I statements
- Active Listening
- Meta Moments

#### Step 3

Practice kindness in all areas of your life!

#### Step 4

Take the final survey 2 months later

#### Step 5

Sign the Nice or Nothing Pledge!

SCAN ME



Follow DMYFS @dmyfs-ct on Instagram and [facebook.com/dmyfs](https://facebook.com/dmyfs) and repost our healthy communication posts.

and

Be on the lookout for one of DMYFS's Kindness Coalition trainings.

Please be on the lookout for our Pledge Celebration in May 2026!



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
of Middlesex County

girl scouts  
of connecticut  
This is a Girl Scout Gold Award Project

PaperHouse Productions

## NICE OR NOTHING, THEN SOMETHING KIND

Healthy Communication Training

### "I" STATEMENTS

communicate without blaming

#### 1 I feel...

- How did you feel?
- "I felt hurt."

#### 2 When...

- What is bothering you?
- "When you walked away from me..."

#### 3 Because...

- How are you affected?
- "because I'm telling you something important."

#### 4 So I ask...

- What do you want?
- "Will you please listen to me?"

More examples:

- I feel worried when you don't text if you'll be late because I don't know if you're safe, so I ask that you send a quick message.
- I feel stressed when work is assigned at the last minute because it's hard to plan, so I ask for more notice.
- I feel frustrated when dishes are left in the sink because I like a clean kitchen, so I ask that you put them in the dishwasher before bed.

### ACTIVE LISTENING

be present in conversations

#### 1 Pay attention

- Withhold interruptions and judgement
- Minimize distractions

#### 2 Body language

- Nonverbal cues
  - Facing speaker
  - Eye contact
  - Nodding

#### 3 Reflect and respond

- Asking questions
- Repeat key points
- Check for understanding

Listen to understand, not just to respond.

Take our survey!



### META MOMENTS

think of your best self

#### 1 Pause

- Take a deep breath and step back

#### 2 Notice

- What are you feeling?
- What are you thinking?

#### 3 Best Self

- Ask yourself, "What would the best version of myself do right now?"

#### 4 Respond mindfully

- Make a conscious choice on how you would like to respond



## DURHAM MIDDLEFIELD YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

## A closer look: Healthy Body Image and Relationship with Food

Durham Middlefield  
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

According to the 2025 RSD13 Youth Survey...

**17% of youth** reported irregular or unhealthy eating patterns — such as bingeing, purging, rigid food routines, or negative feelings associated with eating.

At Coginchaug Regional High School...

The number of those reporting disordered eating symptoms rises to **over 21%**

That is over 1 in 5 teens



Why it Matters...

Disordered eating in adolescence can lead to **chronic physical and mental health problems** and increase the risk for eating disorders later in life.

### What is DMYFS doing to help?

Virtual Community Conversation on **12/10/25 @ 5:30pm**

Nourishing: Supporting Positive Body Image and Balanced Eating

REGISTER NOW

OR

Sign up on our website



[www.dmyfs.org/upcoming-events.html](http://www.dmyfs.org/upcoming-events.html)



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
of Middlesex County

girl scouts  
of connecticut  
This is a Girl Scout Gold Award Project

PaperHouse Productions



## In Case You Missed It - Vietnam Veteran Era Honorees Ceremony – Videos and Pictures

If you didn't get a chance to view the photos or the video from our August *Welcome Home, Vets* event, you can still enjoy them online. Click here to see the full gallery and video recap – a beautiful tribute to our veterans and their families.



State Representative Susan Bysiewicz  
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCwQPk>

CT House Republicans  
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCs4Ww>



Cablecast TV  
<https://reflect-vsctv.cablecast.tv/internetchannel/show/5908?site=1>

## Middlefield Historical Society

### The Trolley Line That Never Ran

In 1909, the Meriden, Middletown & Guilford Electric Railway Company was founded during the height of Connecticut's trolley boom, with Francis E. Atwater as its first and only president. The vision was bold: a new electric trolley running from Meriden to Guilford, passing directly through Middlefield and Durham, with a spur connection in Middlefield allowing passengers to transfer to Middletown.

The idea attracted support from prominent businessmen in Meriden (James H. White, Leonardo Suzio, the Hall family and others) and Middletown (Joseph Merriam, James H. Bunce, Thomas W. Russell, Edward E. Jackson and others). In Middlefield, Town Clerk Alfred H. Auger played a key role in acquiring the rights-of-way, negotiating most land in exchange for company stock rather than cash. Frank Arrigoni of Durham, a road-building contractor, also became involved with hopes of securing the construction work.

### Where The Line Would Have Run

The trolley was intended to link with Meriden's East Main Street line, ending at Preston Avenue near Black Pond and the Middlefield border. Most of the deeds for rights-of-way were recorded in the Middlefield Land Records on August 9, 1909.

Grading of land started at the Middlefield line near Black Pond and proceeded to climb the westerly slope of Lake Beseck Range in a southeasterly direction to the summit and then descend on the easterly slope in the same southeasterly direction to the southern end of Lake Beseck, or Middlefield Reservoir, as it was then known. It crossed the southern end of the reservoir following an old road in the woods that had been in use before the reservoir was created for water power to industries downstream in the Coginchaug Valley. The routes followed along the south side of the approach to Beseck Lake Dam, that is along the north side of what was known as Happy Acres (until the mid-1970s). It then connected with Baileyville Road, now known as Route 147, following Route 147 below the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, a factory that ran under the railroad trestle to a point of crossing of Route 157 (Durham-Middlefield Rd.) at what was known as Peckham's Corner. From Peckham's Corner the line was to connect to the Middletown- Middlefield trolley line that dead-ended at the railroad tracks in Middlefield Center. That connection was never made. The route then followed through the Coginchaug Valley in the same southeasterly direction across the Coginchaug River from land belonging to Charles E. Lyman to land belonging to that of Abraham Anderson. It followed the east bank of the river to Route 147 and to the Durham-Middlefield town line.

It proceeded southeasterly at the rear of farms and buildings bordering Route 147 until it arrived at the rear of property on Main Street, Durham, belonging to Frank Arrigoni.

### Why The Line Was Never Finished

By late 1912–1913, progress collapsed. Several pressures hit at once:

- nationwide economic strain before World War I
- financial difficulties at the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad
- the sudden arrival of Henry Ford's economical "jitney bus", which began replacing short-route trolley travel
- rising uncertainty about the long-term future of trolley systems

Although portions of the roadbed were graded, no bridge was ever built over the Coginchaug River and no ties or rails were ever laid.

### The End of the Project

After World War I, the company could no longer pay its taxes or debts. In 1917, it transferred all property to bankruptcy trustee Henry H. Lyman of Middlefield. To settle bills and back taxes, rights-of-way were sold off — often to the very landowners who had originally traded their land for company stock, which was now worthless. And so, the ambitious plan for an electric rail line across Meriden, Middlefield, Durham, and Guilford — a route that was mapped, surveyed, recorded in deeds, and even partially graded — became known locally as "the trolley line that never ran."

Fran Gudelski, Curator @ [historicalsociety@middlefieldct.org](mailto:historicalsociety@middlefieldct.org)



**Coming Soon - A New Middlefield Historical Society Website!**



PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM Retail

## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

## IMPORTANT DATES

### TOWN HALL

393 Jackson Hill Road / P.O. Box 179

Robert C. Yamartino -	First Selectman
Susan McNamara -	Selectwoman
Doug O'Rourke -	Selectman
Judi Rand -	Executive Assistant
Al Rusilowicz -	Finance Director
Kathleen Kokoszka -	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 Chowanec -	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
Mary Farnsworth -	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
TPR Molly Vaughan -	Resident State Trooper

Nov. 30	<b>ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING</b> <i>Middlefield Community Center Auditorium</i> 5PM – 7PM
All of Dec.	<b>STUFF-A-CRUISER TOY DRIVE</b> <i>RST Office, Middlefield Community Center, Town Hall</i>
Dec. 7 & 13	<b>SANTA'S COMING – GIFT IN HAND</b> <i>Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company</i> 9AM – 5PM
Dec. 20	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2PM</i>
All of Dec.	<b>GINGERBREAD HOUSE VIEWING</b> <i>Levi Coe Library</i>
Dec. 25 & 26, Jan 1	<b>TOWN OFFICES CLOSED</b> <i>Happy Holidays!</i>
Jan. 1 – Feb. 1	<b>REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY &amp; MOTOR VEHICLE</b> <i>Taxes Due</i>
Jan. 17	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2PM</i>
Jan. 29	<b>TOWNWIDE JOINT BOARD &amp; COMMISSIONS MEETING</b> <i>7 PM Community Center Auditorium</i>
Feb. 21	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2PM</i>
Beginning of March	<b>NEXT ISSUE OF TOWN NEWSLETTER</b>
Mar. 21	<b>HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b> <i>Open House 10AM – 2PM</i>



**TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD**  
393 Jackson Hill Rd.  
P.O. Box 179  
Middlefield, CT 06455  
860-349-7114  
[www.middlefieldct.org](http://www.middlefieldct.org)



Website

Facebook