

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
PLAYGROUND
EQUIPMENT AND
INSTALLATION PROJECT
REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Middlefield is seeking Bids for the purchase and installation of a new playground system for ages 5 through 12 years of age by a Contractor in the center of Middlefield at 172 Skyline Trail adjacent to the Middlefield Senior Center. The Town is also requesting the Contractor to furnish and install required playground border timbers and stakes shown for existing swing sets and Monkey Bar Area. Measurements of the areas to receive the timbers are in the Bid Documents. The Contractor will also be responsible for providing and installing a new geodesic cloth barrier to cover all areas to receive safety barrier fill by others. All new and existing areas will be prepared by others for the installation of the border timbers by the successful Bidder. Safety filling of each area will also be provided and installed by others. The plan calls for the use of approved rounded wood chip bark mulch per the state required depth. The successful playground contractor shall provide at least a one-year warranty on all parts and labor. Extended warranties are welcomed.

Bid documents will be

available starting on Monday December 1, 2025, and will be available until 2:00 P.M. on December 22, 2025. Bids documents can be requested by contacting the Town of Middlefield Administrative Assistant Mark Doane at middlefieldassistant@gmail.com or by calling the Middlefield Town Hall at 413-623-2079 ext. 2. Bids can also be picked up from the Middlefield Administrative Assistant Office located in the Select Board Office 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243 on Mondays from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. and Wednesdays from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The Select Board Office is located in the Town Hall, 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA 01243. There is no cost for Bid Documents. It is suggested that Bidders view the site of the new playground system which will be constructed on the site of the existing playground adjacent to the Middlefield Senior Center located at 172 Skyline Trail in Middlefield, MA. All Bids must be received by the Middlefield Administrative Assistant no later than Monday December 22, 2025, at 2:00P.M. All bids must be delivered to the Town Administrative Assistant's Office located in the Middlefield Town Hall 188 Skyline Trail Middlefield, MA

01243 in sealed envelopes with Playground System Bid printed on the envelope by 2:00 P.M. on December 22, 2025. No Bids will be accepted after that time and date. Bids will be opened immediately after the close of Bidding at 2:05 P.M. in the Middlefield Town Hall. The project will be awarded immediately after Bids are opened and the project shall begin when weather conditions and site preparations are completed. All work in this Bid shall be completed no later than April 24, 2026.

Note: Massachusetts Prevailing Rates are required to be paid on this project. Questions can be directed to Ann Marie Visconti Chair, Middlefield Select Board by calling 413-623-2079, 413-433-2729, or by email: middlefield.amv@gmail.com.
12/04, 12/11/2025

THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Central Massachusetts
Division
10 Mechanic Street, Suite 301
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 792-7600
(508) 795-1991
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ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL

ATTORNEY GENERAL
October 14, 2025
Suzanne C. Lemieux,
Town Clerk
P.O. Box 265
Middlefield, MA 01243
Re: Middlefield Annual Town Meeting of May 3, 2025 - Case # 11996
Warrant Articles # 32 and 33 (General)

Dear Ms. Lemieux:
Article 32 - We approve Article 32 from the May 3, 2025 Middlefield Annual Town Meeting.

Article 33 - We take no action on Article 33 because it is not a by-law amendment and is therefore not subject to the Attorney General's review and approval under G.L. c. 40 32. Under Article 33 the Town voted "to establish a 'strong' fire chief statute [under]...MGL Chapter 48, Section[s] 42, 43, and 44." General Laws Chapter 48, Section 42 provides in relevant part:

Towns accepting the provisions of this section and sections forty-three and forty-four, or which have accepted corresponding provisions of earlier laws may establish a fire department to be under the control of an officer to be known as the chief of the fire department. The chief shall be appointed by the selectmen, and shall receive such salary as the selectmen may

from time to time determine, not exceeding in the aggregate the amount annually appropriated therefor. He may be removed for cause by the selectmen at any time after a hearing. He shall have charge of extinguishing fires in the town and the protection of life and property in case of fire. He shall purchase subject to the approval of the selectmen and keep in repair all property and apparatus used for and by the fire department. He shall have and exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties conferred or imposed by statute upon engineers in towns except as herein provided, and shall appoint a deputy chief and such officers and firemen as he may think necessary, and may remove the same at any time for cause and after a hearing. He shall have full and absolute authority in the administration of the department, shall make all rules and regulations for its operation, shall report to the selectmen from time to time as they may require, and shall annually report to the town the condition of the department with his recommendations thereon; he shall fix the compensation of the permanent and call members of the fire department subject to the approval of the selectmen. In the expenditure of money the chief shall be subject to such further limitations as the town may

from time to time prescribe. The appointment of the chief of the fire department in any town or district having a population of five thousand or less may be for a period of three years.

Because Article 33 is a vote to accept a local option statute, and not a by-law, it is not subject to the Attorney General's review and approval. For that reason, we take no action on Article 33. However, votes to accept statutes are supposed to be filed with the Secretary of State's Office and if the vote involves a financial matter, with the Department of Revenue/Division of local Services as well. The Town should consult with Town Counsel with any questions on this issue.

Note: Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, neither general nor zoning by-laws take effect unless the town has first satisfied the posting/publishing requirements of that statute.

Very truly yours,
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL
By: Nicole B. Caprioli
Assistant Attorney General
Deputy Director, Municipal Law Unit
10 Mechanic Street, Suite 301
Worcester, MA 01608
(774) 214-4418
cc: Town Counsel
Lauren F. Goldberg
12/04, 12/11/2025

GARDEN

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Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. It's important, however, to have the wire catch a little bit of the stem of the prior bunch – that way the wreath will be good and tight.

You can make a wreath of just extra boughs from your Christmas tree, but mixing in other types of greens will make it more interesting. I like to use prunings from my home landscape: mountain laurel, boxwood, juniper, and white pine among others will look great together because they vary in color and texture.

You can dress up a green wreath with pinecones, winterberries and artificial fruit, not to mention a big bow. Most types of Christmas tree boughs are conducive to wreath making, but wear thick gloves if you are using Colorado blue spruce as your base – it sure is picky!

When my Dad gave up making his famous wreaths, Mom took a simpler yet more elaborate approach to decorating our house. She would make a swag for each window!

First determine how many you want to make, then set up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well.

I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice upside-down "fan."

Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems

four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally.

Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a different take on decorating.

Whether this is your first attempt at wreath and swag making or you've been at it for years, enjoy this holiday ritual, just as my mom and dad did.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

REGION

DCR lists universal access programs

BOSTON — The Department of Conservation and Recreation announces its Universal Access Program's winter programming schedule to ensure that every Massachusetts resident can experience and enjoy the outdoors year-round.

The programming adapts some of New England's most popular outdoor wintertime activities to the varying abilities and needs of all park visitors. This year's winter lineup includes adaptive skiing, skating, snowshoeing, hiking, and sledding, running now through March. DCR partners with non-profit organizations and volunteers across the state to provide specialized equipment and support personnel at program locations throughout

the state each winter.

"Our outdoor spaces belong to everyone, and we want every resident to experience the joy of winter," said DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle. "Through the Universal Access Program and our work with community partners, we're creating more ways for people of all abilities to see themselves in our parks whether that's on a ski mountain, a winter trail or an ice rink and to experience the beauty of the outdoors all year long."

"Wintertime is a great time to take advantage of DCR's Universal Access Program recreation offerings. Whether it's sit-skating, adaptive cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or any of our other opportunities to get out of the house and

enjoy this beautiful time of year," said UAP Program Director Tom McCarthy. "Please join us for a fun-filled experience. We look forward to seeing you soon."

This winter, DCR will provide adaptive programming at 15 parks, skating rinks, and ski areas. Each activity is tailored to accommodate a wide variety of participant needs and the majority are offered at no cost. All UAP programs include adaptive equipment for a variety of needs, professional staff, instruction, and support. Programs are for individuals of all ages with any disabilities. Friends and family members of participants are also encouraged to take part.

In addition to program-

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2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week
207-607-9333

Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP

The Town of Williamsburg, MA, is accepting applications for the position of Town Administrator.

Williamsburg has a population of approximately 2,500 and an annual operating budget of \$10 million.

As the chief administrative officer of the Town, the Town Administrator is appointed by and reports to the Select Board. While working with considerable independence, the Town Administrator performs administrative and supervisory duties; coordinates and supports the activities of departments, commissions, boards, committees, and offices of the Town of Williamsburg; carries out the policies and activities of the Select Board; and serves as a liaison and coordinator among other Town departments and organizations.

A bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or a related field is preferred; three to five years of experience in municipal administration as a Town Administrator or in a related field is preferred; experience in public procurement is preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

The position is Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) exempt and fully benefited at 40 hours per week (M–F, 8 AM–4 PM). Friday may be remote or in-office. The position includes a minimum of two evenings per month for Select Board meetings; other night meetings may be required as needed. The salary is commensurate with experience, within the range of \$75,000–\$90,000. A complete job description is available on the Town's website at: <https://www.burgy.org/board-selectmen/pages/employment-applications-opportunities>.

Resumes will be accepted until 01/05/2026. To apply, please submit a resume and a letter of interest to selectmen@burgy.org.



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This offer is available to all babies born in 2025.
Pictures will be published the week of December 23-26, 2025.



Logan Distler
September 22, 2024
Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

Baby's Name: _____
Birthdate: _____
Parents' Names: _____

Parents' Town of Residence: _____
Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

☐ Agawam Advertiser News	☐ Quaboag Current
☐ Barre Gazette	☐ The Register
☐ Chicopee Register	☐ Sentinel
☐ Country Journal	☐ Town Reminder
☐ The Holyoke Sun	☐ Ware River News
☐ Journal Register	☐ The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025