

THE MIDDLESEX NEWSPAPER

A Community Newspaper For
MIDDLESEX, VERMONT



Settled by Thomas Mead, first non-native settler in Washington County, Chartered 8 June, 1763.
Population 1,800; 25,984 acres; 38 square miles

Artwork By: Chris Sands

Vol. 22, Number 1

JANUARY 2012

12 PAGES

DUBOIS CONSTRUCTION OF MIDDLESEX FOUNDED IN 1946 BURNED IN A MASSIVE FIRE ON JANUARY 6, 2012

"A Community that comes together in times of adversity stays together. We wish all of the best for DuBois Construction as they re-build for the future. "

photos Jeannette Wulff



Phoenix Rising from the Ashes

The building and some of the company's equipment are considered a total loss. The exact cause of the fire is not yet known, but officials have ruled out arson.

Phil Scott said "The Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department and several other local departments worked tirelessly to try to save our building." DuBois Construction was founded by Scott's uncle in 1946. For the last 26 years, Phil Scott and his Cousin, Don DuBois, have run the business together. Scott and DuBois are determined to rebuild. However, in the meantime, with the help of friends they have set up a temporary office trailer (seen to the right) over the weekend, and were ready to fulfill road salt orders as usual first thing Monday morning.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT * OWNERS: Phil Scott & Don DuBois * LOCATION: Middlesex, VT

According to the official SUMMARY OF INCIDENT from the Vermont State Police, on January 6, 2012 at 2006 hours the Middlesex Fire Department was dispatched to 46 Three Mile Bridge Road for a reported building fire. The Montpelier Fire Department was also immediately dispatched via mutual aid. Upon arrival the Fire Departments found fire coming from the front garage bay door and wood siding above the door. The Middlesex and Montpelier Fire Departments requested mutual aid from Barre Town, Barre City, Stowe, Berlin, Bolton, East Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Plainfield, Waitsfield, Waterbury, Woodbury, Worcester, Hardwick, and Williamstown Fire Departments.

The Middlesex Fire Department called the Vermont Fire Unit to request an origin and cause investigation. A Detective with the VSP Fire Unit, an Investigator from the Division of Fire Safety responded to the scene to investigate on January 7, 2012.

The investigation showed the cause of this fire to be undetermined, not suspicious. The shop and office area sustained extensive damage. There were no reported injuries as a result of this fire. The value of the loss is estimated at one million dollars. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Det. Sgt. Nally at 802-229-9191 or Vermont Arson Tip Award Program (VATAP) at 1-800-32-ARSON

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 line Tell your friends and family who don't live
 in Middlesex that they can access our paper and
 read your stories.

www.middlesexnewspaper.org



Town of Middlesex Website News

by Cindy Carlson, Town Clerk

The Town of Middlesex Website is on line
 at **www.middlesexvermont.org**

It is still a work in progress, but it is much
 easier to navigate and find those important
 forms you might be looking for. Please
 check out the new site and let me know if
 you have any questions or suggestions!

Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department

3 Church St., Middlesex, VT, 05602

Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to announce the election of new officers for 2012

The fire officers include:

Chief – Doug Hanson
 Assistant Chief – Gary Webster
 Captain – Charlie Dupont
 Captain – Liz Fortman
 Lieutenant – Leo Ormiston Lieutenant – Bob Bower



The association officers for the year include :

Mark Tillinghast – President
 Jeff Koonz – Vice President
 Bruce Jackson – Treasurer
 Bob Bower – Secretary



After ten years as Fire Chief, Mark Tillinghast retired at the end of 2011. During Mark's tenure, two major projects were completed. First, an aging Engine 1 was replaced in 2004 with a new engine manufactured by E-One. Second, a new village fire station was built. For nearly five decades, the Middlesex Fire Department used the old village school house as a fire station. While the building served the department well over the years, age and the changing types and size of apparatus, necessitated a new station. Mark's experience and dedication was essential in bringing both of these projects to a successful conclusion. While these two projects were significant, Mark's guidance of the department over the years has fostered an environment where members felt enabled to use their talents cooperatively. The membership thanks Mark for his years of dedication, and look forward to continuing to see him on calls.

Doug Hanson has stepped into the role as Fire Chief. Doug has been a member of the fire department since 1993, first as a fast squad member, and then a firefighter. Doug has been progressing his way up through the officer ranks, serving for the last 6 years as Assistant Fire Chief. Doug is a familiar face in EMS District 6. Doug is an EMT-Advanced, has been the Fast Squad coordinator since 1998, has represented the Middlesex Fast Squad at EMS District 6 meetings, and often assists with EMT classes.

Please join us in welcoming Doug as our new Chief.



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The Benoit Brothers will share all new stories, film footage, advice and answer many of your questions.

Their website - www.benoitsbigbucks.com



Photo by Jeannette Wulff

L-R: Shane Benoit who lives in Middlesex, and his brother Lanny, at their booth at the Yankee Sportsman's Classic a few years ago. They hope to see you this year!



January 9, 2012 was the Full 'Wolf' Moon

The Wolf Moon is the name given by Native Americans to a full moon that occurs in January. Native Americans chose this name because they heard hungry wolf packs howl outside the villages. This full moon is also known as the Old Moon or the Moon After Yule. Full Moon names date back to Native Americans of what is now the northern and eastern United States. The tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquian tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names. Since the lunar month is roughly 29.5 days long on the average, the full moon dates shift from year to year. Courtesy the Farmer's Almanac

2011 MIDDLESEX WEATHER

by Dick Alderman, Center Road

The two weather highlights of the year were both rainstorms. The first occurred over the last weekend of May with on and off deluges totaling 4.72" as measured on Center Road. Highlight #2 was the now famous Storm Irene which struck on August 28 with 3.94", an Irene reading considerably lower than many other Vermont communities. The town suffered more road damage in May and more property damage with Irene. Irene's destruction was mostly confined to residents of Three Mile Bridge and Rich Roads from the raging Winooski River forcing some families to make a hasty, middle-of-the-night, evacuation by canoe.

Temperature wise, the 2011's average temperature came in at 42.9°. Which was about average. Temps ranged from a -24° on January 4, the coldest reading since 1999, to +92° on both July 21 and 22, the highest readings since the summer of 2008.

For a while it appeared that 2011 would break the annual rainfall record on Center Road. But insufficient precipitation in November and December foiled any chance. Total precip for the year came in at 60.34", just short of the 61.12" record of 2004. Snowfall totals were an even 150", above average and the most since 2008. Measurable snow fell on 54 days and rain on 133 days. Temperatures of 0° or below occurred on 20 days and 32° or less on 167 days. 90° and above were recorded on 3 days in July. Days with measurable snow on the ground numbered 129 with the deepest, 40.5", on March 10 and the most since the 41" pileup of March 2001.

Heating Degree Days were a low 8233 but 2010 was even less with 7900. Cooling Degree Days were also low at just 128, the fewest since 1997. Finally, about 2 out of 3 Middlesex days were on the cloudy side which is normal.

So, a lot of interesting weather in 2011 observed here on Center Road but nothing record-breaking.

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Musings from North Bear Swamp *Tucker*

By Tim Hayward

No question, despite the one early storm the snow has been late in arriving. Finally in mid-December we awoke to several inches of new powder, enough to lightly bend the balsam and spruce boughs. The streaming early-morning sun turned the snow to a dazzling diamond display.

It was time for a walk in the woods.

I pulled on my thermal boots, donned my parka, hat and gloves, called Tucker, our Yellow Lab, and out the door we went. Actually, I had to make way for Tucker, 'cause there was no way he was going to let me out first.

Tucker and I retired in the same year, more or less. While I retired from State service, Tucker did so from mountain climbing. As I've mentioned in the past Tucker and I together have climbed one or the other of the Worcester mountains hundreds of times. They're there; why not?

But, age finds us all, dogs and humans alike. Tucker's joints just couldn't take it any longer. Thanks to our veterinarian friend Dr. Paul Alfarone, however, Tucker's daily meds have given him a reprieve of sorts, allowing him to enjoy a reasonable stroll without the associated pains from his old and worn joints.



So, out we went heading past the pond, through the three pine field, and into the woods. We had to cross a small brook, and this posed something of a problem for Tucker. There are a few strategically placed logs and stones to permit a dry crossing, but for Tucker, even with his too-long legs, too much of a strain to make it. He glanced around at me (he always insisted on leading), and with what I understood as mixed emotion asked for help.

I'd like to say I scooped him up in my arms, but at over 100 pounds it was more like I strained to pick him up and we gingerly made our way across the brook. I put him down, and he seemed to acknowledge the help, and was off at what I consider a "thoughtful" pace, one designed to allow for the full appreciation of all nature had to offer. And there was plenty.

I've never understood dogs' ability to find trails. I know, they are endowed with super-sensitive noses, but I'm still in awe. Several winters ago I was climbing the back side of Hunger, up the Waterbury Center trail. There was more than two feet of new, unbroken snow on the upper sections, and simply no way to see the trail, or even to suspect that there was a trail. No problem. Tucker both broke trail, and kept us on the trail. Amazing.

For this walk Tucker's nose was forever busy, sniffing this and that, and occasionally stopping to probe the snow with his nose, looking for the source of whatever smell had come his way. We wandered out the trail, this section mostly a collection of beech and scattered soft woods. We came to a fork, and, yes, "took the one less traveled." This headed us through a lovely forest of mostly spruce and balsam, and in a direction mostly homeward. We had to navigate a lower section of the brook, but this posed no challenge for Tucker.

We then hit the lower edge of the three pine field, and a decision point; to head back to the house, or continue on around what we call the "moose" trail. Tucker voted by veering toward home; I voted by heading to the opposite side of the field where the Moose trail dives back into the woods. Somewhat reluctantly Tucker altered course and we were back in the woods, this time dominated by very large hemlocks. I cut this trail more than thirty years ago and plotted it to wind through the stems of these forest giants.

It seems every time I venture out I discover something I hadn't noticed before. This time it was a tall maple, but with the most amazing slow curves, almost arches, like a lazy "S". What could have caused it to grow that way I can't imagine.

Tucker and I made our way up the final hill and home, much pleased with our walk, and thankful for each others' company.



January 2012 Club Calendar of Events

January 1, Sunday. Snowshoe. Difficult. Middlesex. White Rocks Mountain from the Middlesex trailhead. Approximately 6.0 miles. Call Leader: Charlene Bohl. 229-9908 or charlenebohl@comcast.net for meeting time and place.

January 10, Tuesday. Walk. Easy. Montpelier. Hubbard Park. 3+/- miles. Meet in front of the VT Historical Society, 109 State St., Montpelier at 2:00 P.M. Leader: Ron Merkin, 249-7116 or remnise4@yahoo.com

January 14, Saturday. YAC Cross-country Ski. Stowe. Trapps Ski Touring Center. Easy. Various distances. Trail fee. Call Leader: Lexi Shear, 229-9810 for meeting time and place. YAC is a group of the Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club devoted to helping parents and kids 0-6 years old get outdoors to hike, play, learn, and make friends.

January 14, Saturday. Cross-country Ski. Moderate. Graniteville. Millstone Hill Touring Center. Moderate. Various Distances. Trail Fee. Meet at Montpelier High School at 9:00 A.M. Leader: Eric Seidel, 223-1406 or ericseidel1@gmail.com

January 17, Tuesday. Cross-country Ski. East Montpelier. All levels. Various options possible. Morse Farm Ski Touring Center. Trail Fee. Enjoy our local ski center. Call Leader: Reidun Nuquist, 223-3550 for meeting time and place.

January 20, Friday. Taylor Series Slideshow and Talk by Drew Peterson: Chasing the Colorado Fourteeners.

7:00 P.M. Capital City Grange, Northfield Rd., Montpelier. Hiking all of the Rockies' highest mountains is like trying to solve a huge puzzle, one piece at a time, with no guarantee of completion. Now halfway through Colorado's 54 peaks over 14,000 feet, stewardship volunteer Drew Petersen shares photographs and stories from his 2011 solo trip. He will transport us on a journey past unexpected jewels—herds of mountain goats, crystalline lakes, nights camped beneath Alpine Desert skies, and the challenge of difficult climbs. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers, kids under 12 free.

NOTE: A high-resolution version of this promotional image (with or without the text overlay) is available upon request.

January 28, Saturday. Snowshoe. Difficult. Stowe. Mt. Mansfield Chin. Difficult. 5.2 miles. Ascend the Long Trail from Rte 108. Hike to Taft Lodge and then summit the Chin. Crampons recommended. Must contact Leader: Paul DeLuca, 476-7987 or pdeluca420@msn.com for meeting time and place.

January 29, Sunday. Cross-country Ski. Moderate. Craftsbury. Craftsbury Ski Touring Center. Various distances. Moderate. Trail Fee. Lunch on the trail. Meet at Montpelier High School at 9:30 A.M. Leaders: Cynthia Martin and George Longenecker, 229-9787 or marlong@myfairpoint.net

January 31, Tuesday. Cross-country Ski. Moderate. Stowe. Trapp's Ski Touring Center. Moderate. Various distances. Trail Fee. Call Leaders: Mary Smith, 505-0603 or Mary Garcia, 229-0153 for meeting time and place.


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Good Things Happen at Rumney Memorial School



Pie time is almost here!! 3rd Annual Pie Breakfast March 24th

The 3rd annual community all-you-can eat pie breakfast will be held on the morning of Saturday, March 24th in the Rumney School gym. Mark your calendars and please help bake a pie or two for the event!!

More details to follow at town meeting.
~Liz Scharf



A very warm thank you from Rumney School to the many, many people who have donated to the Rumney Principal's Discretionary Fund. Children had brighter holidays, and classes have had the opportunity to take advantage of many different opportunities because of these generous gifts.

Adam Rosen, Principal
Rumney Memorial School

The 5th Annual Fall Harvest Dinner Held this Past November at Rumney School was another Grand Success!



Photo: Chair-ity auction where 6 beautiful chairs, decorated by the students at Rumney, were auctioned off to the highest bidder at the Harvest Dinner.

The dinner raised \$6000, of which a check for \$2400 has been presented to the Middlesex Food Shelf. The remaining money is used throughout the school year at Rumney to purchase fresh locally grown foods from the Foodworks Farm-to-Table program in Montpelier and grass-fed hamburger beef from Templeton Farm in East Montpelier. New this year was a chair-ity auction where 6 beautiful chairs, decorated by the students at Rumney, were auctioned off to the highest bidder. The chairs brought in over \$700! Thank you to all the businesses who supported the dinner and to all the folks who attended. ~Liz Scharf, Dinner Coordinator

Farmers and Food Producers who Contributed to the Dinner:

Highland Gardens, Jane Tucker and Kevin Thompson, Middlesex
Red Hen Bakery, Liza Cain and Randy George, Middlesex
Harvest Hill Farm, Bill Half, Walden
Dog River Farm, George Gross, Berlin
Littlewood Farm, Joey Klein, Plainfield
Lone Elm Farm, Carol Krokenberger and Dexter Lefavour, Middlesex
Butterworks Farm, Jack and Anne Lazor, Westfield
The Garden of Shona and John MacDougall, Middlesex
The Garden of Thea Schwartz and Alexi Rubenstein, Middlesex
The Garden of Liz and Lauri Scharf, Middlesex
Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Waterbury Center
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Waterbury

Local organizations and businesses that Contributed to the Dinner

Middlesex United Methodist Church Food Shelf, Ginger Anderson, Chair, and members of the Middlesex United Methodist Church
Attique Accessories, one-of-a-kind place settings Beth-Ann Porter, East Montpelier
Hunger Mountain Co-op, Montpelier
Food Works, Brian Van Hoy, Montpelier
Shaws, Montpelier
Pondview BBQ
Chip Hedler and Andy Leader, Old Time Fiddle Tunes
Middlesex Monthly, Neely Washington, Middlesex
Front Porch Forum, Middlesex
Erica Campbell, Farm to Plate Program Director, Vermont

Financial Contributors to the Dinner

Bear Creek Environmental, Mary Nealon
Bear Swamp Veterinary Service, Paul Alfarone, DVM and Jessie Alfarone
D.W. Pierce, Inc, DBA Middlesex Electric, Don Pierce
Marge Dethloff, DC Chiropractic Care
Specialties in Wool, Marge Dethloff
Noyle W. Johnson, Peter Hood
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Bob Onne
Pease Farm Stable, Sarah Seidman
Middlesex Plumbing and Heating, John and Shona MacDougall
Bolduc Auto Salvage, Jamie and Kim Bolduc
Sarah Schmokel
Bertram and Anna Liisa Scharf
Chicken, Drumstick and Giblet donors!--Please see the poster in the gym!

Benefit Worcester Rangers Snowmobile Club

Saturday Feb 4th, 2012 11:30 to 3 PM

RIDE IN OR DRIVE TO

AN ALL YOU CAN EAT SMOKED BBQ PORK SPARE RIB DINNER

At the Church in Worcester, VT - To Ride In:

Follow Corridor trail #212C. To Drive in: Follow VT Route 12 to Worcester, VT

Rib dinner includes all you can eat ribs, fresh made corn bread, baked beans, coleslaw, beverage and homemade cupcakes all for only \$15.00
Children under 12 - \$10.00 Seniors Age 60 and over \$10.00

OR YOU CAN HAVE A

Cheese/Hamburger Dinner \$10.00 2-Hot Dog Dinner \$10.00

Dinners include one cheeseburger or hamburger or 2 hotdogs and sides, desert, 1 can of soda, coffee, tea, 1 glass of milk or hot chocolate.

A LA CARTE

SODA \$1.00 Cheese/Hamburger \$5.00 Hot Dog \$3.00

Plenty of coat and helmet storage, rest rooms, large seating area, snowmobile parking and gasoline available just across the street.

Contact information 802-223-5822 or 802-223-0852



VERMONT GOVERNOR PETER SHUMLIN'S 2012 STATE-OF-THE-STATE ADDRESS
HELD ALL OF THE POMP AND CEREMONY THAT IS TO BE EXPECTED ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT DAY
AT THE START OF EVERY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Photos by Jeannette Wulff



Gov. Peter Shumlin en route to the Vermont Chambers in the Vermont State House to present his 2012 State-of-the-State address given on January 5, 2012.



Above photo - Governor Shumlin flanked by Lt. Gov. Phil Scott, Speaker Shap Smith and Sen. Bill Doyle who is taking notes, addresses a standing room only audience in the State House Chambers, and in the hallway out front of the grand room.

To read the full text of the State-of-the-State address, which Gov. Peter Shumlin wrote himself, please go to the state's website at - <http://governor.vermont.gov/blog-state-of-the-state-address>

Below photo of Washington County Senator Anthony Pollina of Middlesex giving an interview to a reporter following the Governor's address.



Above: Sec. of Administration, Jeb Spaulding ascends the historic stairway to the balcony that overlooks the House Chambers for a birds-eye-view of the Governor's speech.



Photo Left - Rep. Tony Klein

Washington County Rep. Tony Klein shares his Legislative Session Preview

The new legislative session has convened, and the landscape has changed dramatically since we left Montpelier in May. Tropical storm Irene's impact will be felt on many issues, including:

- The budget. Current estimates are that we face approximately a \$50 Million deficit for FY '13, but many of the cleanup costs have not been finalized.
- Water/land use issues. We will see legislation on gravel extraction, floodplains, riparian buffers, and wetlands in an effort to apply the best river science to mitigate future damage from floods.
- Transportation. There wasn't enough funding to support infrastructure improvements before Irene; now that situation is worse. Several important regional road projects have strong support from the Shumlin administration, but it is uncertain how the timetable will be affected by the Irene tab for road/bridge repair. There will be proposals on changing the structure of the gas tax, and more bonding for infrastructure.

There are plenty of non-Irene issues that will also be in the news:

- Health care. A report on paying for Green Mountain Care long-term will be delivered in February. A debate is shaping up over how to define "small" employers, 50 or 100, for the health care exchange being created by the Green Mountain Care Board. Also, planners are awaiting the results of a federal court decision on individual mandates due this spring.
- Energy. My committee, Natural Resources and Energy, will be reviewing specific legislation to implement the Governor's new energy plan. What I like most about the plan is the detailed attention given to energy use for heat and transportation. For too long, the debate has centered on electrical generation and the all-consuming drama over the fate of Vermont Yankee. A court decision on continued operation is due any time now...it may be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Whether or not the plant continues to operate beyond March 2012, no VY power is currently contracted to be sold in Vermont. Another hot topic will be how to best implement new renewable energy goals, and how to continue funding the Clean Energy Development Fund.
- Education. A \$.02 cent increase in the property tax rate has been projected, but the Governor has already asked school boards to present budgets with no increase. Obviously, this will lead to a contentious debate as usual.
- Permitting and land use planning. The Natural Resources Board has held over 20 hearings around the state, and has issued recommendations to improve the process for moving development review forward. I have introduced legislation that would speed up the permitting process while protecting the environment.

I appreciate hearing from you. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns and especially if you are having trouble getting service from any of our government agencies I am easily reached by cell phone at 802 793 6032 and by e-mail at twk@tonyklein.com.

Happy New year and thank you for your support. Rep. Tony Klein

Visiting with the World Famous Chase Brothers Elroy & Eugene Longtime Residents of Middlesex at their New Home at The Four Seasons



Above - Eugene Chase proudly displays one of his original folk art style paintings. Eugene's artwork has been exhibited throughout Central Vermont, and when he's not visiting friends.. he's painting!

Ed Note: Photographs of Eugene and Elroy Chase along with their dear mother Nellie Chase are all featured in Ethan Hubbard's book entitled "Thirty Below Zero" . In addition, so are Wayne Richardson and Gerald Pease! It's a wonderful photography book "In Praise of Native Vermonters" .

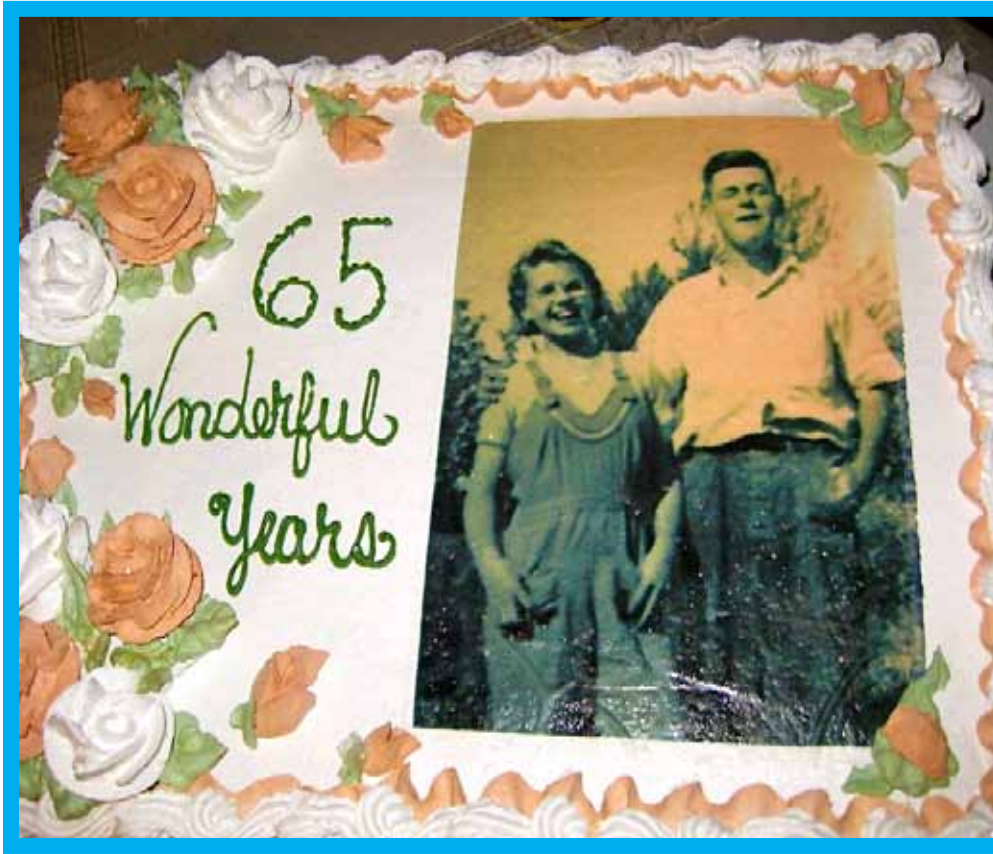
Happy 80th Birthday Elroy Chase!!

Elroy celebrated his 80th birthday in style at his home at The Four Seasons on December 14, 2011. Letters and cards can be sent to Elroy and Eugene Chase at The Four Season's Care Home, 135 S. Main Street, Northfield, Vermont 05663 They would enjoy hearing from their friends.

Photos by Jeannette Wulff

Happy Anniversary Helen and Elden Brown * 65 Wonderful Years Together

Story and photos by their daughter Melissa Brown Bessett



Elden and Helen celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on New Year's Day with a party at their Worcester home with close family and friends, and a surprise pot luck dinner was held, a week later, in their honor at the Worcester Methodist church.

Elden and Helen (Persons) Brown were teenagers living in neighboring towns when they first met over 65 years ago. Elden lived in Worcester and Helen Persons lived in Calais, and both were from farming families. While growing up they enjoyed family outings such as dances and church groups, and attended Montpelier High School together.

On January 1, 1947 they were married at the Universal church in Barre when they were 21 years old. After they were married they lived in an apartment at the Brown's family home on Eagle Ledge Road in Worcester. In the early spring of 1952, not long after they had had their first two children Malcolm and Shirley, the generational house burned down. Being resourceful Vermonters they rebuilt the farm using trees and wood from their own land. They built it as a duplex, one side for Elden's parents and one side for their growing family.

Elden and Helen had 6 children - Malcolm, Shirley, Larry, (Larry Passed away at the age of 2 from childhood Leukemia) Melissa, Alan and Keith. During this time Elden was working on the farm along with his father Lynn Brown. Later on he was in the Army for two years before coming back home to work at National Life and then Montpelier high school. He was also a well-known TV repairman around town.

Helen worked outside the home before the children came, in various jobs, such as the telephone company in Montpelier. But she soon became a hard working mother and housewife and has always been an active community member. Through the years their large family got even larger with 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Elden and Helen are long time members of the North Branch Grange in Worcester; members of the Worcester Methodist Church; the Senior Center in Montpelier and they enjoy swimming at First and Fitness every week!

They have always had a vegetable and flower garden and are true nature lovers. They are often seen walking together along their beloved Eagle Ledge Road. Happy Anniversary to a wonderful couple who is dearly loved by their family and friends!

Editor's Note: Elden and Helen were 19 years old when they were photographed in the sweet photo on their wedding anniversary cake above. Helen's brothers Robert and Maynard Persons founded the Persons Family on the Center Road in Middlesex.





Kellogg Hubbard Library

January Programs

PoemCity 2012 Call for Submission

The Kellogg Hubbard Library and Montpelier Alive will co-sponsor PoemCity (formerly known as POETRY Alive) with a text display and expanded programming for National Poetry Month in Montpelier, VT. If you are a Vermonter who would like to submit your work for consideration, please check online at website below:

<http://www.kellogghubbard.org/ec.html>

or stop by Kellogg Hubbard Library circulation desk for guidelines.

Deadline for submissions is February 1, 2012

JANUARY ADULT PROGRAMS

Osgood Lectures on the North - A CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD. - 4 sessions

Sponsored by The Center for Circumpolar Studies

First Session - Monday January 9, at 7:00 pm

"From Northern Studies to a Circumpolar World". Stephen B. Young and Kathleen Osgood, lifelong northern scholars, will provide an illustrated lecture.

Reading and Discussion Series from the Vermont Humanities Council

Farms and Gardens - 4 sessions

First Session - Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 pm with scholar Rachael Cohen

Discussion of Book "Second Nature: A Gardener's Education" by Michael Pollan

Multiple copies of book available on loan at the Library circulation desk.

Remembering Samuel Coleridge-Taylor with Dr. William Tortolano

Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 pm

Illustrated lecture on Samuel Coleridge Taylor (1875)-1912) an Anglo-black composer, conductor and educator who greatly inspired the revival of black culture in America.

Third Thursday Series with Transition Town Montpelier

Thursday, January 19, at 6:00pm

"Rural Vermont: Growing Local Food Sovereignty"

Presented by Robb Kidd an organizer at Rural Vermont, a non-profit farmer's advocacy organization.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS -Story Time:

For Toddler to Five Year Olds

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday @ 10:30 am

Hayes Room except January 17, 18 and 20th when it at Montpelier Senior Center.

Tuesdays After School @ 3:30pm

First Tuesday of each month: Craftaculars.- get crafty with different craft projects.

Second Tuesday of each month: Gaming- Learn a new game or play an old favorite.

Third Tuesday of each month - The Legos Club - Take part in a Lego challenge or build your own masterpiece.

Fourth Tuesday of each month - TAG meeting. Teen Advisory Group - have fun and plan Teen events.

Chess Club

Every Wednesday at 5:30pm with volunteer Robert Nichols

YA (Young Adult Nights) - Ages 10 - 17.

Third Friday of every month from 6 - 9 pm just for Teens and Tweens.

Activities include: games, movies, eating, and crafting.

January YA Night moved to the 13th (second Friday)

February YA Night is Friday February 17th.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S ROOMS PROGRAMS -

Saturday January 14th from 1- 4 pm - All Ages

Intergenerational Gaming Day

Bring a friend or meet some new ones. Bring a game or play one

From the Library's collection. Bound to have FUN !!!

Saturdays January 28 and February 11th from 10 to 12pm

Page Pals (for younger readers)

Come to be read to, read with, chat, or game with teen and tween volunteers.

Please pre-register. Volunteer readers needed - Call Children's Dept.

Monday, January 23rd and Tuesday February 21st @ 3:30 to 5:30 pm

Cooking and Booking

Join NECI students for, In January - a taste of Chinese New Year,

In February Mardi Gras.

For any age BUT attendee must preregister because supplies are limited.

Mondays, January 30th, February 6th, 13th, and 27th @ 3:30 to 5:30pm

Dungeons and Dragons - ages 9 - 12.

Join Dungeon Master Ben Matchstick for a month long campaign. Must

Preregister and plan on attending ALL four Mondays.

Saturday, February 25th @ 1pm

Movie: The classic 1967 version of Dr. Doolittle.

Poet's Corner

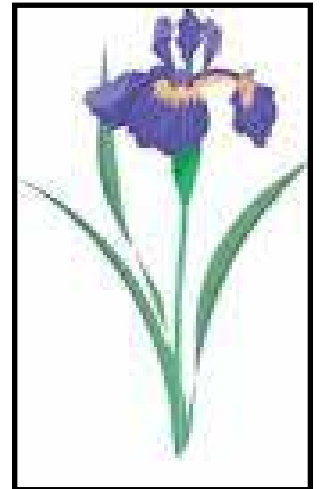
Compiled by Earline Marsh

Poetry lovers around the world celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, on January 25th. It's a pleasure for me to dedicate this January column to our own well-loved Scottish poet, Leonard Irving of Plainfield.

Len's poetry reflects his love of the nature that surrounds him - wherever he is - as well as the human nature he observes with a keen eye. The first poem is from Len's book, Farewell Dundrennan; the second is from The Bird Poems - both books beautifully illustrated by Elinor Randall, whom we know as Randy. For a future column I'll ask Len to share some of his unpublished poems

The Blue Iris

Outdoors
the blue iris
a butterfly of flowers
wind-swayed for take-off
is poised
unable to rise
tied to the earth
by her terrible roots.



Indoors
stem severed
this flowering butterfly
free now from earth
poised still
maiden flight untaken
permits her head to droop.

The Poetry Reading

During the reading
a mocking bird began to sing
in the trees outside the hall
where she was reading.
Behind me a soft voice whispered
"Listen. A mocking bird."
Reading her work the poet regretted
how things change.
Her native Connecticut woods
filling up with wealthy homes
as once Frost's woods filled with snow.
Once, speaking of a tragic love
for her brother, she touched a nerve
that ran through the silent listeners like fire,
but the moment flashed past to become lost.
Then she ended.
As the basket was being passed
a well-dressed lady
made several literary-related announcements.
There was tea, coffee and homemade brownies.
After the break the moderator
began to call names from a long list
for the open reading.





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DON'T MESS WITH MIDDLESEX!!!!



DON'T MESS WITH MIDDLESEX! The trash being thrown along our road sides seems to have quadrupled this past year . . . Who, What, When, How and most importantly **WHY** are people doing this to our beautiful country roadways? What can we do to stop it? Remember, it's a maximum \$500 fine to litter. Take a license number if you see this behavior and turn it in. We need to be diligent on this crisis and work together as a community before this MESS gets more out of hand than it already is. Thank you.

STOP VERMONT INVASIVE PLANTS



by Anne Greensfelder
E. Hill Rd. , Middlesex
anne.greensfelder@gmail.com



Concern about managing invasive plants in our area led to a meeting in November of individuals from several organizations including the Middlesex, Worcester, and Montpelier Conservation Commissions, The North Branch Nature Center, and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRDC). The meeting was held at the North Branch Nature Center and was aimed at exploring the issue of invasive plant management in Central Vermont. It was energizing for neighboring towns to come together as the task of managing invasive plants can be daunting. Various approaches to the issue were presented including "Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas" (CISMAs) which have been formed throughout the country to manage invasive species. There are currently three CISMAs in Vermont: the Ottaquechee, the Upper Connecticut, and the Upper White. Justin Kenney, District Manager of the WNRDC summed up the tone of the meeting this way: My sense is that people were interested in doing something but not quite sure what that something is just yet.

The Middlesex Conservation Commission is interested in organizing efforts in Middlesex to combat invasive plants. One goal for this coming growing season is to use volunteers to scout out where along our roadsides invasive plants are found, focusing on a few key species, and map these locations. This information should help to inform actions we can take to control the spread of these species. **If you're interested in this effort and would like to help, please contact Dave Shepard at 229-1744 or shep@ pshift.com.**



**Happy 77th Birthday
Elvis Presley
January 8, 2012**

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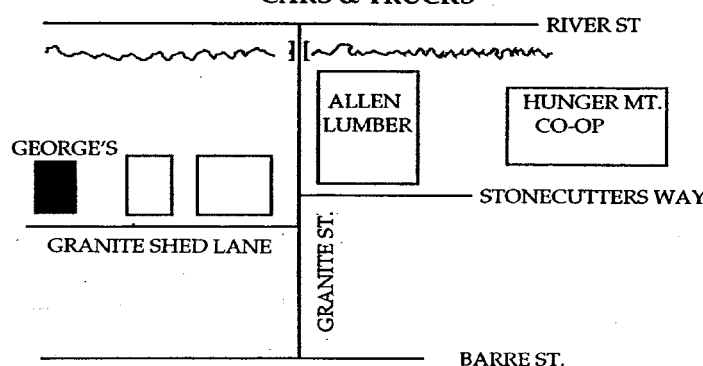
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U-32 Budget Proposal for 2012-2013

by Jeff Koonz

I'm writing to let the residents of Middlesex know what went on at the public comment part of the U-32 Board meeting Wed 04 Jan, with regards to the budget the Board will present to the voters in Mar. Originally three meetings were scheduled for the public to make comments about the budget, but due to bad weather last month only two meetings were held before the Board made a final decision on what they wanted to put out for a vote. I have not seen the outcome yet and as of Fri 06 Jan it is not posted on line. I will say they worked very hard to keep the budget down and it looks like the cost will be \$5.00 per \$100,000 less this year than last. After the first meeting the Board decided to keep Jewelry class and not cut science labs for non-advanced classes. They also cut over \$87,000 from the proposed \$108,000 for Advanced Placement (AP) courses. So they did listen to the people who came to the first meeting. These are the first two U-32 Board meetings I've been to and probably wouldn't have gone had it not been for my son's Advanced Democratic Roots teacher wanting her students to go and see how the meeting worked, so thank you Nicolle Schaeffer.

My concern this year is not with the total budget the Board came up with but the way they are spending some of the money. My biggest concern is they have chosen to fund middle school Community Connections (CC) out of the school budget, there is no more grant money for the program. To do this they are cutting the high school Living Arts class (Home Ec for those of us who went to school before computers, but so much more today) and 0.5 Math and Science positions. While CC may be a good program, it is not an academic class, nor a co-curricular activity; therefore I don't believe it should be funded out of the school budget. The proposed cost for CC is \$75,000, \$51,152 for the site coordinator and \$23,818 for supplies. Living Arts cost \$51,682, \$44,682 for the teacher and \$5,000 for books and supplies. Living Arts teaches, among other things, how to select and cook healthy food. I think they also use the new green house built at U-32 last year to grow some of the food served in the cafeteria. In my opinion this is a very valuable class especially when we hear so much about childhood obesity which some studies link to the early onset of diseases like diabetes. If parents want to put their kids in CC they should have to pay for it, do fund raisers for it, or get community sponsors for it. There are many school sponsored after school programs students can do which would not cost parents anything to have their children in if out of pocket cost is an issue.

In addition to funding CC the Board has chosen to fund Advanced Placement classes at a cost of \$20,800; \$5,800 for the 0.1 teacher position and \$15,000 for books and materials. While some say AP classes are needed so students stand a better chance of getting into top colleges and students will get free college credits, I disagree. Our experience college hunting with our son both at civilian schools and the Air Force Academy is, even if you take an AP exam, you don't have to take an AP class to take an AP exam, and get a 5 on it the college may not accept the class and will probably want you to take the class anyway if the class is in your major. AP classes, while developed at the local school, must be approved by the College Board, the people who brought you the SAT, and once the curriculum is set it can't be changed. So, if a student is having problems the class must go on at the set pace, the teacher's hands are tied with the set format of the approved curriculum. If, on the other hand the classes are taught at the advanced level (more challenging but not AP) the teacher is free to go with how the students are progressing, faster, slower, or needing to go in a different direction to get to the same end. Here are some of the possible scenarios for students taking AP classes: student takes the class, gets an A, and gets a 5 on the exam. AP exams are scored 1-5 with 5 being what most colleges want to see before they will offer credit or let the student take the next level of class, which means they may not even get any college credits for the AP class they took. The student takes the class, gets an A, but gets a 4 or lower, and the college doesn't accept the AP class. The student takes the class and decides not to take the exam. There are other scenarios but you get the idea. The other thing you need to consider is the number of students who will take AP classes vs. the number of students who would take advanced classes. I don't see the value of AP classes over advanced classes considering the cost and the few number of students who will take them.

The problem I see with cutting Math and Science positions is; the school administration and the Board are pushing for increasing Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM), cutting teachers in this area this just doesn't add up. If you are going to increase STEM you need more teachers not less. The administration is saying total school enrollment is going down but from what I've heard from teachers is the numbers in Math and Science classes are going up. This would agree with trying to get more students to take Math and Science classes.

I believe these are some of the things you need to know before you vote on the budget. There are many reasons to vote down a budget, the first one most people think of is, the budget is too high. In this case I believe the budget should be voted down because the Board wants taxpayers to fund Community Connections, a non-school after school program, at the expense of an academic class and Math and Science teacher positions. Send the U-32 Board a message that you want your tax dollars to pay for academic classes not non-school after school programs. You can contact the Middlesex U-32 Board Rep, Adrienne Magida, vtmagida@aol.com and the U-32 principal Keith Gerritt, kgerritt@u32.org to voice your opinion.

I'm glad I went to the Board meetings and learned how the process works. We need to be informed voters when deciding how our tax dollars are spent.



TOWN MEETING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at Middlesex's annual town meeting, where you can discuss and vote on the town budget and other important local decisions, as well as ask questions and voice opinions on how town government works. And after months of hunkering down inside, Town Meeting is also a great time to get out and see your neighbors, share a meal, and celebrate community.

Make sure to mark your calendar and attend: Tuesday, March 6 (time not yet announced, but probably around 4:00), Rumney School. Watch for the Town Report, mailed to every Middlesex household, to see the agenda and budget. More details will be included there, but here are some reminders:

TOWN MEETING DINNER

Everyone is invited to dinner directly after Town Meeting, which will be served on-site at the Rumney School. (Best guess is that it will begin between 6:30-7, but you never know with Town Meeting!) Enjoy spaghetti with your choice of topping, plus, salad, homemade rolls, and a dessert buffet. The dinner will benefit a local charity.

Potluck dessert! Want to help? If you can make your favorite dessert for the smorgasbord please contact Liz Scharf, 223-9189, liz.scharf@gmail.com.

CHILD CARE

Child care will be available for town meeting at the Rumney School until 7:30 p.m. (or until town meeting is over—whichever comes first). Pre-registration is required; be sure to reserve a spot before the mid-winter school break (by 2/24). For more information, contact Julia Chafets, Community Connections coordinator, 223-5429 x 322, email jchafets@rumney.org. Details will also be available on the Community Connections section of the Rumney website, www.rumney.org.

KIDS ARE WELCOME AT TOWN MEETING

When you talk with Vermont leaders, they will often tell you that they first became interested in politics by attending their town meeting as a child. Well-behaved older children who would like to see democracy in action are of course welcome to sit with their families at town meeting.

PARTICIPATING FROM AFAR

The Town Meeting Solutions Committee will once again provide access to the town meeting to those who, due to physical limitations, cannot attend the meeting (for example, those who are mobility-impaired or abroad in the military). With a mix of internet and phone technologies, these voters can hear, see, and speak at the meeting, and participate in voice votes and hand votes. If you know someone who would like to participate in the Middlesex Town Meeting from a remote location, please contact Greg Whitchurch, Remote Town Meeting Participation task force, 223-2416.

SETTING UP AND BREAKING DOWN

The Town Clerk and her Assistant could use a few strong backs (and some pick-up trucks!) to bring the voting booths and chairs from Town Hall to Rumney School before Town Meeting, and bring them back afterwards. If you can help, please contact Cindy Carlson (223-5915), or Susan Clark, 223-5824, sclark@sover.net.

SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS?

We're looking forward to another vibrant and interesting Middlesex Town Meeting. If you have any suggestions, please contact
Susan Clark, Solutions Committee Chair,
223-5824, email sclark@sover.net.

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Letters to the Editors

Nice Job

Nice job on the online newspaper. You asked for comments. I found it helpful to save the paper and then read it from my own disk. It's a lot faster and I can take advantage of the PDF controls.

Good luck spreading the word.
Harold Domanski

Reducing/Reusing/Recycling

On December 11, 2011, the UN Convention on Climate Change agreed to maintain international climate change mitigation efforts. New legally enforceable accords will be fully in place by 2020. One of the most important outcomes of this convention was the specification of waste management as a key instrument for climate change mitigation. The delegates demonstrated wisdom and foresight in acknowledging how critical sustainable waste management practices are to our future health. We are hopeful that this recognition will help to re-invigorate interest in sustainable, zero waste management practices in Vermont and beyond.

Practicing the 3R's (Reducing/Reusing/Recycling) and composting of organic matter are still the best individual practices to help reduce waste and achieve zero waste goals. Central Vermont's recycling rates have stalled at around 30% and for many the importance of waste reduction isn't even on the "radar". We can improve recycling rates if each individual, family, and business makes recycling a standard operating practice. It's easy and it costs less than throwing something in the trash (landfill). We can also re-think our consumptive habits, emphasizing reuse and reduction strategies. Such thrift is a Vermont tradition worth honoring.

It's time for our society to move past the "throw-away" mentality. Let's move toward a Zero Waste society instead.

Leesa Stewart (General Manager)
Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD)
 "Toward Zero Waste"
 137 Barre ST Montpelier, VT 05602-3618
 802-229-9383 X102

Jeannette H. L. Wulff



P. Neely Washington



From the Editors and Publishers:

Dear Readers,

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are greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

MIDDLESEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 12th



Women Quilters of yesteryear
photo Middlesex Historical Society

The Middlesex Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012, 7 p.m., at Heaton Woods Assisted Living in Montpelier, where one of our founding members, Ethel Ryan, now resides. We will begin with a short meeting of the board of directors, followed by our general business meeting. We'll be electing officers for the coming year, as well as discussing programs and other events for 2012. The future of the railroad station, a spring driving tour of the Middlesex Village area with member David Newhall, and the progress on archiving our records and artifacts and finding a home to display them to the public, will be on the agenda. Of course we will also have plenty of time to share additions to our collection, stories, and any photos or other items that members would like to bring in. We need help with all our projects and encourage new Middlesex residents to come join the Society (cost is \$1/year) and join in the fun.

The meeting will be in the Heaton Woods Library. (When you enter the main door at Heaton Woods, please sign the guest book, and then proceed to your right. When you come to the end of this first hallway, take another right and follow the hallway down to the very end. The Library is at the end of the hall.) **Please call MHS President Patty Wiley at 272-8074 if you need directions to Heaton Woods or if you have any other questions.**



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MISSING DOGS



OUR TWO BELOVED LONG HAIR BLACK LAB MIX DOGS RAN AWAY FROM OUR HOME ON LOWER SUNNYBROOK ROAD, MIDDLESEX SUNDAY NIGHT (12/11/11) AND HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE. BOTH HAD ID TAGS & ONE IS MICROCHIPPED.

TOP PIC: "BOO" 12 1/2 YRS OLD, ALL BLACK AND GETS LAME; VERY GENTLE

BOTTOM PIC: "JAKE" 6 YRS OLD, WHITE CHEST AND SPOTTED FEET; VERY FRIENDLY

REWARD

802-229-4906

LIGHT SHOW in Middlesex



Brother and sister Mike Patterson and Patricia (Pat) Drown of Culver Road and French Road in Middlesex tried to out do each other this year in the holiday light's department..... We give both of them a Blue ribbon! Mike said that next year the LED colored lights that he hung himself and are crawling up dozens of tall trees lining the driveway to his home will be even more impressive next year! That's hard to believe, as how do you top perfection!

SUPPORT THE ARTS



Above: The entry to the businesses in the Camp Meade Complex feature artists work every month or so. This month featured artist Deborah Alderman of the Center Road in Middlesex. She displayed her gorgeous QUILTED VERMONT wall hangings. She had a showing and reception in the Vermont State House that was a huge success. Deborah is an extremely talented artist and perfects whatever art form she is working on at the time.



Ann Lovald of the Brook Rd. in Middlesex and owner of ANN'S WEAVER located at Camp Meade had a wonderful holiday season this year. She sold many hand woven items and is now busy working away in her store on her loom making more beautiful items. In addition to her work, she sells a variety of fiber arts such as scarves, hand bags, hats etc. from numerous Vermont artists.



STANLEY'S STONE WALL

Doug Lombard, Justice of the Peace in Middlesex, sent us this great photo of our neighbor Stanley Scribner painstakingly building his stone wall that had passer's-by on route 2 in Middlesex Village taking a double look this past fall, and early winter.

Doug wrote, "We have all probably driven by and seen Scrib hard at work. What started out as a small project to protect a newly drilled well morphed into a beautiful stone wall with terraces and steps. Still some more work, but very close to being done."

We agree, it's a work in progress, but what a work it is!

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