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REGISTERED NURSE HILARY Hatch created a whimsical and inviting garden at her home in Leicester, to the delight of the Middlebury Garden Club and other passers-by. Hatch's gardens were among the four to receive the club's Roadside Award this year. Photo courtesy of Patti Marrinan

November 4, 2021

MIDDLEBURY — With COVID-19 restrictions in place, appreciating beautiful gardens has brought joy to many. Judges from the Middlebury Garden Club traveled many roads looking for gardens expressing great pleasure and happiness that were able to be viewed by the roadside. Four earned the club's Roadside Awards.



THE SANCTUARY GARDEN at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury is a peaceful and lovely new addition to downtown Middlebury now that the bridge and rail project is complete. The Middlebury Garden Club agrees, and gave the garden one of four Roadside Awards handed out this year.

Photo courtesy of Patti Marrinan

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main, St., Middlebury, is surrounded by peace, grace, and beauty. In collaboration with the Town's Bridge and Rail Project, Ben and Susan Anderson-Ray coordinated with St. Stephen's garden ministry to create a welcoming, joyful, and reflective space for all to enjoy. The newly designed gardens include many woody ornamentals as well as sun and shade perennials carefully planted with the community in mind. One can see the gardens from all sides of the church

and they are also viewable from Triangle Park. St. Stephen's integrated hardscape and landscape welcome all to sit, relax, and meet new friends in the shire town of Middlebury.

The Waybury Inn, 457 East Main St., East Middlebury, is a jewel of color and provides a sense of relaxation. Owners Joe and Tracey welcome the community and travelers to the Green Mountain State

with a beautiful setting cared for by the entire staff. The Waybury "family" understood the unique situation that the pandemic was creating for the community. They knew that sharing their beautiful, serene gardens may provide comfort. One cannot drive by the Waybury Inn without noticing the variety of color, plants, and shapes. A stroll through the gardens is a visual banquet for not only the eyes, but also other senses to enjoy. Bon appetit!



THE WAYBURY INN'S multi-hued shade garden and landscaping created a peaceful and cooling spot open to all during the pandemic, and received a Roadside Award this year as a result.

Photo courtesy of Patti Marrinan

Have you ever driven past 546 Fern Lake Rd. in Leicester at the very beginning of spring and smiled at the sight of pink flamingos? During the pandemic, Hilary Hatch masked her flamingos in hope of a healthy spring. Return later in the seasons as her beautiful English gardens provide a palate of glorious colors, birds, and various wildlife. You may see Hilary with a shovel in hand installing a new border and creating her Zen space through years of experience. Hilary knows which plants are deer "favorites" and moves them to provide a scavenger hunt for the deer. A retired violinist from the Vermont

Symphony Orchestra and a Middlebury Registered Nurse, she knows how to care for not only the environment but also the souls of her community.



HEARTY AND INDIGENOUS plants along with an eye-catching sculpture are features of Jason and Sarah Robart's gardens in Cornwall. The gardens were one of four the Middlebury Garden Club selected for this year's Roadside Awards.

Photo courtesy of Patti Marrinan

Jason and Sarah Robart purchased this historic property at 339 Parkhill Rd., Cornwall in 2016. They enlisted the assistance of landscape architect Eric Blair to bring new life to this glorious property. Mr. Blair's plan was to incorporate plants that were hearty for the Vermont environment and indigenous to the region. Some of the plants include day lilies, Veronica, and cat mint. Sarah, a Registered Nurse in Middlebury, maintains the gardens using pine

straw, which is more acidic and weed-controlling compared to traditional mulch. It is worth a drive down Parkhill Road off Route 30 to enjoy the vision the Robarts and Mr. Blair share with the community.