

# OPINION

## Back to school Supplies...



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Loss of an Old Friend

On July 27, standing strong and tall, and on the 28th fallen into a heap. It was over quickly, but the illness had been lingering on for 50 years.

It came down to more people wanting to end the suffering than would spend the dollars to prop up this elderly ancestor. The Heritage folks were quick to have the town center declared a historic district, but were strangely silent when it came to saving its most famous citizen.

The Mack store was built about 1805 and by about 1820 had been moved to the new town center. It was the final survivor of the four stores that operated in Middlefield. My Aunt Phyllis Turner was the last keeper and she closed shop on Feb. 28, 2001.

Middlefield has come full circle and returned to a town of scattered farms and homesteads with no organized center, industry, or mercantile outlets.

The church was the reason for forming the original town as travel was too diffi-

cult during most of the year to Becket or Chester Center for religious services. It is the last survivor of that expansion.

Religious membership in Middlefield has been in decline for a hundred and fifty years. Today's church was put together in 1900 from pieces of the already abandoned Baptist church and Methodist chapel to replace the original Congregational church that was destroyed by a lightning strike and subsequent fire.

The present church was down to one service a month conducted by a visiting pastor. I wonder if the on-going virus will force a final retrenchment to the mother church at Chester Center — and the abandonment of the church in Middlefield, thus closing the 250-year long circle.

Never a dull moment up here on the Skyline — as the wide spot in the road that was Middlefield has become a little narrower.

**Howard Knickerbocker**  
Middlefield



The Middlefield General Store, pictured before and after, was taken down on July 28.

Submitted photos by Howard Knickerbocker

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

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