

Middlebury Police Department

Media Release

27 May 2008

7:20 p.m.

SUB: Missing Person Investigation – Nicholas Garza

Recovery Operations are underway to remove potential human remains discovered in Otter Creek this evening.

Remains were discovered during routine preparatory operations for a large-scale search operation that was tentatively scheduled for this coming weekend.

The potential remains were found lodged among sunken timber in a floating debris pile below the falls in downtown Middlebury. This afternoon's operations consisted of taking temperature readings at various points in the creek and depth sounding. It was during probing for depth that the potential remains were discovered.

Vermont State Police Dive Team, the Colchester Technical Rescue Team, the Vermont State Police Search and Rescue Team were called to the scene to begin recovery operations assisted by the Middlebury Fire Department.

Preparatory operations for the planned upcoming search have been on-going for over a week, and have included a dive operation to assess current and bottom conditions, daily monitoring of water flow into the CVPS hydro station, aerial reverse digital imaging by Down East Emergency Medical of Bangor, Maine as well as the depth and temperature soundings conducted today.

As the recovery operation proceeds, further details will be forthcoming. Natalie Garza, Nicholas' mother, has been notified of this operation.

At this time the footbridge at Frog Hollow is closed. Media may assemble in the Marble Works parking lot where the Middlebury Police Command Post is set up. Mr. Thomas Scanlon is the designated PIO for this operation and is on-scene at the command post.

Chief Thomas Hanley