



ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

June 1, 2017

Ann and Mike Poskas stand in the Ferrisburgh workshop with one of their custom-made stretchers on which they will mount a canvas for a professional artist. The couple identified this niche and started their business, Brickyard Enterprises, in 2012.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / TRENT CAMPBELL

Brickyard Enterprises stretches into art scene

She worked on Wall Street in New York City; he was a pilot based out of Newark, N.J. Their lives could have easily kept them in the city and away from the arts scene entirely. But somehow Ann and Mike Poskas ended up buying Ann's 1875 family home in Ferrisburgh, and now the couple creates custom stretchers and panels for artists. Oh, and they'll transport fine art too. So, how did *that* happen?

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

"We used to come up for the weekends," explained Ann. "Ten years ago, we had the opportunity to buy this home from my

"WHAT MIKE AND ANN ARE DOING IS **A HUGE RESOURCE TO VERMONT-AREA ARTISTS.** YOU CAN'T BEAT THEIR QUALITY, SPEED AND EASE."

— Jayme Holstein

parents; so we moved here and bought it."

Just as simple as that.

Both Ann and Mike were able to move to Vermont and keep their jobs. Ann working in investment banking and Mike flying 737s. That is until Mike was furloughed in 2010.

"I did whatever I could," he said, including backhoe and dump truck work. "We built the garage for the trucks."

One day, Mike was out hunting rabbits with their neighbor Jamey Holstein (he's husband to the fine art painter Rebecca Kinkead and handles all of her art sales) and Holstein was talking about poor quality "stretcher bars."

SEE BRICKYARD ON PAGE 3