

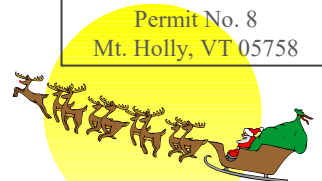
News Items DEADLINE
The 22nd By 6 pm Each Month

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MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT



50/10

December 2024

PC Administrator Office Hours: Tues 2 -3 pm or by Appointment 802-259-2391 administrative.orricer@mounthollyvt.org

Church Listing on back page "Who's Got It Locally?"

Mount Holly Community Association – Contact MHCAVT@gmail.com www.MHCAvt.org

Mount Holly Museum-Open Jul & Aug Sat & Sun 2-4pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org 802-259-2460 ddevereux@vermontel.net

Mt. Holly NewsFlash Town email sign up at newsflash@mounthollyvt.org Check Out www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

Town Library: Sat 9-1, Mon 10-2, Tue 1-5, Wed 2-4, P.O. Box 93, Belmont, VT 05730 Call 802-259-3707

Town Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Closed Fri. & Holidays Phone 802-259-2391

Town Treasurer's Office Hours: Mon 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Wed 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

Town Lister Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

Town Garage: 802-259-3179

Burn Permits: Call Fire Warden ~ Jim Seward 802-786-3408 or 802-259-2211

TRANSFER SITE: Sat. 8 am – 2 pm & Sun. 9 am – 12 pm

Sun 1st
2nd
3rd MH Conservation Commission
MH Snow Flyers Meeting
4th MH PTG Meeting, MH School
5th Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station
Sat 7th
Sun 8th
10th Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont
Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom
Mason Meeting, Mt. Moriah Lodge, E. Wallingford
11th LMHUUS Meeting,
ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont
12th Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station



Rosa Parks Bus Boycott 1955
Special Education Day
www.GivingTuesday.org



7:00 pm
6:30 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm

AFL-CIO Founded 1955
Pearl Harbor Day 1941
Soviet Union Dissolved 1991



9:00 am
6:00 pm
7:30 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:00 pm

Sun 15th **Alexandre Eiffel 1832 ~ Bill of Rights Day 1791 ~ Full Cold Moon**

16th **Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 ~ Battle of The Bulge Began 1944 ~ The Boston Tea Party 1773**

17th Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations **Operation Just Cause 1989**
Wright Brother's 1st Powered Flight Kitty Hawk, NC 1903

18th MH Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont **13th Amendment Abolishes Slavery 1865**
MH Community Association Meeting, Library
MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom
19th Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station

20th **US Space Force 2019**

Sat 21st **Winter Solstice ~ Landing of The Mayflower 1620**

24th Guild Meeting, Com. Room Library **Kit Carson 1809 ~ USAF Began Strikes of Laos 1964**

25th **Hanukkah Begins ~ Christmas**

26th Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations **Kwanzaa Begins**

27th **George Cayley father of Aerodynamics 1773 ~ Louis Pasteur 1822**

31st **Panama Canal Turned Over to Republic of Panama 1999 ~ Republic of Panama Assumes control of Panama Canal 1999 ~ Official End of WWII 1946 ~ New Year's Eve**



Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954	802-259-27.700	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
MH Fire Warden – Jim Seward	802-786-3408	802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency	802-228-2880	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-793-2776
MH Constable	NONE		Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-259-3610
MH Animal Control Officer Adam Karle	Cell 802-236-3656		Vermont State Police	802-773-9101

Send ARTICLES to: Diana Garrow, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758 Phone 802-259-2314 or E-Mail to chitchat@vermontel.net Check out Mt. Holly Web Site www.mounthollyvt.org "The views and opinions expressed in the

enclosed articles are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily those of the Chit Chat, its staff, or its board of directors. The authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles.”

Donation Thank You: Hallie Knudsen (Wally’s Corner) * Max Yaffe * Scott Crawford (Salt Ash Nursery & Balsam Barn) * Freda Durgin * Lisa Kelley (Cummings & Co.) * Kevin Winter (Kevin Winter For VT) * Kevin Hollebeek (Belmont Septic Design) * Ron Unterman & Dottie Finnerty * Karen Kraut (Yeah Wine Shop) * Dana Devereux * Lin & Lenny Crispinelli * Karin Lanzelin * Ruth Fleury * Brigid Sullivan * Linda & Lester Lampert * Susan Roddy & Glenn Fuller * Cathy Corica * Linda & Brian Roberts * Richard & Diane Squires *



December Birthdays: 3rd–Archie Bussino (1942) 4th–Shawn Palmer 5th–Mary Beth Jacobs 6th–Nikita Abrae Howard 7th–Jim Devereux 8th–Zachary Taylor * Heather Graham (1999) 9th–Carol Skarzynski * Neil Jones 10th–Madeline Veysey 16th–Heather Jacobs * Erin Devereux 16th–Shane Pearson 19th–Lia Wortman * Jon Lombardi * Sarah Devereux * Fay Freeman 22nd–Leslie Colm 1960 23rd–Kateri Collins 24th–Christopher Colm 27th–Richard Lee 30th–Jennifer Bussino Graham (1981) 31st–A.J. Labozzo



December Anniversaries: 11th–Joe & Donna McDonald 48th

If you would like to add or remove yours or a family members birthday and or anniversary from the list please send the information to me at the above address or e-mail me at chitchat@vermontel.net or call me at 802-259-2314.

Local Post Office Hours New Phone Numbers

Mount Holly		802-219-1410
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm Sat
		7:30 am – 10:30 am
Belmont		802-259-2790
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
East Wallingford		802-245-6403
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury		802-230-1996
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am
	&	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 11:00 am
Ludlow		802-228-7436
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	6:30 am – 5:30 pm
	Sat	6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	8:30 am – 10:30 am
Wallingford Post Master		– 802-245-6281



Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc.

PUBLISHER: Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc., a Non Profit Vermont Corporation; Federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt statuses

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Dennis Devereux V. **PRESIDENT:** David Venter

SECRETARY: Terri Isidro **TREASURER:** Diana Garrow

DIRECTORS: Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, Kevin Plew

MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow

ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

SUBMISSIONS: Deadline is 22nd By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to chitchat@vermontel.net or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **Phone 802-259-2314.** E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries. Include name, address, and phone number. Anonymous articles will not be accepted. Mailed copies should be camera-ready, i.e., ready to be scanned into the paper. Contact the editor for further information. Contact the editor for inclusion in the coming month’s announcements of birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, retirements, and other milestones.

PHOTOS: Color photos of events are required as they look great on the Town website.

LETTERS to the EDITOR: email; 300 word limit; include name, address, and phone number of person submitting article and are printed at editors’ discretion. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in the enclosed articles are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily those of the Chit Chat, its staff, or its board of directors. The authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Camera ready. Contact editor with questions, or to assist with ad creation (cost \$15).

RATES: Back Page: \$25 Per Listing for one year

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	9 Mo.	12 Mo.
Classified	\$ 2	\$ 5.50	\$10	\$ 15	\$ 20
Business Card:	\$15	\$40	\$75	\$115	\$150
Quarter Page:	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
Third Page:	\$45	\$125	\$225	\$350	\$450
Half Page:	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$750
Full Page:	\$125	\$325	\$625	\$1025	\$1250

FREE ADVERTISING: Only Community and Non-Profit (501 c3) tax-exempt organizations may qualify for free advertising in the Mount Holly Chit Chat, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Articles submitted for print which promote the sale of goods or services for financial gain will be charged the Chit Chat’s set rate for advertisements.

CIRCULATION: The Mount Holly Chit Chat is delivered to every residence in Mount Holly and mailed to out-of-Town property owners as well as other folks with Mount Holly ties.

INTERNET: Each month’s edition is published on the Mount Holly Town website: www.mounthollyvt.org

MEMBERSHIP IN CORPORATION: Open to all who live, work, or own property in Mount Holly and who make an annual donation of any amount.

The Annual Membership meeting is held on the Third Tuesday in September in the Mount Holly Town Office. The meeting includes the annual report and election of the Board of Directors

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT: The Mount Holly Chit Chat has been published each month since 1974 and has been supported solely by donations until 2006 when readership was expanded as a public service to all who reside, vote, or own property in Mount Holly. The Chit Chat is supported by donations, advertisements, and appropriation from the Town.

Mt. Holly NewsFlash: Mount Holly’s Town email system. Primary attendant is Kevin Plew and backup attendant Stu Berry at stumberry1@gmail.com . Email items to newsflash@mounthollyvt.org www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

Reinbow Riding Center

We must say that 2024 has been quite a ride! As many of you know, our founder and instructor/program director retired last year. Due to a significant shortage of qualified PATH-certified instructors, we could not find someone with her level of expertise and values that fit our barn's culture.

We were worried we would not be able to open in 2024, but we reached out to an instructor who had been involved in Reinbow several years ago. She gave us 8 weeks of her time this spring and summer so that we could continue our mission of providing therapeutic horsemanship programming to members of our community who are experiencing social emotional, physical, and/or developmental challenges. During this "abbreviated season," we fulfilled our 2023-2024 grant obligations by serving our local school populations as promised. We maintained a presence in the community and gathered many new participants. Our dedicated base of volunteers was, as always, crucial in supporting our riders/participants through their journeys.

We have also been busy grant writing and have been awarded grants from all of the previous organizations and businesses who have supported us such as United Way, the Mergens Foundation, Magris Talc Co., The Windham Foundation as well as several others. This summer, we were awarded financial support from several new sources such as Ben & Jerrys, M&T Charitable Funds and Velco.



Your support makes these moments possible!

Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings
9:00 am

Library Community Center
For Weights and more information
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

I believe all of this indicates that Reinbow Riding Center is still highly regarded and poised for a bright and long future. That being said, there is a bit of an "elephant in the room" which is our need to fill the critical position of certified Instructor/Program Director. We are turning all of our energies to finding the "right person" who will be with us long-term and move us forward

for many years to come. We know this is a big "BUT", but we have high hopes that we will be able to do this and be ready to run our full season (Mid-May through the end of October) in 2025.

We wanted to be transparent with all of you regarding our current status and challenges. We have some work to do ahead of us, but if we can hire our instructor AND increase our financial base with additional "unrestricted" donations, Reinbow will be ready to take on the world.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Sincerely from the Board of Reinbow Riding Center.

Board of Directors: Brett Lertola, Lynn McDermott, Smantha Pearce, Dardy Pour, Rebecca Rice, Stacey Synott, Janet Upton, Patricia Vogel, Jennifer Wigmore and Lee Wilson

Reinbow Riding Center is a 501©3 non-profit and all your generous donations are tax deductible. Mail to: PO Box 395, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 802-236-2483 www.reinbowridingcenter.org

Special thanks to the Mount Holly Fire Department for stopping by Mount Holly School to teach us about fire prevention and show us the equipment used to put out fires.



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Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered

November 2024, Trestleboard

Next Meeting Tuesday 12/10th 7:30PM

Just a quick reminder to the Brothers coming to the meetings this winter... the water has been shut off.

On a sad note, our Grand Architect of the universe called Brother George Gage home

October 30, 2024. The family will be having a private graveside service on November 13, 2024, with a celebration of life at a later date.

We will be voting on a petition at this upcoming meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Fraternally, David Seward W.M. - Buster Seward Sec'y



"No one has ever become poor by giving."-Anne Frank

Thank you for being a supporter of our Independent School here in Ludlow, Vermont. As you are aware, the end of the year and Giving Tuesday are the two biggest times for charitable giving. We are reaching out to you as our generous supporters to ask for your help in finding new ways to reach out to possible donors and new supporters. We are not asking at this time for donations; just ideas, suggestions, and leads to other possible individuals and corporate sponsors. Also, would you be willing to help with our campaign this Giving Season? Please take a moment to respond to this email with any suggestions or ways you could help.



Hopefully from our news releases and past emails you are aware that ESBR, Expeditionary School at Black River, has continued on this growth journey to help provide our communities with a unique, supportive, and local option of Middle and High School education. This year we have welcomed in 10

new students and some exciting new staff. We continue with State Approval as an Independent School and receive state funding for Choice Town students, which are a majority of our students. We also continue to receive generous support from the Ludlow community, which sees the benefit in having a local option for our students. This helps tremendously, but as any new endeavor, we continue to fundraise to keep building upon the foundation of our school.

*** Hall Rental in Belmont ***

The use of the Hall in Belmont is scheduled by contacting Carol at 802-259-2791, or at tcg2791@yahoo.com. You may also leave a message with Dennis at 802-259-2460, or at ddevereux@vermontel.net.

So again, please respond to this email with any suggestions you may have to help us during this giving season:

Do you have friends or family we could add to our outreach?

Are you able to volunteer for this campaign or at our school in any capacity?

Could you give a testament statement or video for our outreach?

Do you have some item that our school could use for education?

Would you like to give a presentation or talk to students on an educational

topic?

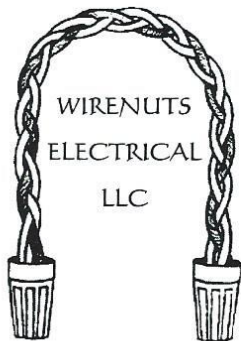
Do you know of other avenues of support for ESBR?

If so, please reach out to Gary Blodgett at gblodgett@esblackriver.org or Marissa Selleck at mselleck@esblackriver.org

Thanks again for all that you do. The students, parents, staff, and Board at ESBR are so very grateful.

<https://www.esblackriver.org/> Expeditionary School at Black River, 43 Main Street; P.O. Box 485, Ludlow, VT. 05149
mkell@esblackriver.org 802-228-3727

**Happy 100th Birthday
December 26th, 2024
To Fred Johnson
Husband of Ruth Pratt**



bbates@vermontel.net

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MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS DECEMBER 2024

Happy Holidays! While we get used to shorter days, and await our first good snowfall, why not pay us a visit and get yourself some good reading material. Remember that we have adult and kids snowshoes available for checkout as well as passes to VT State Parks and Historic Sites.

We will have some altered hours of operation between Thanksgiving and the New Year so that our volunteers may spend time with family and friends:
 Closed November 27 - November 30. We will reopen for regular hours Monday December 2.
 Closed Tuesday December 24 - January 4, 2025. We will reopen for regular hours Monday January 6, 2025.

HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY, SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT 05730 802-259-3707
mthollylibrary@gmail.com <https://mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com>

Dear Mt. Holly Voters,

THANK YOU for taking part in the November election. I'm sad that I will not be part of finding solutions in Montpelier this coming January, but I was not chosen for that task. My congratulations to Kevin and I hope he will do good things for your community in the upcoming biennium.

Respectfully, Adrienne Raymond, Shrewsbury

**Chit Chat Deadline
 in December
 For January issue
 will be Wednesday,
 December 18th,
 By 6:00 pm**



Help Our School Earn "Stars" towards free educational equipment when you shop at Price Chopper or Market 32 and link your AdvantEdge Card.

How it Works: Each time you shop and use your enrolled AdvantEdge Card our school will earn Stars towards free educational equipment!

Two easy ways to enroll:

1. Go to rewards.pricechopper.com or use the QR code (located to the right) and follow the instructions to enroll. Create or have an online account and we will earn 2x Stars on your purchases!
2. Please fill out your information below.

* If your card had been enrolled prior to 2021, your card is no longer enrolled and will need to be re-enrolled. If you are not sure, please fill out your information below.

Name _____	Ten Digit AdvantEdge Card # <input type="text"/>
Name _____	Ten Digit AdvantEdge Card # <input type="text"/>
Name _____	Ten Digit AdvantEdge Card # <input type="text"/>
Name _____	Ten Digit AdvantEdge Card # <input type="text"/>
Name _____	Ten Digit AdvantEdge Card # <input type="text"/>
Name _____	Ten Digit AdvantEdge Card # <input type="text"/>

Enroll online at: rewards.pricechopper.com ; use the QR code above ; call Raye Lin Collins at Mount Holly School (802) 259-2392 or email your Price Chopper Advantage card number to rayelin.collins@trsu.org



WINTER FAIR
Calling all Crafters!!

20+ VENDOR SPOTS AVAILABLE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
 11:30AM - 6:30PM

- -SIGN UP BY EMAILING MTHOLLYPTG@GMAIL.COM
- \$20 VENDOR FEE
- 11:30-12:30 - SET UP
- 12:30-2:30 - SCHOOL SALES ALL ITEMS UNDER \$5
- 2:30-3:30 - BREAK (STUDENTS/PARENTS WILL HAVE SNACKS AND A \$5 MEAL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.)
- 3:30PM TO 6:00PM OPEN TO PARENTS/COMMUNITY ALL PRICE POINTS
- 6:00PM TO 6:30PM BREAK DOWN

MT HOLLY SCHOOL GYM
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WINNERS OF THE 2024 MOUNT HOLLY CALENDAR COMPETITION

The public balloting every year to determine which photos from all the photos submitted to the annual Mount Holly Calendar Competition is an exciting highlight of the Mount Holly Cider Days celebration. The 2024 Cider Days competition was no exception. The weather was not very agreeable, but close to 250 people cast ballots for the photos they wanted to see in the 2026 calendar. Once again, the competition to get into the calendar was fierce.

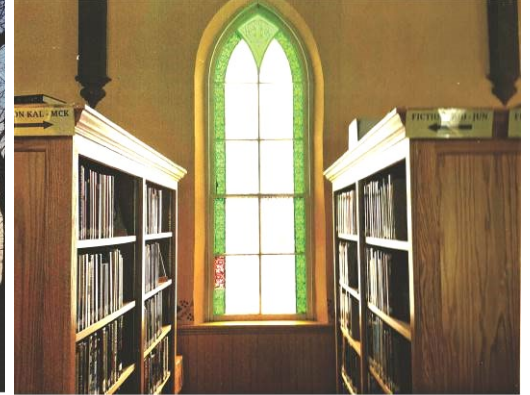
There were many, many exceptional entries to choose from. So, here, in alphabetical order by photographer's last name (not the order in the calendar), are the winners of the public balloting for the 2026 calendar:



"Fishing" by Broden Cotter



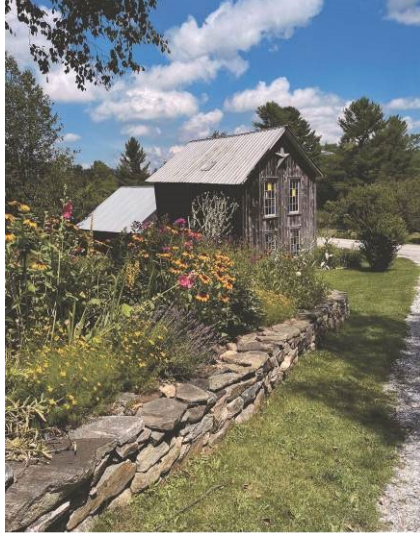
"Sunset Solitude" by Dori Beardsley



"Mount Holly Town Library" by Tracie Burns



"Fall Beginning" by Susan Covalla



"Phillip's Garden" by Carol DeVine



"September Afternoon" by Madeleine Fay



"Snow Waves on Star Lake" by Jeanmarie Fitzgerald



"Parsells Farm & Annie" by Gregory Higgins



"Take It Or Leave It" by Abe Leber

Merry Christmas



"Moonshine" by Kathleen Leber



"Springtime in Mount Holly" by Jennifer Marcus



"Peaches & Cream" by Linda Miller



"Kayaking on Ninevah" by Randy Paz



"A Touch of Light" by Susan Presson



"Green Mountain Cottage" by Kathleen Thompson



"Covered Bridge" by Tracey Urbani

In this issue of the *Chit Chat*, you can see the winning photos in color. You can also view these photos in color at mounthollyvt.org/chit-chat/, the online edition of the *Chit Chat*. But of course (here comes the combined sales pitch and guilt trip), the best way to see the photos and, at the same time support the sponsoring organization, the Mount Holly Community Association, is to purchase the 2026 calendar when it becomes available in early July, 2025. Buying a calendar is the only way of knowing where the winning photos will appear.

So, congratulations to all the photographers chosen for the 2026 calendar and thank you to everyone who participated.

Note: Cider Days 2025 is right around the corner so get out there and take photos of Mount Holly. By latest count there are roughly 6,095,453 idyllic locations in Mount Holly that have never been photographed. (And take note: the calendar uses 15 horizontal format photos, versus only one vertical format photo.)

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Mount Holly School
Concert

December 12th at 6:00 p.m.

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News and Ruminations from the MHCA

It's a cold blustery day with signs of winter approaching, this - after some surprisingly warm November days. Winter is an acquired taste for many, and others cannot wait until the snow starts falling for snow shoes, skis and sleds to come out in anticipation of outdoor fun. Better buckle up because it is only starting, and we will have more than a few months of chilly temps taunting us. As we close out the year let us reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a community like Mount Holly, where - despite political differences, we still take time to meet our neighbors, help out those in need, and celebrate life in a small town; we all have our place and contribute in making our community special.

Announcements:

The Mount Holly Community Association is now meeting the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm (via zoom through April 2025). If you would like to attend please reach out to us at mhcavt@gmail.com and we will send you a link to attend.

Have you seen who was voted to have their picture be in the 2026 Mount Holly Calendar? Search the pages of this month's chit chat for further details. Thank you to our tireless volunteer photo contest and calendar designer Craig Thomkinson! His dedication to engaging folks to participate in this friendly competition, whose winners are chosen by popular vote, is just another example of the Mount Holly spirit.

Come join us for a **holiday celebration** this month - Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, however you celebrate - come share with us **Saturday, December 14th from 3-5pm**. We will have hot chocolate, cider, cookies, and a special visit from a jolly ole man with a big red bag of gifts for local young ins. Since we are returning indoors, we will have the infamous Barbara Pallotta read *Twas the Night Before Christmas* and if everyone is feeling celebratory, we might even sing a few carols.

We regretfully inform you that fireworks at Star Lake will not be happening and will simply remain a memory of fun times when life was simpler and liability insurance and all the requirements that go with it were not so prohibitive. Look to your surrounding communities or neighbors for events they are offering for New Years Eve celebrations.

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 Ludlow, VT

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 Weather depending, to December 21st

Choose your own hours
 Between 9 am till 10 pm

Pay is \$15 an hour
 Paid cash the same day you work.

Please call Scott at 802-259-2146 for more information. Thank-you.



Supporting your MHCA:

Do you need some holiday gifts with local flavor? MHCA has long sleeve T-shirts, hot/cold tumblers, canvas bags, and Mount Holly calendars for sale. Reach out to us make arrangements for pick up at mhcvvt@gmail.com - we are happy to be a part of your celebratory offerings.

We are half way thru our 2024/25 membership drive, our goal is to raise \$10,000 this year, please consider supporting your Mount Holly Community Association. The Board of Directors would like to thank those who, by way of their contribution, help us maintain the historic building that houses our town library and community room. **Thank you....** Tatiana Abatemarco, Anthony

Acquaviva, Dawn & Alex Augustine, Paul & Cecilia Ayres, Carol & Griffin Ballou, Tom Bertsch, Lisa & Jeff Bloechle, Kristin Bountress-Hooke, Ross Brillhart, Natalie Brown, Jennifer Burrows & Stu Berry, James Campbell, Barbara & Michael Caputo, Linda Carabis-Brown & P. Dale, Thomas & Leslie Carlucci, Phil & Florence Carroll, Gordon Cheyne, Sheila Coburn, Chris Colm, Joan Connor, Dan & Nancy Connor, Susan Covalla, Katharine & Philippe Crane, JoAnn Crowley & Joseph Hammond, Spencer & Susan Dalby, John & Mary Jo D'Alessandro, Bill & Marnie Dassler, Donna DeAngelis, Dennis Devereux, Carol & Fra Devine, Sandy Diamond & Mark Griffin, Bernadette & Joseph Digiovanni, Tom & Corrie Dretler, Joshua & Maureen Feuerman, Dottie Finnerty & Ron Unterman, Craig & Maria Fortier, Fay & Maxine Freeman, Monroe Fried & Diane Hartline, Patricia Galley, Don & Jean Gates, Christopher Gebhard, Jay & Julie Goraj, Warren & Elizabeth Gower, The Green Mountain Sugar House, Zhena Hadar, Barbara & Steve Hazelton, John & Sandra Herbert, Bob & Lynn Herbst, Chris Herman, Gregory & Queenie Higgans, Bill & Mary Ellen Jacobs, Betsy & John Jesser, Tom & Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth & Adam Karle, Chris & Lisa Kelley, Susan Kilsheimer, Karin Kliger, Sarah & Andy Klock, Leah & Mark Knoll, Glenn Kreig & Anne Roest, Joseph Kwoka & family, Pat Labella, Sam Landy, Beth Latino & Paul Tesik, Kathy & Abe Leber, Andrew & Judith Leever, Phil & Mary Leonard, Rick & Barbara Ludwig, V.S. MacDonald, Sandi Mackey, Jared & Kristen Maihoit, John Maisel, Guy & Ann Marie Majestic, Larry & Ruth Manley, John Manning & Lydia Graves, David Martin & Andrew Schulz, Elizabeth McGee & Dr. Mark Pecker, Pat & Bob Mendelsohn, Marc Miller, Linda Miller & Andrea Auld, Tom & Rose Ann Misencik, Carl & Kathleen Mitchell, Lee Monroe & Harold Schwartz, Janice Morath & Craig Russell, David & Mary Morrissey, Sharon & John Napier, Ona & Mike Nejd, Paul & Judy Nevin, Maria Nitzsche, Valerie & Robert Nixon, Barbara Oswald & Thomas Pelsue, Barbara & Leslie Pallotta, Martha Parkins, Alice Perry, Kateri Pilon, Miriam Pope, Jeb Porter, Susan Presson, Tracy Roberts, Linda & Brian Roberts & Bessie Centini, Deidre Rogers, Michael & Sara Roller, Mackenzie Russel-Bennett, Andrew & Patricia Salner, Benjamin & Christin Sandweiss, Cindy Sarlo & Peter Williams, Robert Schiebel & Mary Gorman, Peter & Stephanie Smith, Steve & Georgianna Sorensen, Kathy & Geoff Stone, Jaime Sullivan, Joyce Talavera & Howard Surks, Andy & Marcy Tanger, Lourana Thomas, Vermont Transco, Jonathan Washburn, Richard & Laura Watson, Robert Wegner, Alison & Rick Weintraub, John Whalen, Paul & Margaret Whyte, Jody Wood, Brian Wortman & Tracy Urbani, Max & Abby Yaffe, Alex Yuster & Faith Tempest, Steven Zeichner & Rachel Moon. **The MHCA Board of Directors wish you the happiest of celebrations and hope you are surrounded by family and friends this holiday season.**

**The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum
Fundraising Event**

Festival of Lights
Saturday, December 7th
Live Auction 5:30pm
Preview starting at 5pm
The Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont
\$5 Admission
includes 3 Tickets for Door Prize
Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments served

New and Vintage Items - Decorated Wreaths - Wine and Cheese Raffle

Dear Editor

The Cradle, The Cross and the Crown

In the summer of 1984, on a backpacking tour of Europe, Laura and I wandered through the majestic splendor of London’s masterpiece, Westminster Abbey. It has a rich historical background. In the tenth century, Benedictine monks began a tradition of daily worship there that still continues today. The Abbey is also the final resting place of 3,500 individuals including Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens and George Frederic Handel.

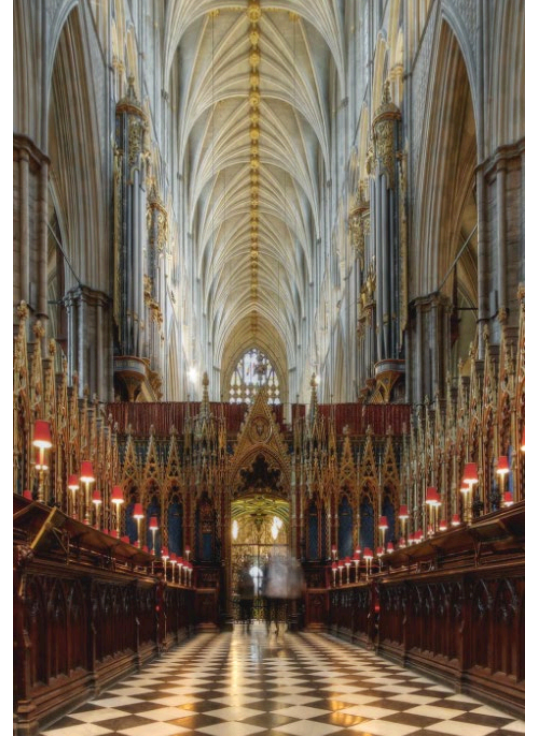
Sixteen royal weddings have taken place beneath its intricate fan-vaulted ceiling, largest in the UK. This spectacular structure has witnessed the coronation of every English monarch since that of William the Conqueror on Christmas day in AD 1066, including the crowning of Queen Elizabeth II on the 2nd of June, 1953. In fact, sixteen of those monarchs are also buried there—their rule ending where it began.

No matter how grandiose their burial, world leaders rise and fall; they live and die. But another king was born to die. The shadow of a cross falls over the lovely manger scene of Christmas.

In His first coming, King Jesus was crowned with thorns and nailed to a Roman crossbeam, crucified as the “King of the Jews”. Unlike worldly monarchs, he, though once dead, is no longer buried. That’s why Christmas and Easter are inseparable. One has to follow the other. Because Jesus rose from the dead in victory, we who are Christ followers have hope beyond the grave and the assurance that we will live with Him forever. Jesus clearly stated, “I have come that you might have life in all its fullness now...I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”

We worship an infant king in the candlelight of Christmas Eve. However, we serve a risen king in the blazing brilliance of Resurrection Day.

May it be that we gladly yield to His rule in our daily lives now as we look forward to the day when “the Lord God Almighty “shall “reign for ever and ever!” Pastor Glenn Davis



Solid Waste Stickers ORDER FORM

Solid waste stickers are required on all bags disposed of in the compactor.

STICKERS REQUIRED AT TRANSFER STATION

Stickers can be purchased in advance at the Town Office Monday– Thursday, 8:30 am–4:00 pm or by mail. Cost \$3.00 per sticker.

Transfer Site Hours of Operation:

- Spring/Summer – Saturday, 8:00 am – 2:00pm; Wednesday, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fall/Winter – Saturday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm; Sunday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Order Solid Waste Stickers by Mail:

Complete form, enclose your check with a self-addressed, stamped envelope or add .75 cents for return mail.

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Chit Chat Deadline in December For January issue will be Wednesday, December 18th, By 6:00 pm

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Change is in the air...

Authored by Rep. Jim Harrison from nearby Rutland-11 district 11/11/24.

Like the temperature changes outside that will soon bring us winter, Election Day results will bring a different dynamic to the State House in January.

The current supermajority in the Vermont legislature has been dissolved. The Democrats will maintain majorities in the House and Senate but will no longer be able to override vetoes by the Governor without Republican help. Republicans picked up 18 or 19 seats in the House (depending on how you classify a former Republican member who became a Libertarian) and 6 in the Senate.

Additionally, it is likely there will be a recount in the Springfield House district and a possible revote in a Bennington County district that apparently sent about 40 residents in Pownal the wrong ballot.

The change in makeup will mean that compromise will be necessary for any major legislation to pass. The Democratic majority will continue to drive the legislative agenda but will need to find common ground with Republicans and Governor Scott to enact new bills.

Former Democratic legislator and now Republican, John Rogers, defeated the incumbent Lt Governor, David Zuckerman, a Progressive/Democrat from Chittenden County. While this race will ultimately be decided by the legislature as neither candidate received 50% of the vote, it's unlikely the legislature will vote to change the outcome.

Controversial measures, such as the Clean Heat initiative, face an uncertain future. The law, which was enacted last year by overriding a gubernatorial veto, would have increased the cost of heating fuels to fund other energy measures. It is slated to return to the legislature in January for another approval, which is now less likely. The original sponsor of the measure, Senator Chris Bray, D-Addison, was one of the lawmakers to lose re-election last week.

Education finance changes are also on the table, given the pushback from voters on increased property taxes. The legislation, which passed last session via a veto override, set up a two-year commission to come back and recommend changes. Many lawmakers do not believe we can wait two years, and that action needs to be taken sooner rather than later.

Other laws enacted over vetoes could be revisited, but that would take the legislative majority to reconsider their past votes and might be too high a hurdle.

While Governor Scott successfully campaigned hard for candidates to achieve more balance at the State House, he urged newly elected and re-elected lawmakers to put aside the "D" or "R" after your name and work for your communities, not your party. He further said, "...at the end of the day, we're all on Team Vermont."

Thank you all for your continued support!

Kevin Winter is the state representative for Ludlow, Mount Holly & Shrewsbury. He can be reached at Kewinter5783@gmail.com or 802-245-4190

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**Chit Chat Deadline in December
For January issue will be
Wednesday, December 18th,
By 6:00 pm**

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Mount Holly Town News

The following Minutes of the Select Board and the Planning Commission are “DRAFT” until approved at their next meeting. NOTE: Most Select Board and Planning Commission meetings are covered by Okemo Valley TV. The videos can be viewed at their website, www.okemovalley.tv Computers with internet access are available at the Town Library.

Special Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office October 30, 2024 **4:00 pm** MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco (chair), Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Elizabeth Karle, Merrill Bent (via phone)

**To Contact Mt. Holly Town Road Crew,
call the Town Garage at 802-259-3179**

provided by PACIF (the Town’s insurer) regarding their representation of the Town in the Susco bankruptcy case. Merrill Bent, Town Attorney, called in to the meeting to offer guidance regarding PACIF’s documents requiring signature. Ms. Bent noted that she will remain involved at a minimal cost to the Town, for any services not covered by PACIF, but confirmed that PACIF had assigned the case to Kevin L. Kite, Esq. at Carroll, Boe, Pell & Kite, P.C.. Mr. Turco made a motion to defend against the complaints filed against the Town in the Susco bankruptcy case; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

3. Discuss Town Employee Health Insurance Options. Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle made a recommendation to the Select Board to shift the Town’s employee health insurance plan from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont Platinum plan to a plan offered by MVP; she noted that the plan she is suggesting is also an excellent plan, but could be offered to employees at a lower cost to the Town while keeping out-of-pocket costs low for the employees. The new plan could be paired with an integrated Health Reimbursement Account that would replace the current HRA plan offered by Health Equity. Ms. Karle provided modeling documents to show varying scenarios for employees and for the Town budget, for the Select Board’s review. The Board agreed to make specific plan selections at the regular meeting, but agreed that switching insurance companies would be in both the employees’ and Town’s best interests. Ms. Garrow made a motion to switch from BCBSVT to MVP; Mr. Chase seconded;

unanimously approved.

4. Adjourned at 4:20 pm

Special Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office November 8, 2024 **4:00 pm** MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Clinton Woolley, Caitlin Boyle, Dennis Cointreau

1. Call to Order at 4:00 pm

2. Prospective Highway Employee Interview

a. Mark Turco made a motion to go into Executive Session (1 V.S.A. § 313) for two purposes: i. Considering employment of a highway employee candidate (1 V.S.A. § 313(3)). The public body will make a final decision to hire the employee in an open meeting and shall explain the reasons for its final decision during the open meeting.

ii. **Discussing pending civil litigation** to which the public body is a party (1 V.S.A. § 313(1e)).

b. Diana Garrow seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

c. The Town discussed the employment candidate’s suitability for the job, as well as compensation, benefits and timing of hiring.

d. Mark Turco made a motion to end executive session; Jeff chase seconded; unanimously approved.

3. Adjourned at 4:49 pm

Select Board Meeting Town Office November 12, 2024 **6:00 pm** MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco (Chair), Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Caitlin Boyle, Liz Karle, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley, Ken Saccardo, Chris Pratt, Donna Seward, James Seward, Zena Gates, Ron Unterman, Dennis Cointreau, Bob Knight, Dennis Devereux, David Johnson, Jon Lienhard, Daniel Hefman, James McGough, Faith Tempest (Zoom), Jon McCann (Zoom), Don Patch (Zoom), Barbara Hazelton (Zoom), Steve Hazelton (Zoom), Philippe Crane (Zoom).

1. Call to Order at 6:03 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.

Mark Turco added one item to Ongoing Business regarding beaver activity on Hortonville Road.

Regular Select Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Town Office. Items to be included on the Agenda are due by Noon the Wednesday before the meeting.

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Mount Holly Town Office

Will be **CLOSED** the following dates:

November 27th, Half Day Closed At Noon

November 28th, Thanksgiving

December 24th, Closed At Noon Christmas Eve

December 25th & 26th, For Christmas



Mount Holly Transfer Station

FALL / WINTER HOURS

SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm

SUNDAY, 9 am to 12 Noon

REMINDER: STICKERS REQUIRED, NO CASH

4. **Approval of October 8, 30 and Nov 8 minutes.** The Select Board Clerk noted that a mention of David Martin was corrected to David Venter in the October 8 minutes. Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted/corrected; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a. **Highways & Transfer Station Report** - Clinton Woolley. Mr. Woolley recommended that the Town purchase a used all-angle plow from the Town of Shrewsbury for \$8,000; the new retail value is \$14,000, and the plow has barely been used. The Select Board consulted the Town Treasurer regarding the budget for equipment purchases. Diana Garrow made a motion to purchase the plow using \$4,500 from the asset equipment fund and the remainder from the budget; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

Transfer Station attendant Ken Saccardo shared updates:

- 1) The highway and transfer station employees have created a new traffic flow and drop-off configuration to improve flow.
- 2) There is a need for some additional signage regarding parking and metal disposal.
- 3) The attendants have completed some research on resident usage and will share with the Select Board.

i. **Ash Tree Hazard on Howland Farm Rd:** Mr. Woolley noted that a property owner had asked for the Town to remove a tree on Howland Farm Road, believing it to be in the Town's right of way. The ANR atlas map indicates that the tree is not in the right-of-way and is not the Town's responsibility to remove. The Clerk will inform the property owner.

ii. **Warming Shed Cleaning.** The Select Board discussed the need for a new warming shed for employees. Mark Turco and Clinton Woolley will price out new sheds.

iii. **Bottle/Can Collection.** Bottle collection will continue to be organized by Rainbow Riding Center; the PTSA will not take over this task as previously discussed.

b. **Treasurer's Report - Elizabeth Karle.** Ms. Karle noted that the Town has been receiving 75% federal cost share for projects from the July 2023 flood reimbursement, but going forward will receive an additional 15% from federal sources. Going forward the Town will only be responsible for 2.2% of projects' costs after the State of Vermont pays the ERAF portion (after completion of all projects). She added that the Town is in its strongest cash position of the year due to the bulk of owed property tax payments being collected. Interest income also took a big jump this month. Thus far this fiscal year, \$365,000 has been received in FEMA funds. In addition, the Town's first income from recycling metal was collected from Casella; the \$450 in income offset monthly fees.

i. **Final MHVRS Account Settlement.** Ms. Karle reported that the former Rescue Squad brought in a final settlement of \$15,459.94. This was a final closure of their accounts and they presented a balance sheet and final income statement. No further assets are expected.

c. **Fire Department Update - Bill Austin.** Tabled.

d. **Planning Commission Update:** Jeff Chase made a motion to appoint Andrew Seward and Jim Seward to additional three-year terms on the Planning Commission.

6. New Business

a. **Winter Road Salt Quotes.** The Select Board voted last month to purchase salt from Apalachia; that purchase has been completed. Additional quotes from Cargill and Eastern have been filed.

b. **FY23 Grants-In-Aid Reporting Deadline.** Clinton Woolley and Elizabeth Karle are collaborating to file the report for the funded work, completed in August.

c. **2026 Better Roads Grant Program.** The Town will apply again this cycle for Perry Road bank stabilization and for repair of the water diversion hole in Belmont Village. Jeff Chase will


prepare the grant prior to the December meeting.

d. **First Aid Kits for Highway Crew.** Mr. Woolley ordered four first aid kits for the Town trucks; he recommended more should be purchased for the grader, loader and excavator. Mr. Turco made a motion to purchase the additional kits for the other vehicles; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

e. **Dog License Fees.** Ms. Garrow-Woolley noted that the State is raising their fees for dog licenses from \$5 to \$7; she asked the Select Board to consider whether they

**MOUNT HOLLY SEEKS
NEW GREEN UP DAY TOWN
COORDINATOR**

Mount Holly's Green Up Day Town Coordinator Marianne McGee is stepping down from her role and will be missed. We now need a new Town Coordinator! Green Up Vermont's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways by involving people in Green Up Day on the first Saturday in May. Town Coordinators help to organize local volunteers, plan routes for litter pick-up, distribute supplies and resources and compile reports. If you're interested in becoming the next Mount Holly Green Up Town Coordinator, please send a letter of interest to the Select Board at mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com.

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Notice Dog Owners
Dog Licensing will begin Thursday Jan 2, 2025 calendar year which must be paid by April 1st, each year. If your dog is no longer living please call the town clerk at 802-259-2391 so she can remove them from the list.
The registration fee remains the same and must be paid on or before April 1st, 2025
Male or female Neutered or Spayed = \$ 11.00 per dog
Male of female Unneutered or Unsprayed = \$ 15.00 per dog
The registration fee will increase after April 1st, 2025 to
Male or female Neutered or Spayed = \$ 13.00 per dog
Male of female Unneutered or Unsprayed = \$ 19.00 per dog
Checks should be made payable to: Town of Mount Holly

Mount Holly Animal Control Officer
The Mount Holly Animal Control Officer is Adam Karle. He handles all calls concerning domesticated and farm animals, including Animal Cruelty concerns. For more information or to make a report please call Cell (802) 236-3656

wanted to raise the Town's fees in tandem. Current fees are \$11 for neutered/spayed by April 1; unneutered is \$15 by April 1. The Select Board deliberated and elected not to make a change.

f. Renew FWS Permit. Mr. Turco made a motion to renew the permit for geese depredation at Star Lake; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. Mr. Unterman noted that the program was at its most successful this year. The clerk will file the annual report and apply for a renewal.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. Beaver Issues on 1668 Hortonville Road. Mr. McGough of 1668 Hortonville Road noted that due to beaver activity, his shed and deck are compromised; the stream water level is rising and infringing on both buildings. Mr. Turco recommended Mr. McGough be in touch with the regional game warden regarding remediation.

b. Re-sign NEMRC Contract. The Board Chair re-signed the contract, which was misplaced after the last meeting.

c. Revisit FY24 Municipal Planning Grant. Jeff Chase noted he, Jon McCann, Elizabeth Karle and Faith Tempest had considered responses to the Town's RFP for a housing study to be funded by the FY24 Municipal Planning Grant. There were five responses; Mr. Chase noted that SEG offered the best proposal. SEG's bid is within the grant amount (\$33,333K - \$29,999K from State with a \$3,336K Town match). Mr. Chase made a motion to select SEG to conduct the study; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

d. Conservation Commission Appointments. Ms. Garrow made a motion to appoint Alexandra Yuster to the Conservation Commission; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

e. Health Insurance Plan Selection. Ms. Karle noted that Blue Cross Blue Shield VT rates are projected to rise between 13-15% next year, which would put the Town over budget for health insurance costs.. She has compared the Town's current BCBSVT Platinum plan to comparable MVP plans, to consider whether a change in provider could offer cost reductions to the Town without significantly impacting coverage or out-of-pocket costs for employees. She shared research and scenarios with the Select Board to inform a decision, noting that MVP offers an integrated Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) that can be paired with an insurance plan to keep employees' out-of-pocket comparable to the current plan while saving the Town \$17,000 per year.. Jeff Chase made a motion for the Town to select the MVP VT GOLD 3 QHDHP Plan as the health insurance plan offered to Town employees; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. Mr. Turco also made a motion for the Town to adopt an HRA at the level of \$2,000 per individual/year and \$4,000 per family plan/year; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

f. Reappoint Rutland REMC Voting Members. Mr. Turco made a motion to reappoint Jeff Chase as emergency management representative and Billy Austin as emergency services representative for the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee.

g. New Highway Employee. The Select Board reviewed applications for the open position on the highway crew and interviewed the

Mount Holly Listers Hours
The Listers are at the Mount Holly Town Office most Tuesdays 10:00am-2:00 pm or by appointment. Please call 802-259-2391 for any questions.

qualified candidate that had expressed interest in the position. Mr. Turco noted that the candidate had a Class A CDL, was formerly the Mount Holly School bus driver, and had done some part-time seasonal work for the Town in the past. Mr. Turco made a motion to hire Dennis Cointreau as the new highway employee; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

8. Citizen Comments. None.

9. Announcements

a. Town Office Closures: Thanksgiving: November 27th at noon - November 28th; Christmas: December 24th at noon- December 26th; New Year's Day

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel. Mr. Turco made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss

employee compensation and benefits matters; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved. While in executive session, the Select Board held a 6-month personnel employment review for a Transfer Station Attendant, in which compensation was discussed and a pay raise previously voted on was shared with the employee. The Board also discussed and set pay rate and employment offer details for its new highway department hire. Finally, the Board discussed pay rate and benefits being offered to existing employees. After deliberation, Mr. Turco made a motion to shift the compensation and benefits package for Town employees such that employees will pay 10% of health insurance premium costs, and the Town 90%, effective January 1, 2025, and that current employees will receive a 10% raise in wages at that time, as well as an additional 5% raise in July 2025.

12. Adjourned at 8:28 pm

**Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 21st, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Seward, Andrew Schulz (Secretary), Stephen Michel

Also present: Faith Tempest

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm
2. Changes to agenda: none
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. The minutes of the regular meeting held on 19th June 2024 were approved without objection.
4. Reports & Announcements



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a. Administrative Officer

• BCRs received from:

Cavoto, Healdville Road: replacement of existing mobile home (resubmission after the previous BCR expired)

Wilkins, Frost Hill Road: 26'x12' Garage/barn

Murphy, Fowler Brook Road: 36'x75' pickle ball court. Commissioner Jim Seward asked the AO to check the location of the structure which is close to the river and may be in the flood hazard area.

• Wastewater permits:

Burns, Belmont Road: permit issued for replacement of failed septic.

• Other matters

Birch Run: following communication with the property owner Spencer Orkus, he has confirmed that he is planning to construct one single family residence.

Work is underway on land preparation

and septic design. Construction will likely commence in 2025. Mr Orkus is aware of the need to complete a BCR and meet applicable state regulations.

Patch, Greenstand Road: the AO has received forms to start the process of removing the area of proposed construction from the Special Flood Hazard Area. AO will clarify the process with the NFIP Coordinator and proceed accordingly.

McLellan, Rte 103 N: stream bank stabilization work had been undertaken based on a Stream Alteration General Permit issued by DEC; AO spoke to the owner because a Town FHA permit is also required. This also gave the opportunity to discuss with the owner that a FHA permit is also required for the garage constructed on the property in 2022. Property owner has been given copies of the regulations and permit application form.

MPH Holdings, Station Road: the Act 250 permit for construction of a mixed use commercial/residential unit has been issued.

Hawkins, Packer Road: the State has approved a heavy cut based on the owners' forest management plan.

b. Planning Commission Chair

i. **Act 250 updates:** Chair noted that the PC will need to look at how the changes will affect the Commission and its work.

ii. **Reforms to Regional Planning** may put the Regional Plan at a higher level of authority than the Town Plan. Rutland Regional Plan is currently being updated and Chair noted that we should encourage RRPC to adopt the maps and language from the Mount Holly Town Plan into the Regional plan

iii. **There is a new State River Corridor law**, introduced partly because not enough towns were taking advantage of the higher levels of funding available if their town bylaws are not consistent with FEMA regulations (as Mount Holly's now is). The relationship between our bylaw and state law needs to be considered since the Town must maintain at least state regulations (though can go beyond them). The State law will also mean the need for both state and town permits for development in flood hazard areas/ river corridors. Chair suggested asking RRPC for a presentation.

5. Correspondence

a. **Subdivision proposals:** the PC has not received any further updates from the two incomplete subdivision applications (Cole and Garrow). Mr Garrow is in the process of amending the Act 250 permit on his property. Chair asked the AO to follow up with Mr Cole to find out the status of their complete sketch plan. Chair noted that recent subdivision applications have highlighted shortcomings in the Town subdivision regulations and proposed that the PC should consider revising them in the coming months. Chair has asked RRPC if there is a model that can be adapted, but the lack of zoning in Mount Holly means that there are few relevant examples, since these regulations are usually subsumed in zoning regulations. Commissioners Andrew Seward and Schulz both noted that a concern is to ensure that applicants have met all State requirements before submitting applications



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**MON. 12/9
5:30 PM**

FLETCHER MEMORIAL LIBRARY 88 MAIN ST LUDLOW VT 05149

a. None

8. Public Comments:

9. Upcoming meetings

a. Regular meeting: 18th September, 2024 at 7:00 pm

10. Meeting adjourned at 8.00pm. For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk

In draft form until approved on 18th September, 2024 A video recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-821>

Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 21st, 2024 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Seward, Andrew Schulz (Secretary), Stephen Michel

Also present: Faith Tempest

11. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

12. Changes to agenda: none

13. Approval of minutes

a. The minutes of the regular meeting held on 19th June 2024 were approved without objection.

14. Reports & Announcements

a. Administrative Officer

• BCRs received from:

Cavoto, Healdville Road: replacement of existing mobile home (resubmission after the previous BCR expired)

Wilkins, Frost Hill Road: 26'x12' Garage/barn

Murphy, Fowler Brook Road: 36'x75' pickle ball court. Commissioner Jim Seward asked the AO to check the location of the structure which is close to the river and may be in the flood hazard area.

• Wastewater permits:

Burns, Belmont Road: permit issued for replacement of failed septic.

• Other matters

Birch Run: following communication with the property owner Spencer Orkus, he has confirmed that he is planning to construct one single family residence. Work is underway on land preparation and septic design. Construction will likely commence in 2025. Mr Orkus is aware of the need to complete a BCR and meet applicable state regulations.

Patch, Greenstand Road: the AO has received forms to start the process of removing the area of proposed construction from the Special Flood Hazard Area. AO will clarify the process with the NFIP Coordinator and proceed accordingly.

McLellan, Rte 103 N: stream bank stabilization work had been undertaken based on a Stream Alteration General Permit issued by DEC; AO spoke to the owner because a Town FHA permit is also required. This also gave the opportunity to discuss with the owner that a FHA permit is also required for the garage constructed on the property in 2022. Property owner has been given copies

to the Town.

b. Email / Other:

• A Town resident had written to the Chair with concerns regarding the Birch Run development. AO will communicate with them regarding the latest information (see AO report above).

• Commissioner Jim Seward asked about construction of a modular home on Hortonville Road for which preparation work has started. AO will check BCRs and take action as needed.

6. New Business:

a. **Review the proposed Weston Town Plan:** PC members are invited to attend the public hearing. Commissioner Schulz noted that key changes proposed in the Plan are to expand existing conserved areas and to change the definitions of some of the residential areas. Chair noted that the maps have some discrepancies with the Mount Holly town plan maps regarding town boundaries, and do not show new conserved land. He will convey this to the Weston PC.

b. **Review open meeting law changes:** Chair noted that the PC will now need to post a link to videos of meetings. The Clerk will make adjustments to web page and minutes themselves linking to the recorded videos.

7. Unfinished Business



**PROP SWAP
MON 12/16
5:30-7PM**

Clipping Trade/ Houseplant Exchange
The perfect way to start an indoor garden or add to your "growing" collection!



indoor plants

decorative plants

802-228-8921

Fletcher Memorial Library 88 Main St Ludlow VT 05149

**Songwriters
Gathering
at Fletcher
Memorial Library
with host
Max Cassano**



Monday, November 25th

5-6:30pm

FLETCHER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
88 MAIN ST, LUDLOW VT 05149
802-228-8921



of the regulations and permit application form.

MPH Holdings, Station Road: the Act 250 permit for construction of a mixed use commercial/residential unit has been issued.

Hawkins, Packer Road: the State has approved a heavy cut based on the owners' forest management plan.

b. Planning Commission Chair

i. **Act 250 updates:** Chair noted that the PC will need to look at how the changes will affect the Commission and its work.

ii. Reforms to Regional Planning may put the Regional Plan at a higher level of authority than the Town Plan. Rutland Regional Plan is currently being updated and Chair noted that we should encourage RRPC to adopt the maps and language from the Mount Holly Town Plan into the Regional plan

iii. **There is a new State River Corridor law,** introduced partly because not enough towns were taking advantage of the higher levels of funding available if their town bylaws are not consistent with FEMA regulations (as Mount Holly's now is). The relationship between our bylaw and state law needs to be considered since the Town must maintain at least state regulations (though can go beyond them). The State law will also mean the need for both state and town permits for development in flood hazard areas/ river corridors. Chair suggested asking RRPC for a presentation.

15. Correspondence

a. **Subdivision proposals:** the PC has not received any further updates from the two incomplete subdivision applications (Cole and Garrow). Mr Garrow is in the process of amending the Act 250 permit on his property. Chair asked the AO to follow up with Mr Cole to find out the status of their complete sketch plan. Chair noted that recent subdivision applications have highlighted shortcomings in the Town subdivision regulations and proposed that the PC should consider revising them in the coming months. Chair has asked RRPC if there is a model that can be adapted, but the lack of zoning in Mount Holly means that there are few relevant examples, since these regulations are usually subsumed in zoning regulations. Commissioners Andrew Seward and Schulz both noted that a concern is to ensure that applicants have met all State requirements before submitting applications to the Town.

b. Email / Other:

- A Town resident had written to the Chair with concerns regarding the Birch Run development. AO will communicate with them regarding the latest information (see AO report above).
- Commissioner Jim Seward asked about construction of a modular home on Hortonville Road for which preparation work has started. AO will check BCRs and take action as needed.

16. New Business:

a. **Review the proposed Weston Town Plan:** PC members are invited to attend the public hearing. Commissioner Schulz noted that key changes proposed in the Plan are to expand existing conserved areas and to change the definitions of some of the residential areas. Chair noted that the maps have some discrepancies with the Mount Holly town plan maps regarding town boundaries, and do not show new conserved land. He will convey this to the Weston PC.

b. **Review open meeting law changes:** Chair noted that the PC will now need to post a link to videos of meetings. The Clerk will make adjustments to web page and minutes themselves linking to the recorded videos.

17. Unfinished Business

**Give to Mount Holly Conservation Trust
for Giving Tuesday**

Mount Holly Conservation Trust* conserves open space that **protects wildlife corridors and public access** to great **fishing, hunting, bird watching, hiking, winter sports, wildlife, and more.**

We protect Vermont values, open space, wildlife, and access to our Green Mountains and valleys.

Donate this year on Giving Tuesday (or any day) to help us continue to conserve open space in Mount Holly.


<https://mounthollyconservationtrust.org/donate/>




* Over 1600 acres already protected in the 20 years of this all-volunteer, Charitable 501(c)(3) organization's existence.

**A WASSAIL
CONCERT
AT
FLETCHER
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY**

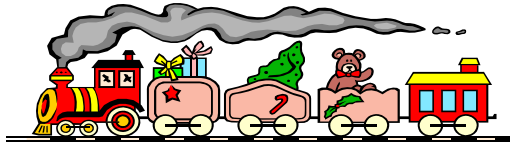
December 13th | 7 PM |
88 Main St Ludlow, VT 05149



Unreel is Camille
Parker, Jon Clinch, &
Graham Parker



- a. None
- 18. Public Comments:**
- 19. Upcoming meetings**
- a. **Regular meeting:** 18th September, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- 20. Meeting adjourned** at 8.00pm. For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk
- In draft form until approved on 18th September, 2024 A video recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://okemovaleeey.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-821>



Mount Holly Conservation Commission

This winter we plan to share a draft plan and look forward to receiving your comments. This month's report is a synopsis of the commission's major activities in the past year to September 2024. We hope that our fellow residents and other members of the community will be inspired to contribute to our projects or to suggest new areas to pursue.

Star Lake project activities and prognosis.

- We have installed bottom barriers to suppress vegetation in the swimming area. This has been modestly successful. We have also hand pulled some invasive plants. The town of Mount Holly at our urging has regularly tested the water in Star Lake and posted the results.

Fletcher Memorial Library Presents

Stranger Care: A Memoir of Loving What Isn't Ours

By Sarah Sentilles

**Discussion
Monday 12/2 @ 6PM**

The moving story of what one woman learned from fostering a newborn—about injustice, about making mistakes, about how to better love and protect people beyond our immediate kin.

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88 Main Street

- In collaboration with the Mount Holly Conservation Trust, we are making an inventory of the vegetation and wild life in and around the Lake. This is nearly completed and will very helpful in applying for permissions and grants to make the lake area friendlier to recreation.
- We hosted a presentation from the State of Vermont Wetland supervisor for Rutland county on opportunities and procedures to improve the recreational situation

• We are in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to move forward in the coming years. Completely restoring the past is not likely, but substantial improvement is. As we develop a plan, we intend to share drafts and look forward to receiving comments.

Ash Borer Mitigation Project.

- We continued for the second year our programs to aid landowners to protect their Ash trees.
- In 2024, Mount Holly Landowners performed 824 injections in their Ash trees and reimbursed the town for the cost of the chemicals
- This program will continue in 2025. We now have about seventy injectors so we can lend out injectors to 4-5 people simultaneously from late May to mid-July.
- Aside the cost of the injectors this program is basically zero cost to the town.

Energy Fair

• In June of 2024, we organized an Energy Fair in the Community Center where several government and private entities presented and described their offerings to help conserve energy, to reduce fossil fuel consumption and to decrease residential waste production.

• As part of the grant for the Energy Fair, we have used some of the funds to

perform energy audits of four public buildings in Mount Holly, There are: Town Office, Odd Fellows Hall, Perkins house of the Historical Museum, and the Town Library building.

Recreation Committee.

- We have formed a recreation committee as a sub-committee of the Conservation Commission.
- The Committee is open to all who are interested in advancing, utilizing, or publicizing recreational opportunities in and around Mount Holly.
- This group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month and will announce its meetings in the Mount Holly Newsflash.
- The group is initially focusing on trails for hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing and on Star Lake including additions and improvements in the swimming area.

Bio-Diversity project

- The Mount Holly Biodiversity Project is developing a comprehensive baseline inventory of the plants, animals, and fungi found in Mount Holly.
- This program is being continued by Jim Corven who should be contacted regarding progress and participation. By Pilippe Crane



Mount Holly Town Auditors Request

For The Town Report Mount Holly Town Auditors are requesting all organizations who submit articles and or budgets for the Mount Holly Town Report to have your articles typed single spaced and mailed or dropped off to the Town Office no later than January 8th, 2024. Anything received after that date will not appear in the Town Report. All articles mail to the Town Office at the following address: Mount Holly Town Office, Attn: Auditors, P.O. Box 248, Mt. Holly, VT 05758 or E-mail to them at this address mthollyauditors@gmail.com

If you have any pictures of your organization or the Town of Mount Holly that have occurred in town this past year and wish to have them included in the Town Report, please send them to us for our consideration. We can scan the photo and return it to you. For more information, call the town office and leave a message for one of the Auditors. Thank You, The Mount Holly Town Auditors

FESTIVAL of LIGHTS CELEBRATION:

The date is fast approaching for The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum's holiday fundraising event "FESTIVAL of LIGHTS" celebration on Saturday evening, December 7th at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. We welcome the Mount Holly Community and neighboring Communities to an evening of enjoyment, refreshment and a live auction. At 5:00 PM the door opens for the auction preview; at 5:30 our local auctioneer, Paul Nevin, will commence the evening. We can report that many choice new and vintage items have been gathered. Plus our traditional, treasured wreaths and sought after wine and cheese raffles will be offered. You might just find the best Holiday present for a loved one or a dear friend. A \$5 admission charge will include 3 tickets for a special door prize.

Come start the Holiday season enjoying a festive night with neighbors, old and new, local and beyond, all while supporting our Museum, a significant community asset.





Vermont Saves: A Retirement Program

Join Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak for a discussion about Vermont Saves, the Treasurer's publicly administered retirement program launching in December 2024. The event will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the StreetSide Conference Center, 67 Merchants Row in Downtown Rutland.

Vermont Saves will improve the financial security of tens of thousands of Vermonters. The program creates a retirement savings plan for Vermonters not offered a plan through their employer. Employers with 5 or more employees who do not currently offer their workers a retirement plan will be required to sign up for Vermont Saves by the end of February 2025. Their workers will automatically be enrolled in a Roth IRA account.

Employees can set their own contribution rate, use the program default (5%), or opt out of the program if they choose. The program makes saving for retirement simple and automatic. At no cost to employers or taxpayers, Vermont Saves will help secure a stable retirement for Vermont's workforce. Join us to learn more!

Ludlow Rotarians Show Support To Eradicate Polio

Ludlow Rotarians recently heard from District Rotary Foundation Chair Diane Barclay about the Rotary International (RI) Foundation's work to eradicate polio in the world through vaccinations. Ludlow Rotarians are shown here with their annual checks to support the cause, helping RI raise \$50 million to be matched by the Bill Gates Foundation two to one. Kim Lampert, top row center, was presented with her Paul Harris sustaining member pin at the meeting for her support of all of RI's causes.



Big Pops Sandwich Shop Expands to Ludlow, Bringing Gourmet Sandwiches to Okemo Valley

Big Pops Sandwich Shop celebrated their grand opening day on Friday, October 25, 2024 at their new location at 57 Pond Street in Ludlow, VT. This expansion marks a significant milestone for Big



Drawing on his experiences as an executive chef and his extensive background in hospitality, Owner Jan Giejda shared his enthusiasm for bringing his passion for cooking and community to the Okemo Valley. The concept for Big Pops Sandwich Shop was inspired by his grandfather, known as Big Pops, and the community is excited to welcome Big Pops Sandwich Shop to the region! Leah Kriebler, Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

Pops, having begun in June with their Airstream in Manchester, VT.

Since their inception, Big Pops Sandwich Shop has garnered a reputation for serving delicious food with great community spirit. Open every day of the week, their menu features an array of gourmet sandwiches, salads, soups, French fries, and subs that cater to all tastes. From classic favorites to innovative new creations, Big Pops Sandwich Shop has an incredible selection filled with fresh creativity.

At the ribbon cutting, Owners Jan Giejda and Luca Sena, and the rest of team, Paisley Barr, Karen Vargas, and Michael Reyes stood together along with Okemo Valley Chamber Executive Director Carol Lighthall and Assistant Director Leah Kriebler to celebrate opening day at the Okemo Marketplace.

Belmont Septic Design



Soil Test Pits /
Design-Permitting
802.733.2561

kevin@belmontseptic.com

Kevin Hollebeek

www.mounthollyvt.org chitchat@vermontel.net



Final Count

144145
MOUNT HOLLY
RUTLAND-WINDSOR

OFFICIAL VERMONT GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use BLOCK letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN #*" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

1100 Check list
588 VOTERS

<p>FOR U.S. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>CLAUDIA DE LA CRUZ <input type="radio"/> <small>REGULATORY</small> KARINA GARCIA <input checked="" type="radio"/> <small>NEW YORK</small> RACHELE FRUIT <input type="radio"/> <small>SOCIALISM AND LIBERATION</small> DENNIS RICHTER <input type="radio"/> <small>FLA-ASS</small> KAMALA D. HARRIS <input checked="" type="radio"/> <small>CALIFORNIA</small> TIM WALZ <input type="radio"/> <small>MINNESOTA</small> ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR <input type="radio"/> <small>NEW YORK</small> NICOLE SHANAHAN <input checked="" type="radio"/> <small>ILLINOIS</small> CHASE OLIVER <input type="radio"/> <small>GEORGIA</small> MIKE TER MAAT <input type="radio"/> <small>NEBRASKA</small> DONALD J. TRUMP <input type="radio"/> <small>FLORIDA</small> JD VANCE <input type="radio"/> <small>OHIO</small> CORNEL WEST <input type="radio"/> <small>CALIFORNIA</small> MELINA ABDULLAH <input type="radio"/> <small>CALIFORNIA</small> MELINA ABDULLAH <input type="radio"/> <small>PEACE AND JUSTICE</small></p> <p>(Write-in) 4 + 4 under votes</p>	<p>FOR GOVERNOR Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>ESTHER CHARLESTIN <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMPHUIS</small> JUNE GOODBAND <input type="radio"/> <small>PEACE AND JUSTICE</small> KEVIN HOYT <input type="radio"/> <small>INDEPENDENT</small> ELI "POA" MUTINO <input type="radio"/> <small>INDEPENDENT</small> PHIL SCOTT <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small></p>	<p>FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>CHARITY R. CLARK <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> KEVIN GUSTAFSON <input type="radio"/> <small>PEACE AND JUSTICE</small> TURE NELSON <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small></p>	<p>FOR STATE SENATOR Vote for not more than THREE</p> <p>MARSHA CASSEL <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> BRIAN "BC" COLLAMORE <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small> DANA PETERSON <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> ROBERT J. RICHARDS <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> DAVID WEEKS <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small> TERRY K. WILLIAMS <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small></p>	<p>FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>ADRIENNE RAYMOND <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> KEVIN C. WINTER <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small></p>	<p>FOR SECRETARY OF STATE Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>SARAH COPELAND HANZAS <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> H. BROOKE PAIGE <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small></p>	<p>FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>DOUG HOFFER <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> H. BROOKE PAIGE <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small></p>	<p>FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>BECCA BALINT <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small> MARK COESTER <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small> JILL "JESSY" DIAMONDSTONE <input type="radio"/> <small>PEACE AND JUSTICE</small> ADAM ORTIZ <input type="radio"/> <small>INDEPENDENT</small></p>
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FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Vote for not more than SEVEN

DIANA GARROW <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small>	550
ROBERT HERBST <input type="radio"/> <small>INDEPENDENT</small>	415
DAVID H. JOHNSON <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small>	505
MILLICENT JOHNSON <input type="radio"/> <small>REPUBLICAN</small>	465
LINDA MILLER <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small>	386
MARC MILLER <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small>	318
BRIGID SULLIVAN <input type="radio"/> <small>DEMOCRATIC</small>	390
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	24
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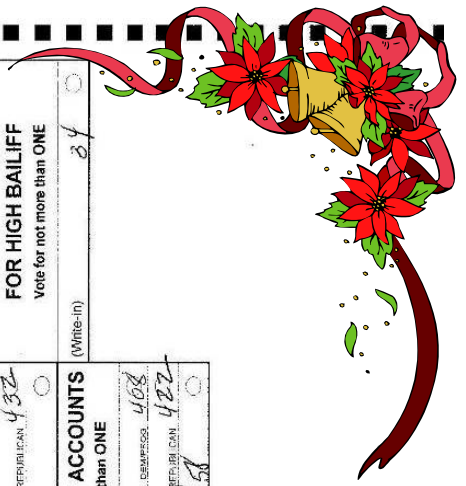
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Ludlow Rotary Hears Bike Trail Update And about TRSU Long Term Forecast



At its recent meetings, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) heard from two interesting speakers.

Recently, Charlie Rimer, Ludlow Area Sport Trails (LAST) updated the club about the considerable progress made on the construction of the first 3.5 mile multi-use trail on the "Back 40" behind the Ludlow Elementary School. The trail opened on June 15 to the public for biking, walking, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing. Bikes may be mountain or road bikes, and regular or ebikes. The trail was constructed professionally with funds provided by the Town of Ludlow using AARPA money. The fact that the trail did not get damaged during the summer flood demonstrates the importance of having the trail built professionally. The long term vision of the group is a well-marked path from Jackson Gore to Cavendish that is off road, accessible to all and well used.

Those who wish to explore the trail loops should park at the Okemo Valley TV station, go around the baseball fields and follow the signs past the community gardens.

For more information and a map go to ludlowtrails.org.

Most recently, Layne Millington, Superintendent of Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU), spoke to the group about falling and disparate school enrollments among the elementary schools, short term capital improvements needed in the schools, and longer term funding options. His long term predictions of the need for additional school consolidations generated a lively discussion with the Rotary Club. Millington stated the lack of local control over local school taxes would force the issue within the next 5 to 10 years. Vermont ratios of students to teachers is much lower than nationwide averages, which is part of the reason education is so costly in Vermont, he stated. Rotarians suggested alternatives to be considered. Millington stated there will be opportunities for many more discussions and much more planning before any actions are taken.

Pictured above; Charlie Rimer, Ludlow Area Sport Trails (LAST) speaks to the Ludlow Rotary Club. Photo By Ralph Pace, LRC By Brigid Sullivan 802 558-1416



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Take a right on Town Hill Rd. and follow for 2 miles.
Go right on Lincoln Hill Rd. (changes to Northam Rd.)
Follow 3 miles to the store.
2658 Northam Rd., Shrewsbury, Vt.
(802)492-3366

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KEITH Hawkins
president

LOCAL

Mount Holly, Vermont
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Maple Grove Cemetery
East Wallingford, Vermont

A Lovely Historic Cemetery
Landscaped With The Charm Of Old Majestic
Maple Trees



Established More
Than 200 Years Ago

Residents and Neighbors are Welcome
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Many Lots Available
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GREEN MOUNTAIN
NEIGHBORS
MOUNT HOLLY • SHREWSBURY • WALLINGFORD

Green Mountain Neighbors has been busy assisting our 53 members! In October, GMN hosted several interesting events:

A Session On "Assistive Technologies" sponsored by the Vermont Assistive Technology Program. See their website at <https://atp.vermont.gov/>. A dozen folks attended the session at the Wallingford Town Hall. We learned that through this program (which is a federally sponsored organization), individuals of all ages can find accessible solutions to overcome barriers at home, work and in the community associated with disability and aging. This includes things to assist with hearing, speech, vision, mobility, learning, technology and much more. There is an incredible assortment of equipment that's available to try out. If you decide you would like to purchase an item, the folks at ATP can help with funding. It is a valuable resource.

Another event was a demonstration **Reiki**, which is a Japanese healing technique that uses gentle touch to promote relaxation and well-being

We also hosted an historic walk around Mount Holly, and a light hike in

Shrewsbury to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Future events are currently being scheduled and will be listed on our Green Mountain Neighbors Events page.

GMN wishes you Happy Holidays and hopes that you will keep us in mind. We are a 501c3, totally volunteer run organization and would love to have your help, whether by volunteering or making a tax-deductible donation. See our website at <https://greenmountainneighbors.org> or call us at (802) 417-2292.

Finally, if you have been hesitating about volunteering for Green Mountain Neighbors, please contact us to learn more. Yes, we'd love to have more members too, but we must have a pool of volunteers to help those members out. We need several more volunteers from Mount Holly that are willing to drive, but we also need folks willing and able to help with lite chores, seasonal tasks or perhaps make a few wellness calls.

Thank You and Happy Holidays from the members and volunteers of Green Mountain neighbors.



Mount Holly Snow Flyers

We are pleased to report that we had two successful trail maintenance days recently. Some may have noticed that our trails are staked and marked for the season. Trails will be opened on or after December 15, 2024 upon approval from our trail master, Steve Howlett. We sincerely appreciate our landowners. Allowing us to access your lands provides the trail system. We ask that all riders ride respectfully and obey all trail signs.

All riders are reminded that those born after July 1, 1983, must attend and successfully pass a safety course. The Ludlow Side Hill Cronchers will be hosting a class on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Visit their website for further details.

Please remember to purchase your TMA before December 15, 2024 and received the early bird pricing. You will also be entered into the TMA prize raffle (grand prize is a 2025 Nitro trailer and 18 gift cards valued from \$500 - \$250). When purchasing your TMA be sure to select the Mount Holly Snow Flyers as your club!

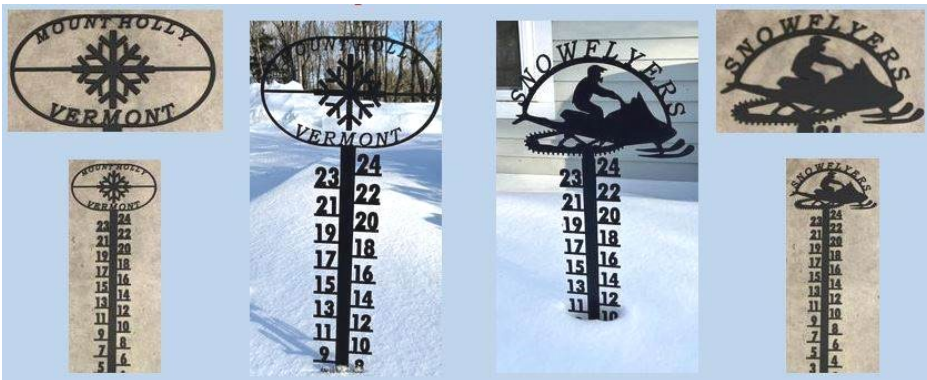
We recently moved our sign board to the trail crossing at 103. The visibility of our signs will be great exposure for our sponsors. For more information regarding our sign board project email us at mounthollysnowflyers@gmail.com.

Looking for a great holiday gift who loves snow? A custom snow stake would look great over their window! They are just \$30 each. We have some that say Mount Holly, Vermont on them as well as Snowflyers. You can email us for more info or call Kim at 802-259-3877 (after 6 p.m.)

Our next club meeting is Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Our club meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Zoom options are available. Please consider joining in on one of our meetings to see what is going on! It takes many volunteers to be successful and we are fortunate to have many hands in our club.

Wishing all our readers, riders, family and friends the Happiest of Holidiays! Let it snow!

Follow us on Facebook as we get ready to ride in 2025. Our website is:



www.mounthollysnowflyers.org. Mount Holly Snow Flyers, Kim Lampert, Secretary

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
& New Year's
Mass Schedule & Services**

St. Patrick's in Wallingford

4:00 pm Christmas Eve December 24th
11:00 am Christmas Day December 25th
5:30 pm New Year's Eve December 31st

&

Christ The King in Rutland

4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve December 24th
7:30 am & 9:30 am Christmas Day December 25th
4:00 pm New Year's Eve December 31st
7:30 am & 9:30 am New Year's Day January 1st

&

**Annunciation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary in Ludlow**

4:30 pm Christmas Eve
9:00 am Christmas Day
4:30 pm New Year's Eve
9:00 am New Year's Day



was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

120097

Notice Dog Owners

Dog Licensing will begin Thursday Jan 2, 2025, they must be paid by April 1st, each year. If your dog is no longer living please call the Town Clerk at 802-259-2391 so she can remove them from the list. The registration fee remains the same and must be paid on or before April 1st, 2025.

Please note this is a State of Vermont Law

NEUTERED / SPAYED

On or Before April 1, 2025, = \$11.00

After April 1, 2025, = \$13.00

UNNEUTERED OR UNSPAYED

On or Before April 1, 2025, = \$15.00

After April 1, 2025, = \$19.00

ANIMAL LICENSE

Town of Mount Holly, Vermont

NO.

THIS CERTIFIES that _____, the undersigned, is the owner or keeper of an animal kept at _____

Telephone: _____

and described as follows: **NAME** _____ **AGE** ___ YRS ___ MOS

SIZE: ___ **SEX:** ___ **COLOR:** ___ **BREED:** _____

AND IS THE ANIMAL DESCRIBED IN

EXPIRATION RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE NO. _____ **DATE** _____

SIGNATURE OF

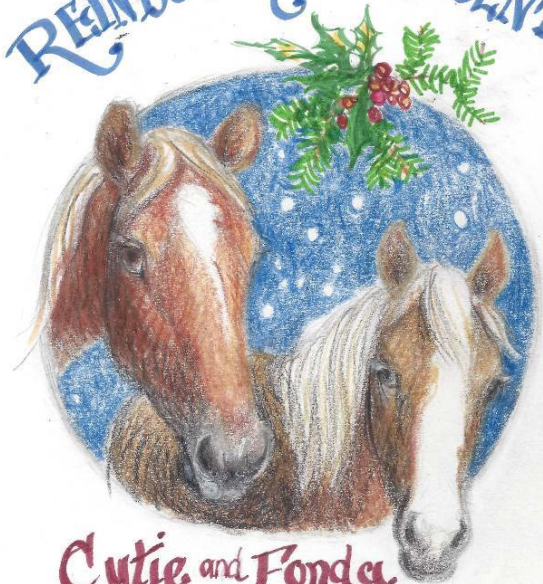
DATED: _____ OWNER OR KEEPER: _____

In reliance on the above certificate and the payment fee of \$ _____ the animal above described is licensed for the period ending 2026.

DATED: _____ MOUNT HOLLY TOWN CLERK

**Dogs and Hybrids must wear a collar with license tag attached thereto.
If you use this form, please send a copy of the Rabies Verification Certificate**

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
FROM
RAINBOW RIDING CENTER



Cutie and Fonda
JOIN US IN WISHING
EVERYONE
A WONDERFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON!

By Grace Brigham

'Twas The Night Before Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, on Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky. So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St Nicholas

came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. He had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

Clement Clarke Moore Miniature Biography

Clement Clarke Moore (1799 - 1863) came from a prominent family and his father Benjamin Moore was the Bishop of New York who was famous for officiating at the inauguration of George Washington. The tradition of reading 'Twas the night before Christmas poem on Christmas Eve is now a Worldwide institution and tradition.

Clement Clarke Moore (1799 - 1863) wrote the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas also called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" in 1822. It is now the tradition in many American families to read the poem every Christmas Eve. The poem 'Twas the night before



Christmas' has redefined our image of Christmas and Santa Claus. Prior to the creation of the story of 'Twas the night before Christmas' St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, had never been associated with a sleigh or reindeers!

Clement Moore, the author of the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas, was a reticent man and it is believed that a family friend, Miss H. Butler, sent a copy of the poem to the New York Sentinel who published the poem. The condition of publication was that the author of 'Twas the night before Christmas was to remain anonymous.

The first publication date was 23rd December 1823 and it was an immediate success. It was not until 1844 that Clement Clarke Moore claimed ownership when the work was included in a book of his poetry.



A bundle of Toys he





106 Upper Loop | Ludlow
 Located in the desirable West Village area, this home offers deeded ski access to Okemo's Sachem Trail
 website link: <https://bit.ly/3X5pu1D>



3350 Route 155 | Mount Holly
 Country Home on 25+/- Acres
 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths plus bonus Rooms
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 Bedroom detached Home
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 33.5+/- Acres with over 2,000+/- ft
 stream frontage . Driveway roughed-
 in. Power on site.
 Website link: <https://bit.ly/3zZKJKf>



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802-228-5333



Shriner Hospital For Children

Shriner Hospital for Children provides specialty care to children up to age 21 with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the family's ability to pay. All care and services are delivered in a family-centered environment.



To learn more about our services, or to refer a patient, visit www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org to locate a hospital near you. Or call 800-237-5055 in the U.S. or 800-361-7256 Canada – Past Potentate Bob Ferguson, Cairo Shriners, Rutland

Community Health's Diabetes Educators on a Mission

Each year in November, Community Health joins other healthcare organizations and the American Diabetes Association to observe [American Diabetes Month](#), a time to rally against the diabetes epidemic and empower individuals, families and communities with knowledge about diabetes.

How will you observe American Diabetes Month?

Here are some things you can do during American Diabetes Month:

- Talk to your Community Health primary care provider about diabetes and find out if you are at risk.
- If you are diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes, inquire about Community Health's diabetes education program.
- Take the risk test <https://diabetes.org/diabetes-risk-test>.
- Attend and bring a friend or family member to Community Health's diabetes support group on the second Wednesday of the month.

Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center have joined together to offer two Diabetes Support Groups:

- 1-2 PM at the Rutland Diabetes & Endocrinology Center
- 5-6 PM at Community Health Castleton

BONE BUILDERS

Join BONE BUILDERS
 Free weights and lessons
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 Great way to improve Balance
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 Call Judy at 802-259-2443



Learn more about diabetes at Community Health. Check our website <http://www.chcrr.org> or call 802-779-9169.

Carolynn Hondo Fedor Carolynnfedor@gmail.com 908-963-8540



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1.802.228.7772

www.calmmomentsmassage.com



For Sale: Firewood –
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Flanders.excavating@gmail.com



Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc., 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758

The Mount Holly Chit Chat, a membership organization, has been incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of Vermont, dedicated to providing all members of the Mount Holly community with information on Town events and issues. Membership is open to anyone who lives in, works in, or owns property in Mount Holly and who has made an annual membership donation. Membership donations help bring the Chit Chat to you every month.

Check here if you DO NOT wish to receive the Chit Chat _____

Donation amount \$ _____ **Tax Deductible** *We have Federal tax exempt status.*

Name

Address

Phone Email

Sign Up for Mt. Holly NewsFlash to get all that is happening locally in our Town just email to:

newsflash@mounthollyvt.org

And request to be placed on the list. News item deadlines are 6 am & 6 pm

Also Check

www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

To see all daily emails of the NewsFlash compiled in one place for all community news and events.

Kevin Plew is the primary NewsFlash attendant and Stu Berry is backup attendant at stuberry1@gmail.com

Join us for the 4th Annual Elves on Main Street Scavenger Hunt!

November 29th - December 17th

Search for our elusive elves hidden in many of the local shops on Main Street in Ludlow.

Enter at each location for a chance to win a gift from that shop.

Find them all for a chance to win the Grand Prize!

How to Play:

Explore each store to spot the mischievous elves.

Fill out an entry slip for each elf discovered.

Drop your completed slips into the designated collection box.

Winners Announced on December 20th



For rules and participation:



Presented by:

ENGEL & VÖLKERS®



Who's Got It Locally?

Artists & Architects

Linden Eller Studio www.Lindeneller.com 347-457-4648
 Contemporary fine artist, illustrator, art educator
 Spectrum Photography – John Miller 802-259-3060
 Stone Creek Workshops Pottery www.stonecreekworkshops.com 802-259-2254
Birth & Postpartum Doula & Skilled Birth Attendant
 Summers Williams summers@rootsinvermont.com 717-919-4455
www.rootsinvermont.com

Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling*Building* Local Lumber Available 802-259-3699
 Home Maintenance – Ken Saccardo call or text 603-401-8122

Burn Permits

Fire Warden – Jim Seward Pager 802-786-3408 Home 802-259-2211

Catering - Restaurants - Stores

Harry's Café, Trip & Deb Pearce III www.Harryscafe.com 802-259-2555
 Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 802-228-6656
 Squeels on Wheels BBQ www.squeelsonwheels.com 802-558-9489

Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 9 am
 Rev Thomas Mosher abvmludlow@comcast.net 802-228-3451
 E. Wallingford Baptist – PS 9:15-10:00 am SS 10 am, Worship 11 am
 Pastor Kevin Miner 802-259-2831
 First Baptist Church, Wallingford, SS 11 am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm
 Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020
 Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11 am & 3pm
 Until May 11 am & 6pm 802-779-0300
 Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,
 11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS
 Pastor Jerry Scheumann jfscheumann@gmail.com 603-439-0803
 Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org
 Rabbi Shemtov rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org 802-773-3455
 St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 11 am
 Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois christthekingprsh@gmail.com 802-446-2161
 Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:45 BS Tue 7 pm
 Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am
 Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

Cleaning Service/Housekeeper

Savannah - Cleaning Service call or text 802-417-0913
 Brazilian Cleaning Service- Tabita Souza 10+ years' Experience 802-855-3830
 References Available Upon Request tabitacleaning@gmail.com

Electrical Services

Wirenuts Electrical LLC bbates@vermontel.net 802-353-4376 802-492-3406

Emergency Services

Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency # 802-228-2880 911
 Stephanie Grover NRP Chief Cell 802-380-2635 sgrover.las@tds.net
 MH Vol Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954 911

Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

Beardmore Excavating beardmoreexc@gmail.com 802-342-3507
 Branch Brook Excavating branchbrookexcavating@gmail.com 802-770-8964
 Flander's Excavating & Firewood 802-259-2147
 Hawkins Excavation Driveways, Ditching, Septic, Ponds, Etc 802-558-3082

Farm Fresh Products

Mt. Holly Dairy-Aire Farm Raw Milk, Fresh Eggs, Baked Goods 802-259-2386
 Plew Farm (meat, eggs, maple) www.plewfarm.com 802-259-2250
 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly
 Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC, Grassfed Beef & VT Maple 802-492-2151
 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Fire Arden

Jim Seward Pager 802-786-3408 Home 802-259-2211

Firewood

Flanders Firewood Cut Split Delivered 802-259-2147
Flanders.excavating@gmail.com

Food Shelf

Black River Good Neighbor Services – Krey Kellington 802-228-3663

Funeral Homes

Clifford Funeral Home 802-773-3010

Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

Belmont Country Gardens Quality Custom Stonework & More 802-259-2364
 Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 802-259-3964

Salt Ash Nursery - The Balsam Barn – Scott Crawford 802-259-2146

Garage Mechanical

Belmont Motor Works Harley Davidson, Adventure Touring & URAL Sidecar
 Motorcycles, Small Engine Repair, Welding & Metal Fabrication 802-259-3178

General Contractors

Wright Construction Company info@wrightconstruction.com 802-259-2094
 Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

Health & Community Health Care Providers

Community Health – <https://www.chcrr.org> Medical, Dental, Pediatrics
 Behavioral Health – Patient Access Center 802-779-9159
 Express Care Rutland - 802-773-3386
 Dr. Joseph P. Donohue – Chiropractic Care, Thrive Center 802-446-2499

Home Management Services

Belmont Country Gardens Property Management 802-259-2364
 Mowing & Plowing Jon Lienhard
 Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 802-259-3064

Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 802-228-7151
 Plew Farm 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly www.plewfarm.com 802-259-2250
 Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC Grassfed Beef & VT Maple 802-492-2151
 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc. print@expresscopyinc.com 802-362-0501

Masonry

Farrand Masonry – Angus Farrand farrandmasonry@gmail.com 802-417-1657

Massage Therapy

Calm Moments Message Studio – Irene Berry 802-228-7772
 Massage Therapy/Bodywork, Thrive Center of Green Mtns 802-446-2499
 Lisa Donohue MA, LMT ~ Linda O'Brien MT 802-446-2499

Metal Fabrication

Wayne Jones Metal www.waynejonesmetal.com 802-259-2521

Mount Holly Email

Kevin Plew – mthollynewsflash@gmail.com 802-259-2250

Painters

Beardmore Painting beardmorepainting802@gmail.com 802-353-9493
 MRS Unlimited Visions LLC Interior/Exterior Painting –Melissa 802-259-3989

Plumbing & Heating

Master Plumbing & Heating Inc. John Diekel 802-975-0369
requests@masterplumbingandheating.com 24/7 Emergency 802-747-1280
 Tailored Plumbing tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com 802-417-1647

Real Estate Sales

Cummings & Co. Lisa Kelley lisa@cummingsvt.com 802-345-6581
 Engel & Volkers, Okemo - Woodstock Gail Beardmore 802-975-0338
Gail.Beardmore@evusa.com (Mobile) 802-236-5431
 eXp Realty Sue Starr-Adams susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com 802-236-8028
 Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Owner/Broker Office 802-228-5333
 Don Eatmon Don@KelleyRealEstate.com 802-228-5333
 Ty Murray Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-777-8047
 Alex Eatmon Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-345-7886
 Lorian Kelly Lorian@kelleyrealestate.com Call or Text 732-670-8001
www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com

TPW Real Estate, John Napier jmn@tpw.com 802-228-9400 x 1309860-559-9334

Roofing

Buddy Systems Roofing Contact Buddy 802-259-3989
 New Roofs/Roof Repairs & Replacement – Slate/Wood/Asphalt/Metal

Security

Countryside Alarms – Mike Blais www.countrysidealarms.com 802-259-2213

Septic System Design

Belmont Septic Design – Kevin Hollebeek C 802-733-2561 H 802-259-3898
kevin@belmontseptic.com

Therapeutic Riding

Rienbow Riding Center Home 802-259-2282 Barn 802-236-2483

Tree Services

G.M. Tree Tech & Landscaping, Greg McKirryher 802-259-8733

Volunteer Services

Belmont/Mt. Holly Food Co-op, Tanger H 802-259-2344 W 802-259-2899

Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking [ccw@vermontel.net](http://www.ccw@vermontel.net) 802-259-3232
www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com

