



MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT



50/12

February 2025

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

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

Town Library: Sat 9-1, Mon 10-2, Tue 1-5, Wed 2-4, Call 802-259-3707 <http://mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com>

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

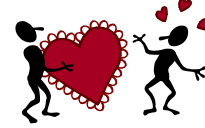
Town Garage: 802-259-3179

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

February 2025

Sat	1 st	Freedom Day President Lincoln Approves 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery 1865	
Sun	2 nd		Ground Hog Day
	4 th	Snow Flyers Meeting	6:30 pm
		MH Conservation Commission, MH Town Office	6:00 pm
	5 th	MH PTG Meeting John Jeffries One of America's First Weather Observers b. 1744	6:00 pm
	6 th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Station 40th Pres Ronald Reagan b 1911	7:00 pm
Sat	8 th		Boy Scouts Founded 1910
Sun	9 th		9th Pres William Henry Harrison 1773
	11 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
		Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	6:00 pm
		Mason Meeting, E. Wallingford Thomas Alva Edison Founder of General Electric Co. 1847	7:30 pm
	12 th	LMHUUS Meeting, 16th Pres Abraham Lincoln 1809 ~ Full Snow Moon	6:00 pm
		ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	13 th	Fire Dept. Drill, MH Fire Station Boston Latin School First Public School in USA 1635	7:00 pm
	14 th		League of Women Voters Formed 1920 ~ St Valentine's Day
Sat	15 th	Susan B Anthony Women's' Rights Leader 1820 ~ Sinking Of The USS Maine 1898	
	17 th		President's Day
	19 th	MH Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	6:30 pm
		MH Community Association Meeting, Library	7:00 pm
		MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	7:00 pm
	20 th	Fire Dept. Work Detail John Glenn First American to Orbit Earth on Friendship 7, 1962	7:00 pm
Sat	22 nd		1st Pres George Washington 1732
Sun	23 rd		Flag Raised on Iwo Jima 1945
	25 th	Community Guild Meeting	9:00 am
	26 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	27 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Stations	7:00 pm



US Supreme Court Upholds 19th Amendment for Women's Right to Vote 1922 ~ Battle of Java Sea 1942

Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954	802-259-27700	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 802-773-9101
MH Constable	NONE		Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-259-3610 802-342-1366
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: Mount Holly Community Guild * Derk Beardmore Jr (Beardmore Painting Interior/Exterior) * Irene Berry (Calm Moments Massage) * Susan Starr-Adams (eXp Realty) * Bill & Kate McPeck * Don & Robin Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * June Capron * Rainbow Riding Center * Lizzie & Wayne Emmons * Cindy Dilworth & Angelo Chiari (Squeels on Wheels BBQ) * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) *



February Birthdays: 2nd-Justin Bussino (2004) 4th-Chris Charuk 6th-Candace Bussino 8th-Alyssa Collins Yamartino * Debbie Pearce 9th-Emma Coldwell 10th-Amy Perrino * Jack Koponen 18th-Andy Bolalek * Peggy Taylor 19th-Dennis Turco * Denise Turco 20th-Barbara Palotta 21st-Ben Veysey 22nd-Susan Horsman 25th-Meghan Garrow 27th-Mary Crawford



February Anniversaries: 17th-Lisa & Todd Bussino (1990) 28th-Andy & Teresa Bolalek

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	802-219-1426
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



Gary R. Wortman

Gary Richard Wortman, 75, of Rutland, passed away peacefully on the morning of Saturday, December 28, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. He was surrounded by his beloved family after a courageous battle with a long illness.

Gary was born in Rutland on May 29, 1949, to Richard C. and Priscilla (Edmunds) Wortman. He grew up in Mount Holly, graduating from Wallingford High School in 1967. Following his graduation, he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving a tour of duty in Vietnam before receiving his honorable discharge.

On August 4, 1990, Gary married the love of his life, Tammy Marie Wilder. Together, they were often seen - and heard - sharing heartfelt stories and laughter, endearingly known to all as "Tam's Man" and "Gar's Girl." He dedicated 29 years of his career to a variety of roles at Grand Union before transitioning to Rutland City Public Schools, where he worked as a custodian for 15 years until his retirement in 2018.

Gary was an avid Boston Red Sox fan. When he wasn't watching a game, he enjoyed fishing, playing cribbage, country westerns, bowling, and visiting the casino. Although those were a few of his hobbies, his passions were golfing and hunting with "The Boys" at the Wortman Family Deer Camp.

Gary had so much love for his family and always sported his big magnetic smile any time that they were all together.

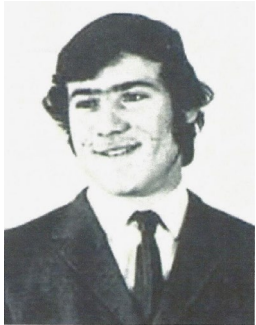
Gary was a talented self-taught musician with a passion for the guitar that he began playing in his youth. Most recently, Gary loved to play for his family and friends at local establishments and for the residents of The Maples.

He was a member of the American Legion Post #31, Rutland Loyal Order of the Moose, and the Proctor Pittsford Country Club.

Survivors include his wife Tammy Wortman, 2 daughters Renee Delnegro (Carl) and Kimberly Adams (Nicole) all of Rutland, 2 sons Kevin Wortman (Amy Zakutansky) of Indiana, and Richard Fredette (Lindsey) of Gansevoort, NY, his mother Priscilla Wortman of Rutland, 2 brothers Brian Wortman of Mt Holly and Rick Wortman of Springfield, 6 Grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father on Oct. 21, 2009 and his brother, Wayne Wortman, on April 17, 2024.

Per his wishes, there was a Celebration of Life at the Rutland Loyal Order of the Moose on January 11th from 1:00-4:00. Arrangements were with the Aldous Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Foley Cancer Center, 160 Allen St, Rutland, VT 05701.

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.



Charles William "Chuck" Callahan

Charles William "Chuck" Callahan, 67, of Rutland, VT, died January 8, 2025, at home surrounded by family and friends after a long illness. He was born October 5, 1957 in Rutland, VT, the son of the late Francis Bernard Callahan and Frances Carolyn

(Gokey) Callahan. He was the oldest of 4 siblings. He grew up in Mount Holly, VT and graduated from Black River Union High School in Ludlow, VT in 1976.

He was a machinist/metal fabricator at Mal Tool and Melanson's in Rutland, VT. His knowledge was indescribable, was a great mentor to workers, and took the time to explain what was wrong and how to correct it.


He was a lover of all things outdoors. He could often be found ice fishing or hunting with his friends and family.

He is survived by his partner and long-time caregiver, Karen Fitchett, his daughters Holly Callahan, Melissa Desabrais, numerous stepchildren, grandchildren, step grandchildren, his 3 siblings and their spouses Judith & Brian Pikkarainen, Tina & Lee Johndrow and Ian & Jenn Callahan, his stepmother, Colene (Storer) Callahan, step brother Darrel Crow & Jana (Edwards) Crow as well as numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held on January 18, 2025 at 11am at Clifford Funeral Home. Arrangements were under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home.

Love Your Library
3rd Annual Online Auction
Support Fletcher Memorial Library


WHEN: Opens February 7 @ 10AM
Ends February 21 @ 3PM
WHERE: Online @ 32auctions.com
 (Scan QR Code Below for auction)

DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 5TH



FML is a 501 (c) 3 designated IRS non-profit. All donations are tax deductible. We are in our 124th year of continuous service. We are not a Municipal department.

Details, Questions - call us 802-228-8921
88 Main Street - Ludlow, VT www.fmlnews.org





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Mount Holly Snow Flyers

I'd like to take this opportunity to "Wish Everyone a Happy Healthy Holiday Season" and keep everyone updated on the club happenings.

Our trail system remains closed due to the lack of a snow base. We had some cold nights but the lack of snow to build a base has been against us. And we have another warm spell heading our way early next week with cold temperatures following again soon after.

Please stay off all VAST trails with snowmobiles until they are officially open. Our gracious landowners give YOU permission to ride on their lands and we ALL need to adhere to the trails being closed for the time being. Trails are currently closed for a reason; riding on closed trails and ignoring closed gates and roped off trails is a good way for the club to permanently lose the trail being violated. Please respect our landowners.

We have been working on keeping the trails free of blowdowns due to the winds we've had recently. As of today, we're in pretty good shape until the next storm or if something somewhere always comes down on the trails.

We'd like to bring attention to our riders regarding a problem area on one trail. Thanks to a landowner there has been a small reroute going from Belmont to Yale Road. This will allow the riding to be much smoother and allows the groomer easier navigation on the trail.

The new to us groomer is ready to go and a few club members have become familiar with its operation. As soon as conditions allow, we will open our trails but until we receive more snow we will play the waiting game.

For those who have not purchased their TMA for sleds, please visit www.vtvast.org. All riders are reminded that those born after July 1, 1983, must attend and successfully pass a safety course.

We would like to pass along some info from our neighboring clubs - the Derry Sled Dogs.

IMMEDIATE TRAIL CLOSURE

The Green Mountain Forest Service has closed a section of our main corridor Route 7 due to an unsafe bridge. The closure starts at RD 94 north of the gate on the south side of Greendale Road in Mount Holly just south of RD 80. We will be using a reroute from RD 94 south on Route 12 through Beaver Meadows past RD 89 continuing north on Route 7/12 to RD 75.

The trail has been flagged and the gate will remain closed. The next update on the VAST map will hide the closed section of trail. Be aware the closure will add approximately 5 miles to your trip! The bridge is slated to be replaced next summer 2025.

Our next club meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:30 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.

Consider volunteering for the club now and in the summertime to help make our trails the best! Contact Steve Howlett at 802-558-1013 for more information.

Please start snow dancing for the wintery season for the snow lover enthusiast.

Follow us on Facebook as we get ready to ride in 2025. Our website is: www.mounthollysnowflyers.org.
Mount Holly Snow Flyers, Dale Sutherland, Club President

Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 January 2025, Trestleboard

Next Meeting Tuesday 02/11th 7:30PM

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

We will hold an EA Degree and a short business meeting at this upcoming meeting.

A belated happy birthday to Fay Freeman who is 85 years young. Happy New Year to all. Fraternaly, David Seward W.M. ~ Buster Seward Sec'y

Brethren,

I am passing along a memo from Bro. Sandy Karstens. Please make sure members of your lodges receive this.

Earlier this year, the Masonic Renewal Committee approved a survey to be sent out to Master Masons, trying to capture their location and demographics, and whether or not they were ever affiliated with a DeMolay Chapter in their youth. Systemically, we're trying to rebuild the lost data of Masons who were DeMolays, and DeMolays who are Masons.

The link to the completed survey is below, and will only take participants a few minutes to complete.

<https://form.jotform.com/232633187681158>

Kayleigh Peterson, Administrative Assistant, Grand Lodge of Vermont, 49 East Rd. Barre, VT 05641 (802) 223-1883



Custom Builders of Belmont Inc.

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Charlie Conroy

cjconroy@vermontel.net

30+ Years Experience

News from the Mount Holly Community Association

Enjoying the snow? Are you getting out into our winter wonderland for a little adventure? Sometimes it's hard to leave the warmth of the house as the winds blow and the temps dive like a submarine but if you live in Vermont it is to be expected. We want to give a shout out and many thanks to Russ Garrow for answering our desperate pleas for someone to help shovel snow for the library and community center entrances. If you see him around town let him know how much you appreciate his service to our community - we love you Russ!!!!

Winter provides the board with a bit of down time to do administrative tasks, clean out the community room closet, and entertain new ideas for the upcoming year. We lost a plexiglass covering to one of the building's upper windows which is prompting us to consider a capital fundraising campaign and grant opportunities for the old church windows in the library. It's going to take some planning and figuring out who and what we need to do to maintain/restore stained glass. We will keep you posted once we get past contemplating this rather large project.

We submitted our report to the town to be included in their annual report, boy did we have a nice line up of community events that ran from the end of April thru December last year. It feels good to live in a community where folks like to gather and celebrate together - as you all know we think Mount Holly is a pretty special little mountain town! Speaking about events, here are our 2025

save the date activities listing for this year:

Mud Fling - May 3

Gallery Art Show - New Event - May 25

Music on the Green - July/August Thursday evenings

The Garden Tour - July 19

Mount Holly Day - July 27

Cabaret - August 31

Cider Days October - 11 & 12

Holiday Celebration - December 13

We invite both artists & gardeners to consider participating in two of this year's events. MHCA intends to highlight local artists in a cooperative galley show to coincide with the Open Studio Tour taking place in Vermont over Memorial Day weekend. If you are interested in participating or would



like more information please reach out to us at mhcavt@gmail.com. And as our Garden Tour coordinator Leah Knoll says - "it's never too early to start planning for the garden tour". Please consider sharing your blooms and landscaping creations as a part of this year's mid-July high mountain garden event, contact Leah for more information at leahknoll@yahoo.com.

Last year at this time we were in search of new board members - the phrase "all good things come to those who wait" comes to mind as we searched high and low for someone who was interested in getting involved in the community association. Our waiting paid off, we are excited to introduce to you, our favorite chit chat readers, Tatiana Abatemarco! Tatiana made her way to Vermont via school where she attended Green Mountain College double majoring in Environmental Studies and Philosophy. It turns out that Tatiana loved school so much that she pursued her masters and PhD at the University of Vermont (UVM) in philosophy and natural resources. Along the way has held teaching positions at three higher institutions in our brave little state - Green Mountain College, Bennington College, and UVM. Teaching has centered around environmental studies as well as food studies. It was so fun learning about what she has done that we got side tracked during her interview on many shared common interests. Tatiana has just finished a two year project where she was the Director of Food Security at the Vermont Food Bank. She is interested in continued work with non-profits focusing on innovation and creating transformation.

When Tatiana asked why she was interested in joining the Board, she said that although she had lived in Mount Holly for 1 1/2 years, working remotely made it challenging to meet people and she wanted to make more of an effort to get out and meet people and get involved in her community. Lucky for us she is a neighbor of board member Gene Jennings and anyone who knows Gene knows he is a connector of people. Needless to say when she was introduced to the Board and we immediately took a liking to her! Tatiana lives with her two boys and partner; both boys are in school at Mount Holly & Green Mountain High School. Tatiana shared that she is creative and likes crafting, complicated board games, and has recently taken up video games - her favorite game being Baldur's Gate 3. When asked "what something that most people may not know about you", she mentioned her involvement with the Burning Man events (disclosure - no men are actually burned during the festival). It definitely fits in with her creative side but we'll leave it to you to ask Tatiana more about what the event actually entails. We hope you find the opportunity to meet Tatiana and welcome her to our community.

And that our friends is the MHCA news for this month. We hope you are taking care of yourselves, thinking about ways to make the world a little brighter, and find a little joy in every day ~ your MHCA Board of Directors.

Attention High School Seniors

The Mount Holly Community Guild awards two scholarships to graduating seniors who are going to continue their education. If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please contact Judy Nevin (jbnevin@gmail.com or 802-259-2443) for an application. Applications are due April 30.

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MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS
FEBRUARY 2025



February is Valentines month. Appropriately, we are showing a classic romantic comedy

February 22, 2025 7 pm: -THE PHILADELPHIA STORY with Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn and Jimmy Stewart.

March 15, 2025 2 pm: Audience choice (watch for announcement) Come to the movie on February 22nd and vote for the movie we'll watch in March!

We are always in need of volunteers to help us fill hours at our service desk. Shifts are 2 hours long. No experience needed. If you think you can help out, email us at mthollylibrary@gmail.com

Remember that we have adult and kids snowshoes available for checkout

Mount Holly Town Library
26 Maple Hill Road
Belmont, VT 05730
802-259-3707

mthollylibrary@gmail.com
<https://mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com>

Update on the Belmont General Store - Winter 2025

We are making every effort to open the store as soon as possible and appreciate the community's patience. Over the past 180 years, the Belmont General Store has served its community and with each new owner, the store has undergone both small and major renovations, each with its own reason and purpose. The current improvements were much larger than anticipated but we believe it was best for the building.

The larger changes for the store are out of the way and we can now focus on getting the store finalized and ready to welcome customers! The back wall is lined up with energy efficient refrigerators. The Café and Deli part of the store has a counter display cooler, rotisserie chicken machine, creemee machine, drip coffee maker and this past weekend we bought an Italian espresso machine!

The next few months will be focused on finalizing the kitchen for the health inspection, finalizing other licenses required and stocking our shelves! We have been doing a lot of research on vendors and what to sell at the General Store and Café. We have some great ideas but would really love to hear from you if there are any specific requests. I still have all the survey responses, so rest assured if you put a response in the survey we are looking at them!

We are planning on doing a soft opening (no date set yet but fingers crossed soon!!!), this will include dry goods, pantry staples, baked goods, drinks and pre-made foods. Once we are more established, we will add in a larger selection of prepared foods.

I've heard someone say that the Belmont General Store is the living room of our community. Our goal is to make it a warm and inviting place again.

Please contact me for any ideas or if you are interested in working with us please reach out!

You can contact me at alissa@thebelmontgeneralstore.com

Maple Hutch for Sale.
70 inches tall 54 1/2 inches wide. \$200. Call Paul 802-259-2443

Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings
9:00 am
MH Library Community Center
For Weights and more information
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

Notes from the Mount Holly Conservation Commission

The Commission continues to work on expanding and improving the access and facilities at Star Lake.

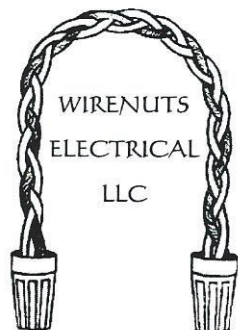
The Arrowwood Environmental report commissioned by the Conservation Trust has been completed and provides valuable information regarding best practices and what is feasible going forward in dealing with the plant life and water quality of the Lake.

Additional bottom barriers near the swimming area should help keep that area clearer for swimming. The Arrowwood report also indicated that there are places where targeted and strategic mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants is feasible.

The Commission continues to explore ideas for a playground at the Lake as well as an 'aquatic trail' for canoeing and kayaking. Other ideas that might be re-visited include a loon 'raft' and placing one or more game cameras around the lake to capture wild life moments.

But none of these, or any other idea for improving recreational opportunities at the Lake, can come to fruition without the interest and participation of the community. In the near future we hope to send out a survey to Mount Holly residents to assess interest and ideas for the Lake, and other recreational areas..

Without citizen participation, none of the above ideas or the desires of residents can be realized. The Conservation Commission meetings are on the first Tues. of each month and we are currently working on expanding our Zoom access. Our next meeting will be on Tues. Feb., 4th at 6 pm in the Town Office. We hope that you will join us. Susan Presson



bbates@vermontel.net

REBECCA BATES
LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
802-492-3406
802-353-4376

Mount Holly Conservation Trust

TWELVE ACRES RECENTLY CONSERVED

The Mount Holly Conservation Trust has done it again!!

The Mount Holly Conservation Trust (MHCT) purchased approximately 12 acres in the northwest corner of Andover to protect a critical wildlife link across Route 100. The purchase was from Travis and Ann Zissu in late July to provide better wildlife access to forests on either side of Route 100 where the Towns of Mount Holly, Ludlow, Andover and Weston intersect.

The Zissu's had an approved subdivision plan from the Town of Andover to construct four houses. In order to protect wildlife access between large tracts of forest on either side of Route 100, quick action was required. MHCT purchased and held the land until the State of Vermont could complete all the legal steps necessary to buy the land. The tract was sold by MHCT to the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife on December 23, 2024.

MHCT's ability to act quickly to take the land off the market in order to expand the new Awasos Wildlife Management Area, a 440-acre parcel conserved by MHCT in 2023, was critical to protecting the otherwise vulnerable parcel.

For more information about, or to support the MHCT efforts, see our web site at [Mount Holly Conservation Trust](http://www.mounthollyconservationtrust.org).

Brigid Sullivan www.mounthollyconservationtrust.org P.O. Box 85 Belmont, VT 05730



On those blustery days of January, the girls donned their best cold weather gear and ate lots of hay to keep warm. Eating roughage (hay) is one of the best ways horses generate body heat to stave off the cold during winter weather.

REINBOW RIDING CENTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Reinbow Riding Center, a therapeutic horsemanship center based in Rutland County, recently held its Annual Meeting and welcomed new board members Jacquelyn Bode Marston of Castleton, Donna Merkle of Rutland, and **Sharon Lickerman** of Mount Holly & New York City. In addition, **Mary Jane Osborn** will now serve as an honorary board member. Outgoing board member **Brett Lertola** was thanked for his service.

Jacky and her husband have bred, trained, competed and enjoyed Morgan horses for decades. She is a clinical psychologist by profession, worked in community mental health and holds a license in alcohol & drug counseling. Jacky was also a board member of the Vermont Morgan Horse Association for many years and spearheaded their presence at *Equine Affaire*, an event bringing 300,000 attendees and horses together. She strongly believes in the special human/animal connection to promote healing.

Donna is a retired schoolteacher who has taught and worked with hundreds of young children with special needs. As an adjunct faculty member at the University of Vermont and Castleton University, she also taught graduate courses to other educators. In addition, she has served as President of Vermont Council on Reading and was an active board member for the New England Reading Association. During the summer months, Donna enjoyed working as a national facilitator for Literacy Institutes at various schools around the country. She has also enjoyed working with Reinbow Riding Center participants and volunteers in recent years.

Sharon brings years of expertise in child development as an A.M.I. Montessori

Educator, and also currently represents AMI at the United Nations. She was affiliated with Reach Within, an organization empowering abused and neglected children. Her own daughter has experienced the profound impact of programming at Reinbow Riding Center.

Mary Jane is the founder of Reinbow Riding Center and has served as its instructor and program director of the organization since its inception in 2008. She has retired but continues to support the organization as a dedicated volunteer. Mary Jane continues to be active with the Vermont Horse Council. She will continue to serve on the Board of Directors as an Honorary Director sharing her institutional knowledge and expertise with the organization into the future.

Brett served on the Board Finance Committee. He is a math educator in the Rutland School System and was recently promoted to Associate Principal of Rutland High School. Brett recently stepped down from the board due to his increased commitments.

At Reinbow Riding we strive to meet the needs of every individual that participates in our programs, mounted or unmounted regardless of their ability to pay. For more information about Reinbow Riding Center and our mission please check out our website: reinbowridingcenter.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X and LinkedIn! Contact us at programs@reinbowridingcenter.org or 802-236-2483 to inquire about our programs and lessons. For information about opportunities to volunteer with us contact janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org.

Find us at: The Olde Barnyard
5444 VT Route 103, Cuttingsville VT 05738



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SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

The Mount Holly Select Board reminds residents that plowing snow into the public roadway is prohibited, per Vermont State Statute 23 V.S.A. § 1126a, as follows:

Title 23 : Motor Vehicles
Chapter 013 : Operation of Vehicles
Subchapter 011 : Miscellaneous Rules

§ 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across certain highways prohibited. (a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the Agency of Transportation (in the case of State highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder, or sidewalk of a State highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

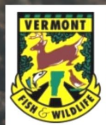
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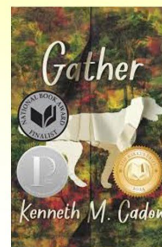
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Gather

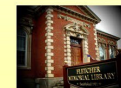
By Kenneth M. Cadow

Book Discussion on
Mon 2/10 @ 6PM

Ian is a resourceful teenager from rural Vermont. He isn't supposed to have a dog, but his adopted pup Gather soon becomes a good friend. Although he hasn't yet finished high school, Ian works hard to take care of his mother, who is trying to overcome her addiction to opioids. Join us to discuss Gather and its themes of rural life, resilience, class differences, addiction and recovery, housing and food insecurity, a deep relationship to the land, and the power of community."

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Greetings Again From The Vermont State Legislature

I am returning to the Senate for my 11th year. Thank you to all who gave me consideration back in the fall election. In this biennium, my morning committee will be Senate Agriculture and I will chair Senate Government Operations in the afternoon. I am writing this on January 19th. As of now, we have not considered any bills in the Senate. Only 18 bills have been introduced but none have come out of committee yet. Governor Scott will be delivering his budget address in late January so I don't have the details on what he might be proposing, but he has been very clear about at least 4 topics that will be addressed.

Property Taxes Back in November, voters made it very clear that what the legislature was doing needed to be changed especially as it relates to the continuing increasing cost of education and how it affects property taxes. I believe the Governor's Budget will propose substantial structural changes. Prior to his budget address, on Jan. 22, the Legislature will receive a public education reform proposal from Education Secretary Zoie Saunders. It is expected that this proposal will be comprehensive and propose significant changes to how Vermont funds and delivers education, including governance and accountability. I plan on supporting needed changes to rein in spending and keep property taxes from being raised. There will no doubt be some painful decisions that will need to be made, but we simply cannot continue on our current path.

Public Safety There will be a bill introduced that will target people who repeatedly commit crimes while awaiting trial by clarifying rules around bail revocation. The bill would also increase potential punishments and criminal liability for older youth and young adults. In addition, the bill would repeal the last stage of Raise the Age, an initiative the Legislature approved in 2018 that increases the age at which people who commit most crimes — minor and nonviolent offenses — are treated as adults. Currently, the law requires that age to increase April 1 to a person's 20th birthday. I believe we need to make it clear that if you break the law, there will be consequences.

Housing and Act 250 reform I continue to support housing initiatives focused on reducing the cost of housing for all Vermonters through public infrastructure investment, relaxing permitting and regulations, providing certainty to developers, and encouraging mass building and housing density. I think we made some progress in the last session with regulatory reform but more needs to happen. Rutland City made out very well by being classified as a "Tier One" district which will be of great help to a new hotel in downtown Rutland. The Act 250 process for that downtown project will be significantly streamlined. But there are other communities in Rutland County and across Vermont who would also favor development and who could benefit from further reform.

Energy On January 16th, the Public Utilities Commission delivered its final report on the Clean Heat Standard. Their findings determine that a gallon fee of \$0.58 (starting at \$0.10) on heating fuel is required to meet the goals in the Global Warming Solutions Act. The total costs of the Clean Heat Standard include participant costs (e.g., the costs paid by the individual customer to install a heat pump and pay for the electricity to run that heat pump) and program costs (e.g., the costs of providing incentives and administering incentives, paid for by all customers). The program costs are what participating and non-participating customers would see in their fuel bills. For the first 10 years of the program, the program-related costs of the Clean Heat Standard as set forth in Act 18 are estimated to total \$955,923,033. Finally, after nearly 18 months of work on the Clean Heat Standard, the Commission concludes that, while the CHS prescribed in Act 18 is theoretically workable (with the changes discussed in Chapter X of this report), the Commission does not believe that this program is well suited to Vermont. I am not supportive of any additional fee and will instead continue to support the use of Vermont General Fund monies to leverage federal programs and Energy Efficiency Vermont as partners in reducing Vermont's carbon footprint.

One other note which I think is important. I have introduced a bill for the 11 straight year to exempt all military retirement pensions and survivor benefit income from Vermont income tax. I have not been able to get this taken up by the Finance Committee in the Senate to date, but this year, I was able to get 21 co-sponsors (out of the 30 Senators) and I am hopeful it will be taken up. Not only is it the right thing to do to honor our veterans, but it is also an economic boosting tool to get more folks to move here who will add skills and income to our state. There is a companion bill in the House sponsored by Rep Bill Canfield of Fair Haven and I am told it received over half of the House members to sign on to it. Let's hope we can finally get this done. Right now, we are one of only 5 states in the country that don't exempt veterans.

My next report will be in the Feb issue of the Chit Chat. Please feel free to email me at bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us or call my home phone at 802-773-1365 with any concerns or questions. Sen Brian Collamore Rutland District

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:

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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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Address _____

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P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758**

Anticipation By Rep. Jim Harrison

This Wednesday, members of the administration will share with all lawmakers their proposal to reform Vermont's education system and the way to fund it. One leading legislator, who was briefed on the proposal, indicated the reform plan may be the biggest overhaul the legislature has seen in 50 years.

It's no secret that last year's increase in property taxes played a large role in changing the political makeup of the legislature in November. While Democrats continue with a majority in the House and Senate, they also lost more seats than any State House in the country. Understanding the new dynamic and the message from voters, legislative leaders appear more open to hearing the Governor's reform suggestions this session.

Changing the status quo is never easy. Whether it is a change to a "Foundation Formula" like most states, where each district receives a flat amount per student from the state, or a change to Vermont's lowest in the nation staff to student ratio, there will be critics. The NEA and some other groups, for example, have argued that Vermont does not have a spending problem, but rather needs more income from higher earners.

During his Inaugural speech to lawmakers, Scott indicated Vermonters wanted change and that we needed to do it together, despite some adjustments being potentially unpopular.

The Governor is also taking a lead on improving public safety. In his weekly press conference last Wednesday, he outlined a plan to help us move towards safer communities. A few of the administration's proposals included:

- Repeal "Raise the Age law" for 19-year-old young adult offenders and reform our youthful offender procedures to ensure accountability. If no action is taken by the legislature this session, 19-year-old criminal offenders will be treated like children in the Family Court, making Vermont the only state to increase the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 19. Further increases to age 22 are anticipated in the current law.
- Revise bail laws to make it a tool courts and prosecutors can use to hold violators accountable. He indicated many view our status as a "catch and release" system which does not deter repeat offenders.
- Simplify extradition laws when they are waived.
- Build a system that can deliver a swift and sustained connection to addiction treatment and recovery by re-tooling and reinvigorating existing programs.
- Elevate the Department of Public Safety to the Agency of Public Safety, making its director a cabinet level position in line with its importance.

Other items of note:

The highly anticipated Clean Heat Standard report from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was released this past week to the legislature. While the report estimated lower heating fuel increases than previously anticipated, the PUC concluded that the "Clean Heat Standard is not well suited to Vermont." The report went on to say "...achieving thermal sector greenhouse gas reductions consistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act would be best achieved by building upon existing programs rather than overlaying a new and complex regulatory structure such as the proposed Clean Heat Standard." It is unclear at this point whether the appropriate committees will take up a repeal of the Clean Heat Standard law as I and others have proposed.

Rep. Noyes, D-Wolcott, and I will be leading a bipartisan effort to phase out the Vermont income tax on social security benefits. Vermont is currently one of only nine states that tax this important benefit to seniors. The proposal, which is expected to be released early this week, increases the income threshold each year to exempt more residents from the tax, eventually eliminating it altogether. Proposals to reduce the state's revenue almost always face an uphill climb, however, our bill has attracted 60 additional co-sponsors in the House, which may add some momentum to the measure.

The president of Blue Cross VT, in a letter to lawmakers, indicated that claims paid for Blue Cross VT members have been increasing by 17% per year since 2020. As a direct result of escalating prices for medical services and pharmaceuticals, Vermont's commercial healthcare premiums – already high and growing at an unsustainable rate – are not covering the cost of care. While some of the rising costs may be the result of aging demographics, their data indicates prices charged by hospitals and the healthcare system are among the highest in the country.

A new pro-housing advocacy group (Let's Build Homes) made of a wide range of people and organizations, says Vermont needs to build, build and build again to address the state's housing crisis. The former mayor of Burlington, Miro Weinberger, is the executive chair of the new group's steering committee.

There will be a public hearing on the Governor's recommended FY 25 mid-year state budget adjustment on Thursday, January 23 at 1:00 pm. More information is available on the legislature's web page, <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>. The work on next year's budget (FY 26) will begin following the Governor's budget address on January 28.

In closing, I look forward to hearing more about what the administration's highly anticipated package of education reforms might look like. To add another idea to the discussion, I introduced a short form bill this past week to consolidate the number of school districts in Vermont (128) to align with the career and technical education service regions (15). *Jim is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us* Received from Kevin Winter kcwinter5783@gmail.com 802-245-4190

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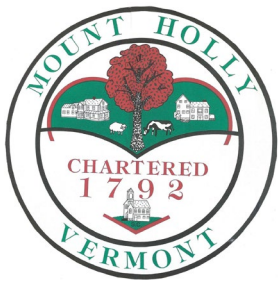
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Mount Holly Town News

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, 50 School St, Mount Holly, VT 05758 **January 6, 2025, 4:00 pm**
MINUTES

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.

Attendance: Mark Turco (Chair), Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Elizabeth Karle, David Johnson, Caitlin Boyle, Carol A. Garrow Woolley, Clinton Woolley.

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

1. Call to Order at 4:01 pm.
2. End-of-Year Financial / Audit Items

a. Sign Insurance Confirmation for Auditor. Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle noted that the auditor will need a signed confirmation of the Town’s insurance policies, and any pending legal cases, as part of its audit of Town financials. The Clerk provided the draft letters; Mr. Turco signed.

b. Discuss Treasurer Request for Shifting Duties and Asst. Treasurer Pay Rate of \$25-\$30/hr. Ms. Karle noted that she has taken a full-time position outside of her elected role as Town Treasurer but is hoping to continue to remain in, and fulfill the obligations of, the Town Treasurer position. In order to proceed in this capacity, she would assign more of the day to day duties to an Assistant Treasurer. An outline of the anticipated duties was provided, and it was noted it is similar to a bookkeeper position. Ms. Karle noted the Select Board has set the current Asst. Treasurer rate at \$15/hour, which she does not believe sufficient for the duties. She also noted the minimum wage in VT is now \$14.01/hour. The Treasurer is requesting to raise the Asst. Treasurer rate to \$25-\$30/hour pending experience level of a candidate. Ms. Karle suggests funds for this pay increase be from funds currently assigned to the Treasurer’s pay. She noted that the Treasurer remains responsible for all work products of an Assistant. She also noted that it may be difficult to fill the role, but is much more likely at the requested rate of pay. The Select Board discussed the changes and the possibility of shifting the Town Treasurer role to an appointed rather than elected position. The Board asked the Clerk to consult with VLCT’s Legal Inquiry service to determine the legal requirements and procedures for shifting the Treasurer position to an appointed role, and to hiring an appointed Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer. The Clerk will seek legal counsel prior to the next regular meeting.

c. Confirm Town Employee 2025 Pay Raises. The Board discussed the possibility of a pay raise for its newest highway employee. Given that this item required discussion of employee evaluation and rates of pay, the Board determined that it would go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the decision.

d. Approve Final Records Force Invoice (Adjusted). The Board discussed an outstanding bill with the Town’s records-digitization vendor. Mr. Chase made a motion to pay the outstanding bill with the adjustments and concessions offered by the vendor; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

3. Confirm Select Board Attendance at Mediation in Re: Susco v. Hooker et al (Jan 23 at 10 am). The Select Board determined that Mr. Turco and former Town Treasurer David Johnson will join the mediation remotely with the Town’s counsel.

4. Town Budget Workshop. The Board reviewed the FY26 Town Budget on a line-by-line basis, and made adjustments within the budget worksheet, which can be found attached to these minutes. The Board will await budget details from the Fire Department following its next meeting to complete that portion of the Town budget.

5. Executive Session (1 V.S.A. § 313)(3) At 6:31 pm, Mr. Turco made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss employee evaluation and rate of pay; Ms. Garrow seconded; unanimously agreed. The board returned to regular session at 6:39 pm. It determined that it would offer a pay raise to its newest employee effective next pay cycle, with an additional pay raise to be offered effective July 1, 2026.

6. Adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office 50 School St., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **January 14, 2025, 6:00 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco (Chair), Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Caitlin Boyle, Elizabeth Karle, Clinton Woolley, Carol A Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Stephen Michel, Dennis Devereux, Christine Pratt, Zena Gates, June Capron, Bill Austin, Tiffany Austin, Gary Norton, Lori Norton.

1. Call to Order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda. Mr. Turco added one item regarding the easement requested by Green Mountain Power; added to Old Business.
4. Approval of December 10, 2024 Minutes. Ms. Garrow made a

motion to accept the minutes as drafted; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley. Mr. Woolley noted that the highway crew has been kept busy with plowing and sanding. At the Transfer Station, the attendants are working on cleaning out the old warming shed to make room for the new.

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SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm

SUNDAY, 9 am to 12 Noon

REMINDER: STICKERS REQUIRED, NO CASH

b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle. Ms. Karle noted there is not a lot of activity this time of year. The Town's Delinquent Tax Collector has collected about \$120,000 in delinquent taxes, which reduces what's owed by about half.

i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: Ms. Karle noted there is not a lot of activity this time of year. The Town's Delinquent Tax Collector has collected about \$120,000 in delinquent taxes, which reduces what's owed by a little more than half.

ii. Finalize and Approve FY26 Budget. Mr. Turco noted that the Okemo Valley Technical Assistance has requested a \$2,500 allocation for FY26. Carol Garrow-Woolley noted that if the allocation is being sought as an Article to be voted on the Town Ballot, it will need to be accompanied by a voter-backed petition by January 16. Ms. Karle noted that the Town had received the new budget from the Mount Holly Fire Department and that those numbers had been integrated into the proposed FY26 Budget. She said that when all projected funding allocations are taken into account, there would be a 10.75% increase in the Town budget to be raised by tax, over FY25. The total to be raised by tax in the projected FY26 budget would be \$1,391,770. Resident Zena Gates asked whether residents had any influence over the school budget. Mr. Turco confirmed that the school budget will be put to voters as a Ballot article in March, and that a community meeting regarding the budget will be held on January 15. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve the FY26 budget as proposed; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

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.

c. Fire Department Update - Bill Austin. Mr. Austin addressed community concerns regarding first response calls. Mr. Austin noted that the Fire Department does respond to every call received, but that at times the Department's first response team cannot respond to a first response call; in these cases, Ludlow Ambulance Service responds to these.

d. Listers' Report - David Johnson. Mr. Johnson noted that the final Grand List was sent to the state today; next month the Board can sign a certificate of no suits pending.

e. Animal Control Officer Report - Adam Karle. Mr. Karle sent an updated ACO report to the Select Board; the Board noted that Mr. Karle has received some difficult calls recently and Mr. Turco urged residents to be respectful when making calls to Town officials.

f. Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann. Mr. McCann sent a report that the Town of Cavendish has started working on new subdivision regulations and that he hopes MHPC will cooperate with that process; he attended a VLCT Wastewater training meeting; he noted that the MHPC has two projects in review under the current subdivision regulations.

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

Mount Holly Town Office

Will be CLOSED:

Monday February 17th for President's Day

that there are new statutory changes regarding delinquent tax collection; the Board will set a future meeting with the Delinquent Tax Collector to further discuss these changes.

c. FEMA Cost Offer - Beaver Meadow. FEMA's revised cost offer for the Beaver Meadow culvert repairs is proposed at ~\$426,000, which represents 90% of the total project costs; an additional 8% would be paid for by the state and 2% by the Town. Jeff Chase noted that this cost offer is closer than previous offers to what the project will actually cost. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the FEMA cost offer; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

d. Appoint Ethics Liaison to State Ethics Commission. Mr. Turco volunteered to serve as the municipal liaison to the State Ethics Commission.

e. 2025 Mileage Certification Updates. The Road Foreman noted that there are no updates to the Town's mileage certification. The Clerk will submit the Certification without changes.

f. Discuss Solid Waste Sticker Reorder. The Board noted that the Town Clerk can reorder stickers as needed.

g. Adopt Revised Purchase Order (COI and W9 Requirements). The Board reviewed new language regarding COI and W9 requirements for vendors and requested one other addition regarding insurance limits and Workers Comp coverage, with exemptions provided for sole operators without employees.

7. Old Business

a. Discussion of Town Treasurer as Appointed Position. Tabled.

b. Shifting Treasurer Duties - Treasurer Request for Asst. Treasurer Pay Rate of \$25-\$30/hour. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve a new Assistant Treasurer's pay rate at \$25-30/hr, commensurate with experience; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

c. Green Mountain Power Easement Request - Route 103. Mr. Turco noted that Green Mountain Power submitted an adjusted easement request, with the pole and anchor/guy moved to the location requested by the Select Board in its December meeting. Mr. Turco noted that he will reach out to Karen Kotecki to further understand the easement language prior to signing. Mr. Chase noted that if/when the pole is placed, the Town would like the Cemetery Commissioner to be present.

8. Citizen Comments. Mr. Turco noted that the Town cannot assist disabled vehicles in the roadway; individual drivers must call a private towing service to help if needed.

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.

9. **Announcements**

- a. Dog License Registration Deadline is April 1.
- b. Town Office Closed on January 20 for MLK Jr. Day.

10. **Review & Sign Orders**

11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed)**

12. **Adjourned at 7:31 pm** Respectfully Submitted By Caitlin Boyle

SEEKING ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Town Treasurer, Liz Karle, is seeking an Assistant Treasurer to perform daily duties in the town office. This is largely an in person position. The role is expected to be 10-15 hours per week for most of the year. During the month of August, the requirements are expected to be 20 hours per week to assist with tax collection.

For anyone interested in more information on this change, please see the notes from January 6th, 2025, Item 2b.

For those interested in being appointed to this position, please email Liz at treasurermthollyvt@gmail.com or call her directly at (413) 652-5440. Do NOT call the town office for enquiries in response to this notice.

The rate of pay is to be determined, between \$25-\$30/hour, dependent on relevant experience. Ability to assist in the near future is ideal.

Duties of Asst. Treasurer:

- Accounts Payable
- Deposits/Cash Receipts
- Answer emails and respond to requests for tax bills and tax payment status
- Payroll Processing
- Assist with audits
- Assist with grants as needed
- Filing
- Other duties as requested

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Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT

Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 20th, 2024 7:00 P.M.



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

Also present: (in person) Faith Tempest, Kevin Hollobeck. David Johnson, (online) Teresa Bolalek, Andy Bolalek, Alissa Tilly.

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 16th October 2024 were approved without objection.
4. Reorganization
 - a. Election of officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary): the Chair proposed that the officers be proposed as a single slate, continuing in their previous roles – Jon McCann Chair, Jim Seward Vice Chair, Andy Schulz Recording Secretary. Motion approved.
 - b. Re-adopt Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy: Chair proposed readopting the rules of procedure from 2023, with an update to the date. Motion approved.
5. Reports & Announcements
 - a. Administrative Officer
 - BCRs received from:



Turco, Branch Brook Road, 20x32 Camp

Commercial/Residential
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Rasevych, Belmont Road, house renovation (renewal of BCR); PC members asked the AO to investigate whether this construction is subject to wetlands or shoreland permits issued by the State.

- b. Planning Commission Chair i. None.
6. Correspondence
 - a. Subdivision proposals
 - i. Discussion of Bolalek/Enman/Tilly plans: Andy Bolalek had submitted to the Town Clerk two Boundary Line Adjustment Exemption forms, exempting the owners from aspects of the State’s WW permitting process. The proposal involves adjustments between three properties, the end result of which would be an increase in the land available to the General Store to allow for a larger septic system. The Chair wished to clarify the specific proposals and whether the Commission has any role.

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ii. Chair asked what new lots were being created; Kevin Hollobeck clarified the adjustments being proposed, with additional clarifications from Andy Bolalek and Alissa Tilly. The first adjustment of approx. 0.14 acres between Enman and Kivi (owner of the General store) increases the Store property and provides a boundary between the Store property and the Bolalek property. The second adjustment is approx. 2.5 acres from the Bolalek property to the General Store; subsequently the General Store makes a boundary adjustment with the Enman property, adding back approximately 0.3 acres across the brook meaning that the Enman property remains the same size. Andy Bolalek noted that this process has been agreed by the State in the context of WW approvals as long as all the exchanges happen in close proximity.

iii. Chair stated that his understanding was that this process was being followed to avoid any amendments to existing WW permits, and that the exemption is based on no lots being reduced in size; however at some point the Enman lot will be smaller; once the final exchange is made, the Enman lot will not have any additional useable land since the final swap is land across the brook. He asked Kevin Hollobeck to clarify the States rules: he noted that a mound system does not need a replacement site and so the State is less concerned about increases in size given the existence of such a septic system. The State does not appear to take into account the location of streams within properties.

iv. Once apprised of the size of the adjustment between the Bolalek and

Kivi properties, the Chair noted that this seemed too substantial to be a BLA. Kevin Hollobeck and Andy Bolalek pointed out that no new lots are being created. Alissa Tilly noted that the rules governing water and septic for a commercial property mean that the General Store would require this amount of land.

v. Commissioner Schulz asked if Chris Tomberg (DEC Regional Engineer) was apprised of the brook when he said the State was happy; Andy Bolalek noted that Chris had the maps in front of him when he made his determination.

vi. Commissioner Andrew Seward asked if there is a definition of substantial in the sub-division regulations; the AO responded that there is not.

vii. The Chair asked if any of the parties had spoken to the Act 250 coordinator? The Chair proposed that this needs to be done in advance of any next steps. He also asked how waste would be moved across the stream. Alissa Tilly said she is working with Brooks Excavating, who are licensed for this kind of work, to consider the options for the septic. She has not started the permitting process yet since the lot reconfiguration has not happened. The Chair asked why this cannot be designed in advance.

viii. The Chair stated that in his view this requires a sub-division (of the Bolalek property) to move forward. Andy Bolalek said the proposals are prompted by the desire to help the Store, and were discussed with State officials, lawyers, engineers to ensure that it was done legally and according to State rules. The Chair asked what happens to the existing WW permit for the Bolalek meadow. Kevin Hollobeck responded that State sees the meadow as potentially two lots in respect of WW – the existing permit is for two single family residences. This permit would need to be amended if the land is subdivided. The Chair said that the only authority to split it into two lots is through a town sub-division.

ix. The Chair noted that the PC needs to consider whether a 2 lot subdivision is required for the Bolalek property, with a subsequent sale of one of the lots to the General Store. Act 250 would then be triggered for the store (since its lot would be bigger than 1 acre) for both the operation of the Store and the wastewater arrangements. Commissioner Jim Seward stated that this seems to be a straightforward subdivision.

x. Commissioner Schulz asked if there is an existing Act 250 permit for the Store? Alissa Tilly confirmed there is not. He also asked about the existing wastewater permit and noted that he understood that the Store was looking for more seating capacity; Alissa Tilly confirmed this.

xi. The Chair confirmed with the Commissioners that the PC considers this a two lot subdivision of the Bolalek property. Following that any BLA can be made, probably without PC involvement. Andy Bolalek noted that he would ask the lawyers/ surveyors to communicate with the PC about the proposal and that to date, none of them had mentioned any Act 250 implications. He said that if it is more complicated than the BLA proposal he will need to reconsider. The Chair reconfirmed that Andy Bolalek should submit a sub-division application, supported by the documentation already prepared, before going forward. The Chair asked the AO to be in touch with the parties to see how to move the process forward.

7. New Business: a. None
 8. Unfinished Business a. None
 9. Public Comments: none.
 10. Upcoming meetings a. Regular meeting: 18th December 2024 at 7:00 pm
 11. Meeting adjourned at 8.13pm.
- For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk In draft form until approved on 18th December 2024

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LOCAL

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HAWKINS
EXCAVATION

A video recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mountholly-planning-commission-1120>



Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 18th, 2024 7:00 P.M.

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

Stephen Michel

Also present: Faith Tempest, Hunter Cole, Alissa (Tilly) Chronert, Michael Chronert, Chris Blanchard, Kathy Leber, Abe Leber, Ron Unterman, Andy and Teresa Bolalek (via Zoom), Covalla (via Zoom no other details provided), 18455 (via Zoom would not identify themselves). A video recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mountholly-planning-commission-1218.1>.

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 20th November 2024 were approved without objection.

4. Reports & Announcements

a. Administrative Officer • BCRs received from:

o Asphar, Belmont Road, 14x16 Camp, following a request by the AO after construction had started.

o Rasevych, Belmont Road: After the previous meeting, the AO contacted the property owners to ask if they had consulted with the State regarding Wetlands and/or Shorelands permits.; Jim Filipowicz of Brooks Excavating, who had undertaken some of the preparation work, met with the AO on the landowner's behalf but was not aware of the status of permit applications. AO contacted the relevant Officers at the DEC and will put them in touch with the landowner.

b. Planning Commission Chair

i. Garrow subdivision/ Act 250 permit amendment: The PC was copied on additional information provided for the Act 250 permit amendment, but also on correspondence from the District Coordinator to Mr. Garrow, noting that the application is still deemed incomplete and will not be considered until all necessary information has been provided. Town of Mount Holly Planning Commission PO Box 248 Mount Holly, VT 05758 Page 2 planningcomm@mounthollyvt.org

ii. The Chair participated in a Recreation Committee meeting (a subcommittee of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission). The Recreation Committee is working on issues raised in the Town Plan – trails in particular, and an action plan for Star Lake and there are potential avenues for cooperation between the PC and the Recreation Committee on this.

5. Correspondence

a. Subdivision proposals

i. Cole: This minor subdivision into three lots was presented again to the PC with a single map showing the proposed changes. The Chair asked for confirmation that there is access to all parcels; Hunter Cole confirmed that there is. He also noted that the previous GMP easement on the property has now been dissolved. Commissioner Schulz asked if WW permits are in place; Mr. Cole confirmed that there are three permits issued, with two wastewater systems already in place. The PC Chair asked about the river corridor that skirts

the property's western boundary and whether it would be acceptable to put limitations on development there; Mr. Cole responded that he would have to consult the other owners but did not foresee a problem. The Chair ran through the checklist of requirements for the application to progress; the PC concurred that the sketch map includes all required details. The Chair noted that the mylar would require a signature from the surveyor, E911 numbers, details of the proposed site for the remaining WW system, and the site for the proposed future single-family residence. Mr. Cole confirmed that this will be finalized in time for a public hearing. The PC agreed to call a public hearing for the sub-division on 19th February 6:30 pm.

ii. Bolalek/Enman/Kivi LLC proposals:

1. The AO received a subdivision application on December 16th from Alissa (Tilly) Chronert for a Boundary Line Adjustment between her property (Belmont General Store 2400 Belmont Road, also referred to as the Kivi property) and her neighbors (2378 Belmont Road, Enman/LePage). Accompanying the application was a letter from the State (Chris Tomberg ANR District Office) exempting the BLA from further permitting requirements under the State's Environmental Protection Rules.

2. The AO noted that the application as received was incomplete, giving several reasons: it was only signed by one party (Alissa Chronert), the statement that there would be no change of use was incorrect because the application states that the subdivision's purpose is to allow for the installation of a new wastewater system, and the sketch map submitted was unclear. The AO returned the application to the applicant for completion before it could be referred to the Planning Commission.

3. Chair noted that although the application could not be considered formally, he would like to discuss the details to clarify issues and avoid further delays. Alissa Chronert and Chris Blanchard (lawyer for Ms. Chronert) asked to speak. The Chair asked Ms. Chronert to explain the full details of the proposed project. She described a series of proposed boundary line adjustments: the first, as presented in this application, was to transfer 0.13 acres from Enman/LePage to Kivi, to create a boundary between the Kivi property and the meadow owned by Andy and Teresa Bolalek. A future BLA would then enlarge the Kivi property through an adjustment from Bolalek to Kivi, creating a parcel for Kivi that is large enough to support a wastewater system and public water supply for the General Store; yet another BLA would then revert a small portion of land from Kivi to Enman/LePage to bring their parcel back to its original size. Mr. Blanchard asked that each of the BLAs be considered separately and asserted that no new lots are being created. He also noted that the first of these BLAs has been approved by DEC (Chris Tomberg), with

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respect to State wastewater rules. Mr. Blanchard noted that the guidance document on the Town website notes that substantial BLAs should be treated as sub-divisions but does not define substantial.

4. The Chair clarified what seemed to be a misunderstanding, that DEC does not ultimately approve boundary line changes. That responsibility lies with the town. DEC reviews whether a permit or permit amendment is required beforehand.

5. Mr. Blanchard suggested that the proposed transfer would not change the land use. The Chair pointed out that the land subject to the proposed BLA is currently residential but would become mixed use or commercial. Mr. Blanchard agreed that this would be a change in land use.

6. The Chair responded to Mr. Blanchard's suggestion that the series of transfers were entirely independent by reiterating the discussion from the November meeting that the PC considered all of the proposed adjustments as a single project, not a series of independent steps. The Chair suggested that it is time to see the full scope of the project that, according to the applicants, has been in the works for a year, including the designs for commercial septic and public water supply that they acknowledge an engineer has already been working on.

7. The Chair recounted part of his discussion with DEC's Chris Tomberg and asked if the applicant has a design for the commercial septic system. Ms. Chronert confirmed that they have preliminary designs done by a professional engineer at Brooks, and that the extent of the land acquisition is necessary for the plan to conform to State requirements. The Chair said the PC would like to see these plans.

8. The Chair also asked if the Bolaleks are still interested in moving forward on the project. Ms. Chronert responded yes, but not if it requires a subdivision. The Chair reminded Ms. Chronert that based on the meeting in November, the subdivision regulations would apply.

9. Abe Leber asked if the PC has the authority to require disclosure of wastewater and site plans. The Chair said that the PC has the authority and would generally expect disclosure of any such project's full and accurate details.

10. The Chair asked Ms. Chronert how many total full-service "seats" the store plans to add. Ms. Chronert responded that their current plan is to add 20.

11. Mr. Blanchard asked the AO what would be required for the application to be considered complete and forwarded to the Commission for their consideration. The AO said that a complete application would need the signatures of all parties and a clarification that there is an intended change of use.

12. Commissioner Schulz noted that the application is also incomplete because it states that the property is only a General Store, but it also contains two apartments and is a location for cider fermentation.

13. Commissioner Andrew Seward clarified that the BLA application is not yet before the PC because it is incomplete. It needs all parties' signatures, a clear proposal description, and the correctly prepared survey. Once received, the PC can consider the application.

14. Michael Chronert asked if the PC would decide if they had more information about the plans, including septic designs. The Chair requested that the applicants share the full proposals with the Planning Commission, the Act 250 Coordinator, the public wastewater engineer, and Chris Tomberg, which would facilitate a discussion on how to move forward.

15. Commissioner Schulz noted that usually, when a project of this nature is being planned, a full proposal is developed. The Commission has not been given full disclosure about this project, making it difficult for the Commission to do its duty.

16. Commissioner Michel stated that if the paperwork for the LePage/Enman BLA is completed, he would consider approving it. However, he disagrees that a BLA is appropriate between Bolalek and Kivi—it is a subdivision.

17. Ms. Chronert noted an urgency to have the PC's determination since she had sold assets and needed to reinvest the funds. The Chair noted Ms. Chronert's urgency and asked for clarification as to whether this BLA would meet the investment requirement. Ms. Chronert responded that it would not; it would need to be a larger investment, such as acquiring a portion of the Bolalek property. The Chair noted that a subdivision application could have been brought to the PC earlier, which would have met the end-of-year deadline, generally taking about 90 days. However, given the timing of the submission, it could not meet the applicant's desired end-of-year deadline.

18. Mr. Chronert asked what would trigger Act 250 if Kivi bought the whole Bolalek property. The Chair deferred to the State on this but noted that the subdivision of the Bolalek property could be straightforward. Commissioner Andrew Seward gave the example of the Cole subdivision earlier in the meeting. The Chair pointed out that the Commission is interested in knowing the implications of land use changes on the Village.

6. New Business: a. None

7. Unfinished Business a. None

8. Public Comments:

9. Upcoming meetings

a. Regular meeting: 15 th Jan at 7:00 pm 10. Meeting adjourned at 8.57pm. For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk



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The event is a benefit concert, with all proceeds going to **West River Sports** - a volunteer-run community organization

committed to fostering a love of the outdoors and healthy activity with and for our area's younger populations.

The concert will be held in Walker Farm on **February 8th at 7:00pm**. Walker Farm Music is a “**Pick-Your-Price**” event, letting you choose the ticket value that makes the most sense for you. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.westontheater.org or by calling the **Box Office at 802-824-5288**.



Vermont Home Gardener: February Gardening

February is too early to start most seeds indoors but not too early to get ready for planting in March-April. It's also a great time to make a few New Year Gardening Resolutions for yourself. Our growing season is too short for many plants like tomatoes, peppers, and many flowers to sow their seeds outdoors in the spring so we can get a jump start by starting them indoors and effectively extend the season. If we provide the right conditions of soil, light, and temperature our favorite plants can be ready to transplant in spring. Buying our own seeds also lets us select the best varieties for local conditions (not what commercial sellers do!) and to save lots of money. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing your own garden plants grow from seed to harvest so let's get started.

New Year Resolutions

You should make your own resolutions and here are some of mine as suggestions.

- Get serious about better **composting**. Make full use of kitchen, garden, and yard wastes to improve my soil stop using chemical fertilizers.
- Start with good quality **seeds**. Cheap seeds can mean low germination and poor plant vigor.
- Buy **plants** from local nurseries for better varieties and to support our local economy. Big box sellers bring undesirable varieties and greenhouse pests and diseases from big commercial greenhouses.
- **Grow** what you can and buy the rest locally, avoid unhealthy factory food.

What should I Grow? Grow what you like! You can always buy young plants later but if you really like certain varieties it's best to start your own, at least for a few. I think it's worthwhile to start tomatoes, peppers, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, and some flowers because we have found certain varieties do better here and they're easy to grow. For example, we really like Amish Paste, Sun Gold, and Juliet tomatoes. Ailsa Craig onions give very large, juicy sweet onions. King of the North sweet peppers produce well and ripen in our short season. Fiesta broccoli yields a big head followed by numerous small heads for many weeks of harvest. Snowbowl cauliflower has been a reliable producer for years. Fortex pole beans give high yields of the most tasty, tender green beans.

We are limited by our short growing season of about 125 days between frosts (May 21 to Sept. 24) but we can extend the season by 6-8 weeks by starting seeds indoors. If we start too early the plants may get too big or lanky for easy transplanting. Late March or early April works well for most plants. Onions, petunias, and other slow growers need an early March start. [Here is a link](#) to a video about starting seeds.

Seed Starting Basics. Seedlings need soil, moisture, warmth, and light. The best medium for seedlings is a good quality "starter mix" (not potting soil!) which is very light, porous, and drains well. The best mixes are soilless with coir (coconut fiber), peat, vermiculite, compost, and other light materials that contain beneficial microbes and drain well to prevent growth of disease fungi. Seeds contain their own initial supply of nutrients so will not need fertilizing for the first couple weeks. The containers you use can be plastic (little pots, 6-packs, etc.), peat or cow pots, or homemade. Remember to provide ample root space for growing seedlings (not egg cartons) and bottom trays for regular watering. If you start with very small containers or open trays you need less space but your seedlings will have to be "up planted" when they've outgrown their containers.

Warmth and light are essential for good plant growth. I provide warmth with electric germination mats (available at local garden stores and online) because our house is too cool and germination will be better with a steady temperature of 75-80 F. Mats may seem expensive (\$25-30) but last many years and assure good seedling growth. A worthwhile investment for every gardener. South facing windows might seem adequate but cannot provide sufficient light intensity or hours of light in March or April. Artificial lighting with a fluorescent or LED utility fixture over a plant growing table works well and you can use it for seed starting or indoor plants for many years. Commercial light stands are very expensive but you can use [online plans](#) to build one from cheap PVC pipe. Make it taller so you can raise the lights with the chains or lines as your plants grow but keep your light source very close to your seedlings, no more than 1-2 inches above the top leaves. My homemade PVC stand accommodates up to 4 trays with germination warming mats under them.

Getting Started. Here are a few tips to help make your seed starting more successful. Before filling your containers, moisten the starter medium thoroughly so you don't have to water for a week or more. Fill each cell or container by gently packing the soil in with your fingertips and fill up level to the very top, leaving no depression or cavity on the surface. Soil will gradually settle down and any depression helps fungi grow on the surface resulting in "damp off" disease. If you keep your starting mix in a 5-gallon bucket you can fill each container *inside* the bucket, avoiding a mess of spilled soil.

Use a small, pointed stick or pencil to make seed holes, following the package instructions for depth. Sow seeds, usually one, in the middle and gently tamp covering soil. Once seeds are sown, label every container or pack. When things get moved, up-planted, re-planted, etc. those labels will be critical. Clear covers (see image) will hold in moisture and warmth but should be removed when half of the seeds have germinated. Ideally, watering should be done from below with room temperature water, never pouring water onto tiny seedlings but pour into a bottom tray for absorption, bottom up. Leave enough time between waterings to allow the surface soil to be just dry. Over-watering is the most common cause of seedling loss from damp off and root rot. (and house plant problems) Remember that the warming mats will help the soil dry out quicker.

Food & Exercise. Your seedlings will only need to be fed after they have grown their first "true leaves" that appear above the initial seed leaves (cotyledons) that emerged from the seed. Liquid fertilizer such as fish emulsion/hydrolysate is best but any soluble plant food diluted to half strength will do. Apply every 2 weeks until transplanting outside. **Exercise** your seedlings with a fan or your gently sweeping hands 4-5 times a day after they are 3-4 inches tall. Wind naturally exercises (flexes) plants to stimulate strong stems and a fan on low for 15-30 minutes twice a day will do the trick. This exercising reduces thin, weak stems of indoors seedlings we often see.

These are just the basics of seed starting. Watching for fungal diseases (too wet), bugs, and nutritional deficiency (light colored leaves) will keep you busy caring for your plants and learning from them. Expect some problems, failures even, but enjoy the successes of your own plants. If you have different ideas, please let me know!

Jim Corven (<https://vermonthomegardener.com/>)





Some Observations About Last Year's Mount Holly Calendar Competition

1. For the first time in a few years a photo taken on Maple Hill Road was submitted. Yay, Maple Hill is back baby!
2. Sadly, again no one submitted a photo of a moose, confirming our suspicion that moose are losing their je ne sais quoi. Maybe it's because moose don't have Influencers.
3. But then again no one submitted a photo of a bear either, and we know bears are still loved. Well, at least by their Influencers.
4. Two dogs made it into the 2026 calendar, Rudy and Annie. We don't think they know each other.
5. For the twelfth year in a row no one tried to bribe the vote counter with monetary goodies. This is disappointing. If you hear of anyone wanting to do this give them this phone number (802) 259-3947. I'm just saying.
6. Here are some hints on how to submit winning photographs in 2025: submit more horizontal photos than verticals. Make sure your photos are sharp and well focused. Be sure they are in 8X10 format, and are printed on photo grade paper, not run off on office copier paper.

The annual Mount Holly Calendar competition is a fund raising activity of the Mount Holly Community Association. Entry forms will be available in early July and entry deadline is Monday, September 22nd, 2025.

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.

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After April 1, 2025, = \$13.00

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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



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 **PLEW FARM**
Mt. Holly, Vermont

Farm stand hours:
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1966 Healdville Road, Mount Holly
www.plewfarm.com
dedicated to providing a local alternative to commercially produced factory food
visit our farm stand for beef, pork, chicken, eggs, maple syrup & products, produce, honey, cheese, cider, dairy, gifts, baked goods & more

Buy Your Tickets Today!

The Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) is excited to announce the Real Rutland Feud on Saturday, February 15 on the Paramount Theatre stage at 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased during regular business hours at the Paramount Theatre Box Office or online anytime at www.paramountvt.org beginning Monday, January 13 at 10 a.m.

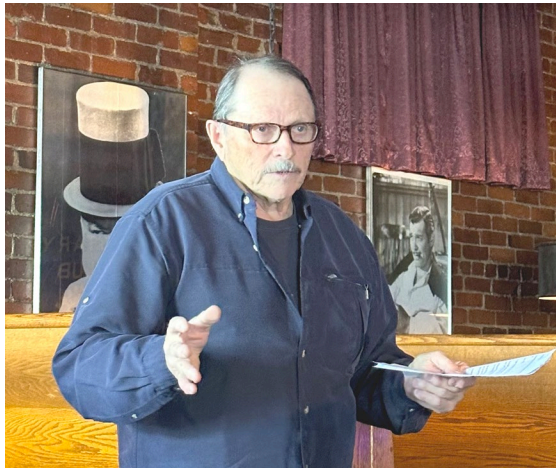
Ten teams from local businesses and organizations, will compete on the Paramount Theatre stage for a trophy and the title of 2025 Real Rutland Feud Winner!

Teams facing off in the 7th Annual Real Rutland Feud will be:

- [Rutland County Pride Center*](#) vs. [Rutland Young Professionals](#)
- [Kinney Pike Insurance, A OneDigital Company](#) vs. [Best Appliance & Kitchens](#)
- [Rutland Regional Planning Commission](#) vs. [Cape Air](#)
- [Watson Realty](#) vs. [Casella Real Estate](#)
- [Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County**](#) vs. [The MINT Makerspace***](#)

*Team sponsored by [Thicket Adventure](#) **Team sponsored by [Great Gulf](#) ***Team sponsored by [Heritage Family Credit Union](#) This event is a fundraiser for CEDRR's Regional Marketing Initiative, [Real Rutland](#).

Buy Tickets Here > <https://www.paramountvt.org/event/real-rutland-feud-2025/>



Peter Hadeka of Peter's Wildflower Honey

Peter Hadeka of Peter's Wildflower Honey was the speaker at the January 7 Ludlow Rotary meeting. Peter was honored as the 2018 Vermont Beekeeper of the Year Award for his public promotion of beekeeping. Rotarians found his discussion of the bee life cycle, and their critical role in pollination, fascinating and educational.

For information on joining the Ludlow Rotary Club, contact any Rotarian or call Kevin Barnes at 802-558-0479. Attached photo: Peter Hadeka by Kim Lampert [By Brigid Sullivan Brigid526@gmail.com](mailto:Brigid526@gmail.com)



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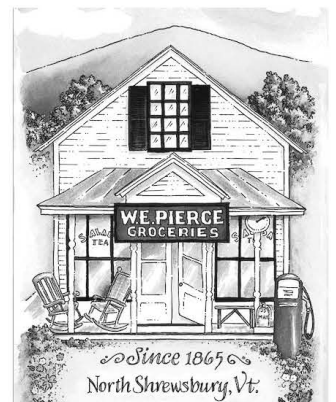


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DIRECTIONS:
From Mount Holly follow Rt. 103 west to Cuttingsville.
Take a right on Town Hill Rd. and follow for 2 miles.
Go right on Lincoln Hill Rd. (changes to Northam Rd.)
Follow 3 miles to the store.
2658 Northam Rd., Shrewsbury, Vt.
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Shriner 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

A Healthy Heart – Wear Red Day Feb 7

February is heart health month, a time to raise awareness about heart disease. It's the leading cause of death in the US, the # 1 cause of death for women and the second leading cause of death among Vermonters. Join Community Health on February 7th for Wear Red Day to help save more women's lives.

At Community Health, we can help you take charge of your own heart health with these preventive steps:

- Know your family's health history and heart health and discuss that with your primary care provider during your annual physical.
- If you have high blood pressure, lifestyle changes or medications can lower blood pressure. Check with your primary care provider.
- Heart disease and diabetes often go hand in hand. Ask about a personalized care plan if you are diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes.
- Being overweight can be a strong risk factor for heart disease and diabetes. Your primary care provider can help you manage your diet or can refer you to a dietician.

Take steps to lower your risk of heart disease by changing what you

can control and create a healthier future. At Community Health, heart health is a major focus for all of our primary care providers. Remember, February 7th is Wear Red Day to help save more women's lives. Contact us at (802) 779-9169.

The Joy of Heart Healthy Eating

February is Heart Health month at Community Health and around the country. Making smart eating choices can help prevent heart disease. During Heart Health Month, take steps to lower your risk of heart disease by changing what you can control, find joy in the food you eat and create a healthier future for yourself and your family.

- When grocery shopping, look for the American Heart Association heart healthy Heart-Check symbols on foods.
- Prepare and enjoy healthy meals with those you love. Sharing meals can help reduce stress, boost self-esteem and reconnect with friends.
- Plan and prepare healthy meals. Mapping out a week's worth of healthy, delicious meals can also save you money.
- Search for heart healthy recipes. The American Heart Association has hundreds of delicious recipes and help you discover healthy eating.

At Community Health, heart health is a major focus for all of our primary care providers. Contact us at (802) 779-9169.

For Sale: Firewood –
 Cut, Split & Delivered.
 Call 802-259-2147
Flanders.excavating@gmail.com



Maple Hutch for Sale
 70 inches tall 54 1/2
 inches wide. \$200. Call
 Paul 802-259-2443

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

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.

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

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Who's Got It Locally?

Artists & Architects

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Birth & Postpartum Doula & Skilled Birth Attendant

Summers Williams summers@rootsinvermont.com 717-919-4455
www.rootsinvermont.com

Building & Repairs – General Work

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 & 3 pm

Until May 11 am & 6 pm 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

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 Warden

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

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

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print@expresscopyinc.com

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

Lorien 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

Volunteer Services

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

Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking cw@vermontel.net 802-259-3232

www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com

