XII. FACILITIES & UTILITIES
See Map XII 1

a. PUBLIC SAFETY

The **Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Departmen**t is an organization of 25 active members who provide fire protection to the Town along with assistance in other emergencies. There is a fire station on School Street and a substation in Belmont Village. The Fire Department had a 2008 operating budget of $73,320. The Town Meeting appropriation for 2008 was $66,700. Additional moneys are generated through fundraising projects such as snowmobile races, raffles, coin drops, and an auction.

In 2006, the Department responded to 15 auto accidents, 14 fire calls, 3 mutual aid calls, and 2 EMS calls. There are other times when the Fire Department assists the Rescue Squad with additional personnel and the Squad stands by at fire calls.

A new Jaws of Life was purchased in 2006 with donations and will be incorporated into the truck delivered in 2007. The Department has four fire trucks - two pumpers, one pumper-tanker, and one tanker. Kenwood portable radios have been obtained with Homeland Security grant funds. A matching grant purchased 12 pack pumps for wildland fires.

Two dry hydrants are installed at Star Lake for firefighting in Belmont village. Additional dry hydrants have been installed at private ponds throughout Town.

Fire Dispatching is provided by the Vermont State Police (Dial 911).

The Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad is an organization of 20 members who provide treatment to residents and visitors on an emergency call basis, transporting to local hospitals. The Rescue Squad has a volunteer staff, some of whom are certified Emergency Medical Technicians. Presently, the Rescue Squad members are required to receive, at a minimum, 66 hours of Advanced First Aid training and a ten hour Emergency Care attendant program before beginning any field work.

If paramedics are needed, they meet the Rescue Squad en route to Rutland.

In 2006, the Rescue Squad responded to 113 calls - 69 medical, 28 trauma (including auto and home accidents), and 16 refusals.

The 2008 budget is $49,400, of which $15,000 of General Budget and $12,000 of Vehicle Replacement is funded by Town Meeting appropriation. Additional moneys are generated from fees, memberships, fundraising projects, and an appropriation from East Wallingford which is covered by the Mount Holly Squad.

The Squad maintains two ambulances housed at their School Street facility. A Homeland Security grant in 2006 funded turnout jackets, portable suctioning units, vacuum splint sets, and portable radios.

Ambulance dispatching is provided by the Vermont State Police (Dial 911).

Police
Local police protection is provided through three separate entities:
   a. The Town has two part-time constables elected by popular vote. The operating budget is $2,400.
   b. The Town contracts with the Rutland County Sheriffs Department to be available as needed, and has been requested by the Select Board to enforce traffic laws in problem areas.
   c. The Vermont State Police, based in Rutland, are responsible for handling traffic, criminal matters, and civil issues in Mount Holly.

The current constable's phone number is listed in the Town report and the Chit Chat, and the Vermont State Police number is 773-9101 or 911

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<div align="center">PUBLIC SAFETY</div>

	Mt Holly	Rutland Co.	Vermont
Total instance of crime, 2004	25	2,856	28,243
Against People	6	324	3,604
Against Property	17	2,230	21,931
Against Society	2	302	2,708

Emergency Management

The view of **emergency management** has changed since 9/11 and the 2005 hurricanes
The four stages of emergency management:

- mitigation
- preparedness
- response
- recovery

Goal 1,A; Mitigation Continue to work with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to review and update the mitigation Plan of 2004 – including road and bridge standards, development on steep slopes, and floodplains

*A **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan** was prepared for the Town of Mount Holly in early 2004 and is subject to review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and adoption by the Mount Holly Select Board.(Town officials including members of Planning Commission and the Select Board, as well as Fire Department, road maintenance, the Emergency Management Coordinator of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission worked to complete a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for Mount Holly. This process included analyzing the Town's disaster history, gathering input about known hazards, and developing mitigation strategies that will avert or lessen the damage that can be caused by disasters such as flood events, wind storms power outages, and hazardous materials. This document, once reviewed and adopted satisfied a FEMA mandate for each town in the nation to produce such a plan by November2004 in order to continue eligibility for disaster relief funds in the future.)*

Goal 1, B : Preparedness – review and update the **rapid response plan** – identify shelter locations, with the Rutland Region Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) establish connections and agreements among agencies, statewide E-911 program

Goal 1,C: Response – Review Community Emergency Response Team and roles of volunteer fire department, local constable, rescue squad, response arrangements in wider region, medical facilities, specialized response units including Vermont State HazMat, towing companies, amateur radio operators, etc.

Goal 1,D : Recovery – With pre-disaster mitigation plan the Town is eligible for public funds in case of declared disaster – e.g., help needed with roads, tree removal, power lines, telephone service. Increase volunteer training; address the problem of services to scattered development in rural areas with longer trip and more difficult access; increase awareness; annual reviews of local Rapid Response Plans and Emergency Operations Plans; budget for local pre-disaster mitigation plan.

<div align="center">b.   SOLID WASTE</div>

Historically, solid waste disposal occurred at the Town "dump." When state law made closure of the dump necessary, the site of the Town's capped landfill became the Transfer Station.

Solid waste and recyclables are brought to the Transfer Station by residents.

Mount Holly's waste diversion strategies include a mandatory recycling ordinance, a unit-based price structure, and information/education programs directed at the user. The Town has an active recyclable materials collection program. There is a charge for disposal of tires and refrigerators and some other large metal items. All other recyclables are accepted without charge.

Recycling facilities include a 2,800 square foot metal structure that is dedicated to recycling, a baler, forklift, two covered containers for glass and tin/aluminum, and an enclosed, wheeled wooden trailer for newspaper collection. A small structure that serves as a re-use shed was added in 2007.

There are two part-time transfer station employees who handle MSW compacting, burning of untreated lumber, and preparation of recyclables for market, using the baler and forklift at the site.

In 2007, the Town voted to join the Rutland County Solid Waste District. The District will provide twice yearly Household Hazardous Waste Collections in Town, assistance with State certification, and will include the Mount Holly Transfer Station in the District Solid Waste Implementation Plan. Mount Holly will be included in the District contract with Casella Waste Management for hauling and disposal.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There is no public sewage disposal system in the Town of Mount Holly. All sewage is disposed "on site." There is currently no Town regulation on the construction or location of sewage disposal facilities. On site septic systems are governed by state regulations. Because of Mount Holly's hydrogeology with minimal distance to bedrock and impervious soils, failed sewage disposal systems pose a substantial threat of groundwater contamination.   (See septic suitability maps)

c.   COMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications includes telephone lines, digital cable, towers, repeaters, antenna, satellite receivers, and broadband internet use.

The terrain in Mount Holly results in limited access to wireless telephone services.

Television – cable, satellite, antennae and Public Access TV, GPS; emergency radio services transmitters, repeaters, redundancy back-up systems television are all means to increase citizen involvement in Town government, and all services are less available in Mount Holly than in other parts of Vermont – due to sparse rural residences, mountainous terrain, and small market population.

COMCAST Proposed cable

d. ARTS & CULURE

Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

The Museum was founded in 1969 by a group of volunteers, who purchased a property on Tarbellville Road in Belmont that had previously been a blacksmith shop, undertaking parlor, tea room, and medicinal shop. In 1998 the building, now known as the Blacksmith Shop, was renovated structurally and made handicapped accessible with the addition of a ramp and a parking area.

The lack of heat and running water in the Blacksmith Shop building led the Museum Board of Directors to seek another building that would provide year-round storage and display. In 2004, Perkins House, on Maple Hill Road in Belmont, was donated to the Museum. Restoration of Perkins House, funded by community donations and grants from Preservation Trust of Vermont, began in 2006 and is expected to be complete by the 40th anniversary of the Museum in 2009. The Blacksmith Shop will continue to operate during the warmer months.

Until Perkins House is open, the Museum will maintain a summer schedule. In July and August, the Museum is open Saturday afternoons for browsing and Sunday afternoons with an active schedule of programs of local interest. Special Museum-sponsored events include an Artfest and a Farmfest. There is at least one children's craft program and a visit by elementary school children each year. Planning is underway for an expanded educational program in the year-round Perkins House building.

The Museum's purpose is "to maintain and perpetuate the historical museum and properties, to collect and catalog memorabilia of Mount Holly and surrounding areas and to present programs to the community". Collections include photographs, quilts, clothing, Chase Toy factory items, cemetery records, genealogies, Civil War artifacts, scrapbooks, and many other items illustrative of the Town's history.

The Museum is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The Mount Holly Community Library

The Mount Holly Community Library has been a volunteer effort from its beginning in the early 1900s. The library was originally located in different houses. In 1913, the Belmont Improvement Association established a new location for the library in the lower level of the old Methodist Church/Town Hall. Here the library was run by volunteers. In the late 1960s, the library was restructured with the introduction of modern methods of library science.

Under the auspices of the Mount Holly Community Association, the library was moved to brighter surroundings on the main floor of the former church building (now the Community Center). In 2001, the Library received the first of two $5,000 grants from the Vermont Library Association to support a paid part-time librarian.

In 2003, the Town voted to continue the annual stipend to support this position. With the addition of a part-time paid staff member, the Library is now open part-time three days a week during the winter months, and five days a week in summer. As a result, the number of visitors has more than doubled.

The Library has a collection of over 10,000 volumes, in addition to an audiocassette CD, DVD, and video library. It also sponsors numerous musical and educational events as well as a winter reading group. Many community groups use the Library for meetings

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN RUTLAND COUNTY 2005-06

TOWNS	POP		PER CAP TAX		HOURS OPEN
TINMOUTH	615	WELLS	3.14	WELLS	6
MIDDLETOWN SPR	820	BENSON	3.38	BENSON	7
BENSON	1,036	**MOUNT HOLLY**	**4.05**	**MOUNT HOLLY**	**12**
WELLS	1,115	SHREWSBURY	5.7	MIDDLETOWN SPR	14
KILLING-TON	1,134	CLARENDON	7.26	TINMOUTH	18
SHREWSBURY	1,141	CHITTENDEN	7.74	SHREWSBURY	19.5
CHITTENDEN	1,227	MIDDLETOWN SPR	8.54	WEST RUTLAND	21.5
MOUNT HOLLY	**1,236**	WEST RUTLAND	11.47	PAWLET	26.5
PAWLET	1,442	BRANDON	12.81	CLARENDON	27
PROCTOR	1,847	PAWLET	13.23	CASTLETON	28
WALLINGFORD	2,322	WALLINGFORD	13.78	FAIR HAVEN	28
WEST RUTLAND	2,529	PITTSFORD	14.01	POULTNEY	34
CLARENDON	2,891	CASTLETON	18.1	WALLINGFORD	34
FAIR HAVEN	2,969	FAIR HAVEN	18.84	PITTSFORD	36
PITTSFORD	3,213	POULTNEY	19.16	KILLING-TON	37
POULTNEY	3,577	RUTLAND	25.86	BRANDON	38
CASTLETON	4,368	PROCTOR	30.63	PROCTOR	42
BRANDON	5,581	KILLING-TON	159.7	CHITTENDEN	45
RUTLAND	23,316	DANBY		RUTLAND	56
DANBY		TINMOUTH		DANBY	

TOTAL CIRC		LIBRARIAN FTE		INTERLIB LOANS	
WELLS	618	**MOUNT HOLLY**	**0.15**	**MOUNT HOLLY**	**0**
MOUNT HOLLY	**986**	WELLS	0.15	CLARENDON	4
MIDDLETOWN SPR	2,347	BENSON	0.18	WELLS	16
TINMOUTH	2,394	MIDDLETOWN SPR	0.18	MIDDLETOWN SPR	25
CLARENDON	2,830	CHITTENDEN	0.25	WEST RUTLAND	30
SHREWSBURY	5,230	PAWLET	0.45	BENSON	36
PAWLET	9,922	CLARENDON	0.88	CHITTENDEN	40
WEST RUTLAND	10,088	WEST RUTLAND	0.89	PAWLET	61
PROCTOR	10,528	CASTLETON	1.25	SHREWSBURY	97
WALLINGFORD	11,388	FAIR HAVEN	1.3	FAIR HAVEN	128
FAIR HAVEN	13,826	POULTNEY	1.6	WALLINGFORD	145
CASTLETON	19,109	WALLINGFORD	1.63	PROCTOR	150
PITTSFORD	19,184	PROCTOR	1.9	PITTSFORD	201
POULTNEY	29,402	PITTSFORD	2.05	KILLING-TON	206
KILLING-TON	29,996	BRANDON	2.45	BRANDON	309
BRANDON	35,941	KILLING-TON	2.7	CASTLETON	345
RUTLAND	203,535	RUTLAND	9.98	POULTNEY	396
BENSON		DANBY		RUTLAND	1,129
CHITTENDEN		SHREWSBURY		DANBY	
DANBY		TINMOUTH		TINMOUTH	

VT Department of Libraries