



Mount Holly Chit Chat



37/10

December 2011

Village Baptist Church – Worship 9:30am, Pastor Glenn Davis 259-2440

E. Wallingford Baptist – SS 10:00 am – Worship 11:00 am Evening 6:30 pm Phone 259-2831 www.ewbaptist.com

St. Patrick's Mass, Wallingford Sat 4 pm Sun 9:15 am Rev Justin Baker, Pastor & Rev James Dodson, Parochial Vicar Phone 446-2161

Annunciation Mass, Ludlow, Sat 4 pm, Sun 8 am & 11 am **Proctorsville** Sun 9:30 am, Rev. Romanus Igweonu Ph. 228-3451

Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce – Marji Graf 228-5830

Town Library: Sat 9-1 Sun 2-4 Mon 3-7 Wed 3-7 Mt. Holly Town Library, P.O. Box 93, Belmont, VT 05730 Call 259-3707

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

Town Treasurer's Office Hours: Mon 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Wed 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

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

Transfer Site: Sat. 8 am – 2 pm & Sun. 9 am – 12 pm

	1 st	Fisher & Bobcat Trapping Season ~ Rosa Parks bus boycott 1955	
Sat	3 rd	Deer Muzzleloader & Archery Season	
Sun	4 th	V.F.W. Post #10155 meeting, Route 103, Ludlow	7:00 pm
		Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Fire Station	7:00 pm
	5 th	Sno*Drifters Meeting, Call 259-2900 for location	AFL-CIO founded 1955 7:00 pm
	6 th	Mason Meeting, Mt. Moriah Lodge, E. Wallingford	8:00 pm
	7 th	Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library	Pearl Harbor Day 7:00 pm
		Mt. Holly School Board Meeting, Black River High School	7:00 pm
		Union #39 School Board Meeting, Black River High School	7:00 pm
	8 th	Soviet Union dissolved 1991	
Sun	11 th	Deer Muzzleloader & Archery Season Ends ~ Anniversary of UNICEF founding 1946	
	12 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	7:00 pm
	13 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
		Selectmen's meeting, Town Office	7:30 pm
		Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm
	14 th	Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	7:00 pm
		Mt. Holly PTC Meeting, Mt. Holly School Library	3:00 pm
		Mount Holly Grange	7:30 pm
		ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	15 th	Alexandre Eiffel 1832 ~ Bill of Rights Day 1791	
	16 th	Bobcat Trapping Season Ends ~ Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 ~ Battle Of The Bulge Began 1944	
Sat	17 th	Wrights' First Flight 1903 ~ Operation Just Cause 1989	
Sun	18 th	13th Amendment Abolishes Slavery 1865	
	19 th	Mount Holly Planning Commission, Town Office	7:30 pm
	20 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm
	21 st	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	Landing Of The Mayflower 1620 7:00 pm
		Hanukkah	
	22 nd	Winter Solstice ~ First Day Of Winter	
Sat	24 th	USAF Began Strikes of Laos 1964 ~ Kit Carson 1809	
Sun	25 th	Merry Christmas	
	26 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	Kwanzaa 7:00 pm
	27 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall	George Cayley Father of Aerodynamics 1773 9:00 am
		Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	Louis Pasteur 1822 7:00 pm
	28 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
Sat	31 st	New Years Eve	



Official End of WWII 1946 ~ Panama Canal Turned Over to Republic of Panama 1999

Gray Squirrel, Ruffed Grouse, Raccoon, Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel, Fisher Trapping & Hunting Season Ends

Emergency Services

Mount Holly Fire Dept.	259-2700 or	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
Mount Holly Fire Warden – Jim Seward		786-3408	American Red Cross	773-9159
Mount Holly Rescue Squad	775-3133 or	911	Game Warden – Jeff Whipple	773-9101
Mount Holly Constable Paul Faenza		786-4404	Health Officer - Frank Bickford	259-2885
Animal Control Deputy, Rutland County		775-8002	Vermont State Police	773-9101

Send **ARTICLES** to: **Diana Garrow**, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758 **Phone** 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 Yous: Claire & Michael Poulin * Arthur DeArruda * Flo & Dave Hare * Gail Graves (Graves Investment Corp ~ Engle & Volkers) * Charles & Ann Giardino * Elizabeth McGee & Mark Pecker * Kathy & Carl Mitchell * Rodney & Alida Tarbell * Mary Ann Merkle * Mt. Holly Community Guild * Mary Hawkins * Mary Nortunen * Sue Covalla * Ann & Doug Rose (Green Mtn. Sugar House) * Abe & Kathy Leber * Pat & Andy Salner * Town of Mount Holly * Wanda & Michael Spatzer * Pat & Roland Marx * Chuck Stanley *



December Birthdays: 1st-David Hoeh. 4th-Shawn Palmer. 5th-Mary Beth Jacobs * Heather Norton. 6th-Nikita Abrae Howard. 8th-Zachary Taylor. 9th-Carol Skarzynski. 10th-Madeline Veysey 16th-Heather Jacobs * Erin Devereux. 18th-Alec McCallum. 19th-Lia Wortman * Jon Lombardi * Ryan Graf * Sarah Devereux. 23rd-Kateri Collins * Stacey Johnson. 24th-Christopher Colm * Joshua R. Wasilewski. 25th-Annette Lynch. 27th-Richard Lee. 30th-John Ely. 31st-A.J. Labozzo.

December Anniversaries: 11th-Joe & Donna McDonald (35 Years). 20th-Arturo & Linda Duarte-Contreras. 27th-Dave & Carol Venter. (53 Years)

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

Mount Holly 802-259-2796

Post Master: Denise Young
Mon – Fri 7:30 am – 11:30 am
& 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Sat 7:30 am – 10:30 am

Belmont 802-259-2790

Post Master: Jane Hill
Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
& 1:30 pm – 4:45 pm
Sat 8:00 am – 10:45 am

East Wallingford 802-259-2829

Post Master: Lynnette Devereux
Mon – Fri 7:00 am – 12:30 pm
& 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Sat 7:00 am – 10:00 am

Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury 802-492-3585

Post Master: Barbara Perkins
Mon – Fri 7:30 am – 11:00 am
& 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Sat 7:30 am – 10:30 am



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: David Venter; **V. PRESIDENT:** Steven Howard;
SECRETARY: Krey Kellington; **TREASURER:** Diana Garrow;
DIRECTORS: Annette Lynch, Heather Garrow, Mary Beth Dawley
MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow

ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

SUBMISSIONS: Deadline is 22nd of 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, remembrances. 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 welcome as they look great on the Chit Chat web edition

LETTERS to the EDITOR: email; 300 word limit; include name, address, and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity. Requests for anonymity will be considered by the Editor.

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: \$20 Per Listing for one year

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	9 Mo.	12 Mo.
Business Card:	\$15	\$40	\$80	\$115	\$150
Quarter Page:	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
Third Page:	\$45	\$125	\$240	\$350	\$450
Half Page:	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$720

CIRCULATION: The Mount Holly Chit Chat is delivered to every residence in Mt. Holly and mailed to out-of-Town property owners as well as other folks with Mt. 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 second Monday in September in the Mount Holly Library at 7 p.m. 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 a grant from the Town

Thank you from the Nye and Taylor Families

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended the Celebration of Life for Pat Nye in October. It was amazing to see so many people in attendance, knowing that many friends were unable to share this time with us due to prior commitments. Thank you also for all the wonderful food, kind words and antidotes. It is nice to know that so many of you thought she would have loved the affair. What a wonderful community we live in! Thank you again, Will, Amber, Leigh, Todd and our kids.

Mount Holly School Happenings

December 4th Grade 6 Pancake Breakfast @ Harry's Restaurant 8-11am \$6 each
December 15th Holiday Concert 1:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
December 26 – January 2 Holiday Break



Mt. Holly School Board Meeting

The Mt. Holly school board met on Wednesday, November 2 at the Mt. Holly Elementary School. The board discussed the VT Virtual Learning Community cooperative and how it can help the students. The board also discussed the staff courtesy pilot program in great detail, as well as the flexible learning program. They have already had quite a bit of interest in the program, but they need to work out the fee structure. They would like to charge a lower rate for out of town participation than the state thinks they should charge, so they are working to determine what other options they have. Mr. Hutt Vater reported on the heating system repairs and will talk more about the proposals at the next meeting. He also reported on the water filtration system.

The next meeting will be held on December 7 at Black River High School at 7:00p.m.

Mt. Holly Kindergarten Caring and Sharing Project

Once again Mrs. Perry's kindergarten students are making and selling gifts for our Caring and Sharing Unit. Each year we raise money by selling gift tags and cloth tote/shopping bags to our friends and families. All the money raised is used to purchase gifts for local families in need. Come and check out our bags at school, at the Holiday Craft Fair on December 10 and at the Holiday Concert on December 15. Thank you for supporting our efforts!



BRACC UPDATE

Alexis Palmer and Marina Turco, both of Mount Holly, who lead Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) are getting ready to publicize to their fellow students the fact that 60% of Black River's High School students don't drink alcohol. That good news in our community comes from the 2011 Youth

Risk Behavior Survey which was just released. At Black River the number of youth who drank alcohol in the past 30 days dropped by 10% over the past 4 years (from 49% and 51% to 40%). SADD is trying to keep their fellow students safe by encouraging them to make healthy choices and supporting those students who do not drink, smoke or use drugs. This drop is consistent with our understanding that these changes take years to accomplish. BRACC's work of the past 7 years continues, in hopes of extending this success to tobacco and marijuana use as well.

To help them continue the efforts, the Black River Area Community Coalition (BRACC) was recently awarded 2 grants. The first grant is a Healthy Retailers Grant to work with small, independent grocers in creating healthy options for consumers and make the healthy choice the easy choice. As part of the grant we are seeking community input. You are invited to complete a survey which you can do on-line or with a paper copy. To complete an on-line survey (it takes about 5 minutes) go to Survey monkey:

- Use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/healthyretailer>
- Use Survey Code:09-09-09
- On Q2 - Choose Black River Area Community Coalition from the list provided
- On Q3 – Select "Electronic / Internet"

For a paper copy of the survey contact BRACC at 228-7878 or bracc7878@yahoo.com

We were also pleased to be the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from People's United Bank, Ludlow Office, for our work in changing community norms to reduce underage alcohol, tobacco and drug use. Thank you to Barb LeMire and the staff for their vote of confidence in our efforts. We hope the voters of Mount Holly will show their support as well at Town Meeting. Thank you.

KRUEGER ENGINEERING

- * Septic System Design
- * Subdivision Permits
- * Structural Engineering

Arthur G. Krueger, P.E.
(802)492-3653

main areas of concern, the possible reduction in costs and increased educational opportunities for students in the participating S.U.'s. Many questions focused on perception that this process is proceeding in a tight timeline. The board responded that the process has been going on for some time and that there are several reasons for the timeline including votes in Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru and Weston to form a Regional Education District (RED) that would then remove those districts from the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union and then add them to the Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union. The Vermont State Board of Education will consider both proposals in mid-January.

The question was asked if the creation of the new Supervisory Union would affect the sports at Black River High School and the board stated it saw no reason sports would be impacted. There were also concerns over transportation costs and what impact Ludlow's Municipal Transportation System would have on the new S.U.

Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union

BOARDS STUDY NEW SUPERVISORY UNION CONFIGURATION

On Wednesday night, October 26, 2011, the Rutland Windsor Supervisory Board held an informational meeting in the Ludlow Elementary School Gym. The topic of discussion was the proposed creation of a new Supervisory Union that would include the Districts currently making up the Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union (RWSU) and the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union (WSWSU).

The Board stressed that the creation of a new Supervisory Union is intended to reduce costs at the administration level. All schools within the two Supervisory Unions will remain open and there are no plans to close any of the schools in either district.

The discussion between the board and the attending public focused on 2

Mount Holly Democrats Congratulations to our new officers:

Chair:	David Hoeh
Vice-Chair:	Andy Tanger
Secretary:	Janet Warren
Treasurer:	Phil Crane
Asst. Treasurer:	Fra Devine

Delegates:	David Hoeh Andy Tanger
Alternate Delegates:	Janet Warren Phil Crane

And many thanks to Bill Carris, Vermont State Senator, who spoke with us on November 2. We spoke about many issues facing the Legislature for this upcoming year.

Our next meeting is on January 12, 2012. For more information, please contact David Hoch at 259-2274 or Janet Warren at 259-2007.

Educational benefits of a new S.U. are being explored as well. On Friday, November 4th, Administrators from both Supervisory Unions will meet to consider specific ways to increase educational opportunities by combining their respective administrative structures. Finding new solutions to current challenges within the current districts will be the goal.

There will be another Joint Planning Committee meeting of the combined Rutland Windsor S.U. & Windsor Southwest S.U. Boards on November 16th at the Cavendish Town Elementary School and the public is encouraged to attend. Norm Andrews a financial consultant contracted by the Vermont Department of Education will present the projected financial impacts of the creation of the new S.U. This is a very important meeting as it should answer many of the questions that relate to the financial benefits of the new S.U. This will be an important meeting to attend if you have questions about this process.

On November 30th there will be Public Informational Meeting of the Rutland Windsor S.U. Board at the Ludlow Elementary School Gym.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
COME SEE OUR
HOLIDAY CARDS & FLAGS
BY
STEPHANIE STOUFFER!!

DECEMBER PIZZAS
GET 2 FREE
TOPPINGS WITH
ANY CHEESE PIZZA

Get daily deals, like us:
BelmontGeneralStore



MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY

Christmas Holiday Classic Performed ~ Sunday, December 11 at 4 pm Louise DeCormier will perform a reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. We are thrilled that Louise has offered to read this heartwarming story of long ago. Dylan Thomas recounts childhood memories of Christmas celebrations in his boyhood Wales and the feelings it evoked in him as a child. In addition, the Folk Club and members of the Mt. Holly Elementary School Chorus will sing some carols appropriate to the story. Children from the Mt. Holly School and Black River Middle School have written stories relating memories from their families' past Christmases. The stories will be on display and awards will be presented for the best story from each grade.

Volunteer Spot ~ Library volunteers can now sign up for hours on line. Volunteer Marianne McGee has set up an email system that can be accessed from home so signing up for hours can be easy. This has been particularly helpful for the librarian and volunteers to be able to check on the schedule with a click of a button. Volunteers are reminded by email a couple days before their shift. On Friday, December 9th at 4 pm we have scheduled a training session for new volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a new volunteer call or stop by the library and let us know if you can join us that day. A big thank you to Marianne for finding Volunteer Spot and being the point person for volunteers to contact.

Universal Class ~ The Mt. Holly Library is pleased to announce the introduction of *Universal Class*, a powerful new online continuing education service designed specifically for use by the patrons of public libraries.

Universal Class offers patrons a unique online education experience. With a growing catalog of over 540 courses, Universal Class is committed to providing only the highest quality online training. Over 300,000 students around the world have benefited from Universal Class' unique instructional technologies. With real instructors guiding the learning, engaging video-based lessons, a collaborative learning environment, graded lesson tests, certificates of achievement and Continuing Education Units available for

selected courses, students enjoy an engaging and measurable learning experience that helps them master and document their educational goals. Universal Class offers courses in Exercise and Fitness, Entrepreneurship, Arts and Music, Home and Garden Care, Cooking, Computers and Technology, Health and Medicine, Homeschooling, Job Assistance, Law and Legal, Parenting and Family, Pet and Animal Care...plus 100's more. All you need is an Internet-connected computer and your assigned numbers provided by the Mt. Holly Library. Stop by the library for the details on Universal Class.

VTel Computer Classes ~ Dan Lucier, Community Broadband Organizer for Vermont Telephone, has been teaching computer class at the library for the last few months. He will continue to be available during the month of December. If you would like to sign up for a class give him a call at 802-885-7758. This program has been very popular and community members have had great things to say about the one-on-one instruction. Dan is very knowledgeable and his easy going manner makes him a good teacher.

Kid's DVDs ~ Young families have been borrowing our DVDs but our limited number of kid friendly movies have been sadly lacking. We recently purchased 15 new DVDs for this growing audience.

We Need Your Used Printer Cartridges ~ For two years we have encouraged community members to give us their used printer cartridges. This has saved the library approximately \$600 in supply costs. Recently we have been getting fewer donations so I encourage you to drop your cartridges in the town's convenient drop off locations: Mt. Holly Town Office, Mt. Holly School, Mt. Holly Post Office, Belmont Store and the library. Thank you for all your past support.

Book Sale Shed Openings ~ Our book sale shed has been a huge help in keeping the sale books organized and easy to display. Thanks to board member Minga Dana we are able to store the overflow in her garage over the winter. We still have plenty to choose from in the shed so during nice weather we will be throwing open the shed doors for book purchasing. If you see the "Open" Flag displayed on the shed building by the road, stop in, we might have the perfect book for you.



Mount Holly 2012 Calendar

ON SALE NOW!!!

Belmont General Store, Community Center/Library,
and Mount Holly Town Office

16 wonderful photos – 16 great ways to appreciate
our beautiful photogenic town!

LIMITED SUPPLY AVAILABLE

**Don't wait too long to buy
your calendars!**

**It's a great holiday gift for you
and your family and friends**

\$20 per calendar
(\$10 tax deductible)

For more information call
Janet Warren at 802-259-2007

Sponsored by the Mount Holly Community Association
All proceeds support community activities

Mount Holly Bone Builders will now be meeting 3 days a week

Tuesday 9:00 Mount Holly School Gym

Thursday 9:00 Mount Holly School Cafeteria

Saturday 9:00 Community Association Building basement

Bone Builders is a low impact exercise program done with weights. The purpose of the program is to build bone density, strength, balance and flexibility. You may attend any or all three days. There is no fee. If you have not attended the classes before please call Cathy Chadburn (259- 3665) to register.

Mount Holly 2013 Calendar Photos

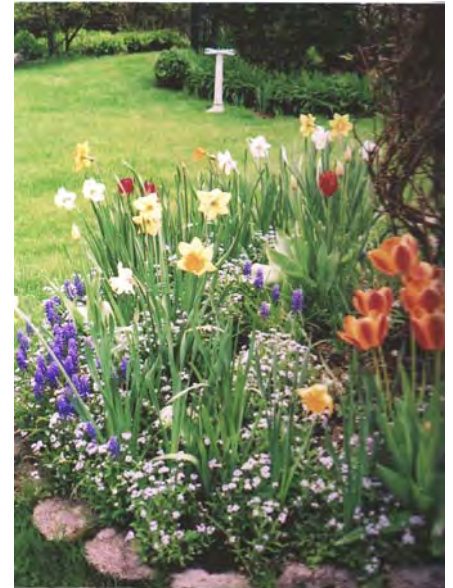
Congratulations to the photographers whose photos were chosen for the 2013 Mount Holly Calendar! Their names photos can be seen in this issue of the Chit Chat. Many thanks to everyone who voted on the calendar photos. It's always a lot of fun to see who will make it into the calendar. **AND... don't forget to buy your 2012 Mount Holly Calendar! Supplies are limited. Available at the Belmont Store, Community Center/Library and Town Office**



Above- Cover: Friends By Hannah Paz

Middle- Page 1: Ice Castle in Blue By John McClure

End- Page 2: Spring Blooms By Bessie Centini



January:

Solitude By Paul Warren
Dine



February:

Flames of Snow By Ron Unterman



March:

Sign of Spring By Teresa Van



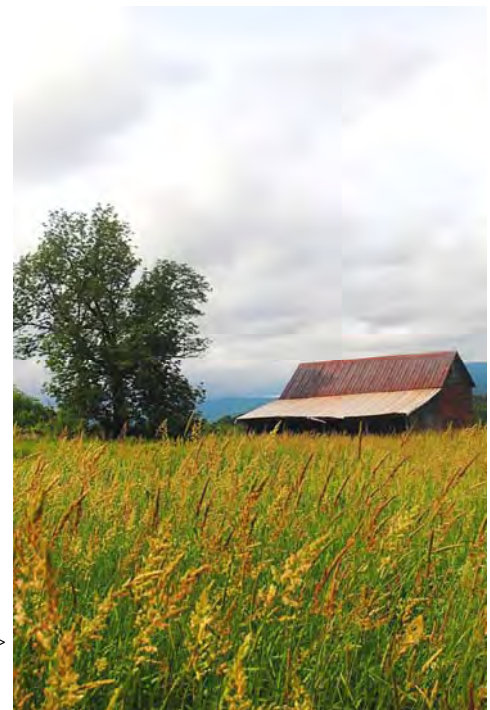
April:

Misty Morning By Robin Boger



May:

Crab Apple Blossoms By Randy Paz



June:

Field of Dreams By Jacob Mailhiot >>>>>>



July:

Blueberry Harvest By Laura Douglas Neary



August:

Summer Fun on Star Lake By Joe Hammond



September:

Early Fall By Candace



October:

Autumn Palette By Susan Presson



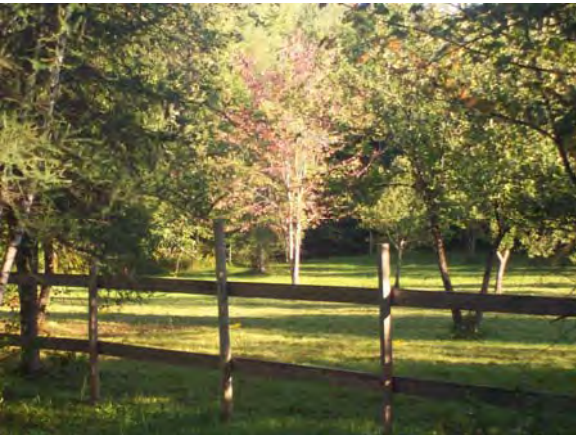
November:

Glass Fences By Kristopher Covalla



December:

Apples on Ice By Beth Chase



Back Cover:

Patch's Pasture By Luke DeArruda



**Who needs clothing?
Just wear accessories!**

**Fun. occasionally Funky.
Always Funktional.
Clothing and Accessories**



**Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat 9-6
96 Merchants Row, Rutland
1.866.TATTERS
TattersallsClothing.com**

The Mount Holly Community Association thanks Don Reiser and Express Copy for their wonderful and generous support of the Mount Holly Calendar. Many thanks also to Abe Leber who designed another beautiful calendar.

Annual Christmas Bazaar



St. Patirck's Church
218 N. Main St., Wallingford

Saturday, December 3, 2011
9 am – 2 pm

- ★ Crafts
- ★ Theme Basket Silent Auction
- ★ Chinese Auction
- ★ Plant Sale
- ★ Luncheon
- ★ Food Sale
- ★ And Much More



On January 14, 2012 starting at 6:00PM we will have a special meeting with a pot luck dinner. We encourage you all to attend, meet your fellow snowmobilers, and enjoy the fun.

The Club member dues are \$10.00 and the county due \$3.00. We encourage you to purchase your TMA's from us through the mail, as process can be time consuming for the stores. Please fill out the form and Mary (802)-259-2900 will promptly mail your TMA to you. You may also purchase them from us at home (Mary and Curt) just call ahead, the Belmont Store, and Dan Turco and Sons in North Clarendon.

New Year's Eve we will have our Annual Fire Works Display at Star Lake in Belmont. Anyone who wishes to make a donation for the fireworks can send a check payable to the MT Holly Sno*Drifters. We hope to schedule events throughout the winter months and will send monthly e-mails. If you have e-mail make sure we have your address to keep up on the latest news, weather, trail conditions and events.

Everyone has been working hard to repair and maintain the trails after Hurricane Irene. VAST will have 95% of the trail system open this season. If you would like to help with the costly repairs you may consider making a tax-deductible donation to VAST. Make your check out to VAST and mail to 26 Vast lane, Barre, VT 05641 Have a fun and safe snowmobile season!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Sincerely, Mary Marechaux, Secretary, Mt. Holly Sno* Drifters, 519 Tiffany Rd., Belmont, VT 05730
MHsnowdrifters@aol.com

MT Holly Sno*Drifters, Inc.

Hello Sno*Drifters,

It is that time of year to Register your sled and obtain your 2011-2012 TMA's in order to ride the VAST trail system. The VAST trail system opens December 15th, please do not ride before then. Officers for the club are: Curt Marechaux – President, Dick Tilton – Vice President, Mary Marechaux – Secretary, Claire Poulin - Treasurer, Trail Master – Steve Howlett and assistant Carl Trinci. The club has regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in Belmont. If you're interested in attending a meeting please call us, because we have been rotating to different homes.

Anyone born after July 1, 1983, and who is 12 years of age and older, must complete and pass a six-hour safety course. Our club will sponsor a free safety course (lunch and refreshments provided) Saturday, November 26, 2011 from 9 AM – 3 PM at the Belmont Fire Station. Please call Curt or Mary at (802)259-2900 to reserve.



Big Eyes Bakery

Mt. Holly, VT

Freshly Baked Pies

Tea Cakes, Scones, Cookies

Specialty Cakes

We Deliver

(802)259-7005

bigeyesbakery@yahoo.com

Visit us on Facebook



**The Mount Holly Community
Historical Museum**

**Festival of Lights
Silent Auction**
of Decorated Wreaths and More!
at Perkins House

On the Green in Belmont
Browse and Place Your Bids Starting
Friday, December 2, 4 - 7pm
and Saturday, December 3, Noon - 4pm
Winners Announced During The
Reception at 4pm, Saturday



Living On Tippy Toes

Do you ever get the feeling that the world is rapidly changing in ways that it never has before? For example: what is it with all these severe weather patterns, along with more frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions? The statistics tell us that seismic activity is definitely increasing along with serious climate change.

In addition, there appears to be global uneasiness, a social and economic unrest, similar to the troubled foment of the 1960's. The Arab Spring, the toppling of governments and the Occupy movement all seem to bring back the trains of Dylan's prophetic "The Times They Are A-changing." Are we being prepared for something?

If we hark back to the 1st Christmas, the scripture says "When the fullness of time came, God sent His son..." that is, God ordered world events so all would be ready for Christ's coming and the subsequent outreach of the apostles. Politically, the world was ripe under *Pax Romana* and with reliable Roman roads. Culturally, the world was becoming more unified speaking Koine Greek. Spiritually, the atmosphere was diverse but open to new religious ideas. Christ arrived on the scene at an hour that had been uniquely prepared by God. All the signs were there, sovereignly determined by God – "the fullness of time."

Is it possible that we are in a similar time of preparation? There does seem to be an air of anticipation. We might say it's akin to the "standing on tippy toes" characteristic of children at a crucial moment in a sports event or a parade. The excitement is "electric" and palpable.

Is it not fascinating the way each year the world stands on tippy toes in anticipation of the Messiah's arrival just as it did 2000 years ago?

As this season approaches, let's be looking forward to Christ's arrival in the midst of whatever chaos or storm that might be engulfing us right now. Have an *expectant* Christmas! *Pastor Glenn*



Walking with God by Morgan Weistling

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass Schedule

St. Patrick's in Wallingford

4:00 pm Christmas Eve

9:15 am Christmas Day

&

Christ The King in Rutland

Christmas Eve

5:15 pm ~ 8:00 pm ~ 12 am Midnight

Christmas Day

7:30 am ~ 9:30 am ~ 11:00 am

&

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ludlow

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Christmas Day

9:00 am

&

Holy Name of Mary in Proctorsville

Christmas Eve Only

7:00 pm

**JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP THE COMING ONE WITH
CANDLES AND CAROLS
7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE VILLAGE CHURCH
ON THE BELMONT GREEN**

**East Wallingford Baptist Church Christmas Eve
Candle-Light Service is at 6:30 pm.**

**United Church of Ludlow Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service will be Dec. 24 at 8pm.
Our Christmas Sunday Service is actually on Dec. 25
at 10:15am.**



Family Advent Gathering

Sunday December 4th

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Following Morning Worship

Soup & Sandwiches

Join us for Free Lunch

Carol & Ornament

**Get Into The Christmas Spirit
Make A Take Home Ornament
Everyone Welcome To Join Us**

Also

Coupon For Clarendon Christmas Tree Barn



Mount Holly Community Association
Membership Drive
2011 - 2012

Please join to support...Music on the Green-Mount Holly Day-
Garden Tour-Square Dance-Cabaret-Photo Contest-Cider Days-
Roast Beef Supper-Halloween Party-Christmas in Mount Holly-
New Year's Eve at Star Lake-Spring Mud Fling

And the maintenance of our historic Community Center Building
Please join today!!

(Brochures available in the library, the General Store, and the post office.)

clever set that was the back drop for a very successful evening!

Halloween may be for the adults, but **Christmas in Mount Holly** is focused solely on the children in the community. This year the children will gather in the Library & Community Center on Saturday, December 17th at 4:00 pm to enjoy the annual Christmas skit, not to be missed as the actors and actresses are our friends and neighbors, the children and adults from the town of Mount Holly. There will also be community Christmas Caroling with the Mount Holly Folk Club, refreshments, as well as a visit from "you know who"! Santa will be making his annual trek to the Mount Holly Library on one of the town's fire engines to surprise the children with the first gifts of Christmas and to find out what their very special wish is for this year. Please don't miss this wonderful opportunity to kick off this very special season with your family and friends!

New Year's Eve at Star Lake is on Saturday, December 31st, commencing at 8:00 pm. Once again the Mount Holly Sno*Drifters in conjunction with the MHCA is putting on the biggest party in town. Even though they outdid themselves last year, the



Stephanie Stouffer Gallery

Whimsical designs and rich imagination have earned Stephanie a reputation as a leader in design trends. Her art is licensed on products including rugs, needlepoint pillows, tapestries, stoneware and Caspari cards. Original art and prints, plus many holiday-themed items are on display in her gallery.

MANY GIFT IDEAS! SHOP LOCALLY!

250 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT
Open most weekends 10 AM - 4 PM or by request
802-259-2686 Stouffer@vermontel.net stephaniestouffer.com

Mount Holly Community Association

Well, this year's **Halloween Bash**, held on October 28th, was one of the liveliest and best attended in MHCA history! Gypsy Reel let loose with their wonderful music and all of the participants followed suit, dancing the night away with a variety of characters. Once again, there was no shortage of creativity in the costume department and folks were alternately, scared, amused, and in awe at the amazing costumes that their friends and neighbors managed to put together for the evening. Not to be outdone, the decorations that transformed the library were equally creative and many thanks should be extended to Morgan Skiathitis and her crew for the

Mt. Holly Republican Committee



Meeting, December 15th
7 pm

Mt. Holly Town Office

Come Help Us
Develop 2012 Strategies

Officers of Town Committee

Chair: Millicent Johnson
Vice Chair: Dennis Devereux
Secretary: Diana Garrow
Treasurer: Diana Garrow
Asst. Treasurer: David Johnson

Delegates to County Committee

Millicent Johnson * Dennis Devereux * Diana Garrow *
David Johnson * David Venter * Stewart Mayes

Sno*Drifters have promised the biggest fireworks display in Star Lake's New Year's Eve history. The usual huge bonfire will be crackling and, if the weather is cold enough, there will be ice skating under the stars. Join us for refreshments (mulled wine and hot cider) provided by the MHCA and a fireworks extravaganza that you will long remember. Last year the crowd exceeded 300 people, but if you were not among them, don't miss welcoming in 2012 with your friends and neighbors at Star Lake...see you there!

It's time to renew your **MHCA Membership for 2011 - 2012**, if you have not already done so! All of the events sponsored by the Community Association (such as those described above) would not be possible without the participation of everyone in the community through our annual membership. It is our largest source of revenue to support all of the activities throughout the year. Whether you join at the individual level of \$20 or the benefactor level at \$250, your participation is crucial to the vitality of **your** Community Association! A reminder was recently sent out, but if you have misplaced your form, you can pick one up at the library or at the General Store, or contact Madeleine Fay, our membership chair, at 259-2654. Forgotten whether you've joined or not?! You can get that information from Madeleine Fay as well. Please join today!!

2011 OVRCC Year in Review Highlights

- A. **Scenic Route 100 Byway Designation.**
Designated a 31-mile stretch from Andover through Pittsfield to include Route 103 to Scenic Route 131 and 100A to President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.
- B. **YourPlaceInVermont.com website:** Web stats doubled from year to year.
- C. **Six Community/Business Breakfasts** were held in; Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, and Weston
- D. **Guidebooks:** Distributed by CTM to the following locations: Vermont State Welcome Centers: Guilford, Fair Haven, Williston, Sharon and Hartford. 250 area businesses. Area rental properties & condos through Okemo Valley Chamber inquiry fulfillment. Municipal offices in the region. Travel/Trade Shows* Added AAA offices 2 Online versions
- E. **Membership:** 75 new members from Jan - Oct and increased member benefits
- F. **Marketing:** 1) Moved blog to SRM 2) 1 year anniversary of our Mobile App 3) 2 successful Google ad campaigns (summer & fall) 4) Economic Development video 5) Storm Irene videos
- *Holiday Party 12/14 at the Stone Hearth Inn***
- Advertising included:** Yankee Magazine – May Issue ~ CT Magazine - May Issue ~ VT Life - Nov/Dec issue ~ Cape Air - Fall 2011 ~ VT Vacation Guides (inside front/back covers) ~ So VT Arts & Living – quarterly ~ Travelhost Magazine – quarterly ~ 2012 USA Travel Guide - Dec/Jan 2012
- Trade Shows attended*:** New York Times Travel Show ~ Boston Globe Travel Show ~ Big E – Springfield, MA ~ Vermont Wedding Association bridal show in Vermont
- External Occurrences:** Chester Bridges/party ~ Chester Info Booth refinished ~ Storm Irene videos ~ FEMA/SBA/VEDA meetings ~ Economic Development video at Big E and our website
- G. **Non-dues revenue:** 1) Chamber golf tournament we turned into a charity event for 3 towns due to Storm Irene. Contributed \$5,136.08 to Ludlow, Cavendish and Plymouth relief funds
- 2) 2012 Women of Okemo Valley Calendar - still selling. Portion of proceeds go to Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.
- H. **Displays:** Guilford Welcome Center in July ~ Fair Haven Welcome Center in November
- I. **250 Anniversary Celebrations highlighted on Chambers monthly LPC-tv program:**
- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 7/4 | Plymouth | 8/20 | Andover | 9/16 & 17 | Ludlow | 10/12 | Cavendish |
|-----|----------|------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------|

2012 GOALS

Membership Goals: A. Add 50 new members in 2012 to reach 444. B. Add 5 new member to member (M2M) benefits. C. Add ribbon cuttings to Facebook. D. Begin quarterly new member orientations.

Marketing Goals: A. Incorporate online co-ops to go along with existing print co-ops in VT Vacation Guides and May Yankee Magazine. B. Invest in search engine optimization – SEO The website strategy will consist of Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Search Engine Marketing (SEM), and Paid Search. C. Invest in Social Media Marketing and incorporate our blog. D. Okemo Valley Mobile application: This year we have seen approx 700 user downloads of the mobile app, which is a nice start to getting Smartphone users in the area to consider it a useful resource. Remember these are people who actively downloaded our Okemo Valley Mobile App. E. Continue our attendance at trade shows: F. Interactive 2013 calendar/web contest G. Scenic Route 100 Byway grant: Resubmit marketing grant H. Travel with the Chamber: China Trip 3/26

Programs: A. History Exchange Program– Chamber to Chamber beginning with Windsor CT Chamber B. Legislative Breakfast with VT Chamber 1/6 at Newsbank in Chester from 8:30-10am. C. Morning educational series planned. Topics to include: - Social Media Marketing - Google analytics & Google adword campaigns -How to use our mobile app and benefit to the end user D. 4th Annual Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Expo in combination with SWCRPC home and energy show. May at Jackson Gore Inn - date TBD.

A sneak peak at 2011 & beyond...

Here's a little snapshot of what we've been up to at the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. Join us at our Annual Meeting & Holiday Party for more details about 2011 and what's to come in the New Year.

Holiday Party !

Save The Date! The Annual Meeting and Holiday Party is on Wednesday 12/14 at 5:30pm at The Stone Hearth Inn & Tavern in Chester. There will be hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, live music by Gypsy Reel and of course some business. Stay afterwards for a special French Country Menu for \$25 per person (including tax & gratuity).





Mount Holly Town News

The following minutes should have been in the November issue, but were inadvertently missed. These minutes were approved at the October 11 meeting of the Select Board. Rhonda Rivers

SELECT BOARD ~ Special Meeting ~ October 03, 2011 ~ Paul Nevin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Raymond Tarbell and Jim Heald were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the compiled financial statements of FY2009 and FY2010 with the auditor, Bonnie Batchelder of Batchelder Associates (BA).

Bonnie reviewed the work done over the past six months. Her firm started with the June 30, 2008 books and entered every piece of paper as if they were doing the work themselves. The Town is reconciled and has completed books thru June 30, 2011. (The FY2011 compiled financial statements are in draft form and were not presented at this meeting.) The Town is now completely computerized (QuickBooks Premier software), including payroll and check printing. Today was spent training the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer on the software, including payroll, printing checks and selectmen's orders. In addition, BA has prepared an employee handbook and suggested procedures to address items found during the process (Both of these are still in draft format and not presented tonight).

The Board opened the floor for questions and discussion. (Some topics were addressed several times; these minutes consolidate the related discussions.)

Used Appliances And Other Reusable Materials

There is a web site that is matching donations of goods (such as used, functional appliances) with people impacted by the flood who are in need, kind of like a Craig's list. It's at <http://www.vtcleanup.org/> under "Goods Exchange". Cathy Jamieson, Solid Waste Program Manager VT DEC 802-479-8725

Mount Holly Transfer Station

Starting on January 1st no transfer station stickers will be sold at the transfer station. Stickers will be available at the town office and by mail at \$2.00 per sticker. Mail envelopes will be available at the transfer station. The Belmont Store will sell transfer station stickers for \$3.00 each. Plan ahead so that you are prepared for this new town policy.

Thank You, The Mount Holly Select Board

Why is there no management letter? A management letter was not prepared because these are consolidated financial statements, not an audit per se. Since BA entered all the work, they could not perform an audit (by accounting standards). However, the books of the Town were reviewed in much more detail than would have been done in an audit and the information normally presented in a management letter is covered by the procedure

recommendations.

What was the cost of the work? The Town has spent \$90,851 to date, about half of which was in FY2011, and the rest in the current fiscal year. BA has up to five people plus a temp working on the data. Could the Town have hired a bookkeeper to do this as less cost? Bonnie said, hard to tell; she'd have to know the bookkeeper. Were the records available to you? Yes, BA came and boxed up all 2009 and 2010 records and took them back to their office; 2011 records were obtained later.

Wouldn't this work normally be done by the Treasurer? Did the Treasurer get paid but not do the work? The Treasurer did to the work, but the systems were all done manually. They were accurate; the problem was they were not computerized. The FY2008 audit, done on the manual books, was only completed last fall, which is too long a time frame. BA did not find any irregularities, but did find many internal control issues/weaknesses. For example, checks to transfer funds from one account to another were written, but not deposited in the receiving account for a month. Some invoices were missing approval; other deposits were not made on a timely basis. The way the clerk fees are handled should be changed. These weaknesses are addressed in the procedure recommendations.

Will the staff be able to use the system going forward? The Town is now on a very simple accounting system that does everything needed. Much of the handwritten work has been eliminated. The day was spent training the staff. The Select Board should be sure more training time is made available; it is difficult to absorb everything in one session.

Fire Department and Rescue Squads: These are both standalone entities. They are incorporated with the VT Secretary of State and listed as non-profit. However they are not 501(c) 3 organizations with the IRS. Bonnie recommends they file IRS Form 990 for June 30, 2011 and then apply for non-profit status. While generally done in the other sequence for new organizations, it is better to get in compliance first. They could be penalized by the IRS, but the IRS is generally reasonable and a letter explaining the situation will usually be okay.

If audits in the past done on the manual books cost \$6000-8000, and we are now computerized, why will the future audits cost \$10000? There are not a lot of firms that perform town audits. Bonnie noted that there are a lot of new accounting standards that have to be followed which make an audit more complex and expensive. An attendee noted that while BA has a good reputation in the non-profit world in the state, now that the town is computerized and up to date, there may be other possibilities.

There was a discussion on doing an external audit versus using the Town Auditors. It had been recommended to the Town to do an external audit annually and the town has done so. It is required

OPEN TRASH BURNING IS ILLEGAL

The Select Board and Fire Warden would like to remind all Mount Holly Residents and property owners that open trash burning (including burn barrels) is illegal and subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 and community service hours. Brush burning is legal with a permit from the Fire Warden (No permit required if snow is on the ground). Vermont State Police have a list of all permitted burns, updated daily.

to have an external audit every 3 years. Vermont statutes state town auditors' role and it includes performing an audit. Bonnie noted that the Town Auditors role is to review bank statements, reconcile them and some comparisons; they review internal controls, part of checks and balances; they are another person to act as a third party reviewer. That is not the same as a CPA financial audit. If the VT statutes say a town has three auditors or an outside audit, maybe the Town should vote next meeting on whether or not to have town auditors. If town auditors are kept, they need to provide a financial document 25 days prior to Town Meeting. Bonnie works with several towns that have town auditors, and they do not do the financial audits; she will provide references.

The Town has not used the prior three years' budgeted audit amounts. Were these funds placed in reserve accounts? Does the town now need revised financial statements? How will the Town pay for this? The Select Board hopes to pay for this from this year's cash flow. They will have to monitor expenses throughout the year and see where the Town stands at year end. At that point they will make a decision, which could include raising the tax rate. Bonnie noted that the town has unrestricted funds, which basically accrue from the beginning of time. At the end of a fiscal year, the Select Board decides what to do with any surplus funds. Generally, some is kept in the unrestricted funds and some is used to hold down the tax rate. The Town currently has approximately \$328,000 in unrestricted funds, which includes equipment replacement funds. What would this be used for? For whatever we don't know will happen: recovering from a hurricane or replace the grader (\$200-300,000). Should the town budget include more than \$40,000 for equipment replacement? Probably, but the Select Board has kept it at that amount, rather than risk a rejection of the budget and the additional costs of re-voting a revised budget.

There was a discussion on fiduciary responsibility and who has it. The Treasurer's job is to pay orders, collect taxes and receive all monies. The Treasurer is not responsible for financial statements. The Select Board's job is to prepare the budget. The Select Board receives the bills and approves them to the Treasurer to get paid. The Town Auditors and the Select Board can request financial information from the Treasurer. The Select Board does receive monthly information/reports now.

Will there be a PowerPoint presentation on what's in the audits? There is nothing planned. Bonnie suggested people review the statements and submit any questions through the Select Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm. Respectfully submitted, Rhonda Rivers

These minutes are considered draft minutes until approved by the Select Board at their next meeting.

SELECT BOARD ~ November 08, 2011 ~ Paul Nevin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Raymond Tarbell and Jim Heald were present.

1. The minutes of the regular meeting of October 11 were reviewed. There were no corrections or additions and the minutes were approved. A resident noted he had sent Paul changes to the Oct 03 minutes, but those minutes had already been approved at the last meeting.

2. Highways

- Salt Shed property. Deb Daniels will be on site tomorrow to finish the survey.
- Station Road High Bridge. Jersey barriers are now in place. The Board received a resolution template from VLCT regarding closing the bridge, but it must be modified. The closure resolution is tabled.
- Belmont Road Bridge at Mount Holly store. An excavator is there now. Plan A is to pump concrete under the abutments. Plan B is to use burlap bags filled with concrete. The state will cover 100% of funds now, but if work waits until next summer the reimbursement will be 80%.
- The town received the Vermont Standard Sub-grant Agreement. This enables the state to pay the FEMA monies to the towns (FEMA contracts with the state, not the municipalities). This was signed and will be mailed.
- The town received the update highway mileage certificate and updated road maps of the town. New this year is the addition of town short structures (bridges and culverts 6-20 feet).
- Debris Removal (FEMA Category A): Jeff asked if the Board wanted to apply for this. The work must be done within 18 months and it needs to follow a bid process. Freeman Brook and other roads as well as the High bridge site could be included. Markowski in Florence is the designated burn site to receive the stumps. Board approved Jeff to go ahead with this.
- One-ton Truck: The tires purchased for snow are not good. They can be used next summer, but new tires will need to be purchased for this winter.

3. Report of Treasurer.

- David Johnson presented an income and expense statement dated September 30, 2011 showing cash balances of \$3,096,464. Delinquent property taxes are approximately \$260,000.
- Responding to questions, David noted that the current use income is higher than budgeted mostly due to the reappraisal and changes in value, not additional properties in the program. Also, he did not have any input into how the new system was set up and continues to find items that need journal entries to put them into the proper accounts.
- There was a discussion about the cost of the audits. Fra Devine is concerned that he is being blamed for the cost of the audits and requested it be in the minutes that he had no say to the auditors. The resolution at town meeting last March was to have 3 years done by June and it was felt people were voting on 3 times the annual audit budget, not \$90,000. The auditor's initial estimate was \$40-50,000 with work completed by June (but it went on thru October). The Board did not tell the auditor to computerize the books, but understood that the auditor needed to get it to that point in order to evaluate it. Once it got started, the Board was stuck in the middle. The Town wanted the audits done; the Board

authorized it, but did not have much control over the cost once it was underway. A revised FY2011 Financial Statement was received by the town today but has not been reviewed yet.

- Why were the Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad included with the town audit? It has been standard practice to have them done at the same time as the town. The issue of tax-deductible status and Form 990 filings came up again. The Board referred the enquirer to the two entities involved, as it is their responsibility, not the towns'.
- The Board plans to continue the practice of annual audits.

4. Solid Waste:

- The Board restated the Transfer Station has Sunday hours from 9am to 12 noon for the winter.
- After discussion, The Board decided to eliminate the sale of stickers at the transfer station as of January 1, 2012. This will eliminate any issues with cash at the site. This will be well advertised and posted. Stickers will still be for sale at the Belmont Store, in person at the town office and thru the mail.
- Single Stream Recycling. The facility is up and running in Rutland. In order to join this program, the town would need to buy another compactor (\$12-18,000) and make physical changes at the transfer site. In the long run, towns with single stream save money: the tonnage and cost for trash goes down and the tonnage for recyclables goes up, which generates some return for the town. The recycling building would still be needed for electronics and other things; the total changes there have not been determined. The Board proposed to put this on the town warrant for next March.
- What is the town policy on bottles with deposits? Groups were supposed to get the money from this but no one picked up the bottles. In order to keep the site neat, the attendants have taken care of them. If a group wanted to do this, the Board would consider it again.

5. Animal Control: Several residents appeared before the Board to express their concerns regarding a dog on Maple Hill Road, who is very aggressive when someone walks, runs or rides a bike past the house. The dog is not always tied up or often breaks loose and is very intimidating due to its size (about 100 lbs.). The dog has bitten someone, but there has been no acknowledgement or apology from the owner. The residents are concerned about the safety of other residents, especially children, and also concerned about the dog. The Board noted that the Town was aware of three complaints, all of which were delivered to the town the same day, although the incidents took place over several months. Complaints should be made to the Rutland County Sheriff's office. Concerns about the care of the dog should be made to the Humane Society. The Board reviewed the draft of a letter to be sent to the owner.

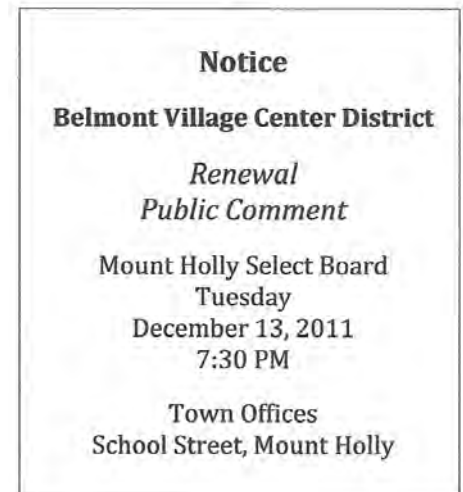
6. Insurance. The Town and the employees have decided on a new health insurance plan, however the State has not approved the plans yet, so enrollment cannot happen as yet.

7. Planning Commission:

- Subdivision Regulations. The Planning Commission prepared a comparison sheet showing the old and new regulations side by side, as the Board requested last month; however the members of the Board have not fully reviewed that as yet.
- Administrative Officer: One candidate has expressed interest, but has not yet met with the PC.
- PC Members: There have been three letters of interest received for the two terms which expired this month. The Board tabled this item to executive session.

8. Other Business

- A Freeman Brook Road resident had put in an application to the Emergency Watershed Protection program, which would require the Town to be a Sponsor of the work. However the resident may go forward on her own, in order to get the work done sooner than the spring.
 - Grey property: The Town Health Officer received a complaint about this property and after visiting the property with a Selectman, wants to condemn it. The property is filled with mold. Condemnation would prevent someone from living there until the poor conditions are resolved; however no one has lived there for several years. The property appears to be abandoned, although property taxes are paid and occasionally people come and go. The Board will contact VLCT to determine if there is anything else the town can do.
 - Catamount Trail Association – Paul will call again, as no information has been received. A suggestion about placing Jersey barriers at the highway entrance to the property is not a consideration, as the State now owns the property.
 - Peter Coldwell notified the Board he is looking for a project for the Peace group to do this summer. Anyone with a potential project should contact Peter.
 - The Fire Warden reminds all residents that open fires for burning trash/garbage are illegal and subject to \$500 fine. Brush can be burned with a permit from the Fire Warden (if snow is on the ground, no permit is required). He noted there has been a lot of unpermitted burning lately. Concerns about open fires may be called in to the State Police; they have a list of permitted burns every day.
9. The Board adjourned to executive session at 8:47pm. The Board returned from executive session at 8:58 pm. Those individuals interested in being appointed to the Planning Commission should make a presentation to the Board next month.
10. The Board reviewed and signed the October orders for payment.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm. Respectfully submitted, Rhonda Rivers



WORKING GROUP of the Planning Commission meets the second Monday of the month, at 7 p.m. at the Town Office. The Working Group includes everyone who attends a meeting. At the November 14, 2011 meeting the Working Group noted that the Select Board has not made any further requests for information regarding the Subdivision Regulations. A new applicant for the position of Administrative Officer will be contacted to meet with the Planning Commission at its next meeting. The use of a Capital Budget as an implementation tool for the Town Plan was raised and was put on the agenda for the Commission's next meeting. Next meeting December 12. Annette Lynch

Town Audit



We all have been hearing about the Town Audit since before Last Town Meeting March 2011, and why everything needs to be computerized. The Treasurer has been criticized as being incompetent for not having done his job, with implications of inappropriate and unorganized financial records.

For those of us not involved in this quest and further, not seeing the need to computerize as much information on the computer, we will now end up probably having to pay more property taxes. We would have been satisfied to learn there were no misappropriation of the Town funds and no evidence of dishonesty or wrong doings.

From the audit it was found the work was done (manually) the records were accurate with no irregularities or misappropriation of Town funds.

The audit did not just include the Treasurer's records for Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, 2011 also July to October 3, for Fiscal Year 2012, but also included the Rescue Squad and Fire Departments records.

As all of the above records for the Town and The Fire Department were then computerized for the previously mentioned Fiscal Years – needing five people plus a temp to input the data of which was completed with training for the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer on October 3rd, 2011. Rescue has their own computer system containing their financial data. The Town also had to pay for the new computer software (Quick Books Premier).

To imply the cost of the audit was due to unorganized financial records because they were done manually is just a little far fetched. The majority of the cost was attributed to the labor of computerizing all the Towns financial records from 2008 to October 3, 2011. The cost figures are as follows: \$90,851 minus (three years funds set aside of \$8,000 for each year) the amount of \$24,000 equals the remaining cost of the audit at \$66,851. Note 2008/2009 audit was completed at \$5,900 by Osterman.

The Select Board's responsibilities are to do what is best for the entirety of the Town – covering many issues. For the small amount they are compensated yearly, they certainly don't need any more complaints each month to add to their list of issues. I commend them for their abilities and their efforts to try and resolve any and all situations that come their way.

Mt. Holly has for several years been changing towards the city way of doing things. No longer is it the nice peaceful Town where you could live and not have to be looking over your shoulder to see how some one is going to make your life unpleasant.

Gone are the days when most families had similar livelihood and incomes. Families were there for each other, and all had the same values. There was none of this behind the back trying to cause problems – people knew each other and cared.

Very few people of now will go down in Mt. Holly history with the same respect, honor or be known for their compassion for the town, to be acknowledged as the following past officials are – Warren Cole, Allen Devereux, Teno Balestra, Carroll Tarbell and Lloyd Pratt. These men knew their town, did for the Town, never causing problems but did their best for all people of the Town.

Moving forward hopefully this mess is behind us and people can move on to other projects that don't cost the Town money and imply wrong doings. Sincerely, Christine Pratt, Life Time Resident of Mt. Holly

Treasurer's Office Back on Track

To the Editor,

It is good news for all residents of the Town of Mount Holly that the audit of the Town's finances has been completed, the books are up to date, and the Treasurer's office, with a new computer program and new procedures, is all set to meet all the requirements of state and federal laws.

Some people are concerned that the audit for three delinquent years and the current year was about \$60,000 more than the amount budgeted by the Town. But it is important to know that a major audit expense was setting up the system, books, and procedures needed to comply with the new accounting system, required by the Federal Government.

In 1999, the federal Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) required all levels of government to change to a new accrual accounting system. (Towns will need the new system for future financial transactions, including raising bonds). The change went into effect for small towns in 2004. Many towns in Vermont, especially those without computerized records, have had trouble complying with the law. Mount Holly was no exception: records were hard to keep, books got behind, and the annual audit, always done by a professional accountant, could not be completed.

By 2011 the audit was three years overdue. The Town was in violation of Vermont law that requires an annual audit. At this year's Town Meeting the Town supported the Select Board's decision to obtain an audit. An annual audit protects the Town from problems and also certifies the work of the treasurer. Congratulations to David Johnson that the auditor confirmed the accuracy of his numbers.

To my mind, the essence of this story is that the old treasurer system worked very well in Mount Holly until the new Federal Accounting Standards made things so complex that the old way of doing things could no longer cope.

With the new system now in place everything is getting back on an even keel. It has cost the Town money and it has required change on the part of the Treasurer. It might be considered the price of progress with an unfunded mandate! Annette Lynch



WIN \$50 TOWARD A HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP!

The Mount Holly School Student Council is having a bake sale to raise money for 2 lucky Mount Holly families who will win \$50 toward a NeighborWorks home energy check-up. The winners will be chosen at random from all names that enter the contest. The cost of a home energy check-up by NeighborWorks is currently \$100. If you would like to enter this contest which ends Friday, December 16, please call the school at 259-2392 or stop by. Thank you!

BUTTON UP WORKSHOP scheduled for December 6 in Mount Holly at the Odd Fellows Hall PRESENTATION COVERS ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR HOMEOWNERS

Mount Holly — As winter approaches, homeowners are invited to learn the best ways to save money by saving energy at a special workshop scheduled in Mount Holly. There will be a Button Up Vermont workshop on **December 6, 2011 at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont**

by Star Lake at 6:00 PM. Button Up Vermont is an informational session designed to help Vermonters learn the basics of building science and how to improve energy efficiency at home.

The free workshop includes an overview of why building efficiency is so important in Vermont, illustrates how homes lose energy, and outlines easy steps that homeowners can take to address this energy loss. A BPI-certified contractor will present and questions are encouraged. No prior knowledge is required. All are invited, and light refreshments will be served.

If you scheduled a home energy check-up through NeighborWorks this year or are having some of the suggested work completed, we would appreciate it if you would call Marcy or Joan below so we can confirm Mount Holly's progress toward the \$10,000 prize. Thank you! Marcy Tanger 259-2344, Joan McCallum 259-2318, Fern Melvin, Amber Kaemmerlen, and Carol Ballou.



Join your neighbors, stop burning money on home heating — and *improve* your comfort!

The NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad is your one-stop solution.

Call today (802) 438-2303 x 227 www.HeatSquad.org

Owners of homes and businesses in Mount Holly and the surrounding area are invited to attend the two-hour session to **learn about actions they can take to lower energy bills and make their homes and businesses more comfortable and affordable.**

“We’re offering this workshop because with rising heating costs, everyone needs to be thinking about ways to make their homes more efficient”. “We hope that by sharing this information, we can help our residents be more comfortable in their homes and get more control of their heating expenses.” The presentation offers tips on the best places to seal out chilly winter air, selecting the right insulation, and other energy-saving habits. In addition, Richard Dow from NeighborWorks of Western Vermont will introduce HEAT Squad, a special program open to Rutland

County residents that dramatically reduces the cost of home efficiency improvements.

Button Up Vermont workshops are being offered in communities around the state by Efficiency Vermont and Central Vermont Community Action Council. To learn more, visit www.ButtonUpVermont.org . Marcy Tanger 259-2344

We recently had the Neighbor works energy audit done by Robert Reuter- Vt Energy Works in Shrewsbury. It was awesome! He measured all kinds of things, upstairs, downstairs. My favorites were the doorway fan that pulled the air out of the house and you could feel cold air being pulled into the house, also the infrared meter that showed blue for cold spots. He was great and very patient with our many questions and his answers were very understandable. We just received our recommendations and will study them to see what to do, but for \$100 we highly recommend it and feel it's money well spent. Fern Melvin

Why should you make your house more energy efficient *this* year?

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, the Rutland County nonprofit housing lender, won a \$4.5 million grant for innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy programs - one of only 20 nationwide for its proposal to save energy and create jobs retrofitting homes and municipal buildings.

Because of this grant those of us living in Rutland County have an advantage for a year.

- We can schedule a home energy check-up **at a special cost of \$100.** This grant has helped to lower the normal cost (of \$350-\$500) to \$100 for homeowners to make important information more affordable for Rutland County residents.
- The sooner you sign up the sooner you will join your neighbors who are already saving money this winter season.
- If you decide to upgrade your home and make it more energy efficient, **financing is available regardless of income.**
- Because of the demand for this wonderful program, there is currently a two week backlog to schedule a contractor and it takes two weeks to receive your report.

The demand is increasing so the sooner you sign up, the better!
Remember.....

If you would like to schedule a home energy check-up call 802-438-2303 ext 227 or visit www.heatsquad.org . If you have any questions about this program or would like a brochure or more information, please feel free to contact NeighborWorks at 438-2303. For more information about the \$10,000 contest between Rutland County towns, see the October Chit Chat or call Marcy at 259-2344.

The average Rutland County homeowner will **save an estimated average of \$947 per year** on home and utility costs based on 2010 oil prices... if they do home energy improvements.

Join your neighbors and save this winter!



Hitchcock Thriller Next FOLA Movie in Ludlow

The next '1st Thursday' movie presented by FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) will be the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, "North by Northwest" on Thursday, December 1 at 7 PM at the Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium. North by Northwest is a 1959 American thriller film directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason. The screenplay was written by Ernest Lehman, who wanted to write "the Hitchcock picture to end all Hitchcock pictures." "North by Northwest is a tale of mistaken identity, with an innocent man pursued across the United States by agents of a mysterious organization who want to stop his interference in their plans to smuggle out microfilm containing government secrets. Author and journalist Nick Clooney praised Lehman's original story and sophisticated dialogue, calling the film "certainly Alfred Hitchcock's most stylish thriller, if not his best". The film will be last in the 2011 '1st Thursday' movie series by FOLA. A complete new set of hit films has been scheduled for the first Thursday of every month in 2012 by FOLA. In addition to this series, FOLA will also begin a four movie series called 'Okemo Meets FOLA' at the auditorium on Dec. 29. This series will begin with "Young Frankenstein", Mel Brooks hit comedy on Dec. 29 at the Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium. For Information, call 228-7239.



Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts

Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts will begin its winter and spring schedule beginning January 14th & 15th with a woodcarving class instructed by Dave Tuttle and a Pen & Ink Mixed Media course offered by Don Hofer. January 21 & 22 offers a Kirigami class with Cynthia Emerlye and a weekend with Robert O'Brien instructing watercolor Landscapes for all level of students. The month will close with Hunter Eddy who has just moved back to our area from Florence Italy where he was the co-director of the Painting Program, and advanced painting and drawing instructor at the Florence Academy of Art. Hunter will be teaching a still life painting class for all levels. Al Wilkinson. will also teach this weekend. Al will work with both beginning and intermediate wood carvers.

The School is also having a Holiday Craft Fair opening on November 25th through January 2nd. Stop by and see a variety of hand made crafts available from local artists. The annual Cookie Sale is scheduled for Saturday December 17th. Gift Certificates for classes make for a thoughtful Christmas Gift. Call for additional information at 802-228-8770.

LUDLOW ROTARY CLUB SEEKS MEMBERS

On Tuesday, November 29, 2011, the Ludlow Rotary Club will host its annual luncheon for prospective members at DJ's Restaurant from 12:15 to 1:30 pm. To ensure that everyone has an opportunity to learn more about the activities of the Ludlow Rotary Club, interested persons are invited to call Leslie Lever, Rotary membership chairperson, at 228-4744 for additional details concerning this event. You may also call Brigid Sullivan at 259-2274.

The Ludlow Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a group of more than 1.2 million business and professional people worldwide that seeks to improve local and world conditions. For example, Rotary International humanitarian efforts have all but eradicated polio worldwide. Paul P. Harris, the founder of Rotary, was born in 1868 and was raised in Wallingford, Vermont. He attended the Black River Academy in Ludlow and, in 1905, formed the first Rotary club in Chicago, Illinois.

The Ludlow Rotary Club service area includes Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Cavendish and Plymouth and draws members from each of these communities. The club meets for lunch and fellowship on Tuesdays. Club activities fund scholarships for area students, support local not-for-profit organizations and contribute to a myriad of other local and international humanitarian efforts.

BRAM Receives Outreach Award From VT Historical Society

The Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) was recently honored by the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) for its collaboration with area schools in the production of the play, "People of the Past".

The play was the product of the combined work of the middle school students of Black River High School/Middle School with the help of the Black River Academy Museum where the students embarked on research of important people in the early histories of Ludlow, Plymouth and Mt. Holly. The students picked out a person/person's, researched their background and wrote their own script. They helped design the set, researched their costumes and performed the play 'People of the Past' at the Town Hall in May. Some of the people they portrayed were Calvin Coolidge, Abby Hemenway, Achsa Sprague, Calvin Coolidge and Darius Priest.

The award, the Award of Merit for Educational Outreach, was presented to Georgia Brehm, BRAM Director, by Mark S. Hudson, Executive Director of the VHS, at the State House in Montpelier.



BRGNS Stuff a Bus Date Is Set

Before we know it the holiday season will be upon us. It is a time of year that marks significant need in our communities. This is a very busy time for Black River Good Neighbor Services, as this non-profit local organization prepares to deliver gifts and a full holiday dinner complete with turkeys and all the fixings to those in need. It is estimated that over 160 families from the immediate and surrounding towns will be helped this holiday season.

To help make this possible there is a planned "Stuff A Bus" on Saturday December 3rd. This important food drive will take place at the Shaw's shopping center parking lot in Ludlow from 9am until 3pm.

The following items are the foods most needed:

Canned Fruit	Canned Cranberry Sauce	Pickles – Olives	Margarine
Mac & Cheese	Hot Chocolate	Cookies	Coffee
Tea	Cereal (Oatmeal)	Candy	Frozen Turkeys
Carrots/Peas	Gravy	Stuffing	
Yams	Corn	Green Beans	



If you are not a shopper, donations of money are always needed and greatly appreciated.

There are many ways to get involved with this year's efforts. Volunteers are needed to sort food as it comes in and countless other tasks are required to make sure that everyone who needs help this winter gets it. Please call Audrey at the Thrift Store, 228-3663 or visit 37B Main Street to ask how you can get involved.

The staff at Black River Good Neighbors thanks you for your continued generous support. Every contribution makes a difference.

Application for BRGNS Holiday Program Available Now

The staff of the Black River Good Neighbor Services wants everyone to know that they are accepting applications for the 2011 Christmas Basket program.

Director Audrey Bridge and Terry Laskevich, are eager to see that no person or family goes without food and no child goes without a gift to unwrap over the holidays.

Peter LaBelle, President of the Board for BRGNS said "over 145 area families received baskets last year and we believe because of Hurricane Irene and the recession the number will be even greater this year".

Anyone living in Ludlow, Proctorsville, Cavendish, Mount Holly, Belmont or Plymouth who feels they qualify need only to stop by the shop at 37B Main Street, Ludlow, to pick up an application. Anyone unable to get to the store please call Audrey Bridge at 228-3663 for assistance.

Completed applications must be submitted by November 25th, 2011. Baskets will be delivered on Thursday, December 22nd.

Families that received a basket last year will receive a phone call from a BRGNS volunteer and do not need to make a new application this year. However anyone who has had a change of address and/or phone number should contact the office.

VERMONT PROPERTIES AND DEVELOPMENT COAT DRIVE

Vermont Properties and Development of Ludlow is holding a winter coat drive to benefit Black River Good Neighbor Services.

Suzanne Garvey of Vermont Properties said "Due to the devastation created by Irene, the need is greater than ever". Suzanne is asking anyone who can, to bring an outer garment that is clean and in good condition to: Vermont Properties and Development, 29 Locust Hill Road, Ludlow. Garments will be accepted from now until November 27th from 9am to 5pm.

If you have any questions please call 802-228-8877 or email vtprop.com.

All of the outerwear received will be donated to Black River Good Neighbors to support local families in need.

On Saturday, December 3rd, as recognition of the wonderful community support shown by Vermont Properties in organizing this coat drive BRGNS will have a rack of winter coats that will go to those in need in our community without charge.

Bruce Farr Featured in FOLA Community Christmas Gala, Dec. 16

As part of the Community Christmas Celebration planned by FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) at Ludlow Town Hall's Auditorium on Friday, December 16 at 7 pm, Bruce Farr, a local creative writer and commentator, will read the famous poem, "The Night Before Christmas". Pictured above is Farr as he read Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales", with guitar accompaniment by Tony Masteler, during last year's Christmas Celebration.

This will be one of the many segments of the Community Christmas Celebration. The program will include the Bell Ringers,

led by Connie Wilcox, music by students from Black River High School, a skit featuring Broadway and TV personalities Stan and Jane Hart, and a sing-along led by students from the Ludlow Elementary School. It's rumored that there may be one or two surprise events added to the holiday event.

George Thomson will tie the entire event together acting as program emcee.

"This will be a chance for FOLA to thank the people for supporting us and to offer everyone a chance to celebrate this holiday with family, friends, and neighbors," said Ralph Pace, FOLA chairman. He indicated that the event was free and open to all to attend.

The Community Christmas Celebration will be at Ludlow's Town Hall on Friday, December 16 at 7 pm. For information, call 802-228-7239.



Vermont Organizations Receive Funds to Assist Home Owners

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack selected recipients in 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for grants to make critical repairs and improve housing conditions for low- and very-low-income rural residents.

The support Vilsack announced is provided through USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grants (HPG) program. Funds are provided to intermediaries such as town or county governments, public agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and non-profit and faith-based and community organizations. These organizations then distribute the grants to homeowners and owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings who rent to low- and very-low-income residents.

Grants may be used to make general repairs, such as installing or improving plumbing or providing or enhancing access to people with disabilities. Funds may also be used to weatherize and make homes more energy efficient.

The following is a complete list of recipients. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the grant agreement.

- Central Vermont Community Land Trust – \$50,000
- Champlain Housing Loan Fund – \$50,000
- Gilman Housing Trust, Inc. – \$83,306
- Northeast Employment and Training – \$83,306
- Southeastern Vermont Community Action – \$50,000
- Vermont Center for Independent Living – \$83,306



“Our investment under this program will leverage \$733,000 of other sources of funds to help low and very low homeowners and renters”, said Molly Lambert, State Director USDA Rural Development. “We are proud of our partnerships with the organizations that serve these citizens of our state”, said Ms Lambert.

The funds will be used for weatherization, access modification for disabled residents, and essential home repairs.”

Since taking office, President Obama's Administration has taken historic steps to improve the lives of rural Americans, put people back to work and build thriving economies in rural communities. From proposing the American Jobs Act to establishing the first-ever White House Rural Council – chaired by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack – the President wants the federal government to be the best possible partner for rural businesses and entrepreneurs creating job opportunities and for people who want to live, work, and raise their families in rural communities.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$155 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> for additional information about the agency's programs.

Vermont Projects awarded: \$114,325

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA is funding projects to harness wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric power to reduce energy costs for farms and small business across rural America. Funding was also announced to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems. Funding is made available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which is authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Rural Development Deputy Under Secretaries Doug O'Brien and Dallas Tonsager made the announcements on the Secretary's behalf.

In Vermont, Green Mountain Environmental Consulting, Inc of Bennington will receive \$49,325 of REAP funding to assist in the installation of a 50 kilowatt micro-hydro system that is expected to generate 436,800 kilowatts of power annually. The \$197,300 project is expected to produce enough power to supply 48 average Vermont homes annually. This project represents the first hydro project financed in Vermont by USDA Rural Development.

In addition, Lemington Solar Farm, LLC, and Green Mountain Clean Energy, LLC. received \$15,000 and \$49,325 respectively to perform feasibility studies. The studies will analyze system design, environmental impacts, resource assessments and the cost effectiveness for the construction of solar and wind powered renewable energy systems.

"The Obama Administration is assisting small businesses, including farmers and ranchers, as they work to reduce their energy costs," O'Brien said of the announcement. "When energy costs are reduced, American rural businesses become more competitive, allowing them to expand and create jobs."

Molly Lambert, USDA Rural Development State Director for Vermont and New Hampshire followed the announcement by stating, "The Obama Administration is committed to making America more energy self-reliant. The REAP program furthers this commitment by encouraging rural businesses to study and build renewable energy systems." Including today's announcements, the REAP program has funded a total of 162 projects in Vermont that total just over \$34 million in total development and construction costs. Of this amount, \$13.46 million has been funded from the REAP program and an additional \$21 million dollars of private capital has flowed into project development costs.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$155 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> for additional information about the agency's programs.

Real Estate Buyers, It Is YOUR Market!

Money Is Cheap.

By Gail Graves, Realtor® /Broker/Owner at Engel & Voelkers, Woodstock & Ludlow

A BUYER'S INSIGHT INTO LOCAL REAL ESTATE

Experts are predicting a gradual (4-5 %) improvement in the housing market in 2012. Ok, who are the experts? In my constant reading of various economic publications, on-line real estate publications and the National Association of Realtors (NAR) reports, the EXPERT's name that keeps coming up is Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist for NAR.

Yun recently made the following statements at the annual NAR Conference in Anaheim, CA: "Mortgage Interest Rates will gradually rise from record 2011 lows to 4.5% by the middle of 2012. Very favorable affordability conditions will dominate next year, as well, which will probably be the second best year on record dating back to 1970. Our hope is that credit restrictions will ease and allow more homebuyers to take advantage of current opportunities."

These are pretty positive statements considering how we have been constantly bombarded with "doom and gloom" by the media for the past several years. And, it's good news for both Buyers and Sellers. Late 2011 and early 2012 just could be the bottom of the market, so if you are planning on any kind of Real Estate purchase in the near future, you should make sure you have all the information you can ahead of time to make the process a pleasant one.

Here is a list of the things a Buyer should be gathering and preparing for before you find that perfect property:

- Money – gather as much as possible☺. Yes, you really do need a down payment these days.
- You can check your own credit score and I am told it needs to be 620 or higher in order to get a mortgage. To check your own credit score, go to www.MyFico.com. I tried it and they ask you for your credit card number because it is a 10-day free membership and if you don't cancel within the 10 days, they will charge you. If you are good at that sort of thing, go for it. I'm not, so I didn't.
- Set up a meeting with a Vermont Mortgage Professional. Even if you have a relationship with an out of state bank, not dealing locally can be a HUGE mistake. Yes, Vermont does seem to have several quirky aspects in our financing and appraisal process. We all know that no 2 properties are alike in Vermont – difficult for an out of state institution to wrap their heads around. Ask your Realtor® for a "short list" of local Mortgage Professionals. Your Mortgage Professional can provide you with a pre-approval letter and give you an overview of bank related closing costs.

Here is a list of other costs you should plan on in the purchasing process:

- **The "Welcome to Vermont Tax", also known as Vermont's Transfer Tax:** In some states this is paid for by the Seller, but in Vermont it is paid by the Buyer and will be either .5 percent or 1.5 percent, depending on the price and whether or not it will be your primary residence.
- **The Building Inspection:** In almost every real estate transaction, the Buyer should do a building inspection as a contingency of the Purchase and Sale Contract. You can inspect everything from the foundation to the roof, water, septic – anything that you are concerned about. Budget \$1,000 for this. You can certainly do it for less, but it depends on how extensive an inspection you want to do on the home. Ask your Realtor® for a "short list" of reputable Inspection Companies.
- **A Vermont Real Estate Attorney:** In Vermont, closings are handled by Vermont Attorneys. Ask your Realtor® for a "short list" of Attorneys that specialize in Real Estate Law in the local area. This cost can vary widely depending on the nature of the purchase and any issues that may come up in the title, deed and permitting research that your Attorney will do for you. Before you choose the Attorney you will be working with, call a few and get a feel for how they work and their fees. If you budget \$1,000, it'll be close.
- **Prorations:** Property Taxes will be prorated on the day of closing so that you are only paying property taxes on the actual number of days you own the property in that tax year. If the Seller has paid their property taxes for the full year, there will be a rebate to them at the closing. Fuel – The amount of fuel left in the tank on the day of closing will be calculated and prorated to be paid to the Seller at closing.

My goal is to provide you with as much current information as I can for your entrance into home ownership in Vermont. I guess I don't need to tell you that it's a great place to be!

BRAM Creates Memorial Brick Walk

Following the completion of its new wing, and awaiting the final installation of the elevator, Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) is in the process of developing a memorial brick walk from its parking lot to the entrance of the new elevator wing. Each brick in the 400 square foot walkway will be available for inscriptions honoring loved ones, family members, or organizations. The individual brick is 4 inches by 8 inches in surface area. According to Anita Alic, Capital Campaign chairperson for BRAM, the brick may contain up to three lines. For additional information, call 228-5050 or email director@bramvt.org. An order form for one or more memorial bricks is also available on the BRAM web site at www.bramvt.org/brick_order_form.htm.



Christmas 2011 -- Birth of a New Tradition

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper? Everyone -- yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamin's on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of A local cleaning lady for a day....or a massage ..or a manicure or pedicure. Gift Certificates from the local grocery store or pharmacy for the older citizens. Gift Baskets filled with can meats, peanut butter or herbal teas..

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre. Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is

now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new American Christmas tradition. From Pam Schoch

Holiday Pops

Apart from the eggnog...Christmas IS for kids! Celebrate Christmas 2011 with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra as we take a look at the youthful side of the holiday. Music that reflects a child's sense of wonder and delight includes Bizet's "Children's Games," the March of the Toys from *Babes in Toyland*, excerpts from *Hansel & Gretel*, and of course the Little Drummer Boy. After the Nutcracker's Mouse King does battle with the tin soldiers, we debut a fractured fairy tale composed by a Vermont teenager. "Sleighride" and an audience singalong are musical stocking stuffers! **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.** *Paramount Theatre, Rutland* with Anthony Princiotti, conductor

Home Grown and Hand Made

We offer quality hand-tied wreaths, kissing balls, garlands and much much more. Our products are generously sized, fresh, fragrant and long lasting. Our lush greens are accented with either traditional or custom decoration. Our bows are weatherproof velvet and are made by hand.

802-259-2542

www.busheylandscaping.com
ROUTE 103
E. WALLINGFORD VT 05742
A FOUR SEASON NURSERY
AND GARDEN CENTER
SHIPPING AVAILABLE



P.J. BUSHEY
LANDSCAPING • GARDEN CENTER

RAVNAH Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Screenings for December

Got Cholesterol? The Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (RAVNAH) offers a total lipid profile along with a comprehensive cholesterol and glucose screening on the **first Wednesday of each month**. Screenings will be held at the **RAVNAH office** on 7 Albert Cree Drive, in Rutland on **Wednesday, December 7**. Please call in advance for an appointment at **775-0568**. The complete lipid profile requires an 8-12 hour fast prior to the test to ensure accurate results. The cost for a Complete Lipid Profile and Glucose is \$30.00.

RAVNAH BLOOD PRESSURE AND FOOT CARE CLINICS

There is a **suggested donation of \$2.00 for blood pressure screenings** and **\$5.00 for foot care**. The following calendar lists the blood pressure and foot care clinics for December 2011.



Day	Date	Town	Site	Time
Thursday	12/1/11	Rutland	Parker House	10:00 am
Thursday	12/1/11	Rutland	Bardwell House	12:30 pm
Wednesday	12/7/11	Wallingford	Wallingford House	10:30 am
Wednesday	12/28/11	Rutland	Godnick Center	12:30 pm

Seven Quick Fixes to Feel Better!

Anxiety and fear dissipate quickly when countered with conscious breathing. The signals our bodies use to tell us we need to cleanse ourselves physically, mentally, and emotionally are multifaceted and often mirror symptoms we associate with illness. If we heed these signs, we not only feel better quickly but also stave off poor health before it can start. These quick fixes for common ailments can get you started.

1. Applying pressure to the acupressure point between the thumb and forefinger can release blockages causing pain, tension, and fatigue. You can relieve a headache naturally by squeezing for 20 seconds and releasing for 10 seconds, without letting go, four times.
2. To breathe freely, irrigate your nasal passages with a neti pot and warm salt water. As you clear and soothe the sinuses, congestion associated with allergies or infection will gradually disappear.
3. Apple cider vinegar is a powerful purifying and detoxifying agent. Soaking for 20 minutes in a warm bath infused with two cups of apple cider vinegar pulls toxins from the body and can clear blocked energy.
4. The foods you eat can have a profound impact on your outlook and mood. Eating a small yet satisfying meal rich in complex carbohydrates can lift your spirit and help you let go of feelings of anger, irritability, and depression.
5. Anxiety and fear dissipate quickly when countered with conscious breathing because concentrating on the breath enables you to refocus your attention inward. You can ground yourself and regain your usual calm by taking a series of deep belly breaths as you visualize your feet growing roots that stretch miles down into the earth.
6. Though tuning out can seem counterproductive, a few minutes spent lost in daydreams or listening to soothing music can help you see your circumstances from a new angle when you feel frustrated.
7. If you feel ill health coming on, brew a wellness elixir. Simmer three sliced lemons,

one teaspoon freshly grated ginger, one clove freshly minced garlic, and one quarter teaspoon cayenne pepper in five cups water until the lemons are soft and pale. Strain a portion into a mug and add honey by tablespoons until you can tolerate the taste. Drinking this potent mixture of antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-fungal ingredients three times each day can ensure your symptoms never progress into a full-blown illness. Thrive Center, Dr. Joseph & Lisa Donohue

Isn't it your time to Thrive?

Only 15 minutes from downtown Rutland and worth the drive!

802-446-2499
68 South Main St. (Route 7)
Wallingford, VT

Chiropractic Care • Therapeutic Massage
Nutritional Supplementation • Holistic Health
Education • Stress Reduction and Natural
Body Care Products • Gift Certificates Available

Thrive Center
OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

Joseph P. Donohue, DC
Lisa Marie Donohue, MA, LMT
Paul Colletti, MT

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Please Join Us!

Support Group

Monday, December 5th at 6:30 PM
At 6 Court Street, Rutland

Rheumatoid Arthritis Support Group

The purpose of our group is to share stories, provide support, suggest strategies and tips for dealing with RA, invite speakers to attend who can offer disease management advice and to simply socialize with others living with RA.

We meet on the first floor of the
RSVP/FGP/One-2-One office at 6 Court Street.
The office is next to Grace Congregational Church.
Please park in the church parking lot, walk down
The driveway next to the office and enter in the
side door off the ramp.

Any questions please call Nan at 775-8220 ext. 101
or Email Nan at nmhart14@aol.com

For Sale: Dry-Firewood – Rock Maple
Under Cover - \$190 per-cord – Call
John Cole, Mt. Holly, 802-259-3825

For Rent: In Florida – 1 bedroom Condo
Near Beaches, Golf, Malls & More
Heated Pool & Car Port, Seasonal or Yearly
Reasonable - Call Don 802-259-2763

Ski House for Rent In Belmont
5 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths
Sleeps 12 Easily (Can sleep 16)
\$1,500 per month, plus utilities
(Weekend or Weekly rental also available)
Email: tracyrogersarch@gmail.com
(802) 282-4858

For Sale:
Firewood- \$200 per cord – Delivered
\$185 per cord - You pick up
Call Mt. Holly 802-259-2147

FOR SALE: 2001 Yamaha
SRX700 with tank bag map
pouch, mirrors, 192 Stainless
Steel Studded track, handgrip
warmers, cover and sport smoke
windshield. Asking \$2000 OBRO
call 802-259-2314

Farm House for Rent: Stanley Farm on 75
acres 336 Stanley Lane. Year round rental
5 bedroom, 2 bath, quiet, private; asking
\$1500 per month, plus utilities Call 802-
259-3676 or 802-388-2446



Winter Values in the Region



\$475,000 3 Bedrooms, 4 Baths on 12.13 acres with pond and southern exposure located in Barnard.



\$2,000,950 Large stone cape with guest house, 5 stall horse barn on 38+ acres located in S. Woodstock.



\$589,000 Energy efficient turn-key cape with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths at private Quechee Lakes.



\$1,345,000 Executive estate located in the heart of the Green Mtns. 4 bedrooms/6 baths plus in-law apt.



\$479,000 NEW PRICE on this elegant Victorian. 5 bedrooms/6 baths, VAST, Village and lake views.



\$280,000 Small house with LARGE barn with great exposure for a business in S. Woodstock.



\$549,000 Master craftsmans special home on 10+ ac. 4 bedrooms/3 baths - Stone Waterfall in the livingroom!



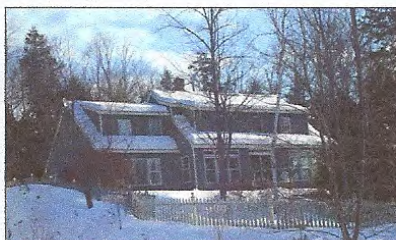
\$350,000 59+ acre parcel with views to Okemo & Killington long road frontage - many options for siting.



\$300,000 Back-to-nature lodge with 4 bedrooms, stone center fireplace and tremendous South views.



\$333,000 Snowmobile retreat on VAST with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 10 acres, attached garage.



\$489,900 Vacation home with over 4,000 sq. ft.. 4 bedrooms/4 baths, views of Okemo Trails.



\$489,000 Classic Vermont Farmhouse - 5 bed/3 bath, lake frontage, barn, 2 acre meadow

E&V Woodstock Area RE • 802-259-3005 • www.woodstock.evusa.com • Realtors®



ENGEL & VÖLKERS®

Who's Got It Locally?

Appliance Service

Green Mountain Appliance Service – Gary Van Akin 259-6012

Artists & Architects

Hunter Lea Gallery & Frameshop www.hunterleagallery.com 228-4703
McKeegan Stenciling & Faux Finishes 259-3333
Photography Gallery, Alex McCallum 259-2318
Spectrum Photography 259-3060
Stephanie Stouffer, Studio & Gallery 259-2686
Tracy Rogers Architecture & Design - Architecture & Interiors 282-4858

Bakeries - Catering - Restaurants - Stores

Belmont General Store 259-2292
Big Eyes Bakery-Irish Soda Bread, Tea Cakes, Pies 259-7005
Crowley Cheese, LLC 259-2340
Harry's Café 259-2996
Squeals on Wheels, Wood Roasted BBQ, Take Out 228-8934

Bed & Breakfast

Hounds Folly www.houndsfolly.com 259-2718
Clifford Country Bed & Breakfast www.cliffordcountry.com 259-2269

Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling*Building*Portable Sawmilling 259-3699
Bolalek Construction & Design, andrzej@bolalekconstruction.com 259-7075
Cutting Edge Carpentry & Paint Works-Curt Marechaux 259-2900
G & H Masonry-Jay Goraj ghmasonryvermont@yahoo.com 259-2625
Grey Goose Chimney Sweeps, Window Washing 492-3549
Master Plumbing & Heating Inc. masterph@vermontel.net 492-3657
RDS Contracting-General Contractor New/Remodeling 259-7829
Cell 802-353-7802

Rick Lee Builder, Free Estimates Building & Renovations 259-3936
rickleebuilder@yahoo.com

Tailored Plumbing & Heating baztaylor@comcast.net 975-0033
Also Lawn Mowing, Landscaping, Snowplowing & Firewood M 417-1647
Ted Stryhas Builder 228-7327
Wright Construction – Brett Wright 259-2094

Communication – Computer Repair & Entertainment

Comcast-Rudy Hawes Rudy_Hawes@cable.comcast.com 802-353-2012
Film/Video Production & DJ Services David Guerrero 345-6905 259-2136

Engineering

Krueger Engineering- Arthur G. Krueger, P.E. 492-3653

Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

Beardmore Excavating beardmoreexc@vermontel.net 342-3507
Devereux Earth & Snow Moving 259-2809
Garrow, C. Earth & Snow Moving 259-2867
P.J. Bushey Landscape/Garden/Snow Plow www.busheyland.com 259-2542
Martin Services – General Excavation tmartin82@aol.com 259-3444
Norton's Property Management – Logging*Land Clearing*Snowplowing
*Brush Hogging*Mowing & Care Taking 802-353-6289 Cell 259-3108
Roger Garrow Brush Hogging 259-2314
Russ Garrow –Lawn Mowing*Brush Hogging*Garden Tilling*Snow
Plowing *Care Taking greenerpastures@vermontel.net 259-3167

Farm Fresh Products

Mt. Holly Dairy Aire Farm-Fresh Milk, Eggs, Beef, Poultry 259-2386
Padena Blueberry Farm 259-2132
Plew Farm – Kevin & Pattie Plew 259-2250
Smith Maple Crest Farm- Grass Fed Beef Cuts-Fresh Frozen 492-2151
www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Funeral Homes

Clifford Funeral Home 773-3010

Garage, Repair & Wrecking

BMW ~ Snowmobile, Motorcycle, ATV, Sm Engine & Welding 259-3178
Delaney Welding-Small Welding jobs & Air Cooled VW Repair 259-2965
Joe's Garage – Small Engine Repair 259-2688
Miller's Garage – Cold River Rd. Rutland 775-6852
Turco's YAMAHA Service & Sales www.turcosyamaha.com 773-8650

Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

Belmont Gardens Quality Custom Stonework 259-2364
Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 259-3964
Frost Hill Farm, Peony Nursery, Fresh Cut & Dried Peonies 259-2716
Mike's Mowing & Brush Hogging, Mike Dawley 259-3052
P.J. Bushey Landscape & Garden Ctr. www.busheyland.com 259-2542
Paul Meoli, Mowing & Lawn Care, Painting, Garage Organizing 259-3367
Salt Ash Nursery, Scott Crawford 259-2146
Traveling Hoe Gardening www.thetravelinghoe.com 259-3345

Ghost Hunters

Vermont Ghost Hunters Got Ghosts? ~ VTGH@comcast.net 802-298-0033
www.vermontghosthunters.com

Hair Cuts

Cuttings In The Ville – Lisa Sharrow 492-3360

Health Care Providers

Dr. Joseph P. Donohue – Chiropractic Care, Thrive Center 446-2499
Massage Therapy/Bodywork, Thrive Center of Green Mtns 446-2499
Lisa Donohue MA, LMT/Paul Colletti MT/Linda O'Brien MT 446-2499

Home Management Services

Belmont Gardens Property Management 259-2364
Country Home Management, Richardson/Rivers 259-3662 228-7086
Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 259-3064

Home Ownership Services

Neighbor Works of Western VT, Jacki White 802-438-2303 Ext 215

Lawyers

Attorney Steven J. Howard 802-779-4447

Locksmith & Security

Countryside Lock & Alarms (Mike Blais) 259-2213

Manufacturing & UPS Outlet

DECO Manufacture Machine Job Shop 259-2477
Nutmeg Fabricating Inc. – David Graham -971 Northam Rd. 492-3575

Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 228-7151
Smith Maple Crest Farm www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com 492-2151

Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc., Don Reiser 259-2722 362-0501

Merchandise Sales & Service

Black Satin Silversmiths, Daryle Thomas 259-2841
Dan Turco & Sons YAMAHA-Snowmobile, Motorcycle, ATV 773-8650
Environmentally Safe Products For Body & Home - Pat LaBella 259-6078
Fuller Brush & Rawleigh Products – Diana Garrow 259-2314
Generator Maintenance Systems- Carl Harlow 259-2775
Hearth & Cricket Stove Shop – Daryle Thomas 259-2841
Leaf it in Vermont- Wanda Trinci www.LeafitinVermont.com 259-2636
Mary K – Natalie Brown 259-2067

Painters

MRS Unlimited Visions LLC Interior/Exterior Painting –Melissa 259-7829

Personal Services

Angelo's Family Tailoring 259-3564
Ang's Cleaning Service 259-3598
Jencot Cleaning Co. 259-2146
Pet/House Sitter – Barbara Pallotta 259-2856

Real Estate Sales

Coldwell Banker Watson Realty, www.cbwatsonrealty.com 228-5678
Jane_Harrington@cbwatson.net F 802-228-4100 Cell 978-337-3950
Ellison Properties homeinv@tds.net 228-4011
Carol Pike 259-2313
Engel & Voelkers, Woodstock & Ludlow Gail Graves 259-3005
Gail.graves@engelvoelkers.com (Mobile) 802-236-5431
Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Broker/Owner H 259-2646 228-5333
Fax 802-228-5343 www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com
Ty Murray H259-3014-Cell 777-8047, Carl Mitchell H259-2107-Cell 384-3202
Lisa Kelley 259-3112 Cell 802-345-6581

Refrigeration

J.C. McDonald Inc. ~ Commercial Refrigeration
Air Conditioning Sales & Service joemc@vermontel.net 259-3152

Septic System Design

Chase Design & Construction www.chasevermont.com 259-2633

Surveying Land

On Point Land Surveying-Paul Grieneder onpointsurvey@gmail.com 231-2556

Tree Services

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

Veterinary Care - Equine Services – Pet Care Needs

Mt. Holly Feeds, Jim & Millicent Johnson 259-2386
Riverside Veterinary Care, Ludlow 228-5700

Volunteer Services

Belmont/Mt. Holly Food Co-op, Tanger H 259-2344 W 259-2899
Black River Good Neighbor Service 228-3663
Neighborworks Of Western Vermont 438-2303

Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking, ccw@vermontel.net 259-3232

