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Mt. Holly, VT 05758



# Mount Holly Chit Chat

46/1

March 2020

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

**Mt. Holly Community Asso** – Contact Penny Coldwell at 259-2760

**Mt. Holly Museum**-Open By Appointment, Jul-Aug Sat & Sun 2-4pm [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org) [mounthollymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mounthollymuseum@gmail.com)

**Town Library:** Sat 9-1 Sun 2-4 Mon 10am-6pm Tue 9am-1pm Wed 2-6pm, 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

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

**Town Garage: 259-3179**

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

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

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> MH Snow Flyers Meeting, Belmont Fire Station

2<sup>nd</sup> **Town Meeting**, MH School Gym

3<sup>rd</sup> **VOTE, Australian Ballot**, Mt. Holly Town Office

Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library

*"Star Spangled Banner" Made US National Anthem 1931*

5<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station

6<sup>th</sup> *Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonerrrote Simoni 1475*

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> *Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Starts*

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> *Daylight Savings Begins*

9<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building *Full Worm Moon ~ Purim Begins*

10<sup>th</sup> Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School *Purim Ends*

Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

Select Board Meeting, Town Office

11<sup>th</sup> LMHUUS Meeting,

Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting, Belmont Fire Station

ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

12<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> *Pi Day Founded 1988 ~ Albert Einstein 1879*

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> *Walleye Season Ends*

16<sup>th</sup> Mount Holly Planning Commission, Town Office

17<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations

18<sup>th</sup> Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont

19<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station

20<sup>th</sup> *Vernal Equinox ~ Spring Begins*

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> *Muskrat Season Opens*

23<sup>rd</sup> Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building *Civil Rights March 1965*

24<sup>th</sup> Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont *National Diabetes Alert Day*

25<sup>th</sup> ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont *Seward's Day Alaska*

26<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> *National Vietnam War Veterans Day*

31<sup>st</sup> *Hare & Rabbit Season Ends ~ Cesar Estrada Chavez US Labor Organizer 1927*

*Otter, Muskrat, Beaver Season Ends*

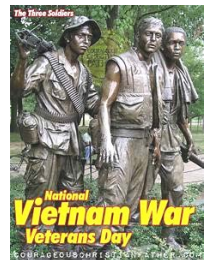
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## Emergency Services

Mount Holly Fire Dept.	259-2700 or	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
Mount Holly Fire Warden – Jim Seward	786-3408	259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Mount Holly Rescue Squad	775-3133 or	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-773-9101
Mount Holly Constable Paul Faenza		C 802-353-8347	Health Officer - Tim Bickford	779-6429
Animal Control For Mt. Holly		C 802-353-8347	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](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net) Check out Mt. Holly Web Site [www.mounthollyvt.org](http://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:** Rainbow Riding Center \* Rainbow Riding Center \* Betsy Hinckley \* Freda Durgin \* Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) \* Audra & Ryan Harter \* Mary & Jeff Smith (Smith Maple Crest Farm) \* Andy Worcester (A.W. Carpentry) \*



**March Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> -Jessica Duarte \* Kimberly Chadburn. 2<sup>nd</sup> -Doris Nelson \* Donald Reiser \* Nicole Reiser. 3<sup>rd</sup> -Alexander Melville \* Violet Colm. 4<sup>th</sup> -Gary Cole. 5<sup>th</sup> -Morgan Coldwell \* James Johnson \* Alexa McCallum. 6<sup>th</sup> -Zoe Davis. 7<sup>th</sup> -Elijah Teter. 8<sup>th</sup> -Mike Dawley Sr. 9<sup>th</sup> -Hanna Colm. 12<sup>th</sup> -Julie Parsells. 13<sup>th</sup> -Debbie Woods \* Elizabeth Manuel 1995. 14<sup>th</sup> -Shawn Wortman. 15<sup>th</sup> -Cassandra Parsels \* Karen Ham. \* Frank Gerdin. 19<sup>th</sup> -Patrick Melvin \* Andrew Garrow \* Eureka Johnson. 20<sup>th</sup> -Bill Jacobs. 21<sup>st</sup> -Jeremiah Johnson. 22<sup>nd</sup> -John Taylor \* Rachel Manuel (1971). 23<sup>rd</sup> -Megan Carrara. 25<sup>th</sup> -Nicole Griffin \* Lucy Columb. 28<sup>th</sup> -Bessie Centini. 29<sup>th</sup> -Nancy Columb. 30<sup>th</sup> -April Melvin \* Mary Nortunen \* Brian Roberts



**March Anniversaries:** 3<sup>rd</sup> -Jerome & Natalie Brown 57<sup>th</sup> (1962) 26<sup>th</sup> -Raymond & Linda Tarbell.

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](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net) or call me at 802-259-2314.

## Local Post Office Hours

<b>Mount Holly</b>		<b>802-259-2796</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm
<b>Belmont</b>		<b>802-259-2790</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 10:45 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
<b>East Wallingford</b>		<b>802-259-2829</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
<b>Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury</b>		<b>802-492-3585</b>
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am
	&	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 11:00 am
<b>Ludlow</b>		<b>802-228-7436</b>
Post Master: Dawn Howlett		
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	6:30 am – 5:30 pm
	Sat	6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	8:30 am – 10:30 am



## 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:** Susan Crawford V. **PRESIDENT:** Dennis Devereux

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

**DIRECTORS:** Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, David Venter

**MANAGING EDITOR:** Diana Garrow

**ASSISTANT to the EDITOR:** Heather Garrow

**SUBMISSIONS:** Deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to [chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto: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:** \$25 Per Listing for one year

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

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

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

**INTERNET:** Each month's edition is published on the Mount Holly Town website: [www.mounthollyvt.org](http://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 Town Office at 6 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 appropriation from the Town.







### Raymond A. Dana

Raymond A. Dana, 95, of Belmont, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, at Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington. He was born in Belmont May 23, 1924, the son of Ralph and Flossie (Priest) Dana. Raymond was a graduate of Wallingford High School and attended the [University of Vermont](#). In February 1949, he married Clarise Benjamin. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Mr. Dana was employed at General [Electric Co.](#) in Burlington and in the Electronics Division of Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Connecticut, and as a dairy farmer in Belmont. He was a member of the American Legion Post #31 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mr. Dana was a member of the Planning Commission in Rutland and Mount Holly. He was a lister and moderator in Mount Holly for many years. He enjoyed traveling to Florida, Canada, Alaska and United States. Surviving are his wife, Clarise (Benjamin) Dana, his daughters, Minga Rae Dana, Susan Bassett and husband Sanford, and his son, Brett Dana, all of Belmont; and a sister, Nancy Wilson, of Glens Falls, New York.

He was predeceased by a brother, Edward Dana, and by two sisters, Ruth Potter and Edna Sargent. At Ray's request, there are no visiting hours or funeral services planned at this time. In his memory, contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice, C/O Clifford Funeral Home, 2 Washington St., Rutland, VT 05701.



### Robin Gail M. Danowski

Robin Gail Mary Danowski, 66, of Belmont died Thursday evening, Jan. 30, 2020, at her residence. She was born on Aug. 20, 1953, in Passaic, New Jersey, the daughter of Edward and Katherine (Tomkovich) Danowski. Robin grew up in Wallington, New Jersey, where she graduated from high school. She then graduated from the Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, with a degree in Accounting. She was employed by several large firms in New Jersey and Manhattan. She met her husband, Bret, in Wallington and in 1997, they relocated to Vermont. She was a member of the United Church of Ludlow. Robin enjoyed, and excelled at, cooking; and visiting with her grandchildren brought her the most delight. She was for several years the manager and had a strong passion for a nonprofit that helped the less fortunate in the Ludlow area. Survivors include her husband, Bret Harlow, of Belmont; son Jared Danowski-Harlow of Belmont; two stepsons Bret Harlow and wife Jill of Binghamton, New York, and Wesley Harlow and fiancée Rebecca Rashford of New Windsor, New York; stepdaughter Courtney Sheafe and husband James

of Walden, New York; her mother-in-law, Marjorie Harlow of Mount Holly, sister-in-law Ann Rose and husband Doug of Mount Holly, sister-in-law Elsie Carden and husband Howard of Hancock, brother-in-law David Harlow and wife Paula of New Hampton, New Hampshire, and sister-in-law Paige Harlow of Westport, Washington; six grandchildren; nieces and nephews. Robin was predeceased by her parents and a sister Betty Pokrywa.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, at the United Church of Ludlow, 46 Pleasant St., Ludlow with Rev. Dr. Donald E. Harpster, pastor officiated. The organist was Terry DeYoung. A reception followed in the church hall. Burial will be at a later date in the Mechanicsville Cemetery in Belmont. Arrangements are by the Aldous Funeral [Home](#). Memorial contributions may be made to the Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37 Main St., Ludlow, VT 05149.

**Mt Holly Rescue volunteers Terri Isidro and Denise Young practicing their skills during a recent Stop the Bleed Training. MHVRS is planning a community Stop the Bleed Training during EMS Week which is May 18 - 22. More info to come!**



### Mount Holly Community Association Membership Drive 2019 ~ 2020

Please join to support...Music on the Green-Mount Holly Day-  
Garden Tour-Square Dance-Cabaret-Photo Contest-Cider Days-  
Roast Beef Supper-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 will be mailed in June and will also be available  
in the library, the General Store, and the post offices.)

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY  
DOG LICENSE REMINDER

This is just a reminder to any dog owners that you will need to register your dog(s) by April 1, 2020 at the Mount Holly Town Office. Your rabies certificate must be current. The fees for licensing are as follows:

<u>Dog or wolf hybrid neutered</u>	=	\$11.00
(male and female)		
<u>Dog or wolf hybrid unneutered</u>	=	\$15.00

The Mount Holly Town Office is open 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday – Thursday. The phone number is 259-2391 if you have any questions.

Susan C. Covalla, Mount Holly Town Clerk

- Please note I am not having a rabies clinic this year – so please go to your vet to get a rabies shot if needed!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIIP) is intended to help with the cost of spay & neuter for cats and dogs that are cared for by Vermonters unable to afford the standard cost of these important procedures. Included in this service is a rabies vaccination, and one distemper vaccination. In order for full protection of the diseases that this vaccination addresses, a follow up vaccination is needed. The follow up series is not included with the VSNIIP voucher.

VSNIIP is funded by an added \$4.00 fee to the licensing of dogs. This is the **ONLY** funding for the program. Funds are limited by how many people license their dogs which is required by law. To license your dog, go to your town office with proof of a rabies vaccination. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly!

Licensing a dog: 1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) shows proof that your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal [but would still need immediate life saving medical attention], 3) bites another animal [or person - which could otherwise result in the quarantine of your dog or euthanasia in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated], and 4) helps pay for the service for which you're applying.

PROOF OF A CURRENT DOG LICENSE IS REQUIRED WHEN APPLYING FOR AN APPLICATION.

Steve's Pharmacy. Don't let your medicine cabinet be the accidental source of your child or grandchild's misuse of pills.

We encourage smokers to Quit smoking. For help in quitting permanently go to the 802 Quits website, 802quits.org.

Join us at our next BRACC meeting at **Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow at 5:30pm on Wednesday March 15th.** We meet the third Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in more information, please call 228-7878, visit our website: [braccvt.org](http://braccvt.org), visit our Facebook: @braccvt or email [paul.fienza@braccvt.org](mailto:paul.fienza@braccvt.org).

Remember, please **vote yes on Article 10 when you are voting on March 3rd. Thank you.**



## Silent and Live Auction

April 11, 2020 \* Doors open at 5 pm  
Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont Vermont

Come bid on amazing items including local business items, gift certificates, handcrafted furniture, local artisan and craft items, vacation rentals to near and far.

Complimentary light appetizer fare. Refreshments available for purchase.

Proceeds donated to Mt. Holly School Parent Teacher Student Association to fund special school programs, field trips, Four Winds Science Integration and artist in residence programs.

## February 2020, Trestleboard Mt. Moriah Lodge #96

**Next meeting Tuesday 3/03<sup>h</sup> 8PM**

Greetings Brothers,

The end of the year is up already and it's time to be filling the chairs for the ensuing year. If you have a specific chair you would like to fill, this meeting would be the perfect time to let your wishes be known.

I have had some difficulty printing this year dues notices and have been working with Grand Lodge trying to get it straightened out. As soon as I do I can let each of you know what your amount will be. When you get yours, and if you disagree with the amounts you are said to owe... let the secretary know by contacting him at 802-259-9400, by email at: [seward@vermontel.net](mailto:seward@vermontel.net), or mail it to: 4280 Sugar Hill Rd, East Wallingford, Vt. 05742. Fraternally, Earl Miller W.M., Buster Seward Sec'y

## Please vote yes on Article 10 to continue supporting BRACC.

We appreciate the past support of the Voters of the Town of Mount Holly. As we enter our 16<sup>th</sup> year, we are again requesting \$3,000 to reduce youth drug, alcohol and tobacco use. Those dollars are used to support many programs including providing drug education programs to our students, supporting efforts to reduce the use and misuse of prescription drugs; working with state and local health organizations to reduce the use of tobacco and vaping products. We also partner with recovery organizations to ensure that all our communities are aware of the resources that are available.

We continue to promote Prescription Drug Take Back Day and advocate for the use of permanent drug take back boxes which are now available in most police departments, state police barracks and selected pharmacies. Locally, unused or expired prescription drugs can be brought to the Ludlow Police Department, Rutland County Sheriff's Office and Smilin





## Mount Holly Community Association

**Save-the-Date!!!** On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the MHCA will be holding the annual **Spring Mud Fling** in the Odd Fellows Hall. Don't miss this ritual welcome to spring in Mount Holly. The door opens at 7:30 pm and we will once again enjoy *Jeb & Friends* who will be there to warm up the crowd at 8:00 pm. **AXIS** will take the stage from 9:00 pm – 12:00 to rock the night away! This good time classic rock 'n roll band out of western Massachusetts features our very own Mount Hollyite...Tim Caira. Known for keeping the spirit and sound of the '60's and '70's alive, **AXIS** plays an eclectic mix of music from A – Z (Allman Bros. to Zeppelin) guaranteed to keep your toes tapping and keep you on your feet dancing! Tickets are \$10 in advance (at the Belmont General Store

### Calling all Gardeners!!

Would you like to open your garden for  
the Mount Holly Community Association Garden Tour  
on Saturday, July 18, 2019?

Show off your garden to friends and neighbors and visitors from afar.  
All gardens are welcome...  
Humble or grand, groomed or rambling.

Proceeds benefit the on-going restoration & maintenance of  
The Mount Holly Library & Community Center Building

If you are interested, please contact  
Linda Miller  
[lindaddmiller@gmail.com](mailto:lindaddmiller@gmail.com)  
259-3060

coordinator, is putting out an appeal for people to offer their gardens this year. (See the box announcement for details.) Please consider being on the tour. It's great fun meeting all of the people who come to visit and it is great motivation to get your garden looking just the way you want it!

The **Community Room** continues to be a favorite venue for small parties and was rented quite a bit this winter. It was definitely the go-to place for birthday parties for the younger set (pre-K, K, and early elementary). If you are looking for a lovely room in which to have a party for up to 50 people, please contact Jennifer Burrows ([jenniferburrows@msn.com](mailto:jenniferburrows@msn.com)) or Linda Miller ([lindaddmiller@gmail.com](mailto:lindaddmiller@gmail.com)). If you are a non-profit organization, the room is free. Otherwise, there is a minimal charge...\$15/hour for MHCA members and \$25/hour for non-members.

The last reminder for the membership drive just recently went out. These letters were sent to a number of people who were members last year, but had not signed up for the 2019 - 2020 year as yet. The MHCA is *your* community association and it needs your support to carry on its work sponsoring events for the entire town and to maintain the beautiful, historic building that houses the library and community room.

Membership forms are available in the general store and the library. Please join us in making this a record breaking year for membership in the MHCA...thank you for your support!!



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beginning on March 21st until 4:00 pm the day of the event), or \$12 at the door. It's BYOB and it would be great if you could bring snacks to share...see you there!

**Up-coming:** we realize that there is still snow on the ground, but the MHCA Board of Directors is already looking ahead to one of the most popular summer events on the MHCA calendar...the **14<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Tour**. This year the tour will be held on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm. Linda Miller (259-3060) the tour

### The Annual Spring Mud Fling!!!! An Old Style Road House Dance Hall Jamboree

Save-the-Date...

Saturday, April 4, 2020  
In the Odd Fellows Hall  
Belmont, Vermont

Doors open at 7:30 pm followed  
At 8:00 pm by a warm-up with  
*Jeb & Friends*

Dancing begins at 9:00 pm with  
*Ax/s*

A Classic Rock 'n Roll Band

Tickets \$10 in advance at the Belmont Store  
\$12 at the door  
BYOB

## Roast Turkey Supper



Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
Starting at 5:00 pm

Benefit the MHVFD  
Auxiliary

Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont

Roast Turkey Supper

Mashed Potato w/ Gravy Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce,  
Veggies, Rolls  
And Home Baked Pies

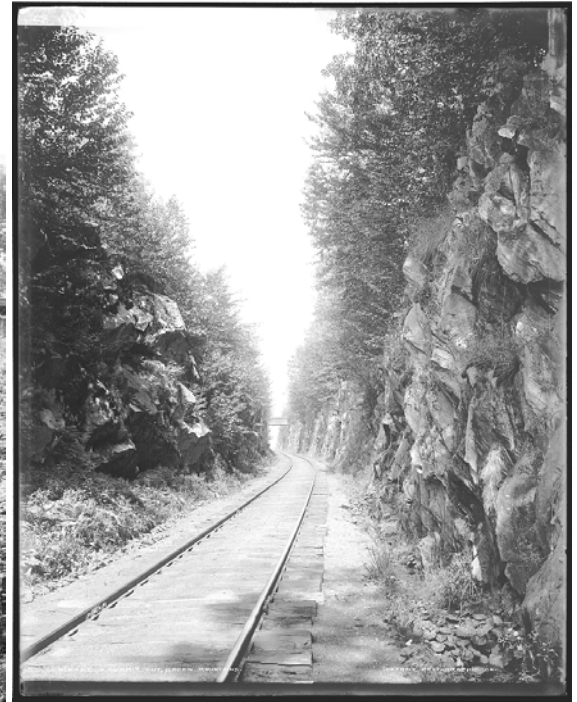
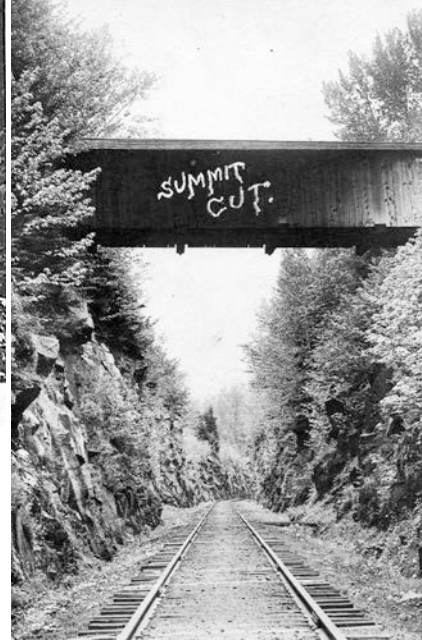
All You Can Eat - Home Style  
Take Outs Available



Adults \$12.00  
Children 11 And Under \$6.00

More Info Call 259-2460





Mechanicsville (Belmont) Postmaster photographer and sold the postcards in the great collection of Mount Holly scenes

The photograph in the February issue of the train approaching "the cut" would have been taken around 1910. This area is between the Summit and Healdville railroad crossings. It is from a postcard created by Howland Marshall. He was an amateur post office. Thanks to his efforts we have a taken over a fifty-year period.

Carroll Tarbell's Mount Holly history book mentions that the bridge was removed in 1919 and the road would have been eliminated about the same time. Black powder charges were used to break the rock formation into pieces that could be lifted with a derrick away from the track bed. The areas where the blasting occurred still have many large chunks of rocks nearby. This was dangerous work and Carroll's book states that there were several accidents. From Elder Daniel Packer's journal he cites that several Irish workers died while working with the derricks.

After completion of the railroad in 1849 many of the Irish workers settled in this area. We can see their names on the 1869 Beers Map. After a heavy snow filled the cut had to be dugout by hand, they added a snowplow to the front of the engines. An area to see some of the large rocks set back from a shallow cut is a couple hundred yards down the tracks toward Ludlow at the Summit Road crossing. This area was where the mineral spring water was later found. By Dennis Devereux



Hi Diana,

I have little bit of information about the bridge. It is also visible in this photo from the Library of Congress:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/201680252/>

The photo you posted is from a postcard #30314 made by Hugh C Leighton out of Portland ME. Attached are also two more photos where the bridge is visible.

I'd love to know more about it since one side of where it was is my family's property. Have you gotten many responses? Thanks, Jon McCann

What can you tell us about this picture?

Please send email to [chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net) and let us know what you know or write to Mt. Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758. Next month we will have another photo to share with you and then share what we know about this picture. To see all these pictures plus more visit the Mount Holly Historical Museum open Sat & Sun 2 - 4 pm also visit our web site [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org)



# Smith Maple Crest Farm Open Sugarhouse

2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT (802) 492-2151



**Come Celebrate and Sample the  
Sweetness of the VT Maple Season!**

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

**Sugar House Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

*We look forward to your stopping by and experiencing the tradition  
that has been carried through by our family for generations.*



- Sample our Award Winning Syrup
- Syrup Boiling Demo (weather permitting)
- Sugar-on-snow
- Refreshments

- Support the Cairo Shrine's Pancake Breakfast
- Enjoy our VT Maple Syrup on a stack of  
their pancakes from 8:00AM - 12:00PM  
at the Shrewsbury Meeting House  
(right across the street from our farm)





# WARNING

## LUDLOW-MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



### ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

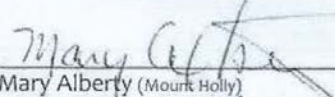
Ludlow Elementary School Presidential Hall (gymnasium)  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30pm

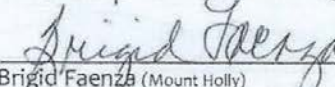
The legal voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the towns of Ludlow Town and Mount Holly, are hereby warned to meet in Ludlow Elementary School's Presidential Hall, in the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, on February 25, 2020 to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot. The business to be transacted at this meeting includes the following:

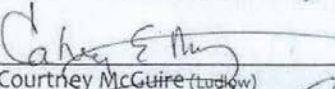
- Article 1: To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2020.
- Article 2: To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2020.
- Article 3: To elect a Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2020.
- Article 4: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for each of its School Board Directors at \$1000.00 per board member?
- Article 5: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for its School District Clerk at \$125.00?
- Article 6: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for the Treasurer at \$1200.00?
- Article 7: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District authorize its Board of School Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payments from member districts as provided in Title 16, Chapter 11, § 711, by issuance of notes of money orders, payable not later than one year from date, for the purpose of paying its expenses?
- Article 8: To hear and act on the reports of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District Directors for the year ending June 30, 2020.
- Article 9: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.




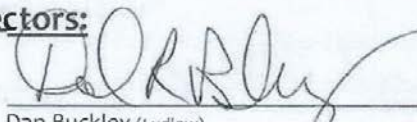
### Board of Directors:

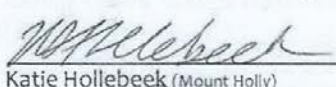
  
Mary Alberty (Mount Holly)

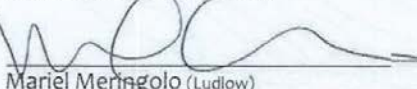
  
Brigid Faenza (Mount Holly)

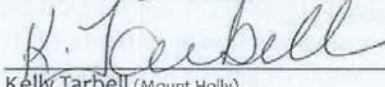
  
Courtney McGuire (Ludlow)

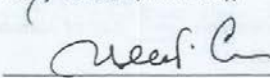
  
Paul Orzechowski (Ludlow)

  
Dan Buckley (Ludlow)

  
Katie Hollebeck (Mount Holly)

  
Mariel Meringolo (Ludlow)

  
Kelly Tarbell (Mount Holly)

  
Ulla Cook, District Clerk



Received, filed and recorded this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2020

### Letter To Editor

My name is Ron Tarbell and I'm a born and raised Mount Holly resident seeking to continue serving my community as a member of the Select Board. My roots in this town date back six generations and I'm lucky to have raised my own family here. I've been dedicated to serving the public in a variety of different capacities, as a member of local fire and ambulance services, as well as an employee for the Town & Village of Ludlow Highway Department for over 29 years serving as Highway Foreman for 12 of those years. I have extensive experience in planning, executing and monitoring many projects related to road maintenance, infrastructure, water/waste water and transportation. I believe that my leadership experience can benefit Mount Holly and I plan to work tirelessly to best serve the people of this town. During my time on the board I have been dedicated to serving Mount Holly citizens by implementing projects to improve town infrastructure while remaining committed to operating on an affordable town budget. Your vote would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Ron Tarbell.





## MSJ 2020 4th Quarter Free

Interested students/families must complete the Mount St Joseph Academy application/review process in order to qualify for the 4th quarter free. This promotion is for NEW students currently in grades 9th - 11th.

Applications need to be completed by March 20th. There will be an interview and review involved in the application and approval process.

New applicants will be notified of their status by the end of March.

Applicants that are accepted to Mount St Joseph Academy will begin attending on the first day of our 4th Quarter on April 2nd. Please contact the school at 802-775-0151 ext. 2013

## NITKA'S NOTES FROM THE STATE HOUSE

By Senator Alice Nitka

All the state agencies are presenting their budgets to the Legislature at this time of year. This past week the Administrator and members of the Board of Trustees for the Vermont Veterans' Home presented their proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021. The Home which is located in Bennington, opened in 1887 as a working farm on 200 acres for 25 Civil War Veterans. Today, the residential and health care facility cares for 130 Veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, the Gulf War and in peacetime. Also served are their spouses and widows. Gold Star parents are also cared for at the facility. They have skilled nursing beds, an Alzheimer's and dementia unit, palliative and hospice care and an eight-bed assisted living residence. Their respected 30 bed Memory Unit has a waiting list of 121 Veterans. Their youngest resident is age 62 and the eldest is 99. Last year 60 of their residents passed away. Vermont General Fund spending to support the facility is proposed at \$2.95 million. Around the country, there are 156 State Veterans' Homes.

There was good news from the Department of Liquor and Lottery who also presented their budget. The Lottery earned over \$29 million for the Education Fund in 2019 after all payouts and expenses. This was due to increased sales as larger jackpots were offered. Generally, the annual transfer to the Ed Fund is around \$23 million. Although the Lottery touts, "play responsibly", they recognize that a small percentage of players are problem gamblers. Last year they acknowledged that what they offered for help was simply a referral to a possible provider for counseling or group help which was only available in limited locations. The problem gambler also did not have the means to pay for the treatment. Since then, they have developed with expert advice a program to provide no cost problem gambling treatment for anyone who wants to receive it. They ran a successful pilot program with the Howard Center and propose spending \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2021. They are looking at phone, text and remote based treatment as well as engaging with other providers to ensure availability around the state.

This week there was an attempt in the House of Representatives to override the Governor's Veto of House bill -107, An act relating to paid family and medical leave. All 150 members were asked by different sides to be present as it was seen as an important vote. All being present is very unusual. Persons who were sick were there, one member who had eye surgery in the morning was there sporting a large bandage, another who had had cataract surgery the previous day was in attendance, another cancelled a flight to be present and sadly two persons who had had very recent deaths in their families even stayed to vote. It was a roll call vote with even the Speaker voting as happens on an attempted override. A two thirds vote was required to prevail which was one hundred needed. All remain silent when a vote is taken except for the clerk calling out alphabetically each member's name and their response of "yes" or "no". The resulting vote was ninety-nine in favor and fifty-one opposed, one vote short of an override. The veto was sustained and that was that.

Feel free to contact me at the State House at 1-800-322-5616, on weekends at 802-228-8432 or [anitka@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:anitka@leg.state.vt.us) Letters are good too, PO Box 136, Ludlow, VT 05149-0136

## Vermont Income Tax Forms

3 easy ways to get your forms from the VT Dept of Taxes

**Online:** Print forms from the Vermont Department of Taxes website at <http://tax.vermont.gov/tax-forms-and-publications/individuals>

**Order Forms:** Call the department's direct line, toll-free (855)297-5600.

**Email:** Order forms by emailing [taxforms@vermont.gov](mailto:taxforms@vermont.gov) When ordering, taxpayers should include full name, daytime phone number, mailing address, form number(s) and quantity needed. The average turnaround time for delivery of forms is about 7 to 10 business days. *You may order up to a total of 5 forms and booklets per calendar year free of charge.*

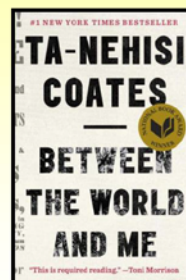
## Homestead Declaration

Don't forget to file your Annual Homestead Declaration Form HS-122 by April 15, regardless if you file for an extension!

## Property Tax Adjustment

You may be eligible for a property tax adjustment on your 19/20 property taxes if your property qualifies as a homestead and you meet the eligibility requirements. The Property Tax Adjustment Claim Form HS-122 is due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Late filers are charged a late fee. Contact info: 1-802-828-2505 or [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov)

## "Friends" of Fletcher Memorial Library Present



## Between the world and me

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

**Tues. March 17th @ 1PM**

*Feel Free to Bring Your Lunch*

"An eloquent blend of history, reportage, and memoir written in the tradition of James Baldwin with echoes of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* . . . It is less a typical memoir of a particular time and place than an autobiography of the black body in America. . . . Coates writes with tenderness, especially of his wife, child, and extended family, and with frankness. . . . Coates's success, in this book and elsewhere, is due to his lucidity and innate dignity, his respect for himself and for others. . . ."—*The Boston Globe*

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Open to the Public  
88 Main Street

## VETERANS EXEMPTION

Mount Holly offers a \$40,000 property tax discount on the assessed value for some disabled veterans and their survivors. To be eligible, Veterans must meet one of the three criteria listed: \* Receive Disability Compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs. \* Receive Improved Pension (also called Non-Service Connected Disability Pension) from the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs. \* Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military. Survivors must be the un-remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death. You must file the documents with the Office of Veterans Affairs by May 1<sup>st</sup> – Call (802)828-3379 for more information.

### Instructions

1. Complete the Applicant Information portion of the Property Tax Exemption for disabled veterans and their survivors form.
2. Read the Signature portion. Sign and date the form.
3. Deliver the form, along with the required **documentation (see below)**, to the Vermont State Office of Veterans Affairs by May 1<sup>st</sup> for the exemption to apply for the following year.  
**Mail or In Person:** 118 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-4401 Fax: (802) 828-5932  
**\*\*PLEASE DO NOT SEND APPLICATION MULTIPLE TIMES\*\***
4. With the exception of individuals meeting the *One Time Filing* criteria listed below, applicants must submit this form and documentation every year by May 1<sup>st</sup> to receive the exemption for the following year.

### Documentation

All applications must include documentation to verify eligibility. The verification documents are issued either by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (U.S. VA) or the Department of Defense (DoD).

#### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S. VA)

Eligibility based on receipt of disability compensation rated 50% or higher, or receipt of improved pension, is verified by the U.S. VA. Please send the *current year Summary of Benefits* letter. They are generally mailed to disabled veterans in January or February of each year. To request documentation, call (800) 827-1000 or by accessing eBenefits at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

#### Department of Defense

Eligibility based on military retirement (**permanent**) for medical reasons is verified by submitting a DD Form 214 that shows the veteran was medically retired, or a copy of the medical retirement letter.

### Privacy

The VT Office of Veterans Affairs does not need any additional information on veterans other than what is listed above. We do not need information on payments the veteran receives. Applicants are free to request documents from the U.S. VA that limits the information included. In addition, applicants are free to black out information, including payment amounts, on the documentation they have before submitting to the VT Office of Veterans Affairs.

The VT Office of Veterans Affairs will provide the Vermont Department of Taxes and towns the names, addresses, and SPAN's of approved applicants. The VT Office of Veterans Affairs will not provide any information on payments received to the Vermont Department of Taxes. Veterans and survivors, however, are required by law to report payments received from the U.S. VA when they complete their state income tax return.

### One Time Filing

With written proof from the U.S. VA (800-827-1000), the following individuals only have to apply once, as their eligibility will not change.

- Veterans who have been designated totally and permanently disabled by the U.S. VA.
- Veterans who have had a disability compensation rating of 50% or higher for 10 consecutive years. You MUST call the US VA (800-827-1000) to obtain a letter stating this.
- Veterans who received a **permanent** medical retirement.
- Surviving spouses (eligibility will only change if they remarry; it is the responsibility of the surviving spouse to notify the Office of Veterans Affairs if they remarry).



**Custom Builders of Belmont Inc.**

P.O. Box 171  
Belmont, VT 05730

**Charlie Conroy**  
cjconroy@vermontel.net

**30+ Years Experience**

## Flander's Excavating & Firewood

**Complete Site Work  
Start To Finish**

**All Aspects of Excavating:**  
*Roads ~ Clearing Lots ~  
Septic Systems ~ Ponds*

**Fully Insured –  
Call Steve @ 802-259-2147**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered**



## Join Bone Builders

**Monday & Thursday Mornings  
9:00 am**

**Mt. Holly Community Room  
Under The Library**

**For Weights and more information  
Call Judy Nevin 259-2443**



Brandon Jenkins  
Owner

(802) 952-9722



Mount Holly, Vermont

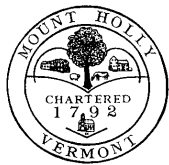
brandon@jenkinsbuild.com



## SEEKING UNRECORDED PROPERTY MAPS FOR PARCEL MAPPING PROJECT

Russell Graphics has begun the town wide parcel mapping project contracted thru the town. Dean Russell is using the maps that are recorded on file in the town office and the deed descriptions to prepare the maps. Survey maps are the best source for accuracy of property lines.

The Listers are asking property owners to provide copies of their maps if they're not already on file at the town office. The Listers office is open on Tuesdays from 10am to 2:30pm to drop off your copies or call with any questions at (802)259-2635.



Thank you in advance for your help. Town of Mount Holly Board of Listers, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758 802-259-2635

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I encourage the voters of Mount Holly to support Ron Tarbell for re-election to the town select board. He just completed his first three-year term and would like to remain on the board. He brings decades of road work experience working for the Town of Ludlow where he now holds the position of road crew supervisor.

His family connection to our town goes back more than 200 years, and many generations attended our local schools and made their living here. His grandfather Carroll operated a farm and served as our town clerk for several years, and his father recently served on our select board for 30 years.

# Beardmore

## Excavating

(802) 342-3507

Robert Beardmore, Jr.  
beardmoreexc@gmail.com
P.O. Box 101  
Belmont, Vermont 05730



**Send Completed Application and Documentation by May 1<sup>st</sup> to:**  
OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS; 118 State Street; Montpelier, VT 05620-4401  
Toll-free: (888) 666-9844; Phone: (802) 828-3379; Fax: (802) 828-5932  
[www.veterans.vt.gov](http://www.veterans.vt.gov)

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS		
<p>The State of Vermont offers a <i>property tax discount on the assessed value</i> for some disabled veterans and their survivors. The level of the exemption varies from town to town, with the minimum exemption established by state law at \$10,000. A town may elect to increase the exemption for up to \$40,000 by a vote at a regular or special annual meeting. Please contact your city or town clerk to determine if your town has elected to increase the exemption above the \$10,000 established by state law.</p> <p><b>Eligibility guidelines are at the bottom of this application. Instructions are on the back.</b></p>		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Name of Applicant:	Applicant is: <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor	
Mailing Address:		
Mailing Town:	State:	Zip:
Phone Number:	Email Address:	
Town Exemption Applies to, if Different from Mailing Town:		
School Parcel Account Number (SPAN) for Property:		
<b>SPAN is listed on your property tax bill. Contact your town clerk if you do not have a bill.</b>		
SIGNATURE		
<p><i>I understand that it is my responsibility to provide current documentation to verify eligibility for this benefit. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the Office of Veterans Affairs if my eligibility status changes or if the property above is no longer my primary residence.</i></p>		
Signature:	Date:	
ELIGIBILITY		
<p>To be eligible for the exemption, <b>Veterans</b> must meet one of the three criteria listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive Disability Compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.</li> <li>Receive Improved Pension (also called Non-Service Connected Disability Pension) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.</li> <li>Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.</li> </ul> <p>To be eligible for the exemption, <b>Survivors</b> must be the un-remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.</p>		
State of Vermont, Office of Veterans Affairs Form updated Jan 2019		

Ron is a great listener and understands the issues. He will thoughtfully consider the implementation of the new recycling regulations and coming marijuana rules. I know he works well with the other board members and is respectful of other opinions. Ron has the best interest of our community in mind.

I know that Ron was not in favor of placing the school transportation costs onto the town municipal budget. It is my understanding that this was an effort to keep the school budget from rising above the penalty threshold. When all the cost of education is not in the school budget then its true cost is not reflected. I was not at the meeting where this proposal was presented but am concerned about moving our busing cost onto the municipal budget. I think it should be part of a larger conversation. Please take time to vote. Dennis Devereux



## Mount Holly Town News

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

**Mount Holly Select Board Meeting - January 14, 2020 Minutes**  
**Present: Select Board:** Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews

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

**Town Officials:** Susan Covalla, Paul Faenza, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Jon McCann, Lori Norton, Mary Surething, Clinton Woolley

**Members of the Public:** Paul Barton, Kelly Beerman (Ninevah Foundation), Robert Bryant, Peter Collins, Dennis Deiters, Joan Garrow, Bret Harlow, Craig Hutt Vater, Judy Hyjek, Lester Lampert, Gary Norton, Mary Jane Osborne, Don Richardson, Vicki Seward, Ray Tarbell, Kristin Veysey, Denise Young

### TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY

#### **A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR OUTDOOR BURNING**

##### **BURN PERMITS**

May be obtained from  
**THE MOUNT HOLLY FIRE WARDEN**

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

Leave a phone number where Jim can call you back.

Do not burn until you have spoken to him.

**SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS**

1. **Call to Order** by Chair Mark Turco at 6:00 pm.

2. All stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Jennifer Matthews asked to move Items #7a & 7b up in the agenda as both Kelly Beerman and Paul Faenza stated they had other meetings they were obligated to attend later that evening ; it was agreed to do so following the Approval of the Minutes.

4. **Approval of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Minutes and Special SB Meeting Minutes of December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 & Special SB Meeting Minutes of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.

7a. **Lake Ninevah Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Report & Request** – Kelly Beerman reported on the grant the Ninevah Foundation and the Town of Mount Holly partner together on to protect Lake Ninevah from invasive species, in particular Eurasian Watermilfoil. She reported that this year, \$7,800 was received from the State in grant funds. The total

costs for the program were \$24,000 with the Ninevah Foundation picking up all costs over and above the grant amount. The program funds greeters at the boat launch to check boats for invasive species and divers to monitor the lake for the same. This year, she reported, no milfoil was found on boats or in the lake.

In response to a question from Ms. Matthews, Ms. Beerman stated that there were a few plants found in the lake in 2015, but the divers were able to hand pull those plants and eradicate the nuisance before it spread. Ms. Matthews also asked if the numbers reported of 2400 visitors and 1100 boats were about average for the season. Ms. Beerman replied she was new in the position but she thought those numbers were on par. Ms. Matthews commented on the thoroughness of the report.

The Select Board agreed to again partner with the Ninevah Foundation on this year's grant and thanked Ms. Beerman for her report.

7b. **Animal Control Officer Protocol** – Paul Faenza stated he was in attendance due to the concerns raised at the last regular Select Board meeting (see 12.10.2019 Minutes) regarding his handling of a dog complaint. He read a statement (see attached) which spells out the protocol he follows once he receives an animal complaint. Ms. Matthews said she was sorry Mary Jane Osborne was not in attendance as she had been displeased with Mr. Faenza's response, or lack thereof, to her dog complaint. Ms. Matthews asked if Mr. Faenza had filed a report on the incident. He said he had emailed it. Ms. Matthews stated no report had been received through Select Board email accounts. Mr. Faenza stated he would send the report again and then distributed copies to the Select Board. He asked if there was anything else. Ms. Matthews stated there had been a number of complaints about Mr. Faenza not returning phone calls regarding animal complaints. Mr. Faenza replied he worked full-time and he would not leave his job to get a dog, nor would he respond while working as he had other responsibilities. Ms. Matthews asked if he responded to calls after work. He stated he tried to reach out as soon as he could.

#### **5. Reports**

a. **Highways & Transfer Station** – Clinton Woolley

i) **Update** – Mr. Woolley reported that another 450-pound barrel of food scraps had been collected. At \$.40 per pound, food scrap collection is growing costly. He also reported that there is no market for many of the recyclables, and because of that, there may be charges coming for zero-sort collection.

**Remember To File Your Homestead Declaration AND Property Tax Adjustment Claim for 2020 Form HS-122**

He noted that FEMA should soon finalize the Town's grant submission for costs associated with last April's flooding.

ii) **20-Ton Eager Beaver Trailer Purchase** –Mr. Woolley reported that Bob Beardmore was selling his trailer for \$12,000 and Mr. Beardmore asked if the Town would be interested in purchasing it. Mr. Woolley noted it was harder and harder to borrow a trailer. In response to a question from Ms. Matthews, he stated a new trailer costs around \$23,000. Ron Tarbell stated he thought it best to

**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Mt. Holly School Gym**  
**Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm**  
  
**VOTE By Ballot**  
**Mount Holly Town Office**  
**Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Polls Open 10 am – 7 pm**



borrow a trailer, especially as the trailer would sit for 11 months of the year. Without a trailer, Mr. Woolley stated he would have to hire the work out at a cost of \$7,000 a year. Ms. Matthews asked if there were funds available to purchase the trailer. Treasurer David Johnson responded the next vehicle to be replaced was the one-ton truck and there were funds to cover that purchase plus the trailer purchase without depleting the funds. Ray Tarbell asked how much it would cost to rent a trailer. He also expressed concern about the brakes freezing up after the trailer sits for extended periods of time. Ms. Matthews asked what the rental costs would be for a similar trailer. Mark Turco recommended tabling the item until rental costs were known and other options for borrowing a trailer were explored.

iii) **Structure & Road Paving Grant** – Mr. Woolley stated he was working on gathering the figures needed for the grant.

iv) **Highway Mileage Certificate – Review & Sign** – Ron Tarbell asked if there any changes to the highway mileage in town. Mr. Woolley replied there were none. Select Board members signed the certification.

**b. Treasurer – David Johnson**

i) **Monthly Income & Expense Report** – Mr. Johnson noted the following items: more than one-half of the delinquent taxes have now been collected; Solid Waste Revenue continues over budget; Solid Waste Expenses show more being spent on the zero-sort disposal, especially with so little revenue coming in for recyclables; the Vehicle Repair & Maintenance expenses continue under budget to date.

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

ii) **VT Division of Property Valuation & Review** – Mr. Johnson reported that the State had completed its equalization study. The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for the Town is now 107.28% and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 17.42%, so no immediate reappraisal is necessary. Nonetheless, the time for a reappraisal is growing closer.

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

c. **Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad (MHVRS)** – Kristin Veysey reported on the SIREN report received from the State for MHVRS EMS calls in Mount Holly, Belmont and East Wallingford from January first through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The report shows a total of 163 calls: 140 are 911 response calls with MHVRS responding

to 102 of those calls. Ms. Veysey stated she was now tracking all calls on a fiscal year basis. From July first to today, she reported that the MHVRS response rate is at 80%.

Mark Turco stated he had spoken with Scott Murphy, Ludlow Municipal Manager. Mr. Murphy provided the following Ludlow Ambulance Service (LAS) numbers: for the period from January first to December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, LAS responded to three calls in Belmont and 15 calls in Mount Holly; and, from July first 2018 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, LAS responded to five calls in Belmont and 29 calls in Mount Holly. In response to Mr. Turco's question about the proposed \$500 fee for LAS to respond to Mount Holly calls, Mr. Murphy explained that was the amount Springfield charged Ludlow when Ludlow was unable to answer a call. This \$500 fee is the same fee LAS charges Chester for calls. There is no fee for Cavendish and Proctorsville as they are part of the LAS coverage area.

Ms. Veysey reported she had spoken with Rutland Regional Ambulance Service and they are willing to be in position #1 if MHVRS is unable to respond to a call. Ms. Matthews asked, just to be clear, if the Town said no to LAS due to the \$500 fee, Regional would respond to those calls. Ms. Veysey said yes, they will be in position #1 for the whole area. Mr. Turco said the Board did not want townfolks to be in jeopardy due to a lack of service. Ms. Veysey will report to the Select Board again in April, and thereafter on a quarterly basis. (*Note: Contact MHVRS if you are interested in volunteering.*)

**6. Ongoing & Old Business**

a. **Mount Holly School Request** – Craig Hutt Vater thanked the Select Board for the additional time to review the school's request. He said that based on the concerns voiced at the last meeting about mixing the general populace with students, he had revised the previous proposal so as to keep the Mount Holly School bus. He stated that it costs about \$7,500 to convert a bus, so Ludlow will keep their busses on the town side with no conversion costs; Mount Holly will keep its school bus with no conversion costs. He also explained that Ludlow had never pursued any state transportation aid, but they plan to do so this year. At this point, the school transportation request is for \$15,000 from each town for one year, no slippery slope with all out in the open. He noted the school district has done its due diligence with the budget and actually just made additional cuts, cutting the Roost building completely and cutting the Superintendent to 80%.

Ms. Matthews asked if Ludlow had agreed to put the \$15,000 figure in the municipal budget. Mr. Hutt Vater replied they would, if Mount Holly did.

Peter Collins asked if the proposal was to keep the status quo as far as the busses were concerned, just with \$15,000 being added to each town's budget for one year to fund them. Mr. Hutt Vater replied that was correct with Ludlow pursuing state transportation aid. He again pointed out if the \$30,000 total for both towns (\$15,000 from Ludlow and \$15,000 from Mount Holly) is added into the school budget, because of the penalty, Mount Holly would be paying \$30,000 instead of the requested \$15,000 for school transportation.

Mr. Tarbell stated the school costs should be in the school budget, the town costs in the town budget. Mr. Turco agreed. He asked what the \$15,000 would cover. Mr. Hutt Vater responded that most of the transportation costs were in the school budget; the \$15,000 could be for the salary for the driver.

Ray Tarbell asked how they knew they would be over the threshold. He stated that all school costs should be in the school budget. Mr. Turco again agreed.

There was additional discussion about Act 46, savings not realized, State government, the new unified school district like it or not, general funds, repayments and more. Mr. Collins stated he thought it was a bad idea to mix school and town costs; they should be kept separate. Mary Jane Osborne stated that the school was part of the town, part of the community.

Ron Tarbell made the motion to say no to incorporating school costs in to the town budget, they should go to the school. Mr. Turco seconded the motion, and both voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Matthews voted against the motion, stating she was concerned about the penalty and would rather pay \$15,000 for school transportation rather than \$30,000. She also said she considered the school to be a vital part of the community and that it keeps young families in town and draws other young families to town. She continued stating the school

kept Mount Holly vibrant and her vote against the motion was a vote in support of the school. Mr. Hutt Vater thanked the Select Board for its consideration of the proposal.

**b. Finalize & Approve FY'21 Budget** - David Johnson noted that a couple more social service requests had come in. He stated that with the use of the current surplus funds, the amount to be raised by taxes (\$1,086,685) is the same amount as this year, no increase. Ron Tarbell made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Ms. Matthews seconded, unanimously agreed.

**c. Set Date to Sign Warning** – Last date for receipt of petitioned articles for Town Meeting is January 16<sup>th</sup>. First date that warning can be posted is January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was agreed to meet on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm to sign the Annual Town Meeting Warning.

**d. Public Utilities Commission Update re: Phone Back-Up Battery Power Issues** – Ms. Matthews reported that the PUC had issued its report on the issue of back-up batteries for phones in extended power outages. Ms. Matthews explained that the Town of Mount Holly had asked that a detailed explanation about the batteries and their limited life be included with phone bills on a regular basis, a toll-free number be available to customers for technical questions and help with the batteries, and that the batteries be installed, monitored, tested, and replaced at the telecom providers' expense. During the workshops at the PUC, which Ms. Matthews attended, there were concerns expressed about the telecom providers' bottom line. Also, a suggestion was made that perhaps the power grid should be studied as prolonged power outages caused the need for phone back-up batteries. Ms. Matthews reported that this is the course of action the PUC decided upon: "to initiate an investigation into electrical power losses and their impact on telecommunications resiliency." Ms. Matthews considered that passing the buck. She also noted that in 2018 Charter Communications pulled in \$43.6 billion in revenue with \$1.2 billion in net income (profit) and Comcast brought in \$94.5 billion in revenue with \$11.7 billion in net income. She expressed her disappointment that the PUC seemed more concerned about these numbers than Vermonters' health and safety.

**e. Other** – Ms. Matthews noted the application for the proposed AT&T cell tower here in Mount Holly had been filed. The conditions for the tower set forth by the Select Board are incorporated throughout the application. The process continues.

## **7. New Business**

**a. Lake Ninevah Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Report & Request – Kelly Beerman** - see above.

**b. Animal Control Officer Protocol (ACO) – Paul Faenza** – Ms. Matthews remarked that Mary Jane Osborne, who had brought the dog complaint and her concerns about the ACO to the Select Board in December, was now in attendance. She arrived too late to hear Mr. Faenza's report, but a copy of the protocol he read was made for her. She passed on to the Select Board the protocols from three towns in Vermont that could serve as an example for one for Mount Holly. Judy Hyjek asked for a recap of what Mr. Faenza had said. Mr. Turco replied that Mr. Faenza read his protocol, explained how he responds, noting that because he works, he responds to calls when he can after work. Eric Chatterjee from Okemo Valley TV said the full statement could be seen here: <http://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-selectboard-114> Paul Barton asked if the protocol could be run in the *Chit Chat*; it will be attached to these minutes.

Lester Lampert asked about the contamination of the water at the school. Mr. Turco explained that the State did some testing and found PFAS contamination in the well. Mr. Lampert and Mr. Barton asked about the source of the contamination. Mr. Turco responded that the State was looking into that, perhaps it was from the floor wax or cleaning supplies at the school. There was additional discussion about possible sources. Ms. Matthews noted the State was working to pinpoint the source, looking at the fill, wood chips, and cleaning supplies at the school as well as fire-fighting foam. Ms. Matthews directed Mr. Lampert to the December 27<sup>th</sup> minutes, which covered the presentation by Richard Spiese from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Spiese was again in town this past Monday, testing the wells for the town office, Fire and Rescue, and others in the area.

**c. Town Office Cleaning Bids** – Two bids were received and opened. One bid was for \$150 for the cleaning; the other for \$85. Ron Tarbell made a motion to go with the low bid from Lori & Tiffanie Norton, seconded by Ms. Matthews, passed unanimously.

**d. Retail Cannabis Survey** – Ms. Matthews noted that at the December Select Board meeting, VLCT's Gwynn Zakov gave a presentation on S.54, a bill which addresses the retail sale of marijuana. That legislation is now moving quickly with the VT Legislature back in session. At the December meeting, a survey of residents was discussed to gauge opinions on the sale and manufacture of retail marijuana in town. Ms. Matthews read through the questions she had developed for the survey. Discussion followed on the terms cannabis or marijuana, the difference between hemp and marijuana, the opt-in or opt-out provisions, a local cannabis option tax, the difference between growing a couple plants in your garden as opposed to industrial grow operations, health and mental health issues, drug abuse, the cost of law enforcement, and more.

**e. VLCT Resolution** – Ms. Matthews again presented the resolution from VLCT asking the Legislature to give towns the right to have a say (yea or nay) to the local impacts stemming from the legislation pertaining to the retail sale of marijuana. Mr. Turco asked if there was a deadline for the resolution. Ms. Matthews responded that sooner was better than later as the legislation was being drafted now, so this was the time for towns to ask for some local control in dealing with whatever the Legislature decides around retail marijuana. Mr. Turco and Mr. Tarbell wanted to wait until a survey was done to sign the resolution.

**f. Other** – There was no other New Business.

## **8. Announcements/Other Business**

**a. Town Meeting Info & Deadlines** – Articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warning are due by January 16<sup>th</sup>. Nominating petitions for elected offices are due by January 27<sup>th</sup>. Town Meeting is on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> with voting and the Presidential primary on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Matthews noted that 2020 was a momentous year as it was the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, the amendment with which women finally won the right to vote. She briefly outlined, from 1776 to 1920, women's persistent efforts to win the right to vote.

**9. Review & Sign Orders** – Reviewed and signed.

**10. Adjourn** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, Ms. Matthews seconded, meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

### **Mount Holly Animal Control Officer**

The Mount Holly Animal Control Officer is Constable Paul Faenza. He handles all calls concerning domesticated and farm animals, including Animal Cruelty concerns. For more information or to make a report please call (802) 353-8347 (24 hours) or email [pfaenza47@yahoo.com](mailto:pfaenza47@yahoo.com)



## Town of Mount Holly Special Select Board Meeting - January 21, 2020 - Minutes

**Present:** Select Board: Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews

**Town Officials:** Susan Covalla, David Johnson

**Public:** None in Attendance

1. **Call to Order** by Chair Mark Turco at 4:00 p.m.
  2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the **Agenda** – None were necessary.
  3. **Sign Annual Town Meeting Warning** – Select Board members reviewed, approved and signed the warning.
  4. **Adjourn** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to adjourn at 4:10 pm, seconded by Mark Turco, passed unanimously.
- Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

## Mount Holly Select Board Meeting - February 11, 2020 - Minutes

**Present:** Select Board: Mark Turco (chair), Ron Tarbell, Jennifer Matthews

**Town Officials:** Susan Covalla, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Jon McCann

**Members of the Public:** Paul Barton, Kelly Beerman (Ninevah Foundation), Jeff Chase, Judy Hyjek, Annette Lynch, Don Richardson, Craig Tomkinson

1. **Call to Order** by Chair Mark Turco at 6:00 pm.
2. All stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Jennifer Matthews asked to add the annual geese permit, Harry's liquor license approval, and information from Don Richardson on the Emerald Ash Borer to **New Business/Other**. It was agreed to do so.
4. **Approval of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Minutes and Special SB Meeting Minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **Highways & Transfer Station – Clinton Woolley**
    - i) **Update** – No update as Mr. Woolley was unable to attend.
  - b. **Treasurer – David Johnson**
    - i) **Monthly Income & Expense Report** – Mr. Johnson noted the following: no delinquent tax update was available; the latest quarterly State Aid for Roads payment was received and payments are running higher than the budgeted amount; Solid Waste Income shows \$4,103 received from the Rutland County Solid Waste District as the District returned excess cash-on-hand to each member town; all General Fund items are within the budgeted amounts; Solid Waste Hauling & Disposal Expenses will stay within budget; the Vehicle/Equipment Repair & Maintenance Expenses continue to be reasonable and under budget to date; Winter Road Materials & Outside Services show \$60,000 of the \$75,000 budgeted amount spent, primarily due to the large amount of road salt used this winter.
  - c. **Rutland Regional Planning Commission – Jon McCann** reported that he had attended the Regional Committee meeting where four proposed cell towers in the area were discussed. A motion passed unanimously to support the tower proposed in Mount Holly as there were no significant regional impacts. Mr. McCann also reported on the solar project moratorium in Castleton due to the loss of agricultural land and the view shed impacts. He wondered if there was anything in the Mount Holly Town Plan about view sheds. At the Commissioners' meeting, there was discussion about the proposed changes to Act 250, including giving a State board, rather than regional boards, more power over permits for major projects. There was also discussion about the need for strong and detailed town plans, which include town values and priorities, so as to be able to have standing in Act 250 proceedings. Mr. McCann noted the development at the very top of Okemo, which is in Mount Holly, and the possibility of more to come. He wondered if protection of the view shed of the upper slope of Okemo was warranted and supported by the town.
  - d. **Rutland Region Transportation Council – Clinton Woolley** was not in attendance, so no report was made.
6. **Ongoing & Old Business**
  - a. **Latest PFAS Test Results** – Richard Spiese from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation notified the Select Board that there was no PFAS contamination found in any of the wells neighboring the Mount Holly School; this includes the wells serving the town office, town garage, Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad and Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department buildings. Letters were sent to those neighbors whose wells were tested to inform them that their wells were free of any PFAS contamination. Additional testing and investigation will take place at the school in an attempt to pinpoint the source of the PFAS contamination that is on-going there.
  - b. **Lake Ninevah Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Report & Request – Kelly Beerman** – Mark Turco as Select Board Chair signed the necessary documents for the grant submission. Ms. Beerman stated that funding announcements would be made in March with the grant agreement to follow in early summer. The grant this year is similar to those in previous years in that it asks for funds to support diver surveys and boat launch greeters looking for any Eurasian Watermilfoil and Eurasian Waterwort. This year's project has a budget of about \$25,000 with the hopes of receiving about \$10,000 in grant funds; the Ninevah Foundation will cover the additional expenses through fund-raising efforts.
  - c. **Other** – There were no other items.
7. **New Business**
  - a. **RRPC Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement** – Select Board members reviewed the agreement which spells out the terms for one town providing aid (personnel, equipment, materials) to another in an emergency. Annette Lynch asked what would be defined as an emergency. Mark Turco responded it could be natural disasters, fire & rescue, flooding issues. Jennifer Matthews noted the disaster could be "natural, mechanical, human-made, technological, or civil . . . " At the RRPC meeting, Jon McCann said the agreement was explained



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as a way for towns to recoup costs when helping other towns, particularly in a FEMA-declared disaster. Jeff Chase asked about what documentation would be needed. Ms. Matthews replied there was a Mutual Aid Request Form which asked for details about the request (type of disaster, repairs needed, assistance needed, etc.).

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**b. Agenda Items & Documentation** – Ms. Matthews reminded all that agenda items are due by noon on the Wednesday before a Select Board meeting. She also asked that any documentation related to agenda items be submitted by noon on the Monday before the Select Board meeting, so that Select Board members have time to read and review the information. Otherwise, items and documentation will be moved to the next Select Board meeting and agenda. Annette Lynch asked if it would be possible to have the Treasurer's Report put up on the website before the Select Board meeting. David Johnson said the report would be incomplete, but an incomplete report could be made available.

**c. Other** – Jeff Chase asked if there had been a secondary PFAS testing at the Mount Holly School. Mark Turco replied yes and the PFAS test results were still high.

Don Richardson stated he is on an **Emerald Ash Borer** task force, trying to deal with what could be an epidemic coming this spring. The task force is drawing up a plan to present to municipalities on how to take an inventory of ash trees along town roads and right-of-ways. Mr. Richardson plans to have information to pass out at Town Meeting to property owners about the Emerald Ash Borer and the need for an ash tree inventory on their own property. He plans to meet with Road Foreman Clinton Woolley in the not-too-distant future to discuss plans for an inventory along town roads. Kelly Beerman mentioned that the Ninevah Foundation is also addressing this issue and they would be happy to collaborate and support the Town in education efforts and an inventory of ash trees. Jon McCann noted it was important for second homeowners to not move firewood as the beetle is easily transported that way. All agreed education was the starting point to address the peril of the Emerald Ash Borer with a number of ideas for how to do so discussed.

Ron Tarbell made a motion to approve **the liquor license for Harry's Restaurant**, seconded by Ms. Matthews, approved and signed by all.

The **Annual Migratory Bird Depredation Permit** for the taking of four Canada geese at Star Lake has been completed. Paul Barton stated he thought this was a wanton waste of wildlife given the fact the geese have been here for thousands of years. Their poop on the beach is a human health and safety risk, according to the application. Additional discussion ensued on the pros and cons of goose control methods. Jennifer Matthews made a motion to approve and sign the permit, seconded by Mr. Tarbell, approved by all.

#### **8. Announcements/Other Business**

**a. Town Meeting** – Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 pm at the Mount Holly School

**b. Voting -Town Meeting Australian Ballot Items & Presidential Primary** – Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am - 7:00pm @ the Town Office

**9. Review & Sign Orders** – Reviewed and signed.

**10. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed)** – Executive Session was not necessary this evening.

**11. Adjourn** – Ron Tarbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm, Ms. Matthews seconded, meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

### **Ludlow Town Manager Reviews Ludlow Budget on Spotlight**



Ludlow Town Manager Scott Murphy appeared on the local tv program, Spotlight, to discuss the major items in the forthcoming Ludlow budget and the annual town meeting scheduled for March 2-3.

Murphy noted that the proposed budget would mark the end of the Ludlow Municipal Bus system, with the budget being decreased 100%. \$95,879 from the bus fund would be used to reduce the tax rate. This was due to the impact of the closing of Black River High School in June and the approved purchase of the building from the Ludlow-Mt Holly school district.

He indicated that the select board had no tenants for the building although BRISC and other organizations had shown interest in using the building. The town has budgeted \$65,950 for custodial

and utility costs to maintain the unoccupied building.

The ambulance service will see an increase of \$27,500 in salaries plus \$66,000 to support its operations. This was due in large measure to the decline of volunteers to support the service.

One of the major articles at the Monday, March 2 town meeting will address how all "public questions" are voted on in the future. The article, submitted by citizen petition, would require that all such matters be voted on via Australian ballot. Currently, all voting in Ludlow should be done at a town meeting, based on the action last taken on this question.

Pictured above are Scott Murphy and Ralph Pace, the moderator of Spotlight, as they discuss the budget. The program may be seen on cable TV channels 8 and 20 broadcast by Okemo Valley TV. It is also viewable from its web site, [www.okemovalley.tv](http://www.okemovalley.tv).



WARNING  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2020 AND MARCH 3, 2020

The legal voters of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Mount Holly Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. in the evening, Monday, March 2, 2020 to act on the following articles, viz: 2 & 14

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020 to vote by Australian ballot at the Mount Holly Town Office, polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to vote on the following articles, viz.: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13.  
Articles may be discussed Monday evening.

Article 1: To elect all Town Officers as the law directs. (Australian ballot)

Article 2: To act on the Auditors' Report.

Article 3: Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, to be raised by tax?

A. General Fund (net)	\$ 468,620.
B. Highway Fund (net)	362,900
Total A & B (Australian ballot)	\$831,520.

Article 4: Does the Town vote \$26,430. for the Grader lease payment fund and \$65,000. for the Asset / Equipment fund for a total of \$91,430. to be raised by tax for the fiscal year 2020-2021, for future capital expenditures? (Australian ballot)

Article 5: Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. an operating budget of \$53,500. for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and Vehicle Replacement Fund of \$45,000. for a total of \$98,500. to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 6: Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. for the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

A. General Budget Fund	\$15,000.
B. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund	\$15,000.
Total A & B (Australian ballot)	\$30,000.

Article 7: Does the Town vote \$12,000. for the Mount Holly Town Library, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 8: Does the Town vote \$2,000. for the Mount Holly Chit Chat, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 9: Does the Town vote the following for Community and Social Services totaling \$8,485., to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

A. American Red Cross	\$ 500.
B. Mount Holly Barn Preservation Assoc.	100.
C. BROCC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont	550.
D. Rutland Mental Health Services	1,302.
E. VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region	1,313.
F. RSVP & The Volunteer Center	100.
G. Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	400.
H. Regional Ambulance Service, Inc.	620.
I. Vermont Adult Learning	500.
J. Black River Good Neighbor Services, Inc.	1,000.
K. Vermont Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	150.
L. Housing Trust of Rutland County	500.
M. Marble Valley Regional Transit District	300.
N. Vermont Center for Independent Living	100.
O. Green Up Vermont	150.
P. Child First Advocacy Center	400.
Q. NeighborWorks	500.

Article 10: Does the Town vote \$3,000. for Black River Area Community Coalition (BRACC) to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

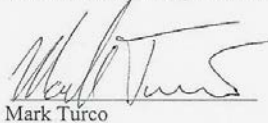
Article 11: Does the Town vote to fund the afterschool program at the Mount Holly School in the amount of \$6,500 in the FY2021, (to maintain state grant funding in the amount of \$23,890), be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

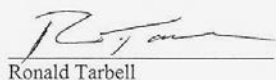
Article 12: Does the Town vote \$750. for the Okemo Valley TV, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

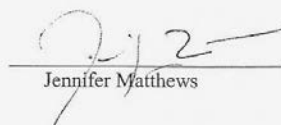
Article 13: Does the Town vote \$2500. for the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum to be raised by tax?

Article 14: To transact all other necessary and proper business.

Dated at Mount Holly, Vermont this 21 st day of January AD, 2020.  
Town of Mount Holly Select Board

  
Mark Turco

  
Ronald Tarbell

  
Jennifer Matthews



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## Ah....Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer

February, the month of change when winter is still upon us, but sugar season is right around the corner and hopefully spring is soon to follow. Looking at 2019's riding season in photos awakens in those of us at Rainbow Riding Center a great desire for spring and the start of another great summer of riding.

We recently received news that RRC had been awarded an EpicPromise grant from Vail/Okemo that will allow us to once again lease one of everyone's favorite horses—Jet. (The first from the left in photo above.) We would like to take this opportunity to thank Vail Resorts/Okemo for their assistance to our program. Since RRC does not own any horses, we lease or are lent the beautiful, patient, friendly animals we use every year.

If you are interested in participating in our therapeutic horsemanship program as a rider or a

volunteer please visit our website at [rainbowridingcenter.org](http://rainbowridingcenter.org); email: [programs@rainbowridingcenter.org](mailto:programs@rainbowridingcenter.org) or call 802-236-2483.

## March 2020 Mount Holly Chit-Chat – Update on Telecommunications Issue

There are several developments on the Emergency 911 service issue since the Town's involvement last fall. In response to the big broadband bill passed by the Legislature in May 2019 (Act 79), the E-911 Board proposed a rule to require reporting by power companies of electric power outages and by telecom companies of outages in 911 service that last more than 30 minutes for 25 or more subscribers.

The 911 Board filed this rule January 31 with the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) which must review it before it goes into effect. While the outage reporting rule is a positive step in identifying the nature, location, and extent of the loss-of-911 problem, the utilities oppose the reporting requirements, claiming their information is confidential, and contending they have no knowledge of or responsibility for the condition of their subscribers' telephones. LCAR heard a presentation of the rule on February 20 and will hopefully uphold or even strengthen the rule to address concerns about public safety and information disclosure.

Also in response to Act 79, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on December 13 sent to the Vermont General Assembly a report on "Provider Compliance with 911 Backup Power Obligations and Minimizing Disruptions to 911 Services during Power Outages." This report summarized the four PUC workshops held last year which examined whether a) telephone companies are following Federal requirements to provide information and offer backup power to their customers, and b) possible ways to avoid loss of 911 calling capacity during power outages.

The report included in an appendix the requests from Mount Holly, residents of Shrewsbury and Wallingford, and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group for "best practices" to solve the loss of service problem. Tinmouth and Andover also participated in the workshops. But the report was disappointing and deficient in the PUC's three main findings that: a) the telecoms are in full compliance with Federal rules, b) the State should not take action nor does the PUC have authority to require utilities to augment their practices to solve the 911 problem, and c) the Vermont E-911 Board should be given expanded authority to "address the perfect-storm 911 call concern now and to ensure telecommunications resiliency in the future."

Assigning greater responsibility to the E-911 Board to solve the backup battery problem would be a major mistake. The Board is ill-equipped in terms of staff, expertise, or consumer orientation and incapable of taking on this task. There may be a chance to point out this and the other weaknesses of the PUC report, if the legislative committees with jurisdiction over telecom matters hold hearings on it.

A significant thing the PUC has done is to open a full-fledged investigation into "Electrical Power Losses and their Impact on Telecommunications Resiliency" with the first session scheduled for February 18. This proceeding directly addresses the issue that caused residents in a number of VTTEL towns to lose emergency 911 calling capacity for two days in November 2018 due to an early winter storm. If you wish to express your opinion or obtain further information on this topic, you may contact the Selectboard, state agencies in Montpelier, or your local or County legislators. Submitted by Shrewsbury resident Jonathan Gibson

## Family Pancake Breakfast with REAL VT Maple Syrup!



**Saturday March 21,  
8am-Noon**

**Shrewsbury Meeting House  
88 Lottery Rd Shrewsbury VT**

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Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project**

**Follow-up with a free hay ride to  
Smith Maple Crest Farm's Sugar House**





## BRISC Discusses Plans and Status at Ludlow Rotary

Representatives of the Black River Independent School Committee (BRISC) were the featured speakers at a recent meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) during its weekly luncheon meeting at DJ's Restaurant.

Patrick Pullinen, BRISC Vice Chair, and Marissa Selleck, BRISC Secretary, presented a detailed assessment of that group's plans to gain recognition from the state board of education and its plans to raise its financial status to support the planned opening of its middle and senior high school program in August of this year.

Pullinen noted that, as of this date, BRISC had 28 students prepared to enroll in the school. They plan on about 50 at the start of the school year. Their goal was 75. He indicated that it was the intention of the committee to rent space in the Black River High School (BRHS) building owned by the Town of Ludlow.

In reviewing the financial status of BRISC, both Pullinen and Selleck indicated that the school would receive tuition from incoming students that would be provided by the grant per student from the state. That amount would be determined by the state. The Ludlow-Mt Holly Unified Union School Board estimates its per pupil spending amount to be around \$18,755.72. The BRISC amount may vary from this based on the algorithm used by the state. To-date, they have raised 10% of the necessary funding.

It was emphasized that the continuation of a middle/high school program in Ludlow would have a very positive impact on the local economy. Both speakers expressed their belief that the lack of such a basic educational facility would have a very negative impact on attracting new residents to Ludlow.

According to the proposed budget summary prepared by BRISC, it is projecting revenues of \$2,018,000 for its first two years of operations. Expenditures for the first start-up year were set at \$1,538,888.

A key element in this financial picture was the need to raise \$200,000 each of the first 2 years from donations.

BRISC has been in contact with the River Valley Technical Center (RVTC) to establish a relationship so that interested students may continue to use the specialized training offered by RVTC.

Transportation for students is currently being negotiated with public school districts and other sources. Patrick Pullinen and Marissa Selleck are pictured above as this discussed BRISC with LRC members. By Ralph Pace

## Senior Stars Luncheon at Harry's Café

The next Senior Stars Luncheon will be at Harry's Cafe on Thursday, March 12th at noon. The doors open at 11:30 AM.

If you have a reservation, but find that you will not be able to attend, please call Carol Ballou at 259 2333 as soon as possible. If you call by the preceding Monday, March 9th, you will not be charged the \$5.00 for the cost of the meal.

There is already a list of seniors who are not able to attend the March luncheon but do have their reservation for the second Thursday in April. If you are not attending the March luncheon, but wish to be at the April luncheon, now is the time to make your reservation by calling 259 2333. April 9th will be the last senior luncheon at Harry's Cafe until next December.

For those attending the March luncheon, if you wish to come in April, remember to bring the \$5 for that luncheon with you. Because an April list has already begun, also remember that people who arrive last to the March luncheon may find there is no room left in April.

As always, we are looking forward to a delicious meal and good company that Trip and Deb and their crew make possible! Thank you!

## Mount Holly Snow Flyers

Our trails are finally open, groomed - but with limited conditions. Care needs to be taken as the base is very low - plus STAR LAKE is CLOSED at this time.

Ride Safe, Mount Holly Snow Flyers

[www.mounthollysnowflyers.org](http://www.mounthollysnowflyers.org)



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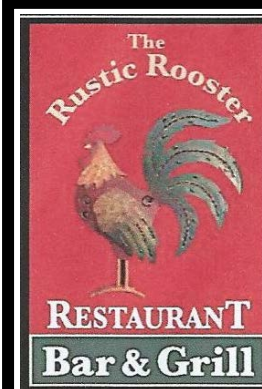
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**WESTON PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES  
2020 WESTON – GHOSTLIGHT NEW MUSICAL AWARD WINNER**

**The award features two free public concerts of HALF THE SKY at  
Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm on March 7: 4pm & 7pm**

The writing team of **Tidtaya Sinutoke** (music) and **Isabella Dawis** (book & lyrics) have won the **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award** for their new musical, **HALF THE SKY**.

The only award of its kind in the country, the Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award brings the creators of a promising new project together with a small ensemble of actors to rehearse, perform, and record selections from the winning score in Weston, in New York, and in the studio with Grammy winner Kurt Deutsch of Ghostlight Records.

**"HALF THE SKY,"** says Executive Artistic Director Susanna Gellert, "is a beautiful and original musical that traverses the vast terrain of an expedition up Mount Everest and how it changes one family forever. Weaving together stories of burgeoning friendships, ambitious athleticism, and the magical spirituality of the mountain, this is a musical with a breathtaking score and richly lyrical storytelling. I am so proud that Weston will be contributing to its development and future."

Nominated by Mei Ann Teo, Producing Artistic Director of Musical Theatre Factory, **HALF THE SKY** follows Aurelie, who sets out to fulfill her childhood dream of summiting Mount Everest, together with a group of hopeful mountaineers from around the world and a precocious teenage Sherpa. As she grapples with the grueling demands of the mountain, Aurelie finds she must also confront her Thai American family's past and the rift that separates her from her younger sister. Borders between countries and cultures, past and present, and waking and dreaming begin to blur. "[This musical] pulls together the most intimate and epic human impulses into story and song," says Teo.

**HALF THE SKY** was an inaugural 2019 First Draft Commission by the 5th Avenue Theatre, with additional development at Theater Mu's New Eyes Festival and Theater Latté Da's NEXT Festival.

**Two FREE public concerts of HALF THE SKY will be held at Walker Farm on Saturday, March 7 at 4pm and 7pm.** Kurt Deutsch of Ghostlight Records will produce the free demo recording.

Reserve your free tickets to the performances on March 7 by visiting [westonplayhouse.org/nma](http://westonplayhouse.org/nma).

The Weston Playhouse Theatre Company is a non-profit organization supported in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and an ever-growing family of individuals and organizations who believe in the impact that the performing arts makes on its community.



**Black River Independent School Committee**

**Alumni Support Efforts of Black River Independent School Committee**

It is early in Black River Independent School's campaign fundraiser but the non-profit group has been getting a warm response from alumni. BRISC has received donations from New Hampshire, Texas, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Minnesota. One person responded, "this is important" in reference to the effort of opening an Independent School in September 2020.

BRISC continues to seek input from the community. Weekly meetings are held every Thursday from 6:00-8 p.m. at the Black River High School library. Anyone with interest or expertise is encouraged to attend the meetings and to contribute to the work in progress. The group's current focus is to generate fundraising dollars for start-up and reserve funds to establish Black River Independent School. BRISC is seeking not only monetary support but also volunteers.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the Black River Independent School, please contact Sean Williams at [sean@blackriveris.org](mailto:sean@blackriveris.org) or Pat Pullinen at [patrick@blackriveris.org](mailto:patrick@blackriveris.org). General inquiries can be made to [TheSchool@blackriveris.org](mailto:TheSchool@blackriveris.org). Please visit our website [www.blackriveris.org](http://www.blackriveris.org). Donations can be made on the website or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 485, Ludlow, VT

**VOTE  
JEFF  
CHASE**



**For Mount Holly Select Board**

*He has extensive experience with:*

- Major project planning, budgeting and execution
- Working with Vermont regulatory agencies
- Working with local town governments
- Securing funding from state agencies
- Working on community improvement projects throughout Vermont
- Working with local citizen groups
- Working on improvement projects at the Mount Holly School (where his wife teaches and his children go to school)

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## You Can Make a Difference: Volunteer for Hospice

*Share your compassion and talents with patients and their families in your community*

At the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, volunteers play a critical role in enhancing the end-of-life experiences of people facing serious illness and their families. Volunteers represent all life experiences and are drawn to hospice for a variety of reasons, but the defining characteristics that unite them are compassion and the desire to help others. Their many skills are matched to important tasks within our mission.

### Does this sound like you?

The Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Southwest Region provides training for those interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Training will be held on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-8pm and Saturday, April 4 from 8am-4pm at the Rutland office at 7 Albert Cree Drive. Training is free and open to individuals 16 years of age and older. Pre-registration is required. Volunteers need to pass a background check. No previous hospice and health care experience is required.

Once training is complete, assignments and schedules are tailored to the volunteer's geographic and time commitment preferences.

### Training Topics include:

- Understanding the Hospice philosophy of care
- Knowing boundaries when interacting with patients and families
- Communicating with patients and families
- Understanding basic health and safety precautions
- Understanding patient confidentiality

### The Benefit of Becoming a Hospice Volunteer

While our volunteers make a tremendous impact on the lives of our patients, families and staff, we hear time and again that they, too, benefit from their hospice experiences. Among the things they mention are:

- Increased appreciation for living life in the moment and defining what is really important
- Greater knowledge and more inner peace about the end-of-life experience
- Greater insight about diversity and the different perspectives among cultures
- Heightened sense of fulfillment and pride because of their contributions to patients and families and to the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region.

For more information or to enroll call John at 802.770.1683 or email at [john.campbell@vnahtsr.org](mailto:john.campbell@vnahtsr.org)

### About the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region

Founded in Rutland, Vermont, the VNAHSTR has grown to include locations throughout Bennington and Rutland Counties. VNAHSTR is a non-profit, Medicare-certified home health and hospice agency delivering a wide range of advanced medical care with compassion, dependability, and expertise to people of all ages.

With office locations in Bennington, Dorset, Manchester, and Rutland, we have over 300 trusted health professionals and caregivers committed to providing exceptional care to patients and families.

Proud of our national reputation for quality care, VNAHSTR is highly rated for Quality of Patient Care and Patient Satisfaction from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is recognized as one of the nation's top performing home health agencies by HomeCare Elite, a market-leading review that identifies top Medicare-certified agencies.



## Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm Irish Band - EXTRA STOUT



### JUST IN TIME FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Extra Stout is the Green Mountains of Vermont's favorite traditional Irish band that has been playing together for upwards of twenty years. They bring all of the variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads of home and county; from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs and polkas. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. For more information, call the Town Administrator at (802)446-2872.

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The Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) provides telecommunications services to allow individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech disabilities to conduct official business with and within the federal government.

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Form D-467  
September 2018



## PHOTO WINNERS FOR THE 2021 MOUNT HOLLY CALENDAR

The public balloting every year to determine which photos from all the photos submitted to the annual Mount Holly Photo & Calendar Competition is an exciting highlight of Mount Holly's Cider Days celebration in October. (Some say, we won't say who, thinks it's the best part). The 2019 Cider Days competition was no exception. The weather was very agreeable, resulting in close to 300 people casting ballots for the photos they wanted to see in the 2021 calendar (v. 200 last year when the weather didn't cooperate). Once again, the competition to get into the calendar was fierce.

There were just so many exceptional entries to choose from. So, here, in alphabetical order by first name, are the winners of the public balloting for the 2021 calendar:

*"Play Ball"* by Aislynn Kelley

*"Serene Village"* by Breege Tomkinson

*"Where's My Carrot!"* by Christina Thomson

*"Reverence"* by Janis L. Brown

*"Flying High"* by Lisa Kelley

*"Spring Fury"* by Marcy Tanger

*"Tiny Hut Well Connected"* by Mathias Weiter

*"Backyard Quilts"* by Rebecca Zelis

*"After a Summer Evening Storm"* by Alexandra Yuster

*"Early Morning Light- Winter"* by Carol DeVine

*"Lake Ninevah Outflow"* by Gerald Rogell

*"#307, The Big Engine That Could"* by Jeff Chase

*"Bullfrog on Hedgehog Hill"* by Macy Karlowicz

*"Lilies on The Rocks"* by Mary Leonard

*"Lovely Lilacs with Morning Dew"* by Matteo Anderson

*"Celebration of Spring"* by Susan Covalla

You don't have to call them all excitedly to tell them they've won. They already know that. But you can call them to congratulate them.

In this issue of the *Chit Chat*, you can see all of the chosen photos. To view these photos in color, please go to [mounthollyvt.org/chit-chat/](http://mounthollyvt.org/chit-chat/), the online edition of the *Chit Chat*. So, congratulations to the photographers chosen for the 2021 calendar and thank you to everyone who participated, whether by submitting photos, by casting ballots, by judging, or by volunteering their time to help with the competition. And remember, there are many scenes out there in Mount Holly that have never been photographed and are just waiting to be taken for the 2022 calendar. So please take your Brownie Box Camera, your

Speed Graphex, your Hasselblad, your smartphone, or whatever you use to shoot photos, with you wherever you go in Mount Holly. Entry forms for this year's competition will be available as soon as someone get his or her act together, probably in June or July. You can start submitting your photos as soon as you fill out the entry forms, or, you can do what most people do, wait until the last second and overwhelm Sue Covalla, our Town Clerk, with entries. ***But don't wait until later to take your photos.*** Winter and spring in Mount Holly are just as beautiful as summer and fall. Mud and stick seasons, well, not so much. But if taking pictures of mud or sticks is your thing, go for it. Horizontal format photos are used in the calendar more than vertical formatted ones. Last year many excellent vertical format photos didn't make it into the calendar because usually only one vertical format photo is used.

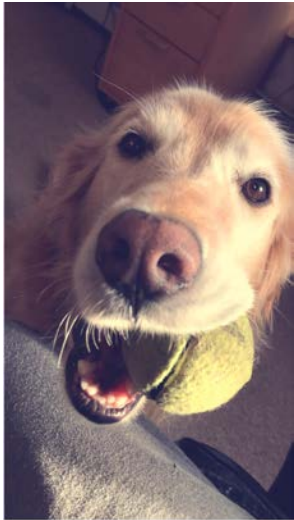
All the instructions you will need to submit a photo or three, including deadlines, you will find on the entry forms. ***Please use your best handwriting to fill out the forms!*** We don't have any code breakers at our disposal to figure out what you wrote. Other than that the *Chit Chat*, the *Newsflash* and the town bulletin boards will be the best sources for information about how to submit photos. Or you can request information at [mthollyphotos@gmail.com](mailto:mthollyphotos@gmail.com). It would be exciting to get an email from someone, anyone.

The competition is open to all residents and non-residents. The only rule is that all photos must be of Mount Holly. The 2021 calendar will go on sale this coming July at the ***Belmont Store***, the ***Town Offices*** and the ***Mount Holly Library***. Buy them early and often as the saying goes. They do sell out.

Sales of the calendar support the many activities of the Mount Holly Community Association. Buy them early and often as the saying goes. Oh, I think we already said that.

***The End***

P.S. Anyone who would like to help hand count ballots for the 2022 calendar next November please send a message to that effect to the email address above. Plan on devoting long hours to it.



***"Play Ball"***  
by Aislynn Kelley



***"Celebration of Spring"***  
by Susan Covalla



***"After a Summer Evening Storm"***  
by Alexandra Yuster



***"Serene Village"***  
by Breege Tomkinson





**"Early Morning Light- Winter"**  
by Carol DeVine



**"Where's My Carrot!"**  
by Christina Thomson



**"Lake Ninevah Outflow"**  
by Gerald Rogell



**"Reverence"**  
by Janis L. Brown



**"#307, the Big Engine that Could"**  
by Jeff Chase



**"Flying High"**  
by Lisa Kelley



**"Bullfrog on Hedgehog Hill"**  
by Macy Karlowicz



**"Spring Fury"**  
by Marcy Tanger



**"Lilies on the Rocks"**  
by Mary Leonard



**"Tiny Hut Well Connected"**  
by Mathias Weiter



**"Lovely Lilacs with Morning Dew"**  
by Matteo Anderson



**"Backyard Quilts"**  
by Rebecca Zelis



## Dear Fellow Townspeople,

I am writing to you all as a born and raised Mt. Holly native. As a child, teen and young adult I was raised to love our small town community and all the natural wonders it had to offer my family. Thus, when my husband and I were in the early stages of our careers and starting a family it only made sense that Mt. Holly would be where we would raise our two young children.

I love my home town and have come to love it even more as a mother, teacher and leader within our school's Parent Teacher Student Association.

With my love of our shared town also comes hopes and dreams for its future. I would like to share with you today my support of Jeff Chase as a candidate for our local Select Board. I have come to know Jeff over the past few years as an intelligent family-man with a genuine desire to help those around him. He is always willing to help out a neighbor in need; whether that means restoring and re-engineering the old Cider Days' press, sharing organic produce from his home garden or lending a hand to rebuild our school's baseball dugout. You can find Jeff leading a group of children on an adventure, tinkering in his workshop, boiling maple syrup with his children or swinging a hammer while doing home improvements with his wife. I have come to understand Jeff as an extremely hard working and honest man to whom I give my utmost respect.

I believe Jeff would be an asset to our town's sustainability and also its progressive growth. He has an extensive background in construction management in which he works as a leader to plan, coordinate, budget and engineer small and large scale projects. I, personally have seen Jeff work to create a plan of improvement for a construction task which included planning, engineering, communicating and budgeting tasks with great ease and high levels of skill and involvement which was a marvel to watch. Jeff possesses a natural ability to communicate with others in a respectful and problem solving manner. I have no doubt that he would work selflessly with all involved parties in any situation as a Select Board member.

I also believe Jeff would work seamlessly with our town's current infrastructure and departments. This would lead to improved sustainability for those families fortunate to call our wonderful town home, as well as those in search of a new home in Mt. Holly. In every conversation you have with Jeff, it is clear that he respects the values and traditions of Mt. Holly.

I know he has every intention of maintaining our town's integrity and providing a transparent town government in which all citizens can be heard equally and respectfully.

I encourage you to visit his website at <http://Jeffchase.org> to learn more about Jeff's commitment to our town.

Vote for Jeff Chase on March 3, 2020! Thank you for your consideration, Gail (Kaemmerlen) Campopiano



## NITKA'S NOTES FROM THE STATE HOUSE

By Senator Alice Nitka

Have you ever thought of joining the Vermont National Guard, Army or Air services? The Guard in a presentation to the Senate Appropriations Committee reported that they would like to recruit 200 new members for the Army branch and 300 for the Air branch. They are recruiting men and women and offer a scholarship program for educational tuition as an incentive to join. The tuition benefit is a relatively new program and was started in order to increase enrollment. Other states were offering it while Vermont was not, thus Vermonters were joining Guard Units in other states in order to take advantage of the scholarships. Now in Vermont, 60% of new enlistees to the Army Guard and 30% of those to the Air Guard report they enlisted due to the scholarships. It involves \$475,000 of General Fund money distributed through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. Public service announcements, social media and presence at forums and events are also being used to recruit. I believe the only two high schools with military programs in the state are Spaulding in Barre and North Country Union High School in Newport.

With the downsizing and changing needs of the military, there are fewer active Armories and many are now owned and in active use by local communities. Others have not fared as well and their fate is unknown. There are 22 Armories and more than 11,000 acres throughout the state to be maintained. There is federal and state money involved except for the two federal Armories that are fully federally funded. The Guard employs 933 person's full time and 2,365 part time. Their federal payroll is \$130 million. The Guard brought over \$204 million into the state of VT in Fiscal Year 2019.

The Air Guard reports a very busy year with the departure of the F-16 planes after 33 years of service. The F-35 aircrafts arrived and presently all pilots of the F-35s are in Florida training. They mentioned that they do have one female candidate for the F-35 school. (I don't know the rest of the gender ratio.) It was also reported that they have flown over one hundred flights to date with zero afterburner take-offs. The Air Guard Fire Department has also been busy responding to 254 mutual aid incidents, 8 in flight emergencies and 6 hazardous materials incidents. The mutual aid emergency responses were in 17 cities in Chittenden County.

The Office of Veterans' Affairs which has all the records of VT Veterans provides outreach to the 42,000 Veterans living in VT. They do invaluable work helping Veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled. They helped Veterans recover \$6.1 million in benefits in 2019. There are ongoing efforts to increase participation in the Burn Pit Registry that the Legislature established last year. The Guard has developed a mobile computer kiosk that will be at major events where armed forces members and Veterans are in attendance. Subject matter experts will be with the kiosk to assist with enrollment.

Feel free to contact me at the State House at 1-800-322-5616, on weekends at 802-228-8432 or [anitka@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:anitka@leg.state.vt.us) Letters are good too, PO Box 136, Ludlow, VT 05149-0136

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## My Son-in-Law is a Tightwad

Jeff Chase is running for a seat on the Mount Holly Select Board. He is my son-in-law so I might be a little biased in his favor. No, I'm a lot biased in his favor, but I have reason to be.

I could say a lot of nice stuff about Jeff, like how he's a tightwad with money (more about that later), but instead I'm going to talk about why Jeff is running for a seat on the Select Board. Jeff is a Civil Engineer and in the more than 10 years that he and my daughter have lived in Mount Holly, Jeff has worked on major community enhancement projects throughout the state, including right here in Mount Holly in 2015 when he oversaw the rebuilding of the Star Lake dam. He also oversaw the recent two-year, 20 million-dollar, Route 7 reconstruction project in Brandon that has modernized Brandon's downtown. (If you were stuck in traffic in Brandon while that project was going on you know how large and complicated a \$20 million project can be.)

Jeff is running for the Select Board seat because he has a passion for supporting community projects and operations and has the expertise to support that passion. Last year, in his own backyard, Jeff rebuilt the antique cider press that has been the central focus of Mount Holly's Cider Days celebration for many decades, and now will continue to be for decades to come.

As I said, Jeff is a Civil Engineer. His work as Senior Engineer and Project Manager for Casella Construction in Mendon has involved him in:

- Major Project Planning and Execution
- Budgeting for large and small projects
- Working with State of Vermont regulatory agencies
- Working with local town governments
- Securing funding from state agencies
- Working on community improvement projects throughout Rutland County and the State of Vermont
- Working with diverse groups of local citizens

Also...

- His wife teaches at the Mount Holly School and his children are in class there
- He has worked on various community projects at the school including helping to build the new baseball dugout.

Did I mention that Jeff is tight with money? Okay, maybe that's a bit harsh, but from experience I know that Jeff doesn't spend a dime he doesn't have to. But, doesn't that put him in good stead for working in town government where preserving taxpayer dollars is everything? As a member of the Mount Holly Board, Jeff would work with the other board members, with department staffs and with fellow Mount Hollyites to make sure that no money is spent that doesn't need to be spent, but at the same time making sure that town departments and agencies have the funds they need to operate effectively. It's his goal to be sure that Mount Holly stays affordable for everyone, while at the same time preserving those rural qualities that make the town a wonderful place to live.

So, see you at the Town Office polling station March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jeff will be there, standing outside in the (hopefully not too cold) March weather. If you haven't met him yet stop by and say hello. Craig Tomkinson, Mount Holly

## NIGHT OUT & FUNDRAISER

HOSTED BY THE MT HOLLY PTSA

Join the PTSA for this fun filled evening to fundraise for the Mt Holly Elementary School. Proceeds fund programs like 4 Winds, Trout in the Classroom, Artist in Residence, Ski school, Field Trips and more.

Live Auction  
Silent Auction

Items Available:

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Live Music  
Cash Bar

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**ODD FELLOWS HALL, BELMONT**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6PM**



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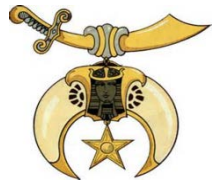




## Shriner Hospital For Children

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

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



**VNA & HOSPICE**  
of the Southwest Region  
Serving Bennington and Rutland Counties

## Community Health Clinics

### March Blood Pressure/Foot Care Clinics

Wednesday, 03/04/2020,	Wallingford, Wallingford House,	10:30am
Thursday, 03/05/2020,	Rutland, Parker House,	10am
Wednesday, 03/11/2020,	Rutland, Templewood Court,	10am
Wednesday, 03/18/2020,	Rutland, Sheldon Towers,	9am
Wednesday, 03/18/2020,	Rutland, Linden Terrace,	11am
Thursday, 03/19/2020,	Rutland, Maple Village,	10am
Wednesday, 03/25/2020,	Rutland, Godnick Adult Center,	12:30pm
Thursday, 03/26/2020,	North Clarendon, North Clarendon Community Center,	12:30pm



**The cost of the foot clinic is \$10. No appointment necessary. Please contact 800.244.0568 to find a clinic near you.**

**Cholesterol Screening:** Wednesday, 03/04/2020, Rutland, Rutland office of VNAHSR, 8:30am

**The cost is \$30. Call 800.244.0568 for more information.**

**Bereavement Support Meetings:** Every Tuesday at 6pm at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland.

**Call 800.244.0568 for more information. Bereavement support meetings are free and open to the public.**

**Ostomy Support Meeting:** The Vermont Ostomy support meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21st from 10:30 – noon at the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, 7 Albert Cree Drive. **For more information contact Kate Lawrence, MSN, RN, CWOCN, ET/WOC NURSE at 802.770.1682 or email [kate.lawrence@vnahsr.org](mailto:kate.lawrence@vnahsr.org).**



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

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

**Check here if you DO NOT wish to receive the Chit Chat \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Name .....

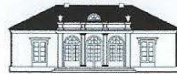
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News item deadlines are 6:00 am &  
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**For Sale:** Firewood –  
Delivered Or You Pick Up.  
Call 802-259-2147

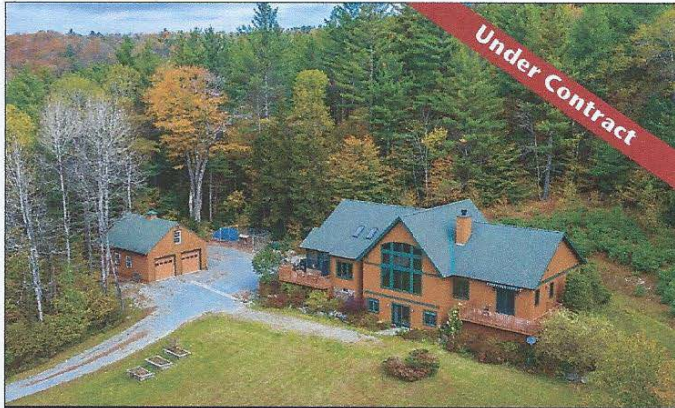




**ENGEL & VÖLKERS**  
Okemo

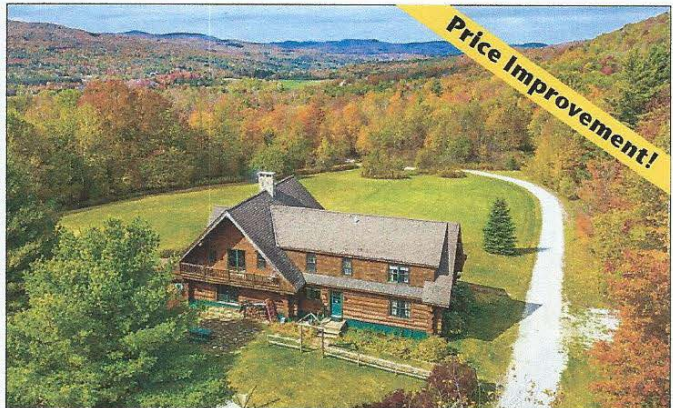


## Featured Properties



**MOUNT HOLLY**    **MLS: 4783123**    **\$599,000**

**First time on the market!** This Timber Creek Post and Beam Home has west-facing windows for fantastic sunsets over the Green Mountains. Three bedrooms and two bathrooms with partially finished lower level.



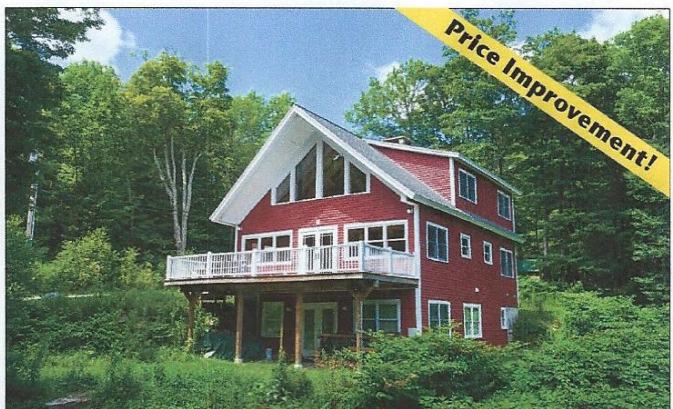
**MOUNT HOLLY**    **MLS: 4781021**    **\$599,000**

**"Scandinavian Scribed"** style rustic log home. The massive logs were hand-peeled and details include birch bark trim! The five bedrooms, four bathrooms and 50+ acres make this home a special Vermont retreat.



**WALLINGFORD**    **MLS: 4739441**    **\$429,000**

**1800's Farmhouse ALL Done For You!** The 3-bedroom main house features a large entry/mud room with many closets, lots of storage & a convenient wet bar. The updated kitchen was renovated with stainless appliances.



**MOUNT HOLLY**    **MLS: 4793865**    **\$449,500**

**"Fun times in Vermont"** Modern open floor plan with 3,000 square feet, three bedrooms plus lots of additional sleeping spaces in the sunny walkout basement. Minutes to Okemo and Lake Ninevah.

**Engel & Volkers Okemo**  
**126 Main Street, Ludlow, VT**  
**okemo.evrealstate.com • 802-975-0338**



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# Who's Got It Locally?

## Artists & Architects

Alistair McCallum Landscape Photographs & Paintings 259-2318  
Spectrum Photography – John Miller 259-3060

## Bakeries - Catering - Restaurants - Stores

Harry's Café, Trip & Deb Pearce III 228-2996  
Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward [mojocafevt@yahoo.com](mailto:mojocafevt@yahoo.com) 228-6656  
The Rustic Rooster – Donna & Greg Ganzer 492-3433  
[www.vtrusticrooster.com](http://www.vtrusticrooster.com)

## Bed & Breakfast

Clifford Country Bed & Breakfast [www.cliffordcountry.com](http://www.cliffordcountry.com) 259-2269

## Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling\*Building\*Portable Sawmilling 259-3699  
Cutting Edge Carpentry – Curt Marechoux Cell 236-5559  
Earl (Tersh) Runner Carpentry – Superior Woodworking 492-3388  
G & H Masonry – Jay Goraj [ghmasonryvermont@yahoo.com](mailto:ghmasonryvermont@yahoo.com) 259-2625  
[www.facebook.com/ghmasonry](http://www.facebook.com/ghmasonry)

Grey Goose Chimney Sweeps 492-3549  
Jenkins Builders – General Contractor [brandon@jenkinsbuild.com](mailto:brandon@jenkinsbuild.com) 952-9722  
Ted Stryhas Builder 228-7327  
Wright Construction – Brett Wright 259-2094

## Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 8 am & 11 am  
Holy Name of Mary, Proctorsville, Mass Sun 9:30 am  
Rev Thomas Mosher [abvmludlow@comcast.net](mailto:abvmludlow@comcast.net) 228-3451  
Belmont Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30  
Pastor Glenn Davis [vbch.weebly.com](http://vbch.weebly.com) 259-2440  
E. Wallingford Baptist – PS 9:15-10:00 am SS 10 am, Worship 11 am  
Pastor Kevin Miner 259-2831  
First Baptist Church, Wallingford, SS 11am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm  
Pastor Dave Bentley 446-2020  
Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11am & 3pm  
Until May 11am & 6pm 779-0300  
Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,  
11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS  
Pastor Jerry Scheumann [jfscheumann@gmail.com](mailto:jfscheumann@gmail.com) 603-439-0803  
St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 9 am  
Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois [christthekingprsh@gmail.com](mailto:christthekingprsh@gmail.com) 446-2161  
Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am  
Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 259-2803

## Engineering

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

## Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

Beardmore Excavating [beardmoreexc@gmail.com](mailto:beardmoreexc@gmail.com) 342-3507  
Flander's Excavating & Firewood 259-2147  
Norton's Property Management – Logging\*Land Clearing\*Snowplowing  
\*Brush Hogging\*Mowing & Care Taking 802-353-6289 Cell 259-3108  
Russ Garrow –Lawn Mowing\*Brush Hogging\*Garden Tilling\*Snow Plowing  
\*Care Taking 259-3167

## Farm Fresh Products

Plew Farm (meat, eggs, maple) [www.plewfarm.com](http://www.plewfarm.com) 802-259-2250  
1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly  
Smith Maple Crest Farm, Grass-Fed Beef Cuts Fresh/Frozen 492-2151  
[www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com](http://www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com)  
Sugar Hill Berry Farm [www.sugarhillberryfarm.com](http://www.sugarhillberryfarm.com) 259-2155

## Food Shelf

Black River Good Neighbor Services – Krey Kellington 228-3663

## Funeral Homes

Clifford Funeral Home 773-3010

## Garage, Repair & Wrecking

Belmont Motor Works LLC - Harley-Davidson, Small Engine 259-3178  
Snowmobile, ATV, Aluminum Welding & Metal Fabrication

## Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

Belmont Country Gardens Quality Custom Stonework & More 259-2364  
Frost Hill Farm Seasonal Peony Wedding Flowers 259-2716

Jeb Porter Landscaping [rocker@vermontel.net](mailto:rocker@vermontel.net) 259-3058  
Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 259-3964  
Noreen's Petals & Greens 236-8188  
Salt Ash Nursery - The Balsam Barn – Scott Crawford 259-2146

## 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 ~ Linda O'Brien MT 446-2499

## Home Management Services

Belmont Country Gardens Property Management 259-2364  
Mowing & Plowing Jon Lienhard  
Country Home Management, Richardson/Rivers 259-3662 228-7086  
Jenkins Builders [brandon@jenkinsbuild.com](mailto:brandon@jenkinsbuild.com) 952-9722  
Seiple's Property Management 802- 236-8104  
Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 259-3064

## Interior Design

Rose of Sharon Designs – Sharon Napier Design Consultant 860-214-3911

## Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 228-7151  
Plew Farm 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly [www.plewfarm.com](http://www.plewfarm.com) 259-2250  
Smith Maple Crest Farm [www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com](http://www.smithmaplecrestfarm.com) 492-2151

## Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc., Don Reiser H 259-2722 362-0501  
[print@expresscopyinc.com](mailto:print@expresscopyinc.com)

## Metal Fabrication

Wayne Jones Metal [www.waynejonesmetal.com](http://www.waynejonesmetal.com) 259-2521

## Mount Holly Email

Kevin Plew – [mthollynewsflash@gmail.com](mailto:mthollynewsflash@gmail.com) 259-2250

## Painters

MRS Unlimited Visions LLC Interior/Exterior Painting –Melissa 259-3989

## Plumbing & Heating

Master Plumbing & Heating Inc. 802-975-0369  
[masterplumbingheating@gmail.com](mailto:masterplumbingheating@gmail.com)  
Tailored Plumbing [tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com](mailto:tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com) 802-417-1647

## Real Estate Sales

Coldwell Banker Lifestyles, [fellison@cblifestylesre.com](mailto:fellison@cblifestylesre.com) 228-5678  
Frank Ellison Real Estate H 228-4011 - Cell 802-345-3766  
John Napier [jnapier@cblifestylesre.com](mailto:jnapier@cblifestylesre.com) 860-559-9334  
Engel & Volkers, Okemo - Woodstock Gail Beardmore 802-975-0338  
[Gail.Beardmore@evusa.com](mailto:Gail.Beardmore@evusa.com) (Mobile) 802-236-5431  
Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Broker/Owner H 259-2646 228-5333  
[Don@KelleyRealEstate.com](mailto:Don@KelleyRealEstate.com)

Alex Eatmon [Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com](mailto:Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com) Cell 802-345-7886  
Lisa Kelley [Lisa@KelleyRealEstate.com](mailto:Lisa@KelleyRealEstate.com) H 259-3112 Cell 802-345-6581  
Ty Murray [Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com](mailto:Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com) H 259-3014 Cell 802-777-8047  
Fax 802-228-5343 [www.KelleyRealEstate.com](http://www.KelleyRealEstate.com) [www.OkemoValley.com](http://www.OkemoValley.com)

## Roofing

Buddy System Roofing Contct Buddy 259-3989  
New Roofs/Roof Repairs & Replacement – Slate/Wood/Asphalt/Metal

## Security

Countryside Alarms – Mike Blais [www.countrysidealarms.com](http://www.countrysidealarms.com) 259-2213

## Septic System Design

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

## Therapeutic Riding

Rienbow Riding Center Home 259-2282 Barn 492-2226

## Tree Services

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

## Volunteer Services

Belmont/Mt. Holly Food Co-op, Tanger H 259-2344 W 259-2899  
Black River Good Neighbor Service 228-3663

## Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking [ccw@vermontel.net](mailto:ccw@vermontel.net) 259-3232  
[www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com](http://www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com)  
Stone Creek Workshops [www.stonecreekworkshops.com](http://www.stonecreekworkshops.com) 259-2254



# HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Mount Holly Constable & Animal Control  
Officer  
Contact Information  
Phone/Test: 802-353-8347 (24 hours)  
Email: [pfaenza47@yahoo.com](mailto:pfaenza47@yahoo.com)