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Mt. Holly, VT 05758



Mount Holly Chit Chat

46/2

April 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 Sat & Sun 2 – 4 pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org

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

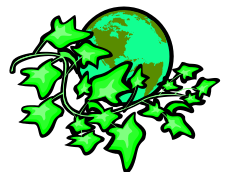
Town Lister Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

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 Spring/Summer Hours Start Wednesday April 1st, 4 pm – 7 pm

	1 st		<i>All Fools' Day</i>	
	2 nd	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	<i>Hans Christian Anderson 1805</i>	7:00 pm
	3 rd		<i>Washington Irving 1856</i>	
Sat	4 th		<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Assassinated 1968 ~ NATO Est. 1949</i>	
Sun	5 th		<i>Booker T. Washington 1856</i>	
	6 th		<i>Persian Gulf War Ends 1991</i>	
	7 th	Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library	<i>Metris System 1795</i>	7:00 pm
	8 th	LMHUUS Meeting, BRHS		6:00 pm
		Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting, Belmont Fire Station		7:00 pm
		ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		7:00 pm
	9 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	<i>Civil War Ends 1865</i>	7:00 pm
Sat	11 th		<i>Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire 1991</i>	
Sun	12 th		<i>EASTER</i>	
	13 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	<i>Thomas Jefferson 1743</i>	7:00 pm
	14 th	Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School Cancelled While School is Closed		4:30 pm
		Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	<i>Pan-American Day</i>	9:00 am
		Select Board Meeting, Town Office	<i>Titanic Struck Iceberg 1912</i>	6:00 pm
	15 th	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	<i>Leonardo Da Vinci 1452</i>	6:30 pm
			<i>America's 1st School For Deaf Founded 1817 ~ Titanic Sank 1912</i>	
	16 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	<i>Wilbur Wright 1867</i>	7:00 pm
Sat	18 th		<i>Midnight Ride of Paul Revere 1775</i>	
Sun	19 th		<i>Muskrat Season Ends ~ Revolutionary War Began 1775</i>	
	20 th	Mount Holly Planning Commission, Town Office		7:00 pm
	22 nd	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	<i>Professional Secretaries Day ~ Earth Day</i>	7:00 pm
	23 rd	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	<i>William Shakespeare b&d 1564-1616</i>	7:00 pm
	24 th		<i>Snow Goose permit required Season Ends ~ Arbor Day 1872</i>	
Sat	25 th		<i>Youth Weekend Turkey Hunt Begins</i>	
Sun	26 th		<i>Youth Weekend Turkey Hunt Ends ~ John James Audubon 1785</i>	
	27 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	<i>Ulysses S. Grant 18th President 1822</i>	7:00 pm
	28 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	<i>James Monroe 5th President 1758</i>	9:00 am
	29 th		<i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i>	
	30 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	<i>Vietnam War Ends 1975</i>	7:00 pm



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 Check out Mt. Holly Web Site www.mounthollyvt.org

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

Donation Thank Yous: Rhonda Rivers & Don Richardson (Country Home Management of Vermont) * Donna & Greg Ganzer (The Rustic Rooster) * Mary Ann (Lord) Merkle * Gary Skidmore (Northeast Chimney Service) * Mary & Jeff Smith (Smith Maple Crest Farm) * Sara & Scott Merenda * Zena & Robert Gates *



April Birthdays: 1st - John Seward 3rd - Samantha Freedman 4th - Carol Pike 5th - Amanda Surething 8th - Bob Garrow * Jeff Carrara 9th - Eliza Hudak * TJ Milks 12th - Jean Palmer * Carlos Bickford * Tobi Macey 14th - Mallary Flanders * Melissa Garrow 16th - Paul Paul * Jamie Carrara 17th - Noah Koponen 18th - Robyn Lewis * Todd Bussino Sr 21st - Alaxander Bussino * Melissa Perry 24th - Vincent Turco * Eric Holt Jr * Eric Holt Sr * Beverly Stearns * Randy Hawkins 25th - Jeff Keller 26th - Nicolas Turco * Samantha Norton * John Puro 27th - Mary Ellen Jacobs 28th - Danielle McMahon * Lisa Hendee 29th - Cassie Wilkins * Michael Ely * Ian D.F. Miller



April Anniversaries: 16th - Dick & Nancy Tilton 18th - Randy & Tammy Hawkins

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

Local Post Office Hours

Mount Holly		802-259-2796
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
Belmont		802-259-2790
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
East Wallingford		802-259-2829
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours: Mon – Fri		7:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury		802-492-3585
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
	Sat	7:30 am – 11:00 am
Ludlow		802-228-7436
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



April 11th, 1947 ~ Jackie Robinson first African-American Major League Baseball player first base for Brooklyn Dodgers.

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 22nd By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to chitchat@vermontel.net or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **Phone 802-259-2314.** E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries, 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.
Business Card:	\$15	\$40	\$75	\$115	\$150
Quarter Page:	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
Third Page:	\$45	\$125	\$225	\$350	\$450
Half Page:	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$750
Full Page:	\$125	\$325	\$625	\$1025	\$1250

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

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

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

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

The Annual Membership meeting is held on the 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.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh



GIFT from the SEA

50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION
With a new introduction by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Mount Holly Library Reading Group

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8th at 6pm at the home of Susie Hamilton. We will be discussing, *Gift From the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Please call Donna at 259-2730 if you have any questions.

Mount Holly Library

The Library would like to thank everyone in Mount Holly for your continued support of our library. Remember that this is your library, so please give us your suggestions, ideas, book recommendations.

Don't forget that we have kids, mens and womens snowshoes available for check out. So - before the little bit of snow we have gotten this winter is gone, come in a check out some snowshoes.

Below is a list of some new titles that have just hit our shelves:

A Novel Bookstore by Laurence Coss
The Grammarians by Cathleen Schine
The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich
The Warsaw Protocol by Steve Berry
The Boy From the Woods by Harlan Coben
Long Range by C. J. Box
Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving by Mo Rocca

The River by Peter Heller
A Reasonable Doubt by Phillip Margolin
Trace Elements by Donna Leon
What the Wind Knows by Amy Harmon
The Numbers Game by Danielle Steel
Six Seasons: A New Way With Vegetables by Joshua McFadden
Garcia: An American Life by Blair Jackson



If we don't have something you are interested in reading, please let us know. We participate in a state wide lending cooperative, and we may be able to borrow it from another library.

The Mount Holly Town Library is currently closed as of March 18th. We will remain closed until further notice. However, you can still use your library card to access services from your library. Visit our website at <https://mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com> click on the "Services" tab at the top of the page. As you scroll down, you will

*** Hall Rental in Belmont ***

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

see links to thousands of ebooks and audiobooks at <http://vermontstate.rbdigital.com> In addition, there is a link to over 500 online non college credit classes at <http://vermontstate.universalclass.com> To use either one of these services you will need to register and provide them with your barcode number (library card number). The library will be happy to send you this information via email. We check and send barcodes m-f once per day while we are closed. Please do not use the library book drop during the closure period. Books left in there can get damp. We do not charge fines for overdue material so please just hold on to your material until things get back to regular service again. Joe Galbraith, Library Director, Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT 05730 802.259.3707 **Don't forget to follow us on Facebook! (@mthollytownlibrary)**

Library Hours:

Monday 10am - 6pm

Tuesday 9am - 1pm

Wednesday 2pm - 6pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

Sunday 2pm - 4pm



Silent and Live Auction Postponed

Will reschedule for a later date at Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont Vermont

Hold your bids for now on these amazing items including local business items, gift certificates, handcrafted furniture, local artisan and craft items, vacation rentals to near and far.

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. We will let you know when this event can be rescheduled.

Mount Holly School Food Pick Up

School food pick up is daily 7:30 - 9:30 am at school just drive up do not leave car.

SCHOOLS - TRSU

The TRSU has closed all schools in the district, including Mount Holly Elementary School, until further notice. Please visit <https://www.trsu.org.schools.covid-19> for more information.

Please also follow the responses by the State of Vermont <http://www.healthvermont.gov/> and the Federal Government <http://ssscdc.gov> Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we navigate through this pandemic together with the continued good health of our community as our primary concern.

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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 30, 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> (male and female)	=	\$11.00
<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.

You may also register your dog through the mail by including a copy of the rabies certificate or you can call to see if I already have it on file and a check for the correct amount. I will be happy to mail the license back to you! Please note the date to register dogs without a penalty has been changed to April 30, 2020

Susan Covalla, Mount Holly Town Clerk

Mt. Moriah Lodge Trestleboard
Next meeting Tuesday 4/07 8 PM

Sap Bucket Saturday 4/04th 10:30 AM

Greetings Brothers,

This is our ANNUAL MEETING and we will be acknowledging who our officers are and what chair they will be filling for the ensuing year.

The Sap Bucket Degree will be held on Saturday, April 4th beginning at 10:30 AM at King Solomon's Temple Lodge 45 in Bellows Falls. \$10 .00 per person for the 12PM lunch. If attending, you need to respond by 3/28/2020 to Roger Adams, at: RandBAdams@yahoo.com or 802-875-5038.

I have had some difficulty printing this year's dues notices. When you receive your notice please send your payment to Buster Seward, 4280 Sugar Hill Rd. East Wallingford, Vt. 05742. Fraternally, Earl Miller W.M. -

Buster Seward Sec'y

YANKEE HOME MANAGEMENT



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and Maintenance

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802-259-3064

MT. HOLLY, VT

Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT

Notice: All invited Mechanicsville Cemetery

Monthly Volunteer clean up schedule;

1st Tuesday of each month

May 5, 6 pm June 2, 8 am

July 7, 6 pm Aug 4, 8 am

Sept 1, 6 pm

Please bring tools for the job



Senior Stars Luncheon at Harry's Café

The last luncheon for this season took place on March 12th. For some who had concerns about being in a large group, Deb and Trip prepared meals to go. They have been so good to the seniors in this community, we can't thank them enough.

Hoping we'll be able to gather together again when the next December rolls around. Meanwhile, until this pandemic passes, stay home, stay safe, be well.

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

**Has been postponed from
Its originally scheduled date of
April 4, 2020**

We are hoping that we will
Be able to re-schedule
In a couple of months.

Tune in to the Chit Chat for
Future possible dates.

Be well everyone & stay safe!!

Mount Holly Community Association

The Mount Holly Community Association would like everyone to know that we are here to help in any way we can in these difficult times. Mary Alberty and Kevin Hollebeek initiated an effort to help those in need in the town. Mary coordinated with April at the Belmont Store to have a list of volunteers, who will assist any community members who need help. The box announcement on this page explains how this would work, if one needed supplies from the store. Those volunteers are also available for other errands, e.g., if you need a prescription, or other provisions, picked up in Rutland, or Ludlow, they would be happy to help. (You can contact Carol DeVine 259-2562 or cgosedevine@yahoo.com and she will arrange for a volunteer.) Please let us know if there are other things that would be of assistance to you and we will try to coordinate it. Be well everyone and stay safe.

As I am sure you would expect, the **Spring Mud Fling** has been postponed. Originally scheduled for Saturday, April 4, we are hoping that things will ease up a bit, so it can be re-scheduled for some time in May or June. It will no longer be a "Mud Fling", but it will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come out of sheltering at home to enjoy one another and this great community. We will let you know in future Chit Chats and in the Newsflash how things develop.

In advance: despite the fact that we don't know when we will be "out of the woods" with the coronavirus, we at the MHCA are still doing the work to plan for this year's **Garden Tour**. The Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 18, and we are currently soliciting the interest of Mount Holly gardeners in putting their gardens on the tour. We usually have eight gardens and we look for a wide range...formal and manicured to wild and rambling. If you would like to exhibit your garden, or just volunteer to help organize in other ways, please contact Linda Miller at lindaddmiller@gmail.com who is in charge of the tour this year. We are certainly hoping that there will be no need to postpone this event as well, but we will keep you posted. In the meantime, please let us know if you would be willing to put your garden on the tour. Thanks so much!

Once again, **membership in the MHCA** for this past year was very strong and we are pleased to say that each year gets better and better. In order for the MHCA to sponsor a dozen events throughout the year and to maintain the beautiful historic building that houses the Library and the Community Room, it is essential that this membership stay strong. It is the major portion of our operating budget and we cannot do it without you! To clarify the duration of the membership year...each year's membership runs from July 1st to June 30th, so you can expect to hear from us again in June! Thank you all and special thanks to Kathy Stone, the Membership Chair, for all of her hard work this year!

The entire Board of Directors of the MHCA, wishes each of you good health and hope that the reassurance that you live in such a supportive community will bring us all through these very difficult months.

Coming Together to Help Each Other!!

Thank You Belmont Store and Community Volunteers.

If someone needs something in Rutland, contact Carol DeVine cgosedevine@yahoo.com or 259-2562 & she will arrange a volunteer to help get you what you need.

Dear Residents of Mount Holly,

In light of the current situation, if you, or any of your neighbors/friends/family have any anxiety about venturing out to get grocery staples for your home, there is a list of delivery volunteers at the Belmont General Store.

Please feel free to call the Belmont Store (802) 259-2292 Mon-Sat 8a-4p, Sun 9-1, to place an order and have items delivered to your home.

Please note:

*Orders may not be taken as soon as you call. Depending on the number of staff at the store, and peak times, the associate may be required to take your name/phone # and call you back when it is convenient to

take your grocery order.

*Please use a credit/debit card to process your grocery order over the phone. You will only be charged for the items purchased, as the delivery will be provided by neighborhood volunteers.

*Orders cannot include Alcohol or Tobacco due to liability.

*At this time, we are only offering Grocery delivery, and not delivery of Deli Items (due to the volunteer nature of delivery drivers).

Please feel free to call the General Store with any questions you may have. Sincerely, April

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

259-3060



Smokey comes out of retirement to give the Easter Bunny a lift to your front door.

programs@reinbowridingcenter.org or call us at 802-236-2483 and we will email or send you the paperwork you need. Our address is P. O. Box 395, Shrewsbury, VT 05738.

Mount Holly Snow Flyers

There's not much to say about the short season we had, Mother Nature threw us all a curve this winter. We were able to get out and groom with the Tucker a few times, once we had some base to work with. The snow was pretty good once you got up in elevation - Salt Ash & Shrewsbury were really good once you got up there. The trail closure in Plymouth was a major blow to anyone heading north to Bridgewater & beyond. Both clubs are actively trying to find a way around the closed trail. We'd like to THANK all the Landowners who allow us to travel on their property. The club would also like to THANK all those who Volunteered their time helping us get the trails cleaned up & ready for the season - it may have been a short season - but our trails were in good shape.

The club wouldn't exist if it wasn't for those who purchase their TMA's from us - the club dues are used to help pay for the cost of the Tucker, fuel, & other equipment needed. As we look to next year not only do we appreciate all the Landowner's, Member's, & Volunteer's - but especially those Who Donate Item's to Cider Days & Monetarily to the Club - your generosity is appreciated. Have a Good Summer - Stay Well & Wish For SNOW next season. Mount Holly Snow Flyers www.mounthollysnowflyers.org



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Even the Easter Bunny Needs a Little Help

With spring here, Reinbow Riding Center usually turns its thoughts to getting ready for the upcoming riding season that generally starts in May, but might start a little later this year. Still, while we wait, the horses are happy the days are longer and once the snow is gone the grass will begin to green and it will be time to ride.

Although we have not set any dates for the start of our lessons and our annual Volunteer Open House and Orientation, anyone that would like to volunteer is urged to either go on-line and download a volunteer application to fill out and email or mail to us so you can be ready to get started.

Anyone that wants to participate in the program should also go on-line and download our participant application and paperwork and get it back to us.

If you can't obtain the paperwork from our website: reinbowridingcenter.org, email

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East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521

TWO SEWING BY HAZEL HALL

The Wind is sewing with needles of rain.
With shining needles of rain
It stitches into the thin
Cloth of earth. In,
In, in, in.
Oh, the wind has often sewed with me.
One, two, three.

Spring must have fine things
To wear like other springs.
Of silken green the grass must be
Embroidered. *One and two and three.*
Then every crocus must be made
So subtly as to seem afraid
Of lifting colour from the ground;
And after crocuses the round
Heads of tulips, and all the fair
Intricate garb that Spring will wear.
The wind must sew with needles of rain,
With shining needles of rain,
Stitching into the thin
Cloth of earth, in,
In, in, in,
For all the springs of futurity.
One, two, three.

Large Houses on Star Lake

The photograph in the March issue was a postcard created and sold by Postmaster Howland Marshall. The two larger buildings were part of the 130-acre farm that belonged to George Meads. By the time this photograph was taken he also operated a summer rental business called Shore Acres. A fire, in May 1924, destroyed the main house with the wrap around porch. He was left with a barn behind his house and the large two-story rental building to the right.

In the late 1940s William Lienhard, Sr. and his wife purchased what was left and operated a summer program for teenage boys for about 15 years. It was named Camp Windsor and they taught outdoor skills. This building locally called the



several rooming houses that were used to board workers from the Chase Toy Factory during the week until it closed in 1889. Some of the owners decided to petition to change the name of the Village to Belmont to advertise better down country. So, on September 2nd, 1911 the Village was renamed Belmont and about the same time Jackson's Pond became Star Lake. They also had to petition the federal government to change the name of the post office.

The museum has many photographs in its collection of the buildings that include a couple taken right after the 1924 fire.

Boys Camp burned down about 20 years ago. We have a part-time resident that attended the camp, and another that worked there as a counselor.

The smaller buildings to the left and the boathouse at the edge of the lake were owned by the White family who rented rooms at what was known as Lake View Cottage. The upper floor of the boathouse was used as a dance hall in the summer. The windmill pumped lake water to the main house.

In the early 1900s our area was growing as a tourist destination for summer visitors. The railroad made it easy to travel from the larger cities. Mechanicsville Village already had



What can you tell us about this picture? Please send email to 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.or

Odd Fellow Hall Spring Cleaning

All Are Invited

Saturday April 18th
9 am – 12 Noon

Many hands make light work

Dear VAST Members.

We are truly in an unprecedented time right now as we all try to navigate the hourly changes in our lives because of COVID-19. Overall, what is important is to keep yourself safe and healthy by practicing social distancing if you are out and staying home if you can. If you are able, check on family and elderly friends by calling them.

While our trails are still open in a few regions of the state, we urge you to ride only if you can drive to the location you plan to start from by yourself. Please do not carpool. Even though snowmobiling is a social sport, this is a time to practice caution while recreating, whether that is snowmobiling, taking a walk, a hike or bike ride. The Department of Parks and Recreation is putting out a notice about social distancing and trail recreation as well. If cautionary measures are not followed by those recreating, there may also be a mandate from the state to close all trails until further notice.

As those of us in Vermont know, all restaurants and bars are now closed except for take-out at some locations. This is going to severely affect those businesses, so please consider buying gift certificates to help them through this time.

If you live outside of Vermont and think you may want to come here to be safe from COVID-19, COVID-19 is already here too. You have just as much of a chance to get it here as you do in your own hometown. Many of those that have been diagnosed in Vermont thought they would be safe by coming here to stay in their second homes and some are now hospitalized here away from their families. We are in the same boat here as you are in other states. Our schools, restaurants (as mentioned above), daycares and ski areas have all now closed.

Be aware that Canada and the USA have now shut down the boarder except for essential travel, so don't plan to head to Canada to snowmobile either.

As for any VAST meetings: All meetings are cancelled for VAST staff, committees and board of directors. We do have a way to hold virtual meetings and we are beginning to do that. To clubs: do not send your TMAs to the VAST office right now. When we are ready to receive them, we will send out a notice. If you want to drop them off, call or email first so we can make sure someone is there to meet you. Clubs should also be canceling any meetings or gatherings. Vermont Governor Phil Scott has said that no meetings over 50 people should be taking place, and we expect that number to drop significantly soon.

Please be aware of your surroundings at all times and if you can, eat healthy and get outside to get some fresh air, while still practicing social distancing. If we can all stick to committing to stay away from each other and not going out if we are sick, we will get through this sooner and better as our leaders are advising us. Hopefully this will all be over soon, and we will be back to normal. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you! **Thank You, Vermont Association of Snow Travelers. 26 Vast Lane | Barre, Vermont 05641 Direct (802) 229-0005 Facebook.com/vtvast**

Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department

Dear Mount Holly Property Owners,

As we enter 2020, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that fire safety needs to be continuous effort for all of us. Smoke detectors are a great lifesaving tool when properly maintained. When was the last time you replaced the batteries in you smoke detector or performed a fire drill? For those of you who have wood or pellet stoves, have you had your chimney cleaned? Chimney fires often lead to structure fires. Please maintain your driveway entrance by cutting back brush or trees; and by removing snow during winter months to ensure that your driveway is wide enough to allow emergency vehicles access to your home. Finally, are your 911 numbers posted by the road and visible from both directions?

We strive to be the very best rural fire department in Vermont. Your continued support has made it possible for us to provide a high level of protection for our town.

Contributions continue to be extremely important for our department. Our dedicated volunteers need to be outfitted with costly safety equipment.

We respond to all chimney, structure, vehicle, brush and grass fires as well as to vehicle crashes and numerous other safety issues in our town. Your contributions in past years have enabled us to purchase an updated radio system, rescue equipment for our off-road vehicle; which has proven invaluable during snowmobile and hiking rescue operations. Funds have also been used to provide Firefighter Level One, Hazmat and extrication technical training for our members.

This year we are asking for funds to replace a thermal imaging unit and gas meter, as well as several miscellaneous hand tools. We also need to update our portable radios and purchase protective gear for our new members. We are very fortunate to have a growing cadre of Junior Firefighters who volunteer their time to serve the Mount Holly Community. We were very grateful for the SCBA tanks and masks we were able to purchase last year. This equipment is vital for the protection of our firefighters.

With all this in mind we are asking you to consider making a monetary donation to your fire department. All contributions will be used directly to improve firefighting operations and are tax deductible.

The cooperation and consideration extended by the entire town to the fire department are much appreciated. We look forward to serving you and thank you again for your continued support. Sincerely, Members of the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department

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Live Streamed Mass and other Parish Offerings during Coronavirus

Rutland-Wallingford Catholic Community

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Today is Saturday, March 21, and we are on day #2 of no Masses or any other activity on our church properties. It feels a bit like a ghost town, and I expect to see tumbleweed in the wind as one would see in an old western. Thankfully, it also has a monastic feel to it. Monasteries are oases of quiet and silence that lead to solitude with God. I hope you're finding some of that solitude in the days that are before us. So this is what we're up to as your parish priests in order to help you in these moments. Most of our ministry, of course, has moved online. Here are some of the highlights:

1. There will be a live streamed Mass tomorrow at 10 AM. It will be live on my Facebook page (Bernard Bourgeois). After the Mass has finished, we then will post it to our website, www.rwcatholic.org, and from there it can be viewed anytime, just not live. If you wish to follow along the readings, look for them at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/032220.cfm>. This will be our first attempt at this, so please be patient with us! Due to the live streamed Mass, we will not be posting reflections on the readings for tomorrow. This whole idea I am sure will evolve over time.
2. I am producing a series on the Way of the Cross, short videos and reflections on each station. Stations 1 and 2 are done, and are posted on our website as well, and my Facebook page.
3. Fr. Matthew is also producing a video series instructing us on various symbols in our churches. Those too are on the website.
4. Bishop Coyne asked us to put a candle in front of the Blessed Mother as a Vigil for those who are sick with the virus or are on the front lines of fighting it. We did that in Christ the King as that church is open all day. I hope you take time to stop in and pray sometime on your own. Pray the Rosary or just sit in the presence of God.
5. I have put a prayer list of names in front of the statue of Mary in which you are invited to write the names of those in the following categories: Those who are sick with Coronavirus, those who are caring for someone with Coronavirus, those who are quarantined due to Coronavirus, those who care for Coronavirus patients as healthcare workers, those who work as public health officers to help overcome the spread of the disease, those who keep us supplied with food, medicine or supplies during this time and thus cannot work from home, and finally any who are connected with the disease and are in need of our prayers. You are welcome to suggest names to include on that list. You might write them in yourself if you visit Christ the King or reply to this email with names and I will write them in. In your prayers, remember those whose names are listed on our prayer list.

Mount Holly Elementary School

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Monday, May 4th, 2020

3:15—4:15 p.m.

By Appointment

rayelin.collins@trsu.org



For children who will be 5 years old
on or before August 31, 2020

Please bring the following:

1. A birth certificate
2. All immunization records

Children please come explore the Classroom.

Parents : Please plan to spend time completing
registration forms.



*Preschool students will also be visiting
Kindergarten periodically throughout the spring.*

Mount Holly Elementary School

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Friday, May 15, 2020

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

By Appointment

rayelin.collins@trsu.org

For children who will be 3 years old
on or before August 31, 2020

Please bring the following:

1. A birth certificate
2. All immunization records

Children : Please come explore the Classroom.

Parents : Please plan to spend time completing
the registration forms.

6. Finally, our bulletin with my weekly letter is available on our website, <https://www.rwcatholic.org/bulletins>. Please note that much of the information is not accurate, like Masses and meetings. Remember, everything is canceled.
7. Please don't forget us in your charitable giving. You may drop off your envelopes or contributions or mail them into us. We are a collection based operation, so when you're not here and don't give, your parish misses out. Like everyone else, our budgets are tight. We are working on a simple online giving option. More on that later. Thanks for your generosity!

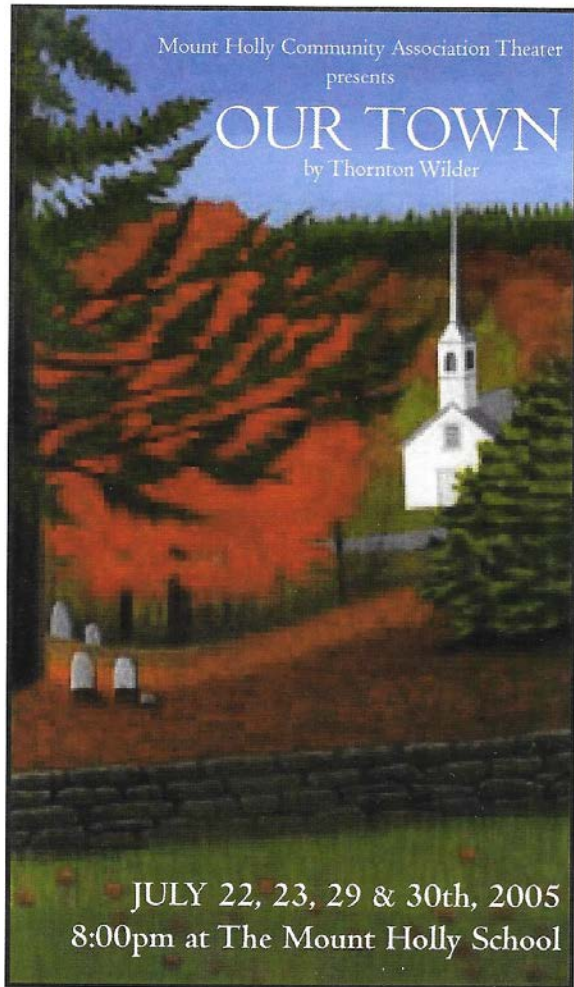
These ideas are to get us started. I am sure over the next few days and weeks more ideas will emerge, so stay tuned!

I know not everyone has access to Facebook or our website. We will be doing a parish mailing this week outlining what's above. Masses and other religious programming can be found on TV at EWTN and at www.vermontcatholic.org.

Stay healthy, be well, and stay away from others. Let's work together to eradicate the spread of this disease. Please know that Fr. Matthew and I are praying for you at our private daily Masses. Please pray for us as well. Peace, Fr. Bernie

Do It Now

Do you recall when numerous townsfolk appeared in the 2005 production of Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town*? Many of us think back fondly on that bi-partisan accomplishment. Could we do something similar in "our town" in these crazy, unprecedented times? That play actually speaks to us *all* through the main character, Emily; who discovers the joy of being fully alive too late. After she's dead, she pleads with the spirits to allow her to return and look in on one day of her life, one last time. She picks her 12th birthday.



Emily is more than dismayed as she recognizes how little the people she loves really comprehend the joys of life or experience them with any depth of awareness. She cries out to be taken away, to not have to watch any more of their inattention to the preciousness of life. Her parting words are poignant: "It goes so fast. We don't have time to look at one another. I didn't realize. So all that was going on and we never noticed...Wait! Good-bye world. Good-bye, Grovers' Corners ...Mama and Papa, Good-bye to clocks ticking ...and Mama's sunflowers, and food and coffee ...and hot baths...sleeping and waking up. O earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you." She stoops, hesitates, and asks with tears in her eyes, "Does anybody ever *realize* life while they live it...every minute?"

That's a very good question. In these extended days of self-quarantine and economic freefall, almost everybody shares similar emotions -fear, anger, and frustration. Just as 9/11 was a wakeup call that changed everything, this too will alter life as we knew it. We can ask in that spirit of unity, "What can I do to help make a difference? How can I serve others...within or outside my home?" We all have the potential to do the opposite and become selfish and demanding. A clerk in Ludlow stated, "You wouldn't believe how vicious people can get when you tell them they can only buy one package of toilet paper, cursing and arguing." It is tough to watch politicians staking out stands in response to the

applause meter, not logic. Jars of Clay, wrote a prophetic song that says, "We need a Hero. Save us from ourselves."

Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit for just such times as these. Our hero is trying to make us more alive every day. To help us look beyond ourselves. To help us approach each other and our communities with empathy and kindness. Obviously, we want to abide by the restrictions to slow this pandemic down but we also refuse to live in fear. We'd rather move toward this thing with a courageous spirit that offers help especially to the anxious and vulnerable. For example, make phone calls to combat loneliness for people at home, in nursing homes and prisons. We need to have a healthy skepticism of both naysayers and doomsayers; there's no way to know how or when this will end. Here's where we have to trust God, not *test* Him, but patiently *trust* He has a plan, tho' we do not. Quit blaming the government for doing too much or too little. Each of us can do a lot to help. Keep your *distance* from your neighbor yes, but use this time to draw *close* to God. Pray for our leaders...local and national. Let's *grow* rather than *groan* through this. One mark of spiritual growth is an expanding awareness of the glories of our everyday experience --a growing sense of how *precious* the ordinary really is, right here in Our Town.

In the joyful expectation of resurrection, *Pastor G.* (Dail-a-Prayer at the church at 259-2959)

In light of the recent social distancing restrictions Village Baptist Church is suspending church services until further notice. Our church bell will be rung periodically as a reminder to pray for the sick, medical and service workers and our leaders.

Pastor Glenn is available for counsel or prayer with anyone who is experiencing anxiety or other issues. (259-2440)

A Dial -A-Prayer message is available on the church phone (259-2529). With the help of the Almighty we shall get through this together. Pastor Glenn Davis



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Fletcher Memorial Library Is CLOSED Until April 6th or TBD

(Wash Your Hands - Incessantly)
Be Safe — Stay Healthy



Staff will be here working on projects half-day. If you would like to request items:

- PLEASE check out our On-line Catalog. If there are items you would like, give us a call, we will place the hold(s)
- You will receive an email or phone call when your items are ready for pick-up at the REAR door. Movies & Audio books too!
- This is a GREAT time to familiarize yourself with our On-line offerings of downloadable Audio and E-books, Ancestry Research, take a fun Course and learn something new or Search our many Knowledge Bases.

802-228-8921

WWW.FMLNEWS.ORG



Thank You for Your Cooperation.



NITKA'S NOTES FROM THE STATE HOUSE

By Senator Alice Nitka

Town Meetings were a popular place to be last week and I was fortunate to be able to attend several. Aside from budgets, purchases of heavy equipment, climate change and whether to switch from “floor” votes to Australian ballots, two other matters were popular. Advisory votes were discussed at length and taken re having a local options tax on recreational marijuana and whether or not to allow marijuana retail businesses in town. Results varied. In the bill, S-54 that is moving through the Legislature, towns would have to have a formal vote to “op in” to have a retail business and the local options tax isn’t in the bill but other taxes are. The bill has gone to a Conference Committee to settle the differences between the House and Senate as they have passed different versions. It is likely several changes will be made to the bill and it will then need to pass both bodies again. If it then passes, it will go to the Governor for his signature or veto.

At the Hartland Town Meeting, their freshman legislator, Zachariah Ralph, announced that he would not be seeking re-election. He reported that he had gone to Montpelier to do good work and had of all good things, fallen in love with the Mayor of Montpelier! There was raucous applause. He’s getting married and moving there.

Due to the Corona virus, committees have prioritized bills to pass in the event we need to suspend work at the Legislature. The budget is a must pass bill as are some of the other money bills. Bills that are ready are moving as Crossover date is March 13th, the date when bills need to move from the Senate to the House and vice versa. A bill of interest, S-339 relating to changes to motor vehicle laws passed the Senate this week. Electronic transit permits for trucks to blue bumpers on electric

school busses to alert first responders in case of an accident are in this bill. Some penalties are eased while others are increased. Work zones and school zone fines are increased. Highway flaggers are at particular risk and the mother of a flagger killed on the job this summer testified as did multiple flaggers. At road work sites, flaggers will soon be required to use lighted stop and slow signs on all state and state contracted jobs. As the cancellation stamp the US Postal Service some time ago used, says, “Slow down, give them a brake”. Snowmobiles and ATVs are addressed in the bill and persons interested might want to read these sections

The legislature is working with the Department of Health, the Governor and his cabinet, and others to develop plans to deal with the anticipated needs concerning the virus.

Feel free to contact me at the State House at 802-322-5616, on weekends at 802-228-8432 or anitka@leg.state.vt.us Letters are good too, P.O. Box 136, Ludlow, VT 05149-0136



Fletcher Memorial Library

Fletcher Memorial Library is closing today, 3/16/2020, at 2PM. We will tentatively reopen April 6th. Staff will be working half days to inventory the collection, work on projects that have not been completed and fill requests.

If you would like something to read, listen to or watch during our closure, please call between 10AM and 12PM. Visit our web site - www.fmlnews.org - click “Catalog”, Search for specific titles or browse. Either place holds yourself or call staff for assistance. During this period ONLY items from our collection are available: we have @ 15,000. We will call you for pick-up between 10-12 meeting you at the rear library entrance. The due date is extended, no worries about overdue and all fines will be waived.

This is a great opportunity for you to become familiar with our On-line offerings. We have

downloadable audio and e-books, Ancestry research, wonderful Courses to explore and links to many Educational sites. Please peruse! Looking for kid friendly sites? Click on our “Youth” tab.

All reservations for our Community Rooms are cancelled. Outreach to pre-schools and daycares are suspended as well.



FML has open WiFi – 24/7. It is available outside in your car or on our steps.

We are doing our best to responsibly “Flatten the curve”. Please call if we may assist you. 802-228-8921.

Thank You for your patience during this time. Be safe and stay Healthy!

Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-8921 www.fmlnews.org



Mount Holly Town News

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

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.

The **Town Office Building in the Town of Mount Holly** will be closed for public traffic beginning **Wednesday, March 18th, 2020 until further notice.** We will be here during our regular business hours (M-TH 8:30AM - 4:00PM) Closed Friday to answer phone calls and emails. Public record research will be allowed by appointment only. Please call 802-259-2391 for any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your cooperation and patience with us during this unfortunate event. Dog license renewals has been extended until April 30th. They can be done thru the mail. Send a copy of the rabies certificate or call and see if I already have one on file, along with a check with the correct amount.

Neutered - \$11.00

Unneutered - \$15.00

Transfer stickers – you can order them thru the mail, I will be happy to mail them back to you.

Cost is: \$2.00 per sticker plus \$.55 for postage.

COVID-19 Safety @ Transfer Station

DO NOT ENTER
if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

MAINTAIN social distance.

PLACE STICKERS directly on
the trash bags.

UNLOAD your own waste into compactors.
(Workers have been instructed to not handle waste.)

NO CONGREGATING

LEAVE FACILITY
immediately once unloaded.

Thank you for your cooperation as we
work to keep all our staff and residents
healthy - Mount Holly Select Board

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting - March 10, 2020 - Minutes

Present: Select Board: Mark Turco (chair), Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews

Town Officials: Susan Covalla, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Jon McCann, Lori Norton, Andy Tanger

Members of the Public: Bob Bryant, Barbara Hazelton, Steve Hazelton, Jim Heald, Judy Hyjek, Annette Lynch, Stephen Michel, Kassie Niklassen, Gary Norton, Don Richardson, Brigid Sullivan, Raymond Tarbell, Craig Tomkinson, Amy Turco

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 a letter of resignation from the current Animal Control Officer, Paul Faenza, to **New Business/Other.** It was agreed to do so.

4. **Approval of February 11th, 2020 Minutes** – Jeff Chase made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.

5. Reorganization

a. **Select Board Chair** – Jeff Chase made a motion nominate Mark Turco; no seconds. Jennifer Matthews made a motion to nominate Jeff Chase; no seconds. Ms. Matthews noted that either individual could decline the nomination. Jeff Chase declined the nomination stating he was new to the Board, and as such, it would probably not be in the best interest of the Town for him to be Chair. Mr. Turco stated he would accept the Chair position if he had the support. As there was no response, Ms. Matthews suggested they revisit the issue later in the meeting and move on to other items on the agenda.

b. **Tree Warden** – Mr. Turco made a motion to appoint Raymond Tarbell as Tree Warden. After asking Mr. Tarbell if he was still interested in serving the Town in

the position, with his reply in the affirmative, Ms. Matthews seconded the nomination; unanimously approved.

c. **E911 Coordinator** – Mr. Turco made a motion to appoint Sue Covalla as E911 Coordinator. After asking Ms. Covalla if she was still interested in serving the Town in the position, Ms. Matthews seconded the nomination; unanimously approved.

d. **Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative** – Clinton Woolley indicated he was still interested in the position. Ms. Matthews made a motion to appoint Mr. Woolley as the Town's representative, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

e. **Newspaper of Record** – Ms. Matthews noted that the *Mountain Times* had emailed expressing their interest in serving Mount Holly as the paper of record. Discussion ensued about numbers and method of distribution for the *Mountain Times* and the *Vermont Journal*, the current paper of record. Ms. Matthews made a motion to name the *Vermont Journal* as the Newspaper of Record, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

f. **Town Attorney** – Ms. Matthews noted that the current attorney was located in Middlebury, fairly far afield, but more research into attorneys closer to Mount Holly was needed before making any change. Mr. Turco agreed, and he made a motion to name Carroll, Boe & Pell the Town Attorney, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

g. **Assistant Town Clerk(s)** (appointed by Town Clerk) – Ms. Covalla indicated she would again appoint Nancy Connor, Diana Garrow and Derek Covalla to serve as Assistant Town Clerks as long as all three are still interested.

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

h. **Assistant Town Treasurer** (appointed by Town Treasurer) – David Johnson stated he would appoint Diana Garrow once again to serve as Assistant Town Treasurer.

i. **Select Board Clerk** – Ms. Matthews stated that appointing a Select Board member to this position was at the discretion of the Board. She noted the Select Board had not done so last year, and it was agreed to maintain the status quo again this year.

j. **Set Day & Time of Regular Meeting** – Mr. Turco stated that presently the meetings were scheduled for the second Tuesday at 6:00 pm. Ms. Matthews explained that many working further away from Mount Holly found it difficult to make a 6:00 meeting in town. She had received several emails supporting a later start time, and she held up a copy of the *Chit Chat* with the meetings of many other organizations in town highlighted, all starting at 7:00 pm, but for one at 6:30 pm. Amy Turco stated she thought the 6:00 start time worked, especially as the meetings were so well attended. Ms. Matthews replied she thought that had less to do with the start time and more to do with the substantial issues the Select Board was addressing. Judy Hyjek asked about the difference in attendance numbers between the current earlier start time and the previous later one. Ms. Matthews replied she thought that was an apples and oranges comparison due to the difference in the issues being discussed. Mr. Turco stated he thought the earlier start time was better. Ms. Matthews suggested a compromise with a 6:30 pm start time, and she made a motion for the

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

regular Select Board meetings to start at 6:30 pm, seconded by Mr. Chase; Mr. Turco voted against the motion.

k. **Name Two (2) Public Posting Places for Agendas** – Mr. Turco made a motion to continue to use the Mount Holly Post Office and the Belmont Post Office as the two public places for posting the agenda, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved.

l. **Conflict of Interest Policy – sign** – Ms. Matthews explained that the policy was the same as in the past. Bob Bryant asked what the policy addressed. Ms. Matthews explained it spelled out the nature of conflicts (financial, etc), prohibited conduct, when recusal on an issue was necessary. She also stated that the policy would be on the Town website once signed. Select Board members signed the policy.

Two additional items: the 911 measuring – Ms. Matthews noted the Listers were currently doing this; it was agreed to continue to have the Listers do the 911 measuring.

Sign the orders weekly – Mr. Turco stated he would stop in on Mondays to do so. Ms. Matthews pointed out she was in the town office working on Mondays, so she could easily do so. It was agreed Ms. Matthews would sign the orders.

6. Reports

a. Highways & Transfer Station – Clinton Woolley

i) **Update** – Mr. Woolley stated the road crew had posted the roads for mud season, and the roads were beginning to dry out. He said he was also working on grants.

ii) **Uniforms** – Mr. Woolley had a couple of quotes for uniforms for the road crew, one from UniFirst, the other from Foley. UniFirst was less than Foley at just over \$8.00 per person per week. Mr. Woolley stated the road crew could have the funds deducted from their pay if the Town was unwilling to cover the cost of the uniforms. David

Johnson noted that the costs could be covered in the Highway budget. Mr. Chase asked if the road crew currently had uniforms; they do not. Ms. Matthews asked if the road crews of other towns in the area of similar size had uniforms; they do. Mr. Turco asked if the Town covered the expense for the uniforms or the employee. Gary Norton recommended the Town cover the uniform cost. Ms. Matthews made a motion to provide uniforms for the road crew from UniFirst at Town expense, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

iii) **One-Ton Truck** – Mr. Woolley is continuing to gather quotes for the one-ton truck replacement.

iv) **Town Highway Structures & Class 2 Roadway Grants** – Mr. Woolley is submitting a grant to cover paving on Hortonville Road with total costs of \$217,000 with potential grant funds covering \$175,000 of that amount. Mr. Chase asked about the structures grant. Mr. Woolley responded that the culvert on Sawyer Hill Road should be replaced. The Agency of Natural Resources recommends a 7-foot high culvert on the 4-foot high roadway which would be costly.

v) **Annual Financial Plan – sign** – Ms. Matthews explained this was to pass along the town highway budget figures and information to the State. Mr. Chase asked how the town highway mileage was measured. Mr. Woolley responded that the State did the measurements. Ms. Matthews noted that the Select Board had recently certified the town highway mileage. Select Board members signed the Annual Financial Plan.

Mr. Chase asked how many quotes were being gathered for the one-ton truck. Mr. Woolley had three for the cab and chassis of around \$47,000 and a couple for the body of \$21,000+ to \$23,400.

The Select Board members also signed the Certification of Compliance for Town Road & Bridge Standards and Network Inventory to accompany the Annual Financial Plan in relaying information to the State, as both are necessary for State grant consideration.

vi) **Municipal Roads General Permit Planning Report – sign** – Ms.

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY

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BURNING**

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Mount Holly Listers Hours

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



Matthews explained this was an annual report to certify the completion of the road erosion inventory. The report is to be signed by the Chair, so it was set aside.

b. Treasurer – David Johnson

i) **Monthly Income & Expense Report** – Mr. Johnson noted the following: all bank statements had been received and reconciled by Diana Garrow; the delinquent tax amount was now about \$85,000 after Delinquent Tax Collector Peter Perrino recently received another \$41,000 in tax payments; interest income continues to run higher than the budgeted amount; Solid Waste Labels Sold continues to run higher than the budgeted amount; all town report and election expenses came in under budget; the Vehicle/Equipment Repair & Maintenance Expenses are about half the amount budgeted and we are now two-thirds of the

way into the fiscal year; all else is in good shape. Mr. Johnson asked about an attorney for future tax sales. He will contact Mr. Perrino to ask Kevin O'Toole if he is still interested in performing this service for the Town.

ii) **Authorization for Orders** – Mr. Johnson explained he needs the authority to make regular payroll, and to pay payroll taxes, property tax refunds, and for postage as needed. Ms. Matthews made a motion to continue the payment of orders policy as in the past, Mr. Turco seconded, unanimously approved.

Annette Lynch thanked Mr. Johnson for the copies of the financials made available for meeting attendees. She again asked if the financials could be put on the Town website the day before the meeting so that residents could review them before the meeting and so those with aging eyes could more easily read them. Mr. Turco stated we could look into that.

Ms. Matthews stated she had been on the Select Board for a year and the **Planning Commission** had not made a report to the Select Board in that time, as has happened in previous years. It was agreed that Ms. Matthews would send an email to Peter Berger and ask him to attend the April Select Board meeting and report on the Planning Commission's recent activities.

c. **Rutland Region Transportation Council – Clinton Woolley** stated there was no meeting.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. **Personnel Policy** – Ms. Matthews inquired if a date could be set to review the personnel policy as a step towards completion of the necessary policy for grants and the like. The Select Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 pm in a Special Meeting for a work session on the policy.

b. **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update**– Ms. Matthews reported that the Regional EAB Resource Committee was meeting this evening to discuss the steps necessary for area towns to do a town-wide inventory of ash trees. The first step for towns will be to identify all ash trees along town roadways, using as many trained volunteers as possible to defray those costs for the Town. Road Foreman Clinton Woolley stated there were 280 ash trees just along Belmont Road into Belmont and then down Healdville Road to VT Route 103. Jon McCann questioned who would bear the cost for tree removal. Mr. Turco responded that would fall on the Town if the ash tree is in the town right-of-way; otherwise, the cost would fall on the landowner. Andy Tanger asked what the Town of Weston had planned to address the imminent EAB arrival as Weston lies between Londonderry, where there is an EAB infestation, and Mount Holly. Mr. Turco said we could look into that. Don Richardson currently attends the EAB resource committee meetings and he is willing to coordinate a local committee to work on the town-wide ash tree inventory. Ms. Matthews said she would put an item in the *Chit Chat* about a local EAB committee. She also noted that she had put a page up on the Town website devoted to EAB information and resources: <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/emerald-ash-borer/>

c. **Cannabis (S.54) Update** – Ms. Matthews reported on the current status of the cannabis tax and regulate bill with both the House and Senate having passed differing versions of the bill. The House voted to allow towns to vote by special election to opt in to retail establishments only; towns will have no say in growers, manufacturers, and processors locating in the community. The House also stripped out the 2% local cannabis tax. The Senate version of the bill gives towns the right to vote to opt out of hosting various cannabis operations and it provides Towns with the 2% local option tax if they vote to host retail establishments. The 2% tax provides towns with the financial resources to deal with the consequences of cannabis operations in town, be it neighbor complaints, security, odors, smoking in public places, law enforcement. Ms. Matthews encouraged residents to consider if they wanted a retail marijuana establishment or industrial grow operations or marijuana processing and/or manufacturing facilities in town.

d. **Other** – Ms. Matthews reported that the VT Public Utility Commission had issued a Certificate of Public Good for the proposed **FirstNet/AT&T cell tower** project here in town. The Agency of Natural Resources asked for some last minute conditions on the project. Construction is slated to begin this summer.

8. New Business

a. **Set Transfer Station Hours for Spring & Summer with Start Date** – The last Sunday will be March 29th. The first Wednesday will be April first from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

b. **Independent Audit** – There was discussion about the need, frequency and cost of an outside audit, as no audit was performed this past year as the auditor previously used closed up shop. Ms. Matthews reported that according to the VT League of Cities & Towns, it is up to the Select Board or the voters to determine the frequency of the outside audit. State Statute requires that the public accountant be licensed in the State and the audit be performed using generally accepted government auditing standards. Mr. Chase asked what the cost was of the last audit. David Johnson stated it was \$9250. He also noted that there were not a lot of accountants who do municipal audits and that not all CPAs are certified to do those audits. Stephen Michel stated that it was generally more expensive to perform an audit every other

Do YOU VALUE Our TREES?

Help fight that destructive pest, the Emerald Ash Borer, by volunteering to help inventory ash trees in Mount Holly.

Interested?

Call our EAB Committee Coordinator Don Richardson
@ 802-259-1179.

Info: <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/emerald-ash-borer/>

year. He asked why the Town wanted an audit. Mr. Chase replied it was a necessary component when securing a bond or loan. Annette Lynch said there was also a structural reason for an audit as both the Select Board members and the Treasurer are elected offices; the audit provides a clear and transparent picture of the town's financial position. Andy Tanger said he had a call in to VLCT to clarify the wording on Article II of the warning so as to avoid the confusion that occurred at town meeting. As the town auditors do not perform an actual audit, could that Article be worded as 'act upon town officers' reports' rather than 'act upon the auditors' report'? This will be answered before the next town report is produced. Additional discussion ensued about the costs of an audit, various audits done and auditors in the area. Mr. Johnson said he would sit down with Ms. Matthews to look into auditors that might be available to perform the annual audit going forward.

c. **EID Grant Program** – Jeff Chase will work with Road Foreman Clinton Woolley to create a list of bridges, roads and highways that will need attention, prioritizing them into a five-to-ten year plan. The list can be utilized in the future to apply for grants to help cover the costs of repair work. The grant deadline for this particular grant is in May with a letter of intent due by the end of March. Mr. Chase and Mr. Woolley will pull the list together in the next few days.

d. **Bob Bryant's Concerns** – Bob Bryant presented the Select Board with a number of photographs of a neighboring property which he stated was a junkyard. He said this property had been a concern for 20 years, and that the Town had an ordinance to address the problem

and needed to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Turco said the Select Board could draft a letter to the owner. Mr. Bryant said that had already been done and nothing happened. Ms. Matthews suggested the Select Board write the letter in April so as to give the Select Board time to have all the steps in order to enforce the ordinance and levy a fine if needed. Mr. Bryant agreed to this time line.

e. **Other** - The Select Board received a letter of resignation, due to time constraints, from Animal Control Officer Paul Faenza effective April 30th, 2020. Ms. Matthews will place a notice in the *Chit Chat* for an Animal Control Officer, and she will contact the Rutland County Sheriff's office about their current rates and availability to fulfill that role if need be. Ms. Matthews thanked Mr. Faenza for his seven years of service to

the Town, and she made a motion to accept his resignation with gratitude for his service. Mr. Turco seconded the motion with gratitude for Mr. Faenza's service and with regret. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **Announcements/Other Business** – Ms. Matthews thanked all for attending Town Meeting and thanked all for being at the meeting this evening. She noted that the issues coming before the Select Board are increasingly complex, and that members of the community have a great wealth of knowledge and expertise. She invited all to share their knowledge with the Select Board as various issues come before the town.

Mr. Turco congratulated Jeff Chase on his election to the Select Board. Mr. Chase said he looked forward to working for the community.

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

Discussion followed about the **Select Board Chair** nomination, given there were two members interested in serving as Chair, Mr. Turco and Ms. Matthews. The possibility of a five-member Select Board, the pros and mechanics of bringing it to be, were discussed. A number of comments were made about Ms. Matthews doing the majority of the work for the Select Board and Mr. Turco being too busy to tend to the work but that he still should be Chair. With no resolution, the matter was tabled.

11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(1)** – Ms. Matthews made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a contractual matter, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. No actions were taken in executive session.

Jennifer Matthews made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:00 pm, Mr. Chase seconded, meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Spring is in the Air!

Time for yard clean-up &
time for any junk-in-the-yard clean-up.
Remember, the Town of Mount Holly
has a Junk Ordinance:

<http://www.mounthollyvt.org/town-ordinances-policies/>

Avoid the Ordinance!

Keep Your Yard Junk Free!

Thanks for your part in keeping
Mount Holly looking fine!



Custom Builders of Belmont Inc.

P.O Box 171

Belmont, VT 05730

Charlie Conroy

cjconroy@vermontel.net

30+ Years Experience

Do You Care About Animals? Are You Good with Them?

Do You Like People? Are You Good with Them?

Can You Handle Both at Once & Sometimes in Challenging Situations?
YES?

The Town of Mount Holly Needs **YOU** as Our **Animal Control Officer**.

A letter stating your interest and your qualifications for the position is due by Noon on Monday, April 13th. Please email, mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com, or mail to PO Box 248, Mount Holly 05758.

For more information, check the Town of Mount Holly website
<http://www.mounthollyvt.org/town-ordinances-policies/>
for the Animal Control Officer responsibilities and our dog ordinance.

Thank you for your interest in helping to keep
the animal & human population in Mount Holly harmonious!

Mount Holly Residents

From The Mount Holly Select Board 3/18/20

The Town of Mount Holly Select Board has reviewed information from the Vermont Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) with regard to the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

The health of our employees and residents is a top priority for the Town of Mount Holly. Effective immediately and until further notice, the Select Board is imposing the following procedural changes to protect against exposure to COVID-19 at the Transfer Station.

The Transfer Station is requiring the following due to COVID 19:

1. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough and difficulty breathing) please **DO NOT** use the Transfer Station.
2. Employees have been instructed to refrain from coming into direct contact with other employees, residents, and trash/recyclables.
3. Residents are required to place their sticker on the trash bags. Please do not hand sticker to town employees.
4. Residents are required to load their own waste into the trash and recycling compactors. If you cannot lift the bag by yourself please divide the trash/recyclables into multiple bags.
5. Residents are reminded not to congregate at the Transfer Station and to exit the facility once they have disposed of their trash and recycling.
6. Swap shed is **CLOSED** until further notice.

General Reminder:

1. Plastic bags **ARE NOT** allowed in the single stream recycling.
2. One sticker is for a bag that holds 30 gallons or less.
3. Attached is a pamphlet containing answers to further general question concerning the Mount Holly Transfer Station.

Posted to: Town Website, MH Post Office, Belmont Post Office, Mount Holly Newsflash

OTHER TOWN BUILDINGS

All other town buildings, including highway garages, will be closed to the public. We ask that you do not come to any municipal buildings to attempt to do normal business until further notice.

SELECT BOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Select Board and Planning Commission will continue to meet as scheduled until further notice or action is required. Information on these meetings will continue to be posted at <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/> at the Belmont Post Office and the Mount Holly Post Office. The Select Board is currently monitoring the pandemic and is considering offering remote conferencing as a method for residents to attend the meeting.

Please also follow the responses by the State of Vermont <http://www.healthvermont.gov/> **and the Federal Government** <http://www.cdc.gov> Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we navigate through this pandemic together with the continue good health of our community as our primary concern.



Community Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Food

Black River Good Neighbor Food Shelf – (802) 228-3663

The food shelf is in Ludlow and serves families and individuals in Ludlow, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Mount Holly, Belmont and Plymouth. Due to the pandemic they are requiring all requests for assistance be made by telephone. Call (802) 228-3663 and they will make an appointment for you to come in and pick up food or to get other assistance. Their Thrift Stores will be closed during this time. www.brgn.org

Belmont General Store – (802-259-2292)

The store is open and stocked. Hours are modified slightly due to COVID-19, currently they are open from 9a-5p Mon-Sat and 9-3 on Sunday. A group of volunteers are working with April & Gordon to help provide free delivery of their groceries for those that can not leave home. Call the store to place and pay for an order (credit or debit) and have items groceries delivered to your home. Orders may not be immediate, depending on the staff and volunteers availability, plan ahead. www.facebook.com/BelmontGeneralStore

Plew Farm - (802) 259-2250, 1966 Healdville Road, Mount Holly, VT

Plew Farm runs a year round farm stand with many local food items for sale such as chicken, pork, beef, eggs, maple syrup and more. They are offering call ahead ordering and will bring your order to your car if concerned about entering the stand. www.plewfarm.com

Price Chopper – (802) 747-7880

Price Chopper in Rutland has started doing special senior citizens only hours, every day 6am-7am. www.pricechopper.com

Hannaford Supermarkets – (802) 775-8900 Main 775-5858 Pharmacy 775-0820 Liquor Outlet

Hannaford's in Rutland is doing special senior citizens 60+ hours Tue., Wed., and Thur., 6am-7am with stores opening 7am-9pm with few closing at 8pm on certain days for everyone else. They also provide online shopping and you pick up. www.hannaford.com

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging – (802) 786-5990

The SVCOA offer Meals on Wheels program for Rutland County senior citizens that are home bound. Call 802-786-5990 to speak to someone about signing up. They also offer drive thru meal pickup for older Vermonters at the Godnick Adult Center in Rutland (call to confirm open and hours. www.Svcoa.org

Mount Holly Transfer Station User Guide

Hours: Summer – Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm and Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm
Winter – Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm and Sunday, 9 am to Noon

Transfer Station Location: Sharon Lane, off Gates Road
Mount Holly uses unit based pricing for solid waste disposal. Many recyclables are accepted free of charge. Solid waste stickers are required for each bag of solid waste.

No cash is accepted at the transfer station.

Advance Sticker Purchase at Town Office: \$2.00 each. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 4 pm. Return envelopes are available at the Town Office for purchase by mail or send a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check for the number of stickers desired to P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758.

Sticker purchase at Belmont Store: \$3.00 each

FEES

1 sticker per 30-gallon bag or barrel (or smaller) of non-recyclable solid waste
3 stickers per bag or barrel larger than 30-gallons
Truckloads of loose trash that cannot be bagged:
6 ft. bed 14 stickers
8 ft. bed 20 stickers

Large Items/Metal Pile: The price list is posted at the transfer station and is available at the Town Office. The attendant will determine the price based on the price list and will determine disposal method.

Refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners/dehumidifiers: Prices as posted. Refrigerator/freezer doors must be removed. No refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners on metal pile -- see attendant for disposal location.

Leaf and Yard Debris: grass clippings, leaves, kraft paper bags and brush 1 inch in diameter or less is accepted. See the price list for costs. See the attendant for assistance.

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris: is **not accepted** at the transfer station.

RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Mount Holly is a member town. Residents and taxpayers can use the District's Gleason Road transfer site during operating hours to dispose of solid waste, hazardous waste, and construction and demolition (C&D) debris and clean wood. Fees apply to disposal of solid waste, C&D and wood. Call 775-7209 or check www.rcswd.com for details.

BANNED FROM LANDFILLS AND OUR COMPACTOR:

Household Hazardous Waste. Collections are held twice a year at the Transfer Site. Dates and a complete listing of products that can be disposed of are posted and publicized in the Mount Holly Chit Chat. HHW waste disposal is available year-round at the Gleason Road facility of the Rutland County Solid Waste Facility.

Any product labeled Cautious, Toxic, Corrosive, or Poison is hazardous waste.

Fluorescent light bulbs
Oil based paint*, stains, removers, thinners, varnishes, wood preservatives
Anti-freeze, hydraulic fluid, pool chemicals, solvents
Pesticides, weed killers, fertilizer
Rechargeable batteries

*water based paint (less than 1 gallon) dried in the can is accepted in the compactor

PROPANE AND AUTO GAS TANKS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE TRANSFER SITE

BANNED FROM LANDFILLS BUT ACCEPTED IN THE RECYCLING SHED:

Electronics recycling is required by Vermont law. – Many electronics are "Covered Devices" which may be recycled for FREE by "Covered Entities". "Covered Entities" are Vermont households, charities, school districts and small businesses. "Covered Devices" are computers, monitors, printers, televisions and computer peripherals (keyboards, mice, miscellaneous wires). All other electronics must be recycled, but have fees as posted on the price list. Non-covered devices include personal electronics (PDAs, MP3 players), scanners, VCRs, DVD players, copiers, fax, stereo components

Lead acid batteries (for cars, tractors, ATVs)

Waste motor oil – no contaminants. (The attendant will empty containers into storage tank.)

RECYCLING

Mount Holly is a Zero-Sort recycling town. Zero-Sort allows more items to be recycled in a single bin, with no need to separate them. Some items are highlighted here. Please see the Zero-Sort brochure for more details (available from the attendant or at the Town Office). The following recyclable materials can be disposed of free of charge.

NEWSPAPERS: Papers should be clean and dry. Includes all sections and inserts. Do not tie with string. NO PLASTIC BAGS. Phone books are OK. Paperback books are OK.

NOTE: We have a local farmer who uses newsprint as bedding for his cows. This would be newsprint only (no glossy inserts), preferably tied in string or in paper bags. Ask the attendant where to put them.

TIN AND ALUMINUM: Cans, pie plates, beverage cans, foil, empty aerosol cans, rinsed clean. Cans should be rinsed clean, labels are okay, lids are okay. Lids from jars or bottles are okay.

GLASS: Food and beverage containers only, rinse clean. Caps and lids okay. No window or auto glass, no mirrors, pyrex, china, drinking glasses, light bulbs or fluorescent bulbs.

BOXBOARD: Cereal boxes, tissue, gift and snow boxes, pantry food boxes, (crackers, pasta, etc.), detergent boxes, soda boxes (6-12-24-pack carriers), toilet and paper towel tubes. No juice or milk cartons (contain plastic layers). No frozen food boxes (contain wet-strength additives).

MAGAZINES: Glue or staple-bound publications. Glossy ad inserts from the newspaper, glossy brochures and catalogs OK. Do not tie or bind.

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD: Corrugated cardboard is brown double walled material with a wavy center. No pizza boxes, waxed or plastic coated boxes or yellow lined cardboard.

WHITE AND COLORED OFFICE PAPER: Printed, letterhead, file folders, craft paper, construction paper, non-metallic wrapping paper, tissue paper and cards. No pressure-sensitive duplication forms, foil paper, paper towels or facial tissue, stickers, post-it notes, tyvek envelopes.

PLASTICS #1-7 and RIGID PLASTICS: Containers, bottles and jugs for foods, beverages, beauty and cleaning products, dairy tubs (yogurt, sour cream), 5-gal pails, laundry baskets, sleds, flowerpots and trays. Rinse clean. Lids and caps are okay. No Styrofoam, flimsy or pliable plastic (grocery bags, bubble wrap).

IF IN DOUBT, ASK THE ATTENDANT!

2020 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

at the
MOUNT HOLLY TRANSFER STATION

Saturday, April 18, 2020

(Date subject change due to coronavirus/COVID-19. For updates, watch Newsflash and Town website: <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/>)

8:00 am to 10:00 am only

The following items are typical of the household chemicals collected through the Household Hazardous Waste program. These materials may be dropped off at the scheduled event in Mount Holly or delivered to the HHW Depot at the Rutland County Solid Waste District's Gleason Road Transfer Station. The Gleason Road HHW facility is now open six days a week, Monday through Saturday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Kitchen/Bathroom

Aerosol Cans
Bug Sprays
Floor Care Products
Metal Polish
Furniture Polish
Oven Cleaners
Drain Cleaners
Bathroom Cleaners
Tile Cleaners
Disinfectants
Toilet Bowl Cleaners
Nail Polish Remover
Fluorescent Light Bulbs
Degreasers
Mercury Thermostats
Cooking Oil

Garage/Workshop

Waste Oil
Antifreeze
Gasoline
Brake Fluid
Roofing Tar
Auto Body Repair Pro.
Automatic Trans. Fluid
Other Oils/Cleaners
Paint (Latex, Lead & Oil Based)
Paint Thinner
Paint Stripper
Varnish & Stains
Driveway Sealer
Glues/Adhesives
Grout
Caulk Tubes

Garden/Miscellaneous

Chemical Fertilizer
Fungicides
Herbicides
Rat Poison
Insecticides/Pesticides
Artists' Paints, Mediums
Dry Cleaning Solvents
Fiberglass Epoxy
Gun Cleaning Solvents
Moth Balls
Household Batteries
Photographic Chemicals
Pool Chemicals
Rock Salt
Muriatic Acids
Propane Tanks (less than 20 lbs.)

Town of Mount Holly COVID-19 Response – March 18, 2020

The Mount Holly Select Board has developed the following document to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic spread, and to safe-guard the health of residents and employees of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont. In response to the pandemic, we are reviewing information from the Vermont Department of Health (<http://www.healthvermont.gov/>), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<http://www.cdc.gov/>) and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) (<http://vem.vermont.gov/>).

As always, updates to Town Services will be available at <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/>.

A reminder from the CDC: **DO the FIVE to Help Stop Coronavirus**

1. HANDS Wash them often

2. ELBOW Cough into it

3. FACE Don't touch it

4. FEET Stay more than 6ft apart

5. FEEL sick? Stay home

TOWN SERVICES

CRITICAL EMERGENCY SERVICES will be available as usual. If you have an emergency, dial 911. The following information is from <http://www.healthvermont.gov/>

If you are sick, stay home and first call your doctor. People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness. Call ahead before visiting your doctor. Do not go to the doctor's office unless instructed to do so. Anyone who does not have a health care provider can call 2-1-1 to be connected to a clinic in their area. **Your health care provider will arrange for testing if they determine that a test is needed.**

If you are sick, do not go to or visit any hospitals or long-term care facilities unless absolutely necessary. This is to protect everyone's health, including patients and staff.

TOWN CLERK AND TOWN OFFICE

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and out of an abundance of caution for the health of all our residents and town officials, the Town Office will be **CLOSED** to the public until further notice.

Town Clerk Sue Covalla will be available by phone (802-259-2391), email (mthollytc@yahoo.com), and via the USPS (PO Box 248, Mount Holly) during her normal business hours of Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Town Treasurer David Johnson will be available at 802-259-2391 during his normal hours of Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Please call or email with any questions or concerns. Public record research will be by appointment only.

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY OFFICIAL ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING BALLOT - MARCH 3, 2020			
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, mark a cross (X) in the square at the right of that person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name on the blank line in the appropriate block and mark a cross (X) in the square at the right.			
For Town Moderator for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE	462	Write-In...	For Town Grand Juror for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE
ANDREW TANGER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL FAENZA
For Town Clerk for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE	498	Write-In...	For Trustee of Public Funds for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE
SUSAN C. COVALLA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DAVID H. JOHNSON
For Town Treasurer for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE	473	Write-In...	For Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years Vote for not more than ONE
DAVID H. JOHNSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CHESTER GATES JR
For Selectman for 3 years Vote for not more than ONE	281	Write-In...	For First Constable for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE
JEFF CHASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL FAENZA
RONALD TARBELL	215	Write-In...	For Delinquent Tax Collector for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE
For Lister for 3 years Vote for not more than ONE	466	Write-In...	PETER PERRINO
DAVID JOHNSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For Town Agent for 1 year Vote for not more than ONE
For Lister for 2 years (remaining term) Vote for not more than ONE	448	Write-In...	KRISTOPHER COVALLA
MARY SURETHING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For LMHUUSD School Board for 3 years Vote for not more than FOUR
For Auditor for 3 years Vote for not more than ONE	456	Write-In...	SEBASTIAN FRANK, MOUNT HOLLY
LORI NORTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COURTNEY MCGURIRE, LUDLOW
			DAVID VENTER, MOUNT HOLLY
			For LMHUUSD School Board for 2 years Vote for not more than ONE
			DANIEL BUCKLEY, LUDLOW



Photo By
Joseph Hammond

Article 3 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be raised by tax? A. General Fund 389 YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> \$468,620. B. Highway Fund (net) 462 YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> \$362,900.	Article 9 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$6,485, for Community and Social Services, to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 336 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 157
Article 4 (Town Warning) 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? 93 YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Article 10 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$3,000, for Black River Area Community Coalition (BRACC) to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 279 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 190
Article 5 (Town Warning) 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 lease purchase payment of \$45,000, for a total of \$98,500 to be raised by tax? 433 YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 63	Article 11 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote to fund the Afterschool Program at the Mount Holly School in the amount of \$5,500, in FY2021, to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 368 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 130
Article 6 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. for the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget, to be raised by tax? A. General Budget Fund 425 YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000. B. Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Fund 390 YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000.	Article 12 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$750, for the Okemo Valley TV, to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 276 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 24
Article 7 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$12,000 for the Mount Holly Town Library, to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 132 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 144	Article 13 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$2,500, for the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 341 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 156
Article 8 (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$2,000, for the Mount Holly Chit Chat, to be raised by tax? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 394 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 105	Article 1 (School Warning) Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of two million, nine hundred eighty-four thousand, five hundred eighty-five dollars (\$2,984,585) to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 281 NO <input type="checkbox"/> 201



Food Shelf Modifies Operations for the Crisis

Letter to the Editor

Black River Good Neighbor Services has served the people of Ludlow, Cavendish, Mount Holly, and Plymouth for over forty

years with food and financial assistance in times of need. With the global health crisis facing us now we realize that our services are more relevant than ever. Our volunteers and staff assure you that our assistance programs will remain open despite the crisis.

Our programs do not include health services, so we will leave such matters to the experts, but with the looming financial crisis we expect to see an increase in clients needing help with food, rent, or utilities. As businesses close and people have no paychecks, their ability to put food on the table or to pay rent will diminish. We have been planning for such an emergency and expect that our services will continue uninterrupted. We will be there to help residents of Ludlow, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Mount Holly, Belmont, and Plymouth.

Anyone needing help may call 802-228-3663 and ask what to do. If you are feeling well and not under quarantine, come to the food shelf at 37B Main Street in Ludlow. Our procedures are simple, and we can help you immediately. Also, our children's Foodshelf is available if your child is out of school and needs food.

Please follow the advice and directions of state and local health experts to minimize contacts with others, practice strict personal hygiene, and stay home if you feel unwell. But if you need us, please call!

Black River Good Neighbor Services, Inc. Robert Kottkamp, Vice President & Lou Krefski, President

Because of the rapidly changing situation with respect to COVID-19 the Black River Good Neighbor Services' food shelf and assistance programs are changing some procedures to assure the safety of our staff and of those who visit us for help. Beginning Monday, March 16th and continuing until this crisis winds down, all requests for assistance must be made by telephone. Our Thrift Stores will be closed during this time. Please call (802) 228-3663 and talk to Audrey or Krey. They will make an appointment for you to come in and pick up food or other assistance.

Black River Good Neighbor Services remains committed to our primary mission – serving the community in times of need. The current set of circumstances is unprecedented and we are trying to evolve along with everyone else. Please be assured that we will continue to operate, just with a slightly different procedure.



MAJOR NEW SOUTHFACE VILLAGE AT OKEMO® RESIDENTIAL & HEALTH SPA COMPLEX PLANNED

Okemo Valley Chamber Member SouthFace Village® Unveils SunCatcher Expansion

Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) member Southface Village at Okemo® is planning an exciting new project in Ludlow, VT. Construction of the newly designed SunCatcher Villas & Health Spa, situated in the heart of SouthFace Village at

Okemo®, is scheduled to begin this summer. It will represent the first luxury residential and health club facility to be built on the mountain in 30 years.

The SunCatcher complex also represents Phase 2 in the development of SouthFace Village at Okemo®, operating independently from Okemo Mountain Resort, the first major luxury trailside community to be built on the mountain in over a decade. The SunCatcher complex, designed and built by Bensonwood Homes, will sit in the heart of SouthFace Village® offering breathtaking views of Okemo Valley. This project will include six beautifully finished luxury 4-bedroom villas, appropriately called SunCatcher Villas because of the natural light that will stream in from three sides of each residence. The complex will also house important amenities for all SouthFace Village owners & their guests, including a state-of-the-art health club, a four season outdoor pool & hot tub facility, private locker areas, an outdoor kitchen & barbeque area, multiple fire-pits, and other outdoor gathering spots for family & friends. The project is estimated to be completed mid-year in 2021.

Dawn to dusk sunlight and breathtaking mountain & valley views will be a feature of this new SunCatcher complex due to SouthFace Village's location on its own 300 acre preserve on the sunny south face of Okemo. Clearing land for SouthFace Village began in the summer of 2014. Phase 1 of this enclave is now complete with the construction of 28 luxury one to four-bedroom townhomes. Over the next decade, SouthFace Village planning calls for over 200 additional luxury residences to be built, including townhomes, single family homes, and luxury villas.

The construction of the SunCatcher Villas & Health Spa Building represents an important next step in the long-term expansion of SouthFace Village. For that reason, Randall Walter, Bensonwood's chief design steward, and the original lead architect for SouthFace Village, will join Ted Rossi, SouthFace Village's lead developer, as Project Development Manager with overall responsibility for the final design & build out of SunCatcher, and for all other SouthFace build outs in the future.

The Chamber is very excited for this new project from one of it's members which will benefit the Okemo Valley region. OVRCC is a not-for-profit, member-driven association and the voice of the business communities in South Central Vermont. OVRCC includes the communities of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, Weathersfield, & Weston along the Route 100 Byway. OVRCC provides advocacy, support, and unified regional marketing to promote and enhance businesses in the region as well as the four-season economy. Not yet an OVRCC member and want to join like SouthFace Village? It's easy to do right online here: <https://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/join-the-chamber/online-application/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Carol Lighthall, Executive Director - Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce - Ted Rossi, Lead Developer, SouthFace Village at Okemo www.yourplaceinvermont.com www.southfacevillage.com 802-228-5830 860-632-3500



Fletcher Farm School Announces April Classes, Artist-in-Residence Program

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE APPLICATIONS SOUGHT - Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts is pleased to announce the open application period for our 2020 Artist in Residence Program. The residency can range anywhere from two weeks to one month during the period from July 1 through August 31. The artist chosen will be given secure individual studio space, and lodging (if desired) in exchange for teaching two classes. Meals are not included with lodging. We hope that the artist-in-residence will become part of the school community, visiting classrooms and engaging with students and instructors. Applications will be due by April 1, 2020, and the artist-in-residence will be chosen on May 1, 2020. To obtain an application, please email info@fletcherfarm.org, or call (802) 228-8770.

APRIL CLASSES - Please keep in mind that advance registration is required for all classes. We decide two weeks in advance whether there are sufficient registrations to run a class. You can register online at www.fletcherfarm.org, or by calling (802) 228-8770.

Weave a Necktie Chair Seat with Joyce Fuller – April 4-5, 2020 - If you just can't throw out those old neckties, here is the perfect way to give them a new life. Find an old chair or rocker that was made for a woven or rush seat, and learn how to weave the strongest seat you can imagine. No previous weaving skills are required; no special tools are involved. Go to flea markets and antique shops to find that perfect chair and a variety of silk ties. Basic sewing machine skills are required.

Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor with Robert O' Brien – April 4-5, 2020 - This course is open to all levels of painting ability. Students will learn basic floral painting techniques, with an emphasis on values and composition. Layering and blending color into soft edges will also be taught. The course will focus on painting from close-up photo references of flowers in an artistic setting with spectacular results. A critique and class discussion will be held at the end of the session.

Needle Felting with Karen Sugalski – April 11, 2020 - Felting is more than just creating cute animals and gnomes. This class will cover the history of felting, types of wool, and the equipment to be used. Students will create three projects of increasing difficulty. One wearable, one frameable, and one for the home. Each project is designed to both get the student comfortable with needle felting and to expand their creativity. No artistic talent is necessary.

Art Quilting with Margaret Sheehan – April 11-12, 2020 - If you have ever asked yourself, "How did they do that?" this class is for you. In this class you will learn a variety of methods to alter, enhance, and design your own art quilts. Come prepared to move out of your comfort zone and into a design zone. We will cover reverse applique, couching, satin stitch, using fusibles and stabilizers, attaching non-cottons, and cutting the whole thing up. These methods can be used in scrapbooking and mixed media as well.

Open Quilting with Susan Damone Balch – April 13-17, 2020 - This is an opportunity to work to your quilting project(s) in a creative and supportive setting. The small group size allows for plenty of space to work. Ironing boards, cutting tables, and design boards will be provided. All other supplies you need, you must bring. You can choose to come all 5 days, just one day, or anything in between. Susan Damone Balch will be facilitating the group, but no instruction will be provided.

Chair Caning with Meg Kupiec – April 17-18, 2020 - If a family heirloom has seen better days, don't throw it away, or if you are fascinated by the intricate patterns of caned seats, this is the class for you! Students will learn the art of chair caning in the traditional seven-step method. Weaving will be done on an oak footstool frame. You will be able to apply what you have learned in class to other chairs that are made to be hand caned. We will also discuss other materials and methods of weaving chair seats.

Introduction to Silver Fabrication with Harold Bosco – April 18-19, 2020 - This course is designed to teach basic methods of handcrafting jewelry from sterling silver. Sketchbook designs are used to help students reach their goals, and individualized assistance is provided to assure each student's success. Sawing, soldering, and filing are the methods used to create rings, bracelets, chains, pendants, and earrings. A relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere in the classroom makes this course fun. A \$20 lab fee per student over and above material fees is required to cover the cost of consumables such as solder and acetylene gas for the torch.

Creating Custom Cabochon Settings with Debi Orton – April 25, 2020 - Stones with rounded domes are referred to as cabochons. The most typical setting for cabochons is a bezel setting. A bezel is a strip of wire that is soldered to a backing and wraps tightly around the stone. Beginning silversmiths set calibrated cabochons using pre-formed calibrated settings. In this course, we'll examine the options for setting stones of a non-standard size or shape. By the end of this class, you will be able to create a basic bezel setting for any stone. Ideally, students will have taken one of our basic silversmithing classes, or have other experience working with stones and metal.

Beginning Punch Needle Rug Hooking and Open Studio with Layne Herschel – April 25-26, 2020 - In this workshop, students will learn the basics of punch needle rug hooking. Students will make a 14" chair seat pad or wall hanging, and by doing so will learn all the skills necessary for making larger rugs. Choose from a multitude of patterns offered by Layne or draw your own. The Oxford punch needle will be used along with a palette of beautiful 100% hand-dyed wool yarns from which to choose your colors. Other techniques, such as using wool strips and the mini punch needle will be demonstrated in class. If you already know how to punch and want to start a new project or finish an old one, this is a great opportunity to share ideas, update skills, and have a variety of yarn to choose from for your rug. Layne is an Oxford Punch Needle certified instructor.

Making a Black Ash Berry Basket with Penny Hewitt – April 26, 2020 - Make your own basket, and in the process, learn one of the oldest crafts in human history. For thousands of years, baskets served as the indispensable objects in every culture. Carry on the tradition and take home a beautiful, durable and useful basket crafted from responsibly harvested, hand pounded Vermont black

ash splints. In this class, students will weave a square to round basket, approximately 6" X 8", with an optional leather strap. Included is a discussion on how the material is harvested and processed.

Our 2020 Membership Drive is still underway. Members receive discounts on classes, a coupon good for 5% off any one item in our Gift and Craft shop, are eligible to display/sell their work in the Shop on campus, and receive a discount on booth space in our Art and Craft Festivals. We have four different levels of membership.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us with our work. Volunteers who are members and join a committee are eligible for up to 5 days of free classes. Debi Orton, Publicity Director Phone: (518) 424-4550 Email: publicity@fletcherfarm.org Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, 611 Route 103 South, Ludlow, Vermont 05149 Phone: (802) 228-8770



Springfield Medical Care CEO Speaks to Ludlow Rotary

Josh Dufresne, Interim CEO of the Springfield Medical Care Systems (SMCS), was the guest speaker at a recent luncheon meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC).

His comments dealt with the current status of SMCS as well as its relationship to the Springfield Hospital. In noting that both independent units had filed for bankruptcy protection in order to reorganize, he indicated that the two units would probably be filing exit papers from bankruptcy with the courts this spring or summer.

Dufresne was particularly careful to note that the latest financial statement from SMCS was all "in black", denoting that the unit was successfully recovering under Chapter 11 protection.

He stressed the need for the two units to be legally separated so that each might fulfill its respective role in providing necessary services to the area and satisfy federal requirements and regulations.

He specifically cited the current lack of a full-time primary care physician at the Ludlow Health center as one of the critical areas of concentration for SMCS. Dufresne noted that a national problem existed due to the limited number of primary care physicians in the nation.

This problem was very compounded by the fact that graduating primary care physicians historically have a "huge indebtedness" which causes them to seek opportunities in urban areas offering the highest salaries.

Dufresne noted that the Springfield Hospital was currently in discussions with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center over possible relationships between the two facilities.

LRC meets for lunch normally on the first the Tuesdays of each month. The LRC is small and is always looking to welcome new members. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may 'Serve Humanity' while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact any Rotarian or drop a note to Ludlow Rotary, PO Box 216, Ludlow Vermont.

Photo of speaker, Josh Dufresne, CEO of Springfield Medical Care Systems, during meeting attached. Ralph Pace

Ludlow Hosts EAB Inventory Program March 10

On Tuesday, March 10 from 6 to 8 PM in the Ludlow Town Hall conference room, a forestry representative from the state will be training people on how to take an inventory of ash trees. This is part of the campaign to prepare for the onset of EAB (emerald ash borer) that has already reached Londonderry and many other parts of Vermont.

Since its discovery, EAB has:

- * Killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America.
- * Caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.
- * Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries hundreds of millions of dollars.

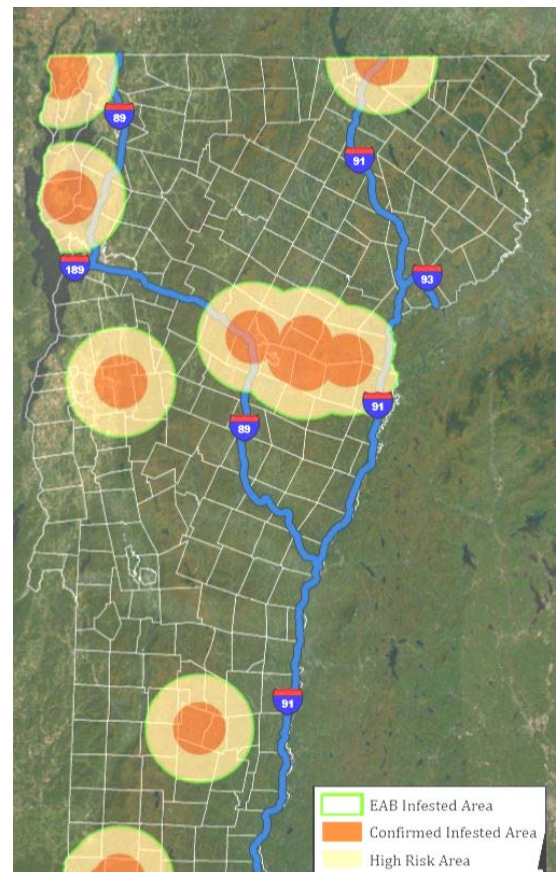
The training will involve the use of a specialized app offered by the state to categorize ash trees. Pictured above are the confirmed EAB infestations in Vermont. All abutting states and provinces have been infested with EAB.

This "silent crisis" will be hitting Ludlow and the surrounding area soon. An inventory of public properties is the first order of business to prepare for dealing with EAB. It will also impact private properties. For some quick information on EAB, use the website, <https://ludloweab.com/>.

Volunteers are needed who are willing to undertake the process of identifying ash trees - both the healthy and infected ones, so that the area will be prepared to deal with this deadly - and costly, infestation.

In several months Ludlow will begin its own inventory process. Other area towns will probably follow suit.

Contact Ralph Pace at 802-228-7239 or ralphpace@gmail.com for information.



NITKA'S NOTES FROM THE STATE HOUSE

By Senator Alice Nitka

It's surprising to me that there are nine Proposed Amendments to the Vermont Constitution submitted for consideration this biennium. They can only be proposed by Senators, and only in every other biennium. The 2019-2020 session is such a time when they can be proposed and the next time this opportunity occurs will be the 2023-2024 session. In order to pass, they must be favorably voted by the full Legislature within the two-year session in which they were introduced. They then must pass again and this vote is by the newly elected Legislators in the 2021-2022 biennium. The voters of the state have the final say as to the approval of any and all amendments. Should a majority of voters support any amendment it will become a part of the Constitution of our state. This is not an easy process and the proposals need advocates over the course of several years. In 1986, Vermont voters rejected an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The Proposed Amendments by number submitted for this session thus far are:

1. Governor: Four year term of office starting 2024,
2. Clarifying the prohibition on slavery and indentured servitude,
3. Individual right to privacy,
4. Equality of rights,
5. Right to personal reproductive freedom,
6. Senators: Four year term of office starting 2024,
7. Bail re violent acts,
8. Gender neutral terms re voters, and
9. Right to a clean environment, natural resources are the common property of all the people.

Several of these have generated quite a bit of controversy and discussion.

There's a new exhibit in the State House. It was put together by the curator of the beautiful museum in which we work, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment for women's suffrage. This small exhibit displays some VT memorabilia of women in the State House including some photos of women in a 1938 photo and on the cover of a "Life" Magazine, dated April 6, 1953. There are several events scheduled around the state including a "SuffrageFest and Parade" in Montpelier on August 22. The VT History Day Competition for students will give an award for the best student Suffrage-Themed project on April 4 at the UVM Davis Center. On August 15 in Waterbury there is a 5K Suffrage Scramble. The Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance in Montpelier is organizing many events as are museums around the state for this 1920-2020 celebration.

Feel free to contact me at the State House at 802-322-5616, on weekends at 802-228-8432 or anitka@leg.state.vt.us Letters are good too, P.O. Box 136, Ludlow, VT 05149-0136

Senator Alison Clarkson's Legislative Update

During the Legislative Session we often get caught up in all the challenges we face as a state and all the problems we are trying to solve. We often forget to remind ourselves of how lucky we all are to live in such a special part of the world. We often forget that we agree more often than we disagree and that we share more values in common than we think. As we look to our Town Meetings and celebrate our local communities, treasuring this icon of direct democracy - I am inspired to share an article in US News and World Report which recently named Vermont as the 5th Best State in America to live in.

In weighing 8 measures: health care, education, economy, infrastructure, opportunity, fiscal stability, crime & corrections and natural environment - Vermont averaged out to be the 5th best state. The top four were: Washington, New Hampshire, Minnesota and Utah. The first 2 measures - health care & education - were given most weight, then states' economies and infrastructures and on down the list. These weights were based on a survey identifying what mattered most to people.

As the federal government increasingly relies on states for core policy and spending functions, it is interesting to see which states are considered to be doing the best. The data informing this work is a mix of private non-profit and governmental sources. And, you can read the entire article with links to the data: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings>

This report is of particular interest as Vermont weighs its future, its aging demographic and how we attract new, younger workers to our state. If we are the 5th best state to live in, surely we should be able to recruit more people to live, work, play and raise a family. To this end, the Senate Economic Development Committee, on which I serve as vice-chair, is looking at several measures to attract young people to, or back to, Vermont.

One of the chief barriers rural states face in attracting young people is student debt. Big city jobs offer higher pay and thus bigger incomes by which to reduce debt. In addition, people with student debt put off buying homes. On average, younger Vermonters have \$31,432 in student loan debt - which is higher than the national average, which is \$28,565. As a result, we are proposing to address these barriers by creating 4 opportunities to reduce student debt. The first is to establish a Student Debt Repayment Benefit which employers could offer employees. This would give employers a tax credit for the benefit (\$5,000 a year), which would be tax free income for the employee. Second, at the end of 2019 the federal government allowed 529 plans to be used to pay down student debt. Our bill

would sync up Vermont's 529 plans with the feds to enable Vermonters to take advantage of this. Third, we encourage young people to buy homes by offering \$20,000 in down payment assistance (forgivable over 5 years) IF they buy in one of Vermont's Opportunity Zones (downtowns in need of reinvestment). This idea builds on the very successful 'First Time Home Owner Down Payment Assistance Program' offered by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. And, fourth, we expand the payment eligibility in our Remote Worker Program to include Student Debt payment.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov



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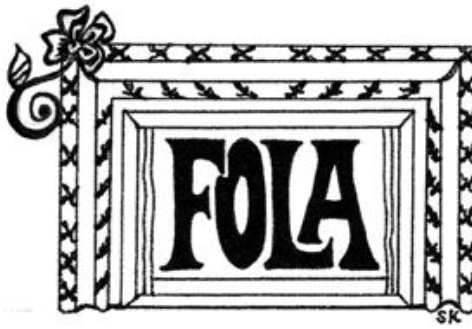
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Todd Durgin
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Mount Holly, Vermont 05758



FOLA Suspends Movie Operations Due to COVID-19 Until May 17

The FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) Board of Directors has decided to suspend all audience-based activities through May 17. This will mean that the movies scheduled during that time framework will either be cancelled or rescheduled, depending on the status of the coronavirus infestation and recovery progress.

Scott Stearns, FOLA's chairman, said "We made this decision in the interest of protecting the many area folks who normally attend our movies". He noted that recent decisions by Governor Scott regarding the virus played a major role in the decision.

FOLA will determine whether the suspended programs will be cancelled or rescheduled.

Stearns noted that much of this decision will depend on the future spread of the virus and its subsequent control.

He added that "if the situation improves earlier than May 17, FOLA will do all it can to renew the movie schedule".

Ludlow Rotary Club Hosts Youth Exchange Ski Weekend

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) recently hosted their 28th annual Youth Exchange ski weekend at Okemo Mountain Resort thanks to the generous support of a Vail Resorts EpicPromise grant.

Ludlow Rotary hosted 22 international exchange students from 17 countries in a weekend of staying with local host families; skiing and riding at Okemo; sharing companionship and stories; building life-long, international friendships and understanding. The students from countries as varied as Indonesia, Brazil, India, and Europe, skied, snow tubed, rode the mountain coaster and played in snow, some for the first time in their lives. The group is pictured above as they enjoy the opportunity provided by LRC and Vail's EpicPromise.

Students from tropical environments were hesitant to put on all that clothing, boots, helmets, and gloves to go out in the snow. Those who are expert skiers encouraged the others.

Vail Resorts provided tickets, lessons and equipment for



students; meeting areas for meals and a dance, resulting in an amazing opportunity for all participants to enjoy the fabulous fun that being at a Vail resort offers. The laughter, singing and stories that ended in hugs and tears at the close of the weekend were proof of the success of putting the students in a challenging but fun environment to build camaraderie, self-esteem, and life-long friendships.

Without the generous support from Vail, local host families, and the community, such incredible experiences would not have been possible.

Of the grant, Vail Resorts says, EpicPromise is how the Company embodies its foundational value – Do Good. By supporting the health of our communities through local grants and employee volunteering, the wellbeing and development of our employees through the EpicPromise Foundation, and the resilience of our environment and global climate through our bold Commitment to Zero, EpicPromise helps create a more promising future for generations to come. Annually, Vail's EpicPromise donates \$14.5 million in product and cash contribution to more than 350 non-profit organizations.

This Rotary International program increases world-wide understanding and peace. These young people will be the future leaders in their home countries. They cherish their experiences in the United States and the fellow students with whom they shared those days. Hopefully, those memories will lead to a better understanding of complicated international issues as future decision makers guide their nations. Ralph Pace



SUNDAY BRUNCH
Every Sunday
10 am – 2 pm

Outdoor Fire Pit
Take Out Available
Free Wi-Fi
Reservations Not Required

Hours:

Monday	5pm-9pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	5pm-9pm
Thursday	5pm-9pm
Friday	12 noon - 9pm
Saturday	12 noon - 9 pm
Sunday Brunch:	10 – 2 pm
Sunday Regular Menu:	12 noon – 9 pm

CLOSED TUESDAYS

492-3433
Vtrusticrooster.com
5446 VT Route 103, Cuttingsville, VT
Like us on Facebook

Community Information on Okemo Valley TV

Keeping Community Connected & Informed During Crisis

Okemo Valley TV is a nonprofit community television station and media center serving the Black River Valley / Okemo region. Like most other public buildings and businesses, its Ludlow-based facility is closed to the public for the time being. Despite this limitation, it is focusing on ways to keep the community informed and engaged during this time of need.

"Our staff is mostly working remotely at this point, but we're also taking appointments on a case-by-case basis, for anyone wishing to use our services, whether that's the studio or borrowing equipment", says Executive Director Patrick Cody. The station will address each request to find a way to accommodate,



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MLS

Comcast Xfinity and VTel subscribers. They can be found on Comcast on channels 8 & 10 in Ludlow, Plymouth, and Cavendish and channels 20 & 21 in Mount Holly (please note that in early May, Okemo Valley TV's channels will be moved to Comcast channels 1076 & 1086 in all Towns, a transition which is currently in process). On VTel, Okemo Valley TV is on channels 166 & 167, in high definition. The channels run programming 24/7; the programming comes from local, regional, and statewide sources, including those produced right within the community and by the station's staff and volunteers. In addition, the station offers video-on-demand on its website and YouTube channels, as well as a calendar / bulletin board for community information. "The calendar has been seeing a real uptick in activity this past week, with all of the closures, cancellations, and health information (related to COVID-19)", said Cody.

The station invites all community organizations and members to submit information to the station's community calendar, which is also available on its website (regularly found at okemovalley.tv/calendar). For the time being, the calendar is also prominently featured on the home page of okemovalley.tv. The website also hosts local programs for viewing and daily program schedules (okemovalley.tv/schedules), as well as weekly programming "grids" for each of its channels, "to find out what's on when any given day", as Cody puts it.



Fletcher Memorial Library Is CLOSED Until April 6th or TBD

(Wash Your Hands - Incessantly)

Be Safe — Stay Healthy



Staff will be here working on projects half-day. If you would like to request items:

- PLEASE check out our On-line Catalog. If there are items you would like, give us a call, we will place the hold(s)
- You will receive an email or phone call when your items are ready for pick-up at the REAR door. Movies & Audio books too!
- This is a GREAT time to familiarize yourself with our On-line offerings of downloadable Audio and E-books, Ancestry Research, take a fun Course and learn something new or Search our many Knowledge Bases.

802-228-8921

WWW.FMLNEWS.ORG



Thank You for Your Cooperation.





Shriner Hospital For Children

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

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



VNAHSR Community Clinics Canceled Until Further Notice

Hello everyone,

Please note, in light of the current national concern of the Coronavirus and COVID-19, we will be canceling our community foot and blood pressure clinics as well as support groups effective immediately until further notice. This includes the April schedule that I sent out earlier today. So please disregard that.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Thank you, **Marc Miele**, Marketing Coordinator, VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region 802.770.1634
marc.miele@vnahsr.org



Vermont Department of Health – (802) 863-7240 or Dial 211 for COVID-19 Questions

Visit www.healthvermont.gov/covid19/ for the most up-to-date state information and guidance about COVID-19, including information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Not Feeling Well?

The CDC and Vermont Department of Health recommend that if you feel sick, call your primary care provider or any of the local emergencies room before going in. They will advise you how to proceed. Call 911 for all emergencies. Local Health Centers:

Ludow Health Center (802) 228-8867 Springfield Hospital (802) 885-7540 Rutland Regional Medical Center (802) 775-7111

VERMONT 2-1-1 is the number to dial to find out about hundreds of important community resources, like emergency food and shelter, disability services, counseling, senior services, health care, child care, drug and alcohol programs, legal assistance. Transportation agencies, educational and volunteer opportunities, and much more. 2-1-1 is your first step toward solving everyday problems or when you are facing difficult times. It's a free service. It's confidential. It's 24/7. www.vermont211.org

Please email mthollycommunitycares@gmail.com if you want to share any other resources that might be helpful to the Mount Holly Community during this pandemic.

If you see this and do not get the Mount Holly NewsFlash, email mthollynewsflash@gmail.com to subscribe to get community news.

Remember to support our local businesses during this critical event. Finally, many Mount Holly community members are in the high-risk group, wash hands and social distance, these precautions will help keep ourselves and our community members healthy. We are all in this together.



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.

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Phone Email

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Sign Up for the Mt. Holly NewsFlash to get all that is happening locally in our Town, our Schools and the local area just email to mthollynewsflash@gmail.com And request to be placed on the list. News item deadlines are 6:00 am & 6:00 pm

For Sale: Firewood –
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Call 802-259-2147

Commercial Opportunity



Have you ever dreamed of owning your own restaurant? Here is an opportunity to buy a restaurant that already has a GREAT reputation and following. Locals and visitors, alike, have been frequenting Harry's Cafe for over 30 years! This very manageable 68 seat restaurant was completely renovated in 2018. Serious inquiries will be asked to sign an NDA for review of financials.
MLS: 4791444 \$525,000.

Engel & Völkers 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 www.Harryscafe.com 259-2555
Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 228-6656
The Rustic Rooster – Donna & Greg Ganzner 492-3433
www.vtrusticrooster.com

Bed & Breakfast

Clifford Country Bed & Breakfast www.cliffordcountry.com 259-2269

Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling*Building*Portable Sawmilling 259-3699
Cutting Edge Carpentry – Curt Marechaux Cell 236-5559
Earl (Tersh) Runner Carpentry – Superior Woodworking 492-3388
Grey Goose Chimney Sweeps 492-3549
Jenkins Builders – General Contractor brandon@jenkinsbuild.com 952-9722
Summit Home Services LLC- Todd Durgin H: 259-3000 C: 236-7714
Electrical & Home Maintenance
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 228-3451
Belmont Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30
Pastor Glenn Davis 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 & 6pm
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 603-439-0803
St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 9 am
Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois 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 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 802-259-2250
1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly
Smith Maple Crest Farm, Grass-Fed Beef Cuts Fresh/Frozen 492-2151
www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com
Sugar Hill Berry Farm 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
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 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 259-2250
Smith Maple Crest Farm www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com 492-2151

Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc., Don Reiser H 259-2722 362-0501
print@expresscopyinc.com

Metal Fabrication

Wayne Jones Metal www.waynejonesmetal.com 259-2521

Mount Holly Email

Kevin Plew – 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
Tailored Plumbing tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com 802-417-1647

Real Estate Sales

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

Alex Eatmon Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com Cell 802-345-7886

Lisa Kelley Lisa@KelleyRealEstate.com H 259-3112 Cell 802-345-6581

Ty Murray Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com H 259-3014 Cell 802-777-8047

Fax 802-228-5343 www.KelleyRealEstate.com 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 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 259-3232

www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com

Stone Creek Workshops www.stonecreekworkshops.com 259-2254

