



MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT



46/11

January 2021

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

Mt. Holly Community Asso – Contact Linda Miller at 802-345-1740

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

1 st	New Year's Day ~ Ellis Island Opens 1892 ~ Emancipation Proclamation issue By Pres. Lincoln 1863	
5 th	Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library	7:00 pm
	Mount Holly Conservation Commission	7:00 pm
7 th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	7:00 pm
Sun 10 th	Bobcat Hunting Season Begins ~ 1st Meeting of The United Nations General Assembly 1946	
11 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	7:00 pm
12 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Garage & Zoom	6:30 pm
13 th	LMHUUS Meeting,	6:00 pm
	Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	7:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
14 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm
Sat 16 th	Operation Desert Storm Began 1991	
Sun 17 th	Crow Season Starts Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon Only ~ Benjamin Franklin 1706	
18 th	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
19 th	Robert E. Lee 1807	
20 th	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	6:30 pm
	Mount Holly Planning Commission, Via Zoom	7:00 pm
	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm
Sat 23 rd	National Pie Day Founded 1986	
25 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	7:00 pm
26 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
27 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, Via Zoom See Pg 3	6:30 pm
28 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm
	Full Wolf Moon ~ US Vietnam Cease Fire 1973	



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Emergency Services

Mount Holly Fire Dept.	259-2700 or	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
Mount Holly Fire Warden – Jim Seward	786-3408	259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Mount Holly Rescue Squad	775-3133 or	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-773-9101
Mount Holly Constable Paul Faenza	C 802-353-8347		Health Officer - Tim Bickford	779-6429
Animal Control For Mt. Holly	C text only 353-4492	H 802-259-3976	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 responsibility for the content of their articles."

Donation Thank You's: Charlie Conroy (Custom Builders of Belmont) * Raye Lin & Peter Collins * Mary & Jeff Smith (Smith Maple Crest Farm) * Jill Cannon Kern * Barbara Hawkins Fairbanks * Glenn Kreg * Vernon & Stella Beauchain *



January Birthdays: 2nd- Tony Falco 4th - Jamie Ludwig 6th- Seth Rosen 8th - Andrew Flanders * Dannielle Bussino 11th - John Ryea (1983) 15th -John Wasilewski 17th - Lori Cole * Robert Keen 19th- Rick Ludwig * Benjamin Taylor * Lisa Bussino (1962) 20th - Eric Ludwig 23rd -Thomas Osbourne * Jeff Columb 27th -Hannah Teter 28th -Chris Lombardi * Jahnava Jenkins 30th -Brian Keen 31st - Jennifer Parker * Cole Tarbell * Tiffany Taylor

January Anniversaries 15th- Kyle & Nancy Perry 24th- Armand & Debby Bernagozzi

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	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
	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



January 6, 1942 - Pan Am Airway plane completes first around-the-world trip by a commercial aircraft (New York, NY 1942)

January 23, 1849 - Briton, Elizabeth Blackwell, 1st woman to receive MD degree in USA.

January 25, 1959 - American Airlines First Scheduled Transcontinental Flight.



Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc.

PUBLISHER: Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc., a Non Profit Vermont Corporation; Federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt statuses

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Dennis Devereux **V. PRESIDENT:** David Venter

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

DIRECTORS: Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, Kevin Plew

MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow

ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

SUBMISSIONS: Deadline is 22nd By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to chitchat@vermontel.net or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **Phone 802-259-2314.** E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries, 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.

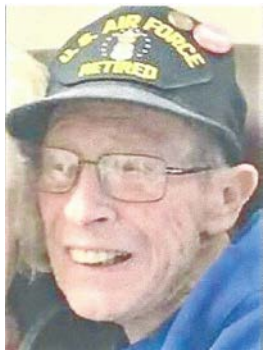
CIRCULATION: The Mount Holly Chit Chat is delivered to every residence in Mount Holly and mailed to out-of-Town property owners as well as other folks with Mount Holly ties.

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.



Norman H. "Peanut" LeBrun

On Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, Norman H. "Peanut" LeBrun, beloved husband and father, peacefully passed away after his wife of almost 61 years, Rosemary (Rizzo) LeBrun, and daughters said their goodbyes at The Pines at Rutland, Vermont. Norman was born on April 19, 1932, to Eldoris and Myrtle (Keniston) LeBrun in Ludlow, Vermont. He graduated from Black River High School in 1950. After graduating, he joined the Navy and later, the Air Force. He spent time in the South Pacific as part of Operation Redwing on Eniwetok Atoll, for which he was later labeled an Atomic Veteran. He married Rosemary Rizzo on Dec. 19, 1959. They had four daughters, Karen, Teri, Liz and Barb. After his tour of duty in Vietnam, Norman retired from the Air Force in 1971 and moved his family to Mount Holly, Vermont. He worked for General Electric first in Ludlow, then in Rutland, retiring in 1992. In his retirement years, Norman and Rosemary frequently traveled to Atlantic City where they always tried to "hit the big one." When they were not traveling, they could be seen at Black River High, rooting for the local sports teams, sipping coffee at the

Cafe at Delight, or walking through the town of Ludlow. Norman is survived by his wife, Rosemary; brother, Louis; daughters, Karen Main (Paul), Theresa, Elizabeth (Edward) and Barbara; as well as grandchildren, Steven, Danielle, Rachel, Tyler and Kalinen; and great-grandchildren, Lily, Autumn, Ezra, Lucey and Molley; and his niece, Roberta. He was predeceased by his parents; and two brothers, Robert and Bernard. There are no calling hours. Burial and a celebration of Norman's life will be in Spring 2021. Memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014 www.michaeljfox.org; or The National Association of Atomic Veterans Inc., 130 Cleveland St., Lebanon, OR 97355-4505 www.naav.com. Arrangements are by Aldous Funeral Home.



John D. "Jack" Durgin III

John Daniel Durgin III, 63 of Ludlow, VT, passed away peacefully November 29, 2020 after bravely battling colon cancer.

Jack, as most people knew him, was born September 30, 1957 in Plymouth, N.H. His family later moved to Mount Holly, Vermont where he spent most of his childhood. After graduating from Black River High School, Jack served in the Army.

Jack was an avid skier and fly fisher – and he loved to share these passions with his children, Alisha Durgin and John "Johnny" Durgin IV. Jack also enjoyed slow pitch softball, working, Oreos, and spending time with his son's dog, Cash. Jack will be remembered for his sense of humor, Positivity, and knack for storytelling.

In addition to his children, Jack is survived by his mother Freda Durgin (nee Avery); his siblings Casey

Durgin, David Durgin, Todd Durgin, Saxonee Burgess and Chrisanda DeBois and their families/ and his treasured friends Pete and Paula Pollender. He was predeceased by his father John Durgin Jr., sister Suzette Durgin and nephew Adam Burgess.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ballard Hobart American Legion Post 36 so it can continue supporting veterans as it did Jack.



Jerome Stuart Brown

Jerome Stewart Brown, 80, of Mount Holly, Vermont, died on Dec. 13, 2020, with Natalie, his loving wife of 58 years, by his side. Jerome was born in the Rutland Hospital on Feb. 23, 1940, the son of John Jacob Brown of Wallingford and Mildred Florence (Stewart) Brown of Sugar Hill, East Wallingford. He attended Catholic schools in Rutland, graduating from Mount St. Joseph Academy. He served honorably in the United States Navy from January 1960 through June 1964. He was aboard the USS Herbert J. Thomas while stationed in Long Beach, California. During this time, he participated in two west Pacific deployments, earning the grade of FTG2 (Gunfire Technician). He was [awarded](#) the Vermont Veterans Medal for Honorable Service in the United States Military on June 14, 2004. On March 3, 1962, he married Natalie L. Kinsman of North Springfield, Vermont, beginning a partnership that would last for a lifetime. Together, they welcomed their son, Christopher Stuart Brown, on July 20, 1971. Upon release from the military, Jerome returned to Rutland, Vermont, where he worked for GE Aviation through 1970. He then went into the real estate business as a realtor forming the Sugar Hill Realty. He bought and sold apartment houses in Rutland, Bennington, Springfield, Windsor, Ascutney and Bellows Falls, Vermont, also in Claremont, New Hampshire, North Walpole, New Hampshire, and Whitehall, New York. He also formed a partnership with

his brothers, Richard J. and Gordon Brown, operating the New England Chemical Co. Later, he bought and operated Speed Queen Laundromat and Brown Diversified Inc. of Rutland, Vermont. In 1975, he became a partner in Artcraft Electroplating Inc. of Burbank, California, and moved there with Natalie and Christopher. They remained in California until 1983 when Jerry sold his partnership and moved his family back to Vermont, settling down in Mount Holly. He again began working in real estate and later took on dispatching communications for the Ludlow Police Department. He retired from there in 2016 after 30 years of service. Jerome was an active member of the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Jerry and Natalie enjoyed some lovely vacations, including the Carnival Holiday Cruise out of New Orleans in 2003. Another time, Jerry, ever the realtor, on a vacation in Hawaii bought and sold a lot on the Big Island to cover their trip expenses, with some left over to put towards Christopher's college expenses. In 2004, Jerry and Natalie bought a place in Sunshine Village Park in Florida where they spent the last several winters. Jerome was predeceased by his parents, John and Mildred Brown; his brothers, Gordon and Richard Brown; a sister, Marilyn Ann Brown Bowen. He is survived by his wife, Natalie of Mount Holly, Vermont; a son, Christopher of Springfield, Vermont; and two sisters, Monica Brown Reed and Colleen Brown Natale, both of Rutland, Vermont. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a memorial service will be scheduled for a later time. Jerome will be buried in the New Mechanicsville Cemetery in Belmont, Vermont. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Jerry's name to the Mount Holly Rescue Squad. Arrangements are under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home in Rutland.

Flander's Excavating & Firewood

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Mount Holly Town Library.

The Library was not able to open for curbside service Saturday 12/19 from 11-1 as the Snow has not been removed from the access areas to the building as of yet. Please hold any items for return until Wed. 12/23. Book pick up will be available on Wed. 12/23. Curbside service will not be available from 12/24-1/1/21. We will return to our current hours on Saturday January 2. Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year to all!

Mount Holly Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Please see the link below for the final draft of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The final draft plan is available for public comment, from now thru December 22, 2020. Please feel free to contact Jeff Chase at jeff@chasevermont.com or 802-282-1607 with any questions or comments. At the conclusion of the public comment period, we will finalize the plan for submittal to Vermont Emergency Management for preliminary approval. Our goal is to submit to Vermont Emergency Management by the end of December. <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Mount-Holly-Draft-LHMP-12-08-20.pdf>

Mount Holly Town Library

The Mount Holly Town Library is offering curbside pickup and return of materials only. However effective Thurs. December 3rd, the library is pleased to announce that we have created a Wi-Fi hotspot available to the public. It is free, no password required. This hotspot sends a signal about 400 feet in all directions. As we all know, cell service is limited, and many properties do not have internet access. This Wi-Fi service enhancement was made possible by Jeff Chase, Mount Holly Town Select member, The Rutland Regional Planning Commission via a grant from the Public Service Department of the State of Vermont. Thanks to all who made this happen! The Board of Directors and staff of the



Debris Jam at Bridge (B1-2) on VT Route 155 – Tropical Storm Irene


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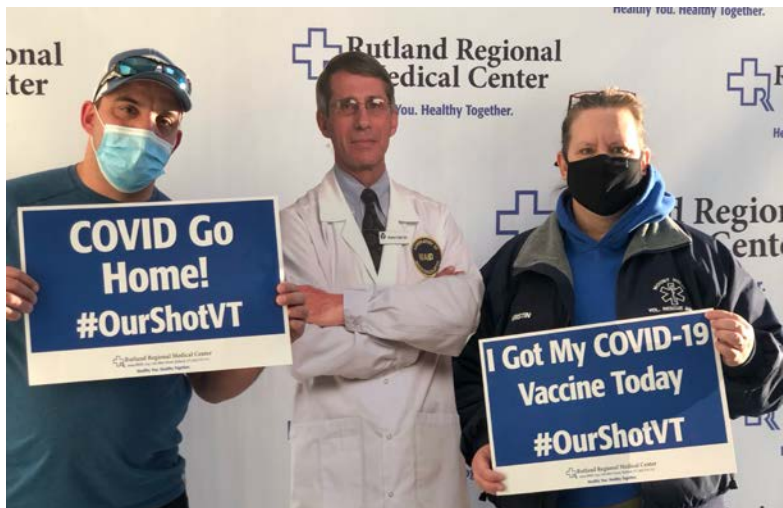
Residential Writer's Retreat

Happy New Year. I had hoped in retirement to initiate a residential writers' retreat with a public reading series here in town through the library. Enter the virus. Plans remain uncertain as they do for us all, but I will post in the Chit Chat once they clarify. Thank you. – Joan Connor

Mount Holly Rescue Members Get Vaccine

"Mount Holly Rescue has 4 members immunized with the COVID vaccine on 12/18" of which "Kristin Veysey and Michael Harris were fortunate enough to receive the vaccine

in the initial round of distribution".



The Grinch Did Not Steal Christmas Eve

For many churches, attendance at their Christmas Eve service is historically one of the highest of the year. This year many houses of worship are not able to have their usual Christmas Eve services due to the restrictions set forth by the Governor. The Pandemic Grinch, however, has not stolen the Christmas Eve service entirely.

A Virtual Christmas Eve service is the result of collaboration of members of five area churches. They all belong to a loosely formed group called ECCO, Experimental Covenantal Community Outreach. Members from the United Church of Ludlow, the First Congregational Church -UCC, Springfield, the United Church of Bellows Falls -UCC, the Grafton Community Church and the Acworth Congregational Church (NH) are all contributing to this unique virtual service. Each group is responsible for a segment of the worship service which includes scripture readings and music. There is traditional Christmas music that you can sing to and special music that you can listen to. Patrick Cody of Okemo Valley Television has generously overseen the production of this virtual service.

There are many options for attending this Christmas Eve service safely from the comfort of your own homes. It will be broadcast on three public access television stations serving the area at 7 PM on Christmas Eve. Okemo Valley Television (channel Comcast 1076 and VTel 166), Springfield Area Public Access Television- SAPA (channel Comcast 1077 and VTel 160), and the Falls Area Community Television FACT (channel Comcast 1076 and VTel 172) have all agreed to broadcast it simultaneously for which the participants are grateful. If more flexibility in time is needed or if viewers do not have access to cable, it will also be available for viewing anytime on Christmas Eve from the websites of each of the stations, on Facebook and on You Tube and from each of the church's websites. While it will not be the same as an in person Christmas Eve service the members of ECCO wish you a safe and happy Christmas and hope this option will be uplifting during this unprecedented year of the Pandemic Grinch.



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MT. HOLLY, VT

Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT



Christmas Eve & Christmas Day & New Year's Mass Schedule & Services

St. Patrick's in Wallingford

4:00 pm Christmas Eve

10:00 am Christmas Day

9:00 am New Year's Day

&

Christ The King in Rutland

4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve

7:30 am & 10:00 am Christmas Day

5:30 pm New Year's Eve

10:00 am New Year's Day

&

Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rutland

4:00 pm & 8:00 pm Christmas Eve

8:00 am Christmas Day

8:00 am New Year's Day

&

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ludlow

5:00 pm & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve

10:00 am Christmas Day

4:30 pm New Year's Eve

9:00 am New Year's Day

&

Belmont Village Baptist Church

No Christmas Eve Service

Rutland Jewish Center

Shabbat Services:

Jan. 2, Saturday 9:30 am

Jan. 16, Saturday 9:30 am

Jan. 30, Saturday 9:30 am

Kabbalat Shabbat Services:

Jan. 8, Friday 7:30 pm

Jan. 22, Friday 7:30 pm

Individuals will need to contact the Rabbi
for zoom information.

Contact

Rabbi Ellie Shemtov

rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org



Mount Holly Community Association
Membership Drive

2020 – 2021

Although we regret the cancellation of
Our summer & fall events, we trust you will continue your support
Needed now more than ever for
the maintenance of our historic Community Center Building
Please join today!!

(Brochures are available in the General Store, and the post offices.)

Mount Holly Community
Association

Lighting up the crossroads...since we were not able to have the traditional Christmas in Mount Holly party in the library, we decided to decorate the Gazebo with our traditional tree and lights. Besides the usual lighting on the library steps railing, we added more lights to decorate the entrance to the Community Room. All of this, combined with the wonderful display of lights on the Belmont Store, really lit up the crossroads this year! Looks like we may have started a tradition, so next year we'll have to have both an indoor *and* outdoor tree! The MHCA would like to extend many, many thanks to **Scott Crawford at the Balsam Barn** for donating

the Christmas tree that this year graces the Gazebo on the Belmont Village Baptist Church Green. Scott has been doing this for many, many years and we are indebted to him for his generosity. Thank you, Scott!


Although our usual end of year festivities were cancelled due to the pandemic, the **MHCA** spent their energy co-sponsoring the **holiday food drive** to replenish the food shelf housed in the basement of the Belmont Village Baptist Church. Along with the Mount Holly Community Cares group, the MHCA coordinated the collection of hundreds of items, which will keep the food shelf stocked for weeks to come. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who stepped up to support the drive. No surprise to us that it was such a success...after all we live in the most generous community in Vermont!

Despite our not being able to get together, please remember that your **membership in the MHCA** continues to be more important than ever! Among the many events sponsored by the Association (10 in total), four of them are fund raisers that have provided essential income to make all of the other events possible, as well as pay for essential building projects (e.g., the recently completed well!). This additional income is what contributes to being able to maintain a vibrant community association for our town. Membership is what pays for the operating expenses of the MHCA, so *it is essential* that this continue to be a strong, on-going source of income. Membership flyers can be found in the Belmont Store, the post offices, and the town office. Please join today!

Reminder...don't forget to pick up your **Mount Holly calendar for 2021!** They are running low, so take the opportunity to pick one up at the General Store, or the town office. This is a great fund raiser for the MHCA...half of the proceeds for the calendar go directly to support the activities we sponsor each year. Therefore, that half is also tax deductible!

As this year comes to a close, we look back and realize how much we've missed. So many gatherings we hold dear from Mount Holly Day in early summer to the fireworks on New Year's Eve at Star Lake, all of these events make us understand how very important the MHCA is to our community. However, we look forward to this spring and with great hope to taking up all of these activities again. In the meantime, we urge everyone to stay safe and healthy, especially at this time of year.

May the lights shine bright on us all through these holidays ahead and may we gather in celebration in 2021! Happy New Year to everyone from the Board of Directors of the Mount Holly Community Association!



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**Wish You a
Very
Merry Christmas**

*Be Well
Stay Safe*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Mount Holly Community Cares Task Force



Mount Holly Community Cares and the Mount Holly Community Association was once again an enormous success! We are truly amazed at the generosity of this community, which steps up without hesitation to contribute to all of our efforts

The Mount Holly Community Cares Task Force has continued its efforts to provide assistance to any of our neighbors in need of help.

The **Thanksgiving baskets** were a huge success and much appreciated by all of the families who received them. Once again, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who contributed those wonderful homemade goodies to make the boxes extra special! Jo Bania worked tirelessly to put everything together and deliver them all around town...we really appreciate it, Jo! Also, many thanks to Jo's son, Jake, who helped haul and deliver all those "wicked heavy" boxes! Thanks, Jake! (See the photo on this page of just a few of the boxes packed and ready to go.)

Speaking of **holiday boxes**...there will be a repeat of the Thanksgiving boxes which will be prepared and delivered before Christmas! Once again, a troupe of enthusiastic volunteers baked up a storm to put together a variety of treats for these boxes as well. Many thanks to each and every one of them for helping out with this endeavor. Jo is looking forward to spreading some holiday cheer with the help of many of our neighbors. Many thanks to her other son Josh for help with the deliveries! The whole Bania family has been put to work!

The second food drive held on Saturday, Dec. 19th and sponsored by

Parent Teacher Student Association

January 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm PTSA Meeting Zoom Link:

<https://trs.u.zoom.us/j/8691397037?fbclid=IwAR06IMHef2WJjmfkJDobSXi>

From our
family to yours
we wish you a
**safe &
happy
NEW YEAR!**

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to support those families who need assistance here in Mount Holly. The food shelf housed in the Belmont Village Baptist Church is once again full and ready to be shared with our neighbors. If you would like to access the food shelf, please contact Jo Bania at jo.bania@trs.u.org, or Glenn and Laura Davis at gladavis6@juno.com.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we are hunkering down for winter. Little did we know that we were really going to be hunkered down with 3+ feet of snow!! We put a notice in the Newsflash to be in touch with us if you needed assistance and that still stands, of course. Also, if you know of anyone in Mount Holly who is in need of assistance in any way, please let us know, or tell them to contact us at the email address above. We are here to help make life a bit easier in these difficult times. Mount Holly, VT 802-245-3490 mthollycommunitycares@gmail.com
mounthollycommunitycares.org

Mount Holly Community Cares

A coordinated and cross organizational task force dedicated to addressing the immediate and ongoing needs of the Mt Holly community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Call 211 if in need of assistance and you have not been able find it...food fuel mental health education.



Access Bone Builders Online

With Pat Facey

<https://www.volunteersinvt.org/service/rsvp-bone-builders-program/>

For more information

Call Judy Nevin 259-2443





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.org

Vicki Seward honored and recognized for 30 years of service to Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad

Mount Holly Rescue Board of Directors was proud to present Vicki Seward of East Wallingford a wooden EMS flag inscribed with a message of gratitude for her three decades of service on Sunday, December 20th. Vicki joined in 1990 and has served our community selflessly. She is consistently one of the most active members on our squad and serves as a member on the local District 10 Board as well as Vice President for MHVRS. She is certified as an Advanced EMT and recently attended an Advanced Medical Life Support class. As many people know, she is the mail carrier for Mount Holly as well, so if you see her on her route, please reach out and congratulate her on this momentous occasion!



Merry, Merry Very White and Deep Snow Christmas!

To all of you, from everyone at Rainbow Riding Center we wish you Happy Holidays and Good Health in the New Year! Let's all hope for good times ahead. We're looking forward to the start of a great season at our new location, Stone Wall Farm in Belmont, this coming spring.

Please check out our website: rainbowridingcenter.org, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @RainbowRiding and Instagram @rainbow_riding_center. Everyone keep well and remember to mask up and social distance at least a horse length apart.

Christine, Mary Jane and Cutie send Christmas and New Year's greetings to all.



God's Vested Interest

Terri Schafer was strolling the shops in Moline, IL. She knew exactly what she wanted to get her husband for Christmas. A little shop on 5th caught her attention so she stopped in. Her eyes darted toward the corner display. "That's it !" She smiled. "How much ?" "Only \$127.50."

Ouch! Her smile faded as she realized David's salary as a policeman couldn't stand a jolt like that. She decided to try a bit of womanly persistence "Uh, what about putting it aside for me ? Maybe I could pay a little each week and then pick it up a few days before Christmas?" "No," said the saleswoman, "I won't do that." Then, with a smile, she said, "I'll gift wrap it right *now* and you can take it with you. Pay me later." Terri was elated.

Then came the evening when Patrolman David Schafer got a call to a "drugstore robbery in progress." He arrived to see the suspect speeding away. He flipped on the siren and

lights and three blocks later the getaway car pulled over and stopped. The driver didn't move. Approaching carefully with his weapon still in the holster, David was stunned when the car door flew open and the thief produced a .45 and fired it from 3 feet away into David's abdomen.

At 7am a patrolman came to the Schafer's home, knocked and from the grave look on his face, Terri feared the worst. He calmly explained what had happened.

Astonished, Terri thought how glad she was that she hadn't waited until Christmas to give her husband his present. How grateful she was that the shopkeeper let her pay later. Her

husband, rather than lying dead in St. Luke's hospital from a gunshot wound, only had a deep, painful bruise. David was wearing the gift of life that Terri couldn't wait to give-his brand new bullet proof vest!

In like manner, Jesus didn't wait to give us His gift.. the armor of his own righteousness.

He gave it at the cost of His own blood, that we might be spared the blast of punishment for our own sin. God has a *vested* interest in protecting us with a shield that sin can never penetrate. But you and I must, like David Schafer, open that most *costly* gift and appropriate it and make it our own for it to have any effect. Within the movement of events, is the Designer, who plans and arranges the times and seasons, including the minutest details. Behind the maze of "gloom and Zoom" is the Master. Count on it and make the gift yours *now*. Don't put it

off. *Pastor Glenn*

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Mount Holly Town News

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

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting December 8, 2020 Minutes

In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark Turco

Town Officials: Jim Corven, Sue Covalla, Francis DeVine, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Annette Lynch, Jon McCann, Stephen Michel, Lori Norton, Renee Sarmiento, Jim Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Mary Surething, Andy Tanger, Lisa Terreri, Carol Woolley, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Karen Bartlett (O'Brien Shortle), Stephanie Bourque (RRPC), Zena Gates, Jim Heald, Abe Leber, Candace Neary, Gary Norton, Christine Pratt, Ron Unterman, Alison Weintraub and Donna, Fred, Lillian

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

Regular Select Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Town Office. Items to be included on the Agenda are due by Noon the Wednesday before the meeting.

they can and cannot offer the town. She also asked to add an item regarding future Select Board meetings under New Business – Other. It was agreed to add both.

4. Approval of November 10th, 2020 Minutes– Jeff Chase said we need to clarify town road use by registered snowmobiles and ATVs. Mr. Turco said ATV use on main roads was not allowed, but snowmobiles can use the right-of-way on roads serving as corridor connectors to the trail system. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a. Highways & Transfer Station Update – Clinton Woolley reported the electronics received for recycling will be pulled this week.

i) Plow Bills – Plymouth & Wallingford - Ms. Matthews said when the Town billed Plymouth and Wallingford in May, we informed them of a \$100 increase in the plow bill for this winter. As they are currently working on their budgets, Ms. Matthews asked if we anticipated another increase in the plow bills for next winter. Mr. Woolley said one town would like the Town to do some summer grading for an additional \$250 charge with materials supplied by them.

Ms. Matthews asked if Mr. Woolley had read the article in the Rutland Herald about towns preparing for back-up plow truck drivers if road crew members are out with COVID-19. She asked what our back-up plans are if this should happen. Mr. Woolley said the Town had mutual aid agreements and that there are people in town to call. Mr. Turco suggested he create a call list with names and availability of back-up drivers.

b. Treasurer – David Johnson

i) Monthly Income & Expense Report – Mr. Johnson reported the Property Taxes Receivable was now about \$192,000 after an additional \$53,000 was received after the end of November, and he said this was the first time in years that the delinquent taxes due was less than \$200,000. Looking at the Profit & Loss, he noted: the \$52,307 State Current Use payment was received, which is \$5,300 more than what was budgeted; the Solid Waste Labels Sold figure of \$13,920 is more than half of what was budgeted; the Town just received \$63,867 from the State and FEMA for expenses incurred to repair the damage from the April 2019 flooding; the Workers Compensation and Insurance bills were just received from the VT League of Cities and Towns with the workers comp bill a bit less than budgeted and the insurance bill about \$2,000 more than what was budgeted; Solid Waste disposal is at 99.65 tons and C&D disposal is at 52.81 tons, so we are running about 22 tons more than last year; the Special Road Projects expense of \$5,839 is for the Summit Road culvert repair; the Summer Road Outside Service expense of \$10,970 includes the \$2,000 just spent for the used equipment trailer. Mr. Johnson said he had recently received invoices in the amount of \$5,930 for expenses associated

with the land records digitization grant. Ms. Matthews made a motion to pay all invoices associated with the land records digitization grant by December 11th, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

At this point, Ms. Matthews noted Karen Bartlett from O'Brien Shortle Reynolds & Sabotka was on the phone to discuss the Letter of Engagement the firm had submitted. Ms. Matthews stated that the Town of Mount Holly needed an audit performed on the Town's

**THE CONSENT OF CANDIDATE FORM
MUST BE SIGNED AND TURNED INTO
THE TOWN CLERK BY JANUARY 25, 2021
TO RUN FOR AN OFFICE ON THE
MARCH BALLOT.**

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY

**A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR OUTDOOR
BURNING**

BURN PERMITS

May be obtained from
THE MOUNT HOLLY FIRE WARDEN

Jim Seward

Pager: 786-3408

Home: 259-2211

Leave a phone number where Jim can call you back.
Do not burn until you have spoken to him.

SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS

Mount Holly Animal Control Officer

The Mount Holly Animal Control Officer is Laura Swartz. She handles all calls concerning domesticated and farm animals, including Animal Cruelty concerns. For more information or to make a report please call **Home (802) 259-3976** or Cell text only 802-353-4492

Powers and Fothergill, Segale & Valley. She also knew of a firm in New Hampshire. Additional discussion ensued about the preparation of financials and the need for management's skills, knowledge and expertise so as to accept responsibility for the financials before an audit. Ms. Bartlett stated that when the latter is not possible, an outside firm can be used to prepare the financials before another firm performs an audit. She recommended speaking with the firm who might perform the audit before contracting with a firm to do the financials so as to avoid any duplication of effort and expense. Mr. Turco stated we would have to contact the other firms concerning the audit. Both Mr. Turco and Ms. Matthews thanked Ms. Bartlett for her time and the information. Ms. Matthews suggested preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the audit to send to several area firms. Mr. Chase said he could prepare an outline for the RFP. Ms. Matthews said she could fill in the details, calling upon VLCT if need be. It was agreed to do so.

ii) December 7th Tax Sale – Mr. Johnson reported two properties were put up for tax sale: one owner paid the taxes due right before the auction, and the other property was sold. He stated that leaves only one property from 2019 with unpaid taxes.

Mount Holly Town Office Will be CLOSED

Tuesday, January 1st, 2021 For New Years Day

Monday, January 18th, 2021 for Martin Luther King's Jr. Day

a new Grand List program which requires the use of MS Office 365 software. He also noted that the computer in the Listers' office is seven years old and may need to be replaced; funds are available in the Listers budget to do so. He also said the inspection letters had been mailed to property owners in order to update the Grand List.

d. Mount Holly Planning Commission – Jon McCann welcomed new Planning Commission members Brigid Sullivan and Lisa Terri. He stated the Planning Commission reviewed the work on the Town Plan of the past few months for the two new members. They also discussed the 12 State requirements for a town plan and discussed the best methods on how to move forward.

e. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update – Francis DeVine reported that Commission members had a training session with Fish & Wildlife's Jens Hilke to go over Conservation Commissions' responsibilities. Mr. DeVine also reported that the Commission continues to refine its purpose, duties and organizational structure as part of its Policies & Procedures. The Commission hopes to hear soon about the Municipal Planning Grant awards. They continue to work with Castleton University to create a community-wide survey for use by both the Conservation and Planning Commissions. Mr. DeVine also noted that Conservation Commission members are attending Planning Commission meetings so to better understand how they can assist with the town plan revisions.

f. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann had nothing to report.

g. Rutland Regional Transportation Council Update – Clinton Woolley reported the next couple of meetings will focus on the Municipal Roads General Permits.

h. Rutland County Solid Waste District Update – Clinton Woolley reported they are working on the budget. He also said that residents can now get their solid waste permit for the Gleason Road facility online.

6. New Business

a. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – Steffanie Bourque, RRPC – Ms. Bourque introduced herself and explained she had been facilitating meetings and providing technical assistance to ensure all the federal requirements were met in the January 2021 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

financials for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Ms. Bartlett explained that they could not offer that service; the letter we have was for a compliance engagement with no disclosure. She further explained that their firm does not usually serve municipal governments, as they are not set-up for that and they cannot perform a municipal audit. She stated she had explained this to Mr. Johnson previously. She did recommend two firms in Montpelier who do municipal audits: Sullivan &

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.

iii) Outside Audit – Letter of Engagement – see above.

iv) Budget Workshop Dates – It was agreed to meet on Tuesday, January 5th at 4:00 pm. c. Listers Update

i) Parcel Mapping Project – Mr. Johnson reported that draft maps are to arrive soon. The Listers will review for any errors.

ii) 2021 Grand List – Mr. Johnson stated the State has

Select Board Administrative Assistant Needed

Part time position assisting the Town of Mount Holly Select Board with day-to-day operations to include: reviewing and responding to mail, email, phone calls; reviewing and preparing invoices and staff time sheets for payment; preparing and posting meeting agendas and minutes; posting notices; researching issues and grant opportunities; maintaining files and documents. Flexible weekdays and hours, 20-40 hours per month. Proficiency with computers and Microsoft Word, Excel and email required. Compensation dependent upon experience. Additional information at: mounthollyvt.org/announcements-bulletin-board/appointments-openings/

Please send resume to Town of Mount Holly Select Board, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758 or email to mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com

Resumes will be accepted until position is filled.

The Town of Mount Holly is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Plan. She recognized and thanked Jeff Chase, Russ Garrow, Clinton Woolley and Jon McCann for all the time and effort they put into the Plan's updates. Ms. Bourque explained the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is a five-year plan which FEMA must approve. The goal of the Plan is to reduce the severity of local hazards so response and recovery efforts are minimized. The last time Mount Holly updated the Plan was in 2009. The Plan identifies and ranks all local natural hazards, and develops strategies to mitigate them. Mount Holly's hazards include tropical storms with flash flooding, fluvial erosion, high winds, severe winter storms, and drought. Only natural hazards are included in the Plan. The Emerald Ash Borer is noted, but currently there are

no FEMA funds available to deal with any infestation. The Plan outlines the mitigation strategy for the identified hazards culminating in a list of action steps. Ms. Bourque stated that the Plan meets all federally-required content. The Plan can be found on the websites of both the Town and the RRPC. Comments can be submitted to Jeff Chase until December 22nd. The final draft of the Plan will be submitted to VT Emergency Management and then adopted by the Select Board before it is sent to FEMA for approval. With FEMA approval, the Town is eligible for an increase in emergency relief assistance funding from the current rate of 7.5% to the 12.5% rate, so more State funds can be accessed to cover any repair costs. Ms. Matthews thanked all involved for their time and efforts on the Plan. Discussion ensued on hazard mitigation, MRGP and hydrologically-connected roadways.

b. Ballot Machine Programming for Town Meeting Day Vote – Sue Covalla would like to have ballots made and the ballot counting machine programmed for the Town Meeting Day vote at a cost of \$1,000 to \$2,000. Ms. Matthews made a motion to have the ballots created and the ballot machine programmed for the Town Meeting Day Vote at a cost of \$1,000 to \$2,000, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

c. BCBS & HRA Insurance Renewals – Mr. Turco made a motion to renew the town staff health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield with an accompanying HRA, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

d. Other – Future Select Board Meetings – Ms. Matthews addressed the need for an additional camera for future meetings as Zoom attendees are unable to see in-person attendees; in-person attendees already have a video screen to see Zoom attendees. Ms. Matthews also noted that the Select Board may want to continue to offer the remote option with an additional camera post-pandemic to encourage resident participation via Zoom. Discussion ensued about cameras, various options, what might work. It was agreed to try a web camera first, as it is the most inexpensive option. There was also discussion about continuing the hybrid model with residents expressing interest in the availability of both the in-person and Zoom options. Mr. Turco stated he would continue to attend the in-person part of the meeting as long as the Governor permitted such meetings.

7. Old Business a. Town Road Use Clarification – Mr. Turco noted we had discussed this earlier in the meeting. He said that snowmobiles could use the right-of-way on those roads which serve as corridor connectors to the trails, but the Town had voted that no ATVs were allowed on town roads. Mr. Chase said we just need to clarify our notice that registered snowmobiles and ATVs must adhere to VT DMV regulations.

b. Land Records Digitization Grant Update – Jon McCann noted the Town had received \$29,000 in federal CARES Act funding to digitize the land records. At this point, the minimum requirement for the grant has been met with five years of land records typed in and online. He said it was a team effort to accomplish this, thanking Mr. Chase and Ms. Covalla. He also said that all plats and maps had been scanned, and they have images back to the 1900s. All expenses associated with the grant are to be submitted by December 11th for reimbursement. Ms. Matthews thanked all three for their work to meet the grant requirements within a very short timeframe.

c. Social Service Appropriation Policy – Ms. Matthews explained the need for a written policy given the increasing number of requests received from organizations for tax-payer funds. The policy puts in writing our informal verbal policy. Organizations need to know the procedure for a request. The initial request requires a signed petition by tax-payers, which also demonstrates support for that organization in town. After that initial request is approved by voters, the request will be added to the Social Service list on the warning. Ms. Matthews spoke with the VT League of Cities and Towns and no warning period is needed for the policy. Discussion ensued. Ms. Matthews made a motion to adopt the Social Service Appropriation Policy, seconded by Mr. Turco, passed unanimously.

d. Select Board Admin. Assistant – Item skipped.

e. Permit Application Fee Schedule – No additional discussion was necessary.

f. Junk Ordinance Enforcement

i) Bussino – Shunpike Road

ii) Wyman – Shunpike Road

iii) Taylor – VT Route 103

Mr. Turco stated he had received multiple calls about these
January 2021 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



properties and about the mobile home sitting just off of VT Route 103. Ms. Matthews said that letters had previously been sent to all three property owners listed. It was decided to have Constable Paul Faenza hand deliver another letter to Mr. Bussino and to Mr. Taylor; a certified letter will be mailed to Mr. Wyman. Discussion ensued about the mobile home. Ms. Matthews will do the additional research needed before a course of action can be determined.

g. Other – There was no additional Ongoing & Old Business.

8. Concerned Citizens Comments – There were no comments.

9. Announcements/Other Business

a. Reminder: Town Office Closed on December 24th & 31st .

b. Other – Ms. Matthews noted the **Rutland County Budget Meeting** will be held virtually on Thursday, December 17th at 12:00 noon. She also wished everyone Happy Holidays!

10. Review & Sign Orders – To be signed one Select Board member at a time at the town office.

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel – Not needed this evening.

12. Adjourn – Mr. Turco adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.
Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Mount Holly Town Auditors Request

Mount Holly Town Auditors are requesting of all organizations who **submit articles and or budgets for the Mount Holly Town Report** to have your articles typed single spaced and mailed or dropped off or e-mailed to: mthollyauditors@gmail.com to the Town Office no later than **January 6, 2021**. All articles mail to the Town Office at the following address: **Mount Holly Town Office, Attn: Auditors, P.O. Box 248, Mt. Holly, VT 05758**

If you have any pictures of your organization or the Town of MT. Holly that have occurred in town this past year and wish to have them included in the Town Report, please send them to us for our consideration. We can scan the photo and return it to you. For more information, call the town office and leave a message for one of the Auditors. Thank You, The Mount Holly Town Auditors

**USE of
UNREGISTERED
ATVs,
SNOWMOBILES,
& VEHICLES
is
PROHIBITED
on
TOWN ROADS***

*** Registered ATVs & snowmobiles
are only allowed on town roads in
accordance with VT DMV
regulations.**

- per the Mount Holly Select Board
December 8, 2020

Driveway Grading / Ditching
Site Work / General Excavation
New Lawns / Ponds
House Sites / Septic Installations
Land Clearing / Driveway Installations

KEITH Hawkins
president

LOCAL

HAWKINS EXCAVATION Mount Holly, Vermont
802 558.3082

**Mount Holly Planning Commission - Remote
Electronic - Regular Meeting Minutes - Wednesday
December 16th, 2020**

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Stephen Michel, Lisa Terreri (Secretary), Brigid Sullivan

Commission Members Absent: none

Also Present: Renee Sarmiento (Clerk), Okemo Valley TV

1. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. No changes to agenda.

3. Minutes: The minutes from November 11th, 2020 and December 3rd, 2020, were approved as distributed.

4. Clerk Report:

a. Renée reported that she sent out a bill for unpaid fees for Timko subdivision on November 17th, and

received record of payment on December 10th.

b. Next steps include sending decision letters by certified mail to the applicant, mailing copies of the decision to anyone appearing or having been heard at the hearing, and filing a copy of the decision. Stephen suggested checking with Sue to see if she needs a copy.

5. Correspondence

a. Subdivision Proposals: none

b. Building Construction Registrations: Timothy Schaeffer, 19 Okemo Way, New, Storage/Garage: accepted

c. Wastewater system and potable water supply permits: none

d. Email/Other: none

1. Unfinished Business

a. Town Plan strategy

i. Jon spoke about continuing to build on the lists of groups or individuals to contact that was begun at the working meeting, and reaching out to these groups/individuals for information at the beginning of the year.



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ii. Jon asked that members add any other suggestions of groups or individuals to speak with to the Town Plan Work Plan, or email/call Jon with the suggestion. Stephen suggested PC members identify themselves when adding suggestions by adding their name in parentheses.

iii. There were no conservation members to follow up on survey, and if they are interested in collaborating with the Planning Commission on the survey. Jon will try to reach out to Fra for this information.

6. New Business

a. Mr. Michel's thoughts about the AO

i. Stephen shared his concerns regarding the Administrative Officer position. They included repeated information, job responsibilities exceeding the clerk's capabilities, tasks done by other individuals, and GIS not being supported by the town office computer.

ii. Jon pointed out that there were only slight modifications made to the existing job description, and that the tasks identified are things that the AO may be asked to do, but not necessarily something that will be required.

iii. Stephen will resend email with his edits and thoughts on the job description, and the discussion will be deferred until everyone is able to review the document.

b. Update Subdivision Guide

i. Jon reported the fee schedule is now linked to the guide on the webpage.

ii. Applicants will be asked to send digital files as well.

iii. PC members will review changes made to the Subdivision Guide, and will review in a future meeting.

iv. Jon requested if members would like changes made to the Subdivision Guide that they contact him through phone or email with suggestions.

7. Public Comments: none

8. Upcoming meetings - Regular meeting - January 20th, 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday).

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm. For the Commission, Renee Sarmiento, Planning Commission Clerk

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Johnson for all his years of service to the Town of Mount Holly. I believe that the majority of people here would agree that Mr. Johnson is an extremely competent, hardworking Town Treasurer who does not need to be doing his job "a bit better". I'm confident that my tax dollars are in good hands with Mr. Johnson at the helm. Keep up the good work David – you are greatly appreciated! Sincerely Virginia Ward





Okemo Valley Lights Contest & Tour Map!

Okemo Valley, VT: The [Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce](#) (OVRCC) invited their 12-town region to make an extra effort to decorate this year to help celebrate the holiday season with the [Okemo Valley Lights](#) promotion. Businesses, municipalities, neighborhoods and residents were all included. Find more info on the OVRCC website [YourPlaceInVermont.com](#).



There is now a new [tour map](#) on their website with photos and addresses to find all these participants! So far this includes: The Chester Green, Davallia Gallery & Boutique, DJ's Restaurant, Echo Lake Inn, Engel & Volkers, The Fullerton Inn, The Governor's Inn, The Grafton Inn, Green Mountain Railroad, Kelly's Real Estate, Killarney's Irish Pub, Londonderry Marketplace, Main+Mountain, NewsBank, Smokeshire Design, Stewart

Maple, Tygart Mountain Sports, The Vermont Country Store, The Weston Gazebo, The Weston Playhouse, & Wright Construction.

New participants are still welcome to join in by sharing photos of their decorations with the chamber's social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#). Please include the hastags: [#OkemoValleyHolidayLights](#) & [#VTLightsTheWay](#) (to connect with the statewide effort).

Imerys of Ludlow is sponsoring the contest for the best lights display. Winners will be selected in various categories: business, town, & resident/neighborhood. A total value of \$500 in prizes will be awarded to all the winners!

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit, member-driven association and the voice of 300+ businesses and the communities of South Central Vermont. OVRCC includes the **Towns & Villages of Andover/Simonsville, Baltimore, Cavendish/Proctorsville, Chester/Gassetts, Grafton/Cambridgeport, Londonderry, Ludlow, Mount Holly/Belmont, Plymouth/Tyson, Shrewsbury/Cuttingsville, Weathersfield/Ascutney/Perkinsville, & Weston** along the [VT Scenic 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: *Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce* www.yourplaceinvermont.com 802-228-5830
<http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/okemo-valley-lights/>

To the Editor,

There are two ways that a citizen can understand how the Town of Mount Holly is using his/her hard earned taxes. One is the Audit of the Town's financial report in the Annual Town Report. The other is the Treasurer's report at the monthly meeting of the Select Board. For almost two years, these sources of information have not been available to the public.

The last Audit of the financial state of the Town was in March, 2018. The omission of 2019 was about to be repeated for the 2020 Report as the Treasurer said that he was unable to find a Vermont auditor familiar with municipal auditing. However, at their meeting on December 8, members of the Select Board, with an auditor on speaker phone, reported a number of Vermont auditing firms who engage in municipal finance. The Select Board voted to post an RFP (request for proposals) for an audit of Mount Holly's finances.

In the matter of citizen access to the monthly financial report, all that the Town's Treasurer has to do is to post - on the Town's website - the report that is presented to the Select Board. Should the Treasurer be unable to do so, the task could be delegated to the Assistant Treasurer who, as the editor of the Chit Chat, is well versed in the timely posting of materials on the website. Annette Lynch





Greetings!

The challenges facing Vermont call on us to unite to build a better future. The Vermont Council on Rural Development, a neutral facilitator of public process, is excited to share the first draft of **The Vermont Proposition**: an effort to set non-partisan priorities for statewide action. The Proposition draft, based on input from thousands of Vermonters, shares a set of ideas to drive common action and advance a successful future for our communities, environment and economy.

Now, VCRD is looking to you to help strengthen the Proposition. What's missing? What could be improved? What do we need to do to be successful for the next generation? To learn more about the initiative, see the current draft, and share your thoughts, visit futureofvermont.org. Thank you for all you do for Vermont. All the best, Paul Costello, *Executive Director*



Ludlow Rotary Helps Area Towns with Dog Waste Stations

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) is continuing its efforts to help area towns with dog waste stations in Ludlow, Mt Holly, and Cavendish.

Recently, LRC members helped Ludlow install three waste stations in Ludlow and a waste station at Star Lake in Mt. Holly. Plans also included such assistance in Cavendish.

The LRC has supported many community improvements to Star Lake over the past 5 years. It is the hope of the Ludlow Rotary Club that the new dog waste station will be another well used addition. Visitors to Star Lake are required to clean up after their pets. The free dog waste bags will help with compliance for those who mean well but came unprepared for dog emergencies. The goal is to enhance the experience of all visitors to the Lake and protect the surrounding environment. The bags are supplied as a courtesy to Star Lake visitors whose dogs must be on a leash at the lake.

Rotary is also supplying several boxes of replacement bags for the station and will supply several more boxes of replacement bags in the Ludlow and Cavendish sites.

In Ludlow, the LRC has contributed to the West Hill Dog Park's development in addition to the waste station located there.

There have been numerous investments at Star Lake over the past 5 years with Ludlow Rotary Club support. The dam was rebuilt in 2015. In 2016 three new picnic tables were purchased for the recreation area/beach. Volunteers rebuilt a permanent bench and canoe/boat racks. Rotarians and Mount Holly Community Association volunteers built and planted a beautiful new perennial garden which local volunteers now maintain. A new swim raft was purchased in 2019 with help from Rotary. The Star Lake recreation area is popular for fishing, swimming, picnics, community events and viewing wildlife and fall colors.

The LRC, in spite of the limitations and restrictions imposed by Covid-19, will continue to help area towns in developing similar programs for the public good and recreation. The LRC is continuing to hold its weekly meetings on Tuesday's from 12 Noon to 1 PM using the Zoom computer app. People interested in learning more about Rotary are invited to contact Kevin Barnes, LRC President, at (802) 228-8877, to receive an invitation to a Tuesday meeting. Pictured above are volunteers Julia Hoeh and Sean Casler as they install a dog waste bag station at Star Lake in Mount Holly. Ralph Pace

Ludlow Rotary Donates to Black River Good Neighbors

Pictured above is Audrey Bridge, Executive Director of Black River Good Neighbors (BRGN) as she accepts special donations from Barbara LeMire, a member of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC). In addition to many toys, books, and clothing items collected by members of the LRC, the club also



donated an additional \$150 given by LRC Rotarians. This special drive was motivated, in part, by a desire to help BRGN as it prepares for its annual food and toy packages for area residents. Ralph Pace



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Tesha Buss Publishes Book on Good Commons

During a recent interview on Spotlight, a local TV program carried by Okemo Valley TV, Tesha Buss described her new book, “Uncommonly Good”, about the creation of Good Commons in Plymouth along with a large number of recipes originated at Good Commons.

Along with her co-author, Matthew Wexler, the book covers much of the history of the creation and development of Good Commons along with a number of personal notes by both Tesha and Matthew. Interspersed with these colorful notes are recipes developed at Good Commons.

Of particular interest was how the book ties Tesha’s life on an Illinois farm to her ideas of what made good food. In particular, her description of preparing meatloaf on the farm was an indicator of her future interest in food. “My mom was an excellent cook . . . Together, we indulged in raw meatloaf on a saltine cracker before it went into the loaf pan to cook. I guess this was the genesis of my love affair with steak tartare.”

Tesha also described how the tropical storm Irene impacted the Good Commons and how she was able to recover from the damage to the building.

She outlined how she came to purchase a bus on e-Bay to transport guests from New York City to Good Commons. She noted that she would not recommend buying a bus from e-Bay due to the mechanical problems it had.

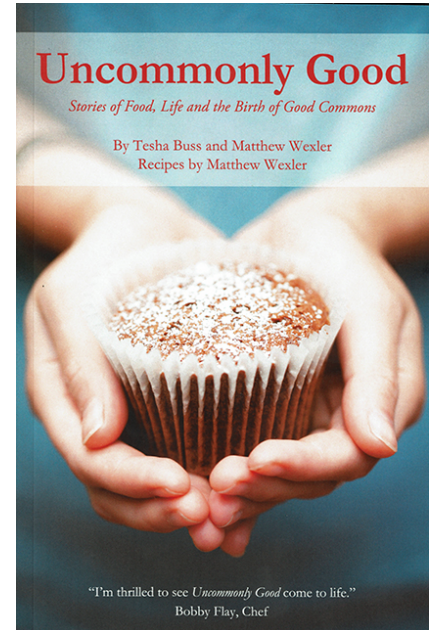
Some of the recipes in the book include Magic Hat Meatballs, pork stuffed pork, spiced popcorn, unstoppable onion rings, and baked egg casserole. All of the recipes are preceded by notes Tesha or Matthew on how or why this recipe came into being.

Spotlight host, Ralph Pace, noted, “This is the most fascinating cookbook I’ve ever read. Rather than simply list ingredients and cooking directions, it relates each recipe to the personal motivation for creating the recipe”. He also praised the authors for using ingredients that were, for the most part, easily obtained. “As much as I admire Julia Child’s recipes, I found these recipes using ingredients like catsup and canned tomatoes that made the preparation process so much easier without compromising the quality of dish.”

Tesha had previously been a guest of the Ludlow Rotary Club at its Zoom meeting.

The book is now available at Amazon. The interview will soon be available on Okemo Valley TV’s site, <https://okemovalley.tv>, and on Comcast channels 1076 and 1086.

Pictured above are Matthew Wexler and Tesha Buss, co-authors of “Uncommonly Good”. They have been close friends for decades and both provided very personal and interesting comments about each’s role in the creation of Good Commons in Plymouth. Ralph Pace



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Cavendish Calendars Are Here

Community has never been so important. To underscore that point, the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association has produced its 2021 Cavendish Community Calendar, which is now on sale, just in time for the holidays. You can purchase them at Crows Bakery on Depot Street in Proctorsville, or if you prefer not to visit the bakery, you can order them through the mail. Send us \$20 per

Cavendish Community Calendar
Cavendish Streetscapes
2021

calendar plus \$3 shipping and we will mail them to you. Our address is P.O. Box 605, Cavendish, VT 05142.

This year the calendar celebrates the CCCA Streetscapes Committee by highlighting the people and showcasing the work that this dynamic group has undertaken to care for and beautify our villages. Since its inception in 2018 the committee has raised flags, maintained school flower gardens, planted and upgraded gardens in the greens and parks, and strung holiday lights on the gazebo and trees. To learn more about their activity go to the Cavendish Streetscapes page on Facebook.

Proceeds from the Calendar help keep the CCCA going so please consider purchasing one for yourself and for your friends. They make great stocking stuffers. For more information, or to volunteer with the CCCA, please call Robin at 802-226-7736 or e-mail cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com.



Beautifying our Community



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January



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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www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

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Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 228-6656

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Cutting Edge Carpentry And Paint Works – Curt Marechaux Cell 236-5559
Jenkins Builders – General Contractor brandon@jenkinsbuild.com 952-9722
Summit Home Services LLC- Todd Durgin H: 259-3000 C: 236-7075
Electrical & Home Maintenance
Ted Stryhas Builder 228-7327

Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 8 am & 10 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 & 3pm
Until May 11am & 6pm 779-0300
Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,
11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS
Pastor Jerry Scheumann jfscheumann@gmail.com 603-439-0803
Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org
Rabbi Shemtov rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org 773-3455
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

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Black River Good Neighbor Services – Krey Kellington 228-3663

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Belmont Country Gardens Quality Custom Stonework & More 259-2364
Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 259-3964
Salt Ash Nursery - The Balsam Barn – Scott Crawford 259-2146

General Contractors

Wright Construction Company info@wrightconstruction.com 259-2094

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Massage Therapy/Bodywork, Thrive Center of Green Mtns 446-2499
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Jenkins Builders brandon@jenkinsbuild.com 952-9722
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Wayne Jones Metal www.waynejonesmetal.com 259-2521

Mount Holly Email

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