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Mount Holly Chit Chat



December 2020

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

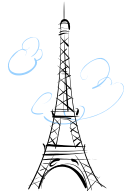
TRANSFER SITE: Sat. 8 am – 2 pm & Sun. 9 am – 12 pm

1 st	Mt. Holly Snow Flyers Meeting, Zoom www.mounthollysnowflyers.org	6:00 pm	
	Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library	7:00 pm	<i>Rosa Parks Bus Boycott 1955</i>
	Mount Holly Conservation Commission	7:00 pm	
2 nd	Planning Commission Meeting, Via Zoom	6:30 pm	
3 rd	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	7:00 pm	
Sat 5 th			<i>Deer Muzzleloader Season Begins ~ AFL-CIO Founded 1955</i>
7 th			<i>Pearl Harbor Day 1941</i>
8 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am	
	Select Board Meeting, Town Garage & Zoom	6:30 pm	
9 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	
10 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm	
11 th			<i>Hanukkah Begins</i>
			<i>UNICEF Founded 1946</i>
Sun 13 th			<i>Deer Muzzleloader Season Ends ~ US National Guard Founded 1636</i>
14 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	7:00 pm	
15 th	Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School	4:30 pm	<i>Alexandre Eiffel 1832 ~ Bill of Rights Day 1791</i>
			<i>Deer Archery Season Ends</i>
16 th	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	6:30 pm	<i>Ludwig van Beethoven 1770</i>
	Mount Holly Planning Commission, Via Zoom	7:00 pm	
			<i>Battle of the Bulge Began 1944 ~ The Boston Tea Party 1773</i>
17 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm	<i>Operation Just Cause 1989</i>
			<i>Wright Brothers' First Powered Flight Kitty Hawk, NC 1903</i>
18 th			<i>Hanukkah Ends ~ 13th Amendment Abolishes Slavery 1865</i>
21 st			<i>Winter Solstice Winter Begins ~ Landing of The Mayflower 1620</i>
22 nd	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am	
23 rd	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm	
24 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm	<i>Kit Carson 1809 ~ USAF Began Strikes of Laos 1964</i>
25 th			<i>Christmas</i>
Sat 26 th			<i>Boxing Day ~ Kwanzaa</i>
Sun 27 th			<i>George Cayley Father of Aerodynamics 1773 ~ Louis Pasteur 1822</i>
28 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	7:00 pm	
30 th			<i>Full Cold Moon</i>
31 st	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm	<i>Official End of WWII 1946</i>
			<i>Panama Canal Turned Over to Republic of Panama 1999 ~ New Years Eve</i>

* * * * *

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 responsible for the content of their articles."

Donation Thank Yous: John Miller (Spectrum Photography) * Freda Durgin * Gerry Wilkins (Gerry Wilkins Art Studio) * Carol & Fra DeVine * Brian & Linda Roberts * Don Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * Diane Bachtell * Neil Helberg * Raymond Sanderson * Anne Hamilton * Robert & Lynne Herbst * John & Lois Perry * Russ Garrow (Russell Garrow Property Management) * Doug & Kris Long * Warren & Elizabeth Gower * Annett West * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) * Mount Holly Volunteer Firefighters * Town of Mount Holly * Peter & Penny Coldwell * Patti & Kevin Plew (Plew Farm) * Mary Nortunen * Ted Hall & Lynn Roberts * Pat & Andy Salner * Kathy & Geoff Stone (Stone Creek Workshops Pottery) *



December Birthdays: 2nd -Richard H. Dawley (95th) 3rd - Archie Bussino (1942) 4th -Shawn Palmer 5th -Mary Beth Jacobs 6th -Nikita Abrae Howard 8th -Zachary Taylor * Heather Graham (1999) 9th -Carol Skarzynski 10th -Madeline Veysey 16th - Heather Jacobs * Erin Devereux 16th -Shane Pearson 18th -Alec McCallum 19th -Lia Wortman * Jon Lombardi * Ryan Graf * Sarah Devereux * Fay Freeman 22nd -Leslie Colm 1960. 23rd -Kateri Collins 24th -Christopher Colm * Joshua R. Wasilewski 25th - Annette Lynch 27th -Richard Lee 30th -John Ely * Jennifer Bussino Graham (1981) 31st - A.J. Labozzo

December Anniversaries: 11th -Joe & Donna McDonald 44 yrs. (1976)

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



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.

**Chit Chat Deadline for
January issue is
Sunday December 20th
By 6:00 pm**

Mount Holly Community Guild Scholarships

The Mount Holly Community Guild is pleased to announce our 2020 scholarships. Natasha Fortin, who is attending Norwich University majoring in computer science and Sara Swartz, who is studying nursing at Southern Connecticut State University are the awardees.

Bone Builders Information

Bone Builders will not be meeting Mondays and Thursdays in the Odd Fellows Hall until spring because we can't find space large enough to socially distance and remain safe. We will restart our exercise group in the spring. You can access an on line class with Pat Facey this way: Do a google search "RSVP Bone Builders" - Click on the site "RSVP Bone Builders Program" - Scroll down to the online class or use the following link <https://www.volunteersinvt.org/service/rsvp-bone-builders-program/> Hopefully we will be able to be together soon. Judy Nevin

Mount Holly Town Library

Due to the increase in COVID 19 cases and in accordance with new guidelines from the State, effective Wednesday November 25, 2020, the Mount Holly Town Library will return to "Curbside" pick up and returns of Library materials. The library building will be closed to the public from November 25th through the New Year Holiday.

Materials can be picked up and returned in our front lobby on Wednesdays

Access Bone Builders Online

With Pat Facey

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

For more information

Call Judy Nevin 259-2443

collection and then e-mail us your requests at: mthollylibrary@gmail.com

We will check them out to you and put them in a bag with your name on it. Material pick up and return Wednesdays (November 25) 2 pm to 4 pm and Material pick up and return Saturdays (Beginning November 28) 11 am to 1 pm.

If you would like to see what is in our collection go to this web site <https://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/signin.php> click on the "catalog" portion of this site. If you should get a sign up screen that asks for a user name and password, type mount holly town library in the user name field, no password is required. You will only have to do this once, as it will recognize your computer from now on. Joe Galbraith, MLS, Library Director, Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT 05730 802-259-3707

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Rutland Jewish Center

Shabbat Services:

Dec. 12, Saturday 9:30 am

Jan. 2, Saturday 9:30 am

Jan. 16, Saturday 9:30 am

Jan. 30, Saturday 9:30 am

Kabbalat Shabbat Services:

Dec. 4, Friday 7:30 pm

Dec. 18, Friday 7:30 pm

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@runtlandjewishcenter.org

between 2 pm and 4 pm and Saturdays between 11 am and 1 pm. Scroll to the bottom of this page and put in the web site for the "CATALOG" link.

You can see what is in the

**Mt. Holly's 1st Annual
LIGHT THE NIGHT**

Join us in creating a holiday
lights tour through Mt. Holly

Details:

A self driven tour of holiday light displays taking
place at minimum from December 18-20th and 24-
27th.

We ask that all interested participants register their
address by Dec 7th with PTSA. Do so by sending
an email with your name and address to
mounthollyptsa@gmail.com to be included on the
driving route map.

Mt. Holly pride
prize pack to be
awarded to the
best holiday
light display.

Event coordinated by Mt. Holly PTSA

Letter to the Editor:

In some ways, I can hardly believe I am writing this letter.

What began as a seed of an idea - opening a new school - often felt like an impossible dream. At times, it seemed like it would never come to fruition. It was too complicated, too expensive and then...there was a pandemic. Somehow, in the face of much adversity, we held our vision. Community members became supporters, supporters became donors and by the end of the Summer of 2020 our dream had become a reality. Perhaps you have seen the students on the front lawn of the high school building yourself. Students who, up until this September, might have had a very different school experience this year. These students now have the opportunity to pursue rigorous, local education in the same community where they live. And now the answer to the question in everyone's mind can finally be answered - "Yes, this is really happening!"

We have carried this goal almost across the finish line. But we aren't there yet. We need the continued support of the community behind us to ensure that our Pilot Program becomes an approved Independent School.

Black River Independent School is open and operating, serving 17 local students from Ludlow and Mount Holly, VT. Our Head of School, Kendra Rickerby, fondly refers to the students as "Trailblazers." And that they are. The definition of a trailblazer is "a person who makes a new track through wild country." With the very real challenges we face as a community and a society, we need trailblazers now more than ever.

The past several weeks have been ripe with opportunities for growth as we embark on our inaugural year. Students participated in their first community service event, portering at the Antique Show. They have been working hard at developing their personalized learning goals through Empower Learning, the school's Learning Management System. Green Mountain Rock Climbing engaged them in two days of outdoor learning including a canoe trip as well as rock climbing. And it is only November!

As a board, we couldn't be more proud of the accomplishment of opening the school. It was no small task and required years of hard work to bring to fruition. And although we are thrilled with what we have been able to achieve, we know that the real work is just beginning. In order to meet our next goal, achieving approval from the State of Vermont Board of Education as an Independent School, we will need to continue our weekly meetings. We will need to continue networking. We will need to continue volunteering and recruiting and fundraising. We will need to do all of this while upholding the vision of our Educational Pillars as well as ensuring, above all, a safe and healthy academic environment.

We need you.

As not only a board member but as a fellow community member and parent, I ask you to consider a gift in support of Year 2 of the Black River Independent School. When you make a donation, not only is it fully tax-deductible, but you can feel confident that

your generosity is helping to build a school dedicated to developing trailblazers for the future. With the unknown terrain and uncertainties we are all facing each day, what could be a better investment?

Yours in service, Kristen Garvey,
Board of Trustees, Black River Independent School

More exciting news! As a board, we are aware that the acronym BRIS is culturally insensitive. We are in the process of changing the name of the school to better reflect its mission and goals. Embracing the Expeditionary Learning model of education, Black River Independent School will change its name to the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) sometime over the next year. Thank you for your continued support as we evolve and grow as an organization.





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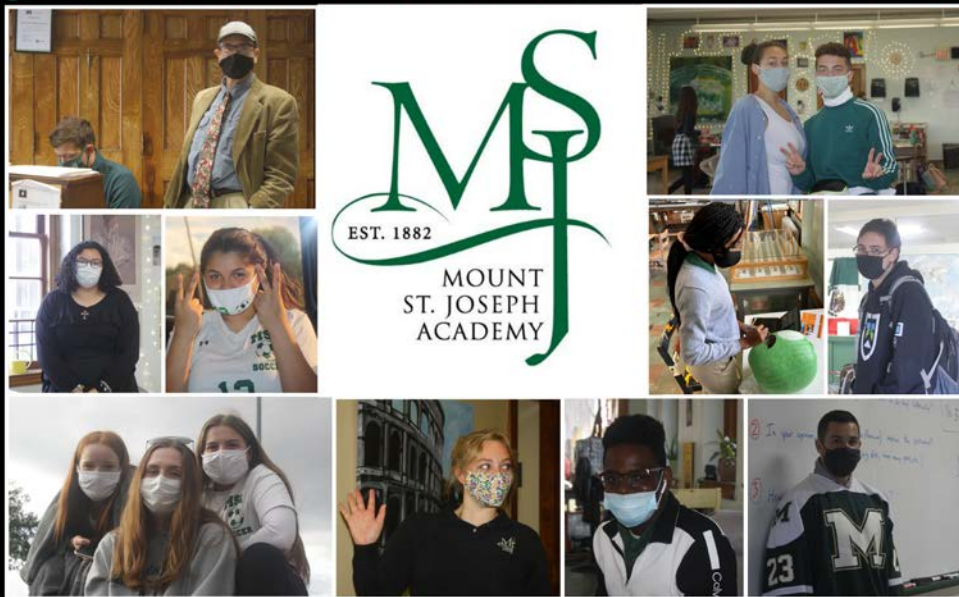
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11:00 am - 2:30 pm**

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JOIN US & BE PART OF OUR MOUNTIE FAMILY



Accepting Applications for the 2021-22 School Year

Beginning Jan. 4th, 2021....visit <https://www.msjvermont.org/admissions-process>

Mount Holly Snow Flyers

The Snow Flyers have been busy getting ready for the upcoming season in the hope that all the craziness of the past few months can be put behind everyone & get back to our normal lives.

The one thing that is for sure is winter is coming - the North East Kingdom has already had an early taste of snow - there were some pictures of guys riding their sleds already! We have been busy during the off season taking care of storm damage to portions of the trail and working on a trail reroute that will take a lot of work to make it happen for this season. There have been 2 trail work days to date with the next one scheduled for November 7th. There are a couple bridges that need to be built along with excavator work & tree's to be cut before the reroute can be completed.

A BIG "Thank You" goes out to the landowners who are allowing us to have the New Trail on their property. The New Trail will allow us to keep easy access to Belmont for the necessities of those traveling north and south on Corridor 7. VAST has made changes to the way TMA's are purchased this year - ALL TMA's will be purchased online. We have all the information posted on our website along with the cost. Buying you TMA during the Early Bird purchase dates will save some bucks, Early Bird purchase ends on December 15th, if you have problems reach out to one of us & we'll help you through the process. There have been ongoing discussions on the fate of the New Year's Eve Fireworks - Cider Days cancellation has cost the club the revenue base we use to purchase the fireworks that along with the uncertainty of the social distancing requirements may cause us to cancel them this year. More information will be forthcoming as it is made available.

As always we encourage members to keep up to date with ongoing club functions that are posted on our web page - the next club meeting will be November 5th - 6pm via ZOOM.

We're keeping hopes high for a Snowy Cold winter - Stay Safe & Enjoy the Outdoors.

Our Club's 40 miles of trails are ready and waiting for 2 things - SNOW & Opening Day 16th!!

We still have a couple small projects to finish & they should be completed soon. The Tucker has been checked out, serviced & ready to lay down smooth trails. The trail re-route from Route 155 up to Belmont has been completed - a HUGE "Thank You" to all those who made it possible, without the Volunteer's and especially the Landowners this project would not have been able to be completed. At this time it looks like the New Year's Eve Fireworks will have to be cancelled, if there are some new developments that allow us to have them - we will let everyone know. VAST is coming up with a list of requirements that will allow everyone to ride safe this year and abide by the Covid restrictions put in place by the State. This has been a year we'd all like to put behind us & get back to some sense to normalcy. Wishing everyone a Safe, Healthy Holiday Season and look forward to the end of 2020 & the beginning of a New Year. Dale Sutherland




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



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P.O. Box 171
Belmont, VT 05730

Charlie Conroy
cjconroy@vermontel.net

30+ Years Experience



November 2019 Trestleboard Mt. Moriah Lodge #96

No Regular Meeting

Brethren,

Due to the recent outbreak of COVID 19 again, MWGM Stuart V. Corso has sent another edict, shutting down all Masonic meetings in person, so this month's meeting has been canceled. We, Mt. Moriah, may be able to digitally meet by Zoom for those who have computers. I will let everyone know when or how we can meet again as soon as this is decided.

Please keep your dues monies coming in and, if you disagree with the amounts you are said to owe... let the secretary know by contacting him at 802-259-9400, by email at: sseward@vermontel.net, or mail it to: 4280 Sugar Hill Rd, East

Wallingford, Vt. 05742 Fraternally, Earl Miller, WM - Buster Seward Sec'y

Yes! It's that time of year again!

The horses are starting to look really really shaggy as you can tell by this photo of Molly, Fonda and the Ultimate (left to right). Soon it will be time to break out the cold weather boots, sleds, skis and skates. Hope everyone has their winter snow tires on. 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 again.

Please check out our website: rainbowridingcenter.org, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @RainbowRiding and Instagram @rainbow_riding_center.

Everyone stay well and remember to mask up and to social distance at least a horse length apart.



Mount Holly Community Association

It is hard to believe that we are working our way toward the end of this year...and what a year it was for everyone. We at the MHCA hope that each of you is safe and well and that you were all able to have a memorable Thanksgiving, whether it was in-person, or virtually. There is no question that all of us are looking forward to the time when we can really be together with family, friends, and neighbors...soon, very soon we hope.

Our news is brief, but really important!! As previously announced, the **Mount Holly Photo Calendar** contest is in full swing on the *Mount Holly Community Association* Facebook page! You can vote for as many photos as you want. The photos that receive the most "likes" will be included in the 2022 photo calendar. Be sure to check it out today!

The Mount Holly Photo Calendar for 2021 is now on sale at the General Store. Be sure to pick up the calendars you need for holiday presents as soon as possible. We sell out of the calendars every year and there is a limited quantity left right now! This is yet another way that you can support the MHCA (and get some holiday shopping done early!)...we are sincerely grateful for all you do!

Although there won't be any of the traditional holiday celebrations hosted by the MHCA this year, we are **collaborating with the Mount Holly Community Cares group** to assemble baskets for a number of families in Mount Holly for the holidays. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the community during this holiday season.

The MHCA **web site** is in its last stages of development. Be sure to watch the Newsflash for the "we are live" announcement coming soon!

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!

The Board of Directors of the Mount Holly Community Association wishes to extend its warmest best wishes to all during this season of light and celebration whether it be Christmas, Hannukah, or Kwanzaa...happy holidays to everyone!

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.)

The Mayflower

In September 1620, a merchant ship called the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, a port on the southern coast of England. Normally, the Mayflower's cargo was wine and dry goods, but on this trip the ship carried passengers: 102 of them, all hoping to start a new life on the other side of the Atlantic. Nearly 40 of these passengers were Protestant Separatists—they called themselves “Saints”—who hoped to establish a new church in the New World. Today, we often refer to the colonists who crossed the Atlantic on the Mayflower as “Pilgrims.”

Pilgrims Before the Mayflower

In 1608, a congregation of disgruntled English Protestants from the village of Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, left England and moved to Leyden, a town in Holland. These “Separatists” did not want to pledge allegiance to the Church of England, which they believed was nearly as corrupt and idolatrous as the Catholic Church it had replaced, any longer. (They were not the same as the Puritans, who had many of the same objections to the English church but wanted to reform it from within.) The Separatists hoped that



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

*Best wishes to you and yours for a Healthy Celebration!
Our gatherings may not be what we want or even need.
Most importantly remember those near and dear to you;
with Perhaps a card, a Call, FaceTime or yes Zoom!
- Join Us in remembering our dear Pat -*



Cheers!

These Days of Covid:

Our 20th Annual Holiday Silent Auction is cancelled.
We look forward to the bidding Frenzy 2021!

Please Remember:

WE ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC BUT CONTINUE MANY SERVICES

- * Grab -n- Go Free Books at rear door for all ages
- * Place holds on-line or call for assistance
- * Curbside pick-up
- * Need something printed? If you can e-mail it to us we happily will print it for your pick-up
- * Download an audio book or e-book
- * 54 Top rated on-line magazine subscriptions to download and yours to keep until you delete
- * Dig into your Roots using “Family Search” via our Homepage
- * On-line Library Memberships available



Be Well – Stay Safe – Wear Masks PLEASE

Many thanks for your support; Past, Present and Future.



Please No Book Donations

Important Dates:

Dec. 24 - 27

Christmas

Dec. 31 - Jan. 2

New Year's

Jan. 16 - 18

MLK Day



**From Our Hearts to Your Homes
Be Well - Stay Safe
Happy Holidays**



Here's How to Visit and Vote on the 2022 Mount Holly Calendar

facebook Page

1. Open **facebook** on your computer
2. Click on “GROUPS” logo
3. Click on “MEDIA”
4. Click on “ALBUMS”
5. Click on “Calendar Contest Photos”

There (hopefully) you will see the photos that are up for consideration in the

2022 Mount Holly Calendar

Then, to cast your vote for the photos you like, click on the “Like” button. **Please limit your selections to three photos.**



December 2020 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

in Holland, they would be free to worship as they liked

Did you know? The Separatists who founded the Plymouth Colony referred to themselves as “Saints,” not “Pilgrims.” The use of the word “Pilgrim” to describe this group did not become common until the colony's bicentennial.

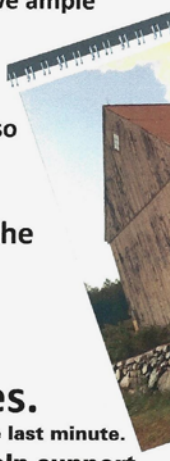
In fact, the Separatists, or “Saints,” as they called themselves, did find religious freedom in Holland, but they also found a secular life that was more difficult to navigate than they'd anticipated. For one thing, Dutch craft guilds excluded the migrants, so they were relegated to menial, low-paying jobs. Even worse was Holland's easygoing, cosmopolitan atmosphere, which proved alarmingly seductive to some of the Saints' children. (These young people were “drawn away,” Separatist leader William Bradford wrote, “by evill [sic] example into extravagance and dangerous courses.”) For the strict, devout Separatists, this was the last straw. They decided to move again, this time to a place without government interference or worldly distraction: the “New World” across the Atlantic Ocean.

"Dear Santa, more than anything this year I want a 2021 Mount Holly Calendar. Please!" - Little Johnny, Age 2

The year 2020 is almost over and you deserve a stress free holiday. The "Influencers" at the Mount Holly Community Association recommend giving everyone on your gift list, even the kids, brand new 2021 Mount Holly calendars. Then, with your shopping completed, you will have ample time to sample all the fine wines and other spirits at the Belmont Store til the point where you can't even remember 2020 and why it's been so bloody awful.

The calendars can be purchased as we speak at the **Belmont Store** and at the **Mount Holly Town Offices**.

Supplies are limited so don't wait until the last minute. All proceeds from calendar sales go to help support the many activities of the MHCA.



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

KEITH Hawkins
president



HAWKINS EXCAVATION Mount Holly, Vermont
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Sunday 8 am to 1 pm

Visit our website www.bigeyesbakery.com

Masks are required in our shop, curbside is available

Mt. Holly Oil & Gas Group Last Call

I have been in contact with Irving Energy on behalf of the buying group and they are offering the same deal as we had last year.

\$.15 cents off per gallon of heating oil on the going price of the day you call in.

\$.30 cents off per gallon of propane on the going price of the day you call in.

Remember to give our **group code number 6216** to be enrolled under our group. The **cutoff date is December 31, 2020**. Call Irving Energy at **1-888-310-1924** to get signed up. Please have your Irving account number handy when you do and if you do not have an Irving account call the above phone number to get an account and then join the group.

New customers to the group please contact me first so I can get you on the list at 802-259-2314. Diana Garrow, Manager, Mt. Holly Oil & Gas Group

Mount Holly Oil and Gas Group and Irving Energy have teamed up to offer you special discounted pricing on fuel and home heating equipment.

Fuel*

Save **15¢** per gallon
off heating oil

Save **30¢** per gallon
off propane

Equipment**



Boiler
Save \$350



Furnace
Save \$250



Tankless propane water heater
Save \$200



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Plus, switch to Irving Energy and **SAVE 25¢** per gallon for the next year at Irving Oil gas stations!



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East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521

Mount Holly Community Cares Task Force

Mount Holly, VT 802-245-3490
mthollycommunitycares@gmail.com
mounthollycommunitycares.org

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

Coordinated by Jo Bania, **Thanksgiving baskets** were put together for a number of families in our community. Most of the contents were obtained through the food support account at the Belmont General Store. In addition, more than a dozen volunteers stepped up to provide some special homemade goodies for each basket. Homemade sweet breads, sourdough breads and rolls, canned goods such as dilly beans, jams, and pickles, Crowley cheeses...so much to make each basket a special gift for Thanksgiving. Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed so much to this effort and a very special thank you to Jo Bania for pulling it all together!

Currently, the **food shelf** housed in the Village Baptist Church is beginning to run low and the MHCC is discussing the possibility of running another food drive to replenish the shelf between the Thanksgiving holiday and Christmas. Further details about that drive will be put out through the Newflash. The first food drive held this past summer was a huge success and we are so grateful to everyone who supported it. We trust that we will see that same support for the winter drive now being considered.

Black River Good Neighbors continues to offer its assistance to the residents of Mount Holly, Ludlow, Plymouth, and Cavendish. As winter approaches, they want everyone to know that in addition to the food pantry they run, which most people know about, they also provide **heat assistance**. If you are in need of this service, you can contact them at

<https://www.brgn.org/special-programs>

Now that we are all beginning to hunker down for the winter, it is a good time to remind you that if you are in **need of assistance** in any way (shopping, picking up prescriptions, trash runs to the Transfer Station, etc.), you should **contact the MHCC** at the email address above. Our roster of volunteers are ready and eager to help anyone who needs assistance.

Last, but not least, 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 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.

Visit us on
Facebook



» Pasture Raised «
**PLEW
FARM**
Mt Holly, Vermont

**Farm Stand
Hours:**
Tuesday-Sunday
12pm-5pm
802-259-2250

1966 Healdville Road, Mount Holly

www.plewfarm.com

pasture raised chicken, eggs
pork, grass fed beef, maple syrup & products
produce, honey, cheese, cider, dairy, gifts & more
*masks required when shopping at the farm stand
one person or family inside the farm stand at a time*

Twas The Night Before Christmas

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand,
And on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind,
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry:
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

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

**Chit Chat Deadline for
January issue is
Sunday December 20th
By 6:00 pm**

'Twas The Night Before Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, on Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky. So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St Nicholas

came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

Clement Clarke Moore Miniature Biography

Clement Clarke Moore (1799 - 1863) came from a prominent family and his father Benjamin Moore was the Bishop of New York who was famous for officiating at the inauguration of George Washington. The tradition of reading 'Twas the night before Christmas poem on Christmas Eve is now a Worldwide institution and tradition.

Clement Clarke Moore (1779 - 1863) wrote the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas also called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" in 1822. It is now the tradition in many American families to read the poem every Christmas Eve. The poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' has redefined our image of Christmas and Santa Claus. Prior to the creation of the story of 'Twas the night before Christmas' St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, had never been associated with a sleigh or reindeers!

Clement Moore, the author of the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas, was a reticent man and it is believed that a family friend, Miss H. Butler, sent a copy of the poem to the New York Sentinel who published the poem. The condition of publication was that the author of 'Twas the night before Christmas was to remain anonymous.

The first publication date was 23rd December 1823 and it was an immediate success. It was not until 1844 that Clement Clarke Moore claimed ownership when the work was included in a book of his poetry.

The first publication date was 23rd December 1823 and it was an immediate success. It was not until 1844 that Clement Clarke Moore claimed ownership when the work was included in a book of his poetry.



A bundle of Toys he



State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly & Shrewsbury

Thank you for once again putting your trust in me to represent our district. I spent most of Election Day outside the polling places in Mount Holly and Shrewsbury to say a physically-distanced "hi" to those that voted/dropped off ballots on Election Day, but I know most people throughout the state voted before that anyway. Sorry if I missed you, but as always feel free to give a call if there is anything you were hoping to connect with me about. As I've said before I get too many emails to respond to them all as thoughtfully as they deserve, so the best way to get in touch with me is by giving me call and leaving me a voicemail.

Obviously, the coronavirus resurgence around the country including our area more this time is the biggest thing on all our minds right now and making sure we meet the needs of Vermonters. We are not in session right now, so there are no new bills; but the Joint Fiscal Committee, which includes members from the House and Senate, does meet to discuss the urgent financial needs given proposals like those coming from the Governor to increase funding for testing and contact tracing. Which they did recently approve. But beyond following their meetings and offering feedback the rest of the legislature does not really have a role.

Please heed the Governor's warnings and avoid getting together with friends/family socially at least until we get these active cases back down. And give me a call if you need help knowing who to call for assistance. There are a lot of programs out there and I may know who you should call, which can be hard to know.

Next year promises to be yet another unique year in the legislature. On Election Day Mitzi Johnson, who has been the Speaker of the House for the last 4 years, was defeated in her house race by a mere 18 votes. This was a shock to me and too many. I didn't really follow the legislature all that closely before being elected and did not fully appreciate all the power that the Speaker has. Personally, I think her loss is a loss for the state, especially as we navigate this crisis. But, obviously to some extent she lost the touch with her district. I will say I love Vermont politics, because the day after that loss all four of the major candidates in that district (It's a 2-seat district so there were 2 Dems and 2 Republicans) united to wave and say thank you to voters. It was a hard-fought race with fierce disagreements, but they all remain respectful. Only in Vermont do you see that lately and I get frustrated sometimes that even our local papers don't cover those stories enough. But I digress.

That means this legislative session will start with the election of a new speaker, who has the power to shape the character of committee rooms and thereby influence the legislation that comes from them. Talk soon, stay healthy and stay safe! Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Logan Nicoll 802-345-8430

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



Cutting Edge Carpentry and Paint Works
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Brandon Jenkins
Owner
(802) 952-9722



Mount Holly, Vermont
brandon@jenkinsbuild.com



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, November 10, 2020 – Minutes – In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

Present Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark

Turco

Town Official: Sue Covalla, Jim Corven, Dennis Devereux, Francis DeVine, Diana Garrow, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Nicole Lewis, Annette Lynch, Jon McCann, Stephen Michel, Don Richardson, Jim Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Mary Surething, Laura Swartz, Carol Woolley, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Paul Barton, Peter Berger, Morgan Collins, Ted Crawford, Don Eatmon, Roger Garrow, Robert & Zena Gates, Robin Nelson, Paul Nevin, Christine Pratt, Ron Pruzinsky, Renee Sarmiento, Donna Seward, Ray Tarbell, Amy Turco

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.

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

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 6:32 pm.
2. All recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.
3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – None were necessary.
4. **Approval of October 13th, 2020 Minutes** – Jeff Chase made a motion

to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

5. Reports:

a. Highways & Transfer Station Update – Clinton Woolley reported he was determining the roadwork to be completed for the next Grants-in-Aid program and he was working on a five-year plan for roadwork. He also reported that the metal pile had been picked up and two loads of tires had been removed from the transfer station. Food scraps need to be disposed of every two weeks and because of the time and expense involved, he thinks the town needs to do its own composting.

i) Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program – Mr. Chase made a motion to sign the Letter of Intent to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, unanimously approved.

b. Treasurer – David Johnson

i) Monthly Income & Expense Report – Mr. Johnson reported the Property Taxes Receivable still had a whole month before the final due date. Looking at the Profit & Loss, he noted: another quarterly payment of \$30,201 has been received for the State Aid for Roads; a Special State Aid for Roads payment of \$31,197 has also been received for roadwork with no strings attached; the Solid Waste Labels Sold figure of \$11,824 is \$1,200 more than this time last year; nothing out of the ordinary with salaries and general fund expenses; ballot item Social Service & Support checks to go out shortly; the Solid Waste Disposal Exp. Of \$677 is for tire disposal; the special Road projects expense of \$2,000 is for the Summit Road culvert repair; the first half (\$6,850) of the **Garage Bond Interest Expense has been paid with the other half due in May.**

ii) Highway Supplemental Aid – Mr. Turco thought we should put the \$31,197 Special State Aid for Roads funds into resurfacing some roads come spring, Mr. Chase and Ms. Matthews agreed.

iii) Outside Audit – Firms & Costs? – Jr. Johnson said O'Brien & Shortle in Rutland will perform the audit. Staff time will be billed at \$100-\$130/hour and accountant time will be billed at \$140-\$200/hour with a total cost of about \$20,000. Letter of engagement to come.

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 Town Office

Will be **CLOSED** the following dates:

Thursday, December 24th, 2020 For Christmas Eve

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

c. Mount Holly Planning Commission: Town Plan Revisions Updated – Jim Seward said not too much was getting done due to a changeover in personnel. Mr. Turco said he walked his tap lines with a State forester and the forester said he thought the State had no intention of allowing Vail to come down our side of the mountain. Mr. Seward commented he had heard the same and that was good as it would hurt Mr. Turco. Mr. Turco replied, "Absolutely!"

d. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update – Francis Devine reported the Commission was finalizing their organizational structure. A decision was made to have co-chairs with Phil Crane and Mr. DeVine currently serving in those positions; Jim Corven is Clerk. The Commission will finalize its policies and procedures at its December meeting. In anticipation of receiving the Municipal Planning Grant, Commission members created a committee (Annette Lynch, Phil Leonard, Fred Garrow) to draft an outline on how best to utilize the funds to update the natural resources inventory for the town. Commission

members are also looking into creating a survey of residents on town issues, interests and concerns. They are talking with Professor Rich Clark of Castleton University and the Polling Institute in the hopes the creation of the survey will become a student project, Peter Smith, Mr. Corven and Mr. DeVine are gathering data for the survey. The Commission is monitoring grants available through the Lake Champlain Basin Program and Commission members are looking into trainings available through the agency of Natural Resources.

e. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann reported the meeting focused on how towns could create a Communications Union District to pursue better broadband access. Mount Holly has almost 100% coverage, so this is not an issue here.

f. Rutland Regional Transportation Council Update – Don Richardson was not present.

g. Rutland County Solid Waste District Update – Clinton Woolley reported that after a two-hour discussion on the budget, it was discovered the meetin was not a legal meeting.

6. Old Business:

a. Administrative Officer Appointment – Ms. Matthews noted this was an item that was tabled last month after a fair amount of discussion. She stated the following: the VT State Statutes VT (VSA 24§4448(a)) require the appointment of an Administrative Officer (AO) after the adoption of by-laws; Mount Holly's Subdivision Regulations are by-laws; Mr. Johnson stated last month that there are funds available to cover the costs associated with the Administrative Officer; the Planning Commission by unanimous motion approved the AO job description on September 22, 2020; and the Planning Commission recommended, again by unanimous motion, the appointment of Renee Sarmento to be the Administrative Officer. Mr. Johnson again stated there was \$2,000 available in the budget for the Planning Commission clerk and Administrative Officer. Ms. Matthews pointed out we were now over four months into the fiscal year with none of that amount spent to date and only \$150 per month needed for the Planning Commission clerk's pay. Stephen Michel asked what the requirements were for the AO. Ms. Matthews read from the aforementioned State Statute, noting that the Town of Mount Holly was currently in violation of State Statute. She also said she had spoken with an attorney at the VT League of Cities and Towns about the recommendation of the former Select Board chair that it was in the best interest of the Select Board to ignore State Statutes. The attorney stated that any Statute with the word "shall" is creating an obligation or a duty or a required action that cannot be ignored, and that the town cannot decide to ignore or not follow State Statute. Ms. Matthews stated she did not think it was in the best interest of the town to have the Select Board knowingly violate State Statute. Mr. Chase pointed out the Flood Hazard Regulations also require an Administrative Officer. Additional discussion ensued, including the difference between the Administrative Officer position which is a statutory position and that of the Planning

Commission clerk which serves as an aid to the Planning Commission. For all of these reasons, Ms. Matthews made a motion to appoint Renee Sarmento the Administrative Officer, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

b. Permit Application Fee Schedule – Mr. Turco asked if the old fee schedule had been found. Mr. Seward said no schedule was found but the fees were \$150 per lot for either a minor subdivision or a major subdivision. Ms. Matthews referred to several documents provided to

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

the Select Board by the Planning Commission. The first document notes the current fees and what those fees would be if adjusted for inflation. The Building Construction Registration Ordinance states the Select Board "may adjust the fee and fine on an annual basis." The ordinance was adopted in March of 1995. The building construction registration fee was \$20 then, and 25 years later, the fee is still \$20. That fee would be \$35 today if adjusted for inflation. The Subdivision Regulations also state the Select Board can review and adjust fees. Both the minor and major subdivision fees were \$150 per lot when the ordinance was adopted in March of 1998, and 22 years later, the fees are the same. Those fees would be \$242 per lot today if adjusted for inflation. The Planning Commission recommends the minor subdivision fee remain at \$150 per lot, and the major subdivision fee be raised to \$350 per lot. Mr. Turco said \$350 was too high. Ms. Matthews stated the fees were just a recommendation by unanimous motion from the Planning Commission, but it is the Select Board that sets the fees. Nevertheless, she said she was grateful to the Planning Commission for the time and effort they put in to researching and preparing these documents for the Select Board. Discussion ensued about the fees including: Select Board decides fees and provides a 30-day notice for comments on new fees; Mr. Michel stated he did not understand the issues at the previous Planning Commission meeting and wanted to reconsider his decision; Mr. Seward stated it takes 20 minutes more to do a major subdivision than the time needed to do a minor subdivision; fees reviewed for surrounding communities are generally higher than current proposed fees; administration fee may require ordinance change; removal of the word 'permit' from fee schedule; and other items. Ms. Matthews made a motion to set the Building Construction Registration fee at \$25, the Minor Subdivision Fee at \$150 per lot, and the Major Subdivision Fee for four or more lots at \$200 per lot, seconded by Mr. Chase. Ms. Matthews and Mr. Chase voted

December 2020 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



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.

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

- per the Mount Holly Select Board
November 10, 2020

*Mount Holly homeowners are responsible for informing all visitors and/or renters of this prohibition of ATV, snowmobile & unregistered vehicle usage on town roads.

Commission, the term running until September 2021, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved.

c. Town of Mount Holly Website – Jim Corven submitted some information on municipal websites to the Select Board. He stated it did not reflect well on the town to have an ‘unofficial’ website as it made it seem the town was not up to speed. He said websites are now considered part of a town’s infrastructure and should be maintained. He said that as far as he could tell the agendas and minutes were posted in a timely manner on the website which is what is needed for a website to be official. Dennis Devereux stated that many small towns did not have the ability to maintain a website and are not required to do so. Amy Turco said it will cost her business over \$5,000 to update their website and the town could not afford that expense. Mr. Corven stated his request was only to have the website be official rather than unofficial. Discussion ensued about the importance of websites, the information online about Mount Holly, the five-day posting requirement for the minutes, and the distinction between an official and unofficial website. Ms. Matthews noted that the town did currently have the ability to meet the five-day posting requirement for the website, and she concurred with those who thought the website should be official. Mr. Turco and Mr. Chase preferred to table the issue until a Select Board admin person was hired so as to roll the website duties into that position. Ms. Matthews stated that adding those duties on top of all the others required of a 10-hour-a-week admin assistant was unrealistic.

d. Social Service Appropriation Policy – Ms. Matthews explained the need for a written policy for social service appropriations as more requests are made for tax-payer funds to help cover the requesting organizations’ expenses. The organizations need to know the procedure for a request. The policy proposed is based on VLCT’s model policy and it exactly replicates the town’s current informal policy. Discussion ensued. Mr. Johnson asked if a policy needed to be warned. Ms. Matthews stated she thought not. Mr. Turco and Mr. Chase wanted to wait to see if a policy does need to be warned. Item tabled and will be revisited next month.

e. Okemo Valley TV Contribution – Mr. Turco said it had been brought to us to do something for their extra efforts. Ms. Matthews explained that Okemo Valley TV had gone above and beyond in helping the town initially transition to Zoom meetings and currently in setting up the hybrid model for both the Zoom and in-person meeting. It was suggested that some additional funds be provided to Okemo Valley TV as a show of appreciation for all their efforts. Discussion ensued. Mr. Turco stated they had spent a lot of time setting up for the meetings, and he made a motion to make an additional one-time contribution of \$500 to Okemo Valley TV, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

f. Don Eatmon’s Letter – Mr. Eatmon read his letter stating that Ms. Matthews had a conflict of December 2020 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

aye; Mr. Turco voted nay.

c. Select Board Admin. Assistant – Ms. Matthews reported the ad for the position had run twice in the Vermont Journal. It was listed on the Town website and it had run in the Chit Chat. To date, no responses have been received. It was agreed to continue to run the ad in the Vermont Journal and the Chit Chat, and to run it in the Rutland Herald.

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

7. New Business

a. Planning Commission Appointment – Two Terms to November 2023 – Ms. Matthews stated two Letters of Interest had been received. Mr. Chase made a motion to appoint Lisa Terreri and Brigid Sullivan to the Planning Commission, the terms running until November 2023, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved.

b. Conservation Commission Appointment – One Term to September 2021 – Ms. Matthews stated one Letter of Interest had been received. Mr. Turco made a motion to appoint Nicole Lewis to the Conservation

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.

interest when discussing Vail because she lives on Branch Brook Road. Ms. Matthews addressed several issues raised in the letter (quotes are from Mr. Eatmon's letter):

- The Select Board did not form "a commission to change the Town Plan." The Select Board asked the Planning Commission to strengthen the town plan.
- "If there was ever any development on the west side of Okemo, the ONLY access road is Branch Brook Road." Vail would want direct access off of VT Route 103 to any ski area development on the west of the mountain either using Station Road or punching in a road near Wright Construction, especially as the Jackson Gore development continues to creep closer to Mount Holly up VT Route 103. Access along Healdville & Branch Brook Roads seems unlikely.
- "... Development would impact Ms. Mathews property." The Branch Brook Road property is solely owned by Ms. Matthews' husband, who welcomes any and all development associated with Vail as it would greatly increase the value of his property, and who does not necessarily agree with Ms. Matthews' goal to keep Mount Holly affordable for Vermonters.

Ms. Matthews clarified several other issues and she stated that she had no problem recusing herself from "discussions or actions regarding changing the Town Plan to prevent development of the west side of Okemo." Ms. Matthews asked if Mr. Eatmon thought the conflict of interest policy also applied to Mr. Turco with his sugaring operation on the west side of Okemo. Mr. Turco stated it would have no impact. Mr. Eatmon said Mr. Turco leases the area from the State so there was no conflict.

g. Ron Pruzinsky's Letter – Mr. Turco read the submitted letter asking that signs be posted stating that ATVs, dirt bikes and snowmobiles are not allowed on town roads. Mr. Chase suggested a notice run in the Chit Chat. Mr. Turco agreed saying the notice should say that the use of ATVs, snowmobiles and unregistered vehicles is prohibited on town roads.

h. Other – Ms. Matthews noted the increasing COVID-19 cases in the State with over 112 new cases in the past three days and 12 people currently hospitalized with four in the ICU. She said the Governor was starting to tighten restrictions on gatherings in an effort to protect the health and safety of Vermonters. These restrictions might affect future Select Board meetings.

8. Concerned Citizens Comments – Mr. Michel recommended encouraging people with the ability to attend Select Board meetings via Zoom to do so in order to limit the number of people attending in person. He said that offering both options increases participation.

9. Announcements/Other Business

a. Reminder: Property Taxes due November 30th; 8% Penalty & 1% Interest per Month added after 11/30

b. Reminder: Town Office Closed on November 11th & November 26th

c. Other – Ms. Matthews wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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 – Citing Statute, Ms. Matthews made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:41 pm, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. Motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mr. Turco at 9:02 pm, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved. No actions taken.

12. Adjourn – Mr. Turco adjourned the meeting at 9:02 pm.
Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews



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Planning Commission Virtual Special Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2020

Present: Jon McCann, Nicole Lewis, Gabrielle Macklin-Bickford, Jim Seward, Stephen Michel, Fra DeVine, Jennifer Matthews, Okemo Valley TV

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Old Business:

PC Clerk Training Update – Gabrielle has had two training sessions with Renee, giving an overview of the role of the PC and guidance on drafting the agenda. Clerk time sheets will be submitted monthly. When officers are re-elected in November, it will be determined if the new secretary or the clerk will take meeting minutes.

Fee Schedule – Proposal made to submit a document containing original fees to the Select Board as well as a proposed updated fee schedule for adoption by the Select Board, second and vote (5-0). In the proposed fee schedule, the fees for minor subdivisions and building construction registrations are unchanged from the original fees, and an Administration Fee for subdivisions has been included to cover the costs of the Administrative Officer in warning the subdivision hearing(s). There is an increased proposed cost for the major subdivision fee, as well as an Administration fee to cover the cost of the AO warning the hearing(s). Flood Hazard Area fees require further investigation and discussion prior to making a recommendation to the Select Board.

Public Comments: Fra inquired as to the fee schedule established by surrounding towns. Jon shared that the fees of surrounding towns are either comparable or higher than the potential proposed fee schedule for Mount Holly.

Town Plan Revisions:

"Vision" component has been drafted. The link for viewing the section and making comments is: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oH8hyziMRg7FPSvCBVjfAh1GC5ujiPNemODUkmQ_Joo/edit?usp=sharing

Draft editions of the "Vision" and "Objectives" sections will be published in the News Flash for review and input from the public.

The Commission acknowledges and thanks Gabrielle and Nicole for the contributions made during their terms on the PC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM by motion, second and vote (5-0). Respectfully Submitted, Nicole Lewis, Planning Commission Secretary

Town of Mount Holly Planning Commission ~ Remote Electronic – Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes – Wednesday November 11th, 2020 7:00 pm

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

Commission Member Absent: None

Also Present: Renee Sarmento (Clerk), Annette Lynch, Okemo Valley TV

Jim Called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Changes to agenda: Discussion of board expectations related to open meeting law and how things are discussed in public was added as item 4.d.

Minutes: The minutes from October 14th, 2020 and October 27th, 2020 were approved as distributed.

Reorganization:

a. Introductions were made and new members Lisa Terreri and Brigid Sullivan welcomed

b. Jim called for nominees for Chair. Brigid Sullivan nominated Jon McCann and Stephen Michel nominated Jim Seward. Vote by show of hands. Jon McCann received 3 votes, Jim Seward 2 votes. Jon McCann was elected Chair and Jim turned the meeting over to him.

The chair called for nominations for Vice Chair. Jon McCann nominated Jim Seward. No other nominations being made, Jim Seward was elected Vice Chair by unanimous consent.

The Chair called for nominations for Secretary. Jon McCann nominated Lisa Terreri. No other nominations being made, Lisa Terreri was elected Secretary by unanimous consent.

c. A draft of an updated Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy, based on last year's copy was distributed before the meeting. Stephen Michel said he did not have enough time to review so the Chair decided to review the changes line by line, on-screen, during the meeting.

Jim Seward suggested changing the regular meeting to 3rd Wednesday of the month (7 pm) in order to have more time to respond to information from Selectboard meetings. Unanimously agreed.

Jon McCann moved approval of the updated Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy document as amended, Brigid Sullivan seconded. Motion adopted unanimously.

d. The Chair led a brief discussion of the Vermont open meeting and public records requirements ([1 V.S.A. §§ 310-320](#)) for new members and will distribute additional information to the Commission. Additional discussion of member expectations was abbreviated due to time constraints. P.O. Box 248 Mount Holly, VT 05758 planningcomm@mounthollyvt.org

Old Business: Postponed due to time until next meeting by unanimous consent.

New Business: Postponed due to time until next meeting by unanimous consent.

Correspondence: No subdivision proposals

Building Construction Registrations:

Richard Close and Mike Galano, 728 Hedgehog Hill Road South, New 28x40 2 story, 2 ½ story, 3 bedrooms: accepted

Glen Kreig, 1812 Old Turnpike Road, Addition existing water/septic, 7x10 structure – addition to existing screen porch: accepted

Robert & Lynne Herbst, 2244 Belmont Road, New 8x12 greenhouse: accepted

No wastewater permits

We received a nice note of praise from Ed Bove (Executive Director RRPC)

No Public comments

Upcoming meetings:

Working meeting, December 2, 6:30 pm (1st Wednesday in December).

Regular meeting – December 16th, 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday). Will notify Chit Chat of the change.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm. For the Commission, Renee Sarmento, Planning Commission Clerk

December 2020 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



**NOTICE
MOUNT HOLLY TAXPAYERS**

2020 Real Estate Property Taxes are due
Monday November 30, 2020

After November 30, 2020 an 8% Penalty and
1% per month Interest will be added.

Partial Payments are allowed.

Payments must be received at the Town Office or
be postmarked Nov. 30, 2020 (or earlier) to be
considered timely paid.

All Good Things Come to an End

The graceful maple tree that symbolized the beauty of foliage season in Ludlow's Veterans Memorial Park is pictured above as it is slowly cut down, branch by branch, after many decades supplying the area with its towering form. The tree was found to be in very bad condition and in need of removal before it could cause any damage to property and life. The town has promised to replace this graceful beacon as soon as conditions permit next year. Ralph Pace ralphcpace@gmail.com



Tree of Remembrance Ceremony Broadcast in Rutland

The Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) will broadcast its 32nd Annual Tree of Remembrance ceremony on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30pm. on PEGTV channel 1075, on the VNAHSR Facebook page and the VNAHSR YouTube channel. While practicing safe and social distancing, this year's ceremony will not be held in person.

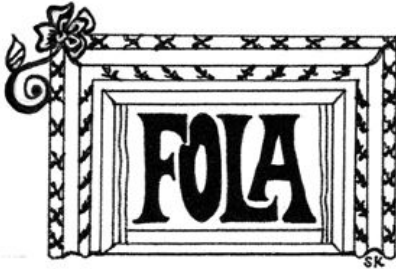


The Tree of Remembrance ceremony is a way for community members to reflect, honor and celebrate loved ones and friends who have passed away. The ceremony will feature: music by the Hospice Trillium choir; remarks by Hospice Medical Director Allan Eisemann, MD; Charlene Eddy, family member of a hospice patient; recitation of loved ones' names; the

lighting of the tree.

"This ceremony is about families who have lost a loved one and their legacy," says Nicole Moran, MSN, BA, RN and director of the Hospice program. "Our caregivers, volunteers and staff care deeply for the families of our patients and offer a variety of services to them to help deal with grief and loss. This ceremony is a beloved annual event and is just one of the many ways we want to honor and remember their loved ones for years to come."

For more information about this ceremony, please call 802.775.0568 or email collin.terenzini@vnahsr.org.



COVID-19 Strikes Again! FOLA Cancels Remaining 2020 Movies

With the dramatically increasing rate of Covid-19 in Vermont, coupled with the Governor's new announcement on social gatherings, FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) has decided to cancel scheduled movies in the Heald Auditorium of Ludlow's Town Hall for the "foreseeable future".

In making this announcement, Scott Stearns, FOLA Chairman, noted, "After considering Governor Scott's strong action regarding social gatherings, and discussing the matter with key town officials as well as FOLA Board members, it is obvious that this is the correct action to take to protect area residents and visitors".

Stearns indicated that the matter will be periodically reviewed but felt that it would definitely be in effect through the end of January, at a minimum. Ralph Pace ralphcpace@gmail.com

Elf The Musical, Jr.! Friday, November 27th. ~ Streaming Live in High Definition

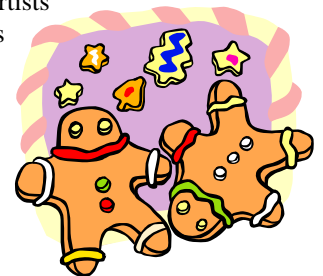
Make your Holidays Sparkle-Jolly-Twinkle-Jingley with 43 youth artists starring in local non-profit children's theater company, Pride's Young Artists, holiday musical: *Elf The Musical, Jr.!* *Elf The Musical, Jr.* will be streaming live in High Definition the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 27 at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased at www.showtix4u.com/event-details/41646

Elf The Musical, Jr. is based on the Holiday film *Elf* starring Will Ferrell. Follow the journey of Buddy, a Santa Elf that discovers he is really a human raised as an elf after crawling into Santa's magical toy bag as a baby. Buddy is now an adult and ready to meet his family in New York City. But the most shocking revelation of all... Buddy's dad is on the naughty list! Join Buddy on the adventure of the season as he teaches New York City that "The best way to spread Christmas Cheer, is by singing loud for all to hear!"

This will be Pride's 2nd production amid the COVID crisis. All productions, from auditions to show dates are rehearsed using Pride's smART Protocols for art safety and then streamed live via the showtix4u website.

"A novel virus calls for a novel answer. If the show is to go on, we must be willing to forge a new path." says Director, Sarah McGee. "Creating art in the challenging time of a global pandemic has required the support of both our artists and our community allies. This production is a true community event and showcases the talents of Pride's artists (ages 7-22), tap dancers from Miss Jackie's Studio of Dance (as the high kicking Rockettes), Jacob Patorti as a very special guest Vocal Director and the Video skills of Castleton University Video student, Luke McGee."

If you are interested in learning more about Pride's Young Artists, smART Protocols or details for their upcoming 2021 season, please visit Pride's Young Artists website: www.pridesyoungartists.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pridesyoungartists/>.



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Fletcher Farm School Updates

Thanks to all of you for your generous support of our School. A special thanks goes to Tyson Ladies Aid, who donated \$1,000 in memory of Marge Harlow.

Our Fabric and Craft Supply Sale was a great success, and our Fall appeal is ongoing. When we started our Fall appeal, our Go Fund

Me account had a balance showing of approximately \$4,000 from last year's appeal. So far, we have raised \$10,790 and have less than \$10,000 remaining to reach our goal of \$20,000 to keep the school alive through June, 2021 and will help us start up again next summer. Your donations will help us provide Young Artist scholarships, hire high quality instructors, purchase classroom equipment, and pay for utilities. If you have the ability, we would appreciate anything you could give us to keep us going.

The Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen, Inc. 2021 Membership Drive is now underway. As a member, you will receive a discount of \$10 on all on-campus classes, a discount on booth space in our Summer Craft Festivals, an opportunity to participate in our Gift and Craft Shop, a chance to participate in our annual Membership Meeting, and a one-time discount in our Gift and Craft Shop.

There is a Youth membership level and three adult membership levels: Individual (\$35), Artist/Professional (\$120) and Premier (\$1,000). If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit our website (<http://fletcherfarm.org>) for more information or to join online. Memberships make great holiday gifts!

We'd also like to remind you that our annual raffle will close and the winners will be drawn on December 1. You still have two weeks to enter. You can see photos of the prizes and buy raffle tickets on our website. Any of our prizes would make terrific holiday gifts!

We all have someone for whom it's impossible to find a gift. Please consider a gift certificate to a class. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, 611 Route 103 S., Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-8770



To the People of the Windsor County Senate District

Thank you for re-electing us as your State Senators. Your trust is an honor, and a challenge to be worthy. We're grateful to the many people who've worked to re-elect us, and we thank our various opponents for a civil contest in these uncivil times.

We are all in a difficult time, dealing with the health implications and economic consequences of COVID-19, as well the many challenges that face Vermont even in the best of times. We, like you, will do our best to think creatively and act resolutely to get our brave little state to the end of this crisis. Again, thank you, Senator Alison Clarkson, Senator Alice Nitka, and Senator Dick McCormack

USDARD Invests \$891 Million in Rural Water & Wastewater Treatment Upgrades; 2700+ NH/VT Residents Impacted

Please be advised that USDA RD has invested \$891M to modernize and upgrade rural water and wastewater infrastructure across 43 states.

Relevant initiatives in VT & NH include:

- Deer Estates Cooperative in Milan, N.H. — \$131,000 loan to modernize its water and sewer systems;
- Bridgewater, Vt. — \$789,000 in loans and grants to replace and upgrade aging components of the town's wastewater treatment facility and collection system from 1978. The investment will improve pollution control by reducing maintenance and repair costs, as well as excessive infill;
- Epping, N.H. — \$13 million in loans and grants to replace two sludge lagoons with a solar field to power its wastewater treatment facility ([previously released](#));
- Woody Hollow Cooperative in Boscawen, N.H. — \$956,000 in loans and grants to replace aging pipes and improve water quality for its users ([previously released](#)).

Thank you, and please reach out for more information if you have questions. Sincerely, **Kevin R Lambert**, Public Affairs, Rural Development - VT/NH, United States Department of Agriculture, Office: (802) 828-6080 | Cell: (802) 318-3687, 87 State Street, Suite 324, PO Box 249, Montpelier, VT 05601 Kevin.Lambert@usda.gov www.rd.usda.gov/vt www.rd.usda.gov/nh

December 2020 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



toward buying 2 Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) and the Gill Home funds will be used to buy 10 cases of face masks. Both purchases are to protect staff members against infection. The Ludlow Ambulance Service generated the balance of funding needed for the PAPRs through generous community fundraising.

In making the awards, LRC President Kevin Barnes noted the importance both groups are to the health and welfare of the surrounding communities. Pictured in the LAS photo, from l-r, are Scott Murphy, Ludlow Town Manager, David Norton, LAS, Kevin Barnes, LRC, and John Mazurek, LAS. In the Gill Odd Fellows photo, from left to right, are January Reichert, Director of Nursing at Gill, Theresa Southworth, Gill Administrator, and Kevin Barnes, LRC.

Ludlow Rotary Awards Checks to Two Ludlow Service Groups

As part of Rotary International District 7870, which includes all of southern VT and NH, the Ludlow Rotary Club participated in an effort to fund area groups that offer important services addressing the Covid-19 outbreak in our community. The grants are for food for Black River Good Neighbor Services and personal protective equipment (PPE) needed by local organizations.

Black River Good Neighbor Services will receive \$2,100 through the VT Food Bank from the Rotary grants. An additional \$2,100 was given for equipment and supplies for two entities in our service area who are on the front lines of this pandemic. Rotary donated \$1,650 to the Ludlow Ambulance Service and \$450 to the Gill Odd Fellows Home. Ludlow Ambulance Service will use the funds



Cancel The Cancel Culture

In response to those who are offended at the sight of a Confederate flag (that includes me), know this. There are many things in

our world that offend. I could list them, but there's not enough room in the Chit Chat for that. However, I thank God we live in a country where "offending" is not a crime and not being offended" is not a right. I am tremendously offended at the sight of large B.L.M. flag displayed on a home also on Route 103 (If you knew what B.L.M. really stands for you might be too. Do your homework). But, too bad for me. Those who display this flag have every right to do so and I would never even consider publicly condemning them for it. Our right to free speech is what makes this country so great. We need to support, not condemn, those who exercise it.

Regarding the Chit Chat's reference to October 12th as "Columbus Day," I say BRAVO! Christopher Columbus was a great man, and no governor or legislature can change that. Although I admire many aspects of indigenous peoples' lives, they were not perfect. Barbarous acts of cruelty, slavery and human sacrifice were committed by numerous tribes against other tribes long before Columbus was even born. Did you know that the Cherokee people took their slaves with them on the "trail of tears?" Again, do your homework.

Unfortunately, cruelty appears to be a unique characteristic of the human race and has, to varying degrees, occurred on every continent (with the exception, perhaps, of Antarctica) and among all peoples throughout history. To single out Christopher Columbus for this, while overlooking his outstanding courage and achievements, is either ignorant, hypocritical, or just plain dismissive.

Let's celebrate indigenous peoples on a different day and celebrate Columbus on October 12th for his tremendous accomplishments. I commend Diana Garrow and the staff of the Chit Chat for recognizing this. I implore you not to surrender your principles in the future. This "cancel culture" must end. Enough is enough! Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas to all! Patricia Ward, P.O. Box 64, Mount Holly, VT

From our family to yours we wish you a

safe & happy

holiday season.

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To the Editor:

Some years ago, I ran for the position of Town Treasurer against David Johnson, with whom I had then and still have now a cordial relationship.

I challenged David because he had not had the Town's finances audited for years - despite entreaties from the Select Board. So, I ran on the promise to get an auditor and to computerize the operations of the Treasurer's office - partly to make it more responsive to citizens' need to know how their tax dollars were being spent.

David won the election and went on to find an auditor and to computerize his office. Copies of his monthly financial report were made available to the public at the Select Board meetings.

However, over time some of the above gains have eroded. The Town's finances were not audited last year, and David has not been able to find an auditor for this year. He claims that there are only two CPAs in the state who understand municipal finances. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns does not agree with this number, and one might wonder how the other 250 towns in Vermont manage to perform their legally required audits.

David no longer provides copies of his monthly financial statement to members of the public attending meetings of the Select Board. Twice, the Select Board - responding to my requests - has asked David if it might be possible to post the financial statement on the Town Website before the Select Board meeting. This has not happened.

Despite the fact that David is widely liked, he could be doing his job a bit better. Otherwise, someone might run against him in the next election in order that taxpayers know how their money is being used. Annette Lynch

Is Mount Holly Ready for Giraffes?

You may be surprised, but this is the question hanging over Mount Holly.

On the one hand, it is the question that caused the Select Board to find the current Town Plan insufficiently detailed to give the Town insurance policy against unwanted development.

On the other hand, the question itself is considered ridiculous by those who loudly and vehemently oppose any updating of the Town Plan. Some think that nothing is going to change in Mount Holly. Some believe that our next door neighbor, the ski giant Vail, has no designs on our real estate. Who needs to think now about insurance of a town plan for things that won't happen?

But in 1975, a zoo with giraffes was approved for Mount Holly, and residents had to fight all the way to the Vermont Supreme Court to stop a development they did not want.

It started when a veterinarian, Dr. James Kinsey, having been turned down by his home town of Manchester, proposed a Wildlife Wonderland in Mount Holly on 615 acres, along Route 155 extending a short way into Weston. It was going to be like the Catskill Game Farm, which had 150 species of animals and birds including antelope, emu, yak, lions, giraffes, bison, panther, cougar, elephants, zebras, wart hogs, snakes, alligators, lemurs, rhinos, and various birds and ducks.

Dr. Kinsey projected 100,000 visitors per six-month season, (about 100 vehicles per hour) traveling from Route 103 through Belmont and on to unpaved Maple Hill Road. The site would include - besides enclosures for the animals - parking for 700 cars, entrance booths, stores, concession stands, an amusement park, and a restaurant. The developer maintained that there would be no erosion that animal fecal matter would not find its way into the headwaters of the Mill and West rivers, and that diseases of rare animals would not spread to the animal life of the Town.

The Mount Holly Planning Commission - newly formed under the 1968 Municipal Planning Act - equipped with the Town's first Town Plan and support of 60% of Town residents, voted against the development.

However, the District Environmental Commission - formed under the new 1970 Act 250 - approved the Wildlife Wonderland development. Mount Holly fought back and the Vermont Environmental Board ruled against the Wildlife project. Dr. Kinsey then appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled against the Wildlife Wonderland development, basing its decision on expert testimony about potential environmental damage and the Mount Holly Town Plan, which expressed the Town's desire to maintain an unpolluted environment in a quiet rural town.

Next month, I hope to tell the stirring story of the long and hard fight by Mount Holly residents to win this victory. Part of the story is that the Vermont Supreme Court paid attention to a town plan. From this start over 40 years ago, courts have given town plans increasing power to fight unwanted development, provided that planning commissions take the trouble to write their plans as carefully as they would write an insurance policy. Annette Lynch

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Vermont leadership during COVID-19

The latest number of COVID-19 cases nationwide as of November 20 is 11,843,490 and the number of deaths is 253,600.

NPR recently featured a program comparing Vermont with South Dakota, both of which have Republican Governors who handled the pandemic in opposite ways—SD has one of the worst infection rates in the country and Vermont has one of the best. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease doctor, called Vermont “a model for the country” and spoke to our governor earlier in the year about our success.

Governor Noem of SD is opposed to a statewide mask mandate, hosted President Trump for fireworks attended by 7,000 mostly maskless people and allowed hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists attend the Sturgis rally while Governor Scott stated that “science is real and wearing a mask will not only protect the gains we’ve made but also help you and your family members and friends stay healthy.” In one recent week, SD recorded more new cases in that week than the all the cases in Vermont from the start of the pandemic and SD has ten times the COVID-19 deaths.

There are surges of COVID-19 all over the country and new restrictions have been implemented in our state in order to keep us safe. The Mayo Clinic reports 900 workers have tested positive in the last two weeks and they are experiencing staff shortages—in all 2,981 have tested positive. We are thankful for those in our community helping others while putting themselves at risk. Remember that keeping ourselves safe keeps others safe.

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy holiday season. Marcy Tanger

Lime Green Kayak

In the spirit of Christmas kindness, I would appreciate the return of my lime green kayak to my yard. It has tremendous sentimental value. My beloved father gave it to me before he passed away. Thank you.



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

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

Check here if you DO NOT wish to receive the Chit Chat _____

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

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Phone Email

Sign Up for the Mt. Holly NewsFlash to get all that is happening locally in our Town just email to:

mthollynewsflash@gmail.com

And request to be placed on the list.

News item deadlines are 6 am & 6 pm

Also Check

www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

To see all daily emails of the NewsFlash compiled in one place for all community news and events.

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Call 802-259-2147

A Christmas Story for Everybody

One of my favorite Christmas stories is "Christmas Day In the Morning" by Pearl S. Buck who died March 6, 1973 at 80 in Danby, VT. The short story tells of a farm boy named Rob who realizes that his dad really loves him when overhearing a conversation between his parents early one morning just before milking. "I hate to wake him up," his father says.



With this realization, Rob has a deep desire to do something special for his dad for Christmas. It has to be something that would never be forgotten and would show the love he has in return for his father. After considering buying one item or another, Rob comes up with a plan to wake up *very* early on Christmas morning and do the strenuous task of milking the family herd. This was a task usually done by both dad and son every morning before dawn. Rob figures he can arise earlier than 4am and creep into the barn and get all the milking done alone and clean up so that when his father goes out to start the job, he'd find it all completed. Dad would be certain to know who had done it.

Well, Rob wakes up every hour through the night but manages to get up at the appointed time and surprise even the sleepy cows. He finishes just in time to race back to his bed and throw the covers over his head to disguise his quick

breathing.

"Rob!" His father calls. "We have to get up, son, even if it is Christmas." "Aw-right. "Rob says. The door closes and he's just laughing with his heart ready to jump out of his body.

Before long his father finds him in the darkened room "laughing, a queer sobbing sort of laugh." "It's for Christmas, Dad!" He found his father and clutched him in a great hug. He felt his father's arms go around him. It was dark and they could not see each other's faces. "Son, I thank you. Nobody ever did a nicer thing--"

They go downstairs together to the Christmas tree and Rob's heart is bursting with shyness and pride as dad tells mom and the kids what his son has done all by himself. "The best Christmas gift I ever had, and I'll remember it, son, every year on Christmas morning, so long as I live."

They both remember "that blessed Christmas dawn when, alone with the cows in the barn, he had made his first gift of true love."

The story ends with Rob, dad now long dead, sharing the same gift of love from his heart with his wife by writing a stirring love letter to hang on the tree to touch his wife's heart on Christmas morning. He feels the same love and joy in giving as he did that "happy, happy Christmas!"

May this Christmas be a reminder that *giving* has always been God's idea... and He gave His very best to you. "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) A happy, happy Christmas!

Pastor Glenn



Due to the current health climate the usual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Village Baptist Church will not be held. May the spirit of the Christ Child bring you His peace during this Christmas Season.

Special Holiday Fair

SATURDAY DEC. 12TH

11 AM TO 5:00 PM

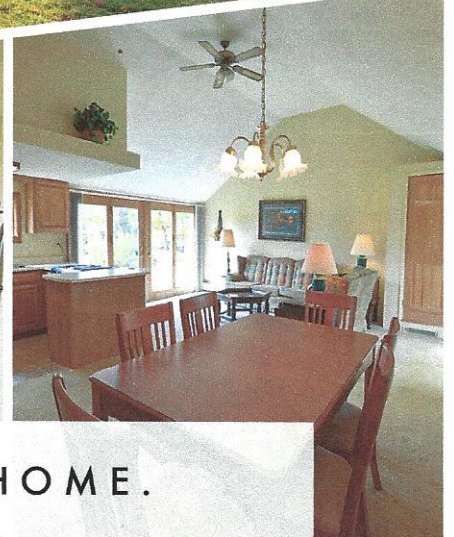
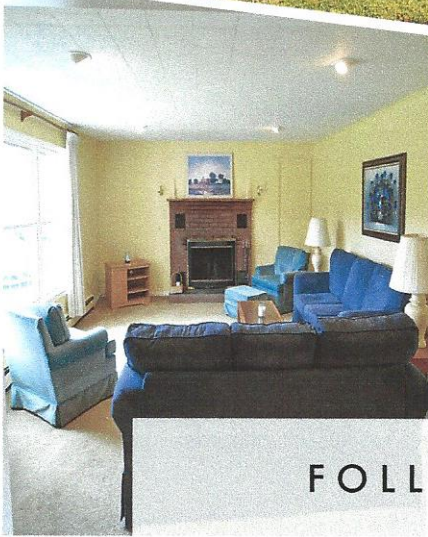
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- Crickets Eye painted glassware
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Who's Got It Locally?

Artists & Architects

Alistair McCallum Landscape Photographs & Paintings 259-2318
Gerry Wilkins Art Studio Open Call Ahead 259-2046
Spectrum Photography – John Miller 259-3060
Stone Creek Workshops Pottery www.stonecreekworkshops.com 259-2254

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

Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling*Building*Portable Sawmilling 259-3699
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 & 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

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
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
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

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, Owner/Broker 802-228-5333
realtor@KelleyRealEstate.com
Ty Murray Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com Cell 802-777-8047
Sue-Starr Adams sue@kelleyrealestate.com 802-236-8028
Sean Williams sean@kelleyrealestate.com 802-952-8055
Alex Eatmon Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com Cell 802-345-7886
Nora Sylvia nora@kelleyrealestate.com 978-793-2033
Fax 802-228-5343 www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com

Roofing

Buddy Systems Roofing Contact 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

Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking ccw@vermontel.net 259-3232
www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com

