



**Current Postal Patron
Box Holder/Rural Route**

"PRSR STD"

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 8

Mt. Holly, VT 05758



46/12

MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT

February 2021

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

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

Mt. Holly Museum – Open Sat & Sun 2 – 4 pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org

Town Library: Sat 9-1 Sun 2-4 Mon 10am-6pm Tue 9am-1pm Wed 2-6, P.O. Box 93, Belmont, VT 05730 Call 259-3707

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

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

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

Town Garage: 259-3179

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

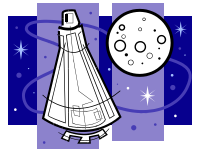
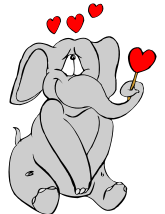
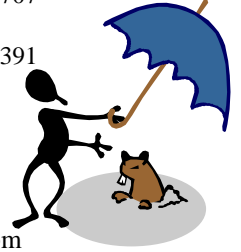
TRANSFER SITE: Sat. 8 am – 2 pm & Sun. 9 am – 12 pm

1 st	Freedom Day – Pres. Lincoln Approves 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery 1865	
2 nd	MH Snow Flyers Meeting via Zoom	Groundhog Day 6:00 pm
	Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library	7:00 pm
	Mount Holly Conservation Commission	7:00 pm
4 th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Fire Station	7:00 pm
5 th	One of America's 1st Weather Observers John Jeffries b. 1744	
Sat 6 th	Pres. Ronald Reagan 1911	
7 th	Bobcat Season Ends	
8 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	Boy Scouts Founded 1910 7:00 pm
9 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
	Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School	4:30 pm
	Select Board Meeting, Town Garage & Zoom	6:30 pm
10 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
11 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station Thomas Alva Edison Founder of General Electric Co. 1847	7:00 pm
12 th	Pres. Abraham Lincoln 1809	
Sat 13 th	Boston Latin School 1st Public School in USA 1635	
Sun 14 th	Red & Gray Fox Season Ends ~ League of Women Voters Formed 1920 ~ Valentine's Day	
15 th	Susan B. Anthony Women's Rights Leader 1820 ~ Sinking the USS Maine 1898 ~ Presidents' Day	
16 th	Mardi Gras	
17 th	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm
	Mount Holly Planning Commission, Via Zoom	7:00 pm
18 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm
Sat 20 th	John Glenn 1st American to Orbit Earth on Friendship 7, 1962	
22 nd	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	Pres. George Washington 1732 7:00 pm
23 rd	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	Battle of Iwo Jima 1945 9:00 am
24 th	PTSA Meeting, Zoom	6:30 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
25 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	Purim Begins 7:00 pm
26 th		Purim Ends ~ Levi Strauss 1829
Sat 27 th	Battle of Java Sea 1942 ~ Full Snow Moon	
	US Supreme Court upholds 19th Amendment for Women's' Right To Vote 1922	

* * * * *

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: Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) * Philippe & Katharine Crane * David Martin * Bob Keen (Keen Woodworking) * Jeff & Mary Smith (Smith Maple Crest Farm, VT Maple Syrup & Grassfed Beef) * Ted & Sue Crawford * Jeff & Mary Smith (Smith Maple Crest Farm, VT Maple Syrup & Grassfed Beef) * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) * Trip & Deb Pearce (Harry's Café) * Wanda & Michael Spatzer * Carol & John Serravezza * Ann & Moe Doucette * Lynn Anderson *



February Birthdays: 2nd -Justin Bussino (2004) 4th -Chris Charuk 5th -Pat Marro 6th -Candance Bussino 8th -Alyssa Collins * Debbie Pearce 9th -Emma Coldwell 10th -Amy Perrino * Jack Koponen 11th -Mary Desautels 18th -Andy Bolalek * Peggy Taylor 19th -Dennis Turco * Denise Turco 20th -Barbara Palotta 21st -Ben Veysey 22nd -Susan Horsman 25th -Meghan Garrow 27th -Mary Crawford * Steven Radonis



February Anniversaries: 17th -Lisa & Todd Bussino (1990) 28th -Andy & Teresa Bolalek

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	7:30 am – 9:30 am
		2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 10:45 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.



February 2021 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



Maurice Paul Doucette

Maurice Paul “Moe” Doucette, 84, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at his residence in Mount Holly, Vermont, with his wife of 61 years by his side. Moe was born on March 7, 1936, in West Warwick, Rhode Island, to Donat and Doris (Phaneuf) Doucette. Knowing each other since early childhood, Moe married the girl next door, Annette (Chartier), in 1959 at St. John the Baptist Church in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Following service to his country in the U.S. Navy, Moe was employed by Leesona Corp. and later, Brown & Sharp in Rhode Island, then Electric Boat Div. of General Dynamics in Groton, Connecticut, prior to retiring as a machinist working on nuclear submarines. Moe and Annette lived in Coventry, Rhode Island, from 1966 until they moved to Mount Holly, Vermont, in 2003. Moe’s favorite sport was hunting with his hunting buddies. He also enjoyed boating, fishing and skiing. He was an active member of Church of the Annunciation in Ludlow, Vermont. Besides his wife, Moe is survived by his brother, Donald and wife Dolores (Calabro) Doucette of Coventry, Rhode Island; 18 precious nieces and nephews; and numerous great-nieces and -nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and a dear nephew, Donald Jr. A funeral Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, at Church of the

Annunciation in Ludlow. Calling hours were held an hour prior to the service, in the parish hall. The Rev. Thomas Mosher was celebrant. The eulogy was provided by Mark Monty. The organist and vocalist was Jacob McLaughlin. Bearers were Joe Hammond, Bernard Stewart, Don Richardson, Dick Tilton, Bob Snarski, Art Krueger and Paul Nevin. Burial will be at a later date in St. Joseph’s Cemetery in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Hospital in Maurice’s memory. Local arrangements are with the Aldous Funeral Home, 44 North Main St., Rutland, Vermont.

Kevin R. Daly

Kevin R. Daly, 75, died on Jan. 5, 2021, at home. He was born January 7, 1945, in Boston, Massachusetts, the son of Robert W. and Ethelyn (Sweet) Daly. He attended Lowell Technological Institute and later earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Cambridge College. Mr. Daly worked as an engineer and project manager for Raytheon Co. in Massachusetts for over 30 years. Survivors include his wife, Judith (Burke) Daly of East Wallingford; two sons, Sean Daly of Meredith, New Hampshire, Michael Daly of Sharon, Massachusetts; a daughter, Lynne Finn of Rome, Georgia; three siblings, Kendall Daly of Waxhaw, North Carolina, Kirk Daly of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, Karen Saenz of Holbrook, Massachusetts; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, E. Pamela Corbett. The funeral service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Norris Cotton Cancer Center, 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756; or VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, P.O. Box 787, Rutland, VT 05702. Arrangements are by Clifford Funeral Home.



Armand “Red” Pierre Paul Fleury

Armand “Red” Pierre Paul Fleury, 86, died Jan. 4, 2021 at home surrounded by family following a short illness. He was born Jan. 13, 1934, Claremont, NH, the son of Eugene and Rosanna Fleury. He attended St. Mary’s School in Claremont.

He married Carol Ann Adair in Claremont on July 13, 1955. They divorced in 1958. He married his soulmate, Ruth Charlotte Josselyn on Dec. 9, 1967.

Red served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as an airplane mechanic. He received a Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal. He worked in the machine tool industry for over 48 years, working for Jones & Lamson Corporation and The Fellows Corporation in Springfield, VT and for a short time at Door Crafters in Ludlow, VT.

Mr. Fleury was a member of the local union and served as union steward.

He was also an active member of Ballard Hobart American Legion Post #36 in Ludlow for over 65 years and enjoyed taking part in parades and placing the wreath on the tomb of the soldier.

He was a car enthusiast and enjoyed working on cars in his garage. He never hesitated to help others out on a project and was always on the go, visiting friends around the area or driving by to say hello.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth (Josselyn) Fleury of Mt. Holly; two daughters, Teresa Blaisdell of Lancaster, NH and Kathleen Dougherty of Avondale, AZ; a goddaughter Mary Ann (Belanger) Jeffery of Claremont, one brother, Victor Fleury of Claremont; His granddaughter, Hillary Hunt of Los Lunas, NM, and several other grandchildren and great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and an endless list of good friends. He is predeceased by his father, mother, one brother Henry Fleury, and one sister Cecile (Fleury) Belanger.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Legion, 135 Main St., Ludlow, VT 05149 or www.legion.org. There will be no calling hours due to the current pandemic. The military funeral honor guard will provide a ceremony later at the convenience of the family.

Access Bone Builders Online

With Pat Facey

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

For Weights and more information

Call Judy Nevin 259-2443


Expeditionary School at Black River By Kendra Rickerby Interim Head of School 2020-2021

'Tis the season to make resolutions, reflect on the past, and recalibrate toward a healthier future. Despite the turbulence of 2020, the Black River Independent School Committee (BRISC) remains committed to strengthening the Ludlow community, educationally and beyond. In a year marked by catastrophic wildfires, a global pandemic, historic job losses, and a national reckoning with systemic racism, BRISC's vision for economic vitality offers an emerging model for how to redesign the relationship between local schools, the business community, and taxpayers. Now, with 2021 upon us, the highlights of our first semester are noteworthy.

We opened our doors tuition-free to 16 students on September 8, 2020. Offering a flexible culture of learning, we have remained fully open Monday through Friday. As our school has evolved with these times, so has our name, and so has our desired impact. From the onset, the curriculum placed an emphasis on respecting a wide variety of cultures, religions, languages, and the challenges of socioeconomic diversity. Continuing with an acronym that references a specific religious ceremony is counterintuitive. It undermines our purpose. We are excited to announce that our second semester will include marketing and branding our revised name: Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR).

In time, it is our intention to be referred to as "Black River." This will be a key feature of how our long-term business plan aims to scale an ecosystem of flexible learning across the state, and possibly the nation. The positivity of our first four months reminds us that the foundation to do so is solid. We have signed agreements with Black River Innovation Campus in Springfield and Castleton University's the Center for Schools in Rutland. We are collaborating with Okemo Valley TV right here in Ludlow to capture student's participation in National History Day's *Communication in History: Key to Understanding* project. Through these partnerships, we are developing a network that can help balance the demand for enhancing student's technological skills with a need to simultaneously keep them connected to the natural environment.

We are keenly aware of how the coronavirus is creating a world that is dependent on access to the Internet. In light of this reality, we are embracing the expedition of finding ways to facilitate learning opportunities where students must unplug from electronic devices. This past semester students participated in a rock climbing and canoeing excursion at the Chittenden Reservoir. With the help of the Book Nook here in Ludlow, we've purchased paper copies of Laurie Hulse Anderson's *Seeds of America* trilogy. To strengthen our curriculum's alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards, we are initiating partnerships with Vermont Institute for Natural Sciences and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, programming that we hope to make available by summer 2021. And, we are thrilled to accept the donation of a piano. Our interrelated approach to curriculum design allows us to weave music lessons into our teaching of the writing process.



Custom Builders of Belmont Inc.
P.O. Box 171
Belmont, VT 05730

Charlie Conroy
cjconroy@vermontel.net

30+ Years Experience

was established to maintain the presence of a cost-effective school in the heart of Ludlow. In response to the fiscal challenges created by COVID-19, with this revised nomenclature, the Expeditionary School at Black River's approach intends to promptly respond to the needs of working parents and guardians as well local business owners during the remainder of and post-COVID. We opened in spite of the complications presented by this pandemic. As a result, we are well-positioned to serve as a solution to the difficult lessons garnered from the rapid scaling of "remote learning." Communities like ours cannot afford to do otherwise.

In the weeks following this announcement, we will be rolling out the details of a member loan program. In order to remain open next year and beyond, ESBR needs to secure investors. Thanks to the entrepreneurial mindset of the members of BRISC, we have a chance to coordinate a renewed approach to funding local schools, doing so is more likely to safeguard an affordable lifestyle for all Vermonters.

Additional explanations of how we will accomplish our goals will be published here. Or, please feel welcome to get in touch with me. Working together we are more likely to ensure that a renewed approach to operating a community's school can also create many positive new beginnings for students, their families and the local workforce. Happy New Year. Kendra Rickerby, Ph.D., Head of School (interim) kendra@blackriveris.org

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

KEITH Hawkins
president

LOCAL

HAWKINS
EXCAVATION

Mount Holly, Vermont
802 558.3082

To date, curriculum development and strategic plans have been influenced by [EL Education's](#) approach to school improvement. The EL stands for Expeditionary Learning. This framework was first introduced 30 years ago via a partnership between Harvard Graduate School of Education and Outward Bound. Influenced by this philosophy, our organizational design is also anchored in the policy expectations put forth by Vermont's Agency of Education in the mandates known as Educational Quality Standards (2015) and Act 77: Flexible Pathways to Secondary School Completion (2013). Both of which are still intact today.

At its core, expeditionary means "a journey or excursion undertaken for a specific purpose." The second half of its definition conveys a commitment to "efficient promptness." Initially, BRISC

Mount Holly Elementary School Happenings

January 27th at 6:30 pm via Zoom Online Auction,

Glass Bottle Fundraiser and Covid Cookbook

February 24th at 6:30 pm via Zoom Plant Sale Fundraiser

Mount St. Joseph Academy is now accepting applications for new students For the 2021-22 school year.

Mount St. Joseph Academy at a Glance

- More than 95 % of Mount St. Joseph Academy graduates go on to College.
- Mount St. Joseph Academy welcomes students of all faiths.
- Mount St. Joseph Academy offers a variety of Advanced Placement courses.
- Mount St. Joseph Academy is the most affordable private school in the area

Admissions Online: Should you desire more information than is available on our school's website, please Request More Information and our Admissions Office will contact you. If you have not already done so, please consider making an appointment to visit. We would very much like to meet you and encourage you to tour our school and campus.

How to Apply: We encourage families to apply online as it simplifies submission and provides parents the ability to track the status of their child's application. To begin the Online Application process, Create an Account. Upon account creation, you will receive an email containing a verification link. Once your email address has been verified, log in to your account and Create A New Student Application for your child. You will then have the flexibility to log in and out of your account and access your open application.

A non-refundable fee of \$25 must be submitted with each application. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 802-775-0151 Ext. 2013. For an online application go to: <https://www.msjvermont.org/admissions-process>

Bill Bruso, *Enrollment Coordinator*, Mount Saint Joseph Academy, 802-775-0151 ext.2013 *Ride the Wave to Success*
www.msjvermont.org [Follow MSJ on Facebook!](#)

JOIN US & BE PART OF OUR MOUNTIE FAMILY



Now Accepting Applications for the 2021-22 School Year
 Please visit us at <https://www.msjvermont.org/admissions-process>

Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 December 2020, Trestleboard

No REGULAR MEETING

Brothers,

Brother Jerry Brown passed away on December 13, 2020. He was a 25 year member of Mt. Moriah Lodge. He is survived by his wife, Natalie, a son, Christopher, and two sisters, Monica Reed and Colleen Natale. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a memorial service will be scheduled for a later time. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Jerry's name to the Mt. Holly Rescue Squad.

For the second time this year, we must change our behavior and forgo those enjoyable connections we have made part of our lives as Masons. One of the first lessons given to us through the Lodge room door was to "wait with patience". Right now, for us, we must simply be patient.

Offer some good cheer and reach out to a Brother by phone or with a card just to stay "hi", this year.

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.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, to you and your families. Fraternally, Earl Miller, WM - Buster Seward Sec'y

Mount Holly Snow Flyers

The Snow Gods have been good to us the past few days - we were delivered about 12" of wet heavy snow that we've been able to groom & provide a pretty good base for our trails. All of our trails have been groomed & with the continued snow this week - they are shaping up nicely.

We are still in early season conditions - water bars have not been able to be completely filled in, there are spots with running

water, rough sections can appear & there is an ongoing logging operation north of Salt Ash - but with continued snow & colder temperatures we'll continue to make the trails the best we can. Our core team of volunteers have been working their magic clearing the trails after the storm & grooming - without these volunteers the trails in Mt. Holly would be in sad shape. Thanks to ALL THOSE who Help keep us going & running smoothly. Thank You Landowners for the privilege of riding on your property - without you there would be no Mt. Holly Snow Flyers or VAST. Enjoy our trails -But Please Ride with Caution - trees, rocks & other obstacles are not very forgiving - there has already been a fatality in N.Y. by trying to cross a lake on unsafe Ice. Respect the Trails & other Riders. Ride Safe - Ride Smart

Visit us on Facebook



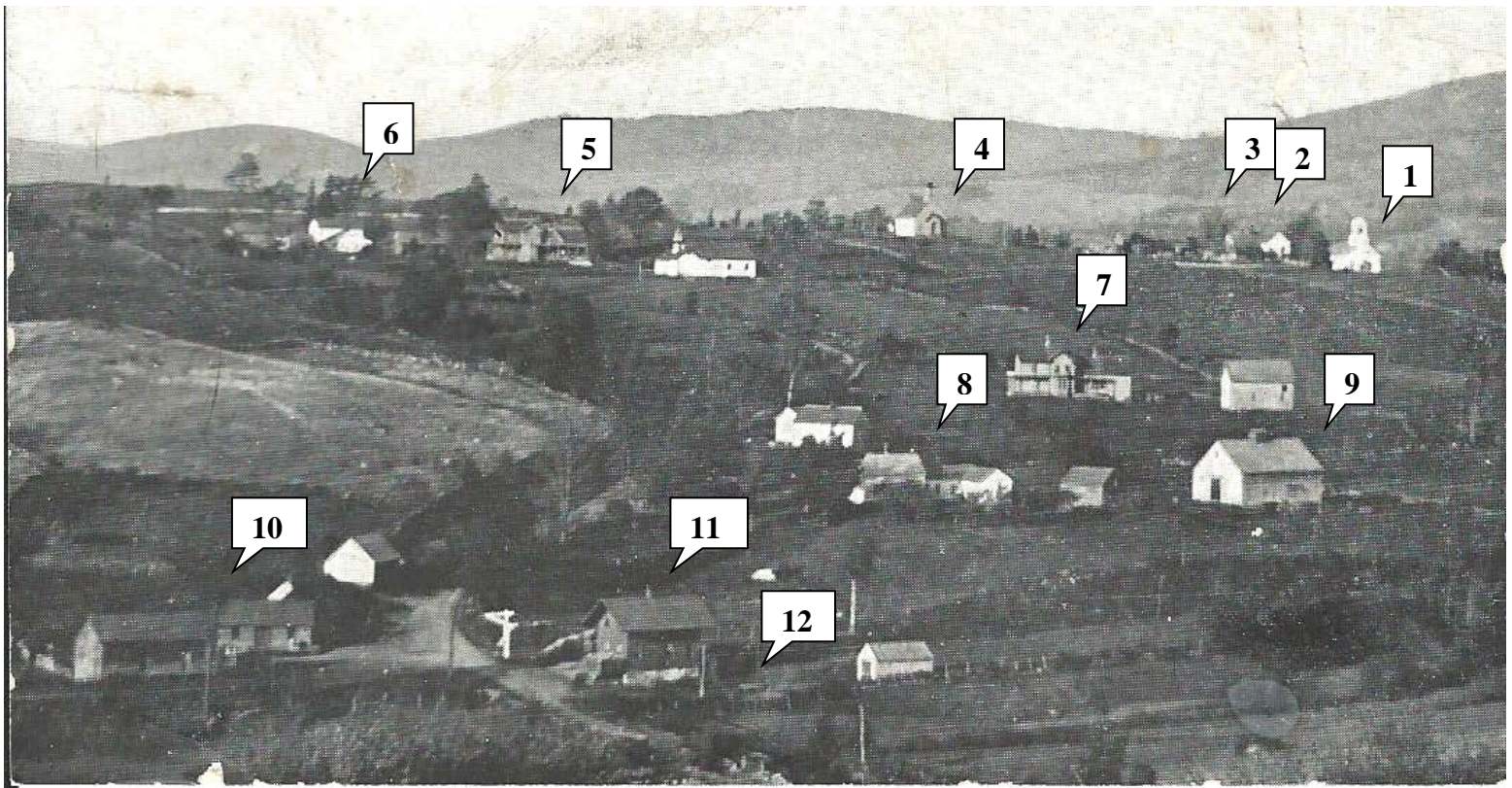
Pasture Raised
PLEW FARM
 Mt Holly, Vermont

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



BUSY MOUNT HOLLY INTERSECTION

The bottom left of the photograph in the January issue is an area that is now where the yellow flashing light on Route 103 is located. It would have been taken about 1900 before the Mount Holly store and Post Office building labeled #12 was built. The present Route 103 was not created until 1920. We can see the railroad station (#11) in the bottom left center that was taken down in the early 1960s. The houses (#10) in the bottom left corner belonged to Mike Lane, Mount Holly's last surviving Civil War veteran when he died in 1932.

The house labeled #8, now owned by Phil Dunwoody, was where the Martin family lived, and their barn (#9) is shown in the photograph on page 18 of this same issue. House #7 is where Betty Helberg recently lived. She grew up in the house that was then owned by Ralph and Doris Vesper. House #6 in the upper left corner is where the Haskell's now live on Cole Road, and was owned by Allen Enola for many years. To the right is what was called the Cook house (#5)

with its large white barn (also known as the Haunted House).

Near the center in back is St.

Mary's Church (#4) that burned down in 2007. Church (#1) at the top right corner is the Baptist Church that burned in 1990. To the left of this church is what is known as the Hortonville Inn (#2), and across the road was the old store (#3) operated by the Hortons. Their daughter, Mrs. Lindie Russell, was the telephone operator for almost 50 years and the postmistress for 40 years in the same building.

Many of the other buildings no longer exist, and the open areas reflect the use of wood to cook and heat with. The train that also stopped at the Summit and Healdville stations carried so much milk to the Boston area was known as the "milk train". Passenger service stopped in the early 1950s, and the trains now carry mostly freight.

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




Cutting Edge Carpentry and Paint Works
 Curtis Marechaux
 Mount Holly, Vermont
 Over 30 years of experience in all phases of remodeling.
 (802) 236-5559
Cuttingedgevt800@aol.com



Big Eyes Bakery Closing

It is with heavy heart that we announce that as of February 7th, Big Eyes Bakery will be closing its doors. We will be starting a new chapter in our lives: Retirement!!! A new business venture will be taking over our space, we wish them success and hope you will patronize and support them as you have us. As we wrap up the weeks ahead, our menu options will change, as our supplies diminish. If you received any of our gift cards, we ask that you redeem them soon. Over the coming weeks we will continue to post daily specials and will try and accommodate you as best we can.

As many of you know, the bakery was our second career, after we both served 20 years with the NYPD. We began as a home bakery in 2002 and for several years sold our

products at the West River Farmer's Market in Londonderry and Cider Days in Mount Holly. For the past six years we have had a retail store in Ludlow. We have met customers from around the world and made many new friends. We especially enjoyed meeting first responders and members of the military from here and abroad. Before COVID, we always enjoyed sitting down and chatting with customers discussing politics, the weather, local wildlife, sports, war stories from the NYPD and more.

We survived the rebuilding of the Walker Bridge, the closing of our high school and the COVID shutdown months of 2020. We've had plenty of fun too, from pie eating contests to St. Patrick's Day parties to Chamber mixers. Our daughters Alice and Mary started working in the shop while they were Sophomores in high school, now they are poised to graduate from college in May of this year. Their help greatly contributed to our success.

To all our employees past and present, we say thank you. To our customers near and far, thank you for your continued patronage and support especially over the past year. While COVID has made life difficult, it is not the reason we are closing, in fact this past year was our best yet. We would be remiss if we did not remember all those who have passed through our doors and are no longer with us.

Although we might not be working at the shop, we're not going anywhere. We have a couple of projects in the works, so stay tuned. Stay healthy and safe. Brigid & Paul Faenza

Wayne Jones Metal

All Metals

Sheet - Plate - Structural - Fabrication
CNC Plasma - Oxy Fuel Burn Table
Equipment Repair
Light Machining
Sand Blasting
Polishing

www.waynejonesmetal.com

Wayne Jones

1759 RT 103 N
East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521



PRINTING and SCANNING AVAILABLE

.25 per page with minimum Charge \$1.
(Only Bills Accepted —We Cannot Handle Change)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Call First so we Monitor Our Account:
802-228-8921
- ALL Docs Must be e-Mailed as Follows:
fmlnews@gmail.com
- We Will Print & Place Outside Rear Door for Pick-up
- Please Leave Payment in an Envelope in Book Drop
- If Your Docs Require Scanning, Please Provide
the e-Mail Address

HAPPY to SCAN—NO FAX

Fletcher Memorial Library-Ludlow, Vermont

Mount Holly Community Association Membership Drive

2020 – 2021

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

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



Mount Holly Community Cares Task Force

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

As we mentioned in the last Chit Chat, the **food drive** which was held in December and sponsored by the **Mount Holly Community Cares** group and the **Mount Holly Community Association**, was an extraordinary success and the food shelf housed in the Belmont Village Baptist Church is brimming with your generosity. What we did *not* mention are the many cash donations made to the MHCC that will be used to replenish the shelves as the food we have is distributed. Many thanks to all those who contributed in that way as well. On this page, you'll see some photos that Mary Alberty took of a couple of the shelves stocked with all of the donations, as well as the boxes that contain all of the dry goods donated. Again...many thanks to everyone!



mthollycommunitycares@gmail.com

Reminder: If you would like to access the food shelf, please contact Jo Bania at jo.bania@trsu.org, or Glenn and Laura Davis at gldavis6@juno.com.

Mount Holly Community Garden...even though spring seems forever away, like all good gardeners the MHCC folks are looking at seed catalogues and preparing for the coming season. If you would like a bed space to garden this year, please contact us at the email above. Also, we will certainly be looking to create a roster of volunteers to prepare the garden this spring and to maintain it throughout the summer. Please let us know if you are interested!

Winter is clearly upon us and the snows continue to fall, so if you need some help with anything, or 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. 802-245-3490
www.mounthollycommunitycares.org

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

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

Mount St. Joseph Academy Open House on Feb.13

Mount St. Joseph Academy will hold an Open House for prospective students and families from 5 pm to 7 pm on Thursday, February 13th, 2020.

The Open House will include Student-Led Tours and Teacher-Student Presentations. Families will be greeted by a student ambassador who will lead them through a guided tour of the school. Faculty and staff will be on-hand to answer questions and share insights into joining the MSJ family.

Mount St. Joseph is located at 127 Convent Avenue in Rutland, VT. If you have any questions about the Open House or would like to schedule a Shadow Day, please contact the school at 802-775-0151 or email our Enrollment Coordinator Bill Brusco at wbrusco@msjvermont.org.



MSJ at a Glance

- ❖ More than 95% of Mount St. Joseph Academy graduates go on to College.
- ❖ MSJ welcomes students of all faiths.
- ❖ MSJ offers a variety of AP courses, including English, History, Biology, Calculus and Chemistry.
- ❖ Mount St Joseph utilizes a Traditional Grading system
- ❖ Financial assistance is available, based on need.

Reinbow Riding Center

Reinbow Riding Center Board members express gratitude to the many community members who responded to our annual appeal and made it a success. This last year has been a challenging one for everyone. With that in mind, we have been so humbled to see the generous and consistent financial support that you have shared with us through this appeal.

As many of you know, we halted our direct services to our riders in the spring of 2020 due to the Covid outbreak. That decision created a financial challenge as lesson income and grant money stopped, yet many expenses continued. The donations that have come to us through the annual appeal enabled RRC to maintain its financial health. We are so thankful to everyone that has participated!!!

This support will assist us in our mission to "improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and cognitive challenges through a therapeutic equine experience". We look forward to opening in the Spring of 2021 and can not wait to greet our riders and their families.

Please watch our website: reinbowridingcenter.org, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @ReinbowRiding and Instagram @reinbow_riding_center. Everyone stay well and remember to mask up and social distance at least a horse length apart.

AND THE CALENDAR BALLOTING WINNERS ARE...

The year 2020 and its pandemic were hard on everyone and on everything. Many, if not all of Mount Holly's many activities, including Cider Days in October, had to be scaled back or cancelled outright. The annual selection of photos for the next Mount Holly Calendar was no exception. The in-person judging and balloting that usually take place during Cider Days, were the first to go - cancelled. So, that left the Mount Holly Community Association to decide if there would even be a new calendar in 2022. If there was to be one how would it be handled? A decision was made to try mounting the photo entries on a Facebook page, which, theoretically anyone could view and indicate which photos they "Liked". Because of the scale back of the competition, however, only 30 entries were submitted. Eighty or so is the usual level of participation and many of the submissions this past year were made by the same photographers. So, in this competition, as you will see viewing the photos in this issue of the Chit Chat, it was decided that more than one photo per photographer could be awarded if enough people "Liked" the photo on Facebook. Normally only one photo per entrant is used in a given calendar. Unfortunately, all but one vertical format photo last year had to be eliminated since only one vertical format photo is used in each calendar. The rest are all horizontal formats.

Shown in this issue of the Chit Chat are the photographs that won the on-line balloting for the 2022 Mount Holly calendar. You will have to buy a 2022 calendar when they come out in July to see which photos are used with which months and which two photos go on the front and rear covers. By the way the full complement of 2020 calendars was sold out, so purchase yours early.

We have every expectation that the calendar judging competition will return to normal this year so please get out there and take photos of Mount Holly. Anyone is eligible, resident or non-resident, to submit photos as long as they are of Mount Holly. Entry forms for the next competition will be available in June and, if all goes well, the deadline will be in late September. Watch the Chit Chat and Mount Holly Newflash for updates as the year progresses. And remember 15 of the photos that go into the calendar are of horizontal format while only one is vertical. So which format gives you the best chance of getting into the calendar? You do the math.

Here are the photos:



"Joey Takes a Dip in the Pond"
by Alex Thomson - Yale Road



"Glistening Fruit Trees"
by Allison Weintraub - Teer Road



"Flowers"
by Amy Rogell - Mount Holly



"On The Lake"
by Amy Rogell - Mount Holly



"Jeb Porter and Friends + 1"
by Anna McGee Hanson - Belmont Green



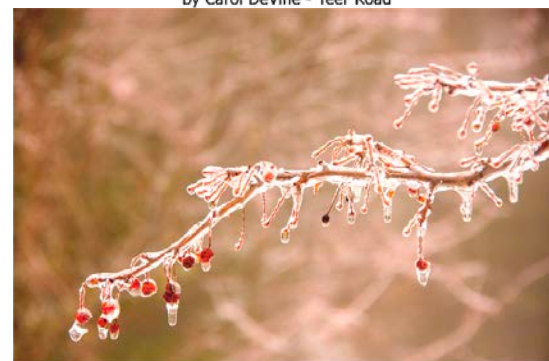
"Summer's Bounty"
by Carol DeVine - Teer Road



"Tobin's First Autumn Leaf"
by Carol DeVine - Teer Road



"Beautiful Blues of April"
by Christina Thomson - Hedgehog Hill North



"Early Spring"
by Gerald Rogell - Sawyer Hill Road
chitchat@vermontel.net



"Lake Ninevah"
by Gerald Rogell - Lake Ninevah



"Time For A Walk"
by Randy Paz - Gates Road South



"Timber! Almost!"
by Sherry Thrall - Hedgehog Hill South



"Blue Moon"
by Susan Presson - Belmont Road above Star Lake



"Stormy Sunset"
by Patrick Rose - Hortonville Road



"Belmont Cemetary"
by Patrick Rose - Belmont Road



"Social Distancing Frogs"
by Oliver Thomson - Yale Road

Mount Holly Community Association

The New Year has begun and already the **MHCA Board of Directors** is preparing to meet to decide about what **events** might be safely organized for the **spring and summer**. All of this naturally depends on the course of the pandemic, but there are a couple of outdoor events that just might be possible. Although the Board does not usually meet in January and February, they will be getting together via Zoom to discuss what might work out this year. How wonderful it would be if some of our most loved traditions could be picked up once again in 2021!! Stay tuned for more details in the Chit Chat and on the Newsflash.

Speaking of details, we are very pleased to announce the launch of our new website at <https://www.mhcavt.org> !! We are so grateful to Becky and Mark Zelis for their creativity in designing our wonderful new site. This was a huge project that would never have been completed without all of their hard work. Thank you so much!

The **MHCA Board of Directors** is very excited to welcome **two new members to the Board**...Leah Knoll and Alex Yuster. Both Leah and Alex have been enthusiastic supporters of the MHCA and have volunteered on many occasions for the events throughout the year. The Board is really lucky to have them and they are equally excited to be joining this hard working group...welcome, Leah and Alex!

The 16 **winners** of the 2020 **photo contest** are published here in the Chit Chat. Be sure to check them out and see if you're among them! Since printing photos on paper is not the best, the photos will also be posted on the MHCA Facebook page, so you can get a look at the quality of the photos submitted and chosen for the 2022 calendar.

This will be our last call for **membership in the MHCA** for the 2020 - 2021 year. Reminder letters have been sent out to a number of people who were members last year, but had not signed up for this year as yet. The MHCA is **your** community association and it needs your support to carry on its work sponsoring events for the entire town and to maintain the beautiful, historic building that houses the library and community room. Membership forms are available in the general store and the library. Thank you for your support!

Beardmore Excavating

(802) 342-3507

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

Senator Alison Clarkson's Legislative Update 11 January 2021

Last Wednesday, January 6th, we saw a sharp contrast between legislative life in Vermont and in the Congress in Washington, D.C. This contrast couldn't have been more stark - one, unusually quiet, orderly - historic but subdued, and the other - noisy, chaotic, and shockingly violent. One affirming and one rocking our firm faith in the sanctity of our democratic process.

In Vermont, the Legislature gathered in a hybrid of in-person and Zoom attendance to be sworn in for a new Biennium of public service. I was one of 19 Senators who went up to the Statehouse in Montpelier to be sworn in live in the Senate Chamber. Our other 11 colleagues attended remotely and we could see them up on the big screens in the Chamber. When we take this oath of office - all of us swear to uphold and defend the constitution of our state and of our country.

For the first time in my legislative life, the Statehouse was practically empty on this normally exciting first day of a new Biennium. It is usually a crush of families and friends coming to celebrate their loved ones being sworn in, and to experience the moderate pomp and circumstance of the launch of a new Biennium.

Despite the fact that few were physically present in Montpelier, there was a palpable sense of the historic nature of this new Biennium. Not only were most members of the General Assembly sworn in remotely, via Zoom, but for the first time in Vermont history, the Legislative leadership is entirely female: Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and both the Majority Leader in the House and the Senate. In addition, the new Lt. Governor is female. I am delighted to have been elected the Senate Majority Leader - and am excited to see what this leadership team will accomplish.

While the Federal Legislature was sworn in on January 3rd, both the state and federal legislatures had one job in common on January 6th. Both bodies had to begin the process of certifying the votes of the General Election. Vermont's Canvassing Committee - made up of House and Senate members - was appointed in the morning and met with the Secretary of State, and his election team, that afternoon. After reviewing the vote cast and tallied for each state wide official: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, and Attorney General, the Committee voted to accept the Elections Report from the Secretary of State and to recommend to the Joint Assembly the following day that we accept the report and certify the vote. Thursday morning, the Joint Assembly voted, in a tri-partisan fashion, to accept the report and certify the vote.

By contrast, the Congressional effort to certify the vote of the Electoral College was interrupted by a terrifying mob storming the Capitol. The business of the House and the Senate was delayed for many hours by this unprecedented breach of the Capitol building. Both the Congress and the Vermont Legislature managed to finally certify the vote on January 7th - one just before 4 am, after an angry, chaotic day and the other at about 10:30 am after a straightforward presentation and vote.

The first order of business in the Vermont Senate was to pass a Joint Resolution which condemned the violent storming of the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, 2021 as a direct attack on our democracy. With this Joint Resolution, our tri-partisan Legislature voted, with only a few dissenting voices, to support the values and ideals which anchor our democratic foundation. You can read the resolution here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/J.R.H.1>

The contrasts were stark. Our Vermont work didn't make headlines, but it managed to affirm 'business as usual'. In this extraordinary year, 'business as usual' provides both relief and hope.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email: alarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which are being debated now, those which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov



YANKEE HOME MANAGEMENT
Property Management
and Maintenance
yankeehomemanagement.com
802-259-3064
MT. HOLLY, VT
Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT



FEBRUARY STORE SPOT LIGHT

Ground Beef \$6 lb or Bakers Doz \$72
VT Maple Syrup Quarts \$15

Stop by and check out our VT Maple Syrup and Sweet Treats
along with the full line of Beef Steaks, Roasts, Sausages
and freezer boxes available

VT MAPLE SYRUP & GRASS FED/FINISHED BEEF

802-492-2151 Open: Wed, Friday thru Monday 10am - 4pm * 2450 Lincoln Hill * Shrewsbury, VT

State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury Legislative Report Rep. Logan Nicoll

The new session has begun. We are still exclusively meeting virtually, with meetings livestreamed on YouTube, so legislators are not physically going to Montpelier. It presents its challenges, but personally I like the virtual meetings right now. I do have very big personal news, my wife and I just had a baby girl, Ginny Ophelia Nicoll. Born December 14, 6 pounds, our first. So, the virtual session is actually more convenient for me in some ways because I don't want to leave the house that much anyway.

If you saved the YouTube links from last year, they should all still be the same. But this is the link to the legislative page with all the YouTube links: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/>

We are mostly focusing our efforts this year on surviving this crisis and making sure Vermonters and VT businesses have the support they need. That being said, there are some big issues that will likely come up that are not directly related. Modernizing our transportation infrastructure has been a priority for many years and I think is one that may come up this year even though it is not directly COVID-related and it may end up somewhat partisan because it is tied so closely to climate change. Paid family leave is another that is a priority and has been for many years, and may come up this session even though it is not *necessarily* a COVID response bill. But I would argue that it is more important because of COVID and I can't help but think how much better of a position we would have been in if we had a system to support Vermonters staying home when they were sick right now.

For this session I am on the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. It is a pretty big change in subject matter for me, but I am excited, and obviously we will be at the forefront on a lot of the COVID-response bills this year. Last session I was on Human Services which handles a lot of issues I am interested in (Substance Misuse Prevention and Child Care), but Commerce & Econ Development is a lot more related to what I studied in college. And with this new committee I will make more connections with those parts of our state government that support small businesses and workers/worker's rights, which I think will be extremely valuable for our district in this current moment.

As always, call me if there's anything I can do to help or you want to talk about anything. Stay safe and stay strong, Logan Nicoll 802-345-8430

Photo: Meet Ginny Nicoll at 5 weeks old and mom and dad have forgotten what sleep was like. Welcome to parenthood!



AMERICAN HEART MONTH



**We have always focused on
the health of our community.**

—Mayor's Heart Healthy Walk

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



800.244.0568 | www.vermontvisitingnurses.org

New Project to Identify the Plants & Animals of Mount Holly is launched and Invites Community Participation.

Have you ever wished you could identify the wildflowers, birds, bugs, or trees that you see? Do you search through a field guide hoping to figure it out? **Now there's a much better and easier** way to identify any living thing. A Free app, called **iNaturalist** that works on your smart phone and computer and identifies almost everything for you. All you have to do is take a photo on your smart phone, submit it to iNaturalist, and the program gives you the probable identification!

Ready to give it a try? Just download the Free app to your smart phone from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Once downloaded, navigate to Help in the drop-down menu and follow the illustrated instructions for Getting Started or watch the video tutorial. Your smart phone is now your easiest tool to learn the names of the plants & animals that you find.

But wait, there's more. Mount Holly now has its own project site on iNaturalist to record all the plants, animals, and fungi found in Mount Holly. Nearly every species that you observe and submit to iNaturalist gets identified for you plus your observations contribute to our town's inventory of the ecology of Mount Holly. We are looking for more people to participate and this is your invitation to join with the Mount Holly Conservation Trust in contributing as many observations as you can. We need common and uncommon sightings, all living things including trees, wildflowers, birds, insects, mammals (non-domesticated), fish, amphibians, reptiles, garden weeds, etc. Spring is coming so now is a great time to join the **Mount Holly Biodiversity** project on iNaturalist and start observing. Again, it's Free and you get to build your own personal record of everything you see in nature.

How can I join? Once you have the app on your smart phone then you can join the **Mount Holly Biodiversity** project on your smart phone or computer. When you go to our project webpage on your computer (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mount-holly-biodiversity>) click on "Join Project" just above the green "About" square of text describing the project. Once you have joined the project your observations will automatically be submitted to our town's ecological inventory plus you will receive occasional news and updates about the project. The project webpage also shows you the list of who has the most species, how many species have been found (we have over 500 as of Jan. 2021!), lists the most frequently seen species (can you guess what it is?), and provides an interactive map showing where all the observations have been recorded!

This is "citizen science" at its best, we hope you will enjoy using iNaturalist yourself and join us in knowing more about the amazing natural biodiversity of Mount Holly. This is a great outdoor family activity and a wonderful way to teach children about nature. If you would like some assistance getting started or have questions, call Jim Corven at 802-259-2311.



Mount Holly Town News

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

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

Town of Mount Holly - Special Select Board Meeting - January

5, 2021 Minutes In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 894 2972 1301

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

Town Officials: Susan Covalla, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Stephen Michel, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: None in Attendance

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

1. Call to Order by Mark Turco at 4:01 p.m.
2. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Changes and/or additions to the Agenda – None were necessary.
4. FY'22 Budget Work Session – Select Board members working with



Town Treasurer David

Johnson along with Road Foreman Clinton Woolley went line-by-line through the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022. Using the current COLA of 1.3% and the currently low inflation rate as guides, some budget items were increased slightly, for raises or due to increased costs; a few were actually decreased; and a large number of items were left unchanged, budgeted at last year's amount. The Select Board members' goal was to keep the budget numbers similar to last year's with a minimal, if any, municipal tax increase for residents. Final budget numbers will be reviewed at the next Select Board meeting on January 12th. Mr. Turco had to leave the meeting at 5:23 pm. At the conclusion of the budget discussions, Jennifer Matthews thanked Mr. Johnson for all his good work on the budget.

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

6. Adjourn – Ms. Matthews adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm. Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews



Mount Holly Select Board Meeting January 12, 2021 Minutes In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

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

Town Officials: Jim Corven, Sue Covalla, Phil Crane, Francis DeVine, Diana Garrow, David Johnson, Annette Lynch, Jon McCann, Stephen Michel, Don Richardson, Renee Sarmiento, Jim Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Laura Swartz, Andy Tanger, Carol Woolley, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Paul Barton, Dan Buckley, Ted Crawford, Zena Gates, Cheryl Hammond, Jim Heald, Craig Hutt Vater (Principal, Mount Holly School), Craig Jewett (Otter Creek Engineering), Paul Nevin, Paul Orzechowski, Christine Pratt, Judy Pryor Pullinan, Kelly Tarbell, Amy Turco, Kristin Veysey (Pres., MHVRS), and Donna

1. Call to Order by Mark Turco at 6:30 pm.

2. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Changes and/or additions to the agenda – Jennifer Matthews asked to add an energy committee update from Don Richardson. It was agreed to add the update under New Business – Other.

4. Approval of December 8th, 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 said he didn't really have anything to report on Highways as it had been quiet lately.

i) Food Scrap Disposal/Town Composting Operation – Mr. Woolley reported that Rutland County Solid Waste District is looking into amending our agreement in order to include food scrap collection for composting right at the Mount Holly transfer station.

b. Treasurer – David Johnson

i) Monthly Income & Expense Report – Mr. Johnson reported State Farm Bank has now merged with US Bank, and US Bank is offering a much lower interest rate. Looking at the Profit & Loss, he noted: the \$2,772 Interest on Delinquent Taxes includes interest from the prior year and the tax sale which recently occurred; the \$7,920 State Aid Highway Grants amount offsets the expenses to repair the Shunpike Road bridge; the \$63,867 is the FEMA funds received for the April 2019 storm repairs, a payment which took quite a while to come in; the Solid Waste Labels Sold figure of \$16,198 is through December 15th and it is more than half of what was budgeted; the \$27,575 Digitization Grant Proceeds offsets the Cott digitization expenses; the \$6,600 for material to repair the Christmas Day wash-outs is included in the Summer Road Materials figure of \$27,007.

ii) Proposed FY'22 Budget - Finalize & Approve – Mr. Johnson reported we went through the proposed budget line by line at the Special Select Board meeting on January 5th. He then went through a few of the budget figures, noting some had increased slightly and many had stayed the same. He noted that the Select Board lowered the municipal tax rate by two-cents this year. For the coming year, he stated the taxes will be slightly more (about one-cent), but not quite as much as the year before, and the overall budget is \$80 less than two years ago. There was no discussion. Ms. Matthews made a motion to approve the FY'22 budget as presented, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

c. Listers Update

February 2021 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

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

i) Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) Rate – Mr. Johnson reported the new CLA is down from 107% to 106% and the Coefficient of Dispersion is down to 16.6%. Neither is really good, but neither triggers a State order for a reappraisal. Mr. Johnson noted the last reappraisal was done 11 years ago, so another is coming sooner rather than later. Mr. Johnson also reported the Listers are currently reviewing the new parcel maps. There will be a notice in the Chit Chat about the new maps. Property owners can make an appointment to come in and review them.

ii) Appraiser – Doug Lemire, the town's appraiser, will be retiring this year. The Listers are discussing a new appraisal approach given Mr. Lemire's up-coming retirement and the implementation of the new State Grand List management software.

iii) New State of VT Property Tax Management & Grand List Software – Mr. Johnson reported that the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) system will be utilized through this year with the option to continue to use it for another year. Once this year's Grand List is complete, there will be training for the Listers on how to use the new State Grand List software.

d. Mount Holly Planning Commission – Jon McCann reported the Planning Commission clerk had sent out a bill for the one subdivision fee that had not yet been paid and that fee was received by year's end. Also, all decision letters were mailed out by the end of the year, so the Planning Commission has no loose ends moving into 2021.

e. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update – Phil Crane reported that the Commission continues to work with Castleton University to create a community-wide survey for use by both the Conservation and Planning Commissions. The survey will most likely occur during the spring, and some funds (\$1,000-\$1,500) may be needed. The Commission is also preparing a grant application to study Star Lake. The grant is through the VT Department of Environmental Conservation in an amount up to \$10,000 with no local match. The Select Board had no objections to the pursuit of the grant.

Ms. Matthews noted the fish die-off and poor water quality at Star Lake this past summer. She said that the town health officer used to test Star Lake's water quality during the summer season, but the testing stopped once a charge for the water tests took effect. The fee is minimal. Ms. Matthews asked if we could ask the health officer to once again test the water at Star Lake during the season with the town covering the fee associated with the testing. The Select Board agreed to do so.

Ms. Matthews also noted that the Legislature had changed the tree warden Statutes in the last session to remove any conflicts in the Statutes and to expand the tree warden's responsibilities. The Statute also gives towns the option to adopt a shade tree preservation plan. The VT Urban & Community Forestry Program is currently recruiting six towns to receive free year-long, technical assistance, with a 50-hour local volunteer match, to draft a shade tree preservation plan that would fit the needs and desires of the community. The application is due February 3rd, so it's a tight timeframe. Ms. Matthews asked if perhaps the Conservation Commission might be interested in looking into the program. Mr. Crane said they would. Mr. McCann said the Planning Commission would also look into it, and Brigid Sullivan said the Mount Holly Conservation Trust would as well. Ms. Matthews thanked all for their interest.

f. Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad Update – Kristin Veysey reported they were doing well with calls and that all rescue squad members who wanted to be vaccinated against COVID-19 had been. She also reported that the rescue squad building could be a possible vaccination station for community members. If this happens, she will get the word out to the community. Ms. Matthews noted the call log Ms. Veysey sent to Select Board members showing a 95% response rate to calls from July 1, 2020 to January 10, 2021. Mr. Turco commented he had heard lots good things about Rescue and thanked them for their service to the community.

g. Mount Holly Animal Control Officer Report – Laura Swartz asked if it would be possible to use a small space in the old recycling shed to house a found animal until the owner is identified. Mr. Turco said she should talk with Mr. Woolley about a space and access, and he was okay with it. Ms. Swartz also asked if it would be possible to put a sign up at the transfer station listing the days and hours it

was open; many out-of-staters are often stopped there unsure of its hours of operation. Mr. Turco said we could do that. **h. Rutland Regional Transportation Council Update** – Clinton Woolley reported that they plan to setup a website for the MRGPs for ease of access and updating.

i. Rutland County Solid Waste District Update – Clinton Woolley reported they are working on the budget. They still have compost bins available for those who would like to purchase one.

6. Ongoing & Old Business

a. Mount Holly School/Town Garage Water System – Craig Jewett/Craig Hutt Vater - Mr. Jewett stated he was here to answer any questions about the school and town garage water system consolidation and to go over the permits the town must sign. Mr. Chase asked about the time line for the project. Mr. Jewett replied the State would like to receive the permits as soon as possible even though construction would not begin until summer, once school is out. The turnaround time on the permits is usually 30-45 days, but probably 60-75 days at this point given the pandemic. Once the permits are in hand, they plan to solicit bids from two to three local contractors. Ms. Matthews asked about the three permits for a public water system and what exactly that meant. Mr. Jewett explained that the town garage well was currently a potable, non-public water system. Once it is tied in with the school and consistently serving a larger number of people on a regular basis, it becomes a public water system. The town will be named on the final permit for the public water system. Mr. Turco asked about town liability. Mr. Jewett explained that the school would be responsible for the water system with the school as its owner and operator. Ms. Matthews asked if there would be a contractual agreement between the school and the town spelling out those responsibilities. Mr. Turco expressed concern about taking on any liabilities for the town. Ms. Matthews stated she had called the town attorney but had not yet heard back from him. It was decided that once the town attorney reviews the applications, the Select Board will get in touch with Mr. Jewett re: next steps.

b. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Mr. Chase reported that there were no public comments on the plan. The plan has now been sent to VT Emergency Management for approval. Once that process is complete, the plan will need to be adopted by the Select Board, most probably in March.

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.

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

c. **Independent Audit Update** – Ms. Matthews stated that the RFP packets were mailed last week to five firms: four in VT, and one in Maine to a firm which performs audits for a number of municipalities here in VT. The proposals are due on February 8th with the initial opening and review scheduled for the February 9th Select Board meeting. The Select Board will decide on a firm at the March 9th

MOUNT HOLLY TOWN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021
FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY**

of hours provided to complete the work as unrealistic. The budget included an increased amount for the position based on 15 hours a week, up from ten, in the hopes of garnering more interest. Mr. Turco suggested contacting a temp service to fill the job.

e. **Lowery Property – VT Route 103** – Ms. Matthews reported that the mobile home in question is not in the State right-of-way. She also reached out to her contact at the Agency of Natural Resources, who suggested we start with a visit from the town health officer to investigate the discharge issue. Mr. Turco stated the mobile home is in a temporary position with no septic, no water, and no power hook-ups. Ms. Matthews will contact the town health officer and ask him to investigate and for a report at the February Select Board meeting.

f. **Junk Ordinance Letters i) Bussino & Wyman – Shunpike Road ii) Taylor – VT Route 103**

Mr. Turco reported on the email received from Grover Taylor, Jr. explaining that he and his bother run a business in MA and are unable to come to VT at present due to the pandemic and the quarantine requirements. He would like some additional time to do the cleanup. Ms. Matthews reported that Constable Paul Faenza hand delivered the most recent letters from the Select Board to both the Taylor and Bussino residences. The letter to Mr. Wyman was sent certified mail and the return postcard has been received. To date, there has been no response from either Mr. Bussino or Mr. Wyman. Mr. Turco will pull together a list of names of individuals who pick up junk vehicles, which can then be sent to the property owners. He will also contact Mr. Bussino.

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

7. **New Business a. Town Meeting Day & Election Info – Set Date to Sign Warning** – Ms. Matthews explained that the Legislature has given municipalities a number of options on how to hold this year's Town Meeting in the age of COVID-19:

all items can be voted by Australian ballot so there is no voting from the floor; the informational meeting can be held via Zoom; the date of Town Meeting can be moved to a later, and hopefully safer, date; all ballots can be mailed by the town clerk with funding available from the State to cover costs; and candidates for local elections do not need to submit a voter signed petition, just the completed Consent of Candidate form. Discussion ensued: on the date of the meeting and whether to push the date out to a time with a lower number of COVID-19 cases; the place of the meeting and the use of the current hybrid meeting model; whether all ballots should be mailed or just those individually requested by voters. After much discussion, it was decided to hold Town Meeting using the hybrid model of in-person and Zoom attendees on Monday, March 1st at 7:00 pm. All those who can attend by Zoom are encouraged to do so. The town garage can only accommodate 60, and those 60 should be residents who do not have the ability to attend via Zoom. The Town Meeting Day vote will take place on Tuesday, March 2nd. Voters can request a ballot to be mailed to them, or they can pick up a ballot at the town office, or they can vote in person on March 2nd. It was decided to approve and sign the warning on Tuesday, March 19th at 4:00 pm.

i) **Retail Cannabis** – Ms. Matthews reported that the Legislature did pass the bill legalizing the retail sale of cannabis. Municipalities can vote to allow the retail sale of cannabis in town and/or to allow the activities of a cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, and testing laboratory in town, or not. The vote by Australian ballot on these two issues must take place at an annual or special meeting. Retail shops selling cannabis to the general public can begin operations on April 1, 2022. Ms. Matthews asked if we wanted to discuss this issue at this year's Town Meeting. Given the restrictions on gatherings imposed by the pandemic, it was decided to wait to address this issue until next year.

b. **Class 4 Highway Policy** – Mr. Turco stated a number of calls had come in about Class 4 road maintenance. He emphasized that Class 4 roads are not a highway maintained by the town; property owners along Class 4 roads are the ones responsible for maintaining the road. He said we should draft a policy stating this. Ms. Matthews noted VLCT's model policy. Mr. Chase volunteered to draft a Class 4 road policy for the town. The Select Board will review this at the February meeting.

c. **Harry's Restaurant Liquor License Approval** – Mr. Chase made a motion to approve the liquor license for Harry's Restaurant, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

d. **Other** - Don Richardson reported on an initiative by the Cavendish Select Board to bring an electrical charging station into town. He will gather more information about this and present it to the Select Board at next month's meeting.

8. **Concerned Citizens Comments** –Diana Garrow reported on area towns, some of which have their annual reports and audits on their websites and some of which do not. None had their monthly financials on their website. She also had questions about the Cott land records digitization contract and fees. Kelly Tarbell gave a shout out to the road crew for their work on clearing the roads during the Christmas storm. Paul Barton thanked town officials for remaining at their posts during dangerous times.

9. **Announcements/Other Business**

meeting, which provides a month for review of the proposals, the firms, their audit approach and procedures, as well as time to contact references. The RFP can also be found on the website. Ms. Matthews noted she had already received questions from one of the firms.

d. **Select Board Admin. Assistant Position** – Ms. Matthews noted the position has been advertised in the Vermont Journal, the Rutland Herald, the Chit Chat, and on the website since October with no interest expressed to date. She noted that those who do admin work might consider the job description and the number

MOUNT HOLLY DOG OWNERS

ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED BY APRIL 1, 2021

NEUTERED DOGS- \$11.00

UNNEUTERED DOGS - \$15.00

MUST HAVE CURRENT RABIES CERTIFICATE TO REGISTER

a. Reminder: Town Office Closed on January 18th

b. Reminder: Town Officers' Consent Form due in Town Office by 4:00 pm – January 25th

c. Other – Ms. Matthews noted there was a new supply of paper masks available at the town office for those who need them. She thanked Brigid Sullivan and the Ludlow Rotary Club for the donation. Ms. Sullivan said additional masks would be dropped off at the town office in the next few days.

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

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

12. Adjourn – Mr. Turco adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm. Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY VOTERS

You can request an **Absentee Ballot** for the March 2, 2021 vote to be mailed to you or once I have them you can vote early by picking a ballot up at the Town

Office. Call: 259-2391 Mon.-Thur. 8:30 -4pm

Mount Holly Town Clerk

PO Box 248

Mount Holly, VT 05758



Mount Holly Planning Commission Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes January 20th, 2021

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

Commission Member Absent: None **Also Present:** Renee Sarmento (Clerk), Okemo Valley TV

1. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

2. No changes to agenda

3 Minutes: The minutes from December 16th, were approved a distributed.

4. Reports: a. Town Budget

i. Jon reported the town budget was approved by the select board and has gone to a vote on the ballot.

ii. Planning Commission brought in more than \$600 from subdivision fees and it is estimated the same or higher amount will be brought in this year.

iii. The increased budget for the planning commission clerk will allow for a few more hours a month. Helpful to address clerical backlog.

iv. Planning Commission expense discussed. Expense in past years may have included printing costs and postage.

v. An additional line was added for the Administrative Officer salary estimate of \$1000. This is unfortunate because the Commission recommendation was to make development applicants bear this cost so the taxpayers would not have to. Our recommendation was not taken this year.

b. Clerk Report: **i.** Renee reported that she mailed the Timko decision letter to Robin Timko and a copy to interest party Kevin Thomson on January 4th, 2021.

5. Correspondence a. Subdivision Proposals: None **b. Building Construction Registrations:** None **c. Wastewater System and potable water supply permits:** None **d. Email/Other:** None

6. Unfinished Business a. Review Subdivision web page/guide

i. Review of updates to the web page including added links at the bottom of the page, a link to the Select Board fee schedule, request of PDF of plat when possible, and fees required up front after preliminary review.

ii. Jon will print the guide and provide the Town Office with a copy of all materials.

7. New Business a. Article for Town Report

i. Auditors allowed deadline extension to submit the annual report until January 21st, 2021.

ii. Member reviewed and edited the annual report.

b. Mr. Michel's thoughts on AO

i. Clarification made that the Administrative Office is appointed by and reports to the Select Board.

ii. Stephen express concern that some functions of the position are beyond the qualifications of the current Administrative Officer, or are completed by the Town Clerk.

iii. Brigid commented that the job description was adopted in September, and that it is not necessary for it to be revised at this point in time.

iv. Jon recommended the revision of the administrative Officer job description be revisited when seeking a new candidate for the Administrative Officer position.

8. Public Comments: None

9. Upcoming meetings a. Working meeting – February 3rd, 7:00 pm (1st Wednesday)

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm For the Commission, Renee Sarmento, Planning Commission Clerk.

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, 10-15 hours per week.

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.

In Response to Annette Lynch

I did some research on which towns post monthly financial reports on their website and this is what I found.

Town of Ludlow has their 2020 audit done by Telling & Hillman which was introduced by Tom Telling at their December 2020 meeting and included in the Selectboard December 2020 minutes. There was a link for their website for the Annual Town Report which includes the audit for 2019. They also have a link for Financial Audits, however there was not any monthly financial reports on the website at all.

Town of Plymouth has their 2019 audit done by RHR Smith & Company they had a link on their website access it. They did have a budget report for 2018 but nothing more recent. They also had their Town Report which includes their audit posted on their website. Their Minutes I noted were only one page long very brief with no monthly financial report posted.

Town of Shrewsbury had their 2019 audit done by three Shrewsbury Residents which was included in their Town Report posted on their website. However there was no monthly financial statement posted on the website.

Town of Wallingford has their 2019 audit done by three Wallingford Residents which was included in their Town Report posted on their website. However there was no monthly financial statement posted on the website.

Town of Danby has their Town Report which includes their auditor's report from three Danby Residents posted on their website. However there is no monthly financial report and their selectboard meetings had links to watch on your computer.

Town of Mount Tabor really had no website just basic information for the town office.

So I am finding in our local area no town posts monthly financials. Some do the Annual Town Report which includes their audits and some have links to their audits. Not all towns use professional auditors to do their town audits. Most have three local citizens of the town who perform these audits.

As far as posting on our unofficial website only Jennifer Matthews has total access to make postings or changes to the town unofficial website. I only have access to the Chit Chat link on the website and nothing else. If you want any town business on the website Jennifer would have to do the postings.

I did note on our website the fax number is prominently highlighted in blue which has many people using that as the main number for the town office. This number goes to the listers office of which they are in attendance one day a week so messages left on that phone intended for Sue our Town Clerk go unanswered by Sue. I think if the town office number was highlighted in the blue and not the fax number it would help clear up that confusion. Diana Garrow, Assistant Town Treasurer

To The Editor,

I'd like to comment on Annette Lynch's criticism of David Johnson. It stands to reason he would be the next person here in Town to be suspect of improper behavior.

Several years ago, when you ran against David when a yearly Audit had not been performed he had experienced serious health issues that had required surgery. Most people would be told "Take whatever time you need to recover, and family always comes first." That thought doesn't apply to someone single with no family.

It is my understanding that an annual audit is not required by law but in the past has been requested by the Selectboard. The former Audit firm which the Town had used, stopped corresponding. David has made several attempts to contact and learn what the status was. But to date still no correspondence and, is it David's responsibility to obtain a new Audit firm or the Selectboard's? He has always taken the time to try to contact firms for the Town over the years. With the many audits performed there has never been any evidence found that David has done anything inappropriate, illegal or untoward. And don't forget he has to be bonded each year by the Town's insurance.

He pays the items that are listed on the Select Board orders, signed and approved by the Select Board. There is dual control found, when there is another person balancing the check book each month. If any tax payer wants to know how their money is being spent you can ask. David would be more than happy to provide the information. If you look at your tax bill the majority of your taxes go towards education and a very small percentage goes towards regular municipal (Town Expenses).

Previously, copies of the financial information is always available at the Select Board meetings for people attending – I have always found the information provided. If you feel you should receive the financial information at the same time as the Select Board, maybe you could have asked for the financial report instead of writing a letter to the Chit Chat.

As you mentioned David is widely liked, more important he is respected and he always puts the Town's interest first, with No personal agenda to gain. By Christine Pratt

Town of Mount Holly Special Select Board Meeting January 19, 2021 Minutes

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

Town Officials: Susan Covalla

Public: None in Attendance

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 3:55 p.m.
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the **Agenda** – None were necessary.
3. **Sign Annual Town Meeting Warning** – Select Board members reviewed the warning. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve and sign the warning, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved.
4. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

February 2021 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

Brandon Jenkins
Owner

(802) 952-9722


jenkinsbuild.com

Mount Holly, Vermont

brandon@jenkinsbuild.com

Ludlow Rotary Speakers Talk About the History of Hemingway's

At its recent Zoom meeting, members of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) were entertained by Ted and Linda Fondulas, previous owners of Hemingway's Restaurant in Killington as they described the history of that famous restaurant.

Linda Fondulas offered a detailed outline of how the duo created Hemingway's. In particular, she noted the development of usage of locally produced foods and their interest in creating a diverse menu that made the restaurant one of the 25 greatest in the nation.

In detailing his approach to cooking and creating unique menus, Ted Fondulas indicated that food preparation was the second most active career in the country.

He also took this occasion to comment on the role that the late Bob Gilmore of Ludlow played in bringing new and innovative concepts of restauranting to Vermont noting "he was a leader in promoting food service in Vermont".

In response to the impact of Covid-19 on the restaurant business, Fondulas raised the question of "will people continue to eat out as often after Covid?" He added that with so many people now preparing their meals at home instead of eating out, there may be a drop in restaurant business as a direct result of the virus.

During the business meeting, Kevin Barnes, LRC President, indicated that the club had received 1,000 face masks. Of this total, 300 would be used in Mt Holly while another 400 would be presented to Ludlow.

"Pictured above are Linda and Ted Fondulas with Julia Child. Child would go to Hemingway's on her birthday during the period when she visited relatives in Woodstock." By Ralph Pace



USDA Rural Development Accepting Applications for 2021 Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

USDA Rural Development (RD) is seeking applications for the [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program \(RMAP\)](#). Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis, with the next deadline being the close of business on March 31, 2021. State information on the program and application materials are available on RD websites for [Vermont](#) and [New Hampshire](#).

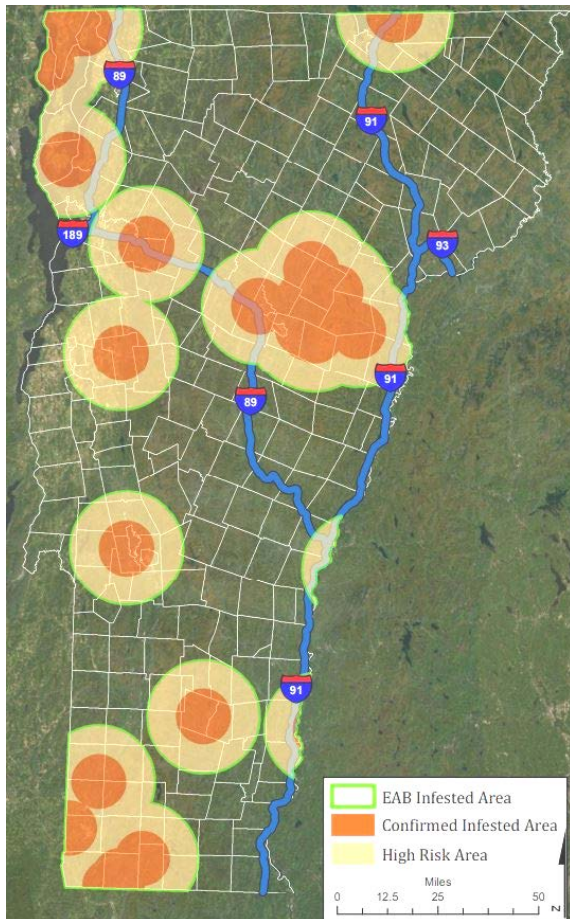
Read the full press release https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/VT_NH_RMAP_NOSA_2021.pdf



To the Editor,

I thank Virginia Ward for showing that my letter about the lack of financial information getting to the public could be read as casting doubts on the job being done by David Johnson. I certainly hold no such doubts about our Treasurer.

The financial reports produced by the Treasurer are documents that hold the Select Board, not the Treasurer, to account. As taxpayers, I believe that we should have access to David's information that tells us what the Select Board is doing with our money. Annette Lynch



Ash Tree Crisis in Southern Vermont Subject of Jan. 25 Zoom Meeting

The pending ash tree crisis in Southern Vermont, caused by the emerald ash borer (EAB), will be the subject of a Zoom meeting on Monday, January 25 at 10 AM.

"The EAB has infested many areas in Vermont and will soon strike southern Windsor County", noted Ralph Pace, chairman of the Regional EAB Resource Committee (REREC). The photo above represents the locations where EAB has already been detected in the state. He added that the question was no longer "would the EAB be detected in the area but when".

Working with Hannah Dallas, Southern Windsor County Forester for the state, and a group of representatives from southern Windsor County and parts of Rutland County, the REREC has prepared documentation to assist both towns and private property owners in the area in preparing for the advent of the infestation and developing plans for addressing the problem.

Dallas indicated that "we tend to have a hard time comprehending the depth of the EAB problem since it has not yet been detected in this area. The EAB may actually be here now; we just haven't detected it". She added that the planning for EAB control and management has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 crisis.

The meeting, hosted by Okemo Valley TV, will update the participants on the status of EAB in the state, detail how local governments may prepare for EAB, and explain some of the steps private property owners may take to deal with the problem.

In addition to the members of REREC, private property owners are invited to join the January 25 meeting. They may contact Pace at ralphpace@gmail.com or 802-228-7239 to receive the access information to the Zoom-app meeting. They will need to have the Zoom app downloaded to their computers.

Pictured above are the locations in Vermont where the emerald ash borer has been detected as of November 23, 2020. A detection in New Hampshire has developed a risk area in southern Windsor County near Rockingham, VT. Ralph Pace

To The Editor,

Is Mount Holly ready for an Aerosmith Concert?

The question in the past was is Mt. Holly ready for giraffes or a zoo on someone's property. So, the Selectboard wants a policy in place to stop unwanted development on property, where they feel it is not appropriate.

The game farm was opposed by a few people who didn't want traffic on Maple Hill Rd., Route 155 and Route 103. We no doubt have more excessive traffic on these routes and Belmont Rd, now with no animal farm.

I could easily schedule an Aerosmith benefit Concert on my property, with a lot of people enjoying the concert and I have enough property. My neighbors would enjoy the music. So, are you going to try and regulate me and what I can do on my property with your new Town Plan?

What you are looking to do with people's property is put in "Back Door Zoning" to control what people can do with their property. This doesn't work for me or many other residents in this Town.

The first issue was to strengthen the plan to make sure Okemo/Vail didn't come over the back side of Okemo - messing with Branch Brook Rd. Then we have the Scenic Roads with Views, where it's felt more restrictions should be in place. Again what does this mean for the property owners and who decides what roads will be placed on this list and what will the new rules be?

Then you want to keep the open meadows concept in place for people's enjoyment. At this time, I keep my meadows cleared for my horse. I do most of the work myself. When I no longer have the horse and I can't do the work, nor can I afford to have the fields maintained for everyone else's pleasure, it won't get done and no Town Plan will force me to do it.

The approved 2018 plan was a good plan addressing the concerns, but not adding more rules and regulations for property owners. For those of us who have lived here all of our lives we don't accept being told what to do and we have enough common sense to do the right thing, and not harm someone else's property without having new rules that we don't need and won't adhere to. By Christine Pratt

Beekeeping Basics - ONLINE

Have you thought about keeping bees? This is the opportunity to learn more about these vital and fascinating creatures providing so much of our food. The three sessions (Tuesdays, Feb. 9, 16, & Mar. 2 at 6:30 – 8:00 pm) will enlighten, and maybe inspire, you to start a few hives of your own or learn more about your bee passion. Plenty of question-and-answer time and all the info needed to start your own bee hive.

Taught by Vermont Beekeepers Association's Bill Mares and Dr. Deborah Rubin, this is a great way to begin your beekeeping journey. Read more https://www.vermontbeekeepers.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=999:beekeeping-basics-online&catid=2 and register online <https://cvsdvt.ce.eleyo.com/course/679/winter-spring-2021/beekeeping-basics-online>



Lake Rescue Milfoil Problem Discussed at Rotary Meeting

The co-Presidents of the Lake Rescue Association (LRA), Barbara Silver and Bruce Zanca, recently spoke to a meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) to discuss the problems facing them due to Eurasian Milfoil and river sediment.

The LRA, formed in 1933 and incorporated in 1954, is, according to Silver, "facing a crisis right now". She was referring to the rapid buildup of milfoil, a non-native, invasive aquatic plant that can grow from 4 to 6 inches a day in full sunlight.

The milfoil invasion of Lake Rescue and Lake Pauline was "rediscovered" in the lake system in 2014 following tropical storm Irene. It has become an on-going problem that, if not addressed, could turn the "lakes into a swamp".

Over the years since Irene, the LRA, in conjunction with state agencies, has spent thousands of dollars to remove the milfoil from the lakes. It was estimated that the LRA would spend about \$48,000 next year on removing milfoil.

Zanca noted that they would probably never be able to totally eradicate milfoil from the lakes but would be able to reduce it to a controllable situation with constant maintenance care. To this end the LRA is constructing a "Dash" boat that will be able to literally vacuum the milfoil from parts of the lake and its floor.

In addition to this problem, the LRA is also addressing the impact of sedimentation caused mainly by the Black River.

One area of concern is the channel between Lake Rescue and Round Pond. Over the years, the sediment build-up has resulted in the creation of "islands" of sediment and raised the floor of Round Pond so that the depth of the water has been severely reduced.

The LRA has about 150 members. There are approximately 250-300 individual lake properties involved.

Pictured above is Barbara Silver, co-President of the Lake Rescue Association, as she discusses the milfoil problem in Lake Rescue during a Zoom-based meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club.

Vermont Home Gardener Garden Planning: First Seeds

What could be more fun than picking out your veggies, flowers, and herbs for the new gardening year? There may be no better way to overcome the mid-winter doldrums than to imagine your next garden and decide what to grow this year! You probably already have some old reliables in mind but how about trying some different varieties and some completely new plants to add some adventure to the season. Despite the calendar, now is the time to get your plans and seeds in order so you'll be ready when spring arrives. Further, unlike "normal" times, this year is going to be especially challenging to get just what you want to plant. Some popular seeds and varieties are already "out of stock" and at least two major seed companies are restricting sales! Let's look at some recommendations for local gardens so you can get the right seeds that you want.

Read the full article and subscribe for Free at VermontHomeGardener.com



Letter To The Editor

In response to the reflections of the Selectboard meeting on October 13, 2020. The meeting was brought about by Towns people who did not approve of the way certain town workers and official were being treated and the way town business was being handled.

First of all you believe the meeting was set in motion by former town leaders, who were involved in writing the (2018) Town Plan. I disagree – I believe I was more responsible for the meeting. I had several calls from people, who were upset, as I was, that they had no say in the Selectboard meetings. Many of us have no internet (Zoom) access and can't afford any additional long distant charges.

I first sent a letter to the Selectboard requesting that the meeting be open to the public. I received No acknowledgement of my request, and my letter was left at the Mt. Holly Post Office, so it was certainly received. With NO response to my request. I then pulled together a petition with over 30 signatures again requesting Selectboard Meetings be made available to the Towns people. So, I don't believe you can put the blame on former Planning Commission members.

As it seems the goal is to rewrite the approved Town Plan to meet your specifications. Why weren't you all at the Planning Commission meeting, when the 2018 plan was being written? You had years to attend meetings and voice your concerns. We weren't in the middle of a COVID-19 crisis and the meetings were open to the public. I asked at this Selectboard meeting, what sections you wanted changed. To date all I've heard is the whole plan needs to be re-written. Hence, three good people on the planning commission resigned – two because they weren't going to waste any more of their time, and one member resigned, because he was insulted with NO warrant. These three member worked on a Town Plan with the TOWN'S INTEREST as their first thought. And I have read the 2018 plan.

Then you criticized people, who left the meeting prior to its adjournment after 9:00 pm. Unlike, you several people have to work or have other responsibilities at home. I didn't know there was a MANDATE in place that everyone had to stay until the meeting was adjourned. I believe people are very interested in finding out "what is going on" in the Town's government. Bob Herbst brought up there was still a need to elect a chair of the Selectboard – which still hasn't been done. It seems it is more important to have a Planning Commission clerk in place.

I don't believe the woman on the Selectboard was under attack without reason. It seems she can dish out insults, go over people's heads in other positions, and misuse the Selectboard position. When it is pointed out various situations are incorrect that individual is accused of bullying her.

I for one don't appreciate hearing that the past boards – "Nobody was minding the store, so-to-speak, here in Town government. I have with a fair amount of push back worked hard to make sure that individuals whether they are elected or appointed, do their job, as just filling a seat is doing a disservice to the Town of Mount Holly."

My family has served the Town since back in the late 50's in the capacity of Selectboard right up to the last Selectboard. And they have always put the best interest of the Town first. The Town is the beautiful scenic vista you enjoy today, because of the knowledge and understanding of the prior Selectboards.

People like my father, Teno Balestra and Kyle Perry, who were only farmers/carpenters worked the land, knew the roads and whatever was needed to care for the Town. They cooperated with the other elected officials. Never did they go over people's heads, insulted people, who were doing their jobs, and never have I seen such unhappiness with Town workers and elected officials until now.

Former Selectboards treated people with respect and never did they have a personal agenda in place, it was always what was best for the Town. They used common sense in dealing with Town problems, but mostly they had values in how people were treated, which is lacking now.

You mentioned you have been involved in Mt. Holly's Town government for over 20 years - I don't recall that has always been viewed in a positive manner. You were removed from the planning Commission for "Lack of confidence," due to your behavior. Then you were one of the group of 11, who set out to SUE the Selectboard because you didn't agree with their plans for the location of the new Town garage. Never have I heard of a small group of people threatening to sue the Selectboard because they weren't getting what they wanted. That action cost the Town money to hire an attorney. I certainly see this behavior as non-beneficial to the Town, and it caused a lot of stress and anxiety. Talk about bullying and abuse to people who were trying to do the right thing.

If you remember there were also over 400 people who signed a letter in support of the Selectboard at that time and the Town garage was approved overwhelmingly by the Towns people. I was totally involved in getting the 400 signatures in support of the Selectboard and going against people trying to hurt the Selectboard and the Towns people.

Lastly, you are probably checking the names on the recent petition for the open meetings at the Town garage to see who is attending. Many attended the October meeting for support, but have the capabilities to use Zoom and decided they would use that avenue and let those of us who don't, continue to attend at the Town garage. By Christine Pratt



JOHN NAPIER
REALTOR®
O. 802-228-5678
C. 860-559-9334
www.CBLifestylesRE.com
jnapier@cblifestylesre.com

156 Main Street
Ludlow, VT 05149


LIFESTYLES

Each office is independently owned and operated.



Stuff-A-Truck Thank You!

While 2020 was turned upside down for many there has also been an abundance of good will and good neighbors within our community. Black River Good Neighbor Services was unable to offer its annual Stuff-A-Bus event due to COVID, and to our complete surprise the Ludlow Fire Department came to our rescue. Coordinated by firefighter, Angela Kissell, a fire truck parked for two days in December at Shaw's parking lot while volunteer fire fighters collected an amazing amount of food for our food shelf. And, at the end of each day delivered it to us!

There is a great need in our community and it was a true pleasure knowing that the Ludlow Fire Department took on this effort, spending many hours on our behalf collecting such an impressive amount of food. It's what a community is all about, helping and supporting each other, in this case neighbors helping neighbors. How grateful we are!

On behalf of Black River Good Neighbor Services food shelf, our sincere thanks go to the Ludlow Fire Department, whose commitment is so important to BRGNS. Folks we serve in Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville and Plymouth will most certainly benefit from your efforts and generosity. Krey Kellington, Food Program Administrator, Black River Good Neighbor Services

MLK Standing on Giant's Shoulders

Everybody knows the "I Have A Dream" speech and hopefully can appreciate the impact of Dr. King Sr's son had on our society during the Civil Rights era. But not many know of the giants of color who's preaching and actions preceded MLK a couple hundred years ago....

Vermont men like **Alexander Twilight**, minister, educator and politician, who was the first black person to earn a degree from a U.S college (Middlebury 1823) and a preacher who got a very rough start in life, **Rev. Lemeuel Haynes**. Born on July 18, 1753, Lemuel had a Scottish immigrant mother and a black father in West Hartford, CT. Abandoned by his parents and indentured at the age of five months to a devout churchman, young Lem read everything he could get his hands on and became an ardent student of the Bible.

After leaving his adopted family at 21, Haynes joined the Revolution War as a Minuteman, but arrived a day late for the battle of Lexington and Concord. Never-the-less, he and fellow farmer militiamen joined other Patriots at the siege of Boston. Haynes later became one of three African men assigned to Ethan Allen's famed Green Mountain Boys. He later wrote a poem about these skirmishes, including a line about Americans not wanting to be enslaved by the British. He penned *Liberty Further Extended* in 1776, in which he made the case that the Declaration of Independence should be extended to all, not just the gentleman farmer but the black share-cropper. This was the first piece by an African American written about why slavery was so horrific and why we needed to abolish it. **Our little state, where Haynes made his home, became the first state to abolish slavery and grant voting rights to adult black men.**

In 1785, Haynes became the first Black ordained minister of the Gospel in the U.S. and served a church in Torrington, CT. While there he studied Greek and Latin and a particular young white school teacher, Elizabeth Babbitt, who became his wife and ultimately gave him 10 children. In 1787, Haynes answered the call to minister to the congregational community in *West Rutland, VT*. The meeting house where he preached for 31 years was located near the W. Rutland cemetery. (Check out the historical marker there that commemorates his life.)

During his years in that parish, Haynes worked hard to develop not just good families, but also their community and their land. His race was not an issue as they all worked together.

They appreciated not only his knowledge of the Bible but his humility and quick wit. He once told a fellow minister who was lamenting the loss of all his sermons in a fire, "Brother, they gave more light from the fire than they ever gave from the pulpit." Another time, two boys shouted in the street, "Rev. Haynes, have you heard the good news? The devil is dead!" Lemuel replied, "Oh, you poor fatherless children. What's to become of you?" On another occasion, Haynes, an ardent federalist and admirer of George Washington, accidentally entered a celebration for the newly elected, Andrew Jackson. Asked to give a toast, he offered this, "Andrew Jackson, Psalm 109 verse 8." When someone finally looked it up they found, "Let his days be few and let another take his office."

He later served as preacher in Manchester, VT and then in S. Granville, NY where he died in 1833 at 80. His home there was historically restored in 1967 and is now a museum. Middlebury college so appreciated his contributions and accomplishments they granted him an honorary master's degree in 1804, another first.

During the early 1800's Congregationalism was breaking up into different modes of thought. Universalism and Unitarianism, with their assertion that it didn't matter what you believed "everybody was going to heaven", were making big waves among the faithful. Haynes was right in the middle of this controversy and wrote a number of books, which reached world-wide publication, arguing for the more conservative view substantiated in Scripture. He insisted that faith in Jesus was the only way to eternal life. Rev. Haynes once said, "you get home and to heaven the same way, one foot before t'other. The Lord calls us to follow Him, not wait to be carried." Pastor Glenn





TAILORED PLUMBING
24 Hour Service

BENJAMIN TAYLOR
Master Plumber — EPA Certified
tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com

3322 VT Route 103S
Mount Holly, VT 05758
PLUMBING, HEATING, A/C — REPAIR AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

802-417-1647

USDA Rural Development Accepting Applications for 2021 Value Added Producer Grants

Applications Due March 22, 2021

USDA Rural Development (RD) is seeking applications for the Value Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG). Applications will be accepted through close of business on March 22, 2021. State information on the program and application materials are available on RD websites for Vermont and New Hampshire.

The VAPG program helps agricultural producers in rural communities develop and market their products, and widen their areas of distribution, to increase their income and strengthen rural food networks. Eligible applicants include independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and producer-based majority-controlled business ventures. In fiscal year 2020, RD funded a range of VAPG projects including:

- Echo Farm in Hinsdale, NH, recipient of a \$250,000 grant to fund the market expansion of its all-natural farmstead pudding;
- 5 Generations Creamery Farmstead in West Glover, VT, which will use a \$250,000 grant to increase production and distribution of its farmstead cheese;
- Flag Hill Winery & Vineyard in Lee, NH, beneficiary of a \$250,000 grant to upgrade processing and develop new markets for its wine products; and
- Agricola Meats in Panton, VT, which received \$204,098 to increase sales of its farm-produced, cured salami.

For more information on the VAPG program or to submit an application, please contact Elijah Massey at Elijah.Massey@usda.gov, 802-828-6081, or by mail: USDA Rural Development, c/o Business Programs Division, 87 State Street, Suite 324 Montpelier, VT 05601

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports housing, infrastructure improvements, business development, high-speed internet access, and community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender

Join the CEDRR Virtual Legislative Breakfast From The Comfort of Your Own Home!

The Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region invites you to a Virtual Legislative Breakfast with a panel of members of the Rutland County Delegation on **Monday, February 8th at 8 am via Zoom**. Sponsored by Omya, Inc., the forum will touch on topics important to the community, businesses, and population growth.

Specific topics and speakers will be announced soon.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom meeting information. Please feel free to enjoy your breakfast during the meeting! Questions for the Rutland County Delegation can be submitted to Lyle Jepson.

**The number of questions presented to the delegation may be limited by time constraints and relevance to the topics of the forum. The deadline for question submission is February 4th at 5 pm by emailing Lyle Jepson lyle@rutlandeconomy.com.*

<https://members.rutlandvermont.com/events/details/bring-your-own-breakfast-to-the-cedrr-virtual-legislative-breakfast-5082?calendarMonth=2021-02-01>

Rutland Regional Medical Center Recognized as Magnet® Hospital

Rutland's very own Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) was recently recognized as a Magnet® hospital. The recognition, equivalent to a 5-star rating comes from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The ANCC is recognizing the commitment to improvement and exemplary patient care that the nursing team at RRMC showcases.

On behalf of the Rutland County Region, we congratulate and thank the hard-working and compassionate staff at the Rutland Regional Medical Center for all they do! https://www.rrmc.org/about/enewsletter/magnet-recognition/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Rutland+-+01%2F2021%3A+1%2F5%2F2021

USDA RD Energy Grant Deadline Fast Approaching

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance (EA/REDA) Grant Applications Due FEB. 1 @ 4:30PM

VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE, JANUARY 19th, 2021 --USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants (REAP EA/REDA). Applications must be received by **FEBRUARY 1ST @ 4:30PM**

REAP EA/REDA grants strengthen American energy independence by helping rural businesses gain access to more sources of renewable energy and establish energy-efficiency solutions.

Read the full press release at this link https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/VT_NH_EA_REDA_2020_Apps_V3.pdf





FLETCHER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fletcher Memorial Library offers its services free to all Ludlow, Cavendish, Mt. Holly and Plymouth property owners and full-time renters. Seasonal visitors are welcomed to join for a minimal fee. Library privileges include loans of books, audio books, downloadable e-books, periodicals and our Inter-library Loan service. Computers and free Wi-Fi - 24/7 - are available.

COVID – 19 RESPONSE:

- March 17th 2020, public access to the library was closed: FML continues to offer Curbside service indefinitely.
- ALL returned items are quarantined for 7 days. Our procedures follow specialized test results for library materials.
- We offer printing of your documents which are emailed to us – ONLY.
- **Member access to downloadable eBooks, audio books and added during Covid – 54 magazine selections. The youth page has a wealth of information** for learning and fun as well as live story book readings by Sacha. The Youth library also offers take home themed goodie bags including i.e. activities, books, and craft items.
- **New Membership form and requirements found at fmlnews.org under the “Membership” tab**
- Sadly, both our Annual Book Sale and Silent Auction had to be cancelled

Please direct any suggestions, questions or concerns to Jill Tofferi. The Trustees and Staff of FML wish to be part of the Covid-19 solution and respect Covid guidelines as per the REALM study. (Specific to Libraries)

The staff would like our patrons to know that we are striving hard to meet your needs. If you have programming ideas, book suggestions, or a particular title that is not in our shared catalog, please let us know. We have available Inter-Library Loan (ILL) through the Vermont Department of Libraries. Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St., Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-8921

The library board and staff take very seriously our stewardship of the library striving to preserve it for all generations. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, we are a 501 (c) 3 organization www.fmlnews.org

VT Vaccine Information

The following is the link to the VT Dept of Health's Covid-19 Info site. On it you can register to receive its weekly email on the vaccine and when your category may be scheduled for it. Please pass this along. Ralph Pace (802)228-7239
ralphpace@gmail.com

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont>

Ludlow Rotary Receives 2,000 Masks for Covid-19 Use

Recently, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) received a donation of 2,000 masks for use during the Covid-19 crisis. Pictured above is Nancy Russell, Past District Governor of area Rotary Clubs, as she stands before the large truck that delivered the masks to a Brattleboro location for distribution to area Rotary Clubs.

This is the second round of mask donations



by Ted Rossi of the Rossi Family Foundation. Rossi is a fellow Rotarian from East Hampton, CT, owner of Rossi Group Lumber in Cromwell, CT and the developer for SouthFace Village in Ludlow, VT. Ted has also donated thousands of masks to many other Rotarian clubs around his area. The mask donation is supported by the iHeart Media Communities as part of the Rotary Million Mask Challenge Tour.

According to Kevin Barnes, LRC President, 300 masks will be donated to Mt Holly groups while 800 will go to the town of Ludlow. Previously, the LRC has been able to provide masks to Ludlow first responders, Fletcher Memorial Library, Mt Holly Rescue, Mt Holly Fire, Mt Holly Town office, and Mt Holly road crew.

Barnes noted that masks are available for area groups or organizations. Requests for masks may be made to Kevin Barnes or any LRC Rotarian at ludlowrotary@gmail.com or 802.228.8877.

Pictured above right is Nancy Russell in front of the truck that brought thousands of masks to Brattleboro for area Rotary Clubs distribution. Some of the thousands of masks donated by Ted Rossi and his family foundation are pictured left here as they are readied for distribution to individual Rotary club in VT and NH.

New Guide for Vermonters on Residential Clean Heating and Cooling

The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies working together to advance clean energy, has published *A Vermonter's Guide to Residential Clean Heating and Cooling* to inform Vermont residents about the benefits of clean heating and cooling (CH&C) technologies. The guide, prepared for the Vermont Public Service Department's Clean Energy Development Fund, provides information on CH&C technologies to help Vermonters make informed decisions regarding heating and cooling their homes with clean and renewable energy.

The guide is available online at <https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/vermont-guide-residential-clean-heating-cooling>

Nearly eighty percent of Vermonters heat their homes by burning fossil fuels which contribute significantly to climate change, are a drain to the local economy, and can worsen air quality. The remaining households are heated by burning wood or with various electric heating technologies. To meet their own and the state's renewable thermal objectives, many Vermont homeowners are looking to transition from fossil fuels to CH&C technologies. This guide provides information and guidance on how to make that transition.

Supporting the transition to cleaner heating and renewable energy is in-line with Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan, which calls for Vermont to increase the portion of renewable energy used to heat Vermont's building sector to 30 percent by 2025. This goal builds on the state statutory goal to weatherize 80,000 homes and reduce fuel use and utility bills by 25 percent.

Contacts: Clean Energy States Alliance: Samantha Donalds, Communications Coordinator sam@cleanegroup.org 802-223-2554 x204
Clean Energy Development Fund: Andrew Perchlik Andrew.perchlik@vermont.gov 802-279-0471 Clean Energy States Alliance, Clean Energy Group, 50 State St. Suite 1, Montpelier, VT 05602

Need a ride? Or want to give a ride?

Tammy W. Brown, One-2-One Coordinator

Seniors need affordable transportation options. Affordable transportation is essential for maintaining independence. Without a reliable way to get to doctor's appointments or buy food and household supplies, seniors can't realistically remain in their homes as they age.

Social isolation is another big problem for seniors who don't drive. It causes poorer quality of life and contributes to earlier death. Having access to affordable transportation keeps older adults connected with family, friends, and their community.

One-2-One provides transportation for "essential needs," free of charge. The program is supported partially, by federal grant money that falls under the umbrella of the "Elderly and Persons with Disabilities" program. This is supplemented by donations from individuals, as well as small grants from other non-profit agencies, such as ITNAmerica, which covers rides for eye care.

"Essential needs" consists primarily of rides to doctor's appointments, but may also include some grocery shopping trips, physical therapy appointments, and exercise classes, as well as personal trips to visit family members.

While public transportation is available in many areas, One-2-One provides more personal, individualized rides right from door to door. One-2-One drivers are all volunteers, and transport in their own vehicles.

Eligible candidates for transportation by One-2-One drivers must be residents of Rutland County, and be at least 60 years of age. They must be able to get into and out of the car without assistance from the volunteer. Walkers can be accommodated, but not wheelchairs.

We can also always use more volunteer drivers! Drivers receive mileage reimbursement, at the current rate of .575 cents per mile.

For more information, to register as a client or as a volunteer driver, please call 775-4318.

Do You Have A Talent To Share?

RSVP & the Volunteer Center is always searching for volunteers who have hobbies, skills and talents. Often time's people do not realize that sharing those interests can be of real value and interest to many community members as well as rewarding for those that are willing to share.

Do you enjoy reading? If so, RSVP and The Volunteer Center has the perfect volunteer opportunity for you by becoming a Rutland County Reads Volunteer. RSVP and The Volunteer Center has teamed up with many of the Rutland County Schools to help them find virtual volunteer readers for the school year 2020-2021.

Do you like to sew? Join our team of volunteers who are helping make masks for essential organization throughout Rutland County. This volunteer opportunity can be done in the comfort of your own home in your free time. Drop off finished masks to the organization or to the drop box at the RSVP Office. There is no in person contact. The drop boxes are outside the buildings. If you are interested in helping serve our amazing community by making masks please call Maryesa at 802-775



Full-Service Cleaning

Residential – Condo – Commercial

No Job Too Small

Serving the following Vermont areas:

Belmont, Cavendish, Clarendon, Cuttingsville, Killington, Ludlow, Mendon, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Proctorville, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Wallingford, West Rutland

Fully Licensed and Insured!

- One-Time Cleanings
 - Move In / Out
 - Deep Cleaning
 - Party/Event Cleaning
 - Vacation Turnovers
- Customizable Services!*

Call us today for your
FREE Consultation!

802-395-1114

Website

www.paradisecleanersvt.net

Email:

info@paradisecleanersvt.net



Shriner Hospital For Children

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

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



Rutland County Volunteer Opportunities

Meals on Wheels: Driver - pick up and deliver food (Monday-Friday 10:30a-12p) Mileage reimbursement \$0.50 cents per mile"

Meal Box Packers - (Monday - Friday 8:30a-3p) **Meal Site Volunteer** (Godnick) - Mondays & Thursdays 11a-1:30p

Meal Site Volunteer (The Maples) - 3 days per week lunch starts at 12p day TBD

Rutland Regional Medical Center: Information Desk Volunteer (Monday-Friday 8a-12p or 12p-4p)

Bulk Mailers: helping nonprofit agencies with bulk mailings. We call you when we receive a request to see if you are available to help.

Guardian ad Litem: volunteer advocates for children in court who have been victims of abuse and neglect.

Pittsford Food Shelf: Commodities Volunteer(s) - 1st Wednesday of each month at St. Alphonsus Parish 8:30a-11a

Chaffee Art Center: Gallery Sitting, Art Class Assistant, Office Assistant, Volunteer Outreach, Volunteer Handyman/ Women and Art in the Park Volunteer

Vermont Association for the Blind: Drivers wanted for local support groups and Burlington appointments.

AARP Tax Assistant Program: AARP Tax Preparers to help prepare taxes and AARP Client Facilitator who helps fill out intake forms.

Brandon Community Center: Board Member(s) - Flexible 1 meeting per month

ARC: Volunteer opportunities - Office assistant, Outreach/Marketing, Grant writers, Support volunteers, In house programs/activities SABE-Self Advocates Club and AKtion Club

Southern Vermont Council on Aging: Volunteer Shopper for Essential Items - Matter of Balance Master Trainer - to help address the fear of falling and teach fall prevention. - Friendly Visitor - Memory Cafe Volunteer - Money Management Program Volunteer - Office Volunteer - State Health Insurance Program Volunteer - Tai Chi Volunteer Instructor

Salvation Army: Volunteer opportunities - Greeter/Receptionist, Food Shelf Volunteer, Food Bank Driver and Children's Group Volunteer

Senior Chorus: Singers who would like to sing at local Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facilities

With the COVID-19 Virus many opportunities have been modified or on temporary hold until the organization goes back to normal hours. Please note that any volunteer opportunity that is still happening during the virus outbreak is following the appropriate precautions with COVID-19. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities or would like more information about volunteering, please call **Maryesa at 802-775-8220 x103**. We have a place for everyone at RSVP and The Volunteer Center so give us a call and start the rewarding journey with us!



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

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

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

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

Name

Address

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.



For Sale: Firewood –
Delivered Or You Pick Up.
Call 802-259-2147



FOLLOW YOUR DREAM, HOME.

78% of Vermonters trust their neighbors.
Let us introduce you to yours.



ENGEL & VÖLKERS
Okemo

126 MAIN STREET SUITE 1A, LUDLOW, VERMONT 05149 • (802) 975-0338 • OKEMO@EVREALESTATE.COM

©2020 Engel & Völkers. All rights reserved. Each brokerage independently owned and operated. Engel & Völkers and its independent License Partners are Equal Opportunity Employers and fully support the principles of the Fair Housing Act.

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 & 3pm
Until May 11am & 6pm 779-0300
Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,
11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS
Pastor Jerry Scheumann jfscheumann@gmail.com 603-439-0803
Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org
Rabbi Shemtov rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org 773-3455
St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 9 am
Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois christthekingprsh@gmail.com 446-2161
Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am
Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 259-2803

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

