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47/9

Mount Holly Chit Chat

November 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: In-Person with Mask Sat 9-1, Mon 9-1, Tue 1-5, Wed 2-4, 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

November 2021



All Saints' Day

1st

2nd MH Snow Flyers Meeting Via Zoom **Only Flight of Howard Hughes "Spruce Goose" 1947** 6:00 pm

Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library 7:00 pm

Mount Holly Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

4th Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Fire Station *Will Rogers Day* 7:00 pm

Sun 7th *Marie Sklodowska Curie 1867 ~ Daylight Savings Ends*

8th Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building 7:00 pm

9th Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont *Berlin Wall Opens 1989* 9:00 am

Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School 4:30 pm

Select Board Meeting, Town Garage & Zoom 6:30 pm

10th LMHUUS Meeting, *US Marine Corps Est 1775* 6:00 pm

ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont 7:00 pm

11th Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station *Veterans' Day ~ Signing of WWI Armistice 1918* 7:00 pm

12th *Black Bear Early Season Ends*

Sat 13th *Black Bear Late Season & Deer Season Begins ~ Robert Louis Stevenson 1850*

16th Mt. Moriah Mason Meeting, E. Wallingford 8:00 pm

17th Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont 6:30 pm

Mount Holly Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom 7:00 pm

18th Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations 7:00 pm

19th *Full Beaver Moon ~ Discovery of Puerto Rico 1493 ~ Gettysburg Address 1863*

Sun 21st *Black Bear Nonresident & Hunters With Use of Dogs by Permit Season Ends*

22nd Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building *John F. Kennedy 1917-1963* 7:00 pm

23rd Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont 9:00 am

24th ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont 7:00 pm

25th *Thanksgiving Day*

Sun 28th *Deer Season Ends*

29th *First Day of Hanukkah*

30th *Giving Tuesday Visit: www.PVA.org/SupportVeterans and click DONATE*

Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass Season Ends

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: Judy & Paul Nevin * Warren & Elizabeth Gower * David & Keay Wagner * Steven Scarzello * Margo Coffey * Ginger Palmer * Sandra Hoeh * Hoeh/Bozzi Family * Joan Connor * Craig & Maria Fortier * Patrick & Jane Burns * Wright Construction Company * Dr. Gerald & Diane Rogell * Kathy Stone (Stone Creek Workshops Pottery) * Andy & Pat Salner * Fletcher Memorial Library * Emily Clifford Jackson * Freda Durgin * Michael & Barbara Caputo * Patti & Kevin Plew (Plew Farm) * Theresa & Harry Eaton * Arthur Scales * Carl & Kathy Mitchell * Russ Webber * Susan Dawley LeBlanc * Lisa Donohue (Thrive Center of the Green Mountains) * Patricia Brannin * Madeleine Fay * Brigid Sullivan * Carol Delaney * Robert & Lynne Herbst * Rick & Alison Weintraub * Barbara Pallotta * Brenda Garrow * George & Carol Gage * Cathy Corica * Neil Helberg * Natalie Brown * Bill & Mary Ellen Jacobs * Judith Hartmann * Arthur & Nancy Beebe * Tammy & Randy Hawkins * Maria Hermann * Janes & Jeanmarie Fitzgerald * Lee Monroe & Hank Schwartz * Fay & Maxine Freeman * Carl & Sharron Riedell * Doug & Kris Long * Margaret Blane * Gail Nadok * Mark Youngstrom (Pierce's Store) * Brett Wright * Stephen Flanders & Catherine Fusco (Flanders Excavating & Firewood) Sharon & Ron Godfrey * Fred Garrow & Gene Jennings * Kenneth Barber * Jim & Karen Doherty * Margaret Whyte * Jared & Kristen Mailhiet * Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department * Andrew Leever * John & Katherine Greeno *



November Birthdays: 2nd -Amanda Smith Frank * Linda Fitzgibbon 4th -David Davis * Keith Hawkins 5th -Bruce Turco * Victoria Turco * Richard Darling 7th -Bridger Lillard 8th -James Proctor * Dave Venter 14th -Daniel Fitzgibbon 17th -Matthew Alberty * Catherine Carrara * Candence Taylor 18th -Sally Bussino (1956) * Jason Bussino (2012) 19th -Chad Devereux * Barbara Gerdin * Brayden McEnany 20th -Melinda Dawley-Pearson 23rd -Donna Lee 24th -Josh Bussino (1992) 28th -Jessica Lee 29th -Joe Turco * Jeremiah Johnson * Maryanne Bolalek * Ronald Blanchard (1966) * Jeffrey Bussino Jr (1989)



November Anniversaries: 15th -Wayne & Lori Wheelock

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

Local Post Office Hours

Mount Holly		802-259-2796
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am & 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm
Belmont		802-259-2790
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am & 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 10:45 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
East Wallingford		802-259-2829
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am & 7:00 am – 10:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury		802-492-3585
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am & 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm & 7:30 am – 11:00 am
	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 & 6:30 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm & 8:30 am – 10:30 am
	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.



Steven P. Riccio, 1962-2021

Steven P. Riccio passed away August 26, 2021, having lived with Pick's Disease/Alzheimer's for many years. He was born December 17, 1962 and grew up in Branford, Conn.

Steven served in the United States Marine Corps, serving at Camp Lijeune, N.C. and Okinawa, Japan from 1980-1983. While in the Military, he worked on heavy equipment and then went on to earn an associate's degree in diesel technologies in Denver, CO.

Steven enjoyed being a truck mechanic, riding motorcycles, and fishing. He especially loved playing the drums and eating sushi with his child. He was a very loving

husband and father.

Steven leaves behind his wife Debra Riccio and child Helene Riccio of Belmont, VT. There will be a private family service at a later date.

Rutland Jewish Center

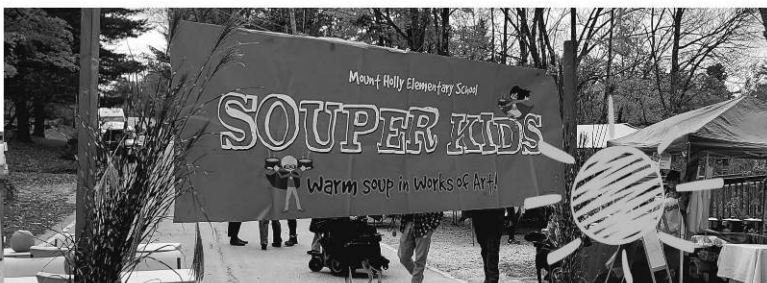
Service Notices

office@rutlandjewishcenter.org

Friday, November 5, 07:30 pm
 Saturday, November 13, 09:30 am
 Friday, November 19, 07:30 pm
 Saturday, November 27, No Services

Friday, December 3, 07:30 pm
 Saturday, December 11, 09:30 am
 Friday, December 17, 07:30 pm
 Friday, December 24, No Services
 Saturday, December 25, No Services

Cider Days Photos by Joe Hammond



Hello Community!

On behalf of the PTSA we want to say thank you for coming together in a last-minute organization of Souper Kids! From those that helped with set up Friday night to break down Sunday and every volunteer in between,
THANK YOU!

The event grossed a total of \$3038.07! A wonderful start to the school year! We are so grateful for the turnout of volunteers and supply contributions.

Look forward to seeing you at the next events! See our other ad For what's coming up next!

Mt Holly PTSA!



Flanders Excavating & Firewood

Complete Site Work Start To Finish

All Aspects of Excavating:

Roads ~ Clearing Lots ~ Septic Systems ~ Ponds

Fully Insured – Call Steve @ 802-259-2147

Flanders.excavating@gmail.com

Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered

Mount Moriah Lodge #96 Trestleboard

Next meeting Tuesday 11/16 8PM

District meeting November 2nd in Chester. Supper at 6pm, meeting opening at 7pm. Please try to make it to the District Meeting to show some support to the craft.

Many thanks to those helping fill a chair.

Your RWDD has been traveling around the state attending other District meetings and learning how to conduct a meeting of this importance.

Training for Masters and Wardens was launched in September and will continue until the end of the year. Fraternally, Earl Miller, WM - Buster Seward, Sec'y

Mount Holly Community Guild

Everyone on the Community Guild would like to thank the community for their show of support at our annual Cider Days raffle and they crafted items we sold at our booth. Turnout was nice.

The raffle winners are as follows:

1st-prize quilt by Claire Poulin, winner- Lynn Anderson

2nd prize- woven basket by Judy Nevin, winner- Joann Ritz

3rd prize- painting by Cindy Hinchliff- winner-Philip Blyska

4th prize- painting on wood by Pat Labella, winner- Greg Higgins

5th prize- embroidered pillow by Maria Fortier, winner- Gretchen Gregory
Sincerely yours, Barbara Falco- President



**Beardmore
Excavating**

(802) 342-3507

Robert Beardmore, Jr.
beardmoreexc@gmail.com

P.O. Box 101
Belmont, Vermont 05730

Sign Up Now For An EMS Class

Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad is pleased to announce the following course opportunity! If you live in Mount Holly, Belmont, or East Wallingford, and are interested in helping with rescue calls but don't have the time to put into a full EMR or EMT class, check out this NEW certification. If you're interested, secure your spot in the class as described below and come to a Rescue Squad Meeting in November or December on the 2nd Monday at 7:00pm to apply for membership.

Vermont Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is creating a new, entry level certification for people interested in participating on Rescue Squads. Vermont Emergency First Responder (VEFR) provides an introduction to some basic lifesaving skills.

A VEFR course will be taught in December in Plymouth. This will be a quick and easy way to get started (or restarted) with rescue while giving you both an AHA CPR and AHA First Aid certification (e.g. CPR). To take the course you must be at least 16 years and be (or become) affiliated with either a First Response Team or an Ambulance Service. **Firefighters are welcome.**

Sue Poirier (Mt Holly Volunteer Rescue and Plymouth First Response Team) will teach the VEFR course at Plymouth Town Hall Rescue (& Fire). Dates are as follows:

- Wed, Dec 8, 6:30 pm: CPR ~4hrs
- Sun, Dec 12, 9am - 5pm: roles/responsibilities, EMS systems, communication, documentation, legal/ethics, medical terminology, patient assessment, trauma, shock and resuscitation, airway management
- Wed, Dec 15, 6pm: First Aid and Stop the Bleed ~ 4hrs

This is a great opportunity to help yourself and help your community!! Charge for the course is \$25. Enrollment is capped at 12. If you would like to enroll contact Sue Poirier at 802-236-2683 or spcolby@gmail.com by November 24. Kristin Veysey, BSN, RN, AEMT, President, Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad

Wayne Jones Metal

All Metals

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CNC Plasma - Oxy Fuel Burn Table

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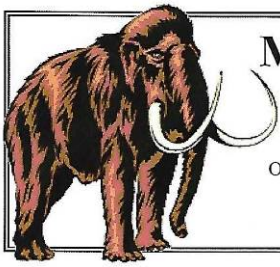
1759 RT 103 N

East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521



*** Hall Rental in Belmont ***

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



MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

PO Box 17 Belmont, VT 05730

Our mission is to enlighten our community with an understanding of our past to promote an objective vision of the future.

Home of the Vermont State Terrestrial Fossil

the Mount Holly Community. To accomplish this goal, we have established the following working groups:

Program (Plan and organize programs at the museum)

Education (Work with local school to bring the classrooms to the museum and the museum to the classrooms)

Publicity (Make community aware of museum activities, acquisitions to the collection and annual newsletter)

Fund Raising (Plan and organize events, such as Festival of Lights, Belmont Supper, etc.)

Collection/Accession (Acquire, organize, display and catalog items in the museum collection)

Building/Grounds (Plan and organize buildings maintenance and upgrades)

We plan to meet in person and via zoom. So, anyone can participate and contribute from anywhere. If you have needed skills, ideas or just want to

What a weekend!

Cider Days

2021 is in the rear view mirror and what a weekend it was! Nearly 200 people cast ballots for photos they want to see in the 2023 Mount Holly calendar and all of the 2022 calendars that were on sale were sold out.

The winners?...well they will be announced in November.

And oh yeah, we are printing more calendars, so don't go spending your holiday money on something someone might eat or throw up out.



The Mount Holly Photo & Calendar Competition is an activity of the Mount Holly Community Association (though they might not want to admit it when they see this ad) and all profits from sale of calendars go to support the MHCA.

ATTENTION

Full-Time and Part-Time Residents

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum is still looking for volunteers to help the Museum chart its future and increase our support of

TRUNK OR TREAT

Free Event

Masks Required

Saturday October 31st

5:30pm – 7:00pm For the Trunk or Treat

5:00pm – 5:30pm – Arrival and Set up Trunk or

Treat happening at the

Belmont Fire Dept Parking Lot 52 Church St

Belmont

Please message Andrea Auld if you would like to contribute/bring a Trunk

802-342-1991

contribute please join us. You can email your contact information, ideas or where you would like to help to: MountHollyMuseum@gmail.com Or call: Stephen Michel 802-259-2049 ~ Dennis Devereux 802-259-2460

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum reluctantly announces that the **December 2021 Festival of Lights** celebration will be cancelled.

Out of concern for community health, the event will not be held this year. We hold hope that in 2022 we will all be gathering together to renew this tradition. Mary Leonard

Visit us on
Facebook



Pasture Raised
PLEW FARM
Mt. Holly, Vermont

Farm stand
hours:
Tuesday-Sunday
12pm-6pm
802.259.2250

1966 Healdville Road, Mount Holly

www.plewfarm.com

dedicated to providing a local alternative
to commercially produced factory food

pasture raised chicken, eggs
pork, beef, maple syrup & products

produce, honey, cheese, cider, dairy, gifts, & more

Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department Celebrates 75 Years at Cider Days.

Pictured Left Jim Heald, Center Paul Faenza, Right Gerald Wright. Photos by Kathy Heald



Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department

Thanks to everyone who came by during our open house and shared stories with us. Thanks for all your donations as well, we appreciate all you do for our department. We are still selling our 75th Anniversary Challenge Coins. Please send a check for \$15.00 (includes shipping) to:

MHVFD Challenge Coins

PO Box 114

Mount Holly, VT 05758

Please include your mailing address and email. We have a limited supply, makes a great gift. Order one today. Photo depicts Front and

Back of Coin. 1.75 inches



Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets you can send the money to the Mount Holly Vol. Fire Dept. Auxiliary at the address below or you can stop by the Mount Holly Town Office. MHVFDA, c/o Christine Pratt, 826 Belmont Rd., Belmont, VT 05730



MOUNT HOLLY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY RAFFLE

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE#: _____

\$1 PER TICKET OR 6 FOR \$5 DRAWING 11/8/2021

THANKSGIVING BASKET WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS

\$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM MOJO CAFÉ

\$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM HARRY'S CAFÉ

2 PIES FROM GLORIA'S PANTRY

3 BAR CHEESE SAMPLER (CROWLEY CHEESE)

Mount Holly Community Association

Cider Days Review...what an amazing weekend it was!! As vendors and volunteers were preparing the green Saturday morning you could hear the greeting "Happy Cider Days" echoing out like holiday cheer, it was almost magical and a perfect feeling to start the weekend. Hundreds of people helped us celebrate all things apple and the weather was perfect for a hot cup of cider. After the past 18 months it was great to see friends, neighbors, and visitors milling about and enjoying the festivities. Planning an event during a pandemic (aren't we on the other side yet?) is challenging, how many apples and doughnuts should we purchase, how many apple pies and crisp need to be made? How many vendors will want to participate and how far apart should they be placed? Well, for all our worrying and planning this year exceeded all our expectations! Visitors gobbled up everything we had...40 dozen doughnuts, 20 apple pies, 10 large pans of apple crisp, and 100 gallons of purchased and 225 gallons of fresh pressed cider!

We had two new additions that people really seemed to get a kick out of, the Karma Sanctuary - our local goat rescue organization and the MHCA first annual cow plop contest. Visitors were in disbelief to see someone walking a goat on a leash through the crowd! The kids loved, loved, loved being able to go into the animal pen to see the goats, chickens and even ducks, it was like having a little mountain zoo right here in Belmont. And then there was the cow plop, the story of which needs its own paragraph....

Miss Liberty arrived at 1pm, it was an overcast and somewhat chilly afternoon. Anticipation was high - who's piece of temporary real-estate will she make her deposit on???? Team Johnson (Jim, Millicent, and retired Marine son Jeremiah) steadfastly watched over her as visitors meandered by and chatted about her beauty, eating and, of course, pooping habits. The younger crowd definitely loved seeing her; although truth be told most of the adults seemed equally captivated by her golden jersey figure.

Has she pooped? Has she pooped was a constant refrain amongst the crowd. Up and down the hilly road we walked checking on her status. Two o'clock - nuthin. Three o'clock waiting, waiting, waiting. The Mrs. (in Team Johnson) decided apples might help prompt Miss Liberty's digestive expression. "Are you sure Miss Liberty is gonna poop" we asked - "oh yes, she will" replied Mrs. Johnson. At four o'clock still no poop and Mr. Smith arrives to trailer her home. The trailer is opened and what do we find.... low and behold Miss Liberty pooped on her way to the contest, no wonder we have not had any "plop activity". So, despite munching endlessly for 3 hours and having four apples she did not poop during our designated event time. One may ask "can one have a designated pooping window for a cow?"

But wait.... we have to have a prize winner, oh what to do? After a quick brainstorming session with Team Johnson, a few dozen bystanders and 2 head organizers of Cider Days from the Mount Holly Community Association the decision was made to get a shovel full of poop, blindfold Jeremiah, turn him around until he is completely disoriented and hand him the shovel full of poop to be launched. Facing backwards the retired Marine catapulted the poop high in the air. It spun and twirled as it descended into a grand splat. Jeremiah Johnson excitedly removed his blindfold and with the quickness of a trained service man went into measuring mode. The determination was made; the flying poop landed in square was D5. Congratulations to Patrick Devine, winner of the cow plop contest!

As Miss Liberty was gently guided back into the trailer, she sauntered up the ramp entered the trailer gave us a backward glance and with a smirk on her face once again shat in the trailer. And that is the story of the MHCA first annual cow plop contest.

It was a team effort in making this event successful. Thank you, Ryan Smith, for the transporting Miss Liberty; Team Johnson from Dairy Aire Farm for sharing Miss Liberty; and Donna DeAngelis for the use of your property/signage/cow flags!

There were too many volunteers to thank in the chit chat as Cider Days requires over 75 volunteers to run the gazebo, cider press, membership/merchandise tables, the photo calendar contest but we would like highlight a few. This year the Cider Press responsibilities were passed on to the next generation - Jeff Chase, Gabe Vastola and Michael Huck who did a fabulous job pressing apples all weekend long; special thanks to "old timers" - Penny Coldwell and Fra Devine have now reached Cider Crew Emeritus status! Board members Gene Jennings and Leah Knoll took over management of the gazebo and owned it from start to finish and Board member Lisa Kelley took over vendor management and prize donations for the Cow Plop contest. Lastly the

woman behind everything volunteer, Carol Devine who recruited all the volunteers for this event.

Membership in the MHCA continues to help us sponsor events like Cider Days. For those of you who have yet to send in your renewal or become new members, membership forms can be obtained in the Library or Belmont Store. Thank you for your support - We Do it All for You!

All of us on the Board of Directors of the MHCA wish all of you a **Happy Thanksgiving!!**

Mount Holly Community Association Membership Drive

2021 ~ 2022

Please join to support...Music on the Green-Mount Holly Day-
Garden Tour-Cabaret-Photo Contest-Cider Days-
Roast Beef Supper-Christmas in Mount Holly-
New Year's Eve at Star Lake-Spring Mud Fling

And the maintenance of our historic Community Center Building
Please join today!!

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



On one of our beautiful new trails Allen leads a rider during a lesson.

And Just Like That....Summer is Gone

What a glorious fall we've had, great weather, great color and great times with all our riders. But now it's come to a close for the season and we're tucking everything in for the coming winter. This month we'd like to thank a couple of our very dedicated volunteers, who, without their assistance, would have made the move to Belmont much, much harder.

Jerry Parker of Shrewsbury and Allen Mills of Florence have

been invaluable this summer as we developed the facilities for Rainbow Riding Center at Stone Wall Farm.

From digging postholes, erecting gates and the riding ring and developing the trail system, they were also on hand whenever we needed volunteer assistance with the riding program. Rainbow Riding is very, very lucky to have Allen and Jerry along with many other dedicated volunteers that allow us to continue our program.

Please check our website: rainbowridingcenter.org, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @RainbowRiding and Instagram @rainbow_riding_center. To contact us call 802-236-2483 or email programs@rainbowridingcenter.org

Wright Construction Stuff The Truck for BRGNS

Help us spread the love the holiday season by donating non-perishable food items to our first ever Stuff The Truck event!

The best part of Thanksgiving and the entire holiday season is the amazing food, feasts, and family time. That's why, from November 1st - November 8th, we're stuffing a WCC truck just like a turkey to give back to those in need in the Okemo Valley region. At the end of the donation event, we're driving the truck down to Black River Good Neighbor Services food shelf to drop off our haul!

We'll be accepting donations at the Wright Construction office at 31 Station Road, Mount Holly VT from 11/1-11/8, but you can always donate directly to BRGNS food shelf as well.

Thank you in advance for taking your time to donate and helping make the holidays special for so many families in our area!



The boys (Allen on left, Jerry on right) spent some time during one of those summer-like days last month erecting the new Stone Wall Farm and Rainbow Riding Center sign.

WRIGHT
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

**BLACK RIVER
GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES**

All non-perishable food items will be donated to BRGNS in Ludlow, VT to help community members in need

**STUFF
the truck**

FOOD DRIVE



NOV. 1 - NOV. 8

Drop Zone: Wright
Construction Company
31 Station Road, Mount
Holly VT
Nov. 1 - Nov. 8



**YOU CAN ALSO
DONATE DIRECTLY
TO BRGNS!**

The Mount Holly PTSA presents

TRUNK OR TREAT
At the Mt Holly School

SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH

5PM - 7 PM

DECORATION CONTEST WITH PRIZES FOR FUNNIEST,
SCARIEST, MOST ORIGINAL, LEAST LOOKING LIKE A
VEHICLE AWARDED AT 6:30PM

PLUS a FREE SPOOKY TRAIL WALK!!

The Nite' Fore Deer Season



T'was the nite before Deer Season;
And cold in the shack.
The guns had been polished, and lay in the rack.
The Hunter were nestle, all snug in their beds.
With visions of "8 pointer", dancing in their heads.
I in my overcoat, gloves, boots and cap
Had just settled to a four-hour nap.
When out from the woods there arose such a clatter.
I sprang from my bedroll to see what was the matter.
Out of the door I flew like a flash;
Stumbled and fell; tripped over some trash.
The moon on the crest of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a little old man out jacking deer.
The flurries of snow made it fairly hard to see;
But he lay out a salt lick; and perched in a tree!
To the top of the tree, to the top of the limb
He seemed quite assured no deer could see him.
Back at the shack, I was turning around
When he fell from the tree, and sprawled on the ground.
He was dressed all in wool; from his head to his toe
And his clothes were all "soggy" with the water of snow.
A stock of a rifle he held in his hand.
It was then I whistled and shouted, "Get off my land!"
He said not a word, he went straight to his work.
Brushed off his clothing and turned with a jerk.
He ran like the wind right past our shack
And then he sped off in a new Cadillac.
But I heard him exclaim with a voice full of cheer
"What a miserable night to be out jacking deer!!!"
The moral is this: If you're going to jack a deer,
do it on your own land!!!

Submitted by Bob Buswell for the B.R.V. Senior Center November Newsletter.

I received this from Gus Muguira from California in December 2007 and have kept it just for the November publication of the Chit Chat.



Robert Beardmore, Jr.
Office: (802) 975-0369
Fax: (802) 975-0413
masterplumbingheating@gmail.com

P.O. Box 354
126 Main Street, Unit D
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

Even this little bird was enjoying Cider Days
Photo by Kathy Heald.

The PTSA Needs YOU!



TRUNK OR TREAT PARTICIPANTS:

- Decorate your trunk and hand out tricks or treats 10/31 from 5 to 7pm. Line up is 4:30pm 4:45pm. Location Mt Holly School Parking Lot.
- Come dressed up to Guide or Haunt families down a Spooky Trail.
- SIGN UP HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054CADA62AA5F49-trunk>

LIGHT THE NIGHT PARTICIPANTS:

- Decorate your house and let others see your seasonal display and share in the Holiday spirit! Let us know if you are willing to have your house on display for December!
- SIGN UP HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054CADA62AA5F49-light>

ICE SKATE RINK AT THE SCHOOL:

- Coming soon!!! A rink for students and the community to use!
- NEEDED: Looking for Kids Ice Skates and Kid Sized shovel donations. Reach out to mounthollyptsa@gmail.com or Mr. Panasci
- Build Date Beginning of November.

NEXT MEETINGS:

- Friday 10/15 Trunk or treat event Planning 4:30 to 5:30pm at the school
- PTSA MTGS second Tuesday of every month Switching to Microsoft Teams; Link to come

**Chit Chat Deadline
for November
Will be Sunday
November 21st
by 6:00 pm**



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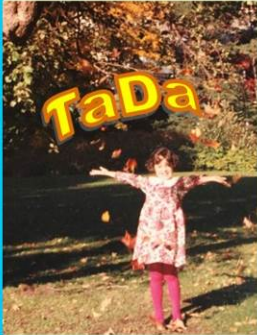
Wayne Jones

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East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521

FML News

Fletcher Memorial Library
November - 2021

WELCOME FALL! *"Winter is Coming"-GOT*



Time to curl up with a good book on a chilly day! Cozy couch, pumpkin coffee or hot cider, the aroma hot apple pie . . .

Check Us Out!! Titles are arriving in a more timely manner-YEAH!

Calling All Explorers!

This Grab & Go program will introduce kids to all seven continents and a wide array of countries. Each week's kit may contain maps, recipes, activities or crafts that are unique to each country. Additionally all will receive a "Passport" to track their travel. This program is for ages 4-12 with pick up at the Youth desk, or curbside, Mondays 10:30AM-5:00PM.

Sign-up on our Youth Web Page or Give us a Call!



Thank You for Your
Continued Library Support
Past, Present and Future!

Fletcher Memorial Library is a 501 (c)3 organization
www.fmlnews.org 802-228-8921

Important Dates:

CLOSED:

Nov. 11th: Veteran's Day
Nov. 25th-28th: Thanksgiving
Dec. 23rd-26: Christmas
Dec. 31st-Jan. 2: New Year's
Jan. 15th-17th: MLK

Public Hours:

Monday-Friday 10AM to 5PM

We Require Masks for Inside Service.

*Curbside Service Available
(Please Call)*



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A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord,
We humbly ask Thy blessing
On the turkey and the dressing,
On the yams and the cranberry jelly,
And the pickles from the deli.

Bless the apple pie and tea,
Bless each and every calorie.
Let us enjoy
Thanksgiving dinner.
Tomorrow we can all get thinner.

For all Thy help along the way
We're thankful this Thanksgiving Day.
We're thankful too, for all our dear ones,
For all the far away and near ones.

Although we may be far apart,
We're together in my heart.
Keep us in Thy loving care,
This is my Thanksgiving prayer.



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MT. HOLLY, VT

Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT

Mount Holly Photo Judging 2021

This year's Mount Holly Photo Judging & Calendar Competition photo entries have been submitted, matted, labelled and hung in the Mount Holly Community Center ready for Cider Days visitors. There are many very interesting and creative Mount Holly subjects on display in this year's exhibit, including Santa Claus, goats, and people's feet.

Almost since its inception 19 years ago, the Mount Holly Photo Judging & Calendar Competition has been a two-part activity.

The second part of the Mount Holly Photo Judging & Calendar Competition is the calendar competition itself that took place on Cider Days weekend (Oct. 9 and 10 this year) when hundreds (hopefully) members of the public get to view the photo exhibit in the Community Center and cast ballots for the 16 photos they think belong in the next Mount Holly calendar. Our thanks go out to this year's judging panel: Brigid Sullivan, Fra DeVine, Tom Johnson, Alec McCallum and Rutland artist, Evelyn Towsley. *There were no entries in the 5-12 and 13-19 age groups this year.

The first part, a juried appraisal of entries by a panel of photo savvy judges, took place on September 22nd. The winners of the judging were*:



BEST OF SHOW
"Cold Front Coming Through" by Madeleine Fay



First - Adult Category
"Winter Colors" by Sandra Predom



Second - Adult Category
"Sunset Over Salt Ash Mountain" by Patrick Rose



Second Runner Up
"Halloween Moon" by Patrick Rose



Third - Adult Category
"Townsend Barn" by Amy Rogell

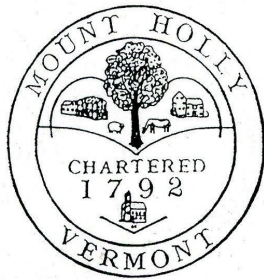


First Runner Up
"Last Touch of Summer" by Mary Faenza



Third Runner Up
"Autumn Days" by Amy Rogell





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.

Town of Mount Holly Special Select Board Meeting September 23, 2021 Minutes

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

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.

Matthews

Town Officials: None in Attendance

Public: None in Attendance

1. Call to Order by Mark Turco at 5:25 p.m.

2. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Jennifer Matthews asked to add updates on the audit and the Select Board request of the constable to issue a ticket to the owner of the Blue Spruce House. Mr. Turco asked to add an update on his conversation with the health officer regarding Blue Spruce House. It was agreed to add all after Agenda Item #5.

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

made a motion for Champlain Valley Fuels to be the Town of Mount Holly’s diesel fuel and heating fuel supplier through June 30th, 2022 based on their low diesel fuel bid of 12 cents over rack price and their locked #2 heating fuel price of \$2.35/gal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

4. **Mulcher Purchase** – Mr. Turco made a motion to purchase the mulcher from the Town of Pittsford for \$4,000 in order to facilitate roadside ditching and to meet the erosion control requirements of the Town of Mount Holly’s MRGP permit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

5. **B. Faenza’s Resignation** – Mr. Chase made a motion to accept with regrets Brigid Faenza’s resignation as Select Board Administrative Assistant, seconded with regrets by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. The ad for a Select Board assistant will again be posted.

Updates: Ms. Matthews reported that the audit for FY 2019 is now complete with the one for FY 2020 to be complete shortly. The auditor inquired whether the Select Board would like to combine the two audit reports in one presentation or to present them separately. The Select Board discussed and decided on one presentation covering both fiscal years. Ms. Matthews also reported on the Select Board’s request of the Town Constable to issue the owner of the Blue Spruce House a municipal ticket for violation of the Town of Mount Holly’s Junk Ordinance. Constable Paul Faenza stated he could not do so as the owner did not live in town and his jurisdiction was only Mount Holly. Discussion ensued on other options for the ticket issuance with a decision to issue the ticket via certified mail. Mr. Turco reported on his discussion with health officer Tim Bickford. Mr. Bickford had previously inspected the Blue Spruce House property and found black mold and unlivable conditions, which he reported to the appropriate State agency. No action was taken by the State. The Select Board will follow up with a letter requesting action be taken by that State agency.

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

7. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm. Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews Minutes Approved: _10.12.2021

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting October 12, 2021 Minutes In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487 Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark Turco (Chair)

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

Town Officials: Jim Corvin, Dennis Devereux, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Russ Garrow, David Johnson, Annette Lynch, Jon McCann, Stephen Michel, Christine Pratt, Renee Sarmento, James Seward, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Zena Gates, Judy Hyjek, Donna Seward

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

2. All stood and recited the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Jeff Chase spoke of the need to appoint two individuals to the newly-formed Regional Emergency Management Committee, mandated by a law enacted by the Vermont Legislature. One individual should be the local Emergency Management Director or designee; the other, a representative from local emergency services (fire, EMS, public works). Mr. Chase will reach out to members of the latter. These two appointments will be made at the November Select Board meeting.

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY

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BURN PERMITS

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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

4. Approval of September 14th, 2021 Meeting Minutes & September 23rd Special Select Board Meeting Minutes – Mr. Chase made a motion to approve both sets of minutes with the following corrections to the September 14th minutes: on page one, “ended up with 3510 tons”; on page three, “advance payment to LMHUUSD.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a. Highways & Transfer Station Update – **i) Monthly Update - Clinton Woolley** reported: he gave Mr. Turco the Grants-in-Aid FY’21 reimbursement form to sign which asks for the maximum amount of \$20,340 with a Town match of 8%; he doesn’t have enough time to submit a Better Back Roads grant this year. From the Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee: the road foreman meetings are starting again and they would like to hold one in Mount Holly this winter. From the Rutland County Solid Waste District: they have a new website; we need to look at our prices as the Household Hazardous Waste prices are going up. He said we

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 Town Office Will be CLOSED The Following Dates:

Thursday November 11th, 2021
In Observance of Veterans Day
&
Thursday November 25th, 2021
In Observance of Thanksgiving

need to charge to take florescent light bulbs as there’s an abundance coming in. Jennifer Matthews asked from where, and should we require stickers to dispose of the light bulbs? Mr. Woolley will ask the transfer station attendants to watch for who is disposing of the light bulbs. Mr. Turco said we will have to address pricing changes.

ii) Yale Road Clarification – Town Clerk Carol Garrow-Woolley spoke with both the State and the USPS about the need to designate Yale Road as Yale Road South and Yale Road North. Discussion ensued about stolen signs and the material necessary for the signage. Mr. Woolley will reach out to the State to ask about other materials and their willingness to cover the cost of the sign on VT Route 155.

Mr. Chase made a motion to remark Yale Road as Yale Road North and Yale Road South, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved.

iii) RFP for Summit Road Box Culvert Design – Open Bids – Mr. Chase stated the Town received three bids: from Marble Valley Engineering, a base proposal of \$20, 720; from Otter Creek Engineering, \$13,500; and, from Bannon Engineering, \$16,800. Select Board members reviewed the bids and the accompanying bid information. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chase stated he was comfortable with Otter Creek Engineering as they do a lot of this work and they do Shrewsbury’s engineering. Ms. Matthews noted that Otter Creek was substantially less than the other two. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept Otter Creek Engineering’s bid for the Summit Road Bridge 49 Box Culvert engineering, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved. Mr. Chase will put together a bid summary sheet and he will reach out to Otter Creek to get the ball rolling so as to have the box culvert built next year.

iv) Road Commissioner Position? – Ms. Matthews noted we briefly touched upon this subject last month. Mr. Turco stated that Shrewsbury has a Road Commissioner and no Road Foreman, and that Ludlow has a Road Foreman. As far as he could tell, it was hit or miss, and that towns have one or the other. He said the decision would be one or the other, but he thought a Road Commissioner would be costly to the town. Ms. Matthews said she considered the Road Commissioner as a partner who would work hand-in-hand with Mr. Woolley and take some of the paperwork off his plate, especially regarding capital planning, writing grants and RFPs, and addressing issues as they arise. Mr. Turco said some of that work had been handled by the admin person in the past. Ms. Matthews replied that she works 20-40 hours a week as is on just Select Board work. She also noted the amount of work Mr. Chase does for the Road Foreman, and she did not think it right to continue to ask Select Board members to do evermore additional work. She also stated the Road Commissioner could be an appointed position with a stipend, not a salaried position. Ms.

Matthews noted the flooding that occurred just south of us due to the heavy rainstorms those towns experienced; that weather could hit us next time. A Road Commissioner could help with FEMA grants. She also noted the millions of dollars coming into the State from the federal infrastructure bill, some of which will be available as grants. She asked who would write those grants and submit the reimbursement requests. Mr. Woolley just stated he did not have time to submit a Better Back Roads grant. Grant funds will be available for road and bridge repairs and mitigation measures to avoid flooding in the future. She stated the small cost of a stipend to bring in grant funding would save tax payers money in the long run by not having to raise taxes to fund the work. Discussion ensued. Mr. Woolley said the grants were out there, but the town did not have the equipment to do the work. Mr. Chase said other towns contracted out the MRPG work, which Mount Holly also could do but would need someone to make those arrangements. Mr. Turco said his only concern was any extra cost to the town even reaching out for grants, as he did not want to burden taxpayers. Ms. Matthews

reiterated there is so much money coming into the State for road and bridge repair and mitigation measures, money available as grants so as to prevent a cost to taxpayers. She asked who was going to reach out to bring that money, our federal tax dollars, into our town. Mr. Chase noted the town’s hazard mitigation plan, which has identified items which need to be corrected, preferably with grant funding. Jon McCann spoke to the need for someone to look out for the various grant opportunities, not just for roads.

NOTICE MOUNT HOLLY TAXPAYERS

2021 Real Estate Property Taxes are due
Monday November 1, 2021

After November 1, 2021 an 8% Penalty and
1% per month Interest will be added.

Partial Payments are allowed.

Payments must be received at the Town Office or
be postmarked Nov. 1, 2021 (or earlier) to be
considered timely paid.

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November Specials

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of the property taxes have now been collected; Discount on Taxes is \$10,000 over budget which might come into play at year's end unless there are savings elsewhere; the second quarterly payment of \$30,200 from the State for State Aid to Roads was just received; another quarterly payment of \$3,342 from the State for Special State Aid for Roads may come shortly; the \$185,932 is both the ARPA municipality and county funds received so far; the Solid Waste Labels Sold amount of \$8,576 is \$600 more than last year; Other Support Expenses (approved ballot item expenditures) of \$60,229 will be paid this month; included in the Vehicle

Equipment Repair & Maintenance figure of \$4,918 is \$3,300 for tires; the Winter Road Material Hauling figure of \$13,560 includes the last bill for winter sand hauling. Ms. Matthews again asked if we were following our Purchasing Policy by not exceeding \$10,000 in payment to one contractor. Mr. Johnson said we might be close. Mr. Chase said next year we could put out a RFP for hauling of all materials and sign contracts with several vendors in order to stay within our Purchasing Policy guidelines. Ms. Garrow-Woolley said she thought we should support businesses in town with our tax dollars, and she wasn't saying that because her brother-in-law is a hauler in town. The Select Board agreed a RFP will be issued next year for hauling services.

ii) Independent Audit Update – Mr. Johnson reported the FY'19 audit is complete. The auditors are working on FY'20 with one more in-person visit possible next week. Mr. Johnson noted the one recommendation for internal controls from the FY'19 audit concerns is the need for two people to sign off on the bank reconciliations, and he and Diana Garrow, the assistant treasurer, are doing that. Ms. Matthews asked if the auditors were okay with the treasurer and assistant treasurer signing off on each other's work, questioning if that was a strong internal control. Mr. Turco requested that Mr. Johnson ask the auditors about this. The FY'20 audit should be complete the first half of November.

iii) LMHUUSD Payment Schedule – Mr. Johnson presented the Select Board with the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 payment schedule. The payment for FY'22 of \$2,927,985 is \$80,296 less than the previous year in spite of a slight increase in enrollment. The payment schedule incorporates the district's need for cash in November and for tuition payments in March, and it serves as a tool in planning cash flow.

c. Listers Update – David Johnson reported that the Listers are doing their annual drive-arounds. So far, they have found two

additions on houses for which a Building Construction Registration form was not filed. He said there have been lots of changes in ownership of properties in town but little change in the properties themselves. Mr. Johnson also noted Doug LeMire's invoice on the Select Board orders. Mr. Johnson explained that Mr. LeMire's former company has disbanded, but Mr. LeMire will still do appraisals. Mr. Johnson stated it is next to impossible to hire another appraiser, so we have to continue with Mr. LeMire. He said Mr. LeMire needs an advance payment of \$3,580 to cover the cost of his liability insurance, his appraisal program, his MLS membership, and the cost of materials. Ms. Matthews asked why we are covering an independent contractor's costs. She also asked if the \$3,580 was in addition to Mr. LeMire's annual appraisal billings of \$5-6,000. Mr. Johnson said, yes, the total cost would be \$10-

b. Treasurer – David Johnson

i) Monthly Income & Expense Report – Mr. Johnson reported: the bank balances are the largest they will be this fiscal year as most

Mount Holly Town Auditors Request For The Town Report

Mount Holly Town Auditors are requesting of all organizations who **submit articles and or budgets for the Mount Holly Town Report** to have your articles typed single spaced and mailed or dropped off or e-mailed to: mthollyauditors@gmail.com or to the Town Office no later than **January 6, 2022**. Anything received after that date will not appear in the Town Report. All articles mail to the Town Office at the following address: **Mount Holly Town Office, Attn: Auditors, P.O. Box 248, Mt. Holly, VT 05758**

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

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General Store Manager Position

Pierce's Store, a small, community-focused, historic, cooperative general store in North Shrewsbury is seeking a store manager. In business since the 1800s, the building is owned by the Vermont Preservation Trust and managed by the Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's Store. The store is a vital element of this small town of 1,100 folks, providing general, specialty and locally sourced groceries and serving as a center for community gathering, socializing, and special events.

Seeking an energetic, people-focused manager with retail/business management experience and a team approach to management. The store currently has both paid and volunteer staff as well community volunteers for specific tasks.

Contact Ed Hemmer at

ehemmersails@gmail.com for additional information and to arrange for a visit. For a sense of the store history and how the store fits in this community, go to https://youtu.be/e-Dy1f_oYyk

11,000. In response to a question from Mr. Turco, the previous year's appraisal service expense was \$5,786. In response to a question from Mr. Chase, \$9,000 is in this year's budget for appraisal services. Mr. Johnson stated there is a shortage of appraisers in the State, so next year we will have to issue a RFP for a different service with a new program costing upwards of \$40,000. In response to a question from Ms. Matthews, Mr. Johnson replied yes it would have to be a CAMA program. Ms. Matthews asked if the Listers had reached out to Ludlow as they contract with New England Municipal Consultant Services to do appraisal and Grand List work. Mr. Turco noted that they might be able to estimate what future costs might be. In response to questions from Mr. Chase, Mr. Johnson said the appraisals done now would be for this coming tax bill and that Mr. LeMire appraises about 100 houses at a cost of about \$100 per property. Discussion ensued about sales prices and appraisals and the housing market. Mr. Chase stated we probably should start looking into services for next year. In response to a question from Mr. Turco, Mr. Johnson said we could not wait a month to reach out to other appraisers because if we did Mr. LeMire would no longer be an option. Mr. Chase made a motion to continue to use Mr. LeMire's services for 2022 and to make the requested \$3,580 advance payment, seconded by Mr. Turco. Mr. Turco and Mr. Chase voted aye; Ms. Matthews voted aye with great reservations.

d. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann reported the Planning Commission: recently issued a subdivision decision; set a public hearing for another subdivision; discussed strategies for work on the town plan, deciding to work with smaller groups on specific parts of the plan, starting with infrastructure and emergency services. Mr. McCann also reported on the Planning Commission's unanimous decision to investigate wastewater systems for the village, noting that a lack of wastewater systems has blocked economic development in the village as well as affected the quality of Star Lake, the availability of housing, and business growth. The

Planning Commission offers its assistance to the Select Board on decisions regarding use of the ARPA funds. Ms. Matthews thanked Mr. McCann and the members of the Planning Commission for all their hard work.

e. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update – Annette Lynch introduced herself as the new Chair, as of one week ago, elected at the Conservation Commission's annual meeting; Phil Leonard is the clerk. Ms. Lynch asked to make the Conservation Commission's annual report on the activities of the past year and those for the coming year to the Select Board next month rather than now to give her some time in her new position. Mr. Turco said that would be fine. Ms. Lynch asked that the Select Board tend to one housekeeping measure as the State Statute states Conservation Commission members shall be appointed to four-year terms. Current members are in terms of one to four years. Going forward, as appointments come up, the Select Board will make the new terms for four years.

f. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann reported: RRPC welcomed Mount Holly's new Alternate, Ryan Harter; RRPC's budget is way up with opportunities for municipalities to avail themselves of staff and grants; and Eric Hall spoke on ARPA funds as a once in a lifetime investment in communities and to go slow in planning on how to use the funds.

g. Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee Update – Clinton Woolley – see agenda item #5.a.i. above.

h. Rutland County Solid Waste District Update – Clinton Woolley - see agenda item #5.a.i. above.

6. New Business

a. Packer Cemetery – Dennis Devereux reported the Packer Cemetery Association met last week and voted unanimously to turn the cemetery over to the town. Per Statute, the town must take over the cemetery if abandoned or neglected. Mr. Devereux said they are working with the Secretary of State's office on how best to dissolve the Association and to turn the funds over to the town.

b. Conservation Commission Appointment – Ms. Matthews stated only one Letter of Interest was received, from Ryan Metcalfe. Discussion ensued about term length with a decision to continue as with previous new appointments for a one-year term. Ms. Matthews made a motion to appoint Ryan Metcalfe to a one-year term on the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

c. Municipal Planning Grant – Resolution – Annette Lynch spoke of talking with Ed Bove, the RRPC Director, about how to determine a town's best use of the ARPA funds. Using a Municipal Planning Grant to reach out to all in town and to gather ideas was discussed as a way to find out what residents think is important for the future of the town. If feasible, ARPA Funds along with other grant funds could then be used to make those ideas a reality. The Municipal Planning Grant is due November first. Working with RRPC and having worked on previous planning grants, Ms. Lynch said they could complete the November 2021 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



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grant on time. Discussion ensued about the allowable uses of ARPA funds, the \$2,000 match, who would do the work, and match options. Mr. McCann suggested that Ed Bove attend our ARPA meeting as he is the MPG expert. Mr. Turco was nervous about spending \$2,000 of town funds. Mr. McCann stated that spending \$2,000 in order to determine to how to best spend \$3-400,000 seemed like a wise investment. He also suggested incorporating \$2,000 into every annual budget so as to have the option to reap thousands in grant funds for the town. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the Municipal Planning Grant to help determine how to spend the ARPA funds and to sign the resolution, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved. Mr. Chase thanked Ms. Lynch for her work on this project.

d. VLCT/PACIF/VERB Annual Meetings Report – Ms. Matthews

reported on the annual VLCT meetings: VERB (unemployment insurance for municipalities) experienced a 309% increase in claims with 163 member claims filed in 2020 as opposed to 66 in 2019 resulting in the need to borrow money from PACIF; in contrast, COVID had minimal impact on PACIF (property & casualty insurance); VLCT reported only 20 positive COVID cases in municipalities, so closing the town office, requiring masks, implementing restrictions at the transfer station all helped keep our community safe; VLCT also noted that 44 of the 80 bills based in the VT Legislature this past session impacted municipalities; and, the top issues facing towns are affordable and available housing, aging infrastructure, attracting and retaining staff, and IT security.

e. VLCT PACIF Insurance Renewals & Cyber Insurance – Ms. Matthews reported the insurance renewals were complete. Cyber insurance is growing more difficult to obtain. VLCT surveyed members about IT security. Of the 14 cyber security concerns raised, we were found to have issues with six. Ms. Matthews has been working with Larry Gold on this, with a quote to address those issues just received. VLCT is also working on solutions for IT security with less cost to municipalities. More information to come.

f. Other – There was no other New Business this evening.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. Traffic Safety Plan Update – Mr. Chase reported he had reached out to Devon Neary. Traffic counters should be deployed later this week with results in hand in the next few weeks.

b. Junk Ordinance Enforcement – Mr. Turco said he had received a phone call about a property with accumulating junk on VT

Route 103. The Select Board will send a letter to the owner alerting them to the fact that they are in violation of the Town of Mount Holly's Junk Ordinance. Mr. Turco will talk with the Constable about ticketing the Blue Spruce House. Mr. Turco had spoken with the Health Officer, who said he never received any documentation from the State about health and safety violations at the Blue Spruce House. Mr. McCann stated that if issues with waste disposal were ongoing, the Health Officer could issue a cease and desist order. Mr. Turco will talk with the Health Officer.

c. Retail Cannabis – Ms. Matthews is awaiting additional information from VLCT, so we will revisit this issue next month.

d. ARPA Funds Meeting – Set Date? – RRPC's ARPA Specialist Eric Hall will join us on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30 pm to discuss ideas and options for use of the ARPA funds.

e. Other – There was no other Ongoing & Old Business this evening.

8. Citizen Comments – Russ Garrow remarked that the roads are closing in with brush. He asked if there was a machine available to cut the brush back. Plymouth has one. Mr. Turco asked Mr. Woolley to look into the costs of purchasing a machine.

Winter is Coming!

Time for end-of-the-year yard clean-up &
time for any junk-in-the-yard clean-up.

Remember, the Town of Mount Holly has a Junk
Ordinance:

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

Avoid the Ordinance!

Keep Your Yard Junk Free!

Thanks for your part in keeping
Mount Holly looking fine!

\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS*



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Manchester and
Rutland

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9. Announcements/Other Business –

a. Reminder: Real Estate Property Taxes are Due Monday, November 1st

b. Planning Commission: Two 3-Yr. Terms End Nov. 2021 – Appts. to be Made @ Nov. 9th Meeting

c. Other – There were none.

10. Review & Sign Orders – To be signed by Select Board members.

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel – Mr. Turco made the motion, citing Statute, to enter Executive Session at 8:25 pm, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved. Mr. Turco made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved. No actions taken.

12. Adjourn – Mr. Turco adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm. Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS NEEDED

Concerned about Mount Holly's Future?
Interested in Planning & in Working on the Town Plan?
Willing to Learn, or Background in Planning?

The Select Board will appoint two (2) individuals to the Planning Commission at its November 9th monthly meeting.
Interested individuals, including incumbents, are encouraged to apply.

Please send a Letter of Interest to the Mount Holly Select Board to be received by November 8th @ Noon.

Please state your qualifications and your interest in the position in the letter.
Letter can be emailed: mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com,
or mailed: PO Box 248, Mount Holly 05758.

For more information, check the Town of Mount Holly website:
<http://www.mounthollyvt.org/town-services/planning-commission/>

Three-Year Terms run to November 2024.

ARPA Funds Discussion

@ Special Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30 pm
@ Town Office & via Zoom

ARPA Funds Will Provide a
Once-in-a-Lifetime Investment
in Our Community.

How do you think we should put these funds to use? What are your ideas for an investment in our community?

Please bring your thoughts & ideas to the meeting!

Additional info & Zoom link @
[Agendas & Minutes | Mount Holly \(mounthollyvt.org\)](#)
or call Town Office: 802-259-2391

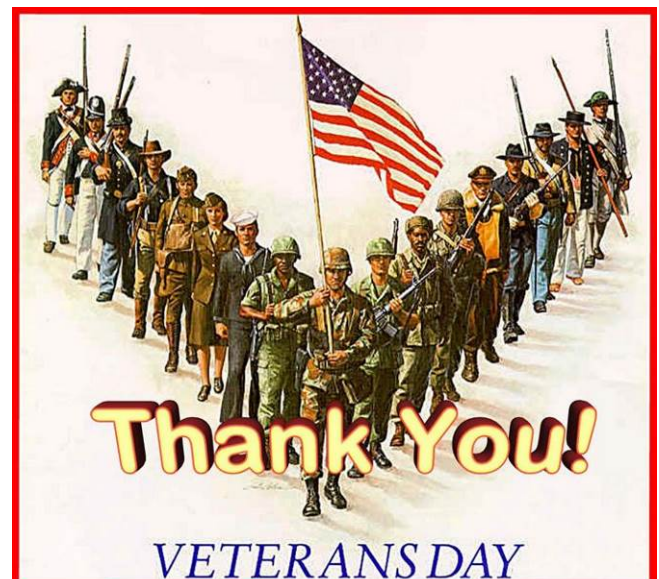
Mount Holly Planning Commission - Town Office / Remote Electronic – Special Work Meeting Minutes Wednesday October 6, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann, Stephen Michel, Jim Seward, Andy Schulz, Brigid Sullivan

1. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. No changes to agenda.
3. Town Plan Revisions
 - a. Utility and Facility Plan: Fire Department
 - i. For town plan we are required to have an inventory and map of facilities. Such as stations, ponds, hydrants, and communication sites. We should assist the fire dept board to generate.
 - ii. Desire an inventory of major equipment such as apparatus and off-road vehicles.
 - iii. Wish the fire department board could assess the adequacy of the facilities and equipment.
 - iv. Request the Fire department identify issues, plans, upgrades for next 5 to 10 years which can be included in Town Plan and include details of what is needed to serve the town in the long term.
 - v. Curious about communication centers – Tower on Okemo vs Garrow farm repeater
 - vi. Request an assessment of personnel status and needs; hopefully to include

discussion of:

1. Will compensation help increase participation?
2. Required training, annual maintenance; drills, calls, Mutual aid.
3. Impact of demographic change in community – is volunteers protecting \$1 million vacation homes affecting participation?
- vii. Commission would like to look into ways in which emergency services impact other town concerns, such as:
 1. Cooperation with rescue
 2. Driveway access requirements for new development
 3. Major developments/subdivision requirements: individual fire suppression requirements, truck access; Town provide access requirements or minimum standards for fire service; steepness of slope; plowed drives;
- viii. Commission decided to generate a set of questions to be sent to the Fire Dept. Board for long term plans to add to town plan.
4. Public comments: None
5. Upcoming meetings
 - a. Public Hearing: October 20th, 2021, 6:15am
 - b. Regular meeting: October 20th, 2021, 7:00pm
6. Adjourned at 8:30 pm For the Commission, Brigid Sullivan



Spotlight Highlights “Stop Screaming” at OVTV

Pictured above are, left to right, Ralph Pace, Spotlight Moderator; Jane Hart, “Stop Screaming” author; and Steve Price, author of numerous books, as they discuss Jane Hart’s recently published book of drawings depicting the many aspects of Covid’s impact on human behavior. Hart described the motivations and creative forces behind the drawings which have become a daily feature on her Facebook page. Steve Price was questioned about his books on humor and horses. The entire program may be viewed on Okemo Valley TV web site, <https://okemovalltv.tv>. Attached photo (taken by P. Cody, OVTV)



Large Number of Tasters Drawn to Ludlow Rotary Chili Cook-Off

Whether it was the peak of the foliage season, the lure of a non-Covid event, or the aroma of multiple chilis in the autumn air, an exceptionally large number of the area residents and visitors made their way through the 25 plus chili offerings of the Ludlow Rotary Club’s 30th annual Chili Cook-Off.

LRC President Art Randolph summed up the response to the cook-off saying, “Our 30th Annual Chili Cook-Off was a resounding success with a record-breaking number of contestants and visitors, all made possible, thanks to the many volunteers under the leadership of event Co-Chairs Kevin Barnes and Scott Murphy.” According to event co-chairman, Kevin Barnes, “We always know our chili cook-off will attract people, but we never expected such a large number of active tasters as we saw this Saturday”.

The size of anxious participants was clear from observations by Rotarian David Almond, one of the gate keepers for the cook-off, who noted, “The people wanting to take part in the event were standing in lines from Depot Street to Berkshire Bank and down to DJs. We had prepared a very large number of brochures and expected them to be adequate for the entire event, but halfway through we had to prepare more on an emergency basis”.

Two forms of awards were made to the chili providers, one by a panel of three judges and a second by votes made by the tasters. The panel of judges, consisting of Alice Nitka, Anthony Segreto, and Logan Nicoll.

Best: Birds Nest Chili by Shelli Steinfeld

Spicy: Chernobyl Chili by BR Mechanical Services

Team Spirit: RV Tech Center Culinary

Votes cast by the cook-off “tasters” selected the following chili providers:

1st Place: Bird’s Nest Chili by Shelli Steinfeld

2nd Place: Lone Star Chili by Todd Patane

3rd Place: Big Chonga Chili by Sam’s Restaurant

4th Place (tie) Honorable Mention: Firehouse Chili by Ludlow FD ~

Ludlow’s Monster Buck by Marissa Tanner

Kim Lampert, LRC’s Treasurer, enthusiastically added, “Thanks to all our sponsors of this event. See you at the 31st Annual event – always held the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend.

Proceeds this year went to the Ludlow Rotary Charitable Fund. This fund is used for local student scholarships, town projects, and other area needs. Special thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, and the town of Ludlow who made this event possible.

These are the Bird’s Nest Chili makers. The team is left to right: Craig Smith, William Moss, and Don Steinfeld. Missing from the team pic is Shelly Steinfeld.



Coolidge Historian Describes Coolidge Homestead to Ludlow Rotary

In a wide-ranging presentation, William Jenney, Historic Site administrator for the Calvin Coolidge Homestead, described the creation of the site plus some little known aspects of Coolidge's political life to the Ludlow Rotary Club at its weekly luncheon meeting.

Jenney first outlined how the various buildings now associated with the Coolidge Homestead site in Plymouth Notch were gradually absorbed into the historic site. Much of the location, visited by thousands of visitors each year, did not become part of the site until the middle of the 20th Century.

The latest structure added to the site is a modern new building housing many of the keepsakes associated with Coolidge as well as meeting facilities.

Perhaps the most interesting part of his discussion, however, focused on how Calvin Coolidge became involved in politics.

Jenney noted that upon his graduation from Amherst College, Coolidge sent letters to two law firms, one in Montpelier in his home state and a second to a firm in Northampton, Massachusetts. Due to the slow delivery of his letter to Montpelier, Coolidge received a letter from the Northampton firm offering him employment while not receiving any response from the Montpelier firm.

Pondering what might have happened in history had the Montpelier firm responded first, Jenney mused that Coolidge might never have become President of the United States.

However, Coolidge's political career began in Northampton as its Mayor followed by terms in the Massachusetts House and Senate, ultimately being elected that state's Governor. It was in this position that Coolidge gained national prominence in his handling of the Boston Police Strike of 1919 which gave him a reputation as a man of decisive action.

During the Republican Presidential Convention of 1920, the back-room pols, as was the convention at that time, named a candidate for Vice President to support Warren Harding, the nominee for President. When this nomination reached the floor of the convention, the delegates revolted against the back-room proposed nominee and, with the convention delegates yelling "Coolidge, Coolidge", effectively nominated Coolidge as the Veep candidate. He became President in 1923 when Harding died and won reelection in 1924. Photo credit, Sharon Bixby, a member of the Ludlow Rotary Club. By Ralph Pace



Please join us for

2 events

Open House

Tuesday, Nov 2nd 5 pm -7 pm

Mount St Joseph Academy



127 Convent Avenue
Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0151
msjvermont.org

Mountie for a Day on November 11th, 2021

Mount St. Joseph Academy welcomes area students to be a Mountie for a day on Thursday November 11th, 2021

Mount St. Joseph Academy welcomes area students, currently in grades 7 and up, to visit MSJ for a school day. Middle School and High School aged prospective students who are interested in learning more about Mount St. Joseph Academy are invited to meet our students, faculty, and staff and to participate in our school day from 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Mount St. Joseph Academy at a Glance

- More than 95 % of Mount St. Joseph Academy graduates go on to College.
- Mount St. Joseph Academy is now a School Choice Option
- Mount St. Joseph Academy offers a variety of Advanced Placement courses.
- Mount St. Joseph Academy offers Early College & Dual Enrollment

BRGNS
Holiday
Program

Applications for Black River Good Neighbor Services' Christmas Holiday Program are available at the Thrift Store, Food Shelf and on our website. Deadline for return of applications is December 1st.

37B Main St, Ludlow
www.brgn.org

Like Garlic? It's Time to Plant!

I like to finish fall gardening with planting. Garlic is an easy New England crop and it's great to have something to look forward to for next year that's already in the ground when winter arrives. Nothing compares with fresh garlic from your garden and now is the time to sow your garlic, along with many other bulbs that will be the first things up next spring. Let's look at a few tricks to have a successful garlic crop year after year using science and some old-time knowledge.

As with anything we grow the first decision is which variety to select. We should always try to get the best varieties for local conditions. Garlic is in the onion ([Allium](#)) family so cultivation needs are similar to onions. Garlic includes over 10 varieties and it can be divided into two major groups, "[Hardneck](#)" and "[Softneck](#)". Both are good and can be grown in Vermont, but most people favor Hardneck for its hardiness and great flavor. Softneck garlic is the principal garlic grown commercially in California and stores very well. Personally, I've had best luck with Hardnecks but you can try both.

Garlic doesn't produce reliable quantities of seeds so is commonly propagated "vegetatively" from the cloves. That means the genetics of the next generation will be the same as the parents so if you have a variety that does well and you like the flavor you can stick with it by keeping some of your own bulbs to plant now for next year. A good rule of thumb to estimate quantity is that a pound of garlic bulbs will have up to 50 cloves. Not all the cloves will be large enough to plant (eat the smallest ones!) so you may end up with 40 cloves to plant. Bigger cloves produce bigger, more vigorous plants. Unfortunately, most supermarket garlic has been treated with an anti-growth chemical and some garlic has even had its roots cut out to hide any diseases it might carry. Source your seed garlic locally to get started and then save your own each year.

Saving your own garlic for re-planting year after year is economical but also makes great garden sense. Every garden has a unique set of conditions including soil, moisture, micro-climate, and biology. If you select and save the best of your own garlic for planting, you will be taking advantage of the vital process of natural selection to continually improve your own garlic each year. I have been saving my own best garlic for nine years by selecting out for planting the biggest, best looking bulbs. I have seen the results of ever larger plants and bulbs that are now over double the size of the original garlic. Just as my Fenn Selection is best suited for my local conditions, your garlic will become a superior cultivar adapted to your own soil and microclimate. The whole process is not unlike a livestock breeder who keeps the best animals aside for breeding, certainly never eating the "prize bull".

Hardneck varieties also produce "bulbils" on the end of their [scapes](#) or false flower shoots in July. These are also vegetative small bulbs and can be planted like larger cloves but will take 2-3 years to produce full sized bulbs for harvest and use. Bulbils are produced in large numbers so it's an economical way to increase your crop but leaving the scapes on the plant to produce bulbils will also reduce the size of the bulb harvested. That's why most growers remove scapes and use them as a delicious food or flavoring themselves sauteed or to make pesto. This year I left a few scapes just to have some bulbils to get started.

Whether you purchased "seed garlic" (selected bulbs) or saved some of your own we're now in the planting season, generally from mid-October until mid-November, depending on the weather. I've read that you can plant garlic until the soil starts to freeze or is snow covered. What's important is that the bulbs get just enough time to begin growing their roots but not enough time to send a shoot above the ground that gets frozen and dies back. The small roots will give the garlic a head start come early spring and the over wintering provides the necessary cold treatment garlic needs to form bulbs next summer. This year I've delayed planting a couple weeks because of the warm weather.

Alliums are all heavy feeders so do best in deep, fertile, well-drained (never water-logged) soils. As with all root crops, the deeper soil provided by a raised bed will encourage better growth. A soil pH of 6-7 is ideal so a soil test is recommended (see the details in the previous article). Since garlic is an early spring grower, it's best to put the essential nutrients in the soil when planting. My practice is to apply a layer of compost (1-2 inches deep) over the bed surface. No need to work it in, nature will take care of that over the winter and create a rich organic matter that garlic and onions prefer. I plant a double row in raised beds spaced about 1 foot apart by digging two parallel long trenches with a hoe or trench tool to a depth of 4-5 inches. *Before* planting I then apply a sprinkled layer of [rock phosphate](#) or colloidal phosphate plus [azomite](#) (for micronutrients) mixed 50-50 along the trench bottom to make the trench snowy white. [Bone meal](#) would do the same plus provide some nitrogen. These are organic, slow release sources of phosphate and potassium needed for early growth in spring.

Plant the selected cloves, pointy end up and the flat, root end down (yes, it matters) spaced 6 inches apart. Too close and your bulbs will tend to be smaller as each plant needs root space. Cover the planted trench with soil and gently tamp it down. The top of each clove should be about 1-2 inches below the surface when covered. Be sure you have marked the ends of each row with visible stakes so you will know where to watch for the first shoots of spring. Finally, cover your garlic bed with about 6 inches of straw mulch, very gently tamped down so fall winds don't blow it away. The straw is very important to prevent freezing and heaving of the cloves during winter plus will suppress the spring growth of weeds and keep the young plants moist during their critical early summer growth.

You will feel personal satisfaction from getting your garlic planted. It's a great feeling knowing that your first garden crop of the next year is sown and already started when the last autumn leaves have fallen!

By the way, the same mix of rock phosphate & azomite or bone meal is an excellent way to boost any other bulbs you plant in the fall. Give each bulb (tulip, daffodil, crocus, etc.) about a level teaspoon of this starter and they will have the nutrients for strong roots and vigorous growth for several years to come.

Don't overlook the value of **compost** for your garden and yard. Mower-shredded leaves plus kitchen wastes make a great compost and we have an abundance of leaves right now! See details in the previous article. Here's a new [short video](#) to help you get the most from all those leaves.

October is a good time to reflect and review what happened in your garden this year. Take a walk and look around your yard & garden. What did well, what didn't do so well. Observe what your garden is telling you. Make notes for next year. Jim Corven

Got Leaves? Don't Rake!

Leaves made the great Green Mountains green all summer and now provide the beauty of autumn across the Vermont landscape. Next they are dropped from their trees to add fertility and build soil. The key message here is to use those rich leaves. Do not remove or discard them as is so often the misguided custom. The second message this week is about the great importance of water to plants heading into winter. Let's look at why we should not rake away our leaves and how to prepare your perennial shrubs for winter with big drinks of water.

Since the first green buds of spring, tree roots have been pulling up essential minerals from deep in the earth to feed their growth and productivity. Those nutrient minerals (calcium, iron, zinc, manganese, etc.) have accumulated in their leaves to run photosynthesis, the process that uses sunshine, water, and carbon dioxide to make the sugars all plants use as their own food. Now as the days shorten, trees prepare for winter by reabsorbing their green pigments (chlorophylls) to save for next year. This leaves the other visible pigments that we now see as reds and yellows. Eventually even those will be reabsorbed into the tree leaving a brown leaf rich in inorganic minerals and organic matter (carbon) designed to feed the soil. It is pretty amazing, plants produce their own food by photosynthesis and then feed the soil around them for all the beneficial fungi and bacteria that they partner with. It's a great design by Nature... *unless we break the cycle with a rake and a bag!*

Great news, you do not need to rake those leaves! It's actually better for your garden plants, shrubs, lawns, and trees if you do not remove the leaves. Leaves are ingeniously built with nutrients and beneficial microbes to replenish and fertilize the soil, so why would anybody want to get rid of something so valuable? The answer to what to do with them is simple... shred them in place with your mower. It might take a couple extra passes to chop them small enough but that is the best way to enrich your soil, and it's FREE. If you have some extra-large maple trees, as I do, that produce too many leaves on the lawn and those can become an excellent raw material for your compost or mulch around shrubs.

Not doing compost? Mower shred all those leaves in place right on your lawn. Chopped up fine they will enrich your soil (no fertilizers needed!), add organic matter to hold moisture in dry spells, and suppress weeds. It's a win-win-win. Either way, forget about those leaf bags, *please*.

Start Composting. Given the availability of all those leaves this is a terrific time to build up your **compost** for next year. Mower-shredded leaves are a great source of Carbon rich organic matter for compost. Adding kitchen scraps, surplus lawn clippings, and manure as a Nitrogen source, you have the essential ingredients for the best fertilizer, all made from free stuff you already have. The **basic formula** for a successful compost is simple: combine Carbon "browns" with Nitrogen "greens" in a ratio of about 3 to 1, but that is flexible, and you can adjust it to what you have available. There are a few basic principles to keep in mind: 1) Cut, chop, or shred your ingredients; the smaller they are the faster they break down, 2) Moisture is essential but not too much. Compost should be moist like a wrung-out sponge, not soggy or dry, 3) The good microbes that will break down your compost need to breathe; give them air with occasional mixing to introduce oxygen into the mix. Your garden fork or pitchfork is the perfect tool for this.

What else besides leaves & food wastes can go into your compost? Almost everything from your kitchen can be composted including peelings, spoiled fruits & veggies, eggshells (smash them), pasta, rice, moldy bread, used paper towels & napkins, newspaper (tear it up), and best of all, tea bags and coffee grounds (including the paper filter). These are all "greens". From the lawn & garden use your shredded leaves, *healthy* pruned or removed plants, extra grass clippings, and even wood chips, sawdust, or old hay. These are all "browns". I try to keep a pile of shredded leaves next to my compost bins to have ready to add whenever I add kitchen wastes to keep the 3 to 1 ratio. Bottom line, nothing goes to "waste", everything gets recycled.

There are a few things to **avoid**: meats, fish, and cheeses. These items will degrade in compost but may generate offensive odors or attract unwelcome bears, raccoons, dogs, rats, etc. Fruit flies may appear and they help by bringing in more good bacteria. Diseased plants or branches should not get mixed into your compost, bury or burn them so the pathogens don't get a chance to re-infect things next year. Other items to avoid include pet feces and grass clippings from herbicide treated lawns. Pet feces can carry living parasites and disease-causing bacteria while lawn herbicides will suppress or kill your garden plants as they can last for years.

How long does composting take? That depends on what you add, how small it's chopped, how often you mix to aerate, and the season. In general, most compost bins will produce a ready-to-use product in 6-12 months. If you want faster, then chop smaller and mix weekly. Otherwise it's a slow process but yields the best garden amendment possible and recycles your own otherwise wasted materials into black gold.

What happens to compost in the winter? Simple, it freezes and all action stops. That's OK, you can keep adding your kitchen wastes and they will be ready to go come spring. If your bin gets filled over winter, you can spread your kitchen wastes on the snow directly over your garden. It will degrade and feed the soil as the snow melts. Get a second bin next year, you are doing well!

Here's a new [short video](#) to help you get your own compost started.

Water please. Following months of summer our perennials are in need of their fall drinking. Fall is always the time to soak woody perennials (the ones that don't die back to the ground but have woody stems exposed all winter) in preparation for a long, dry, cold winter. Every week that we don't get an inch of rainfall give those perennials a deep soaking with a couple gallons of water. This is especially important for younger, smaller plants of fruit trees, hydrangeas, lilacs, rhododendrons, forsythia, and roses. Better not to feed them, just water.

Got bulbs? After this warm spell has passed it's the time to plant your flowering bulbs and garlic. Planted too early they might try to grow sprouts above ground which will get frozen and waste valuable energy in the bulb. Any time from now through late-November will be fine for bulbs. That will provide them enough time to begin some root growth but not time to sprout above ground. I'll cover garlic planting details in the next article.

How is your soil? October is an excellent time to get your soil tested. Following instructions at the [UVM Soil Testing Lab website](#), send in a sample for analysis. If they recommend adjusting the soil pH (acidity) or nutrient levels you can apply the remedy now so it will be well incorporated into your soil by spring planting time. Jim Corven, Fenn Farmstead & Gardens

Mount Holly Biodiversity Project Fall Report

Volunteers continue to enjoy autumn nature and have been contributing observations to our town project. Thank you and keep it up! If you haven't started yet it's a great time to get outdoors and see the wonderful biodiversity of Mount Holly. Mushrooms and insects are popping up everywhere. There is a new app that now makes it even easier and is a great activity for younger biologists. The app is called SEEK and it's available free at the Google Play Store or Apple Store. SEEK works instantly to identify species with your smart phone camera and can be linked to the Biodiversity Project. There are also Badges and Challenges for children (& adults!) to earn while exploring Mother Nature.

2,790 observations have been submitted by 155 people.



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Each office is independently owned and operated.

924 species identified in Mount Holly
442 plant species (most common is Canadian Bunchberry)
246 insect species (most common is the Monarch)
119 introduced (non-native) species
23 Threatened species found in Mount Holly (Ex: White Ash, Eastern Hemlock, & Common Loon)
Even if you have submitted observations for a species already, it is very helpful if you to submit them again (and again) when you see the same species of bird, plant, insect, etc. That is how we learn about when particular species are present and active. For example, plants look different in spring, summer, and fall so photo identifications in different seasons all help. Jim Corven

Maple Grove Cemetery
East Wallingford, Vermont

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Maple Trees



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Chit Chat Deadline for November
Will be Sunday November 21st by 6:00 pm



Our commitment is to quality arts and crafts education, to keep alive old traditions, and to teach new techniques in a special Vermont setting, at a reasonable cost to the public.
Established 1947

Fletcher Farm School Partners with Expeditionary School

The Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts (FFSAC) has entered into a partnership with the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) to provide art and craft instructor to the Expeditionary School's students.

As set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations: "ESBR intends to be a hub from which a creative economy in the Okemo Valley Region (and possibly beyond) can evolve. This means that ESBR will partner with venerable community organizations whose resources both benefit student learning and strengthen the community at-large.

"To enhance existing and forthcoming learning opportunities, this agreement provides ESBR with the opportunity to utilize the arts and crafts resources at FFSAC for the purposes of arts education. In so doing, ESBR will be able to offer middle and high school age students with multiple opportunities to engage with various artistic mediums and forums. Students will be exposed to artists-in-residence on a continuous basis, allowing them to learn from a wide array of working professionals."

Fletcher Farm School Receives Cultural Recovery Grant

The Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities have given the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts a \$5,000 grant to assist in recovering from the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is to be used to support operating and administrative costs. Funding for the grant is provided through the American Rescue Plan from the National Endowment for the Arts.

We are grateful to the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities for providing this assistance to our School.

November Classes

November 5-7 – Quilter's Choice with Susan Balch

November 8-9 – Weave a Necktie Chair Seat with Joyce Fuller

November 11-12 – Setting Custom Cabochons with Debi Orton

November 13 – Making a Bucket Basket with Meg Kupiec

November 13-14 – Carving an Elf or a Gnome with Wayne Miller

November 14 – Making Birch Bark Ornaments with Penny Hewitt

Announcements

- We are seeking new instructors. If you are at all interested in teaching at Fletcher Farm School, please visit our website at <https://www.fletcherfarm.org/about-us/become-an-instructor/>. You can email schooldirector@fletcherfarm.org if you have any questions.
- Both of our raffles are still open! Our annual raffle, to be drawn on December 1, features an afghan, a rug, and a bench with a woven necktie seat. Any of these items would make a great holiday gift. We are also running a special raffle for a hand-appliqued Baltimore Album Quilt, appraised at \$6,500. This raffle will be drawn on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2022. Tickets for both raffles can be purchased on our web site.
- Gift certificates are the perfect way to celebrate the holidays with friends and family members. You might also consider giving a gift membership. Both Gift Certificates and Memberships can be purchased on our web site.
- There will be a special membership meeting on Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. Proxies were sent out to all current members via email. Changes to membership categories which require a membership vote are the primary reason for this meeting.



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* MEAT BOXES

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OUR OWN VT MAPLE SYRUP ALL GRADES AVAILABLE

Our VT Maple Syrup makes a great holiday gift and we can ship for you

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* PINTS

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* COOKIES

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* MAPLE SUGAR

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SHOP IN PERSON, CALL US, EMAIL OR ORDER ON-LINE TO BE READY FOR A QUICK PICKUP AT OUR FARM STORE. CURBSIDE AVAILABLE JUST ASK. APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AS NEEDED.

WINTER STORE HOURS: SAT, SUN, MON 10 AM - 5 PM

WED, THURS & FRI 10 AM - 6 PM

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TELEPHONE: 802 - 492 - 2151



Lisa Kelley, Realtor®/Broker ABR® E-Pro®

Cummings & CO LLC

Lisa@Cummingsvt.com

(802) 345-6581



Safety Tips from your local Realtor:

Here are some tips to help you protect your home, your health, and your online identity. These are easy to do and can save you thousands with a little preventative care. I care about our community and those who live here. As most people know, the past 18 months have been crazy; not only for real estate, but also for those working from home, schooling from home and even vacationing at home! Our homes have become even more important to us than ever before and maintaining them needs to be a priority. I hope you will find some good information here to help you protect what matters most.

1. **Freeze your credit.** It is fairly easy to do. You go to all three of the credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax and TransUnion) and fill out a request online. This helps to prevent anyone from opening up lines of credit in your name.
2. **Clean your chimney.** A wood burning chimney should be cleaned each year. Typical cost is about \$125 per chimney.
3. **Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries.** Believe it or not these units do expire! Most last about 10 years then they should be replaced. The Dept. of Fire and Safety suggest that units be photoelectric. Batteries should be changed annually.
4. **Get your furnace cleaned.** Now is the time to schedule before the heating season starts. Having a clean furnace will increase the efficiency and be a saver for your fuel costs.
5. **Test your water.** Most of us have drilled private water sources. A simple water test can cost as little as \$35. This will test for E Coli and Coliform bacteria that may be living in your water source.
6. **Get your yearly check-up.** Most health insurance policies will cover a routine checkup. Recommendations include skin check (for early signs of skin cancer), breast exams and dental checkups. Preventative health care is essential to fighting off illness, speeding your recovery and preventing further health problems.
7. **Consider buying a gun safe or fireproof lockbox** for valuables, guns and ammo. Keep them safe and secure.
8. **Test your home for radon.** Radon is an odorless gas that is found in homes that can lead to some cancers including lung cancer. Tests can be purchased at your local hardware store.
9. **Periodically change your passwords.** No one advises that you use the same password for everything. Complex passwords with alpha-numerical combinations including symbols are the best for securing your online accounts.
10. **Invest in a security system.** Systems such as Ring are easy to use and install and will deter up to 50% of burglars. Even putting up a sign in your yard saying a security system is in use will deter burglars.

Schedule Your Flu Shot By Appointment or Walk In Community Health's Flu Shot Clinics for Adults and Kids

October is the month that Community Health begins offering flu shots by appointment or at one of the walk-in clinics at the health network's six practices in Rutland and Addison counties.

Current patients can schedule their own appointments online on our website cherr.org and select from a list of open appointments.

Walk-in clinics at Community Health practices are open to everyone. Check our website for the [updated listing of clinics](#) where the vaccinations are available for the whole family, by appointment for children at Community Health Pediatrics, and as walk-ins for adults and children. No one will be turned away, although there may be a short wait time during peak periods.

Call [any one of our Community Health practices](#) for the schedule of flu shot clinics



for their specific location, or call our main patient access center at [888-989-8707](tel:888-989-8707) for information about the flu shot clinics.

Community Health **Pediatrics**, call [802-773-9131](tel:802-773-9131)

Community Health **Rutland**, call [802-773-3386](tel:802-773-3386)

Community Health **Castleton**, call [802-468-5641](tel:802-468-5641)

For the health and safety of patients and staff, masks will be required, and all patients will be screened before entering any of the Community Health practices or flu shot clinics.

Additional flu shot clinics will be scheduled as needed, so check our website or call your nearest practice and ask about the next available Community Health flu shot clinic. Call now for information or for an appointment [888-989-8707](tel:888-989-8707).

Community Health is Vermont's largest FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center), a network of primary care, pediatric, behavioral health, dental and pharmacy services with offices in Rutland, Brandon, Castleton, West Pawlet and Shoreham. Community Dental offices are located in Rutland and Shoreham; Community Kids Dental is in Rutland; Community Health Pediatrics is in Rutland and Behavioral Health services are available at all of our locations. Community Health **Express Care**, open 7 days a week, is located at the Rutland and Castleton Community Health Centers.

All Community Health locations are open and accepting patients. For more information about career opportunities, hours and [Community Health](#) locations check our [website](#).



WHO YOU PAY your monthly health insurance payment to WILL CHANGE FOR 2022.

This will start when you get your
first bill for your 2022 health insurance premium.

Until then, keep sending your payments to
Vermont Health Connect.

What's changing?

For 2022, you will pay the insurance company directly. Do you have health insurance from Blue Cross, MVP®, and/or Delta Dental? You will pay them for your 2022 monthly payments.

What stays the same?

Applying through Vermont Health Connect is the only way to get help paying for health insurance. To ask for help or change your health insurance plan, call Vermont Health Connect.

For more information: VermontHealthConnect.gov or call your insurance company.



Please report suspected scam attempts to
Vermont Health Connect at 1-855-899-9600.



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



"The Turkey's Opinion"

"What do you think of drumsticks?"

I asked a barnyard bird.

He grinned a turkey grin and then

He answered me this word:

"They're good to eat, they're good to beat,

But, sure as I am living,

They're best to run away with

The week before Thanksgiving."

By Mr. Tom Turkey

Submitted By,

Virginia Ward

Happy Thanksgiving!

2020

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

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

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

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

Name

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.

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Flanders.excavating@gmail.com

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Who's Got It Locally?

Artists & Architects

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

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

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

Mt. Holly Dairy-Aire Farm Raw Milk, Fresh Eggs, Baked Goods 259-2386
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

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
Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 228-7327

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
Seiple's Property Management 802- 236-8104
Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 259-3064

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
Cummings & Co. Lisa Kelley lisa@cummingsvt.com 802-345-6581
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
Alex Eatmon Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com Cell 802-345-7886
Nora Sylvia nora@kelleyrealestate.com 978-793-2033
John Tolosky john@kelleyrealestate.com 802-356-5556
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 cw@vermontel.net 259-3232
www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com

