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# Mount Holly Chit Chat

48/3

May 2022

**Church Listings, back page "Who's Got It Locally?"**

**Mount Holly Community Association** – Contact [MHC AVT@gmail.com](mailto:MHC AVT@gmail.com)

**Mount Holly Museum**–Open Jul & Aug Sat & Sun 2-4 pm [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org) 802-259-2460 [ddevereux@vermontel.net](mailto:ddevereux@vermontel.net)

**Mt. Holly NewsFlash** Town email sign up at [mthollynewsflash@gmail.com](mailto:mthollynewsflash@gmail.com) Check Out [www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com](http://www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com)

**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 802-259-3707

**Town Office Hours:** Mon. to Thurs. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Closed Fri-Sun & Holidays Phone 802-259-2391

**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's Hours:** Tues 10:00 am – 2:00 pm or by appointment 802-259-2391

**Town Garage: 802-259-3179**

**Burn Permits:** Call Fire Warden ~ Jim Seward 802-786-3408 or 802-259-2211

**TRANSFER SITE: Wed. 4 pm – 7 pm & Sat. 8 am – 2 pm**

April 30<sup>th</sup> **Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner** Benefit Grenier Family Odd Fellows Hall – TakeOut start 4:30 pm 5:00 pm

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> **Turkey Season Opens ~ Empire State Building Opened 1931~ Loyalty Day ~ May Day**

2<sup>nd</sup> **Captain John Smith Landed at Jamestown 1607**

3<sup>rd</sup> Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library 7:00 pm

Mount Holly Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

4<sup>th</sup> **National Teacher Day**

5<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station 7:00 pm

6<sup>th</sup> **National Day of Prayer**

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> **National Nurses Day**

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> **Mother's Day ~ World Red Cross Day ~ President Harry S. Truman 1884 ~ V-E Day WWII 1945**

Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building **Transcontinental Railroad Completed 1869** 7:00 pm

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

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

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

11<sup>th</sup> LMHUUS Meeting, 6:00 pm

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

12<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station **Florence Nightingale 1820** 7:00 pm

Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 Meeting, E. Wallingford 7:30 pm

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> **Armed Forces Day ~ Lewis & Clark's Expedition 1804**

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> **Peace Officers Memorial Day**

16<sup>th</sup> **Full Flower Moon**

17<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations **New York Stock Exchange Est. 1792** 7:00 pm

18<sup>th</sup> Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont **Mt. St. Helen's Erupted 1980** 6:30 pm

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

19<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station 7:00 pm

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> **American Red Cross Founded by Clara Barton 1881**

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> **National Maritime Day 1933 ~ United Spinal Asso. Founded 1946**

23<sup>rd</sup> Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building 7:00 pm

24<sup>th</sup> Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont 9:00 am

25<sup>th</sup> ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont **Igor Sikorsky Invented 1<sup>st</sup> Helicopter b. 1889** 7:00 pm

26<sup>th</sup> Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations **Voting Rights Bill of 1965** 7:00 pm

27<sup>th</sup> **Wild Bill Hickok. 1837**

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> **Baked Ham Supper** For Ukraine, Odd Fellows Hall 5:00 pm

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> **Sierra Club Founded 1892 ~ Jim Thorpe Olympic Gold Medalist 1888**

30<sup>th</sup> **President John F. Kennedy 1917**

31<sup>st</sup> **Memorial Day 1868**

**Turkey Season Ends**



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**Emergency Services**

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



Send ARTICLES to: Diana Garrow, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758 Phone 802-259-2314 or E-Mail to [chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net)

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

**Donation Thank Yous:** Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) \* Ted Stryhas (Ted Stryhas Builder) \* Wayne Jones (Wayne Jones Metalworking) \* Zena & Robert Gates \* John & Linnea Winze \* Don & Robin Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) \* Kelly Beerman (Farm & Wilderness Ninevah Foundation) \* Patti & Kevin Plew (Plew Farm) \* Trip Pearce (Harry's Café) \* Mary & Jeff Smith (Smith Maple Cres Farm Grass Fed Beef/Maple Syrup) \* Sara & Scott Merenda \* Craig Tomkinson \* Michael Huck (Champlain Timbercraft) \* Joe & Lisa Donohue (Thrive Center of The Green Mountains) \*



**May Birthdays:** 2<sup>nd</sup> -Dawn Howlett \* 3<sup>rd</sup> -Karl Parsells III \* Lois Miller 5<sup>th</sup> -Debby Bernagozzi \* Olivia Turco 10<sup>th</sup> -Amy Taylor 16<sup>th</sup> -Heather Garrow \* Chad Getchell 17<sup>th</sup> -Hilary Swezey-Hurst 19<sup>th</sup> -Allison Bussino (2013) 20<sup>th</sup> -Patrick Chadburn 24<sup>th</sup> -Greg Herbst \* Christopher Jacobs \* Jordan Devereux 26<sup>th</sup> -Karen Blodgett \* Brigid Sullivan \* Austin Turco \* Amy Turco 30<sup>th</sup> -Jeffery Columb II \* Linda Roberts 31<sup>st</sup> -Tom Veysey \* Beth Hart



**May Anniversaries:** 3<sup>rd</sup> -Donna & Rick Lee 16<sup>th</sup> -Jack & Kathleen Koponen 17<sup>th</sup> -Bill & Mary Ellen Jacobs 18<sup>th</sup> -Dennis & Fern Melvin \* Jeff & Lucy Columb (1985) 28<sup>th</sup> -Steve & Maria Howard \* Jim & Kathy Heald 56 yrs 30<sup>th</sup> -Douglas & Lynnette Devereux 52 yrs 31<sup>st</sup> -Sarah & Zak Delphia

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](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net) or call me at 802-259-2314.

## Local Post Office Hours

<b>Mount Holly</b>		<b>802-259-2796</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm Sat
		7:30 am – 10:30 am
<b>Belmont</b>		<b>802-259-2790</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
<b>East Wallingford</b>		<b>802-259-2829</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
<b>Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury</b>		<b>802-492-3585</b>
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am
	&	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 11:00 am
<b>Ludlow</b>		<b>802-228-7436</b>
Post Master:	Dawn Howlett	
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	6:30 am – 5:30 pm
	Sat	6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	8:30 am – 10:30 am
Wallingford Post Master	Denise Young – 802-446-2140	



## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to [chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto: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.
<b>Classified:</b>	\$ 2	\$ 5.50	\$10	\$ 15	\$ 20
<b>Business Card:</b>	\$15	\$40	\$75	\$115	\$150
<b>Quarter Page:</b>	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
<b>Third Page:</b>	\$45	\$125	\$225	\$350	\$450
<b>Half Page:</b>	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$750
<b>Full Page:</b>	\$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](http://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.

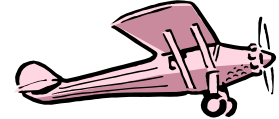
The Annual Membership meeting is held on the Third Tuesday in September in the Mount Holly Town Office at 6 p.m. The meeting includes the annual report and election of the Board of Directors

**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.

**May 10, 1775** – Ethan Allen and Green Mountain Boys captured the British- held Fortress at Fort Ticonderoga, New York.

**May 20, 1927** - 1<sup>st</sup> Solo Transatlantic Flight of Charles Lindbergh

**May 20, 1932** – 1<sup>st</sup> Solo Transatlantic Flight by a Woman Amelia Earheart



### Strew Niklasson

Strew Niklasson, 53, of Mount Holly, died Monday, March 21, 2022, at the Rutland Regional Medical Center, after a brief illness. He was born in Middletown, Connecticut, the son of Roy and Patricia (Merkle) Niklasson.

Strew furthered his education in trade schools, after high school. He married Michelle Flanders on June 23, 2006. They had been together since 1993.

He had been employed by the Housing Trust of Rutland County as a maintenance supervisor. He was a perfectionist and took pride in his work.

Family was everything. He loved hunting with his daughter, Kassidy, and sugaring with his son, Brenden, along with camping and fishing and building. Strew is survived by his wife, Michelle; children, Brenden Niklasson, Kassidy Niklasson USAF, and special “children,” Heather Graham and Jenna Colvin; brother, Torr (Ann) Niklasson, of Castleton; sister, Karen (Paul) Morris, of Tinmouth; brothers-in-law, Bobby (Jona) Flanders, of Clarendon, Keith (Candee) Flanders, of Mount Holly; mother-in-law, Claudia Flanders, of Rutland; stepmother, Betty Niklasson; nieces and nephews, Jakob, Sarah, Ryan and Emily Flanders, Brady and Tyler Niklasson, Courtney Brookbanks, Paula Niklasson and Greg Carlson.

He was predeceased by his parents and father-in-law, Harold Flanders. Calling hours were held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, at the Aldous Funeral Home, 44 North Main St., Rutland. Burial will be at a later date in the East Clarendon Cemetery. The family requests no flowers; however, fruit bushes and trees would be welcome to add to the memorial garden the family is planning. Contributions in Strew’s memory may be made to the Vermont Association for the Blind, 60 Kimball Ave., South Burlington, VT 05403.

### John M. Smith

John Michael Smith, 50, died March 22, 2022, at Rutland Regional Medical Center, with family by his side, of liver disease.

He was born July 20, 1971, in Rutland, the son of Richard and Mary (Cobb) Smith. He graduated from Rutland High School. Mr. Smith worked many years as a carpenter for Josselyn Brothers in Cuttingsville. He enjoyed sports and fishing with the guys.

Survivors include six siblings, Jeff Smith, of Mount Holly, Brian Smith, of Springfield, Joseph Smith, Michelle Smith-Moulton, Sharon Peters, all of Rutland, and twin sister, Jodie Marchetti, of Rutland Town; nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents, grandparents, many uncles, aunts and cousins. The funeral service will be at noon Saturday, April 2, at Tossing Funeral Home, followed by a celebration of life at American Legion Post #31 of Rutland.



### Got Bees?

Warmer weather can cause honeybee colonies to divide, swarm and go looking for a new home. If you see a mass of honeybees hanging in the open from your house, a tree or shrub branch, or anyplace, this probably is a honeybee swarm. They are not aggressive and should not be disturbed or harmed. Call me as soon as you see them and I will come by to collect them from your property, no charge. Call Jim of Fenn Farmstead & Gardens



at 802-259-2311.

## Suppers For Mount Holly Organizations

Settings Start 5:00 pm

At

**The Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont**

**All You Can Eat - Served Home Style**

**Adults - \$15 & Children Under 12 - \$8**



May 28<sup>th</sup> Colfax Lodge, Community Guild & Historical Museum For Ukraine - Baked Ham

June 18<sup>th</sup> MHVFD - Roast Beef

July 4<sup>th</sup> Odd Fellows - Chicken BBQ 11:30 am  
After Town Parade also that day Step off at 11:00 am



July 23<sup>rd</sup> Mt. Moriah Masons - Baked Ham

Aug 20<sup>th</sup> MHVFD Auxiliary - Roast Pork

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> Historical Museum - Baked Ham

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> MHV Rescue Squad - Roast Ham

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Colfax Lodge – Roast Pork

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Gill Home, IOOF – Baked Ham



**Take Outs Available With All Dinners  
More Info Call 802-259-2460**

## FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR THE GRENIER FAMILY

Colfax Lodge #21, IOOF will be joined by several other local groups to offer a spaghetti and meat ball dinner at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the hall in Belmont. Take-out meals will be available starting at 4:30. This is an opportunity to support the Grenier family as Mrs. Grenier has started some medical treatments.

The food has been donated by members of local organizations and area grocery stores. The meal will include salad, bread and a dessert with a suggested donation of \$10, and \$5 for children under six. You certainly may contribute any amount to help the family.

Please contact Dennis at 802-259-2460 or [ddevereux@vermontel.net](mailto:ddevereux@vermontel.net) with any questions.

## April 2022, Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 Trestleboard

Next meeting Tuesday 5/12 7:30 PM

Greetings Brothers,

Congratulations to our two newest members, Patrick Start, who is WM Dennis Start's son, and Dennis Wilson, who is Ed Wilson's son. They will fill the Senior and Junior steward chairs respectfully.

WE need to decide on when to have a ceremony for a 50-year member next month, with a possible meal.

Now that spring is here we will start work on 2 projects. Rick Boise will be upgrading the electrical needs, to bring us up to code, and a new railing on the parking lot side of the lodge will be constructed.

When you receive your dues notice please send your payment to Buster Seward, 4280 Sugar Hill Rd. East Wallingford, Vt. 05742. Your secretary has been learning how to use the website to print and send dues out. Fraternaly, Dennis Start W.M., Buster Seward Sec'y

### The Boot Pro's Generosity Weaves Meaningful Community Connections

Alex and Shon Racicot, owners of Ludlow's Boot Pro, recently initiated raffling off a pair of Atomic Skis. Proceeds benefit Ascutney Outdoors and The Expeditionary School at Black River, a generous sum of \$6010 was raised. This money will now help sustain each of these program's commitment to connecting people with their land. At its core, though, what distinguishes Boot Pro's donation from other charitable moments, is its spirit of strengthening community by expanding local-area networks.

In the midst of the pandemic, ESBR opened its doors on September 8, 2020. In 2015, Ascutney Outdoors was formed to take responsibility for the management, oversight and development of recreational educational and community activities and conservation of land at Mount Ascutney. Both organizations are a community-driven approach to ensuring the natural environment is maintained and sustainable.

From its inception, ESBR's Board of Trustees set out to establish a school that would be situated in the heart of their community. To accomplish this vision, the school's strategic plan continues to be framed by these educational pillars: environmental stewardship, outdoor adventure, community engagement, and civic responsibility. ESBR looks forward to exploring AO's network of trails and using it as one of their outdoor "classrooms." Like AO, ESBR has relied on a ton of pro bono support to get started. The Racicot's introduction of the leaders of these organizations is just the beginning to ensuring the younger generation of outdoor enthusiasts learns how to preserve and regenerate the environment here in southern Vermont and beyond. Kendra Rickerby, Ph.D., Head of School



### The International Time Navigators Association (ITNA) teaches invaluable life lessons at The Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR)



On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, agents from the fictional organization, The International Time Navigators Association, will be live on stage at Ludlow's Town Hall auditorium.

Written entirely by the Expeditionary School at Black River's student body, "We Are Nature" is a comedy. The ITNA agents go forward in time to look back on, and reflect on the ways in which today's climate challenges could have been different. Resolving the causes of pollution is the script's overarching theme.

When their time capsule lands in the future, Damian turns to Desmond, and declares: "Where else would we be? We're in the future! In order to find out how we can fix the past, where's a better place to go than the future?" The ITNA agents are determined to figure out how to minimize the destruction occurring to the earth's ecosystem. They find themselves back in a school in 2022, trying to blend in, and trying to understand how to influence changes in human behavior.

Having had to postpone this live performance a number of times due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID, students decided

to incorporate that reality into the script's themes as well. These fictional characters come to the conclusion that developing "informed and integrative thinking skills" is one step toward resolving pollution and saving the planet.

Directed by Susan Haefner, this learning experience was made possible by a Vermont Arts Council grant. Please join the ESBR community on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM for a live performance of "We Are Nature."

Tickets can be purchased in advance at [esblackriver.org/social-fundraisers](http://esblackriver.org/social-fundraisers) or at the door.

For additional information, contact Kendra Rickerby, Head of School, at [krickerby@esblackriver.org](mailto:krickerby@esblackriver.org)

**Mount St. Joseph Academy Annual Auction ~ Goes live ONLINE ~ April 25th - May 8th.**

Join us for the Mount St. Joseph Academy (MSJ) Annual Auction, going LIVE online ~ April 25th - May 8th, with ALL proceeds to benefit the MSJ Parent & Friends Committee's fundraising goals. You can find more information here: <https://www.facebook.com/MSJVermont> and <https://www.msjvermont.org/support-msj>

What once was a dinner dance & auction, has taken creative form in cyberspace. It is made possible by generous members of the community and MSJ alumni.

**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](mailto:Flanders.excavating@gmail.com)

**Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered**

**Someone is out taking pictures of Mount Holly...It Should Be You!\***

If you are thinking of taking photos for entry into the next **Mount Holly Photo & Calendar Contest**, you should be out taking photos now and beat the crowd! Entry forms will be available in July, deadline will be in September, and judging will take place in October during **Cider Days**. Anyone can enter up to three photos, but they **must all be of Mount Holly**.



**The Mount Holly Photo & Calendar Contest for 2022**

For more information:  
Craig Tomkinson  
(802) 259-3947  
[mthollyphotos@gmail.com](mailto:mthollyphotos@gmail.com)

\*This is the same damned ad they ran last year. The Committee to Promote Photography in Mount Holly is getting lazy.

Mount St. Joseph Academy has provided a tradition of academic excellence in the Rutland Region for well over a century. MSJ was founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1882. All winners will be announced once the auction closes. Many fantastic items & deals await your perusal, with just a click!

While donations are complete for the 2022 Auction; items large or small, are always welcomed. If you are interested in donating an item or service for 2023, please contact 802-775-0151. Thank you in advance for supporting MSJ - Go Mounties!

Media Contacts: Carly Ward <[cward@msjvermont.org](mailto:cward@msjvermont.org)> Ingrid & Paul Gallo <[magicbrush@me.com](mailto:magicbrush@me.com)> Jill Blanchard <[Jill.Blanchard@omya.com](mailto:Jill.Blanchard@omya.com)>

**Hello Green Up Peeps!**

There are bags for the taking at the door to the community room, downstairs at

the library, and on the porch at town offices. Be sure to let me know what roads, how many bags and people for your group. This is important information for the state coordinator to plan for next year.

Check back for details on May 7th and thanks for caring about our community! 📧📞 Contact me at 802-779-5062 or 802-259-2279, Marianne Check the Facebook page. Mount Holly Green Up Day and share it. Thanks

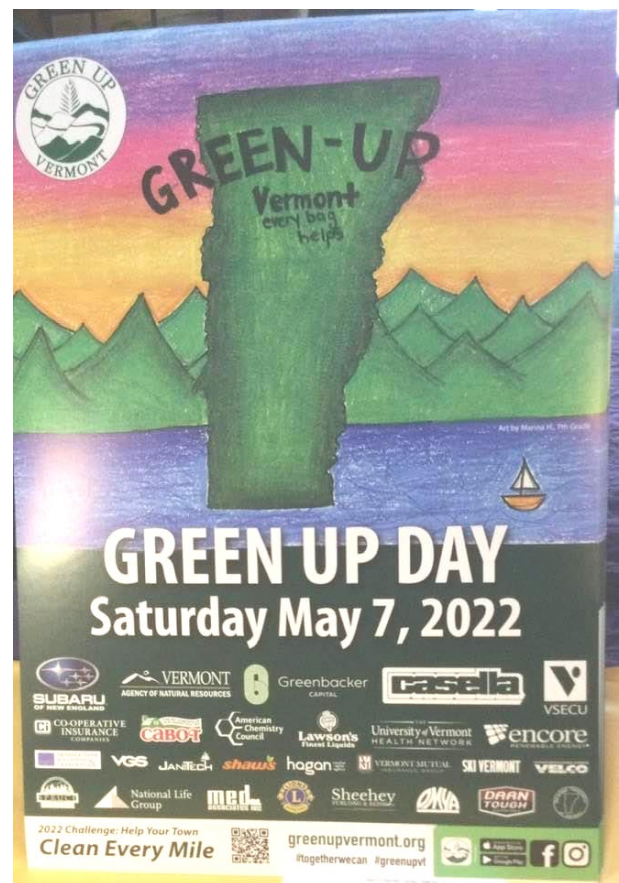
**Mount Holly School Now Has A Running Club!**



The newly formed club participants will be getting a cool shirt. It will be a white shirt, with the front design as pictured above, and sponsoring business logos on the back. The kids participating in the club will tie dye them

before the end of the school year to make them really stand out.

For \$100 we will add your logo, but for \$150 we will add your logo and have the students tie dye a shirt for you!



**TREE STUMP GRINDING**

**Beardmore Excavating Inc.**

**802-342-3507**

I will be placing an order for the shirts by 4/29 and will need to have the design finalized to turn in, so I will need an electronic file with your logo to submit for design.

What do you say?!? Want to help us celebrate and inspire kids to be active outside?

Contact me by email at [katiehollebeek@gmail.com](mailto:katiehollebeek@gmail.com) or by phone at 802-773-2417 Katie Hollebeek

## Dear MSJ Friends & Family,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Carly Ward, and I am the new Director of Alumni Relations & Development here at MSJ. I grew up in the Rutland area, graduating from Mill River High School in 2015. I attended Coastal Carolina University and have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree with a focus in Hospitality, Resort, and Tourism Management.

Some may know me from my career in Wedding Coordinating. For a few years, I was a Wedding Coordinator at the Mountain Top Resort in Chittenden VT. I am very goal driven, family oriented, competitive, and take pride in school spirit. I enjoy watching & playing sports, going out to dinner, and attending social gatherings!

I look forward to becoming a part of the Mountie family. The high school years have a long lasting impact on our lives, and I want to help our students strive to achieve their goals by showing them how great the MSJ Alumni Community is. Involved, Informed, and Aspiring Leaders.

I enjoy listening to the alumni stories and hope to hear yours soon. Sincerely, Carly Ward, MSJ Director of Alumni Relations & Development 802-775-0151 Ext. 2015 [cward@msjvermont.org](mailto:cward@msjvermont.org)



*Volunteers, horses and riders stop for a break and a little chat during a lesson at Rainbow Riding Center*

## Horse'n Around, No Experience Needed

*Join Us for a Volunteer Clinic Saturday, May 14th*

The days are longer, the sun warmer (some days) and it's time for warm weather activities to begin. The horses and ponies are shedding their winter coats and Rainbow Riding Center is getting ready for another fun season. Besides a lot of brushing to shed the ponies of their winter coats, we're readying the riding ring, cleaning tack and clearing the trails that wind through forest and field.

Reinbow Riding Center is a non-profit therapeutic horsemanship center in Belmont, Vermont. Our program is designed to improve the wellbeing of individuals with unique physical, emotional and cognitive challenges through a therapeutic equine experience. In order to do this we need

volunteers to help us in many different capacities.

We begin our program each spring as soon as the weather and ground conditions allow. To do this we need your help. Volunteers are a big part of our program allowing us to give more individuals an opportunity to participate in this beneficial program. We kick the season off providing our services to area school children and continue throughout the summer and fall.

Some of the fun includes grooming, tacking up, leading the horses or being a side walker lending a little support to a rider. Non-equine activities might include trail clearing, putting up or fixing fences, office work, photography/video taping, helping with social media or brainstorming to develop new games and challenges. Whatever your expertise or inclination if you think you might like to join us to help these riders accomplish their goals we'd be glad to have you.

If you are looking for a new experience why not give us a try. Everyone is welcome to attend the Volunteer Clinic we will be holding on Saturday, May 14 from 10-12 noon at Stone Wall Farm, 892 Tarbellville Road in Belmont. You don't need to know anything about horses. We'll introduce you. As long as you can walk alongside a rider in case they need a steadying hand and are willing to learn, you'll fit right in. You must be 14 years of age to work with the horses. Students and others can participate and get credit for community service requirements.

Come see what we're all about, what you might do as a volunteer and sign up if you'd like to have a good time in the company of beautiful horses, a dedicated staff of instructors and children and adults that know just how cool this program really is. You can help us bring joy to kids and adults and have fun doing it!

For questions or directions to the Center check out the web at [rainbowridingcenter.org](http://rainbowridingcenter.org) or email: [janetupton@rainbowridingcenter.org](mailto:janetupton@rainbowridingcenter.org). Volunteer applications and our Volunteer Handbook are available on the website and available by mail if you email us. We'll also have them available at the Clinic. Please check us out on Facebook, [Twitter@ReinbowRiding](https://www.facebook.com/ReinbowRiding) and [Instagram@reinbow\\_riding\\_center](https://www.instagram.com/reinbow_riding_center). If you would like to volunteer but can't attend the Clinic on May 14, please contact us.

Mount Holly School

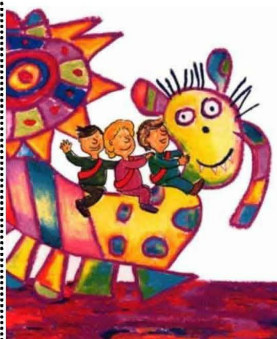
# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

3:00—4:00 p.m.

By Appointment

(802) 259-2392



For children who will be 5 years old  
on or before August 31, 2022

Please bring the following:

1. A birth certificate
2. All immunization records
3. Residency documentation
4. Completed Registration forms

Families are invited to meet with Mrs. Craver and hear  
all about what kindergarten has to offer.



*Students currently enrolled in the MHS  
preschool program will not need to register again  
for Kindergarten.*

## MHCA May News

April Showers bring May flowers...Is this really true in the Green Mountains? The origin of this phrase actually comes from the United Kingdom, so we might conclude that this is not necessarily true for the Green Mountains. However, according to the almighty google, there is a deeper meaning that generally transcribes to hardship or adversity can lead to better things. And for the MHCA that is certainly true as we are knee deep in planning for our warmer weather events and gearing up for our membership drive in June. We are looking forward to the Music on the Green, the Garden Tour, and Mount Holly Day all slated for July, you can find details in the next month's chit chat.

The Board has also been working on a welcome letter for new community members. As enthusiastic members of our community with a common belief that we live in a special place, the Board has been having an ongoing conversation about how we can extend greetings to folks new to Mount Holly. We finally decided on a Welcome Letter. It has been challenging to decide what should be included, one of the questions we considered was "what's important to know about a new community"? We settled on a basic overview of the MHCA, other groups and volunteer opportunities to explore, and a few basics that we thought new residents might want to know. We are working on the final version and hope to have it ready to go out by our June membership mailing.

### Dates for upcoming events:

July 7th Music on the Green (every Thursday evening at 6:30 thru August)

July 16th Garden Tour 9:30am - 4pm

July 24th Mount Holly Day Noon - 3pm

Here's hoping for some May flowers and no more snow showers!




## Calling All Gardeners!

Planning for our perennial favorite,  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mount Holly Garden Tour  
Is underway!

Please consider sharing your garden  
in this delightful community tradition

For more information, contact Leah Knoll  
802-259-4137 or [leahknoll@yahoo.com](mailto:leahknoll@yahoo.com)

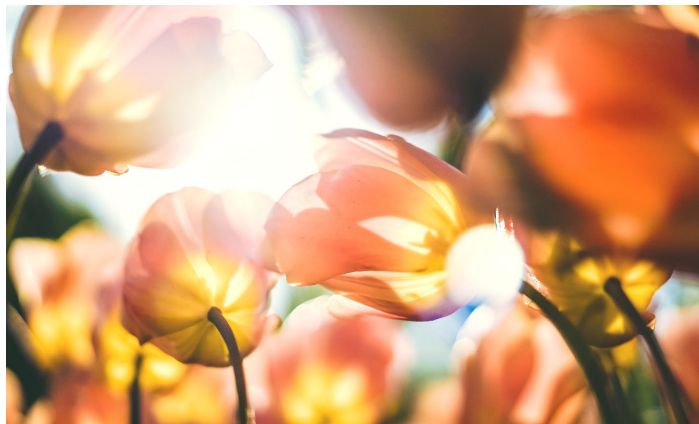


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### Attention High School Seniors

The Mount Holly Community Guild gives two scholarships to graduating seniors who live in Mount Holly, to be used to continue their education. If you are interested in applying for one of these scholarships please contact Judy Nevin at [jbnevin@gmail.com](mailto:jbnevin@gmail.com).

## Mount Holly Towy Library

Welcome to Spring! The library book drop is open again 24/7 for the return of library material

**Mark your calendars:** Mt Holly resident Judith Bougas will be reading from her novel "The Sisters of the Stone" on Saturday June 4th at 1:00 pm at the library.

The Manhattan Short Film Festival is returning for the following showings: Sept. 22nd at 7:00 pm, Sept. 24th at 2:00 pm, Sept. 28th at 7:00. All showings are in the library.

Stay tuned for information about a program for kids in July and more info about our big book sale! Dates and times to be announced here on the Chit Chat.

## Star Lake Update

The ice is out, but it is not time to get wet – YET! This is a call for volunteers to help at Star Lake once the water gets warmer. Our theme: WE CAN MAKE STAR LAKE BETTER (with a lot of work).



We want to continue making the Lake Street end of Star Lake more accessible for swimming and boating. This will involve raking and removing weeds and decayed vegetation and, beginning in July (pending final approval), employing bottom barriers to prevent vegetation from reemerging.

If you would like to help, please email one of us. We want to establish a team on which younger members of the community are well

## The Annual Mount Holly Photo Judging & Calendar Competition

Entry forms will be available\* at:

- The Belmont Store (definitely)
- The Mount Holly Town Offices (probably)
- The Mount Holly Library (maybe)
- Town Dump (nope)  
(but not until June)\*

Entries will be due by Monday,  
September 18, 2022



The Mount Holly Photo & Calendar Competition for 2022

For more information: Craig Tomkinson  
(802) 259-3947 • [mthollyphotos@gmail.com](mailto:mthollyphotos@gmail.com)

\*There's always a catch, right?



# Horses On The Road

## IT'S THE LAW Title 23§1127 That horses have the right-of-way On all roads.

Horse owners and riders are asking that you slow down.  
Give the horse some extra room, and proceed with caution.

There are many things that frighten a horse:

- The sounds of different road conditions.
- Water puddles or if it's raining.
- Maybe you hit a big pothole with your vehicle.
- Stones on a dirt road – the sound of them hitting your vehicle, or when they fly out from the tires.
- Maybe you are pulling a trailer and the items in it are making loud noises.

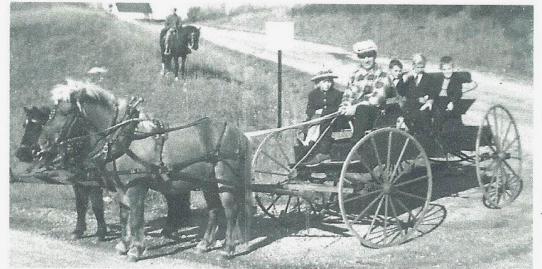
Things like these can cause even the best-trained horse to become afraid and make unexpected movements – SOMETIMES JUMP INTO THE ROADWAY!

WE SHARE THE SAME ROADS. SO PLEASE PASS THE WORD ON.  
SLOW DOWN AND GIVE A HORSE AND RIDER  
SOME EXTRA ROOM FOR SAFETY.

THANK YOU

FROM THE  
VERMONT  
HORSE COUNCIL

[www.vthorsecouncil.org](http://www.vthorsecouncil.org)



represented. There is ample opportunity for physical work, but other tasks are available as well. Please join us. Your children will thank you.

Phil Leonard – [p.leonard@asu.edu](mailto:p.leonard@asu.edu) Anna McGee Hanson – [anna.hanson30@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hanson30@gmail.com)

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our fallen heros.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.



## How Will You Die?

**It was Woody Allen, the witty, neurotic comedian/filmmaker who once quipped,** “I am not afraid of death, I just don’t want to be around when it happens.” He was trying to be funny, but he also stated, more seriously, “Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering- and it’s all over much too soon.” Now if you ask people, “how would you prefer to die?”, most will say, “quickly... like, hit by a truck or a sudden heart attack while doing something I love.”



But is that really how a Christian should see death and dying? I would say, “No!” In fact, this preference for dropping dead is quite modern. Until recently, Christians aimed for a *holy* death, not a quick one. One writer from the middle ages pleads with God to deliver His faithful from a sudden and unprepared-for death. The 15th C theological work, *The Art of Dying*, suggests Christians should define a “good death” as one in which people had been reconciled with their loved ones and to the God in whose presence they would soon stand.

In modern Western thought there is talk of “taming death” (somehow holding it back) or “outsourcing” death. In the not so distant past death used to happen at home with family surrounding. It now usually happens in medical settings. Extended life expectancy, by God’s grace, has been provided through human ingenuity. Never-the-less, we have recently become a “death denying” culture, with a callousness towards the death of others. To paraphrase Stalin’s infamous quip, the deaths of others become statistics, not tragedies. Or, in time of pandemic (or foreign war), trends on a graph. Replacing the “art of dying” with medical sterility is, perhaps, why so many have died alone during Covid, isolated from the love and comfort of family. That is *so* sad, and at times, completely unnecessary.

Just after the New Year, my dad, Allan spent a week in the hospital. I could tell by my brief phone call with him that he was languishing there. When asked, the doctor said, “If it were *my* dad I’d bring him to his own home.” We did so, caring for him in his own bed. Though he could only nod his head, we smiled and read and sang until he quietly and peacefully stopped breathing earthly air and inhaled his first celestial air. He did not die alone... unlike so many thousands who’ve died leaving family with no closure. That is just *wrong*. Many in the medical field are now aiming to end the needless separation of families from their ill loved ones.

The early Christians often faced martyrdom alone with joy rather than renounce their allegiance to the One who died for them and rose again. Others tended to the sick during terrifying epidemics, completely disregarding their own lives, seeing death from sickness as simply another form of martyrdom and a doorway to a better life. Their pagan neighbors were stunned by their fearlessness & unquenchable hope.

In our modern “death ignoring” age, we need to bring back the Christian tradition of dying well. Once again, the world needs what only Christianity offers: the promise of resurrection, a Guide to lead us past the gates of death, a world beyond this one in which all that is sad is made untrue, and a hope that stands unshaken by the circumstances of this world. Our broken, frightened culture desperately needs examples of folks who, after a lifetime of living well, are prepared to die well and to be with those who die. What a witness we can be to a culture that has forgotten how to die. *Pastor Glenn*

Mount Holly School

# PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Tuesday, May 17, 2022  
12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.  
By Appointment

(802) 259-2392

For children who will be 3 years old  
on or before August 31, 2022

Please bring the following:

1. A birth certificate
2. All immunization records

Families are invited to join us in our outdoor classroom.  
Boots recommended!

You and your preschooler will see and hear all about our preschool program. We will have photos of our indoor classroom on display and we look forward to having you explore our outdoor classroom too.

Ms. Jenna, Ms. Devin and Ms. Rae will all be on hand to answer questions and provide important information about the program.

# FML News

Fletcher Memorial Library  
May - 2022

## SPRING 2021

### Inside FML: (New/Enhanced Services Soon)

FML was selected by the Vermont Department of Libraries to be one of the 30 initial participants in a NEW DOWNLOADABLE service. This will be referred to as PALACE. Palace is an application in which our "Libby" and new VT Department of Libraries download programs may be accessed. FML staff is excited to participate in the trial group. More news to follow . . . *Many thanks to the VT Dept. of Libraries and the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences for their funding of this free library service.*

Jill Laramie, reference staff, has been a busy bee sorting all of the drawers and cabinets under our marble circulation desk. It is a very long and tedious process and we are getting closer to cataloging everything and adding it into our on-line collection.

Our yearbook collection: **Black River Academy 1930 -1938** and **Black River High School 1939 - 2020**, is now available on-line. Click the tab in the menu [www.fmlnews.org](http://www.fmlnews.org) to search, print, cut/past all from your own device or in the library. Copyright free. There is a tutorial from the company on our page as well. In the future, as time allows, I make an easy cheat sheet with steps to follow. Enjoy!

Coming by July - a new catalog page "ASPEN" that will be integrated into our system and replace the awkward one now there. It is much more intuitive and hopefully useful. More info TBD.



### CLOSED: May 30th, Memorial Day

We are in high hopes of bringing back our Annual Book Sale (August 20th) and our Holiday Silent Auction. Stay Tuned for Details. These are our only fund raisers and we have miss them. PLEASE HOLD ALL book donations until July 15th.

Interested in assisting at the book sale? Please call Beth 228-8921

Keep Posted for More Info. TY



Thank You for Your

Continued Library Support.

Past, Present and Future!

Fletcher Memorial Library is a 501 (c)3 organization  
[www.fmlnews.org](http://www.fmlnews.org) 802-228-8921

### \*\*\* Hall Rental in Belmont \*\*\*

The use of the Hall in Belmont is scheduled by contacting Carol at 802-259-2791, or at [tcg2791@yahoo.com](mailto:tcg2791@yahoo.com) . You may also leave a message with Dennis at 802-259-2460, or at [ddevereux@vermontel.net](mailto:ddevereux@vermontel.net) .



### Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings  
9:00 am

Odd Fellows Hall

For Weights and more information  
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

## State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury

Hello from Montpelier. We are fully in the end-of-session shuffle. This is a crazy time of year. It feels like we are close adjourning, but it is still hard to tell today what is actually going to pass this year aside from what has passed already. It's also uncertain when we will actually adjourn. And even more uncertain what the Governor will sign and veto of the bills that may pass. It feels like each year that I've been here this part has gotten crazier, but part of that may be that I'm more aware of what's going on and more involved in conversations that I was not as a first-term legislator.

I think I talked about this in past articles and somewhat at Town Meeting, but my committee spent most of the first half of this session working on a big workforce development bill, H.703, which would put a lot of money into various technical education programs. It is a very far-reaching bill, with specific incentives for areas where we are seeing extraordinary need, like nursing, but also sets up systems for more general assistance for people looking to enter/reenter the workforce or to change careers. That bill has not yet passed the Senate, so right now a lot of our focus is trying to iron out the policy differences we have with the Senate with hopes that we can pass that bill before we adjourn.

And this seems to be happening all throughout the building right now. There are big policy bills in just about every committee in both chambers that are still up in the air and some are taking somewhat dramatic shifts in policy seemingly overnight. Universal School Meals is one such policy that seems like a priority for many in the building, and the scope seems to change week-to-week. There are also multiple bills reforming different aspects of Act 250, but a lot of uncertainty as to which will make it out on time. This time of year we colloquially talk about "Christmas Trees" and "hostages", as some bills which are important to certain legislators or committees become hostages for another bill that's important to someone else, while other bills get issues and policies added on like ornaments on a Christmas Tree. This process always worries me because otherwise good bills become vehicles containing poison pills the Governor disagrees with and may cause him to veto an otherwise great bill with one such "ornament" he disagrees with.

I am also starting to feel the election-year politics creep into the State House more these past couple weeks. Obviously there are multiple people in the legislature running for Congress or higher office in the legislature and they try to score their "points" where they can. It also seems like the Governor has been less forthcoming about what he is looking for in any given policy until it passes and then he vetoes it and offers what he would accept. We've seen this multiple times already this session, with the Charleston loophole bill we thought he supported until he vetoed it and only then offered a compromise, and again with the contractor registry bill which we still hope to come to a compromise on. We are adjourning a little earlier this year than some years and it seems to be because we are expecting the Governor to veto the budget, but he won't tell us what compromises he'd accept now, seemingly because he wants the headline of vetoing the budget. I don't mean to give the impression that we don't work well together, because 99% of the time everyone is at the table, but that's also what makes it that much more frustrating when someone chooses not to be.

Should have more to talk about next month as we should be adjourned by then, and also thinking I'll be able to restart coffee hours after we do adjourn so I'll have more on that.

Talk soon, as always you can still call or text anytime, Logan Nicoll, State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury 802-345-8430

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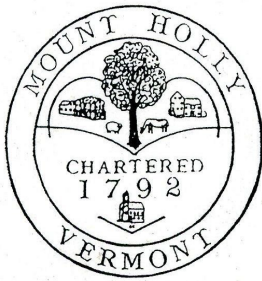
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### Mount Holly Town News

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

#### Mount Holly Select Board Meeting April 11, 2022 Minutes In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Mark Turco

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

(Chair)

**Town Officials:** Caitlin Boyle, Dennis Devereux, Philippe Crane, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Jon McCann, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Clinton Woolley

**Members of the Public:** In Person: Paul Barton, Zena Gates, Stephen Michel, Via Zoom: Francis and Carol DeVine, Chad Farrar, Barbara & Steve Hazelton, Marianne McGee, Marie Paquette, Renee Samento, Donna Seward, Sue Starr-Adams

**To Contact Mt. Holly Town Road Crew, call the Town Garage at 802-259-3179**

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

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

**3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** Mark Turco made one addition re: the Belmont Store liquor license (see New Business).

**4. Approval of March 8, 15, 22 Minutes:** Jeff Chase made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.

#### 5. Reports

##### a. Auditor Presentation

**i. Ms. Brittney Gilman from auditing firm RHR Smith** presented a summary of the Town Audit; the firm is auditing FY 19 and FY 20 concurrently. Ms. Gilman summarized the audit’s financial statements and noted that RHR Smith did not find any material weaknesses or insufficiencies in the audit.

**ii. Ms. Gilman called attention** to pages 61-67 of the audit, which is a special report on compliance and controls, and compares Mt. Holly’s established policies and procedures in comparison to best practices. She noted that the firm found no weaknesses in internal controls but highlighted one minor recommendation: a suggestion that a written pay rate form should be issued as a course of best practice.

**iii. Overall, Ms. Gilman noted** that this was a “clean audit” and representative of the financial position of the town.

**iv. The audit report** will be available for public review in hard copy at the Town Office asked; Mark Turco stated that the audit report can also be uploaded to the unofficial town website for digital access.

##### b. Highways & Transfer Station Update – Clinton Woolley

**i. Mr. Woolley reported** that the property owner who owns the road at the end of Summit Rd. Extension would like to improve the road to the town’s specifications and subsequently turn the road over to the town for ongoing maintenance. Mark Turco suggested scheduling a follow-up meeting for Mr. Woolley and a Select Board member to make a visit to the site to assess next steps.

**ii. Spring grading** will begin the week of April 18.

**iii. Mr. Woolley has priced** out the cost of running the excavator this year.

**iv. Culverts ordered** last year have been received and will be used for spring work; Jeff Chase suggested ordering additional needed culverts now, to prevent delivery delays.

**v. Mr. Woolley reported** that Tim Hubbard is interested in purchasing the recycling containers used at the Transfer Station prior to the introduction of single-stream recycling; the Select

Board did not see any reason not to proceed.

##### c. RRPC TAC – VPSP2 – Bridge List

**i. Bridge 64** is on the Bowlsville List. Jeff Chase noted that Bridge 15 is also on the priority list, per the Town of Wallingford’s selectboard meeting minutes.

**ii. Mr. Woolley noted** that Freeman Brook Road was built circa 1923 and might be a priority. Jeff Chase noted that Hortonville Road was prioritized last year; a grant application was also done for Sawyer Hill.

**iii. Dennis Devereux asked** whether there was an effort to put additional guardrails on Maple Hill Road. Mark Turco asked Mr. Woolley to procure poles for this purpose.

**iv. Town will apply** for additional VTrans Town Paving (Belmont Rd) and Structures Grants (Sawyer Box Culvert) – Grant Deadline 4/15/22

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Home: 802-259-2211  
Leave a phone number where Jim can call you back.  
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**SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS**

**CLOSED**  
**Mount Holly Town Office**  
**CLOSED Monday May**  
**30<sup>th</sup> In Observance**  
**Of Memorial Day**

**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.

**b. Treasurer – David Johnson - Monthly Income & Expense Report**

**i. David Johnson noted** that there is a new account for the fire department vehicle fund; the existing accounts will be closed and added to the new one, which will consolidate all fire department vehicle funds in one place.

**ii. Outstanding property taxes** are receivable at \$58,000 as of April 1. Three overdue payments have already been received by the Town. This is about the same as last year, and about the same number of properties. Property owners who are delinquent have been notified.

**iii. Mr. Johnson reported** the following as notable on the Town’s Profit and Loss Statement: 1) building construction registrations numbered 4-5 in March; construction costs are holding many things back, so budget projections are unlikely to be met in this area; 2) Additional lines of revenue include a reappraisal payment from the state and a revenue line for the Equalized Education Grand List payment from the state; 3) Solid waste label revenue is on track to meet budget projections at ~\$22,000; this is slightly under last year at this time; 4) the Casella bill has also been received.

**iv. Mr. Johnson noted** that re: waste disposal, the Transfer Station has received 14 tons less waste to date compared to last year; and about 6 tons less recycling.

**v. Sherri Geimer has been selected** for the position of Assistant to the Treasurer. Dennis Devereux pointed out that if David Johnson does not run for the Treasurer position again next year, there is an opportunity for the new Assistant to train for several months under David should he or she be interested in assuming the Treasurer role.

**a. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann**

**i. Jon McCann provided an update** on the Job Porter application for subdivision.

**d. Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) Update**

**i. Conservation Commission Chair Fra DeVine** noted that the Select Board should have received a restatement of policies and procedures approved by the CC at their last meeting; they elected a new slate of officers who will serve until October. These officers are Fra DeVine (Chair); Phil Leonard (Vice Chair); Fred Garrow (Treasurer); Clerk (Phil Leonard).

**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.

**ii. The CC’s shade tree** inventory is continuing.

**iii. The Star Lake restoration** effort is being led by Phil Leonard; he is seeking permission to put in a bottom barrier at Star Lake (similar to what is at Lake Nineveh). The permit is being applied for now; there will be a ~30-day period during which the public can ask questions before the permit is a fait accompli. Mr. Leonard also found an opportunity to apply for a mini grant (\$600) from the Association of Vermont Conservation Coalitions (AVCC) for educating the public about the bottom barrier on Star Lake.

**iv. David Martin and Phil Leonard** have put together a list of recreational opportunities in Mt. Holly and will publish a brochure describing these opportunities for Town members and visitors.

**v. The Core Forest Committee** has identified areas where there has been significant development between 1992 and 2019 and is assessing



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how much core forest has been compromised by that development.

**vi. Diana Garrow asked** that the MCCC post its meeting minutes at the Town Office; MHCC meeting minutes are also posted online. Jeff Chase agreed to continue to print and post the meeting minutes at the Town Office.

**e. Packer Cemetery Agreement and Additional Cemetery Updates - Dennis Devereux**

**i. Dennis Devereux reported** that the Packer Cemetery funds will remain isolated from other cemetery funds, to be used only for Packer Cemetery; he is seeking volunteers to mow Packer Cemetery, and is also seeking topsoil to fill in areas that need it; Dennis will oversee re-seeding as needed. Phil Crane will also assess the trees in the cemetery.

**ii. Mr. Devereux noted** that the price per lot at Packer Cemetery is \$200 per lot; this is lowest in area (including among other cemeteries in Mt. Holly) and may be among the lowest in state. Dennis suggest that they raise the price to \$300 and advertise plot availability in the Chit Chat. (He noted that area towns charge more and already advertise in the Chit Chat. For example, Wallingford charges \$400; Weston charges \$500 for residents and \$1000 for non-residents; Ludlow gets \$850 per plot, plus additional fees.)

**6. New Business**

**a. Annual Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Update - Due to RRPC by 4/30/22**

**i. Jeff Chase reported** that he has made edits to the plan prior to its filing by 4/30; edits include adding a tagalong trailer to list; he also made adjustments to the list of official town contacts.

**ii. There was a motion** to accept the LEMP Plan as Updated. Diana Garrow made the motion; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

**b. RFP: FY23 Winter Sand**

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Road” sign off 155 should be removed, as this is not an actual town road. Paul Barton noted that he thinks the sign is an interesting feature of Mt. Holly and should not be taken down. Marie and Bruce Paquette (joining virtually) also expressed interest in the sign being taken down, as the road abuts their property and attracts snowmobiling traffic. Jim Seward noted that the road may provide state forest access. Mark Turco said he believes this is a state-owned sign that cannot be removed; he will reach out to Brian Sanderson (Agency of Transportation District Project Manager for the State of Vermont) to inquire further.

**e. Temporary Emergency Housing Assistance (897 Route 155)**

**i. Tim Bickford provided** information to the Select Board re: state policies regarding Temporary Emergency Housing Assistance; this is in regards to the property known as the The Blue Spruce Inn (897 Route 155).

**f. Personnel Policy**

**i. Jeff Chase noted** that a few items were adjusted in the draft Town of Mount Holly Personnel Policy; namely, two minor bank holidays have been designated as “floater” holidays that can be used at any time as a vacation day by Town employees.

**g. Star Lake Mowing**

**i. Dennis Devereux reported** that the Fitzgeralds are still planning on mowing at Star Lake beach. Diana Garrow will contact them to confirm they have continued interest in the job. (They also provide mowing to several town cemeteries and the museum.)

**h. Liquor License for Belmont Store**

**i. Jeff Chase made a motion** to approve the renewal of the liquor license for the Belmont Store for 2022; Mark Turco seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

**7. Ongoing Business**

**a. Select Board Administrative Assistant Hiring Update**

**i. Jeff Chase made a motion** to hire Caitlin Boyle for the Select Board Administrative Assistant position; Mark Turo seconded the motion; unanimously approved. The Select Board welcomed Caitlin to the position.

**b. Highway Department Openings**

**i. There have been two applications** to the highway department opening. Mark Turco noted that he would like to set up interviews for the individuals as soon as possible; there will be a special meeting of the Select Board for those interviews, to take place on Friday, April 15th at 3 pm in the Town Office.

**c. Summit Box Culvert Update and Authorized Signer for Summit Road Box Culvert Project**

**ii. Jeff Chase noted** that there are two different head wall options for the Summit Road Box Culvert Project; one will be selected. Mr. Chase and Mr. Woolley have inspected the culvert; proposed contractor Otter Creek Engineering has agreed to host a pre-con as part of scope of work for the contract; Otter Creek has signed the contract but the Select Board has not yet signed it.

**i. Jeff Chase noted** that he will be making minor edits to the RFP for a Winter Sand contract in time for next regular meeting of the Select Board, and will also post the RFP in public places.

**c. Naming of New Road (formerly Bolalek driveway)**

**i. The property owner** who purchased the parcels formerly owned by the Bolaleks is seeking permission to designate the property’s access driveway a private road with the name, “Jack Frost Lane Private.” The town will measure the road and approve the name (for 911 purposes only). Diana Garrow made a motion to assign the road formerly known as the Bolalek private drive “Jack Frost Lane Private.” Mark Turco seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

**d. Scampsville Road Signage**

**i. Dennis Devereux raised** concerns that the “Scampsville



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

**KEITH Hawkins**  
president

**LOCAL**

**HAWKINS EXCAVATION** Mount Holly, Vermont  
**802 558.3082**

**i. Dennis Devereux raised** concerns that the “Scampsville

**iii. Mark Turo made a motion** to assign Jeff Chase as the authorized signer for the project contract; Diana Garrow seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

**d. Junk Ordinance Enforcement - Rt 103, Rt 155, Gates Road**

**i. The property formerly known as the Blue Spruce Inn** is still in noncompliance with the Town Junk Ordinance. It is not known whether there is anyone currently living there. Jeff has established a line of communication with the property owner and the Select Board will continue to ticket the property owner; the Select Board will consult with the town attorney re: what to do if ticketing doesn’t resolve the issue.



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ii. **Linda Miller** wrote a letter of complaint to the Select Board re: three properties she believes to be in non-compliance with the Town Junk Ordinance. These properties include 830 Gates Road S; and the two adjacent properties at the corner of Gates Road S and Sharon Lane. Town Treasurer David Johnson noted that the first property is part of an estate and has been for several years; the second two are owned by the same property owner and the taxes are paid. Jeff Chase noted that the properties do not seem to be in noncompliance, according to the ordinance. Paul Barton noted that local custom and culture historically tolerated personal freedoms of property owners, and that the people of Mount Holly have been open-hearted to neighbors, with a sense of humor and kindness toward people

in unfortunate circumstances. Mark Turco noted that the care of abandoned properties is not under the jurisdiction of the Select Board, and that abandoned buildings don't fall under the town's junk ordinance. Mr. Turco and Jeff Chase agreed that property owners can be contacted via the contacts on their tax records and asked to take care of any hazards.

iii. **The property in noncompliance** with the Junk Ordinance on Route 103 has made some progress on cleanup. Jeff Chase will continue to communicate with property owners.

**e. Conservation Commission Appointment – Letter of Interest Due 4/11/22**

i. **One letter of interest** has been received for the MHCC position from Susan Presson. Diana Garrow made a motion to appoint Susan Presson to the Conservation Commission. Jeff Chase seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

**f. ARPA Update**

**i. Loss Revenue Acknowledgement**

1. Jeff Chase made a motion that “The Town of Mount Holly make the one-time irrevocable decision to elect the standard allowance approach for our ARPA award in the amount of \$371,863.98, to spend on provisions of government services throughout the performance of the grant. Diana seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

ii. Annual Reporting due 4/30/22

**g. Board of Adjustment**

i. **Stephen Michel** noted that the Town has a subdivision ordinance that references an appeal process for those appealing subdivision decisions from the Planning Commission.

ii. **Mark Turco and Diana Garrow recommended** that a letter be prepared to seek a panel of no more than five panelists (plus two alternates) who can serve as a Board of Adjustment for the Planning Commission.

**8. Citizen Comments**

i. **Christine Pratt** noted that the Mill River Union High School bus picks students up at the intersection of Summit Road and Route 103 and that this is not a safe place, particularly given winter weather, as there is no shelter. Mark Turco noted that this is likely an issue that needs to be raised directly with the Mill River Unified Union School District.

ii. **Andrew Tanger** shared that there is an S-turn on Route 155 that presents a traffic hazard; Jeff Chase noted that there is already a speed reduction posted in that area. Mark Turco will inquire with Brian Sanderson about this on his call re: Scampsville Road.

iii. **Paul Barton** noted that he picked up the classroom flags and brackets he had previously donated to MHES; Jeff Chase noted that he will follow up with the school re: the donation and believes some classrooms do already have flags hung.

**9. Announcements/Other Business**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**“Come One Come All”**

**Mount Holly  
Independence Day  
Parade**

**Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> - 11am - Belmont**

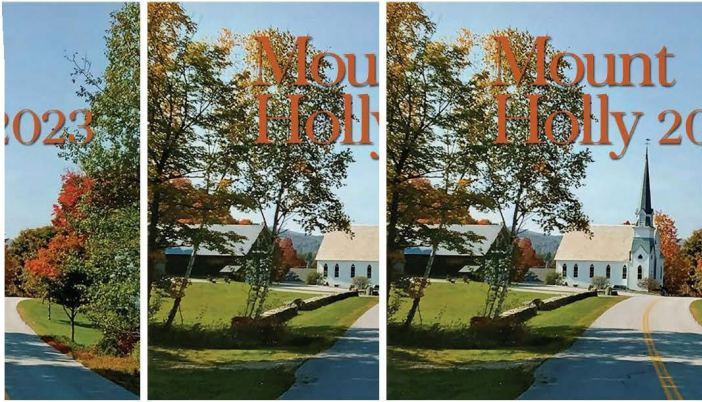
**Chicken BBQ at the  
Odd Fellows Lodge after the Parade**



# STOP!

...spending your money on silly things like food and the kids' education when you could be saving up to buy the soon to be available\* 2023

## Mount Holly Calendar.



\*So, the word "soon" is a relative term, right? It might be next week or it might be in June. (I wouldn't bet on next week, but good things do come to those that wait.)

a. Tabled for regular Select Board Meeting.

### 5. Adjourn

a. Meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm. Respectfully Submitted: Caitlin Boyle

### Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Special Work Meeting Minutes April 6, 2022

**Commission Members Present:** Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Schulz (Secretary), Brigid Sullivan, Andrew Seward

**Commission Members Absent:** none

**Also Present:** Renee Sarmento (Clerk), Stephen Michel, Christine Boudreau, Edward Burgess Marie Paquette, Bruce Paquette, Donna Seward

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

### 2. Changes to agenda

a. **Update on Facilities and Utilities** added to Town Plan Revisions (before current 4a)

### 3. Correspondence

#### a. Bolalek Subdivision

i. The Commission received an email sent by Bruce and Marie Paquette and Christine Boudreau, dated 2022-03-30, describing concerns about developments since the approval of subdivision 2021-03.

ii. The Chair previously distributed said email to the Commission. The Chair confirmed all Commissioners reviewed the email.

iii. The Chair summarized the facts of the 2021-03 subdivision decision and the Building Construction Registration that was received on 2022-03-07.

iv. The Chair asked the Commission if there was any additional information or discussion about the facts. Commissioner Schulz commented that the Planning Commission approved a 3-lot subdivision based in part on receipt of a waste water permit from the State, which as limited to 4 bedrooms. Commissioner Schulz wondered if our approval was predicated on the State decision that

a. Green Up Day is May 7, 2022. Marianne McGee noted that posters and bags have been distributed, including to the porch of the Town Office and at the community room of the Town Library. Ms. McGee will also post on Facebook and to the Mount Holly Newsflash; Diana Garrow also requested that it be sent to the Chit Chat by 4/22 for inclusion.

### 10. Review & Sign Orders

#### 11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3)

a. Mark Turco made a motion for an executive session; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

### 12. Adjourn

a. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

b. Executive Session was adjourned at 9:15 pm

### Special Select Board Meeting Minutes April 15, 2022 at 3:00 pm Mount Holly Town Office

**Present:** Selectboard Members: Mark Turco (Chair), Jeff Chase and Diana Garrow

**Town Officials Present:** Caitlin Boyle

**1.Call Meeting to Order:** Mark Turco called the meeting to order at 2:50 pm

### Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda.

a. Jeff Chase made a motion to move Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – Personnel, to the first order of the agenda; Marc Turco seconded; unanimously passed.

### 2. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel

a. Town Highway Maintenance Worker candidate interviews.

b. Mark Turco made a motion to end executive session; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved. Executive Session was adjourned at 4:09 pm.

### 3. Hire Town Highway Maintenance Worker

a. Jeff Chase made a motion to hire Robert F. Knight, Jr.; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously passed.

### 4. Adopt Town Personnel Policy

**YANKEE HOME MANAGEMENT**  
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MT. HOLLY, VT  
Keith Hawkins  
PRESIDENT



the site design can accommodate a 4-bedroom house.

v. The Chair asked the authors of the letter if they would summarize their concerns.

vi. Marie Paquette summarized their concerns: They learned there is to be a 6-bedroom new construction on one of the lots. In the public hearing on the subdivision application there was only consideration of no more than a 4-bedroom single family residence. First concern: they downloaded a map dated 2020 from the DEC permit search that showed four lots. If there are now 4-lots, why was it a minor subdivision? Second concern: can the site accommodate a 6-bedroom dwelling if it was reviewed for 4-bedrooms. Third concern: they heard it might not be single family residential use. If used as a bed and breakfast it is a different use. Concerned as the neighbors are downhill.

vii. Bruce Paquette stated he is also concerned about traffic.

viii. Christine Boudreau added there are ways around building a four bedroom and adding a “bonus room” used as a bedroom. Potential for two additional rooms that will be used as bedrooms.

ix. The Chair addressed the first concern about the number of lots created. He showed the approved subdivision design on camera to participants on Zoom. Showed the town only permitted the three lots, but the State permit approved four. Someone may need to update the State. Not sure what is required for the State.

x. Commissioner Andrew Seward stated he believes that the state can approve four lots, but the town can have the final say and only allow three lots. There is a recorded survey with three lots currently.

xi. Commissioner Schulz stated one issue is going from four bedrooms to six bedrooms which appears to be a violation of the state permit and may be a violation of Town approval. A second issue is the Building Registration form that they filed, which says there are six bedrooms proposed also describes the size of the lot as 7.9 acres which is the size of a lot on the four-lot subdivision filed with the state. It is not the size of a lot on the three-lot subdivision that the PC approved. He expressed concern that the Bolaleks sold lots inconsistent with what the Town approved.

xii. Regarding one of the citizen concerns: Chair noted that Commercial use on property this size would likely require an Act 250 permit. All in agreement to seek a jurisdictional opinion from Act 250 coordinator if needed.

xiii. Commissioner Schulz suggested having current owners join a meeting to answer questions and clarify what their plans are.



Bruce Paquette and Christine Boudreau agreed. Commissioner Andrew Seward agreed it would be a good idea to invite them to a meeting

xiv. Chair agreed it would best to seek clarity on the lot size, on if it is 6-bedroom dwelling, on if they understand they are currently not permitted by State to have 6 bedrooms on that site, and on if use is residential or commercial (B&B).

xv. Chair noted for the citizens that they may come to the Town Office to review the final approved plat and that the Town clerk make a reproduction for them. The property transfer records, Building Construction Registration, and grand list should all be available at the Office for review as well. Bruce and Marie Paquette will come to the office.

xvi. The Chair recognized Stephen Michel who stated the initial application to the Town was for four lots and that State permitting was done for four lots/original plan. During the process Mr. and Mrs. Bolalek decided to change it to a three-lot subdivision. He thinks the new owners would need to go back to the State and get a permit for a six-bedroom house.

xvii. The Chair suggested the following plan: he will check the recorded deed to see if lot sizes match what was approved. If they disagree, we will take a pause and seek counsel. If lot sizes agree, Chair will contact owners by phone and ask for information on the following items: lot size, number of lots, size of new construction, knowledge of permit, and type of use. Planning Commission members were all in agreement with that plan. Concerned citizens also agreed.

xviii. Commissioners wondered if answers should be submitted in writing or by attending the next meeting and have information recorded in the minutes.

#### 4. Town Plan Revisions

##### a. Update on Utilities and Facilities

## Notice: All Invited Mechanicsville Cemetery Monthly Volunteer Clean Up Schedule

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month 2022

May 3, 6 pm

June 7, 8 am

July 5, 6 pm

Aug 2, 8 am

Sept 6, 6 pm

Oct 4, 8 am

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# Baked Ham Supper



**Saturday May 28, 2022**

**Starting at 5:00 pm**

**Benefit For People of Ukraine by  
Colfax Lodge, Community Guild  
& Historical Museum  
Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont**

**Baked Ham Supper**

**Baked Potato, Vegetables, Rolls  
And Home Baked Pies**

**All You Can Eat - Home Style  
Take Outs Available**



**Adults \$15.00**

**Children 11 Yrs. & Under \$7.00**

**More Info Call 259-2460**

- i. Reviewed the Chair's notes from a conversation with Kristina Carter at Green Mountain Power (GMP)
- ii. Main GMP pain points are cross-country line routes, those not within or adjacent to the road rights of way.
- iii. They occasionally need Town help when landowners don't agree
- iv. Lines can also be in conflict with street trees
- v. Buried lines (aka "cable and conduit") are also an option – and at a comparable cost but requires town permission to dig in the right of way.
- vi. Landowners are responsible for bringing power to undeveloped lots which can be prohibitively and increasingly costly
- vii. We have one substation
- viii. Have 3-phase power along Belmont Rd
- ix. New homes (especially second homes) have dramatically increased power demands
- x. Recommended that EV charging be co-located with "things to do" such as hiking, shopping, or parking (say for a business)
- xi. Recommended follow up discussion about EV charging with Dan Mackey
- xii. Recommended follow up discussion about residential solar with Zach Casey
- xiii. Commissioner Andrew Seward noted that a negative to buried wires: could make road construction/culverts more expensive. If water gets in buried wires they would need to be replaced.
- xiv. Commissioner James Seward suggested continuing or resurrecting a moratorium on commercial solar. Chair responded that it is his understanding that

for the town to have any say in permitting or siting of solar energy production, the Town would need to have an "enhanced energy plan". And we currently do not have that.

## **b. Housing**

- i. Commissioner Schulz took a look at housing statistics and was quickly overwhelmed. Chair hopes the Commission can provide Commissioner Schulz assistance on what to look for.
- ii. Discussion about what might constitute an approaching crisis situation related to housing. Chair noted that the new draft Town Plan Introduction and Goals talked about wanting Mount Holly to be a place where a diversity of people can afford to live and that we not end up as a resort town with mostly second homes.
- iii. Agreed to try to capture data about current housing trends and information about what we want to happen/to achieve.
- iv. Commissioner Sullivan spoke about a developer in Ludlow and their plans/property purchases. Foresees significant development pressure in Mount Holly.
- v. Commissioner Schulz wondered if things get much worse and the threat to our community becomes more real, if some form of significantly limited zoning might be acceptable. Chair stated he does not think zoning is possible.
- vi. There was lament that the only tool the State (due to Dillon's rule) really gives towns to have local control of or guide development are land use ordinances commonly described as zoning. The Chair noted that in the context of providing more affordable housing zoning can actually be counterproductive.
- vii. Current Town Plan only has a single sided page related to housing and is essentially worthless. Discussion about updating the data tables presented in the 2008 Plan. And provide a table with housing trends.
- viii. Chair stated it would be nice to characterize the problem to see if there really is a crisis unfolding.

ix. Commissioner Andrew Seward suggested having a table/graphs with trends of sale price of homes, cost of square footage, median rent. Vermont Department of Taxes is a possible source for price of homes. Chair will try to obtain past five years of sales.

x. Information to look for in the census: demographics, owner occupancy rates, poverty levels.

xi. Commissioner James Seward shared that Channel 3 had broadcast housing information recently

xii. Stephen Michel stated David Johnson may have resident vs nonresident information – obtained by sorting zip code.

xiii. Discussion about learning more about what happens if too many homes sell well above assessed value. Is a forced reappraisal required?

xiv. Stephen Michel shared that the Conservation Commission recently discussed recommend a zero net change approach to development to balance new construction with maintaining

xv. Agreed to continue discussion next month in consideration of the time.

5. Public Comments: none

#### 6. Upcoming meetings

a. **Regular meeting** – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)  
Commissioners Schulz and Sullivan will be absent

7. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:46 pm For the Commission, Renee Sarmiento, Clerk

# Spaghetti Supper

## Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Take-Out Starts at 4:30

Eat-In Starts 5: 00 p.m.

### Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont, VT

## Benefit Grenier Family For Medical Treatment

*Spaghetti & Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Bread  
And Dessert*

*Served Home Style*

*Sponsored by Local Organizations and Area Grocery Stores*

**Adults \$10.00**

**Children Under 12 years \$5.00**

**More Info Call 802-259-2460**

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YOUR RURAL CARRIER NEEDS YOUR HELP  
IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU THE BEST SERVICE.

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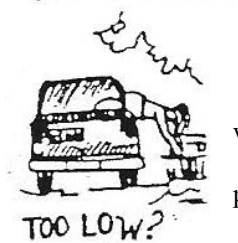
Is your post secure and in good condition? Check the condition of your mailbox: is it securely attached to the post, are there any sharp edges, do you have a flag, is it difficult to open or close?

If you need to replace your box: bigger is better, number is required and name is optional.

Is your mailbox in a safe location? Can your carrier safely approach and leave the box without difficulty?

We appreciate your co-operation. If you have any questions please contact your carrier or postmaster. Thank you!

All Post Office numbers are located on Page 2 of the Chit Chat bottom left box.



## Fletcher Farm School Announcements

Spring is coming to the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts in Ludlow, Vermont, and we have some announcements about May classes at the School. All of our summer classes are also posted on the website (<http://www.fletcherfarm.org>) and new classes are being added weekly.

### MAY CLASSES

**WS15 – May 7 (a.m. only) – Acrylic Pour...What is it? – Sandi Cirillo – Reg. deadline 4/27/22**

In this class students will be working with acrylic paint and canvas, experimenting with colors and textures. Paint is spread onto the canvas and with your hands moving paint around the canvas, the paint will blend the colors and create unique patterns on the canvas

**WS11 – May 14-15 – Creating Custom Cabochon Settings – Debi Orton – Reg. deadline 5/4/22**

Stones with rounded domes are referred to as cabochons. The most typical setting for **cabochons is a bezel setting. A bezel is a strip of wire that is soldered to a backing and wraps tightly around the stone.** Beginning silversmiths set calibrated cabochons using calibrated, pre-formed settings. Ideally, students will have taken one of our basic silversmithing courses, or have other experience working with stones and metal.

**WS12 – May 14-15 – Fundamentals of Basketry – Meg Kupiec – Reg. deadline 5/4/22**

This two-day workshop will introduce students to the basic methods of weaving baskets. These building blocks can be applied to larger and more complex patterns. We will work with a variety of reed sizes and shapes to create two or three different style baskets. Lashing, twining, triple rod whale, over/under; all these weaving techniques will be used to ensure that each person has their own unique basket to take home.

**WS13 – May 14-15 – Carve a Wooden Gnome – Wayne Miller – Reg. deadline 5/4/22**

Because this is a beginner's class, the gnome design chosen has no eyes or hands showing. We will start with a 2" x 2" x 5" piece of basswood that has already been roughed out. With the help of the instructor, students will proceed to carve a simple gnome figure. The basic kinds of cuts and safety

procedures will be discussed and demonstrated. At the end of the class, students will have the option of painting their completed carving. **Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen, Inc. Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, 611 Route 103 South, Ludlow, VT 05149 (802) 228-8770 <http://www.fletcherfarm.org>**

## Vermont Plants Sunflowers for Ukraine - Invitation to Join

Vermont Plants Sunflowers for Ukraine is a Vermont-based community action group. Like many of you, we feel the weight of the crimes against humanity being perpetrated on the people of Ukraine. We often feel helpless, and that does not sit well with Vermonters.

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our mission is to inspire countless acts of solidarity with the people of Ukraine by planting thousands upon thousands of sunflowers in every corner of Vermont. Come late summer and fall, our message of yellow sunflowers splashed against our blue Vermont sky will give us all hope. In ways big and small we will show the world that we stand with the people of Ukraine.

**Our Action Plan:** We will ask every town and city in Vermont as well as the appropriate branches of Vermont government, churches, schools, organizations, media and individuals to join in this act of solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Please visit our Website, call or e-mail and consider making a plan for spring planting as a clear message to the world that Vermont stands with the people of Ukraine. Every seed planted will be a statement of solidarity.

<https://www.vtsunflowers4ukraine.org/> Dale Newton, 506 Thistle Hill Road, Marshfield, VT 05658 802-426-3035 (VPSU)

### Area Businesses to Sell Sunflower Seed Packets Created by CTES Students

As a continuing effort to help the people of the Ukraine, Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES) students are now preparing sunflower seed packets for area residents and visitors.

Pictured is Layla Benoit. A CTES student as she displays packets of sunflower seed with the timely messages, "Make Peace Not War" and "Let's Help Ukraine". In the background is CTES paraprofessional, Meghan Call, preparing some of the seed packets.

The sunflower is the national flower of the Ukraine and represents a continuing effort to raise funds to help the people of that nation recover from the devastation wrought by the Russian invasion.

Benson's Chevrolet, Ludlow Insurance, and Green Mountain Fire Place Specialty will have sunflower seed packets available to the general public. There is no set price for the seeds - only a donation as seen appropriate by the purchaser. Other area businesses are expected to offer the seed packets.

The CTES students are continuing to produce these unique seed packets in the hope they will persuade people to grow the beautiful flowers they produce in support of the people of the Ukraine.



## Ludlow Rotary Hears from Ludlow Ambulance Director

The April 12 luncheon meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) featured Stephanie Grover, Ludlow Ambulance Director speaking to Rotarians and guests about the state of ambulance services in Ludlow and their nearby service district.

Grover expressed gratitude for the support of Ludlow voters who again approved the Ambulance budget request of \$312,000 for FY 22-23. The budget will support paying 2 people to work 24/7 year-round in an effort to reduce the number of missed calls. Missed calls was a major issue when Ludlow relied strictly on volunteers to respond to calls. Missed calls occur most often during the winter months when there are many calls to Okemo Mountain Resort.

It is increasingly difficult for residents to devote the time required to meet all the training requirements as a volunteer when they work full time for an income. An advantage of a paid staff is they are compensated for the 6 months of training required for an entry level EMT. Paramedic training requirements are even more extensive, requiring 2 years of training.

Ludlow Ambulance serves a portion of Plymouth and Cavendish in addition to Ludlow. They would like to add 2 additional paid staff to cover a second ambulance from December through April to address the high number of missed calls during the ski season.

In other business at the meeting, the Rotary Club continued preparing for the 64th Annual Penny Sale to be held April 30 at the Ludlow School gym at 6:00 PM.

Anyone interested in learning more about joining Rotary is invited to contact Kevin Barnes, Membership Chairman at (802) 228-8877, to receive an invitation to a meeting. By Brigid Sullivan

Pictured above is Stephanie Grover, Ludlow Ambulance Director; photo credit Kim Lampert.



## WESTON THEATER COMPANY'S INTRODUCES "PICK-YOUR-PRICE" SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022 SEASON

Weston Theater Company has announced their 86<sup>th</sup> season and subscriptions are now available for purchase in an exciting new format. Subscribing has never been simpler or more affordable: **One Subscription. Three Shows. Pick-Your-Price.**

Weston believes that **theater should be accessible** to all who wish to attend and subscriptions provide a wonderful way to experience a diverse variety of shows at the theater that you love.

**Executive Artistic Director, Susanna Gellert** says: "Our suggested subscription price is \$165, which means you are paying \$55 per ticket per show. While this is a significant savings on our single ticket price, we know that it may be affordable for some and prohibitive for others. If you need to pay less, please choose that option--we sincerely appreciate everyone who joins Weston's family of subscribers! If you can afford to pay more for your subscription, please do. You will be helping to create opportunities for others to attend while supporting the artists and staff who make Weston such a wonderful theater."

There are **three pricing options** to choose from: "Actual" which is \$84 per ticket or \$252 per subscription; "Standard" which is \$55 per ticket or \$165 per subscription; and "Supporting" which is \$39 per ticket or \$117 per subscription. All dates, seats, and perks are available regardless of subscription choice.

Each subscription includes one ticket to *Marry Me A Little* (July 6 – July 30), *Hair* (July 20 – August 13), and *Steel Magnolias* (August 18 – September 4). Ticket add-ons are also available to subscribers for the fall production of *Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie* (September 28 – October 23), **Walker Farm Music concerts** (June 11, August 20, August 27, and September 3), and **The Late-Night Cabaret** (immediately following performances on July 28 – 29 and August 11 – 12).

By joining Weston's community of subscribers, you get the best seats, early access to additional show tickets and special events, waived ticket exchange fees, and discounted pricing for you and your guests. To ensure you get your choice of dates and seats, **become a subscriber** before single tickets go on sale May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Find more information and subscribe at [westontheater.org](http://westontheater.org) or by contacting the box office at [tickets@westontheater.org](mailto:tickets@westontheater.org) or (802) 824- 5288.

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## 64<sup>th</sup> Ludlow Rotary Penny Sale Arrives April 30 with Hundreds of Donated Prizes

Thanks to the donations of prizes by over 100 area businesses and individuals, the 64<sup>th</sup> annual Penny Sale, sponsored by the Ludlow Rotary Club, will resume on Saturday, April 30 at 6 pm in the Ludlow Elementary School's Gymnasium.

The Items being donated will include ski passes, cash, sweatshirts, restaurant gift cards, day or overnight summer camp packages, auto services, microwaves, bicycles, Mary Meyers stuffed animals, plants, ski sweaters, ski coats, hotel stays and many other surprising gifts.

The raffle, normally conducted at the close of the Penny Sale, will offer the following prizes: **1st Prize** is \$500 - **2nd Prize** is \$250 - **3rd Prize** is \$150 - **4th Prize** is \$100 and **5th Prize** is \$50 Raffle tickets are \$2 for one or 3 tickets for \$5.

Raffle tickets may be purchased from LRC members, accessing the LRC's website

at [www.ludlowrotary.com](http://www.ludlowrotary.com) or by sending a check to LARCF, PO Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149. You do not have to be there to win one of these raffle prizes but, if you are in attendance, your award is increased by \$25.

The proceeds from the Penny Sale help LRC underwrite its annual scholarship program for area graduating high school seniors planning advanced educational programs. Through this program, LRC has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarship awards during the past 20 years. The annual scholarship awards last year totaled \$9,000.

The Penny Sale is free and open to everyone. In addition to the prizes and raffle, refreshments will be available. For information or questions call Kim Lampert at 228-4000 or Jim Rumrill at 228-8866 or email: [ludlowrotary@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowrotary@gmail.com). Doors open at 5:30 pm.


Pictured above is a scene from the Penny Sale sponsored by the Ludlow Rotary Club. As indicated from the photo, it was packed full of prizes, as seen in the foreground, while Rotarian Tom Harris managed the selection of the next winning ticket. Ralph Pace

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## Mount Holly Trees

The trees in Mount Holly are an important community asset. Trees along the roads add to the rural character of the town. Trees on the hills and dales provide scenic vistas, and are an important economic asset which provide livelihoods for many residents. Beyond our community, trees are important in capturing carbon from the atmosphere. Of course, they also attract visitors in the Fall foliage season. As a community asset, our trees require community care by landowners and by the town.

Arbor Day 2022 is Friday May 6. Arbor Day is a day set aside to celebrate trees and all of their benefits. It has been over 130 years since J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day. His simple idea of establishing a special day for planting trees is now more important than ever. In Vermont, we celebrate Arbor Day on the First Friday in May, a day when we can roll up our sleeves and plant trees! Many activities are planned around the state. Further details can be found at the Vermont Urban and Community Forest program website ([vtcommunityforest.org](http://vtcommunityforest.org)).

As in almost every other Vermont town, Mount Holly has appointed a Tree Warden to coordinate the care of trees in the town. As part of this care, two projects are underway. First, a program to mitigate the damage from the eventual loss of more than 90 percent of our ash trees. Second, is the development of a program to protect and care for trees on town held properties and within the town right of way on public roads. Future contributions to the Chit Chat will provide more details of the projects as they develop. However, in the meantime, anyone who is interested in participating would be welcome.

As the Tree Warden for more than a year and someone who volunteered because no one else did, I have been quickly aware how much I need to learn. Fortunately, Gretchen Gregory who has considerable knowledge, experience, and expertise in tree care and management has agreed to fill in for my inexperience. I also realize the two programs mentioned above are really community projects and community involvement is important. Phil Crane, Tree Warden



**Southern NH-VT  
Rotary District Raises  
\$114,000 for**

**Ukrainian Relief Assistance**

“I can no longer sit silent while the people of Ukraine suffer such inhuman devastation from this unprovoked violence.” With these words, John Bob Siemienowicz asked members of District 7870, covering Rotary clubs in Southern NH and Southern VT, of Rotary International to “band together to offer humanitarian aid to alleviate the grief and suffering that the people of Ukraine are experiencing”.

Based on the response to this call for Ukrainian aid, 65% of the district’s club have already responded, producing over \$114,000 in donations and contributions to the District 7870 Foundation. According to Siemienowicz, all of this amount will be distributed to selected Ukrainian and Polish organizations. In addition, some of the Clubs and members of the district have made contributions to the Rotary International Disaster Response Fund and to other organizations working on Ukrainian relief projects.

Donors to the District 7870 Foundation have included individuals (both Rotarians and non-Rotarians), community church groups, and others, as well as Rotary Clubs both in the District and outside of our district.

Thus far, district 7870 has been involved in many specific activities for Ukrainian relief, among them being:

- Medical equipment purchased through the Lublin, Poland Rotary (RC) club
- \$45,000 for field hospital x-ray and operating room equipment plus medicines
- \$12,000 for Hospice for treatment of Ukrainian children with cancer
- \$18,000 through the Zamosc, Poland RC for refugee housing and humanitarian aid
- Monies for the purchase of 40 laptops to help manage the Education needs of children refugees with Bialystok RC.



Other activities the district has been involved with include medical supplies for Kiyv, food for Odessa, and the care of refugees in Czestochowa, Poland. Siemienowicz indicated that “more projects are in the works, and are being vetted through our teams of Rotarians in Poland to make sure the best results for the money are being pursued”.

Virtually all Rotary districts in the United States are also participating in aid to the Ukraine. District 7870 took advantage of challenging the Punta Gorda Rotary Club of Florida to a \$5,000 match for humanitarian aid going to Czestochowa RC, and Punta Gorda raised well over the \$5,000 required.

Siemienowicz noted that District 7870 has teamed up with Rotary Clubs (RC) in Poland including Rotary Czestochowa, Lublin Centrum Rotary, RC Zamosc Ordynacki, Bialystok RC and RC Zamosc. These clubs have the best knowledge of the

immediate needs in the Ukraine and the most effective way to addressing them.

Assistance is also coming to Poland from the many Rotary Clubs in 13 European nations.

Examples of how local Rotarians addressed the fund-raising effort are numerous and display the unique approaches involved.

For example:

- The Woodstock Rotary, after deciding to donate from its funds, had one of its members, a photographer, raffle off a picture of the sunflower, the national flower of the Ukraine
- Laconia setup a “Tips for Ukraine” jar at its recent pancake breakfast event
- Ludlow, joining with the United Church of Ludlow, sponsored a lasagna dinner, raising over \$20,000; the local elementary school is also selling sunflower seeds
- Windsor will be holding a Bingo event to raise funds

In summarizing the progress made thus far, Siemienowicz said, “The call to action by everyone involved in this humanitarian effort is something that highlights our Rotarian theme, ‘Serve to Change Lives’, and makes you proud to be a member of this great organization”. Photograph recently taken by Milford Rotarians Sheila and David Sturm in Europe.



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## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Pinwheel gardens have sprouted up at [Community Health](#)'s practices in Rutland and Addison counties in support of [Prevent Child Abuse Vermont](#)'s 2022 Child Abuse Prevention Month and their theme "growing a better tomorrow for our children."

"At Community Health, our focus on children, their health, safety and development is steadfast and constantly evolving," said Jill Jesso-White, Community Health director of communications and development. "You'll see pinwheels at all our practices because we want families to know that we are here to support them to foster healthy child and youth development."

Community Health offers behavioral health services at all their practices, including pediatric behavioral health specialists who can address specific needs of children and their families. And, Community Health Pediatrics and Community Kids Dental provide preventive dental and medical care just for children.

Governor Phil Scott declared April Child Abuse Prevention Month in a [proclamation](#) that read "Children, Vermont's most precious resource, must be guaranteed their health, well-being and protection." According to data from the state's Department for Children and Families, in 2021 of the substantiated child abuse cases, 228 were related to sexual abuse and 302 to physical abuse.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont has created resources and a [calendar](#) of activities to encourage awareness and community activities including [instructions](#) on how to create your own pinwheel. Pinwheels for Prevention has been a national symbol for child abuse prevention for over 14 years.

For more information about preventing child abuse, check these websites

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (<https://www.pcavt.org/>)

Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/index.html>)



## Vermont Home Gardener

**Garden Choices:** Despite our recent wintery week, April is [National Garden Month](#) so now is a great time to think about starting a garden and all the planning and choices that involves. Most basically, "What should I grow?" depends on what you want to eat or to see in your yard, and the kind of work you can do. Soil & climate conditions in Vermont place some limits on our choices but we do have a great selection of hardy fruits, vegetables, and flowers that do very well here. We are in Agricultural Zone 4 or 5, depending on location and altitude so we need to pay attention to the "Hardiness" of what we plant, especially perennials.

**Thinking long-term?** Some of the perennials that do well here and that you should establish in the spring include Asparagus, Rhubarb, Strawberries, Blueberries, Raspberries, Elderberries, & Blackberries. Perennials are started with young plants or "crowns" grown by nurseries and usually take 2 or 3 years to mature into production. If you don't have them growing yet, this is may be the year to start. Choose 1 or 2 that you like, locate a place they can grow undisturbed, get high quality plants (don't waste your time with cheap ones at big box outlets), and get them started. They will reward you for your effort for many years to come!

**When to Plant?** We're slowly getting to the time of year when we can plant some things into the ground. Some things can go in early, other things need to wait for

warmer days. How do we know when to plant what? Most soil is still too wet to dig or till unless you have raised beds. Let's look at several ways to help determine when it's best to plant seeds or put out transplants. Also, a few words about the benefits of wasps.

Read the full article at [VermontHomeGardener.com](http://VermontHomeGardener.com) Subscribe for Free!



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### The Junkyards of Mt. Holly

It's often been said that one man's junk is another man's treasure. Really? I certainly don't think that a stockpile of household garbage and junk left in certain yards here in Mt. Holly would be considered a "treasure trove". I've actually seen barnyards that are cleaner! It's not a major task or a big expense making weekly trips to the Transfer Station. These junkyard owners obviously believe it is! Unfortunately, the rest of us have to suffer every time we drive by these properties and are forced to look at this dirty stuff. These junkyards should be a concern to all of us since I'm sure they can devalue other properties around them. Mt. Holly has always been a beautiful place. Let's keep it that way! Virginia Ward



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To learn more about our services, or to refer a patient, visit [www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org](http://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

### Learn About Annual Wellness Visits

Community Health is spreading the word about the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV), a free service offered through Medicare that focuses on prevention and is designed to keep you healthy, lower your risk of illness and injury and provide the support you need for a healthy quality of life. The purpose of the AWV is to review an individual's wellness and develop a personalized prevention plan. Medicare covers one free AWV each year if you have been enrolled in Medicare Part B for at least 12 months. **There's no co-payment or deductible for this visit.** The Annual Wellness Visit is different from a yearly physical exam as it will *not* include a hands-on exam or management of new or existing health problems or medications that are part of your annual physical exam. For more information check with your primary care provider or check our website <https://www.chcrr.org/services/#primary-care>

[Community Health](#) is Vermont's largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a network of primary care, pediatric, behavioral health, dental and pharmacy services with offices in Rutland, Brandon, Castleton, West Pawlet and Shoreham. Rutland call 802-773-3386, Brandon call 802-247-6305, Castleton call 802-468-5641, W. Pawlet – Mettewee call 802-645-0580.



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*Memorial Day*





**Sign Up for the Mt. Holly NewsFlash** to get all that is happening locally in our Town just email to:  
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And request to be placed on the list.  
News item deadlines are 6 am & 6 pm  
**Also Check**  
[www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com](http://www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com)  
To see all daily emails of the NewsFlash compiled in one place for all community news and events.

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

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 Rev Thomas Mosher [abvmludlow@comcast.net](mailto:abvmludlow@comcast.net) 802-228-3451  
 Belmont Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30  
 Pastor Glenn Davis [vbch.weebly.com](http://vbch.weebly.com) 802-259-2440  
 E. Wallingford Baptist – PS 9:15-10:00 am SS 10 am, Worship 11 am  
 Pastor Kevin Miner 802-259-2831  
 First Baptist Church, Wallingford, SS 11am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm  
 Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020  
 Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11am & 3pm  
 Until May 11am & 6pm 802-779-0300  
 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](mailto:jfscheumann@gmail.com) 603-439-0803  
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 St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 9 am  
 Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois [christthekingprsh@gmail.com](mailto:christthekingprsh@gmail.com) 802-446-2161  
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May 2022 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc

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## Mount Holly Email

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 Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Owner/Broker 802-228-5333  
[realtor@KelleyRealEstate.com](mailto:realtor@KelleyRealEstate.com)  
 Ty Murray [Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com](mailto:Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com) Cell 802-777-8047  
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 John Tolosky [john@kelleyrealestate.com](mailto:john@kelleyrealestate.com) 802-356-5556  
[www.KelleyRealEstate.com](http://www.KelleyRealEstate.com) [www.OkemoValley.com](http://www.OkemoValley.com)

## Roofing

Buddy Systems Roofing Contact Buddy 802-259-3989  
 New Roofs/Roof Repairs & Replacement – Slate/Wood/Asphalt/Metal

## Security

Countryside Alarms – Mike Blais [www.countrysidealarms.com](http://www.countrysidealarms.com) 802-259-2213

## Septic System Design

Belmont Septic Design – Kevin Hollebeek C 802-733-2561 H 802-259-3898  
[kevin@belmontseptic.com](mailto:kevin@belmontseptic.com)

Krueger Engineering – Arthur G. Krueger, P.E. 802-492-3653

## Therapeutic Riding

Rienbow Riding Center Home 802-259-2282 Barn 802-492-2226

## Tree Services

G.M. Tree Tech & Landscaping, Greg McKirryher 802-259-8733

## Volunteer Services

Belmont/Mt. Holly Food Co-op, Tanger H 802-259-2344 W 802-259-2899

## Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking [cw@vermontel.net](mailto:cw@vermontel.net) 802-259-3232  
[www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com](http://www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com)

