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Mount Holly Chit Chat

49/2

April 2023

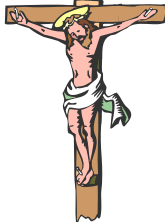
Church Listing on back page “Who’s Got It Locally?”

Mount Holly Community Association – Contact MHCAPT@gmail.com
Mount Holly Museum-Open Jul & Aug Sat & Sun 2-4pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org 802-259-2460 ddevereux@vermontel.net
Mt. Holly NewsFlash Town email sign up at mthollynewsflash@gmail.com Check Out 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. & 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 Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and 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: Sat. 8 am – 2 pm & Sun. 9 am – 12 pm



Sat 1 st		<i>All Fools' Day 1582</i>	
Sun 2 nd		<i>Palm Sunday ~ Hans Christian Anderson 1805 ~ World Autism Day</i>	
3 rd		<i>Washington Irving 1856</i>	
4 th	MH Snow Flyers Meeting Via Zoom		6:30 pm
	Mt Holly Community Assoc Meeting, Library	<i>Martin Luther King Jr Assassinated 1968</i>	7:00 pm
	Mount Holly Conservation Commission	<i>NATO Est 1949</i>	7:00 pm
	Mt. Moriah Lodge Meeting, E. Wallingford		7:30 pm
5 th	MH PTSA Meeting, MH School	<i>Passover Begins ~ Booker T Washington 1856</i>	6:00 pm
6 th	Fire Dept. Bus Meeting, Belmont Fire Sta	<i>Persian Gulf War Ends 1991~ Full Pink Moon</i>	7:00 pm
7 th		<i>Good Friday ~ Metris System 1795</i>	
Sun 9 th		<i>Civil War Ends 1865 ~ Easter</i>	
10 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building		7:00 pm
11 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	<i>Crow Season Ends</i>	9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	<i>Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire 1991</i>	6:30 pm
		<i>Jackie Robinson 1st African-American Major League Ball Player 1st Base for Brooklyn Dodgers 1947</i>	
12 th	LMHUUS Meeting,		6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		7:00 pm
13 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Mt. Holly Fire Station	<i>Thomas Jefferson 3rd US Pres. 1743</i>	7:00 pm
		<i>Passover Ends</i>	
14 th		<i>Pan-American Day 1890 ~ Titanic Struck Iceberg 1912</i>	
Sat 15 th		<i>Leonardo DaVinci 1452 ~ Titanic Sank 1912 ~ America's 1st School for the deaf founded 1817</i>	
Sun 16 th		<i>Wilbur Wright 1867</i>	
18 th		<i>Tax Day ~ Midnight Ride of Paul Revere 1775</i>	
19 th	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	<i>Revolutionary War Began 1775</i>	6:30 pm
	Mount Holly Planning Com, Town Office & Via Zoom	<i>Muskrat Season Ends</i>	7:00 pm
20 th	Fire Dept. Work Detail, Fire Stations		7:00 pm
Sat 22 nd		<i>Snow Goose Season Ends ~ Easter Seals 1919 ~ Earth Day 1970</i>	
Sun 23 rd		<i>William Shakespeare b&d 1564-1616</i>	
25 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		9:00 am
26 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	<i>John James Audubon 1785</i>	7:00 pm
		<i>Professional Secretaries Day 1955</i>	
27 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Stations	<i>Ulysses S Grant 18th Pres 1822</i>	7:00 pm
28 th		<i>National Arbor Day 1872 ~ James Monroe 5th Pres 1758</i>	
Sat 29 th		<i>Youth Turkey Hunting Begins</i>	
Sun 30 th		<i>Youth Turkey Hunting Ends ~ Vietnam War Ends 1975</i>	



Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept.	802-259-2700	or	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
MH Fire Warden – Jim Seward	802-786-3408		802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
MH Rescue Squad Non-Emergency	802-259-6001	or	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-773-9101
MH Constable	NONE			Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-259-3610
MH Animal Control	Cell 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 Check out **Mt. Holly Web Site** www.mounthollyvt.org

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

Donation Thank You's: Susan Starr-Adams (eXp Realty) * Lydia Graves & John Manning * Cathy Chadburn * Lisa Kelley (Cummings And Co) * Robin & Don Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * Sara & Scott Merenda * Judy & Paul Nevin * Zena Gates * Mike & Maria Blais (Contryside Lock & Alarms) * Katie Hollebeek (Mt. Hilly Runners) * Alice Perry * Barbara Hawkins Fairbanks * Dr. Joseph & Lisa Donohue (Chiropractic Care & Massage Therapy/Bodywork) * Mary & Jeff Smith (Smith Maple Crest Farm) * Pat & Andy Salner *



April Birthdays: 1st - John Seward 3rd - Samantha Freedman 4th - Carol Pike 5th - Amanda Surething 8th - Bob Garrow * Jeff Carrara 9th - Eliza Hudak * TJ Milks 12th - Jean Palmer * Carlos Bickford * Tobi Macey 14th - Mallery Flanders * Melissa Garrow-Kent 16th - Jamie Carrara 17th - Noah Koponen 18th - Robyn Lewis * Todd Bussino Sr 21st - Alexander Bussino * Melissa Perry 22nd - Kai Lewis 24th - Vincent Turco * Eric Holt Jr * Eric Holt Sr * Beverly Stearns * Randy Hawkins 25th - Jeff Keller 26th - Nicolas Turco * Samantha Norton 27th - Mary Ellen Jacobs 28th - Danielle McMahon * Lisa Hendee 29th - Cassie Wilkins * Ian D.F. Miller



April Anniversaries: 15th - Steve & Nicole Lewis (2015) 16th - Dick & Nancy Tilton 18th - Randy & Tammy Hawkins

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

Local Post Office Hours

Mount Holly		802-259-2796
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm
Belmont		802-259-2790
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 10:45 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
East Wallingford		802-259-2829
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury		802-492-3585
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am
	&	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 11:00 am
Ludlow		802-228-7436
Post Master:	Dawn Howlett	
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	6:30 am – 5:30 pm
	Sat	6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	8:30 am – 10:30 am
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
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MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow
ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

SUBMISSIONS: Deadline is 22nd By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to chitchat@vermontel.net or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **Phone 802-259-2314.** E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries, remembrances. Include name, address, and phone number. Anonymous articles will not be accepted. Mailed copies should be camera-ready, i.e., ready to be scanned into the paper. Contact the editor for further information. Contact the editor for inclusion in the coming month's announcements of birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, retirements, and other milestones.

PHOTOS: Color photos of events are welcome as they look great on the Chit Chat web edition

LETTERS to the EDITOR: email; 300 word limit; include name, address, and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity. Requests for anonymity will be considered by the Editor.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS: Camera ready. Contact editor with questions, or to assist with ad creation (cost \$15).

RATES: Back Page: \$25 Per Listing for one year

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	9 Mo.	12 Mo.
Classified	\$ 2	\$ 5.50	\$10	\$ 15	\$ 20
Business Card:	\$15	\$40	\$75	\$115	\$150
Quarter Page:	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
Third Page:	\$45	\$125	\$225	\$350	\$450
Half Page:	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$750
Full Page:	\$125	\$325	\$625	\$1025	\$1250

FREE ADVERTISING: Only Community and Non-Profit (501 c3) tax-exempt organizations may qualify for free advertising in the Mount Holly Chit Chat, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Articles submitted for print which promote the sale of goods or services for financial gain will be charged the Chit Chat's set rate for advertisements.

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

INTERNET: Each month's edition is published on the Mount Holly Town website: www.mounthollyvt.org

MEMBERSHIP IN CORPORATION: Open to all who live, work, or own property in Mount Holly and who make an annual donation of any amount.

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

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT: The Mount Holly Chit Chat has been published each month since 1974 and has been supported solely by donations until 2006 when readership was expanded as a public service to all who reside, vote, or own property in Mount Holly. The Chit Chat is supported by donations, advertisements, and appropriation from the Town.



Thomas McGowan French

Thomas McGowan French, 80, of East Wallingford, VT passed away peacefully on February 25th, 2023. Tom was born on November 17th, 1942, to Donald “Happy” McGowan French and Kitty French née Baker in Bay City, Michigan.

Tom is survived by three children with his former wife, Judith Ann Chaffee; Patrick French originally of East Wallingford, Laura French and her husband Jeremy Turner of Unity, NH, and Megan and her husband Will Dudley of Rutland. Tom also leaves his grandsons, sons of Patrick, Finnigan and Taddeus French of whom he was very proud. He is also survived by his sisters, Donna Fuller and her husband Larry of Rutland, Suzanne Crosby of Danby, and Debra Bromley and her husband Tom of Wells. Tom also leaves many nieces and nephews who adored their "Uncle Tommy". Tom was predeceased by his parents and his brother-in-law, Elbert Crosby.

Early in Tom’s life, Happy and Kitty returned to the Rutland area, settling in Wallingford. Tom graduated from Wallingford High School in 1961, where he was a popular and talented member of the baseball and basketball teams.

Tom joined the Marine Corps in 1963 and served honorably in the Vietnam War where he was a respected leader and awarded the Purple Heart. After leaving the service, Tom worked in real estate and became a well-known appraiser in and around the Rutland County area.

After moving to East Wallingford in 1976 and raising his family there, Tom went on to become a well-loved pillar of the community, eventually earning the sobriquet “Mayor of Sugar Hill”. Many will have joined Tom in his passion for cross-country skiing, in and around the Green Mountain National Forest, sharing glasses of wine and bowls of stew over the years at the camp he co-owned with family friends. In addition to the ski trails for which he was famous, Tom was known as a true friend to all and an avid storyteller. He also served many years as a justice of the peace for the Town of Wallingford and, though lesser known, was an accomplished beekeeper and gardener. Tom and his family were parishioners of Our Mother of Mercy aka St. Mary’s Church in Mount Holly.

In February 2010, Tom suffered a severe stroke which, despite the significant impact to his health, he persevered through with an uncommon strength and positive attitude, thanks in large part to a very active circle of family and friends. Toms’ family will forever be grateful for the abundant love and support he received, allowing him to get out and spend many hours traveling the roads of Vermont looking to catch up with friends, share a beer and a bite to eat, and grace all he saw with his warm smile and twinkling blue eyes. Though there are too many wonderful friends to thank individually, one stands out as Tom’s heart was won over in his later years by his devoted friend and companion, Andrea McCormack, who selflessly took him into her home and cared for him for many years following his stroke. Andy was always the person who could lift his spirits, even on the hardest days. Tom will be greatly missed by all; the world is a better place for having him in it.

There was a funeral service in Wallingford at St. Patrick’s church on Saturday, 4 March at 11am followed by a celebration of life and luncheon at the Victorian Inn (12-3pm). Many photos were brought to place on Tom’s memory wall for all to share favorite memories together. All were welcome! Arrangements were under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home in Rutland In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations in Tom’s name be made to your preferred charity.

Notice: All Invited
Mechanicsville Cemetery
Monthly Volunteer Clean Up Schedule

1st Tuesday of each month 2023

May 2, 6 pm	June 6, 8 am
July 5, 6 pm Wed due to holiday	
Aug 1, 8 am	Sept 5, 6 pm
Oct 3, 8 am	

Marie Ann Harris Ahrens, 1946-2023

Marie was born in Rutland, Vt., to John H. Harris and Ferris Pelsue Harris. She grew up in Proctorsville, Vt.; graduated from Black River High School, Ludlow, Vt., class of 1964; Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing, Bridgeport, Conn., 1967, with a nursing diploma; Langston University Urban Center, Tulsa, Okla., with a bachelor’s of science in nursing, 1984; and University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center with a masters in Nursing, 1991. Her nursing career included camp nursing, Shands Teaching Hospital, Gainesville, Fla.; University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver; Bishop Randall Hospital, Lander, Wyo.; Homemakers Upjohn/Upjohn HealthCare Services, Tulsa, Okla., from 1975 to 1991, in various nursing roles. She changed career path to nursing education with two years at Rogers State College, Claremore, Okla., and then retired from The University of Tulsa School of Nursing, 1993-2013. Marie was involved in several professional nursing organizations throughout her career and through retirement, including the American Nurses Association, Oklahoma Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, Int’l, Registered Nurse Community

Volunteers, Inc., and the OK/National League for Nursing.

Marie is survived by husband Robert F. Ahrens, whom she married in 1972 in Powderhorn, Colo. Also survived by sons Sean (Angie) of McKinney, Texas, and Seth (Katie) of Tulsa, grandchildren Everly and Emma of McKinney, Texas, and John and James of Tulsa, brother Lee Harris (Susie) of Madison, Ga., sister Fern Harris Melvin (Dennis) of Belmont, Vt., sisters-in-law Clare (Forrest) Miller and Joan Ahrens of Tulsa, many cousins, nieces and nephews, and friends.

Memorial service will be held on March 20, at St. Michael’s Reformed Episcopal Church, 8837 S. Garnett Rd., Broken Arrow, Okla. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Day Center for the Homeless Nurse Clinic, 415 W. Archer, Tulsa, OK 74103; Clarehouse, 7671 S. Mingo, Tulsa, OK 74133; or Registered Nurse Community Volunteers, Inc. Nursing Scholarship Fund, C/O Clara Holderman, Treas. 3533 E. 29 St., Tulsa, OK 74114.



April Fools' Tradition Popularized

On April 1, 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other.

Although the day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the New Year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as *poisson d'avril* (April fish), said to symbolize a young, "easily hooked" fish and a gullible person.

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.

News from MHCA

It has become a marking of time writing for the chit chat. Just when you've made your submission there is a slight pause, life's routine activity, and then SHAZAM it's time for next month's article. And now here we are in April and what do we have to look forward to when we are up to our eyeballs in mud season? At this point there should be a joyous response from avid chit chat readers (or at least we hope so) although, in fairness, there could still be some pandemic memory fog since it's been a few years. Waiting.....waiting.....you got it; it's time for the SPRING MUD FLING DANCE with AXIS!! Ready or not the dance countdown is on! Dancing shoes, tennis shoes, or even the good ole muck boots (sans muck or mud) are all good enough to slide across the dance floor to get your exercise on. No doubt dancers will earn their 10,000 steps with ease (how could you not with a band like AXIS!), so come on out on Saturday **April 29th from 7pm until the music stops at the ODD Fellows Hall**. Spoiler alert it's not likely to be an all-nighter although there is a first for everything....

Mudd Fling "tickets" can be purchased in one of two ways:

1. **purchase in advance** for \$12.00 pp via mail (**postmarked by Friday April 21st**) Checks can be mailed to; MHCA PO Box 93, Belmont Vt. 05730. Please include your name(s) and we will add them to our VIP list
OR
2. **purchase them at the door for \$15.00 pp.** (FYI – you're still considered a VIP if you purchase them at the door 😊)



security.

Quick quiz:

Do you know when MHCA came into being?

How many Board members (we are your friends and neighbors) are on MHCA?

Can you name four out of the twelve MHCA Board of Directors?

Over the next few months we thought it would be of interest for folks to get to know your Board of Directors and why they became involved. Stay tuned and you'll get to learn about our version of the M&M's. Until then be well, do good work, and be kind to each other; the snow and mud will subside eventually!

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Thinking ahead...the MHCA is all about having fun and sponsoring events to encourage people getting together and having fun in our little mountain town. One of our recent musings is adding some additional fun to our big fall festival lovingly known as Cider Days. We are envisioning a community scarecrow project/competition that will happen in September to get us ready for our fall festival. Wouldn't it be cool and creative to make your own version of a "scarecrow" and have it displayed around town in time for Cider Days fun? Let us know what you think about the idea and shoot us a quick email to mhcavt@gmail.com. Miss Liberty has already chimed in and mused herself clear that she wants a couple of scarecrow sentinels this year providing crowd

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The Mt Holly Elementary School & PTSA Want to say:

THANK YOU

To all Volunteers and Participants of this year's Successful Winter Sports Program!!!

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Craig Hutt Vator | • Zoe Trimboli | • Mark Garrett | • Charity Swan | • Jean Gates |
| • Jo Bania | • Ted Panasci | • Jean Gates | • Rissa Swan | • Brian Klechkowski |
| • Beth Chase | • Liz Karle | • Anna Hanson | • Leisa & Matt Tripp | • Caitlin Boyle |
| • Dennis Cointreau | • Jay Ummel | • Stephen Howlett | • Eric Coburn | • Jessica Alberty |
| • Noelle Craver | • Katie & Kevin Hollebeck | • Diane Knipes | • Brittany Huynh | • Eric Manley |
| • Rachel Karner | • Danielle Bercury | • Sara McMillan | • BrynnEllen Winhurst | • Curt Ellis |
| • Nisa Price Adams | • Karen Cox | • Linda Miller | • John & Linda Tacchi | • Emily Curtis-Murphy |
| • Robert Ruley | • Sarah Delphia | • Andrea Auld | • Celina Bedard | • Kayla Jones |
| • Naomi Sherman | • Chad Farrar | • Kelly Vittum | • Emma Vastola | • Dan Webb |

Mount Holly Writers' Group

The writers' group will meet at the Mount Holly Library on Monday, April 3 at 1 PM. We will continue with our focus on writing memoir. All welcome. connor@ohio.edu

Also, I anticipate hosting a reunion of writers I worked with in Dingle, Ireland here in August. Dates to be announced, but I hope that they will be able to share their work. They represent an array of genres – creative non-fiction, poetry, and fiction. Joan Connor

Still Woolly! But there are signs of shedding, so spring must be on the way

Here are two fun facts. It's not the temperature that triggers shedding in our furry friends, but the amount of daylight. Longer days, sleeker horses. #2. Eating hay keeps horses warm in colder weather by generating body heat as they digest the hay. As you can see, these guys



sure do like to eat.

March 20th marked

the first day of spring but the size of the snowbanks along the roadways would indicate otherwise. There are signs of spring—longer days, muddy roads and sugar makers boiling sap. Shedding animals is another sure sign it's on the way, and we are anxiously awaiting the time we can begin hands on training sessions with our volunteers in order to get ready for the new season. We kicked off the volunteer search in February with a successful Q&A clinic. If you missed it or couldn't attend on that day, please reach out and let us know you might be interested so we can answer your questions and let you know about our future training sessions. Volunteer Orientation will be held Saturday, May 6th, 10-12 noon at Rainbow Riding Center in Belmont and will be another chance to sign up.

No horse experience is necessary as there are many other ways to give us a hand. So, if you're interested in different aspects of volunteering other than horses or want to learn about horses, please give us a call.

Please check out our new website: rainbowridingcenter.org and follow us on Facebook or Instagram @rainbow_riding_center. Contact us at programs@rainbowridingcenter.org or 802-236-2483 to inquire about our programs and lessons. For information about opportunities to volunteer with us contact janetupton@rainbowridingcenter.org.

Mount Holly School

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

3:00—4:00 p.m.

By Appointment

(802) 259-2392



For children who will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2023

Please bring the following:

1. A birth certificate
2. All immunization records
3. Residency documentation
4. Complete online pre-registration form

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.

Mount Holly Snow Flyers

This has been one of craziest weathered-winter seasons ever! Our trails are open and as we write a big storm is coming to southern Vermont! Too bad this snow didn't arrive in January for the normal season.

We have some new snow stakes for sale as a club fundraiser!

We have club detailed ones as well as a generic style for our non-riders. Stakes are \$30 each. Unfortunately, stakes are not available for shipping at this time. If interested, please email Claire Poulin at Claire.s.poulin@gmail.com for payment and local pickup in Mount Holly.

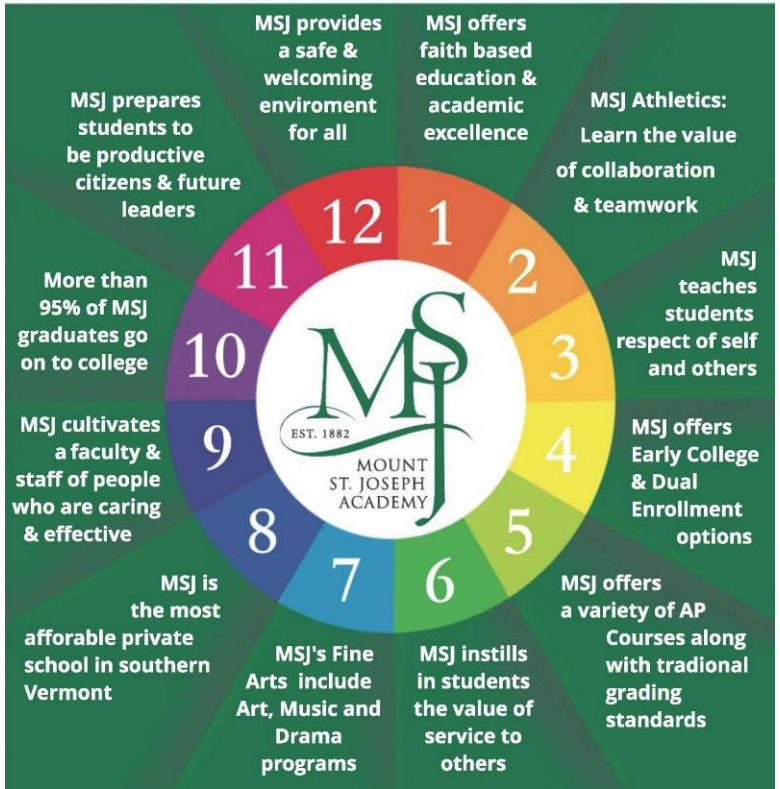


Save the Date! New this year – we will be hosting a golf outing on Friday, September 22, 2023 at Fox Run. In addition, a trail workday is planned for the following day, Saturday, September 23, 2023.

Our club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Remote attendance is an option via Zoom with details listed on the website. All members are welcome to attend meetings.

Thank You again to our landowners and sign board sponsors who help support our club. Mount Holly Snow Flyers, Kim Lampert, Secretary

a dozen reasons to choose Mount St. Joseph Academy



Expeditionary School at Black River

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported ESBR last Monday night at the Annual Ludlow Town Meeting!! We cannot express enough how extremely grateful we are that the \$75K Article was approved. This will help keep us operating as we finalize our next steps for Approval at the Vermont Agency of Education.

As always, we are so honored to be a part of this amazing Community. Stay tuned, big things are happening!! Best, ESBR Community info@esblackriver.org esblackriver.org
Hello ESBR Community,

Before school vacation I was able to observe a few great educational events at ESBR. Lake Champlain Museum came down to our school with 2 huge floor maps of the Lake Champlain watershed and the geographic map of Vermont with rivers and other water and land features. These maps were placed in the Community Center gym floor. The instructor had the students explore them (wearing their socks) to explore how these watershed areas interact with and are affected by the surrounding environment. Then, they did many activities related to water in our own region. A few days later, the students were off walking around Ludlow observing the watershed of our town. It was a rainy day, but that didn't dampen their spirits. In some ways the rain was probably

most appropriate! Later in the year they will get to do further research in Lake Champlain with this organization.

We were also recently able to participate at OVTV with some ESBR students in an interview of Jake DeArruda, a graduate from Black River. He just succeeded as a 4-day Champion on Jeopardy. Students participated in questioning Jake and were able get some inside information about what it takes to win. Another student participated in the video and sound booth.

These are just a few examples of what goes on at ESBR. I hope you will have an opportunity to visit our Open House on March 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm to see what else is happening here. Best, Gary Blodgett, ESBR Chairperson

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

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

Vermont Home Gardener What can you plant now?

As March moves ahead, we can't be sure if it's going to snow or be mud season. Recent snows have buried any sprouts peeking up from bulbs such as irises, lilies, snow drops, and early crocuses. Good news is that the added snow means more water availability come spring. Nevertheless, there are some garden preparations we can be doing now, including planting onions and petunias!

If you haven't yet pruned your **fruit trees** (apples, pears, cherries, etc.) any mild days might be your last chance to get the pruning done before the trees break dormancy. After pruning them, give them a first spray coating of Dormant Oil to smother the over-wintering eggs left by last year's pests.



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3237 Sugar Hill Road
East Wallingford, Vermont 05742
802-259-2155
www.sugarhillberryfarm.com
Call or check Facebook for days/times open

For our winter salads we have been growing repeated cycles of seed sprouts (alfalfa, mung, arugula, kale, etc.) plus a tray of microgreens using the same seeds but with some soil to help them get bigger for baby leafy greens. These are all very easy and don't need any special equipment or lighting. Here's a [helpful video about microgreens](https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/growing-microgreens-from-sowing-harvest-zb0z2001/).
<https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/growing-microgreens-from-sowing-harvest-zb0z2001/>

Last week (March 7-9) I planted **onion** seeds (3 varieties: Ailsa Craig, Cipollini, and Patterson) along with four varieties of **Wave Petunias** (blue, purple, pink, & silver). These plants are slow to start and require a long head start before transplanting out in late May. Onion seedlings produce better & bigger onions and are much cheaper than sets (small bulbs grown from seeds last season), and come in more varieties than sets so, I think, are worth the extra effort. You can

also buy young onion seedlings ready to plant from many seed companies and garden stores later in the season. Most other seeds should wait a bit longer before starting. More on this in the next article.

Reminder File HS-122 Homestead Declaration

Homeowners are required to file with the State of Vermont Department of Taxes form HS-122 to declare their property as a homestead each year. The form can be found on the Department's web site <https://tax.vermont.gov/document/2021-form-hs-122> The due date is April 18, 2022.

Filing on time is especially important if property taxes are paid by a property owner's mortgage company.



Mount Holly School
**PRESCHOOL
REGISTRATION**
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
By Appointment
(802) 259-2392


For children who will be 3 years old on or before August 31, 2023

Please bring the following:

1. A birth certificate
2. All immunization records
3. Residency documentation
4. Complete online pre-registration form

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

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



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P.O. Box 171
Belmont, VT 05730
Charlie Conroy
cjconroy@vermontel.net
30+ Years Experience



Mt. Hilly Runners
Mount Holly, VT
Mt. Hilly Runners, LLC
Katie Hollebeek
UESCA Certified Running Coach
Development of personalized running plans
<http://www.mthillyrunners.com>
802-733-2417 – katie@mthillyrunners.com

Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings

9:00 am

Community Center Under Library

For Weights and more information

Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

The Town of Wallingford has approved tax stabilization for Mt Moriah Lodge for the next 5-year period commencing July 1, 2023.

Please keep your dues monies coming in and, if you disagree with the amounts you are said to owe... let the secretary know by contacting him at 802-259-2384, by email at: sseward@vermontel.net. or mail 4280 Sugar Hill Rd. East Wallingford, Vt. 05742.

Red Mountrain Lodge, #63, Arlington, VT, cordially invites you to the Annual Table Lodge, Saturday, March 25, 2023. Gather 5:30 PM,

meal 6 PM. Roast turkey dinner \$25. Please R.S.V.P. to: Bill Cotrofeld, POBox 235, East Arlington, VT, 05252 802-375-6782 Fraternally, Dennis Start, WM & Buster Seward Sec'y

Spring is in the Air!

Time for yard clean-up &

time for any junk-in-the-yard clean-up.

Remember, the Town of Mount Holly has a

Junk Ordinance:

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

Avoid the Ordinance!

Keep Your Yard Junk Free!

Thanks for your part in keeping

Mount Holly looking fine!

those that were not as successful. Rain or shine, Frank was there to support his team.

Applicants are asked to share their thoughts on what makes an "ultimate fan" and how they have been an "ultimate fan" during their high school career.

These scholarships will be awarded annually to up to two graduating high school seniors who have participated in at least two sports per year while in high school.

These awards are open to residents of Ludlow or Mount Holly for use in

any post-secondary

institution including college, university, vocational or trade school.

Applications and information for the Frank Dressler Scholarship are available by contacting: Lisa Schmidt at 228-7690 or via email at noah@tds.net; or Sherri Geimer at 259-3800 or sgeimer@gmail.com.

Application deadline is May 1 and winner(s) will be announced in June.

Those wishing to make a contribution to the Frank Dressler Scholarship Fund are encouraged. Donations made out to "BRAM" may be sent to: Frank Dressler Scholarship Fund c/o Black River Academy Museum, PO Box 73, Ludlow, VT 05149.

March 2023, Trestleboard

Next Meeting 4/04/23 7:30PM ~ Sap Bucket Degree 4/1/23 10 AM

Brothers,

Sorry for the last minute Trestleboard.

Don't forget our Sap Bucket Degree rehearsals are coming up at King Solomon's on the 25th and 31st of March, beginning at 6 PM. The Degree itself begins at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 1st.

PGMs Earl Washburn and George Deblon we will be installing our officers for the ensuing year at this meeting.

*** 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. You may also leave a message with Dennis at 802-259-2460, or at ddevereux@vermontel.net.

Green Up Day

Save the date for Saturday May 6th, Green up Day

Facebook page is Mount Holly Green Up Day

Contact Marianne McGee at email

mariannewmcgee@gmail.com.

ATTENTION MOUNT HOLLY GARDENERS!

May I plant a seed?

As you are envisioning your garden,

please consider participating in

The 16th Annual Mount Holly Garden Tour

It's a Perennial Favorite and a fun way to show off

the Fruits of your Labor!

The Tour will be on Saturday, August 5th 2023

For more information, contact Leah Knoll

259-4137 or leahknoll@yahoo.com



Bear Coexistence PSA from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has begun to receive reports of bears coming out of their dens as the weather warms. Now is the time to take these proactive steps to help prevent bears from looking for food in your yards and neighborhoods:

- Take down your birdfeeder. Between late March and December, birdfeeders should not be used. You can attract birds by planting bird-friendly native plants instead. Check out Audubon's Native Plants for Birds Program: www.audubon.org
- Make your garbage inaccessible. Store garbage in a secure structure and a bear proof container. Learn how to make your garbage can bear proof here: vtfishandwildlife.com
- Dispose of garbage frequently. If you have pick-up services, wait until the morning to put your garbage out.
- Demand bear proof dumpsters for your community. Your garbage hauler should be able to provide these.
- Follow steps for composting in bear country. Compost needs to be 3 parts brown materials to 1 part kitchen scraps, turned frequently, and kept in a sturdy tumbler or bin: vtfishandwildlife.com
- Use electric fencing to keep chickens and bees safe. Fences need to be 4,000-6,000 volts, tested regularly and baited: vtfishandwildlife.com



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

- Clean your grill after every use. For added effectiveness, keep your grill in a secure outbuilding between uses after cleaning.
- Make bears feel uncomfortable in your yard. Yell, bang pots and pans, or use other noise devices from inside your home. Never shoot a bear to scare it. Even BBs can seriously injure bears.
- Please report your bear encounters to Vermont Fish & Wildlife. These reports allow us to help you prevent future bear incidents. They also give us information to help all Vermonters better coexist with bears: anrweb.vt.gov

Following these steps can save bears' lives, and help protect you, your neighbors, and your property. Please do your part to be a good neighbor and help keep Vermont's bears wild! If you have questions, contact the Vermont Fish and Wildlife department at 802-828-1000, or fwinformation@vermont.gov.

Appreciation To Town Road Crew

I want to Thank The Town Road Crew for their tireless efforts to keep the roads open during the past snow storm. They were working many hours with little or no sleep and having to deal with equipment breaking down.

With no school for two days parents didn't need to be traveling on the roads; those people on the roads should know to let the snow plows have the right of way. They shouldn't have to go off the road into a ditch for someone driving down the middle of the road. Most people today can work from home, so stay off the roads, unless absolutely necessary. Instead of complaining that the roads are not kept to your expectations and implying that the road crew is doing a poor job, maybe you should get your CDL and work under those adverse conditions. Or better yet return to where you feel the roads were maintained the way you expect. I've lived here all my life and I've seen far worse conditions, but I didn't complain, because I realize not everything can be perfect. Christine Pratt

Black River Memory Café

Support for caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia

Thursday, April 6th
11:00 AM-1:00 PM,
and, on the first Thursday monthly

Ludlow Community Center Mtg Room
37 Main Street, Ludlow, VT

*Games & Music *** Lunch Provided *** Free of Charge*

Info: Joan, 802-228-4145

With Support from: **ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

Sponsored by:
Black River Good Neighbor Services



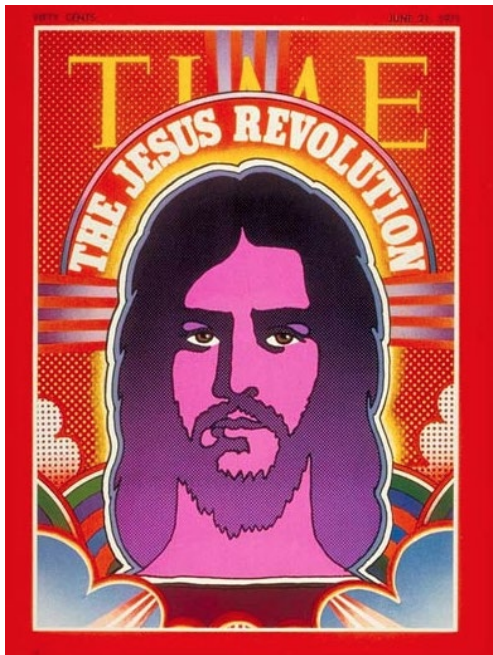
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TheNewLearningProject@gmail.com
 802.492.3208

Marcos Levy
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 of Experience





“C’m on People Now, Smile On Your Brother”

On June 21st, 1971, Time magazine published a cover story titled, *The Jesus Revolution*. It featured a psychedelic portrait of Jesus, an image that didn’t look like most any version of Christ anyone had ever seen. That included the young people flocking to Him from the counterculture who didn’t look like most people’s vision of good Christians, either. It was an unexplainable move of God.

Now comes an extremely entertaining new movie, *The Jesus Revolution*, which portrays the movement that burst on the scene in CA (and throughout the U.S.) in the late 60’s and early 70’s. Greg Laurie, (played by Joel Courtney) is a young man struggling to find his way. He’s seeking hope, love, joy and peace in all the wrong places. Based on true stories, this film is highly inspirational and couldn’t have come at a more interesting time. With the Super Bowl “He Gets Us” ads, along with the Asbury University revival, which began a week prior to the movie’s release now spreading to other colleges, some might call it all coincidental. I do not. It seems divine that this movie arrives telling of a spiritual awakening in a different time and place.

This film is about how God wakes up the human heart. The process is both messy and beautiful. It’s about how faith, hope and love remain and how the greatest of the three is LOVE, as the Bible declares. It is about hippies turning on, tuning in, and then dropping out of the short-lived, synthetic high to discover the REAL “high” of an authentic relationship with the Son of God that changes lives forever.

In the film you are transported back to an era: the colors, the cars, the music and the “vibe”. It feels like the director dropped a camera into 1969. Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer) allows a group of hippies, whom he initially misunderstands, to attend his “square”, ailing church. Then in an act of smiling defiance to the nay-sayers performs an act of Christlike love by washing the feet of each hippie arriving for a church service. This humble service is done to silence comments that “these visitors are soiling the carpet with their bare feet.” This emotionally moving scene stands in stark contrast to a cultural Christianity. The hippies bring a bright, wide-eyed wonder with them that belies a hunger for a word from God. With their charismatic leader, Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie) these youngsters usher in a fresh wind of renewal to “church attendance.” Many are suggesting that the “Asbury revival” is a response to a specific time, a situation happening in our post-Covid culture where there is a longing and hunger for God, community, fellowship and reality.

That brings up another theme in this well-crafted movie: The search for Truth. Lonnie admits that “drugs were a quest...for God.” In one scene, Greg is talking with his girlfriend Cathe, who asks, “What if there *is* no truth?” Greg picks up on her reference to one of the popular philosophies espoused by poet and writer, Allen Ginsberg. Greg rejects that notion: “Some things are absolutely true.” Even before his conversion, Greg realizes that there *is* one objective truth. Chuck’s wife, Kay (Julia Campbell) makes this profound statement, “The truth is always quiet, the lies are always loud.” She wraps up her point with, “The truth is simple.” *I sincerely hope our politicians are listening.*

During a moment of self-doubt, Chuck tells Kay, “Maybe God chose the wrong person.” Kay replies with my favorite line from the movie: “Don’t be so ignorant to think that God can’t work through your failures.” That’s a powerful reminder that God doesn’t expect us to be perfect. He doesn’t want our ability, but rather our *availability*. Chuck later tells Greg, “God has a long history of using flawed people.” Could it be that God is using what is happening now, however flawed, to draw us back to faith, hope and love?

Josiah (Devon Franklin), the writer for that Time magazine article, states, “Our country is dark and divided right now, but in that tent (set up by Chuck) there’s *hope*. And it’s spreading.” Perhaps what has started in our colleges recently will be the beginning of a new Jesus Revolution. And considering the fact that this wonderful movie opened the same weekend as “Cocaine Bear”, boy, do we need it! — *Pastor Glenn, one of the original Jesus Freaks*



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Many “Thanks” to All those who Donated to or were our Winning bidders in our 1st Annual Online Auction. Look for our 2nd Annual Online Auction in February 2024.

February is “Love Your Library Month”

Public Hours:
Monday–Friday 10AM to 5PM
Masks Suggested for Inside Service
Curbside Available (Please Call)

Important Dates:

Our Book Sale Returns!
Details TBD
August 18-20
We will NOT BE accepting donations until July

YOUTH NEWS:
Grab - to - Go Tuesdays
Themed at home Projects
Pick up in the Youth Library
Please take only one bag per child
Bags are best suited for ages 4 & up and may contain small items.

Story Time
Wednesdays
10:30am-11:15am
March 1st- May 31st
Best Suited for ages 5 & under
Story Time is the perfect opportunity for children and caregivers to make new friends, practice early literacy and language skills and have fun - featuring stories, songs and hands on art or science activities.

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

Visit us on
Facebook



Farm stand hours:
12pm-5pm
Thursday-Sunday
802.259.2250

1966 Healdville Road, Mount Holly

www.plewfarm.com

*dedicated to providing a local alternative
to commercially produced factory food*

visit our farm stand for beef, pork, chicken, eggs,
maple syrup & products, produce, honey, cheese, cider,
dairy, gifts, baked goods & more

working on a workforce development bill that proposes spending of just over 59 million dollars in various initiatives aimed at supporting Vermont workers. Last session we drafted a very similar bill (Enacted as Act 183) with similar provisions and expenses, but with a strong focus on incentives for Vermonters to go into the healthcare workforce and for those already working in healthcare to increase their education and earning potential. This year our workforce bill is structured very similarly, but the focus is on the education sector. With more programs geared towards removing barriers to become a teacher in the state. That bill passed out of my committee unanimously.

In terms of our other work before crossover we have passed 4 other bills out of my committee so far this year, all unanimous with tri-partisan support. Three were mostly what we call "housekeeping" bills that clean up old and outdated language in statute and made *relatively* minor policy changes.

H.217 sets the annual rate of contributions for the Workers' Compensation Administration Fund and makes permanent some provisions around appealing decisions which have been standard practice for many years.

H.55 is our semi-annual Unemployment Insurance miscellaneous bill which makes *mostly* non-substantive changes that update references in statute and otherwise "clean up" statutory language to conform with current practice and federal law. The substantive changes we do propose in the bill have to do with the way non-profit organizations interact with the unemployment system. After the heightened use of the unemployment system during the pandemic, we came to realize that non-profits were not adequately informed about their options for providing unemployment benefits, so this bill proposes an outreach program by the State Department of Labor to non-profits to properly explain the unemployment system and their options.

H.76 is our annual captive insurance housekeeping bill. The captive insurance industry in Vermont is something I was not very aware of until I started serving on the Commerce and Economic Development committee, but we are consistently one of the leading domiciles in the world for the captive insurance industry and it is a fascinating industry.

H.10, the last bill out of my committee this session was on the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program (VEGI). This bill was more substantive and less "housekeeping" than the others. VEGI is a program that allows employers to get grants from the state for growing the number of employees they have, giving them an incentive to offset their capital investments. We had some very long conversations about this program, how it works and whether we think it's working the way we want it to or the way it was intended. Ultimately we decided to make some changes to make the program more transparent and commissioned a study/report on incentives programs in other states and will revisit whether we think this program should continue next session.

As always please reach out about these or anything else, Logan Nicoll, State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury 802-345-8430 RepLoganNicoll@gmail.com

State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury

Hello from Montpelier. As I mentioned before, Friday March 17th was "crossover". So you will be hearing about a lot more legislation right now because it will have been voted out of the "policy" committee in the chamber it started in and we will be voting on all those bills on the floor to send them to the other chamber over the next couple weeks. In some ways it's hard not to develop a bit of tunnel vision in the legislature, we get so focused on our own committee work and it can be hard to follow what all the other committees are doing, but these next few weeks we will be voting on all of it.

In my committee over the past few weeks, we have been

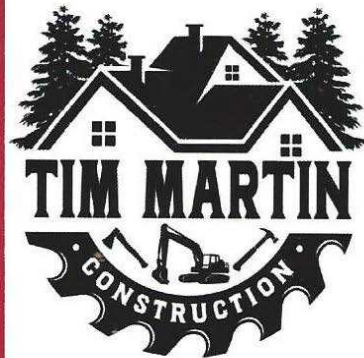
Mount Holly Dairy-Aire Farm

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Fresh Raw Milk,
We are a Tier 1 State Inspected Farm
Fresh Cage Free Eggs, Fresh Cage Free Poultry
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Tim Martin
Owner

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Mount Holly, VT 05758
CELL: (802)236-7007

EXCAVATION~NEW CONSTRUCTION~REMODELING
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|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| FOUNDATIONS | HOMESTEADS | ADDITIONS |
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| ROADS | HOMES | DOORS |
| PONDS | BARNs | KITCHENS |
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| LAND CLEARING | CABINS | STAIRS |
| FIELD RESTORATION | OFF-GRID | WOODWORK |
| RETAINING WALLS | GARAGES | SIDING |
| LANDSCAPE INSTALATION | DECKS | |

"Give us a call, we do it all"

State Senate Legislative Session

I am happy to begin offering some of my thoughts from the Senate side of this year's legislative session. Senate Bill 5, which was titled the "Affordable Heat Bill", passed out of the Senate on March 3rd and is now in the House for consideration. The floor vote was 18-10 in favor of the bill. I was one of the "NO" votes for a number of reasons. First, the bill allows unelected and unaccountable members of the Public Utility Commission to determine how much Vermonters will be paying for gasoline, fuel oil and all the other fossil fuels. I don't think it is a good idea for the Legislature to give others this authority. It is our constitutional obligation to vote and be accountable to the voters. I also simply could not vote in support of a bill without knowing what those costs were going to be and that has not been decided yet. **S 5** will most likely pass in the House as well and it will be up to the Governor to veto the bill and see what happens.

There are also competing childcare and paid family leave bills. The House has a very ambitious set and the Senate a little less so and the administration has also offered its version of solving this very real issue. The real question, of course, is what the costs will be and how we will pay for them.

The other very important issue Vermont faces is a lack of housing, both affordable and market priced. Some of the legislation passed last year along with some from the Senate Economic Development Committee this year infuses about \$150 million dollars to begin to address this problem. Given the supply chain issues and the inflationary pressures, it will take some time to see results on this, but we are working on it.

One final item this time is the decision by the President and administration of the Vermont State College System and the Chancellor's Office to close libraries at our State Colleges and to lay staff and librarians off as a result. The decision was followed by a loud outcry from not just Castleton University but also from around the state. As a result, I have introduced a bill which will prohibit the closing of the libraries and the loss of jobs. It is Senate bill 134 and was introduced and referred to the Senate Education Committee last week. It has 15 Senators as co-sponsors which is half of the Senate. I will be letting you know how it proceeds. Senator Brian Collamore, bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us




RETIREMENT PARTY THANK YOU!

Well it's official now since I have had a retirement party! I want to thank Dave for allowing me to share his retirement party and everyone that was involved in setting it up! Even though I retired two years ago, with COVID19 restricting me as to what I could do, it actually now seems more like a real retirement. I want to thank all the people that came and all of the people I have bumped into in the past two years asking me how I was doing. I miss seeing all the people, but I am enjoying being retired after 38 years of being Mount Holly Town Clerk. Honestly I have always felt extremely lucky and fortunate to have been the Town Clerk of such a wonderful town! I guess that is why I stayed so long. So again THANK YOU

FROM
THE
BOTTOM
OF MY
HEART!!!
Susan
C.Covalla

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WHY PAY MARKET PRICES WHEN YOU CAN COME TO THE FARM!

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Wednesday thru Monday • 10am-5pm
CLOSED Tuesday - Call for appointments

Directions From:
 Rutland: Left off VT RT 103 just 2.5 miles - on the right
Cuttingsville: Just 2.1 miles up Town Hill Rd, right on Lincoln Hill

2450 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury VT. 05738
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MOUNT HOLLY DOG OWNERS

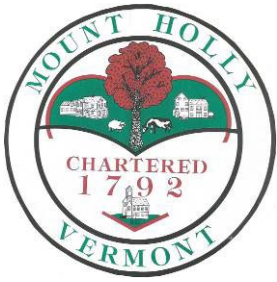
ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED BY
APRIL 1, 2023

NEUTERED DOGS- \$11.00

UNNEUTERED DOGS - \$15.00

MUST HAVE CURRENT RABIES
CERTIFICATE TO REGISTER

VERMONT STATE LAW



Mount Holly Town News

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

Select Board Meeting @ Town Office March 21, 2022 - MEETING MINUTES

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.

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

Town Officials: In Person: Caitlin Boyle, Dennis Devereux, Chad Farrar, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Elizabeth Karle, Steven Michel, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Clinton Woolley. **Via Zoom:** Jon McCann.

Members of the Public In Person: Mary Alberty, Zena Gates, Steve Hazelton. **Via Zoom:**, Dottie Finnerty, Brigid Sullivan, Ron Unterman

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

1. Call to Order at 6:30 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda. Mark Turco noted a request to add item

8c earlier in the meeting. Jeff Chase noted that the deadline has passed re: 7d and can be struck. The Select Board Clerk noted that the MHCC will not attend this meeting.

4. **Approval of February 14, 2022 minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Turco, unanimously approved.

5. Reorganization

a. **Select Board Chair:** Jeff made a motion to reappoint Mark Turco; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

b. **Tree Warden:** Jeff made a motion to reappoint Phil Crane as Tree Warden; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

c. **E911 Coordinator:** Diana Garrow made a motion to reappoint Carol A. Garrow-Woolley; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

d. **911 Measuring Responsibilities:** Mark Turco confirmed that this is delegated to the Board of Listers.

e. **RCSWD Representative & Alternate:** Mark Turco made a motion to appoint Chad Farrar as the representative and Clinton Woolley as the alternate; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

f. **Designated Employee Representative:** Jeff Chase made a motion to re-appoint Caitlin Boyle; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

g. **Newspaper of Record:** Dennis Devereux noted that addresses in Belmont and E. Wallingford do not receive the *Vermont Journal*; Mark Turco made a motion to continue to designate the Vermont Journal as the newspaper of record; Jeff Chase seconded; unanimously approved.

h. **Assistant Town Clerk:** Carol A Garrow confirmed they are Diana Garrow, Nancy Connor and Susan Covalla.

i. **Assistant Town Treasurer:** Liz Karle has appointed David Johnson and Shireen Geimer.

j. **Set Day & Time of Regular Select Board Meeting:** Jeff Chase made a motion to keep meeting times as second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm; Mark Turco second; unanimously approved.

k. **Name Two Public Posting Places for Public Notices:** Diana Garrow made a motion to select the Mount Holly Post Office (on Town-owned outdoor bulletin board affixed to Vermont Hydroponics Store) and Belmont Post Office; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. Chad Farrar volunteered to build the bulletin board for the exterior of the Mount Holly Post Office.

l. **Signer for SB Orders and Authorizations:** Jeff Chase made a motion to re-appoint Diana Garrow; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

6. Reports

a. **Highways & Transfer Station Update:** Mr. Woolley noted that the Town loader is 25 years old and will be due for replacement in the near-term. He also noted that the RCSWD would like to present an outreach project on April 11 at 6 pm. The Select Board Clerk will schedule this to take place prior to the regular Select Board meeting. He thanked the Town for patience with the road crew after the latest snow storm.

i. **Review VTrans Paving Grant Applications:** Hortonville Rd (Shunpike to Shrewsbury Town Line) Overlay; Belmont Rd (Teer to School) Overlay. The grant has been prepared.

ii. **Submit MRGP Annual Report.** The reported has been submitted.

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY
A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR OUTDOOR BURNING

BURN PERMITS
May be obtained from
THE MOUNT HOLLY FIRE WARDEN

Jim Seward
Pager: 802-786-3408
Home: 802-259-2211

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

SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS

Transfer Station Spring/Summer Hours

The last Sunday will be April 2, 2023
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

The first Wednesday will be April 5, 2023.
4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Wednesdays 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Saturdays 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.



REMINDER TO REGISTER YOUR DOG AT THE TOWN OFFICE

All dogs 6 months or older must be licensed and must wear a collar with the license attached.

Please visit the Town Office to purchase a license by April 1. You must present a current rabies vaccination certificate. Licenses are good for one year. If your previously licensed dog has passed away, please also notify the Town Office at (802) 259-2391.

Residents who have not licensed their dogs will be contacted by the Town Animal Control Officer.

b. Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report: Treasurer Liz Karle reported that the bill came in for the Transfer Station; we're currently paying for Zero-Sort, but overall costs and expenses are tracking toward the budget. Winter labor costs are up a bit due to the recent storm. Solid waste label sales are now back on track. The auditors are doing their quality control review currently.

c. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update: Jon McCann reported that the Commission is continuing to work on its Transportation plan. He also noted that he attended a Permit

Navigator training; the state program is replacing their current system.

i. Administrative Officer Candidate: The Planning Commission recommended that the

Select Board appoint Faith Tempest as its Administrative Officer, and asked the Select

Board to approve the recommendation and, if approved, to discuss terms of employment with Ms. Tempest. The Selectboard agreed to put the decision on the April agenda.

d. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update: Tabled for next month. The Select Board clerk distributed the Commission's plan for ash tree preservation for future discussion.

e. Mount Holly Community Association Update: Mary Alberty noted that the MHCA is not willing to remove the trash being collected currently at the Star Lake Beach. Mark Turco indicated that the site should be designated as a carry-in/carry-out site, and that the Town would provide signage to that effect. Diana Garrow noted that the update can be made in the *Chit Chat*; the Select Board Clerk will also post to the Newsflash and public posting sites. Mark Turco noted that the Town will remove the existing trash can in the spring. Ms. Alberty also

shared that the annual Mudfling will be hosted by the MHCA at Oddfellows Hall on April 29, beginning at 7 pm; BYOB.

7. New Business

a. Set Start Date for Spring & Summer Transfer Station Hours: Mr. Woolley noted that April 2 will be the final day of Sunday hours; April 5 would be the first day of Wednesday hours.

b. Cemetery Mowing Bids: The Select Board will publish a RFP for cemetery mowing bids.

c. PACIF Insurance Provider Grant Application - Submit for Town Office Fire Alarm (Or Other Safety Item): Jeff Chase made a motion to apply for back-up camera for the grader; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

8. Ongoing & Old Business

a. FY22 MPG Update - Certified Planner Services for Final Report: Jeff Chase provided an update on the community survey project funded by the FY '22 Municipal Planning Grant. Mr. Chase made a motion to work with Michael Allen at ReGrowth Planning to complete the project; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

b. AED Quotes and Demand: Interest in an AED has come from the library/community center (1); both museums (2), the Odd Fellows Hall (1); the Town Office (1); and the Fire Department (2), for a total of 7 units. Diana Garrow made a motion to purchase up to seven AED units, for up to \$12,000, with ARPA funds, if each recipient acknowledges that they own the unit and are responsible for ongoing maintenance, replacement parts and training.

c. Discussion of Town-wide Reappraisal: David Johnson submitted a Reappraisal Fund Projection for the Select Board's review and recommended that the Select Board chose a firm to carry out the town wide reappraisal for late 2024. The Town has budgeted for the reappraisal but will likely need to raise \$33,698 in additional funds to meet the estimated services fee from NEMRC Reappraisal Services. It is anticipated that the reappraisal would start in late 2024 and would continue through 2025 to take effect for the April 1, 2026 Grand List. Approximately 1,200 parcels would be reappraised at \$115/parcel.

d. Geese Depredation Permit: Ron Unterman noted that he wished to correct some errors from the previous discussion about geese at the Star Lake Beach. He noted that the goose population is not endangered; they are the most common waterfowl in North America and plentiful in Vermont. He noted there is historically a large quantity of goose fecal matter during the beach season, and it cannot be easily maintained by raking alone. He also noted that the state of Vermont has three legal hunting periods for geese, in the fall; this permit merely extends the hunting season to an earlier part of the year, when the geese are a problem on the beach. The Select Board Clerk noted that Bridgid Sullivan,

TOWN SEEKS MOWING BIDS FOR:

- + Star Lake Beach and Ramp Areas
- + Carleton Cemetery on Route 155
- + Green Cemetery on Route 103
- + Packer Cemetery on Packer Road between Cole and Old Turnpike

Bids should be submitted on a per-location basis. Bidders may also submit bids for individual areas (bids need not include all areas). All bidders must be able to provide a COI on request.

All bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with BID ENCLOSED: MOWING to Mount Holly Select Board, 50 School Street, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758.

Deadline: April 10, 2023 at 3 pm

For questions:
mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com or
call 259-2391.

Kathy Leber and Abe Leber all sent letters of support for the geese depredation permit. Mark Turco made a motion to approve the permit; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

9. Citizen Comments

a. Chad Farrar asked whether there was a policy regarding volunteers or organizations donating resources or projects to the Town. Mark Turco noted that the Select Board encourages volunteers wishing to propose improvement projects or resources to attend a Select Board meeting or to write a letter or email to the Select Board.

10. Announcements/Other Business

a. **Rabies Clinic**, March 25, 10 am - 12 pm

b. **Hazardous Waste Collection**, Saturday, April 8 and Saturday, July 8

11. Review & Sign Orders

12. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed): Mark Turco made a motion to go into Executive Session; Jeff Chase seconded;

2023 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS 2023

At the MOUNT HOLLY TRANSFER STATION

Saturday, April 8, 2023 & July 8, 2023

8 AM to NOON

The following items are typical of the household chemicals collected through the Household Hazardous Waste program. These materials may be dropped off at the scheduled event in Mount Holly or delivered to the HHW Depot at the Rutland County Solid Waste District's Gleason Road Transfer Station. The Gleason Road HHW facility is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 7:00am to 3:00pm and the first Saturday of the month 7:00am to 3:00 pm.

Kitchen/Bathroom

- Aerosol Cans
- Bug Sprays
- Floor Care Products
- Metal Polish
- Furniture Polish
- Oven Cleaners
- Drain Cleaners
- Bathroom Cleaners
- Tile Cleaners
- Disinfectants
- Toilet Bowl Cleaners
- Nail Polish Remover
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Garage Workshop

- Waste Oil
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Brake Fluid
- Roofing Tar
- Auto Body Repair Pro.
- Automatic Trans. Fluid
- Other Oils/Cleaners
- Paint (Lead & Oil Based)
- Paint Thinner
- Paint Stripper
- Varnish
- Pool Chemicals

Garden/Miscellaneous

- Chemical Fertilizer
- Fungicides
- Herbicides
- Rat Poison
- Insecticides/Pesticides
- Artists' Paints, Mediums
- Dry Cleaning Solvents
- Fiberglass Epoxy
- Gun Cleaning Solvents
- Moth Balls
- Household Batteries
- Photographic Chemicals

unanimously approved.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday February 1, 2023

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Seward, Also Present: Renee Sarmento (Clerk) Absent: Andrew Schulz, Brigid Sullivan

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
2. Changes to agenda: None
3. Town Plan
 - a. Land Use Plan
 - i. Chair spoke about looking at neighboring towns and seeing

what would make sense to include in our town plan.

- ii. Chair created a Town Plan document outline based on the statute requirements. Chair suggested going through sections and highlighting things interested in.
- iii. Chair stated it would make sense to have a tally of the number of acres of public land. It might make sense to make a table.
- iv. Lengthy discussion about the state definition of agriculture. Commissioner A. Seward read aloud: Using Agricultural lands identification process. Chair asked Commissioner A. Seward to look into the agricultural guidelines.
- v. Commissioner J. Seward where sugaring belongs. He feels it should be under agriculture because it is a product. Commissioners discussed sugaring and if it belongs under agriculture or forestry.
- vi. What qualifies as a farm? How big is considered a farm? Commissioner A. Seward found definition of a farm in the document "VERMONT REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES RULE FOR THE AGRICULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM". Commissioners discussed a list of farms in Mount Holly and what products they produce.

vii. Discussion of solar panels on prime ag land and why it requires an enhanced energy plan to have any say in the matter.

viii. Discussion about public/semi-public land.

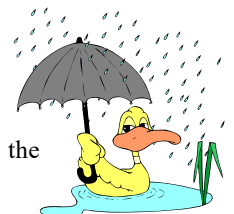
ix. Discussion about open spaces.

x. Discussion of industry vs commerce.

xi. Discussion of recreation plan.

xii. Commissioner A. Seward is going to look more into the agriculture/forestry question.

4. Public Comments: none



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.

This is what the cover of the 2025 Mount Holly Calendar might look like if no one submits photos to the

Janet Warren Memorial Photo Competition
and
Mount Holly Calendar Competition

Get the hint?

mthollyphotos@gmail.com

March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Town Meeting is March 6 at and Australian Ballot voting on March 7 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. For the Commission, Brigid Sullivan, Planning Commission Acting Secretary

Homestead Declaration

Don't forget to file your annual Homestead Declaration Form HS-122 by April 15, regardless if you file for an extension, or do not have to file a state income tax return. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet the following requirements: 1) You are a Vermont resident and 2) You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2022. **Please Note:** If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2022, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2022 calendar year.

Property Tax Adjustment

You may be eligible for a property tax adjustment on your 2023 property taxes if you property qualifies as a homestead and you meet the eligibility requirements. The Property Tax Adjustment Claim Form HS-122 is due April 15. Late filers are charged a fee.

The 2022 HS-122 and HS-144, can be completed online at <https://myvtax.vermont.gov>. If you would rather fill out a paper form, you can print the HS-122 and HS144 forms. More information is online at 5ax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration. If you have any questions, call the VT Department of Taxes at 802-828-2865.

8. Public Comments: None
9. Upcoming meetings
 - a. Working meeting – March 1st, at 7:00 pm (1st Wednesday)
 - b. Regular meeting – March 15th, at 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday)
10. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm. For the Commission, Andrew Schulz, Planning Commission Secretary

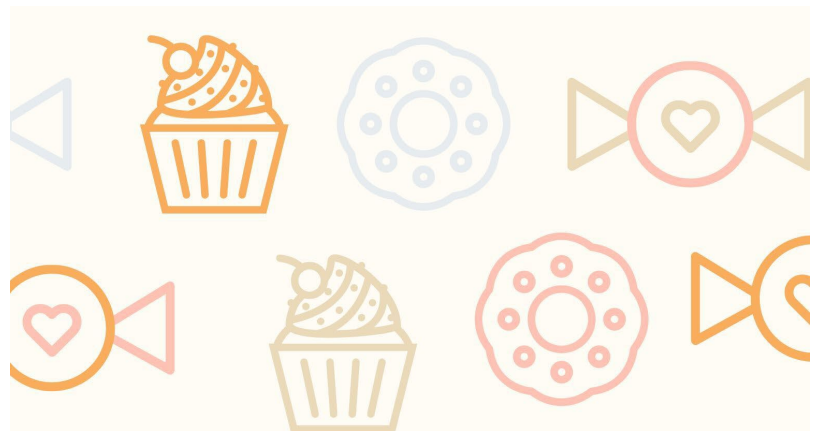
Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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

Absent: Andrew Schulz

Others Present: Faith Tempest, Steven Michel

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm
2. Changes to agenda: None
3. Executive session for “evaluation of a public officer”: Brigid Sullivan moved, Andrew Seward seconded a motion to enter executive session per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss a personnel matter. The commission entered into Executive session at 7:13 p.m.
4. The commission re-entered the public meeting at 7:43 p.m. Andrew Seward moved, and Brigid Sullivan seconded a motion to enter open session per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Motion passed unanimously.
5. Brigid Sullivan moved, Andrew Seward seconded a motion to recommend to the Select Board that Faith Tempest be offered the position of Administrative Assistant and Clerk to the Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Town Plan The Planning Commission discussed the draft of the Introduction and Objectives of the redrafted Town Plan.
7. Public comments None
8. Upcoming meetings Next meeting is a Regular Meeting on



Expeditionary School at Black River Spring Bake Sale

All donations will be used to support ESBRI!

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH, 2023 IN FRONT OF
SHAW'S IN LUDLOW VT

STAY POSTED ON OUR MOTHERS DAY BAKE
SALE/ PIE SALE!



Vermont Symphony Orchestra

The VSO Summer Festival Tour is back with a lineup of American favorites to get you dancing and celebrating the most anticipated time of year in Vermont with five stops across the state. Guest trumpeter and jazz legend Ray Vega joins the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Argentinian/Italian conductor Michelle Di Russo in a concert of swing, jazz, spirituals, and marches.

Di Russo, known for her compelling interpretations, passionate musicality, and contemporary music says this about the Summer Festival Tour, "I can't wait to take the *American Swing* tour to Vermont communities in collaboration with one of the biggest influences of jazz music, Ray Vega. We have been working hard curating an unforgettable

experience for our audiences that includes commissioning arrangements, featuring the Vermont Symphony, and classic tunes from the Jazz Masters like Johnny Mandel and Duke Ellington that have influenced other composers like Bernstein and Gershwin. You really can't miss this unique experience, it will be a true celebration!"

A "...hornman with deep roots in Latin Music and Afro-Cuban Jazz" (New York Daily News), Vega is known as a prolific, state-wide performer and as host of Vermont Public's Friday Night Jazz program. "I'm excited to have this wonderful opportunity to perform with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra this summer. This coming July marks my 15th anniversary as a resident of the Green Mountain State and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate than to play with the VSO! This is a fantastic ensemble and it's sure to be a fun filled series of concerts! Onward and upward."- Ray Vega

Relax under balmy summer skies with feisty, soothing, and unforgettable music by Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Thelonius Monk, George Gershwin, John Philip Sousa, Johnny Mandel and more. Bring your picnic baskets and summer spirit!

Fireworks will take place following the performances in Grafton, Stowe, and



Burlington.

2023 EVENT DETAILS

June 30: Saskaena Six, South Pomfret*

July 2: Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow, Stowe**

July 4: Shelburne Museum, Shelburne

**In partnership with Stowe Performing Arts

thea@vso.org 802-316-1544

July 1: Burke Mountain Ski Resort, East Burke

July 3: Grafton Ponds, Grafton

*In partnership with Pentangle Arts

Tickets available March 31 at VSO.org/events

Mount St. Joseph Academy Hosts Auction, April 29th.

Save the Date! Mount St. Joseph Academy will be hosting its Annual Live & Silent Auction IN PERSON this year!

Please join us on Saturday April 29, 2023 from 6 pm -10 pm in the Martin McDonough Gymnasium at Mount St. Joseph Academy.

Tickets are \$15 per person, with a cash bar available (21 and older only); light Hors d'oeuvres; 50/50; and plenty of time to dance with MC Sounds! You are able to purchase tickets through the Development Office at [802-775-0151](tel:802-775-0151) ~ Ext. 2015 or via Email to Carly Ward at cward@msjvermont.org. Further, auction item donations are still being accepted.

Please use the above contacts to do so! Vast appreciations.

We look forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.msjvermont.org/>

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East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521

New Group for those with memory concerns and their care partners to kick off in Ludlow

Attention Caregivers: Are you caring for a loved who may be experiencing forms of dementia or other cognitive disorders?

The grand opening of a Memory Café sponsored by Black River Good Neighbor Services is scheduled for Thursday, April 6th from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM in the Ludlow Community Center Meeting Room, 37 Main St, Ludlow, VT. This will be an ongoing event and will take place on the 1st Thursday of each month.

A Memory Café is a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. It provides mutual support and exchange of information within a safe, non-judgmental setting. Valuable resources will be available from local support organizations to help in the caregiving experience.

Research shows that Memory Cafés enhance caregivers' well-being by providing them with an environment filled with acceptance and belonging. They offer social connectivity, inclusion and a time to step out of their daily routine. People living with dementia can become isolated due to increasing difficulty of engaging in everyday activities. A goal of this Memory Café is to offer caregivers a break. The stress of caregiving can be overwhelming, and the demand for help is huge, especially with the rise of an aging population.

This event is free to attend and lunch will be provided. For more information please contact Joan Frangiose at 802-228-4145.

Division On Addictions

Nationwide listing of nearly 14,000 drug and alcohol rehabs across the U.S.

I am Laura and I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Division On Addictions <https://www.addictiontreatmentdivision.org/drug-alcohol/vermont/>.

Division On Addictions is an organization that helps vulnerable Vermont residents who are addicted to drugs or alcohol locate proper treatment options. Alcoholism and drug addiction are terrible crises affecting all ages in our communities – from teenagers to senior citizens.

Finding treatment facilities that are able to understand the underlying causes of the addiction, and that are able to cure an individual so as to prevent any relapse, is often a very hard task. This is where we come in. We help those in greatest need to find addiction treatment options that are the best for each individual situation. Our services are 100% free.

I was wondering if it would be possible for you to mention Division On Addictions on your resources page at <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/town-services/>.

Picture to the Right - Okemo Valley Chamber Director Carol Lighthall presents Russ Hurlburt Photography with the February 2023 Member of the Month certificate for his new location at Lamere Square in Ludlow.



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Notice From Wallingford Town Clerk

Wallingford, VT – A Local Concerns Meeting for the project listed below will be held on Monday, April 3rd, 2023, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the Wallingford Town Hall located at 75 School Street in Wallingford, VT. The meeting will be held by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Town of Wallingford.

State Highway Bridge Project: Wallingford BF 0133(18) – VT Route 155, Bridge 15 over Mill River (off Route 103 by Jiffy Mart in East Wallingford).

The intent of the meeting is to gather input from stakeholders, including Town Officials, residents and businesses, emergency services and other interested parties. During this meeting we will discuss the existing conditions of the bridge, site constraints, and options that should be considered in the scoping report.

Representatives from both VTrans and the Town of Wallingford will be available at the meeting to gather concerns about the project. Town of Wallingford, 75 School Street, Wallingford VT 05773 Phone 802-446-2336

townclerk@wallingfordvt.com
www.wallingfordvt.com

WESTON THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES SEASON 87

Susanna Gellert, Executive Artistic Director of **Weston Theater Company**, announces the 87th season of Vermont's oldest, award-winning professional theater.

Says **Gellert**, "I am thrilled to announce our 2023 Season. This year's shows sing with the magic of Weston, a magic that brings people together and invites us to share the wonder and excitement that have been the hallmark of Weston Theater Company for over 85 years. From the rollicking story of the life and music of Buddy Holly to a new American play about a family reuniting through folk song; from the joy, laughter, love, and tap of *Singin' In the Rain* to an award-winning play about America's founding document, these are stories full of heart, generosity, and substance. It's a vibrant and varied lineup that we cannot wait to share with our audience."

The season begins with the free Weston Young Company production of **YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN**; based on the Peanuts' Comic Strip by Charles Schulz with music, book, and lyrics by Clark Gesner. Follow the life of America's most loveable loser and his friends as they navigate the ups and downs of childhood with memorable songs that bring this beloved comic strip to life. Don't forget your picnic and your kite! This production premieres outdoors at Walker farm and then travels to community partner venues across southern Vermont. **Performances June 22 - July 9**

Opening at The Playhouse is a crowd pleaser that really rocks, **BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY** written by Alan Janes. Transport yourself back to the 1950s with this show telling the story of Holly's rise to fame, his struggles with the music industry, and his enduring legacy as one of the pioneers of rock and roll. This high-energy must-see show features all of Holly's hits, including "Peggy Sue," "That'll Be the Day, and "Everyday." It's a heartwarming and inspiring tale that will have you leaving the theater with a smile on your face and a spring in your step. **Performances June 28 - July 16**

First at Walker Farm is the award-winning and critically acclaimed play exploring how the United States Constitution has shaped the country and its people, **WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME** by Heidi Schreck and starring Broadway veteran and Weston favorite, Susan Haefner (Fun Home, Tenderly). Hilarious, hopeful, and achingly human, this play traces the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives. It's a love letter to our constitution, giving it new life and imagining how it will shape the next generation of Americans. **Performances July 12 - July 30**

In August, a celebrated classic of stage and screen, **SINGIN' IN THE RAIN**, takes to The Playhouse stage featuring screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green and songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed. Based on the "greatest movie musical of all time," this joyous show recreates the glamour of 1920s Hollywood, when silent films gave way to "talkies" and the electrifying 20th century was on the move. From glorious standards like "You Stepped Out of a Dream" to foot-tapping numbers like "Make 'Em Laugh" to the show-stopping "Singin' In the Rain", this golden-age classic is filled with memorable songs that are sure to have you humming and tapping along to their Broadway rhythm. **Performances August 3 - 20**

Back at Walker Farm in late August, Weston presents **THE PORCH ON WINDY HILL**, "a new play with old music" written by Sherry Stregack Lutken, Lisa Helmi Johanson, Morgan Morse, and David M. Lutken. Through gloriously authentic 'Old Time' and Bluegrass music, this new, uplifting musical tells the contemporary story of a family reuniting against great odds. With a cast of endearing and relatable characters and fiddles, banjos, guitars and mandolins perfect for a "pickin' party" — and featuring the star of last season's breakout hit *Woody Sez*—this timely tale is sure to hit all the right notes.

Performances August 16 - September 3

Season 87 closes in the fall at Walker Farm with an acclaimed drama where jazz often speaks louder than words, **LET THERE BE LOVE** by Kwame Kwei-Armah. Gruff, grumpy, and tired of growing old, Arthur is an immigrant to Britain who has shut himself off from his family even as he longs for his childhood home in the West Indies. When his headstrong daughter hires an idealistic, young Polish caregiver to look after him, Arthur finds himself reckoning with his past and awakening to a new sense of hope and love. Filled with the sumptuous jazz standards that pour forth from Arthur's beloved record player, this intimate and humorous family drama explores the forces of memory and longing that lie at the heart of all immigrant experiences and what can happen when, at any age, we open our minds to the possibility of change. **Performances October 4 - October 22.**

Get the best seats and choose the price that works for you with a 2023 "Pick-Your-Price" Season Subscription. Renewal Subscriptions go on sale **March 8**. New Subscriptions are available **March 29**. Single ticket sales will be available online and by calling the Weston Box Office at 802-824-5288 beginning **April 19**. Child and Student tickets are available for \$25 and a **limited quantity of VTix for Vermont residents are available for \$25** with a Vermont ID.

As community levels for Covid remain low, masks will be optional for all patrons and proof of vaccination/negative Covid test is no longer required. Physically distanced seating remains available upon request, based on availability.

Weston Theater Company is Vermont's oldest professional theater company, presenting a summer season of musicals, classic plays, family-friendly shows, and ground-breaking new works on two stages: The Playhouse and Walker Farm. Weston Theater Company approaches every season with the goal of expanding the imaginative, cultural, and social landscape in our community by connecting Weston to the world and the world to Weston.

Learn more at westontheater.org



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2023 Best of Vermont Summer Festival

Seeking Additional Vendors & Sponsors

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrates the 3rd Annual **Best of Vermont Summer Festival** on **Saturday, August 26** from 12 noon - 7 pm and **Sunday, August 27** from 10 am - 4 pm in Ludlow, Vermont. This event will take place at Okemo Field on Route 103 in Ludlow. Use of the field was generously donated again by Lead Sponsor Okemo Mountain/Vail Resorts.

This festival is a great opportunity for everyone including locals, new residents, second homeowners, and visitors to enjoy specialty foods; wine, spirits & brew tastings; artisan products; fine art; live music; ag demos; children's activities, antique vehicles; and more! The Best of Vermont Summer Festival will be marketed throughout the Okemo Valley region, the state of Vermont, New England and the Northeast.

William Raveis Vermont Properties of Ludlow is the festival Presenting Sponsor again this year. Other sponsors are in process and will continue to be listed on the chamber's special festival web: <https://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival>.

The chamber's festival committee is seeking additional sponsors, vendors, and volunteers. They are also seeking special event sponsors for other special festival activities. Sponsor and vendor forms are now available on the festival website page. To learn more, to go:

- **Sponsoring:** <https://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/sponsorships>
- **Vending:** <https://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/vendors>

Discounts will be given to participating Okemo Valley Chamber Members and returning vendors will also be given preferential locations.

Sponsors or vendors who are not yet members of the Okemo Valley Chamber who are interested may join online HERE: <https://www.yourplaceinvermont.com/online-application>

This year's festival is co-chaired by Scott Duffy of Rockledge Farm Woodworks and Anna Tumber of Okemo Mountain Resort. Volunteers are needed for the festival committee as well as for festival set up, break down and during the event. Those interested in participating may also contact Chamber Director Carol directly by emailing her at clighthall@yourplaceinvermont.com.

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit, member-driven association and the voice of 300+ businesses and the communities of 12 Towns & Villages in South Central Vermont along the VT Scenic Route 100 Byway surrounded by Okemo, Ascutney & Magic Mountains. OVRCC provides advocacy, support, and unified regional marketing to promote and enhance businesses in the region as well as the four-season economy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Carol Lighthall, Executive Director, Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce clighthall@yourplaceinvermont.com
802-228-5830

Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series Presents

The Sky Blue Boys

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

The Sky Blue Boys, a duo comprised of Willy and Dan Lindner (who formed Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite Plowboys), will perform at Wallingford Town Hall at 75 School Street in Wallingford on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. The duo has built up a large repertoire of wonderful old ballads, parlor songs, heart songs and sacred numbers. The Sky Blue Boys have expanded the accompaniment to include a variety of acoustic instruments and added many newer songs including several of their own compositions. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door. Please support local live music and attend the Sky Blue Boys concert on Wednesday, April 12th.



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MLS



Vermont Home Gardener: Mud Season Gardening

When our snow is replaced by slippery mud, it's a sure sign that spring is almost here! We are now getting just over 12 hours of daylight per day and that stimulates new plant growth. It also makes our gardens irresistible on warmer days. Don't be tempted to get too ambitious just yet, but there are several jobs that can be done before working in the soil. Houseplants and indoor sheltered garden plants will benefit from feeding now and some seeds can be planted indoors now.. I prefer to use a liquid fish or seaweed fertilizer for its slow release of micronutrients.

Hidden deep in all that rich leaf litter in your gardens are many overwintering beneficial creatures that need a little more time before they awaken and get to work. Let them have this time and wait until we pass the freezing nights of April before cleaning those beds. It's also important that cold, wet soil not be disturbed yet. Let the water drain out for few more weeks. Even walking across a squishy lawn now is hard on the soil and roots. Still, there are plenty of mud season jobs that can be done now!

What seeds can I plant indoors now? It's still too early to start most garden vegetables but a few things will benefit from an early start. Last article I encouraged starting onion from seeds instead of buying onion sets so you can save some cash and get much better yields of onions. When they get over 6-8 inches tall in the flats prune them back to about 5 in. tall to encourage thicker growth and use the trimmings like fresh chives! They get transplanted out before the Summer Equinox (June 20) so they have time to form good bulbs.

Late March through mid-April is the best time to start peppers (sweet or hot), tomatoes, and cabbage. Broccoli, cauliflower and many annual flowers (zinnias, snapdragons, cosmos, marigold, etc.) seeds can be started in mid to late April. Johnny's has a very good [seed starting calculator](#) online that covers every vegetable and flower you might plant. You simply enter your spring frost free date (I use May 22 in Mount Holly) and the table tells you when to start the seeds and when to transplant them. [Here is a good video](#) about starting your own seeds. Remember to label every container you plant, including the variety, so you know what's what at transplant time.

All seeds need a good soil mix to get a healthy start. Avoid general "potting soil" mixes and use lighter seed starter mixes such as [Vermont Compost](#) Fort Vee or Pro-mix BX or HP. I prefer those made with coconut coir instead of peat moss dug out of ecological vital wetlands. Add a cup of rock phosphate (or bone meal) and ½ cup of azomite or green sand (for micronutrients) to a 5-gallon bucket of dry soil mix to provide your seedlings with the best nutritional conditions for a strong start. Those nutrients will get transplanted into your garden later and contribute to long-term fertility there. Moisten and mix thoroughly and let it set for a few hours before putting it into containers for planting. A 5-gallon bucket of dry Pro-mix, for example, will absorb over 2 gallons of water.

No matter what you plant indoors they will need plenty of light to produce healthy starts. A south facing window is good but even that can't provide the 14+ hours of strong light needed to grow indoors. Grow lights on a frame (homemade or purchased) will work for all your starts of garden vegetables and flowers. There are many very easy to build light stand plans online (Instructables.com, Pinterest.com, etc.) made from ¾ inch PVC pipe and they are all very inexpensive. The homemade stand I have (see photo) covers 4 trays and fits on a 6 ft. folding table, but there are smaller models for 1 or 2 trays that might fit your needs and space. You can hang a 2 ft or 4 ft long fluorescent fixture with full spectrum grow lights in it and connect it to a timer so they get 14 or more hours of light every day.

Alternately, LED fixtures provide even more light and are more efficient but cost more up front. I also strongly recommend that you put electric germination mats under your trays for best germination. Cool temperatures during the critical germination phase can be lethal to seedlings. They cost \$25-30 each but will last for years and are a worthwhile investment in your garden. [Erskine's](#) in Chester and Garland's in Rutland have good stocks of seed starting supplies.

Keep a garden journal. This is valuable for your own record of what happened, when and what you did. Even if you have an excellent memory, keep a journal anyway. Next year it'll be your goldmine of reminders. Make it simple and easy - what you did to what plants and the dates. For example: "4/3/2023 Planted tomato (Juliet) seeds, 24 seeds in 4 6-packs" or "4/5/2023 Pruned raspberries". You may add whatever you want such as weather, varieties, soil mix, etc. but keep it simple so that it doesn't become a chore. Get a notebook or just use a calendar and start it for the new season.

Composting is one of the most important things any gardener can do. It's great for your soil and plants, keeps climate warming carbon out of the atmosphere, and reduces the waste volume going to landfills. PVC light stand with hanging fluorescent grow lights. Jim Corven at VermontHomeGardener.com



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Blueberries – cut out any dead or damaged branches. In mature bushes (over 5 years old) select a mix of young and mature healthy branches to leave and thin out over-crowded branches to allow sunlight and air flow through the bush. This year's flower buds are already set on blueberries so don't shorten saved stems or you may remove this season's berries.

Apple & Pears – remove all dead or damaged branches and any "suckers" (branches that grow straight up from the main trunk or side branches. Remove branches that cross, grow downward or head centrally. After pruning, apply a dormant oil spray covering all surfaces well (especially the buds) from the ground up to the top to smother over-wintering pest insect eggs. Do this on a calm day when the temperature is above 40. We'll repeat this application after the leaf buds swell and again after they just open but *before* blossoms open to get

most of the larvae hiding in the bark and buds.

Hydrangeas – in Mount Holly we mostly have only smooth or panicle hydrangeas that bloom on new wood. (Big white blossoms) They don't require pruning, but you'll get bigger blossoms if you cut all of last year's canes back to the ground. I leave a number of strong young canes (straight and gray colored) for early greening and to provide support for new canes.

Do not prune forsythia, rhododendron, spiraeas, clethras, viburnums, or lilacs until after they have finished blossoming (except to remove dead or damaged branches). Their flower buds are already present on last year's wood and pruning them now would remove this year's blossoms!

Lawns - Despite the commercial push for lawn fertilizers and weed killers in the spring, this is not the best time to feed your lawn. Spring fertilization stimulates top growth (more mowing!) at the expense of root growth. This causes an overgrowth early in the season but a lawn that will require excessive watering in late summer. Spring is a good time to apply limestone if your soil pH is lower than 6.5 to prepare your soil for fall fertilizing, which favors strong root growth and healthier grass. Jim Corven at VermontHomeGardener.com

Vermont Home Gardener: Spring Pruning

What can I do outside now? After the snow is gone use the nicer days to your advantage and get your pruning and cleanup done. Pruning is best done while woody plants are still dormant, before their buds swell (usually about mid-April). In general, prune out all dead, diseased or damaged stems and branches. Make your pruning cuts of side branches close to the main stem, just outside the enlarged "collar" or just outside lateral buds so they can grow new branches. This is a great time to manage shape & size by cutting off those drooping or too long branches and downward growing branches. UVM Extension has helpful videos online to show the basics of good pruning practices. A few of my own suggestions:

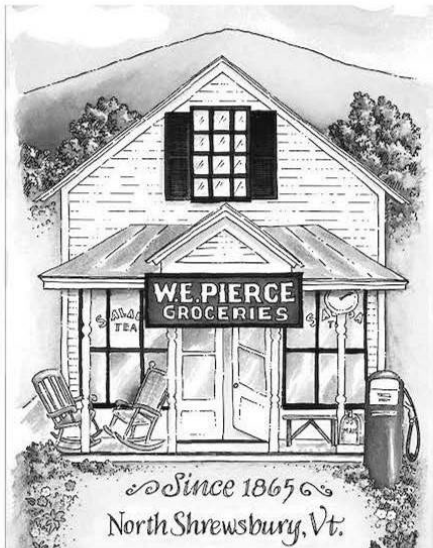
Raspberries – cut out all the old canes that fruited last season plus any short, spindly canes at ground level. Also, you can cut back young canes to 5-6 ft. to reduce floppiness or excessive height. If you have everbearing that tried to bear a second fall crop you should cut those canes down just below the lowest fruit bunches as they won't repeat fruiting on that top area.

*This is what the cover of the
2025 Mount Holly Calendar
will look like if no one submits
photos to the
Mount Holly
Calendar Competition
and
Janet Warren Memorial
Photo Competition*

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Mount Holly Conservation Notes

Star Lake; Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

In misty modern memory, Star Lake has been a focus of much of the recreational life in Mount Holly, with swimming, boating, fishing, skating and even ice boating, all acting as lures to locals and tourists alike. In summer especially it was a gathering place for many families to enjoy all that a cool lake on a hot day can provide.

But before it was any of that it was a flooded field known as Jackson's Pond whose outflow helped power the factories of Mechanicsville – later renamed Belmont. And from the earliest days, it also was the repository of agricultural runoff from many nearby farms. Decades upon decades of manure, and later chemical fertilizer, ended up in the bottom of this shallow body of water, ultimately creating a nutrient rich environment in which aquatic vegetation....both native and non-native ... could and did thrive. According to state biologists, before it was flooded and eventually dammed, the area that is now Star Lake was primarily a wetland and it is attempting to revert to its natural state.

Current state regulations designed to protect wetlands limit how the lake can be treated. And, as with many Vermont lakes and ponds, mitigation efforts against the most well-known of the invasive, Eurasian watermilfoil, have had only very limited success. Even if milfoil presence is reduced it will very likely be replaced by equal or greater numbers of native species, (like the currently flourishing water lily population), taking advantage of the nutrient rich soil at the bottom of the lake, and many of which are protected and cannot be treated with herbicides.



That is where we are today. Where we will be tomorrow is up to the community.

As part of the Mt Holly Conservation Committee's effort to address the ongoing Star Lake issues, we have connected with Alison Marchione of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov). Alison runs a program called Lake-Wise.

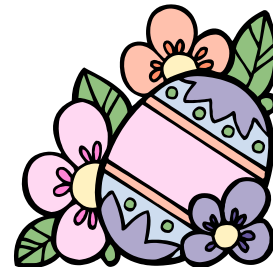
This program provides education to residents that includes a free evaluation of your property for the purpose of offering best practices you can implement to help keep the lake water clean and prevent additional sediment build up in the lake from storm water runoff, key to protecting the lake and its water quality. It is important to note that residents both **on and off shore** can help by using some of these practices. Off shore properties too have runoff; much of

which will eventually finds its way into nearby streams heading down to the lake. Here are some 'best practices' in mitigating runoff -

1. Create 'no mow' areas. This allow vegetation to absorb rain water. It also creates new habitats for birds and other wildlife.
2. If a large property, cut a swath for access to the shoreline but let the rest of the property "go wild".
3. Make paths and plant edges to allow rainwater to absorb water runoff
4. Choose native plants as much as possible. Natives are easier to grow and not as susceptible to infestation.
- 5.. Plant to minimize erosion by storm water and ice push near shoreline if applicable.
6. Rain barrels: to collect water from gutters for watering
7. Rain gardens: Landscape depressions usually on property edges planted with wet tolerant plants
- 8.. Swales: depressions on sides of property to catch rain water
9. Open top culverts and rock lined ditches
10. Dry well: to catch and absorb water

In the early 2000s, Friends of Star Lake was formed within the Community Association. It focused on assessing the lake's condition, providing information to the town, and to 'beat back the weeds' as much as technology and regulations would allow. In approximately 2013 it moved to the Conservation Trust and was the major driver in the dam renovations that now protect the town and keep Star Lake from reverting back to its pre Jackson Pond days... a marshy, shallow wetland.

Perhaps it is time to bring back such an organization, positioned to involve more citizens in ongoing discussions about Star Lake's future as a recreational and aesthetic asset for all, and for the work required to build that future. If you are interested in participating is such a group, please email the Mount Holly Conservation Commission at; mounthollycc@gmail.com .





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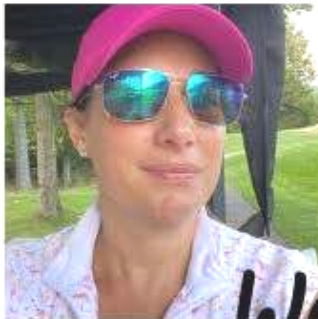
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Maria "Bella" Gambino was born and raised in the East End of Long Island.

She began her Real Estate Career in Westhampton Beach as an assistant to The Hampton's top producer. Quickly, as the youngest agent in town she became a rising star selling and renting year-round residences and multi-million dollar vacation homes and estates! At the mere age of 21 on a snowy evening she sold Marvin Hamlisch's home! Maintaining a powerful and energetic work ethic with a professional demeanor and smiles... within two years she qualified and got licensed as an Associate Broker!

The Green Mountains of Vermont welcomed Bella in 2021 where she relocated to her new home on Okemo Mountain and where she learned to ski at age 44. Bella is now a licensed Associate Broker at Kelley Real Estate in Ludlow!

If you are looking to sell or buy a home, Bella will be honored to make your dream a reality!



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

A Community Health Tip: Screen for Life

Prevention is the key and it's something we believe in at Community Health. Colorectal cancer is highly preventable, so have you asked your primary care provider about colon cancer screening? It's the second deadliest cancer in the U.S., and in [Vermont](#), it's the third most common cancer diagnosed and the third leading cause of cancer death in men and women.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) recommends regular screening beginning at age 45 because screening....

- shows the warning signs of colon and rectal cancer
- helps prevent colorectal cancer by finding precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) so they can be removed before they turn into cancer
- finds colorectal cancer early when treatment is most effective

There are several screening test options. So, talk to your primary care provider about which one is right for you. Precancerous polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms, especially early on. You need to get screened even if you have no family history because most colorectal cancers occur in people with no family history.

An estimated 153,000 people will be diagnosed with colon and rectal cancer this year - one in every 24 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in their lifetime.

If you or a loved one are between 45 and 75 years of age, take action and talk to your Community Health primary care provider about getting screened. Check our website <http://www.chcrr.org> or call 802-779-9169 or toll free at 888-989-8707.

Community Health Tip: Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

Free Annual Wellness Visits are available at Community Health for Medicare patients who have been enrolled in Medicare Part B for at least 12 months. The visit focuses on prevention and is designed to lower your risk of illness and injury and provide the support you need for a healthy quality of life.

What can you expect at the annual wellness visit?

- blood pressure, height and weight will be taken
- there will be questions about your health including medications, vaccines, mood, memory, mobility, family and living situation
- you will leave the visit with a wellness plan

Take advantage of this Medicare benefit. Schedule your wellness visit today at Community Health, call 802-779-9169. Learn more on our website <https://www.chcrr.org>.



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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

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.

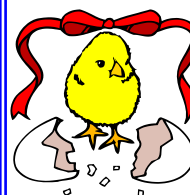
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 Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 802-228-6656
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vbch.weebly.com 802-259-2440
 E. Wallingford Baptist – PS 9:15-10:00 am SS 10 am, Worship 11 am
 Pastor Kevin Miner 802-259-2831
 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 603-439-0803
 Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org
 Rabbi Shemtov rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org 802-773-3455
 St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 11 am
 Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois christthekingprsh@gmail.com 802-446-2161
 Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am
 Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

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 Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 802-259-3964
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 Engel & Volkers, Okemo - Woodstock Gail Beardmore 802-975-0338
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kevin@belmontseptic.com

Therapeutic Riding

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

Tree Services

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