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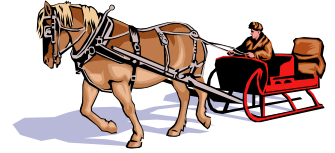


MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT

49/11

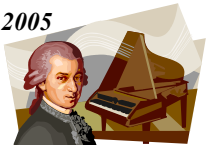
January 2024

PC Administrator Office Hours: Tues 10-11 am or by Appointment 802-259-2391 administrative.orricer@mounthollyvt.org
Church Listing on back page "Who's Got It Locally?"
Mount Holly Community Association – Contact MHCVAVT@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



January Happy New Year

1 st	<i>New Year's Day ~ Ellis Island Opens 1892 – Emancipation Proclamation Issued by Pres. Lincoln 1863</i>		
2 nd	MH Snow Flyers meeting Via Zoom		6:00 pm
	Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library		7:00 pm
	Mount Holly Conservation Commission		7:00 pm
3 rd	Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School		6:00 pm
4 th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Fire Station		7:00 pm
Sat 6 th	<i>Pan Am Airway Plane Completes First Around-The-World Trip by Commercial Aircraft New York, NY 1942</i>		
8 th	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building		7:00 pm
9 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom		6:30 pm
10 th	LMHUUS Meeting, <i>1st Meeting of The United Nations General Assembly 1946</i>		6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		7:00 pm
11 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station		7:00 pm
15 th	<i>Martin Luther King Jr's Day – Elementary School Teacher Day</i>		
16 th	<i>Persian Gulf War Begins 1991</i>		
17 th	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	<i>Operation Desert Storm Began 1991</i>	6:30 pm
	Mount Holly Planning Commission, Town Office & Via Zoom	<i>Benjamin Franklin 1706</i>	7:00 pm
18 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations		7:00 pm
19 th		<i>Robert E Lee 1807</i>	
23 rd	Com. Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall	<i>Elizabeth Blackwell 1st Woman Receives MD in USA 1849</i>	9:00 am
	<i>National Pie Day 1986 Celebrate Crisco's 75th Anniversary of Serving Foods To Families Everywhere</i>		
	Mason Meeting, Mt. Moriah Lodge #96, E. Wallingford		7:30 pm
24 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		7:00 pm
25 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	<i>Full Wolf Moon</i>	7:00 pm
	<i>American Airlines First Scheduled Transcontinental Flight 1959</i>		
Sat 27 th	<i>Vietnam War Ends 1973 ~ Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756 ~ International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2005</i>		
	<i>Free Ice Fishing Day</i>		
Sun 28 th	<i>US Vietnam Cease Fire 1973</i>		



Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin	910-915-5954	802-259-2700	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
MH Fire Warden – Jim Seward	802-786-3408		802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency	802-228-2880		911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-773-9101
MH Constable	NONE			Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-342-1366
MH Animal Control	Cell text only 802-		H 802-	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: Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) * Stephanie Stouffer * Alice Nitka * Betsy Hinckley * Mt. Holly Community Guild * Nick & Palma Cassone * Bill & Kate MePeek * Wright Construction Company * Don & Robin Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * Ron Unterman * Zena & Robert Gates * Robert Beardmore (Beardmore Excavating) * Madeleine Fay * Glenn Kreig * Joan Connor *



January Birthdays: 4th-Jamie Ludwig 6th-Seth Rosen 8th-Andrew Flanders * Dannielle Bussino 11th-John Ryea (1983) 15th-John Wasilewski 17th-Lori Cole * Robert Keen 19th-Rick Ludwig * Benjamin Taylor * Lisa Bussino (1962) 20th-Eric Ludwig 23rd-Thomas Osbourne * Jeff Columb 27th-Hannah Teter 28th-Chris Lombardi * Jahnava Jenkins 30th-Brian Keen 31st-Jennifer Parker * Cole Tarbell * Tiffany Taylor



January Anniversaries 15th-Kyle & Nancy Perry 24th-Armand & Debby Bernagozzi

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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DIRECTORS: Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, Kevin Plew
MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow
ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

SUBMISSIONS: Deadline is 22nd By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to chitchat@vermontel.net or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **Phone 802-259-2314.** E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries. 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 required as they look great on the Town website.

LETTERS to the EDITOR: email; 300 word limit; include name, address, and phone number of person submitting article and are printed at editors' discretion. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

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 Third Tuesday in September in the Mount Holly Town Office. 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.

Mt. Holly NewsFlash: Mount Holly's Town email system. Primary attendant is Kevin Plew and backup attendant Stu Berry at stumberyl@gmail.com . Email items to mthollynewsflash@gmail.com www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com



John A. Greeno Sr.,
 May 25, 1929 – December 13, 2023

John A. Greeno Sr., 94, beloved husband to Katherine (Whalen) Greeno of East Hartford and Mount Holly, VT, married for 69 years and beyond and forever, entered into God's care on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. John was born in Wallingford, Vermont and was the son of Albert & Irene (Gaffney) Greeno. John proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He had been employed by Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, his true job love and later by First National Super Markets. He enjoyed spending his time back in his beloved Vermont,

working in his garden and enjoying the snow, soo much snow, living on the backside of Okemo Mountain. Soo much snow!! He was a lifetime member of the Irish American Home in Glastonbury, and also of the Elks Club and the VFW.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by his sons, Thomas Greeno of South Windsor John Greeno Jr. of East Hartford; his daughter-in-law, Kay Greeno and his grandchildren, Erin Greeno and Andrew Greeno. He is predeceased by his son, James Greeno and his sister, Mary Benson.

Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Edmund Campion Parish – St. Christopher Church Campus, 538 Brewer St., East Hartford followed by burial with military honors in Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. The D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements. To share a memory or tribute, please visit www.desopoh.com.

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
 & New Year's
 Mass Schedule & Services**

St. Patrick's in Wallingford
 Canceled 4:00 pm Christmas Eve December 24th
 11:00 am Christmas Day December 25th
 &

Christ The King in Rutland
 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve December 24th
 7:30 am & 9:30 am Christmas Day December 25th
 9:00 am New Year's Day January 1st
 &

**Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 in Ludlow**

4:30 pm Christmas Eve
 9:00 am Christmas Day
 4:30 pm New Year's Eve
 9:00 am New Year's Day



Belmont Village Baptist Church
 With Christmas Carols

THE GIFT OF STORY,

By Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Ph.D.

...Whether you are an old family, a new family or a family in the making, whether you be lover or friend, it is the experiences you share with others and the stories that you tell about those experiences afterward, and the tales you bring from the past and future that create the ultimate bond.

There is no right or wrong way to tell a story. Perhaps you will forget the beginning, or the middle or the end. But a little piece of sunrise through a small window can lift the heart regardless. So cajole the

old grumpy ones to tell their best memories. Ask the little ones their happiest moments. Ask the teenagers the scariest times of their lives. Give the old ones the floor. Go all around the circle. Coax out the introverts. Ask each person. You will see. Everyone will be warmed, sustained by the circle of stories you create together.

Though none of us will live forever, the stories can. As long as one soul remains who can tell the story, and that by the recounting of the tale, the greater forces of love, mercy, generosity and strength are continuously called into being in the world. I promise you...It will be enough.

**Before Mount Holly
 Had a Rescue Squad**

By HAZE DEVEREUX

BELMONT - Back in the late 40's when a person had no way to get to the hospital ... it was "Toot" and "Cile" Priest who took care of folks in Mount Holly. Harry Colburn, the overseer of the poor in Mount Holly helped many people to the hospital. And it was Mr. D. in Belmont who took a fellow to the hospital. He took care of John Parmenter, Frank Armstrong, Tony Walters, and , one day when Charlie McGuire had a heart attack at Star Lake, our station wagon took him to the Rutland Hospital.

When the Mount Holly Rescue Squad began ... the above helpers, lost that service.

We are very proud of our Squad, they are the very best. Thanks, members.

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The Writers' Group

Happy New Year. Due to the holiday, the Writers' Group will meet on the second Monday, January 8th at 1 PM in the Mount Holly Library. And some news, our member Judy Bougas, who published her novel under the name Judith Manchester, has had a recent story accepted. Of the writers whom I have hosted: Geri Lipschultz has continued to publish her essays; Anne Britting Oleson is completing another novel in her Aventurine series; Jacob Strunk has just had two pieces accepted for publication. And of course, Joe Citro, like Chickenman, is everywhere.

My sixth collection, The Corner of East and Dreams, is out on January 8th. I will be trying to set up readings out and about soon. Thank you, Joan connor@ohio.edu

Busy Busy Busy. - Notes from the Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Over the past 12 months or so, the Mount Holly Conservation Commission has pursued many projects toward our goal of cataloguing the natural, recreational and historical assets here in Mount Holly.

- We published information on hiking and bike trails as well as a list of scenic roads.
- With the contributions from over 200 local volunteers, the Mount Holly Biodiversity Project has identified 1,200 species of plants, animals, and fungi in town. Of particular importance are the locations of 39 threatened/endangered species and 162 non-native and invasive species.

- A hands-on workshop about using iNaturalist for species identification was held for MH Elementary School students and staff. Regular update articles were published on the Biodiversity project website and in the Chit Chat as part of our public outreach efforts.

- MHCC Provided information on water testing in the wake of July's flood damage, and also recommended that regular Star Lake water testing be conducted during the swimming season to assure the safety of the public beach area.

- Commissioners, Phil Crane and David Martin established the Ash Trees Preservation program with an aim to protect ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer - an invasive pest which seems destined to make its way to Mt Holly sooner rather than later. With the tools and information they provide, land owners have the opportunity to protect at least some of their trees from the blight.

- Members Phil Leonard and Jeanmarie Fitzgerald were tireless in their work of protecting Star Lake, especially the recreation area, from both invasive and aggressive native aquatic plants. The Commission placed bottom barrier in the Lake, worked with State agencies on best practices and, in association with Farm and Wilderness Conservation, the MHCC presented Michael Lew-Smith, MS; Botanist and Ecologist, to speak to residents about the past, current, and possible future of the lake from an Environmental perspective.

- In collaboration with the Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) the commission provided a public workshop on recycling and composting. The objective of these efforts is to reduce town costs for removing solid waste and to enhance our natural environment.

- We braved the not so clement weather at Cider Days to provide more information to those hardy enough to attend, about Star Lake and our other projects.

- The Commission added a new member this year; Dr. Megan Litwhiler moved to Belmont with her husband, daughter, and dog in August 2022. Megan holds a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology, with a concentration in urban ecology, from Rutgers University and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. After graduate school, Megan worked for many years at the Museum of As a member of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission, Megan hopes to leverage her expertise in ecology and education to help protect and highlight our town's natural environment, and promote the adoption of equitable climate mitigation and adaptation practices.

- In the New Year, The Commission will continue its work to inform the residents of Mount Holly of what we have, and how we can work to preserve and improve our natural and recreational resources. The Ash Tree Preservation program will continue, as well studies on Star Lake vegetation management programs. The ongoing inventory and mapping of natural resources and environmental features of town will continue with more data and updates planned for the next year. Maps will be available on the town website and at public sites in town.

- And lastly, but very importantly, we at the Commission wish the Mount Holly Community the Happiest and Healthiest of Holiday Seasons. Susan Presson



A Tour of The Belmont General Store

During one of our walks my wife and I passed the Belmont General Store where we ran into Alissa and Dave Tilly. We inquired how the renovation was going and we were kindly invited inside and treated to a tour. During our twenty plus years in Mount Holly we had visited and shopped at the store hundreds of times and thought we knew what to expect. What we saw far exceeded our expectation.

The store will expand to provide a variety of service and dining areas. In addition to a kitchen and service counter, the store plans to offer both inside and outside dining, a deli, ice cream, retail sales area, casual meeting area where residents can gather. Plans also include tanks for cider fermentation and a gallery area where local artists can exhibit their works.

This is not just a remodeling project...it's a total renovation. Demolition revealed walls insulated with newspapers dating back to the 1800's and hidden rooms that have been locked behind walls for decades. Ceilings have been reinforced, concrete floors poured, and partitions built. And while many of us can't wait for the store to reopen, our tour made us realize how much time, effort and resources has been devoted to creating a facility that Mount Holly will be proud of. The vision is of a country store that will not only meet the needs of our residents, but serve as a destination, attracting visitors from outside our community resulting in a business that will be sustainable for many years to come.

We commend Alissa's vision and highly recommend, should the opportunity arise, take the tour yourselves. We're certain you'll be as excited as we were and agree that the result will be worth the wait. Abe & Kathleen Leber

Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings
9:00 am
Community Center Under Library
For Weights and more information
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

Holiday Greetings Everyone

The Mount Holly Town Library will be closed from: December 24, 2023 - January 2, 2024. We will reopen on Tuesday 1/2/24 at 1 pm. The library wishes to thank all volunteer staff and Library Board for all their support and hard work. Happy and safe New Year to all. Joe Galbraith, Library Director

Bring in the New Year with Green Mountain Neighbors!

After a year of hundreds of hours of planning and organizing, we are ready to actively launch GMN, a 501C3 offering services soon to seniors living in Mount Holly, Shrewsbury, and Wallingford.

Please consider becoming a member, volunteer, or both! Check out our website: greenmountainneighbors.org/ for information and opportunities to become a part of this important and rewarding program – helping our seniors to live-in-place in the homes and the towns they love.

Visit our website greenmountainneighbors.org/ to apply online (via our software program Helpful Village), or print out a copy of a volunteer or member application to mail in.

Although we have already reached out to many in our communities, if you know someone who could use or be interested in our program, please share this information.

We are looking forward to helping our seniors have more comfortable and sustainable futures in their own homes.

Green Mountain Neighbors wishes you all a healthy and happy 2024!

For additional information contact: kleber@vermontel.net

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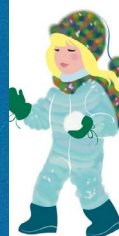
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MT. HOLLY, VT

Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT

Public Forum Monday, Jan 8 Ludlow and Mount Holly School Upgrades

The Mount Holly and Ludlow schools are showing their age. The oil boilers are 50 years old, in need of constant repairs and terribly inefficient. Most of the classrooms have no ventilation. The Ludlow roof is leaking and has little insulation, with an R-value of 2.5 compared with code of R-40. Windows are drafty. The old fluorescent lamps provide inconsistent light that cannot be adjusted for different tasks. When visitors ring the bell for admittance, nobody from the office can see who they are. When the Mount Holly School was built, we had no kindergarten or pre-k and very limited special education. Now the school is crowded, with the nurse's office in a closet, occupational and physical therapy in the cafeteria and music instruction on the stage in the gym.

The school committee recognized these problems and asked an energy efficiency engineering firm to propose upgrades to bring the schools what is needed for the 21st century. The firm worked with school staff, engaging in a yearlong facilities planning process that included energy audits, code review, program analysis and facilities assessments at each school to develop an encompassing plan that will improve learning environments and provide better occupant comfort, while saving the district utility costs and reducing CO2 emissions. They drafted a proposal that includes:

- Replacing the oil boilers at both schools with efficient wood pellet boilers with LP backup,
- Adding ventilation systems with electronic controls,
- Replacing the Ludlow roof and increasing the insulation from R-2.5 to R-40,
- Building a 2000 square foot addition behind the Mount Holly School (see drawing),
- Rebuilding the schools' entrances and vestibules to make them secure and visible from the office,
- Replacing doors and windows to improve efficiency and security,
- Replacing old fluorescent fixtures with LED's
- Upgrading interior finish,
- Upgrading fire alarms and
- Other improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other code issues.

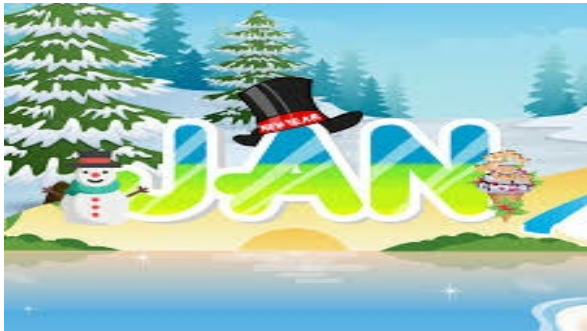
On Monday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a public forum in the Mount Holly School gym where the firm will present their proposal and members of the public can offer their suggestions to help the school committee decide what to present to voters in March.

Mount Holly Town Library

The Mount Holly Town Library will be closed from Monday December 25, 2023 - Monday January 1, 2024. We will reopen on Tuesday January 2, 2024. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Joe Galbraith, Library Director 802-259-3707



MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS JANUARY 2024



Happy Holidays Everyone

Now that winter is settling in (albeit a rather rainy start), the library has been stocking up on books for adults and kids. Perfect for sitting close to the fire and enjoying a good read.

A few winter reminders: the book drop is closed for the season. Please return books inside. Please keep in mind that we are not accepting donations at this time. We will resume in Spring.

Watch this space for announcements of upcoming programs for adults and kids in 2024. We are really excited about the upcoming total eclipse of the sun in April. The Library has ordered a supply of eclipse viewing glasses that we will be making available on a first-come-first-served basis. And, of course, the annual Manhattan Short Film Festival will be returning the last week of September

Mount Holly Town Library
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Tabatha Needs A Home

I am looking for a very special person to adopt a very special cat. Tabatha was feral so is very shy but so soft and sweet and needs someone to love her. Must be a quiet home with no children or other pets. If you are that special person, please call me by phone at 802-259-9824 Jackie Powell

Vermont Home Gardener: Winter Gardening

The 2024 gardening season has begun with the arrival of new seed catalogs! Mid-winter is the ideal time to take inventory of what happened in 2023, which seeds will be needed and begin preparations for the next gardening season. It's also important to take care of indoor plants and get started with early pruning of woody plants when we have an occasional nice winter day. Here are some details...

Got seeds? Before ordering new seeds, I like to check my inventory of leftovers that can be used. Generally, seeds that are 1 or 2 years old will be fine this year so make a written count to know what you have and what you will

need to buy. A simple germination test with 10 seeds on a covered wet paper towel in a dish will tell you which seeds are still useable. Discard older seeds or ones that don't germinate. Next make a list of what you want to plant this year including seeds still on-hand and begin looking over the seed catalogs. Most seed companies provide on-line ordering to make it easy. My advice is to order in January as the best varieties run out early.

Indoor pest prevention. If you brought in your favorite plants indoors, as I did, this is a good time to give them a close health exam to avoid pest problems. Remove any dead or unhealthy parts, clean away dead leaves, and prune overgrown stems. I sprayed all plants with Insecticidal Soap and then with Neem Oil over a couple weeks before bringing them in. There still might be a few harmful insects lurking under leaves or in tiny crevices of those plants so give them all a good mid-winter spray (top and bottom of all leaves, stems, and blossoms) with Insecticidal Soap. Repeat this about every month, or more frequently if you see pests. You can do this without concern for any toxins in your house (it's just soap) but be careful that the spray doesn't get onto windows or it'll leave spots. Plants that are especially susceptible to indoor pests like aphids, white flies, spider mites include herbs, fuchsia, hibiscus, and petunias. Geraniums seem the most pest-free of all and tolerate long dry spells (weeks) between watering.

Pruning. Once woody perennials have gone fully dormant (mid-December) you can start pruning for next spring. Without their leaves it's much easier to see the plant structure and problems that need pruning. Take a careful look and remove all dead, diseased, and damaged branches. Work on shaping by removing branch growing straight up (suckers) or down. There are many good references about pruning online, including helpful videos.

Reflections. While your memory is fresh, this is an excellent time to note what worked and

what didn't last season. Make a few written notes to help avoid the same mistakes this year and build on your positive experiences. For example, which varieties did the best, which flowers were your favorites, which places gave the best plant growth, where did you have poor results, where did excess water cause problems, etc.? It's not too early to start planning this year's garden and last years' experience is the best place to start. **Keep on composting!**
<https://vermonthomegardener.com/> Jim Corven



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The News From MHCA

Happiest New Year to you! The new year brings a fresh start and reflection on years past...think about what life was like 200 years ago and where we are now. Cooking over an open fire in a cast iron pot over your large stone fireplace. No insta pots, microwaves, or built in ovens for a quick supper, it took a few hours to prepare and get dinner ready and depending on what you were making you might have a brief break in between breakfast and dinner preparations. Not to mention, at this time of the year you would have spent months planting, gathering, and preparing food to store for the winter - what was in your garden? That's what life was like 200 years ago for everyone.

But here we are in 2024 - we've come a long way baby!

And what will this year hold for us? Well, the MHCA is beginning the planning for upcoming spring events having just finished celebrating the holidays. Did you have a chance to take part in the lighting of the tree on the church green, listen to the reading of "Twas the night before Christmas" by Carol Devine, visit with the jolly ole man from the north or sing carols? If you didn't, you missed a lovely small town celebration that makes communities like ours so special. Thank you to Pastor Jeremiah Johnson for organizing the event, for Carol Devine for stepping up at the last minute to pinch hit for our long time Christmas story reader Barbara Pallotta, and to the Mount Holly volunteer fire department for helping Santa make a stop on the green during his very busy schedule. Even mama Johnson got to tell Santa what was on her Xmas list. THIS...is what small town life is like 200 years later in Vermont!



really great benefits? It helps you feel connected to others, provides a sense of belonging, helps develop new skills or share them with others, and it makes communities stronger. Our Board members love where they live and believe our community is an extraordinary place to live, raise children, and help us navigate the world at large by making a difference here at home. Consider joining us today! Let us know you are interested - email us with your name and number at mhcavt@gmail.com, we will call you right back!

So what is being planned you wonder....currently we are looking to secure a band for the kick off your boots and dance Spring Mud Fling party, lining up musicians for the Music on the Green summer series, recruiting gardener's for the Mountain Garden Tour, and exploring some new options for Cider Days.

We are also looking for someone who would like to join our Board. Are you interested in getting involved in your community? Is it time to meet some new people in your life? Do you have idea's you want to share? Do you like being a part of a team? We might just be the group for you. It's not a big commitment and we are super flexible. We meet once a month for an hour and plan & organize events for our community (that's the overview). You should know that we welcome suggestions, value community, and strive to make our community a place where people want to spend time together. And did you know that volunteering has some

Looking back, 2023 was an extraordinary year. The summer was tumultuous with the flooding that affected our little state but, as we know, Vermonters are 802 STRONG and we rose to the occasion. Volunteerism makes a difference. And with that we hope 2024 brings you many joy's, a renewed appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us, and courage to face challenges that life presents us with.

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dairy, gifts, baked goods & more

What is a Board of Adjustment

In May of 2023 the Select Board passed an updated Flood Hazard and River Corridor Bylaw. This bylaw updated the Flood Hazard rules and added a new section on the River Corridor. It authorized the Administrative Officer to review and authorize, modify or reject specific types of construction in Flood zones and River Corridors. It also created a Board of Adjustment to conduct conditional reviews and permitting for construction not automatically authorized or specified for review by the Administrative Officer. The Board consists of three members and two alternates.

Instead of going into specifics as to what each party can or cannot approve, we recommend you review the current Bylaw on the Mount Holly website. The bylaw is under the Planning Commission tab. If you are planning any construction and you suspect you may be in or near a flood zone or river corridor, you should review the bylaw and supporting documents.

In addition to conducting public hearings for conditional review of specific construction, the Board of Adjustment also is the first step in appealing an Administrative Officer decision. This is also a public hearing. It is highly recommended that the applicant for a conditional review or an individual appealing the Administrative Officer's decision, bring all applicable documentation to the hearing; documenting why their application or why their side of the issue should be approved. If the

applicant or individual wishes to appeal the Board of Adjustment decision, they may appeal to the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court.

This is a short high-level review of why the Board of Adjustment exists and what it does. As stated previously we recommend you review the Flood Zone and River Corridor Bylaw on the Town's website to determine what you can and cannot do; and what your rights are under this ordinance.



Donate online by credit card or  at: rainbowridingcenter.org/donations

Or complete this form and mail with check to:

Reinbow Riding Center
PO Box 395
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

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Thank you for your support of our mission!

The mission of Reinbow Riding Center is to improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and cognitive challenges through a therapeutic equine experience.

Reinbow Riding Center is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

Reinbow Riding Center 802-236-2483

January 2024 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

Black River Good Neighbor Services

Serving Belmont, Cavendish, Ludlow, Mount Holly and Proctorsville

To all who have supported Black River Good Neighbor Services throughout this year, and especially in response to the July floods, we extend sincere gratitude and heartfelt thank you. Our dedication of service to the community continues stronger than ever, inspired by this most generous and humbling outpouring of support.

Since July we have listened to countless stories of devastation and critical, urgent needs, together with the total loss of homes. Truly heartbreaking accounts from folks who wouldn't give up, dug in their heels, rolled up sleeves and proceeded with the hard work needing to be done. This included coming to Black River Good Neighbor Services for much needed financial support and guidance. We have been here for those neighbors so deserving of our assistance.

Staying true to "Vermont Strong" a most powerful community spirit has also played a significant role in supporting folks hardest hit by damaging floods this year, and together with a large force of volunteers, and amazing amount of supplies including food, water and basic necessities were distributed.

In continuing our dedication of service to the community, we offer twice monthly, free-for-all, community meals. Taking place at the Ludlow Community Center, the program offers hot, nutritious meals and activities, but ultimately provides much needed social connections for those who can't afford to eat out and have been impacted by the July floods. This outreach is critical to supporting a healthy, healing community.

In closing, we extend to you our wishes for a healthy and happy upcoming year together with a pledge to continue dedicated, strong support of our community's needs. With sincere thanks, Krey Kellington, Executive Director

178 Main St., Ludlow, VT 05149 * Phone 802-228-3663 Email brgoodneighbors@gmail.com www.brgn.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mount Holly Biodiversity Project - 2023 Annual Report

The Mount Holly Biodiversity project has completed its third full year of work and thanks to a total of **4,336** contributions from **228** volunteer observers we have identified **1,200** species of plants, animals, and fungi in Mount Holly since beginning work in January 2021! This small town in the Green Mountains of Vermont has an amazing biodiversity and it's encouraging to see that there are so many people who care enough to help us learn about our natural world. Observations were submitted by residents and visitors, by hikers and gardeners, by children and retirees, and many who simply wanted to learn the name of common and rare plants or animals and to share that knowledge with the community.



Beyond our own community it is exciting to know that we are part of a much bigger effort to understand and to conserve our natural world. Our local data gets fed into the statewide Vermont Atlas of Life (<https://val.vtcostudies.org/>) database managed by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. The Atlas has now documented over **14,000** species in Vermont with information vital to conservation and sustainable development. Further, Mount Holly is also a contributor to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (<https://www.gbif.org/>) which is documenting all biodiversity on the planet! The GBIF has received over 40 million observations from 1 million observers worldwide and identified over **450,000** species. A number of those submitted observations turned out to be brand new species never identified before and several species thought to have gone extinct were found by volunteer observers!

Here's what we have found in Mount Holly as of December 2023:

528 Plant species identified (48 new this year). Over 100 of our common plants are really introduced species, a few of which have become invasive concerns. (Goutweed, Bull thistle, Hemp nettle, Wild Parsnip, Giant Knotweed, and Phragmites). These are the species that degrade natural habitats like Star Lake and may harm native species, including people. Local efforts to remove or control them are often recommended and maps on the Biodiversity Project website show where they are found in town

334 Insect species identified (44 new this year). We have confirmed 24 non-native insects and a few of them are troublesome invasives such as Japanese Beetle, Spongy moth (formerly Gypsy moth), European Earwigs, and Winter moth. Although not yet confirmed in Mount Holly, the Emerald Ash borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle, and Spotted Lanternfly are in Vermont and threaten our forests and farms making regular monitoring is very important.

107 Bird species identified (19 new this year). Common birds seen in town include American Robin, Song & Chipping Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinches, House Finch, Chickadee, Blue jays, Red-winged blackbirds, and Crows. A few special sightings included Red-eyed Vireos, Cedar Waxwings, Wood Thrush, and Indigo Bunting. Many species are migratory and they have now flown south to follow their food supply. The best way to protect birds is to conserve their habitats such as forests, wetlands, and meadows.

141 Fungi species identified (36 new this year). Fungi (mushrooms, molds, etc.) include a whole Kingdom of very interesting organisms that many people enjoy finding (and eating). Some common fungi we found in Mount Holly include Chanterelles, Shaggy Mane, White Coral, Ink Cap, Puffballs, Toadskin Lichen, and Amanita mushrooms.

27 Mammal species identified (3 new this year). Mammals include the animals we often think of and include Gray & Red Squirrels, Eastern Chipmunks, White-tailed Deer, American Beaver, Snowshoe Hare, Red fox, Porcupine, Moose, and Black Bear.

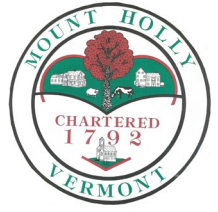
The remaining species include Arachnids (spiders), Reptiles & Amphibians (snakes, turtles, frogs & salamanders), Mollusks, Worms, and Fish. While small in numbers and sometimes harder to find, these species are very important parts of our environment and have vital ecological functions.

Finally, we have identified 39 species of threatened and endangered species in Mount Holly, including Common Loons, Merlin, Butternut, Purple Pitcher Plants, Yellow-banded Bumblebee, and American Elm. These species and their habitats are especially vulnerable and warrant extra conservation efforts if they are to survive.

You are invited to get involved in the Mount Holly Biodiversity Project at our website (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mount-holly-biodiversity>).

The Project is co-sponsored by the Mount Holly Conservation Trust (<https://mounthollyconservationtrust.org/about/>) and the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (<https://www.mounthollyvt.org/conservation-commission/>)





NOTICE OF LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON PROPOSED TOWN PLAN

January 16, 2024
6:30 pm

Mount Holly Town Office
50 School Street
Mount Holly, VT 05730



Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4529601156>
Meeting ID: 452 960 1156

The Mount Holly Select Board will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 PM on January 16, 2016 at the Mount Holly Town Office, and via Zoom, to consider adoption of a new Proposed Town Plan. Members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom.

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the Proposed Town Plan is to provide clear, written standards for orderly development that preserve the town's distinctly rural character and appearance while providing community services and recreational and cultural opportunities.

Geographic Areas Affected: The Proposed Town Plan pertains to the Town of Mount Holly.

Table of Contents: The Proposed Town Plan includes the following subsections: Introduction, Objectives, Land Use, Transportation, Utilities and Facilities, Preservation, Educational Facilities, Energy, Housing, Economic Development, Flood Resilience, Implementation, Regional Coordination, Appendix A: Inventory of Significant Natural Features, Appendix B: Maps.

Full Text: The full text of the draft Town Plan, as adopted by the Mount Holly Planning Commission and submitted to the Mount Holly Select Board, is available at the Town Office, Belmont Post Office, and Mount Holly Post Office, and is posted on the Town website at <http://tinyurl.com/mthollytownplan>.

Public Comment: Members of the public are invited to make public comments via Zoom or in person at the time of the meeting. If individuals wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to attend the meeting, they may email comment(s) in advance of the hearing to the Mount Holly Select Board at mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com; mail them to Mount Holly Select Board, P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758, or hand-deliver them to the Town Office at 50 School Street in Mount Holly.

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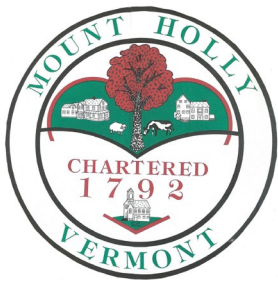
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802 558.3082

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Mount Holly, VT

Jeremiah Johnson
Pastor / Elder

Village Baptist Church
PO Box 72
Belmont, VT 05730

h: (802) 259-2386
c: (760) 845-6617
o: (802) 259-2959
jeremiah.c.johnson@icloud.com



Mount Holly Town News

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

Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office December 12, 2022 6:30 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, Carol A Garrow-Woolley, Elizabeth Karle, Christine Pratt, Billy Austin, Dennis Devereux, Zena Gates, David Johnson, Jon McCann, James Seward, Donna Seward, Chad Farrar, Steve Hazelton, Barbara Hazelton, Monique Szechenyi, James Corven, Katherine Heald, James Heald, Clinton Woolley, Andrew Shulz (via Zoom), Philippe Crane (via Zoom), Katy Crane (via Zoom), Glen Kreig (via Zoom), Anne Roest (via Zoom), June Capron (via Zoom), Diane D (via Zoom)

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

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

Department Update; and a Town Office closure update.

4. Approval of November 14, 2023 Minutes. Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

5. Reports

a. Highways & Transfer Station Update. Road Foreman Clinton Woolley noted that the hydraulic study for the Beaver Meadow culvert has been completed; the work to rebuild the culvert is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. The hydraulic study for the culvert at Lake and Belmont has also been completed; this culvert will need further engineering. Mr. Woolley also noted that the highway employees are interested in switching vendors for uniform provision. The Select Board Clerk will inquire with the current vendor regarding terminating the current contract. The Transfer Station continues to need another attendant on a regular basis; there is room in the budget for the creation of this position, and the Select Board Clerk will post the job opening. The Clerk noted that the Rutland County Solid Waste District has a rolling grant that can help pay for new signage and resident education at the transfer station, to support user compliance with waste diversion; the Select Board agreed that the Clerk should pursue this grant. Mr. Woolley predicted that the new scrap metal container should likely be delivered to the Transfer Station in the spring; he will update Casella when the Town is ready for it.

b. Town Treasurer Update.

i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: Town Treasurer Elizabeth Karle noted that the state has a new Municipal Climate Recovery Fund (MCRF) designed to provide municipal budgetary relief in the flood recovery effort by lowering the costs of borrowing, to bridge FEMA reimbursement. She noted that the date for applying for the loan program is January 5. Mr. Chase made a motion to pursue the application for the MCRF; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved. Ms. Karle also noted that the month’s expenses include a few new expenses for the former Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad (MHVRS) building, as the Town has taken over responsibilities for utilities and insurance. Most support expenses have been paid out to the libraries and organizations that the Town voters support. The Town also closed out the Tiny Grant on behalf of the Conservation Commission, and the Municipal Planning Grant that covered the Planning Commission’s work on the Belmont Village Plan.

c. Animal Control Officer Update: Interim ACO Laura Swarz submitted a mid-year report of ACO-related calls handled since the beginning of the fiscal year; there have been nine calls since July 1. The position remains open; the Town does have one interested candidate who will submit a formal letter of interest.

d. Town Health Officer Update: Town Health Officer Chad Farrar noted that he had hand-delivered notices of junk ordinance violations to the three residents whose properties are in violation. He has also responded to a report of a dog bite requiring medical attention; the dog in question was put down voluntarily by its owner, and Mr. Farrar will file his report with the Town when the certificate of death has been provided.

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e. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update: Jon McCann noted that the public hearing regarding the Town Plan was held on November 15 and was well attended; he thanked those who contributed to edits and offered feedback. A revised draft that integrates public comment has been submitted to the Select Board and is available for review by residents on the Town website

www.mounthollyvt.org chitchat@vermontel.net

Mount Holly Town Office
Will be **CLOSED** the following dates:
Monday, December 25th & 26th 2023 For Christmas
Tuesday, January 1st, 2024th For New Years Day
Monday, January 15th, 2024 for Martin Luther King’s Jr. Day

and in hard copy at the Town Office. The next step is for the Select Board to set a date for its own public hearing on the Town Plan, and for the Regional Planning Commission to approve the plan. Resident Katherine Heald asked whether there would be an opportunity for further public comment; the Select Board confirmed.

i. Appoint New Members: There are three candidates for the two open seats on the Planning Commission: incumbents Brigid Sullivan and Andrew Schulz, and Stephen Michel. Each candidate's letter of interest was read at the meeting. Mr. Chase made a motion to reappoint Mr. Schulz for a three-year term; Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved. Ms. Garrow made a motion to appoint Mr. Michel for a three-year term; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

unanimously approved.

ii. Set Date for Town Plan Hearing: The Select Board agreed to set the date for the Town Plan Hearing for January 16 at 6:30 pm at the Town Office. Mr. Chase noted that residents can submit comments beforehand and/or attend the meeting with questions.

f. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update: There is no substantive update at this time.

6. New Business

a. Set Budget Workshop Meeting: The Select Board agreed to set the date for January 4, 4 pm at the Town Office.

b. Review NEMRC Reappraisal Service Contract: The Town has received a proposal for a town-wide reappraisal to begin during July 2026, for completion in 2028. The total cost of the reappraisal will be \$130,200, paid at a monthly rate of \$5,425 for a period of

24 months beginning July 2026. The Town will ensure there is room in the budget for the proposed costs.

c. Discuss Creation of Town Plowing Policy: Mark Turco made a motion to adopt a policy regarding snow plowing and mailbox damage, and to approve the draft policy as written; Mr. Chase seconded; unanimously approved. The Select Board Clerk will publish the policy on the website and in the Newsflash.

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. Update on MHVRS Dissolution and Transfer of Assets. The notice of default has been received by the MHVRS and the requisite 30-day default period has ended; the former MHVRS has also confirmed receipt of the Town's request for financial documentation and transfer of remaining assets. The former MHVRS building, contents and ambulance are now owned by the Town, and both are now covered under the Town's insurance policy.

b. Update on Draft Contract with Ludlow Ambulance Service. The Town's attorney has reviewed the draft contract with the Select Board Clerk and made revisions; the Select Board approves the draft as currently written. The Select Board Clerk will reach out to the Ludlow Town Manager to seek signature. **c. Consideration of Quote for Cleaning of Town Garage.** Diana Garrow made a motion to accept the quote as provided, as it is an expansion of the Town's current arrangement for cleaning the Town Office; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

d. Fire Department Update. MHVFD Chief Billy Austin confirmed that the department is still seeking to build a first responder force, working with Sue Poitier and Stephanie Grover; six individuals are interested in receiving the required VFERS certification. In addition, two former MHVRS personnel have joined the MHVFD; one is an EMT-A, the other is an EMT; both are now firefighters; Mr. Austin noted that this is a big asset for the fire department. Mr. Austin also expressed interest in assuming the use and maintenance, and associated costs, of the former MHVRS building and vehicle; Mr. Turco noted that the Select Board would consider this request.

8. Citizen Comments

a. Jim Heald noted that he has lived on Belmont Road since 1966 and is concerned about drivers speeding on Belmont Road. His comment was second by Phillippe Crane, Barbara Hazelton, and Katherine Heald. The Select Board will seek a quote for a flashing radar sign that will help with enforcement. Mr. Farrar noted that the Sheriff's Department may need some more guidance on where and how long to monitor traffic; Mr. Chase and Mr. Turco confirmed they will communicate with the Sheriff's Office to offer this feedback.

9. Announcements/Other Business

a. The Town Office will be closed on Christmas Day, December 26, and New Year's Day.

b. January 3, 2024 is the due date for articles to be included in the Town Report.

c. Dog license renewal begins January 1, 2024. 10.

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.



Notice Dog Owners

Dog Licensing will begin Tuesday Jan 2, 2024 calendar year which must be paid by April 1st, each year. If your dog is no longer living please call the town clerk at 802-259-2391 so she can remove them from the list.

The registration fee remains the same and must be paid on or before April 1st, 2024

Male or female Neutered or Spayed = \$ 11.00 per dog
Male of female Unneutered or Unsprayed = \$ 15.00 per dog

The registration fee will increase after April 1st, 2024 to
Male or female Neutered or Spayed = \$ 13.00 per dog
Male of female Unneutered or Unsprayed = \$ 19.00 per dog
Checks should be made payable to: Town of Mount Holly

Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed). Diana Garrow made a motion to go into executive session; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

12. Adjourn at 8:20. Respectfully Submitted By Caitlin Boyle

The Town of Mount Holly Seeks a Transfer Station Attendant

The Town of Mount Holly Seeks a Transfer Station Attendant to provide support to customers at the Transfer Station during its open hours. The ideal candidate will be able to lift up to 50 pounds and can provide prompt and courteous customer service to residents and guests using the Transfer Station.

Duties include greeting residents and guests, ensuring that residents and guests follow all state and local solid waste disposal guidelines and protocols, and assisting with the sorting and collection of materials, including mixed solid waste, construction debris, wood scrap, metal scrap, single-stream recycling, and donated items.

The position is 9 hours per week, with occasional additional hours. In the winter, hours are Saturdays 8 am - 2 pm and Sundays 9 am to 12 pm. In the summer, hours are Saturdays 8 am - 2 pm and Wednesdays 4 pm- 7 pm. An hourly wage is paid weekly via the Town's payroll.

Interested parties should write a letter of interest, indicating relevant experience and reasons for applying, to the Select Board.

Letters may be emailed to mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com, mailed to Mount Holly Town Office, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758, or hand-delivered to the Town Clerk at the Town Office at 50 School Street in Mount Holly.

Mount Holly Town Auditors Request For The Town Report

Mount Holly Town Auditors are requesting of all organizations who **submit articles and or budgets for the Mount Holly Town Report** to have your articles typed single spaced and mailed or dropped off or e-mailed to: mthollyauditors@gmail.com or to the Town Office no later than **January 4th, 2024**. Anything received after that date will not appear in the Town Report. All articles mail to the Town Office at the following address: **Mount Holly Town Office, Attn: Auditors, P.O. Box 248, Mt. Holly, VT 05758**

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

Town of Mount Holly Winter Parking Ordinance

Be it ordered by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Mount Holly, State of Vermont as follows:

SECTION 1. Authority. This civil ordinance is adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Mount Holly under the authority granted in 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59, 24 V.S.A. §229(4), 23 V.S.A. §1008, 19 V.S.A. § 437 and Vermont Rule of Civil Procedure 80.9.

SECTION 2. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public safety, provide effective traffic flow, and assist the Town in the maintenance of Town streets and highways.

SECTION 3. WINTER PARKING. No person, owning, operating or controlling a motor vehicle shall park or cause to be parked said motor vehicle shall park on any street or highway within the Town of Mount Holly from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M., inclusive, from November 1st to April 30th inclusive.

SECTION 4. Enforcement. Motor vehicles so parked or standing on the streets or highways may be removed or caused to be removed from the street or highways by the Town Constable or the Road Foreman or employees of the Town who are under the supervision of the Road

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Foreman, to a place of storage and the person owning or controlling said motor vehicle shall be liable for all costs of removal and storage under this section.

SECTION 5. Penalty. Any violation of Section One will result in a fine of twenty-five (\$25) for each offense.

Any fine assessed for a parking violation under Section One of this ordinance that is not paid within thirty (30) days of the date of the violation then the amount of the fine will be doubled. Any fine not paid within sixty (60) days of the violation, said violator may be subject to court action.

SECTION 6. The Town Constable and Road Foreman and employees who are under the Road Foreman's supervision

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 Homemade Baked Goods

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shall be exempt from any damages incurred to the motor vehicles removed under this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. Effective. Effective upon passage.
 Dated at Mount Holly, County of Rutland, State of Vermont, this 2/28/18 Board of Selectmen, Ted Crawford, Timothy Martin, Ronald Tarbell

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES AND MAILBOX DAMAGE

The Mount Holly Highway Department’s Winter Maintenance Guideline is based on “safe roads at safe speeds”, as we do not have a “bare roads”, policy. This means roads are maintained to allow safe travel at reduced speeds, but that drivers should expect to see snow on the roadways. Most travel takes place during the day, so the majority of our resources are focused on those

hours. Motorists should anticipate reduced coverage and varying road conditions and should drive accordingly. There are many variables effecting winter maintenance operations such as type of precipitation, air and pavement temperature, traffic volume, wind, time of day, and even the day of the week. Type and volume of traffic and road gradient are the primary factors in determining the order of winter maintenance service. Therefore, during periods of time when school is in session, top priority is given to clearing roads utilized by the school bus and by parents providing school transportation.

Emergency service buildings shall receive necessary maintenance to provide for emergency personnel to arrive and for vehicles to depart and return safely. As necessary, snow and ice control equipment shall be redirected by the Road Foreman from assigned routes to assist emergency response vehicles in reaching their destination. Roads heavily used by commuters and hills are next in priority.

Mailboxes And Other Structures Within The Highway Right-Of-Way

Occasionally mailboxes or other devices are damaged by snow plowing operations due to poor visibility, the mailbox being buried in a snow bank or the weight/volume of the snow being plowed. Mount Holly Road Crew is not responsible for damage and does not repair, replace or re-erect boxes that are located within the highway right-of-way unless physically struck by a Mount Holly plow truck. In these cases, Mount Holly will replace the mailbox at no cost to the property owner with a generic United States Post Office approved box and basic post if necessary.

All mailboxes must conform to the guidelines of the United States Postal Service; the **bottom of the mail box should be 48 inches above the road surface** and as far out of the roadway as possible, which protects both the mailbox, and the carrier delivering mail. The USPS suggests using a semi-arch or extended arm-type support. This allows snowplows to sweep near or under boxes without damaging supports and provides easy access to the boxes by carriers and customers. For information on these guidelines contact your local post master/mistress. The Town will not be held responsible for any damage done to a mailbox that does not conform to the USPS guidelines.

Any damage to a mailbox caused directly by a town snow plow **MUST** be reported to the Town Office within 48 hours. Report any damage to 802-259-2391 or monthollytc@yahoo.com or mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com. The mailbox will be inspected by the Road Foreman or a designated representative to confirm the damage.

It is the job of the Road Crew to remove snow from road surfaces, and snow being pushed from the plow is unavoidable. The Town will not be held responsible for damage done to a mailbox by snow or slush thrown from a plow blade.

If it is determined by the Road Foreman that a mailbox has been directly damaged by a snow plow, the Town will replace the mailbox with a standard mailbox and post, which the citizen is responsible for installing according to USPS guidelines. Custom mailboxes and/or posts will not be replaced in kind.

Any mailbox and/or post will NOT be replaced if the post shows any sign of dry rot, being unstable, or was placed too close to the roadway.

The Road Foreman or a designated representative is authorized to use reasonable discretion in resolving matters involving unusual circumstances.

The replacement of a mailbox or support does not take priority over snow plowing sanding, salting, and other high-priority maintenance operations and a postal customer may have to pick up mail at the Post Office until the mailbox is back in place.

This policy was adopted by the Mount Holly Selectboard on December 12, 2023, Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow



Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Seward, Andrew Schulz, Brigid Sullivan
Also present: Faith Tempest (Clerk)

Attendees In person: Dennis Devereux, Peter Smith, Craig Fortier, David Martin, Don Eatmon, Christine Pratt, Diana Garrow, Phil Crane, Elizabeth Karle, Kathy Leber, Abe Leber, Stephen Michel, David Johnson, Francis Devine, Bob Herbst, Philip Blyskal, Glenn Davis, Laura Davis, Dave Venter, June Capron

Via zoom: Kelly Beerman, Caitlin Boyle, Susan Hamilton, Peg Gleason, Mauri Small, Alison Weintraub, Ron Unterman, Alex Yuster, Jennifer Burrows, Glenn Krieg, Megan Litwhiler, Linda Miller, Pam Myers, Phil Leonard, Mary Leonard

1. Chair called the hearing to order at 6.00 pm
2. The Chair introduced the draft Town Plan prepared by the Planning Commission at the request of the Select Board over the last three years. He outlined the rationale for updating the Plan, including ensuring that the language is robust enough (for example using the term shall rather than should) to set out clearly the views of the Town in any Act 250 proceedings – this is especially important for Towns with no zoning, such as Mount Holly. The Chair outlined the next steps in the process: any additional public comments should be provided to the Planning Commission either by email or in writing by the end of the week. The PC may then update the plan based on comments received and submit it to the Select Board which will then also hold a public hearing. Any revisions proposed by the Select Board will need to be addressed by the Planning Commission, after which the Select Board may approve the Plan. Review and approval by the Regional Planning Commission is also required. The Chair noted that the deadline for renewal of the Belmont Village Designation is April 1st, and that requires an approved updated Town Plan, so that gives a hard deadline.

3. The Chair then opened up the hearing to public comments:

Dennis Devereux:

- Reference is made to Okemo Mountain but the correct name is Ludlow Mountain
- References to the early use of Star Lake for water power should make clear that at that time the water body was called Jackson Pond
- The Town Plan has too many “shall” statements for a Town with no zoning e.g. there shall be no development over 2500’. Only if there is local opposition will development be stopped – two examples show this, a proposed quarry in Cavendish, and a proposed “game farm” on Rte 155
- The proposed local options tax on rooms and meals would provide little benefit because 70% of the revenue would revert to the State.



Chair responded that the two cases referred to were both Act 250 proceedings, with the Town Plan giving the Town standing to challenge the developments. In fact, they were both important cases decided by the Vermont Supreme Court and helped establish how Act 250 is applied in towns without zoning regulations. [Ed. note: The Cavendish example, known as “[Snowstone](#)”, reaffirmed how Act 250 is applied to certain kinds of development in “one-acre towns” such as ours. And demonstrates the importance of a town plan when there is no local control via zoning]. Regarding the options tax, the town would retain 70% of any revenue not 30%.

Peter Smith:

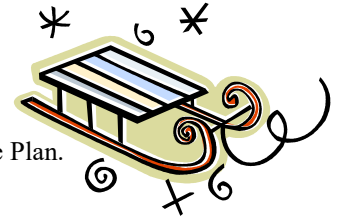
- I was on the Planning Commission in the 1970s when the “game farm” was proposed. Residents were concerned about traffic through the village. The Town Plan was critical to rejecting the proposal – the State Board and District Commission used the Town Plan in making their decision to reject the plan, and without a Plan we may have been unable to prevent it. This Town Plan would be used in a similar way in the future.
- The Town Plan is not a zoning ordinance.

Kathy Leber:

- We should learn from the fact that the 2018 Plan was too ambiguous and be more specific.
- I would like to thank the members of the Planning Commission for their tremendous work on the Plan.

Francis Devine:

- I would also like to thank the Planning Commission, and support the comments made by Kathy
- The term “should” is more frequently used than “shall” in the plan – “shall” could be used even more, it barely meets the minimum requirements to stand up to Act 250.



Don Eatmon

- There is a lot of good in this Town Plan, including standing up to Act 250, providing housing, preserving character and so on.
- The Plan states that Summit Lodge is within the Town – this is not the case and begs the question of whether there are other mistakes.
- The Plan states that there shall be no additional development of Okemo but perhaps we should be more amenable to expansion, and encouraging housing development. There is too much restriction on sub-division.
- There is too much emphasis on seeking grants, and this also means more staff. We do not need a town manager or a bigger Select Board. I propose trimming down rather than bigger government. [Ed. note: the town plan does not mention a town manager]
- A grant writer could be hired part-time, as needed, instead of full-time.
- The Plan “shall” fund the Mount Holly Historical Society – we should not fund private organizations.

Chair responded that the Mount Holly–Ludlow boundary is based on the one used in the Mount Holly and Ludlow tax maps. The Town Plan is intended to facilitate development, particularly housing. Grants are required to run the Town effectively; we cannot do so solely on the basis of property taxes, we need grants to do things such as pave the roads and repair bridges and culverts.

Alison Weintraub:

- I am in favor of the Town Plan and note that “shall” sounds binding but it is not, and we should use language that gives the Town’s people a voice in State decisions.
- We need to attract investments in housing and businesses in the Town while retaining our rural character.
- Towns now are very different to the past and we need to be able to have a say in our future.



Philip Blyskal

- I like the plan. We should be looking to the next generation – how do we make a plan to attract young people. This Plan shows that we are taking clear actions for the future of the Town and that we care about its future.

Abe Leber

- It is good to think of future generations but we should also consider current residents, including older ones who want to stay here and remain in place. The Town Plan supports that.

Stephen Michel

- Page 12: Reference to subdivision review to encourage cluster housing is an over-reach of the PC’s authority
- Page 13: Notes that subdivision regulations are out of date but does not give any detail of what is out of date or rationale for why they should be re-written.
- The Belmont Village Plan is noted as being adopted, but this is aspirational and is only focused on Belmont Village, not the whole community.
- Page 18: notes that new development is not allowed in FHA/RCS but this is inconsistent with the language on page 51 which says that some types of development are allowed in these areas.
- Page 24: there is a reference to impact fees which oversteps the authority of the Planning Commission. There is no clarification of why we need one. There is a reference to impacts on Town land but there is very little of this.

Chair: There is an implementation section in the Plan that details ways a plan can be put into effect. There is no overreach. The Select Board would need to adopt the implementation measures such as impact fees, revision of bylaws, etc., and only then would any of the actions be undertaken.

Elizabeth Karle:

- Asked whether, besides Act 250, does the Plan have any other legal standing? As I /

Dave Venter:

- Please include a glossary of terms - including of “should” and “shall”.
- Reliance on grants is precarious - you live by the grant and die by it. If grant money runs out it becomes a tax burden.



David Johnson:

- Page 26: Notes the Belmont Village Plan is incorporated by reference. The Plan was not “adopted” so the language needs to be revised.
- Page 11: Reference to the legal responsibility of the Town to maintain Class 4 roads. This is not the case.
- The plan has many should and shall statements which suggests that there is much to do and that does not seem to be the case.
- Page 42: the Mount Holly Newsflash has now been incorporated into the Chit Chat
- Page 43: Refers to Town records, it is good that it says the “Town shall continue to preserve and restore town records”
- Page 62: This document includes issues which are not important to me, for example on the Night Sky. This is part of our rural character but is not essential. I propose deleting that section.

Chair: Yes Belmont Village Plan was not formally adopted by the Select Board. On Class 4 roads, the legal status is unclear; this should only be referred to in the transportation section and I would recommend to the PC that the plan recommends the Select Board develop a policy on this. Regarding the night sky section, this is useful for Act 250 proceedings. There are several astro-photographers in town who are supportive and dark sky tourism is to be encouraged.

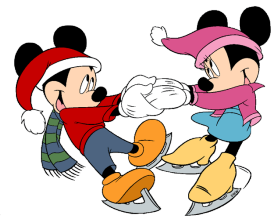
Diana Garrow:

- The Mount Holly Newsflash is incorporated into the Chit Chat and now has the finances to ensure it can reach as many people as wish to receive it.

Stephen Michel:

- A correction – the Oddfellows does have heat but is turned it off in winter.
- It is good to maintain the Mechanicsville Aqueduct since it could be used as emergency water supply.
- Page 11 reference to energy and 180 days. There is no Town ordinance on this and the Plan should be clear where things come from, i.e., whether State or Town regulation.
- Page 10: Increase the commentary/ description of current conditions in Star Lake to be consistent with that detail on Lake Ninevah.

Chair: energy siting is a complex issue and requires an “enhanced energy plan” to be able to give more specific details. This proposed plan does not include an enhanced energy plan.



Philip Leonard:

- The visibility of stars and the night sky is highly valued by residents and visitors.

David Johnson:

- Reference to Grand List should note the value is “assessed”.
- Reference to the Town budget of \$1.1M of which \$732,600 is for Roads - but the actual number is \$603,700 because of the amount of grants etc received.
- The reference to an option tax should state “The Town should consider adopting a local option tax”.

Bob Herbst:

- I presume the section on Mount Holly rescue will be revised.
- Page 16 has a typo The Town owns 6 acres Star Lake not State Lake

Francis Devine:

- What happens if we don’t meet the deadline for the Village designation? What other grants will be lost? What is required for renewing the Village designation?

Chair: If we lost the designation property owners would also lose any tax breaks related to it, and we would also lose status for State grants related to other things such as highway grants (even if they are not in the Village). We would lose the special treatment we get for the Village designation. It is much easier to renew through re-filing rather than start from scratch and the State only reviews applications in Spring.

Commissioner Sullivan: David Hoeh did the application originally and it required a lot of detailed data collection and public hearings; it was an arduous process.

Caitlyn Boyle:

- The Child Care section should clarify that Mount Holly does not have any full-time childcare options for children under 4. There are only part-time options and the times are inconsistent.
- The reference to the Town website as unofficial - the VLCT attorney has clarified that since the municipality owns, operates, and pays for the site and domain it is effectively an official website where we are obliged to post minutes etc.

Dennis Devereux:

- Pages 19 and 55: the Mechanicsville Aqueduct spring box has cracked and so it seems that no houses are still on the aqueduct.

David Martin:

- Speaking as a member of the Conservation Commission I would like to support the work of the Planning Commission and the provisions and feeling behind them. The Plan does a great job of bringing ideas for the future of the Town.

Philip Blyskal

- What has to happen to meet the April 1st deadline for the Village Center Designation?

Chair responded that we hope to have a final Town Plan draft in two weeks to submit to the Select Board who will schedule a public hearing. If there are substantial changes there are likely to be other public hearings, but ultimately it is up to the Select Board to adopt the plan in time.

Phil Crane:

- All comments have been important and relevant, but no plan is going to satisfy everybody. It is more important to have a good plan rather than a perfect one. That message should be shared with the community.

Chair agreed that there has been 3 years of work to develop a vision which most people would agree with, especially maintaining our Town’s rural character. And we do need this Plan to allow our vision to carry weight in State proceedings.

Ron Unterman:

- There have been a lot of comments about how often the word shall is used - but some of us agree with some and not with others. We shouldn’t focus on the number of “shalls” but rather should review and find those which we agree or do not agree with.

Chair clarified that the number of “shalls” is based on the number of topics that we expect the state to heed. When reviewing, we should look at the substance of the recommendation rather than the word on its own.

4. Hearing adjourned at 7.30pm.

For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk, In draft form until approved on November 29th, 2023



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**RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Any residential contractor who performs residential construction where the estimated value is \$10,000 or more, inclusive of labor and materials:



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WEBSITE: AGO.VERMONT.GOV/CAP
PHONE: 1-800-649-2424



The Okemo Valley Coat Drive

The Okemo Valley Coat Drive is an annual initiative aimed at collecting warm jackets and winter coats to distribute among individuals and families in need within the Okemo Valley community and is organized by William Raveis Vermont Properties. This year, the Vermont Properties Team successfully collected an abundant supply of jackets and winter coats to support the local community in need. All the donated jackets will be distributed to the Black River Good Neighbor Services, a prominent nonprofit organization dedicated to providing essential resources and support to individuals and families in the area.

The Black River Good Neighbor Services has been a pillar of support for the Okemo Valley community for many years. Through its various programs and services, this esteemed organization strives to address issues related to food security, clothing, household items, and more. They remain committed to their mission of helping those in need, and the donated jackets from the 2023 Coat Drive will significantly aid them in fulfilling their objectives.

Thank you to the community members who generously donated jackets. We hope this contribution will provide



much-needed warmth and comfort to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances during the colder months. Visit VTProp.com to learn about future events and initiatives aimed at bettering the Okemo Valley.



FOLA's "Love Letters" Raises Over \$2,000 for Parkinson's

The recent FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) production of the play, "Love Letters", drew a very large audience whose donations exceeded \$2,000. Featuring Linda and George Thomson as the readers, the play, by A. R. Gurney, told the story of two people writing to each other as they went through two very different lives. It showed how two very different personalities could develop a strong and deep affection that transcended a very sedate life compared to one that was full of chaos. All donations from the play will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson Foundation in memory of Janet Pace, long time Secretary and founding member of FOLA, who passed away due to Parkinson's Disease. Pictured above are Linda and George Thomson as they appeared on the Heald Auditorium stage at Ludlow Town Hall as they read the letters. Photo by Kevin Kuntz

The Ludlow Fire Department Fire & Ice Event

The Ludlow Fire Department successfully raised \$14,570 through a series of fundraising events. The funds were collected from the highly anticipated Fire & Ice Event, an online Silent Auction, and the Fire & Ice merchandise sale.

The fundraising committee, comprised of Kathy Burns, Kevin Barnes, Terry Fortuna, Abby Childs, Lisa Schmidt, and Claire Isherwood, worked tirelessly to organize this event. Their unwavering commitment and effort were instrumental in making this fundraising campaign such a resounding success.

The following businesses also deserve special recognition for sponsoring** the event and/or donating auction items to the cause. Their generosity and commitment to the community are truly commendable, and their support will undoubtedly go a long way in ensuring the Ludlow Fire Department can continue to provide essential services to the residents of Ludlow and beyond.

- Okemo Mountain Resort / Vail Resorts** - William Raveis Vermont Properties** - Open Door Vacation Rentals** - M&M Excavating** - Ted Stryhas Builders** - Aubuchon Hardware - Blue Sky Trading Co - Calm Moments Massage Studio - Castle Hill Resort & Spa - Clear Choice Pool & Spa - Clearlake Furniture - Cota & Cota - Echo Lake Inn - Eb Kinney and Bruce Schmidt - Engel & Volkers Okemo - Fox Run Golf Club - Fox Run Hospitality-Garvey & Garvey- Goodman's American Pie - Green Mountain Sugar House - Homestyle Hotel - Johnny's Kitchen - Lavalley Building Supply - Ludlow Insurance Agency Inc - Magris Talc - Main & Mountain - Master Plumbing & Heating, Inc - Northern Ski Works - Papa John's Sugar Shack - PrimeLending - Russ Hurlburt Photography - Stemwinder - Teaselwood Design - The Boot Pro - The Book Nook - The Cookster - The Eatery - The Killarney - The Vermont Country Store - Three Graces - Tygart Mountain Sports - Unofficial Okemo - Wine & Cheese Depot

For further inquiries or to make a donation, please contact:

Ludlow Fire Department, 67 Pond Street, Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-2211



Okemo Valley TV's Multi-Media Approach *Could radio be next?*

Okemo Valley TV, the community access TV station & media center, has been expanding beyond cable for many years. Like its 23 "sister stations" across the Green Mountain State, Okemo Valley TV was originally formed as a Public, Educational, & Government (PEG) Access cable TV station. "PEG Access" TV channels were established through the federal Communications Act of 1984. The provision for these channels was in response to the build-out of cable television. Cable companies were being given licenses to build out their infrastructure along

**Mixed Media Mindful
ART JOURNALING**

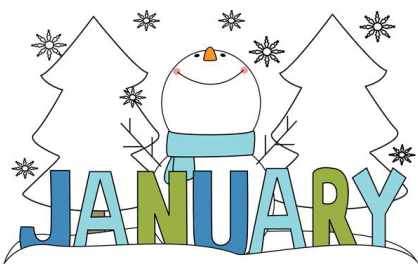
Wednesdays, 11am - 12:30pm
Ongoing, \$25 per class
Mount Holly Library Community Room

To register or for more info, please contact Linden: lindeneller@gmail.com | 347 457 4648

okemovalley.tv, and on its free, downloadable app on "over-the-top" (OTT) streaming platforms: Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, and iOS. Video on demand of local programming can be found on the station's website, its YouTube channel, as well as the streaming app.

While all of its work has been in visual media, Okemo Valley TV is beginning to explore other, non-visual forms of media as well. Executive Director Patrick Cody stresses the use of the word *media* in the station's mission and goals ("to provide the community with access to media technology" and to serve as a primary media resource). "That was by design, as we look ahead. We want to be able to provide whatever media services that the community wants", Cody added.

As far as the next steps, there is the possibility of adding non-visual media to the organization's offerings. For the third time in nearly a quarter Century, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is accepting applications for new Low Power FM (LPFM) community radio licenses. This is for non-commercial, community-based radio programming, and must be operated by a nonprofit organization. There are several LPFM stations operating in Vermont already, but not in the immediate area around Okemo Valley TV. There is WOOL FM in Bellows Falls, which started as LPFM but is now Full Power community radio. Cody points to the similarities between the missions of community radio and community TV and sees a lot of opportunity to bring them together under one roof.



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kevin@belmontseptic.com

Kevin Hollebeek

public roadways and other rights-of-way, in order to bring this new technology to the masses. PEG channels became part of the compensation given back to local communities in exchange for these licenses and using public rights-of-way. In Vermont, the growth of PEG (otherwise known as "community TV") ramped up during the 1990s. Okemo Valley TV was formed in 2001 (it was then known as LPCTV, which stood for "Ludlow-Plymouth-Cavendish Television").

Over the years, Okemo Valley TV has experienced a slow but steady expansion of its services. Today, as with its colleagues, it is embracing all sorts of media platforms and uses. For starters, the station's two TV channels are not just on cable; they are streamed live on its website at

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If you purchased a tree and/or a wreath from

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between November 27th
and December 3rd of
this year, and paid by
check,



Please contact
Scott at the
Balsam Barn,
802-259-2146.

Thank you.



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Now is your chance to own a majestic
Ludlow home and live in your own
Hallmark Movie!
website link: <https://bit.ly/3NcMebV>



80 Sandra Drive | Ludlow
Privacy Found Here!
Four Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths
4+/- Acres | Paved Driveway
Website link: <https://bit.ly/3DV5kOs>



Town Farm Road | Ludlow
One-acre wooded parcel near Okemo
Website link: <https://bit.ly/36jK6MJ>

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802-228-5333 | Realtor@KelleyRealEstate.com
Don Eatmon Broker/Owner

The Information Below Must Be Filled Out

Principal Member:

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-Mail: _____
Date of Birth: _____

Household Occupants to be Included

Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____

If needed, please attach a list to add more names.

About Us

The Ludlow Ambulance Service is operated by the Town of Ludlow and serves the communities of Ludlow, Cavendish and Plymouth. The service is a full-time paid department that responds to 900 emergencies per year. In addition, we have been recognized as a HeartSafe Community by the state of Vermont and provide ongoing CPR and First Aid classes.

Subscription Program Agreement

By signing up for this subscription you agree to pay \$60 annually for households with medical insurance and \$120 for households where not every member has medical insurance.

Participation in the subscription program permits Ludlow Ambulance Service to collect funds directly from any third-party agency (insurance, etc.) for whatever benefits may off set the cost of service at no charge to the patient. The subscription program is non-refundable and nontransferable. Any additional donations made to Ludlow Ambulance Service are tax deductible.

- Subscription fees are not prorated.
- Medicaid patients with full coverage are exempt from the service.
- We do not provide subscription plans to businesses any checks received from a business will be considered a donation.
- To be in compliance with Medicare laws, we charge the same rate per household no matter how many people reside in your home

Ludlow Ambulance

2024 Subscription Program

Save on Expensive Copays!

For an annual fee of **\$60 for insured households** and **\$120 for uninsured households**, Ludlow Ambulance Service will cover any expenses incurred by members of your household for our services.

Ludlow Ambulance reserves the right to bill any third-party insurance company

For more information call 802-228-2880 or email EMS Chief Stephanie Grover at sgrover.las@tds.net



Two ALS ambulances ready to respond to any emergency
24/7/365

Ambulance Service Costs

	Non-Member	Member
Advanced Life Support 2 -	\$1,275.	\$0
Advanced Life Support -	\$975.	\$0
Basic Life Support -	\$725.	\$0
Mileage for transport -	\$20.	\$0
Cardiac Monitoring -	\$25.	\$0
Oxygen -	\$25.	\$0
Drug Administration -	\$50.	\$0
Intravenous Line (IV) -	\$50.	\$0
Intubation -	\$75.	\$0



Ludlow Ambulance Service Subscription

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Please include cash or checks made payable to Ludlow Ambulance Service or by credit card*

Credit Cards can be processed online at ludlow.vt.us

*Credit cards will be charged a 2.5% processing fee

Please Complete the Backside of the Form and return with

payment to:

Ludlow Ambulance Service
PO Box 359
Ludlow, VT 05149

Help Us Help You!

In addition, I would like to support Ludlow Ambulance with an additional donation

\$50 \$100 \$200

Other \$

Subscription +\$60 or +120

Total \$

Ludlow Ambulance Service
November 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023

Total Calls

November 2022- 57 Calls **November 2023:** 79 Calls

Ambulance Calls

November 2023

Ludlow	33
Cavendish	10
Proctorsville	19
Plymouth	5
Mount Holly	12
Chester	
Shrewsbury	
Andover	
Reading	
Weston	
Londonderry	
Springfield Hospital/ Springfield	
Rutland Hospital	
Mount Ascutney Hospital	
Mutual Aid received	3
<u>Transports</u>	
Springfield Hospital	39
Dartmouth	
Landing Zone	2
Mount Ascutney	
Rutland Hospital	10
No Transports/Stand by Coverage	28
Gill Home	
Cheshire Medical Center	
Home	
Valley Regional Hospital	

Ludlow Ambulance Service

The Ludlow Ambulance Service is operated by the town of Ludlow and serves the communities of Ludlow, Cavendish, Mount Holly and Plymouth. We are a full-time paid department that responds to roughly 900 calls per year. We currently have two advanced life support ambulances (ALS) with one truck being staffed 24/7/365 and the second truck staffed during peak times of the year.

Our staff is comprised of Vermont Emergency First Responders (6), EMTs (9), Advanced EMTs (5) and Paramedics (4). Of our 23 employees 5 of them are full time and the others' part time or per diem.

In addition to responding to 911 calls, we offer stop the bleed training, American Heart Association CPR and First Aid courses. We also participate in a number of community events throughout the year including school safety days, hands only CPR events, touch a truck events, trunk or treats, 5k standbys, etc.

As we begin this new chapter providing ambulance service to your community, I wanted to make every effort to educate you on what Ludlow Ambulance Service does and be transparent about our operations along the way. We will make every effort to have an article in the Chit Chat every month with tidbits on information on what we do, the happenings of the month prior and introducing our employees so they are a familiar face to you. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me by email sgrover.las@tds.net or by calling the office at 802-228-2880. As a reminder, the office phone is not staffed 24/7, in the event of an emergency please dial 911.

Meet the Members:

Stephanie Grover, EMS Chief, Paramedic

Stephanie has been involved in the emergency services for 15 years and employed at Ludlow Ambulance Service since October 2014, serving as the EMS Chief since 2019. Prior to working for Ludlow she previously worked career EMS for Rescue Inc in Brattleboro VT, Diluzio Ambulance Service in Keene NH and a volunteer for 10 years at Guilford Volunteer



Fire Department. She graduated from the New England EMS Institute in Manchester NH in 2014. Outside of work Stephanie enjoys spending time with family and going on as many adventures as she can!

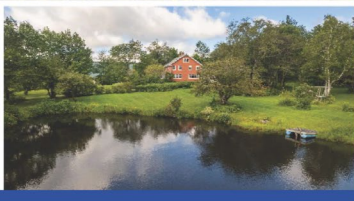
JUST LISTED!



4
BEDS

5
BATHS

5,400
SQ. FT.



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



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

Alzheimer's Support Group Meets Jan 9th at 4pm at Community Health

An Alzheimer's support group meets the second Tuesday of each month at Community Health in Rutland. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9 at 4pm at Community Health Allen Pond, 71 Allen Street, Rutland, Suite 403.

The support group is a safe environments where caregivers and family members can share feelings, thoughts and experiences. Mark the date -Tuesday, January 9, at 4pm at Community Health Allen Pond, 71 Allen Street, Rutland, Suite 403.

For more information about the Community Health support group contact Kelsey Bathalon at kbathalon@chcrr.org or 802-855-2255. Or call the Alzheimer's Helpline at 800-272-3900.

Community Health Tip - Winter Wellness

Viruses pass more easily from person to person indoors, and cold, dry air can weaken resistance. Colds, flu, Covid and RSV are prevalent this year. These types of illnesses can be treated by a primary care provider, unless the symptoms are life threatening.

What you should know about RSV: Almost all children are exposed to RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) before age 2. For most, it's like having a cold. But some children, especially the very young, can become dangerously sick.

If your infant or toddler is having difficulty breathing, an increased rate of breathing or coughing fits that won't stop, these could be signs of RSV.

Prevention is the key: At Community Health, we offer the nirsevimab RSV immunization to all well children under 6 months of age. Check with your provider or pediatrician at Community Health. During an office visit providers can check for symptoms of RSV and other viruses. Contact us at 802-779-9169. If it's a medical emergency, please dial [911](tel:911).



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January



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

mthollynewsflash@gmail.com

And request to be placed on the list.
News item deadlines are 6 am & 6 pm

Also Check

www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

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

Kevin Plew is the primary NewsFlash
attendant and Stu Berry is backup
attendant at stuberly1@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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Who's Got It Locally?

Artists & Architects

Linden Eller Studio www.Lindeneller.com 347-457-4648
 Contemporary fine artist, illustrator, art educator
 Spectrum Photography – John Miller 802-259-3060
 Stone Creek Workshops Pottery www.stonecreekworkshops.com 802-259-2254

Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling*Building* Local Lumber Available 802-259-3699
 Home Maintenance – Ken Saccardo call or text 603-401-8122

Burn Permits

Fire Warden – Jim Seward Pager 802-786-3408 Home 802-259-2211

Catering - Restaurants - Stores

Harry's Café, Trip & Deb Pearce III www.Harryscafe.com 802-259-2555
 Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 802-228-6656
 Squeels on Wheels BBQ www.squeelsonwheels.com 802-558-9489

Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 9 am
 Rev Thomas Mosher abvmludlow@comcast.net 802-228-3451
 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 11 am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm
 Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020
 Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11 am & 3 pm
 Until May 11 am & 6 pm 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
 Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:45 BS Tue 7 pm
jeremiah.c.johnson@icloud.com Pastor Jeremiah Johnson 760-845-6617
 Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am
 Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

Cleaning Service/Housekeeper

Savannah - Cleaning Service call or text 802-417-0913
 Brazilian Cleaning Service- Tabita Souza 10+ years' Experience 802-855-3830
 References Available Upon Request tabitacleaning@gmail.com

Electrical Services

Wirenuts Electrical LLC bbates@vermontel.net 802-353-4376 802-492-3406

Emergency Services

Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency # 802-228-2880 911
 Stephanie Grover NRP Chief Cell 802-380-2635 sgrover.las@tds.net
 MH Vol Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954 911

Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

Beardmore Excavating beardmoreexc@gmail.com 802-342-3507
 Flander's Excavating & Firewood 802-259-2147
 Hawkins Excavation Driveways, Ditching, Septic, Ponds, Etc 802-558-3082

Farm Fresh Products

Mt. Holly Dairy-Aire Farm Raw Milk, Fresh Eggs, Baked Goods 802-259-2386
 Plew Farm (meat, eggs, maple) www.plewfarm.com 802-259-2250
 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly
 Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC, Grassfed Beef & VT Maple 802-492-2151
 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com
 Sugar Hill Berry Farm www.sugarhillberryfarm.com 802-259-2155

Fire Warden

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

Firewood

Flanders Firewood Cut Split Delivered 802-259-2147
Flanders.excavating@gmail.com

Food Shelf

Black River Good Neighbor Services – Krey Kellington 802-228-3663

Funeral Homes

Clifford Funeral Home 802-773-3010

Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

Belmont Country Gardens Quality Custom Stonework & More 802-259-2364
 Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 802-259-3964
 Salt Ash Nursery - The Balsam Barn – Scott Crawford 802-259-2146

Garage Mechanical

Belmont Motor Works LLC Harley Davidson & European MTC 802-259-3178
 ATV, Small Engine Repair. Chainsaw, Wood Splitter, Snowblowers & Welding

William H Johnson Automotive Services 802-259-2498
 2370 Healdville Rd. Belmont, VT

General Contractors

Wright Construction Company info@wrightconstruction.com 802-259-2094
 Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

Health & Community Health Care Providers

Calm Moments Message Studio – Irene Berry 802-228-7772
 Community Health – <https://www.chcrr.org> Medical, Dental, Pediatrics
 Behavioral Health – Patient Access Center 802-779-9159
 Express Care Rutland - 802-773-3386
 Dr. Joseph P. Donohue – Chiropractic Care, Thrive Center 802-446-2499
 Massage Therapy/Bodywork, Thrive Center of Green Mtns 802-446-2499
 Lisa Donohue MA, LMT ~ Linda O'Brien MT 802-446-2499

Home Management Services

Belmont Country Gardens Property Management 802-259-2364
 Mowing & Plowing Jon Lienhard
 Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 802-259-3064

Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 802-228-7151
 Plew Farm 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly www.plewfarm.com 802-259-2250
 Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC Grassfed Beef & VT Maple 802-492-2151
 2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc., Don Reiser H 802-259-2722 802-362-0501
print@expresscopyinc.com

Masonry

Farrand Masonry – Angus Farrand farrandmasonry@gmail.com 802-417-1657

Metal Fabrication

Wayne Jones Metal www.waynejonesmetal.com 802-259-2521

Mount Holly Email

Kevin Plew – mthollynewsflash@gmail.com 802-259-2250

Painters

Beardmore Painting beardmorepainting802@gmail.com 802-353-9493
 MRS Unlimited Visions LLC Interior/Exterior Painting –Melissa 802-259-3989

Plumbing & Heating

Master Plumbing & Heating Inc. John Diekel 802-975-0369
admin@masterplumbingandheating.co 24/7 Emergency 802-747-1280
 Tailored Plumbing tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com 802-417-1647

Real Estate Sales

Cummings & Co. Lisa Kelley lisa@cummingsvt.com 802-345-6581
 Engel & Volkers, Okemo - Woodstock Gail Beardmore 802-975-0338
Gail.Beardmore@evusa.com (Mobile) 802-236-5431
 eXp Realty Sue Starr-Adams susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com 802-236-8028
 Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Owner/Broker Office 802-228-5333
realtor@KelleyRealEstate.com
 Don Eatmon Don@KelleyRealEstate.com 802-228-5333
 Ty Murray Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-777-8047
 Alex Eatmon Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-345-7886
 John Tolosky John@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-356-5556
 Bella Gambino Maria@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 631-523-1050
 Lorien Kelly 732-670-8001
www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com
 TPW Real Estate, John Napier jmn@tpw.com 802-228-9400 x 1309860-559-9334

Roofing

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

Security

Countryside Alarms – Mike Blais www.countrysidealarms.com 802-259-2213

Septic System Design

Belmont Septic Design – Kevin Hollebeek C 802-733-2561 H 802-259-3898
kevin@belmontseptic.com

Therapeutic Riding

Rienbow Riding Center Home 802-259-2282 Barn 802-236-2483

Tree Services

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

Volunteer Services

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

Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking cw@vermontel.net 802-259-3232
www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com

