



# Mount Holly Chit Chat

50/1

March 2024

**PC Administrator Office Hours:** Tues 2 -3 pm or by Appointment 802-259-2391 [administrative.orricer@mounthollyvt.org](mailto:administrative.orricer@mounthollyvt.org)  
**Church Listing on back page "Who's Got It Locally?"**  
**Mount Holly Community Association** – Contact [MHC AVT@gmail.com](mailto:MHC AVT@gmail.com)  
**Mount Holly Museum**-Open Jul & Aug Sat & Sun 2-4pm [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org) 802-259-2460 [ddevereux@vermontel.net](mailto:ddevereux@vermontel.net)  
**Mt. Holly NewsFlash** Town email sign up at [newsflash@mounthollyvt.org](mailto:newsflash@mounthollyvt.org) Check Out [www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com](http://www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com)  
**Town Library:** Sat 9-1, Mon 10-2, 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**



Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LMHUUSD Annual School District Meeting</b> , Ludlow Elementary School	6:00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Peace Corps Founded 1961</i>	
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Texas Independence Day</i>	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Alexander Graham Bell 1847 ~ "Star Spangled Banner" made, US National Anthem 1931</i>	
	<i>2024 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Begins, Willow Lake, Alaska</i>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual Town Meeting</b> , MH School Gym	7:00 pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>VOTE</b> , MH Town Office	6:00 pm
	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
6 <sup>th</sup>	MH PTG Meeting, MH School <i>Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni 1475</i>	6:00 pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	7:00 pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>International Women's Day</i>	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Day Light Savings Begins</i>	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building	7:00 pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	6:30 pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	LMHUUS Meeting,	6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
14 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station <i>Albert Einstein 1879 – Pi Day Founded 1988</i>	7:00 pm
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>St. Patrick's Day 1631</i>	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Masons Meeting, Mt. Moriah Lodge E. Wallingford <i>Spring Begins – Vernal Equinox</i>	7:30 pm
20 <sup>th</sup>	Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	6:30 pm
	Mount Holly Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	7:00 pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations <i>World Down Syndrome Day</i>	7:00 pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Civil Rights March 1965</i>	
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Purim Begins ~ National Diabetes Alert Day</i>	
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Purim Ends</i>	
25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Seward's Day Alaska ~ Full Worm Moon</i>	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
27 <sup>th</sup>	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	<i>National Vietnam War Veterans Day 1973 ~ Good Friday</i>	
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Cesar Estrada Chavez US Labor Organizer 1927 ~ Easter</i>	



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**Emergency Services**

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954	802-259-27700	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	802-793-2776
MH Constable	<b>NONE</b>		Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-259-3610
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](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net)  
Check out Mt. Holly Web Site [www.mounthollyvt.org](http://www.mounthollyvt.org)

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

**Donation Thank Yous:** Joan Connor \* Lydia Graves & John Manning \* Don & robin Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) \* Summers Williams (Birth & Postpartum Doula) \* Derk Beardmore Jr (Beardmore Painting) \* Andrew Schulz & Mauri Small \* Patti & Kevin Plew (Plew Farm) \* Barbara Hawkins Fairbanks \* Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) \*



**March Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup>-Jessica Duarte 2<sup>nd</sup>-Doris Nelson \* Donald Reiser \* Nicole Reiser 3<sup>rd</sup>-Alexander Melville \* Violet Colm 4<sup>th</sup>-Deborah DeTore 5<sup>th</sup>-Morgan Coldwell \* James Johnson \* Alexa McCallum 6<sup>th</sup>-Zoe Davis 7<sup>th</sup>-Elijah Teter 8<sup>th</sup>-Mike Dawley Sr. 9<sup>th</sup>-Hanna Colm 10<sup>th</sup>-Dennis Devereux 12<sup>th</sup>-Julie Parsells 13<sup>th</sup>-Debbie Woods \* Elizabeth Manuel 1995 14<sup>th</sup>-Shawn Wortman 15<sup>th</sup>-Cassandra Parsels \* Karen Ham \* Frank Gerdin 19<sup>th</sup>-Patrick Melvin \* Andrew Garrow \* Eureka Johnson 20<sup>th</sup>-Bill Jacobs 21<sup>st</sup>-Jeremiah Johnson 22<sup>nd</sup>-John Taylor \* Rachel Manuel (1971) 23<sup>rd</sup>-Megan Carrara 25<sup>th</sup>-Nicole Griffin \* Lucy Columb. 28<sup>th</sup>-Bessie Centini 29<sup>th</sup>-Nancy Columb 30<sup>th</sup>-April Melvin \* Mary Nortunen \* Brian Roberts



**March Anniversaries:** 26<sup>th</sup>-Raymond & Linda Tarbell

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

### Local Post Office Hours

**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  
**SECRETARY:** Terri Isidro **TREASURER:** Diana Garrow  
**DIRECTORS:** Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, Kevin Plew  
**MANAGING EDITOR:** Diana Garrow  
**ASSISTANT to the EDITOR:** Heather Garrow

**SUBMISSIONS:** Deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to [chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net) or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 **Phone 802-259-2314.** E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries. 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.
<b>Classified</b>	\$ 2	\$ 5.50	\$10	\$ 15	\$ 20
<b>Business Card:</b>	\$15	\$40	\$75	\$115	\$150
<b>Quarter Page:</b>	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
<b>Third Page:</b>	\$45	\$125	\$225	\$350	\$450
<b>Half Page:</b>	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$750
<b>Full Page:</b>	\$125	\$325	\$625	\$1025	\$1250

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

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

**INTERNET:** Each month's edition is published on the Mount Holly Town website: [www.mounthollyvt.org](http://www.mounthollyvt.org)

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

The Annual Membership meeting is held on the Third Tuesday in September in the Mount Holly Town Office. 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 [stumberry1@gmail.com](mailto:stumberry1@gmail.com) . Email items to [newsflash@mounthollyvt.org](mailto:newsflash@mounthollyvt.org) [www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com](http://www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com)



### Robert C. Gates

Robert C. Gates, 90, of Belmont passed away Sunday February 4, 2024 at his home. He was born June 22, 1933 in Mt. Holly, the son of George Leonard and Catherine (Sprague) Gates. Robert was employed as a farmer for many years, Fellows Machine Shop, a carpenter and remodeling specialist, retiring in 2004. Surviving are his wife Zena (Simonds) Gates of Belmont, two daughters, Linda Sloan of Proctor and Carol Dionne of Rutland, a step-daughter Donna Aikens of Bellows Falls, one son, Robert Bailey of Rutland, one sister Etta Kennett of North Springfield, two brothers, Chester Gates of Putney and Donald Gates of Belmont, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was pre-deceased by three brothers, Clifford, Francis and George Gates and by two sisters, Hazel Turner and Lillian Snyder. Funeral services will be held at Clifford Funeral Home in the spring with burial to follow in Maple Grove Cemetery in Wallingford. Contributions may be made to Ludlow Ambulance and Fair Haven Rescue and Rutland Regional Medical Center for all their wonderful care.

### ESBR February News Update

The students at ESBR continue to take expeditions beyond our normal classes of Social Studies, Math, Science, Art, P.E., and English. As you can see by the pictures, the students have been quite busy. We made holiday cookies for the array of people who share their expertise about the July flood and its impact on Ludlow and the surrounding area. Our Science teachers wrapped up that study providing a localized water table, which the ESBR students then displayed and explained to Ludlow Elementary School students. We then began our Ludlow History studies visiting Georgia Brehm at the Black River Academy Museum. We are also interviewing several local residents about their own personal Ludlow-centered history. These interviews will also allow

our students to learn more about the area, and they will create write ups about these histories to share and teach to others.



Further expeditions of learning included a trip to the Plymouth Emergency Facility to take CPR training with Sue Poirier. It is important our students recognize these kind of volunteer organizations that allow these programs to be available in small communities. Community member Betty McEnaney also visited ESBR this school year to share experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail. Hearing about her travels provided the perfect anecdote to students about other examples of expeditionary learning.

We are grateful to have had several interactions with the Ludlow Elementary School thus far, allowing ESBR students to experience teaching roles sharing information with the younger LES students. It is also a great chance to demonstrate to LES students a little of what ESBR is about. We hope to have more in the near future so prospective students will see the opportunities at ESBR. We hope you continue to follow us and support us as we grow.

Thank you to all of the guests as well as the places that have hosted our expeditions this year. Another thank you to all of you who support this cause and these students. This is an amazing community and we will continue to dedicate our time and energy to keeping a unique, viable school here. Best, ESBR Board Chair Gary Blodgett



### Fletcher Memorial, Cavendish & Mount Holly Libraries Present Karen Land Iditarod Participant

The Fletcher Memorial, Cavendish and Mt. Holly libraries are proud to present Karen Land, a three-time Iditarod participant, who will be speaking about her experiences in the sport of mushing. This interactive event will take place on Friday, March 15, 2023, from 6:00- 7:00pm at the Ludlow Auditorium on Depot St. in Ludlow, VT.



Karen Land has delivered over 1000 talks in 35 states and is known for her engaging and informative presentations. Her current string of dogs is made up of an Alaskan husky named Noggin and a Corgi-Springer mix named Chloe, who will accompany her at the program.

This program is free and appropriate for all ages. It is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to attend and learn more about the exciting world of mushing.

Participants may park on Depot St. or additional parking is available at the municipal lot behind Brewfest Beverages.

For more information, please contact the Fletcher Memorial Library at 802-228-8921, The Cavendish Fletcher Community Library at (802) 226-7503 or the Mt. Holly Library at (802) 259-3707.

**Bone Builders**  
Monday & Thursday Mornings  
9:00 am  
Odd Fellows Hall  
For Weights and more information  
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

## Preschool at Mount Holly School for the

2024-2025 school year:

Students who will be 3 years old on or before August 31st, 2024 will attend school Thursdays and Fridays from 7:45 am - 2:15 pm.

Students who will be 4 years old on or before August 31st, 2024 will attend school Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 7:45 am - 2:15 pm.

Aftercare may be available based on need until 4 pm.

If you have any questions, you may email the preschool teacher: [Jenna.Laslow@trsu.org](mailto:Jenna.Laslow@trsu.org)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mount Holly Fire Department has identified the need for a first response to operate in Mount Holly, Vermont and is applying for licensure by the Vermont Department of Health. This agency proposes to begin operation on June 1, 2024, within the geographic boundaries of Mount Holly, Rutland County, Vermont. In accordance with 24 V.S.A. Emergency Medical Services Statute, public comments are invited to be received by the department by April 15, 2024. Address comments to: **Vermont Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness and EMS, PO Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402-0070**

### Correction to last month's comment on increasing the Select Board

My statement that I had not received any information on why we should increase the Board should be increased. I had forgotten that he had. I apologize for the misstatement. Stephen Michel.

### ATTN: Mount Holly Registered Voters

To request an absentee ballot please go to <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/> once you open the site it will give you your options to request an absentee ballot. If you cannot do on line for absentee ballot, please come to the town office in person to request an absentee ballot. The ballots should be available by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Mount Holly Town Clerk

### Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 February 2024, Trestleboard

Next meeting Tuesday 3/19 7:30PM

Brothers,

This is our annual meeting on Tuesday. Officers for the ensuing year will be chosen. Year-end reports will be due, officers.

July 20<sup>th</sup> will be our Ham dinner fundraising date this year. I know it's early to be talking about a dinner in July, but the Odd Fellows are lining up available dinner dates for the year.

The Vermont Lodge of Research is planning on holding their meeting at Mt. Moriah, on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning with supper at 6pm and the meeting at 7pm. Fraternaly, Dennis Start, WM & Buster Seward, Sec'yv

### THE MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT TURNS 50

This March we recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mount Holly Chit Chat. A group met on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1974 to organize and put together the first edition. The present board is dedicated to carrying on the tradition of providing information about the events and services in our area.

We plan to mark the occasion with a resolution that recognizes their efforts that helped make the Chit Chat an important part of our community.

Board: Dennis Devereux, President; Dave Venter, Vice President; Terry Isidro, Secretary; Diana Garrow, Treasurer and Editor; and Directors Heather Garrow, Kevin Plew and Chris Pratt.

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

The use of the Hall in Belmont is scheduled by contacting Carol at 802-259-2791, or at [tgc2791@yahoo.com](mailto:tgc2791@yahoo.com). You may also leave a message with Dennis at 802-259-2460, or at [ddevereux@vermontel.net](mailto:ddevereux@vermontel.net).

### Family Pancake Breakfast with REAL VT Maple Syrup!



Saturday March 23,

8am-Noon

Shrewsbury Meeting House  
88 Lottery Rd Shrewsbury VT

\$10 Adults \$5 ages 6-12  
(children under 6 free)

Hosted by Shrewsbury Community Church

Benefit: Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project.

Enjoy Smith Maple Crest Syrup on our pancakes.  
Jump on a free hayride to their sugarhouse right  
across the road!

### The Writers' Group

The Writers' Group will meet again on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in the Mount Holly Library. Happy St. Patrick's Day. I will bring the soda bread. Thank you, Joan [connor@ohio.edu](mailto:connor@ohio.edu)

Fletcher Memorial, Cavendish Community and Mt. Holly Libraries Present

# Three Time Iditarod Participant Karen Land and Her Sled Dogs Chloe & Noggin

Friday March 15, 2024  
6:00-7:00pm  
Ludlow Auditorium  
37 Depot St.  
Ludlow, VT. 05149

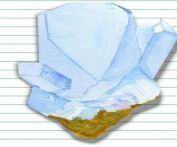



Join musher Karen Land and her dogs Chloe and Noggin as they share their experiences as 3 time participants in the 1,049 mile Iditarod sled dog race across Alaska.

Free and Family Friendly  
Call 802-228-8921 for info

**MOUNT HOLLY TOWN  
LIBRARY NEWS  
March 2024**

*March*



AQUAMARINE

The Mount Holly Town Library, in conjunction with Fletcher Memorial and Cavendish Community Libraries are presenting a program on the Iditarod Dog Sled Race in Alaska. The program is on Friday March 15, 2024 from 6-7 PM at the Ludlow

### Vote Yes on School Bond

The Mount Holly and Ludlow Schools have gone more than twenty years without significant work. Though they have performed all the necessary annual maintenance, now is the time for some major repairs and upgrades. The boilers at both schools are very old, inefficient and in need of frequent repairs. At Mount Holly there is no backup heat, so if the boiler needs repairs that cannot be completed immediately then the school would have to close until the repair is done. At Ludlow the roof is leaking. If we do not replace it immediately then more damage will be done. In Mount Holly one of the walls has only cinder blocks and water is leaking through onto the classroom floors. Lighting fixtures are old and inefficient. In Mount Holly the nurse's office is on the gym stage, with only a curtain for privacy.

The school committee reduced the scope of the planned work to the minimum that is needed at both schools. If you want to know more about what is being proposed go to TRSU.org and click on **Ludlow/Mt Holly School Upgrades Presentation** to see videos and PowerPoint documents explaining what is in the proposed bond. I personally ask you to vote YES because if we do not do this work now it will still need to be done and will be more expensive in the future. David Martin

### To Mount Holly Residents

We are writing in regard to the vote, for a five person Selectboard, on March 5, 2024.

The current three person Selectboard deserves a "Special Thank You". They work hard to do a good job, meeting needs of the town. Also, we would like to say, "thank you", to Caitlin, and Liz for all your help. This group works together so as things get done.

In the past years, only once has it been suggested, (to our knowledge) we have a five person Selectboard. The question brought forth at this time, is the real reason, all of a sudden the need for a five person Selectboard, when the present board is serving us well.

We were not aware of any major issues or concerns, until the Petition was submitted. If there are concerns, why not bring them to the towns attention threw a public meeting.

Let the three person Selectboard do their work and support them. Mount Holly is a small community that people have moved to for many reasons.

Why change it. Jim & Katherine Heald

### Fletcher Memorial Library Needs Your Help

I know that you have a library of your own, however, Fletcher Memorial Library serves many of Mt Holly/Belmont residents. Would any of your residents be willing to write a letter of support for FML?

I am going to be writing a grant for historical renovations needed in the library with costs upwards of \$500k. Funds are from the treasury via VT Department of Libraries (VTlib) and somehow ARPA rules are involved. I must do a bit of wordsmithing, but I am encouraged to apply. VTlib used our deteriorating spiral marble staircase pictures in their Federal grant application to showcase the needs of VT public libraries.

So, here is my request. I need letters in support of the library and our services to the communities we serve. Is this something you could do for me, please. **I will need this by March 6** to ensure I meet my March 12 deadline. Any other ideas of whom I should ask? THANKS! Jill Tofferi, Director, Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 main St., Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-8921



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## A Letter to the Editor and Mount Holly Town Voters re. the School Bond Issue

I grew up in this town. I went to our elementary school, my children attended school here and my grandchildren as well. Mount Holly's elementary school has always had an excellent educational reputation. Which is why I find myself conflicted over the school bond issue as proposed this year. The school board is asking us to approve an over 9 million, 20 year bond to fund maintenance for the Ludlow and Mount Holly elementary schools as well as an addition to the Mount Holly school. While I agree with some (not all) of the proposed maintenance items on the list and I don't know about regulations and construction costs, the amount of the bond for maintenance seems excessive. Are there critical items on the list that can be dealt with and then approach the others over time? I really have an issue with the cost of the proposed addition. I don't disagree with the argument that the Mount Holly school facilities are inadequate to accommodate what is State required (without funding). **Have you visited the school recently?** The stage in the gym has been cut away for a nurse's office (inadequate) and IT maintenance area. The cafeteria has been cut away for a special ed. room (with no entrance except through another special ed room). Areas have also been carved out of the cafeteria for After School Program storage and more special ed as well as two other cubicles for private meeting areas. Other special ed and guidance areas are placed in closet spaces and a hallway has been narrowed to give cubicles for these needs. I do not envision a quality learning experience in these conditions to say nothing of the stress this must put on the staff. I agree that the school needs more area to accommodate all of the State mandates, BUT I believe the 1.4 million for the proposed addition is a lot to ask of the taxpayers of Mount Holly, especially with additional tax burden being considered in Montpelier. I know the School Board has spent much time with a consulting firm to develop this proposal. I would like to caution them to explore other options before asking the townspeople to agree to this bond issue. Millicent Johnson

### APPRECIATION FOR JEFF CHASE

We write as appreciative Mount Holly residents to recognize Jeff Chase for his unstinting service to our community, without compensation and while juggling the needs of his family and his own work.

Not knowing Jeff on a personal level, but moved by his dedication to our town, we wanted to learn more about his contributions, not only as a select board member but as a fully involved citizen. And we were stunned at what we learned about his personal involvement and commitment to our town.

Over the course of years, Jeff has had the vision to recognize the town's needs and the dedication to tackle and solve them. The ability to identify problems and devise and implement solutions is a rare combination of talents, and the town is fortunate that Jeff has them in abundance. Especially important in a town like ours, with so many diverse opinions, Jeff makes sure that all voices are heard and reflected in the town's decisions. He seeks balance and is effective in finding the middle ground.

In addition to his regular responsibilities as a member of the Select Board, Jeff serves as the town's emergency management director, the town's representative to the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee, and the head of the town's Hazard Mitigation Planning team. Jeff served as the town's point person with FEMA in connection with the past year's flooding, and his expertise and writing skills have been crucial to the town's successful applications for multiple grants (including, among many others, two Municipal Planning Grants, road/highway grants), which he then also managed.

Jeff also has worked tirelessly overseeing/supervising multiple other projects. He recognized the need for a free public WiFi access point during the pandemic, and was instrumental in obtaining a grant to bring it to the town library. Likewise, also during the pandemic, Jeff saw that videoconferencing would allow continued public participation in Select Board meetings, and he made it happen. Even now, long after the lockdown ended, videoconferencing continues to aid public participation in our town's civic life.

Other projects that would not have happened without Jeff's work include digitizing town records, leading traffic studies, and road and culvert repairs. He has drafted many town policies and ordinances and resolutions (e.g., highways, traffic, emergency management, hazard mitigation, Board of Adjustment). His work has improved our quality of life and security, often in very tangible ways (we probably would not have gotten the back-up generator if he had not included that as part of the hazard mitigation plan).

Jeff's work has improved the quality of our residents' lives in many ways, both tangible and intangible. Mount Holly is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and selfless public servant. Nancy McKeegan and Dan Quaranto



**GREEN MOUNTAIN**  
NEIGHBORS  
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	<p><b>Monday, 3/11/24</b> <b>Mount Holly Library</b> <b>Lower Level</b> 26 Maple Hill Road Belmont</p>
	<p><b>Monday, 3/25/24</b> <b>Gilbert Hart Library</b> <b>Klock Room</b> 14 South Main Street Wallingford</p>

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**Green Mountain Neighbors** is an all-volunteer social network made up of people from the Vermont towns of Mount Holly, Shrewsbury, and Wallingford. Our goal is to provide community events and non-medical support services to help people enjoy their homes and communities while they age. Find out more about us and how you can become involved by visiting our website:

<https://greenmountainneighbors.org/>

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### The Birds in the Guilted Cage

Many will recall the familiar voice of Paul Harvey (1918 -2009), "Stand by for news!" The following is a compelling story he shared on his popular 1970's radio show, "The Rest of the Story."

One Easter Sunday, pastor Dr. S.D. Gordon, placed a beat up, rusted old birdcage beside his pulpit as he told this story. "An unkempt, unwashed, freckle-faced lad about 10 years old was coming up the alley swinging this old caved-in birdcage with several tiny birds shivering on the floor of the cage. The compassionate Dr. Gordon asked the boy, "Where'd you get the birds?" "Oh, I trapped 'em," he replied. "Well, what are you going to do with them?", he asked.

"I guess... tease 'em a little, play with 'em and have some fun with 'em," said the boy. The preacher then said, "Sooner or later you'll get tired of them. What will you do with them then?" The kid said, "I have some cats at home. They like birds. I'll feed 'em to my cats." Dr. Gordon said, "Son, how much do you want for those birds?"

Surprised, the boy hesitated and said, "Mister, you don't want *these* birds. They're just plain ol' field birds. They can't even sing. They're ugly."

The pastor replied, "Just tell me. How much do you want?" The grubby little lad thought about it. He squinched up one eye. He calculated and hesitated and said, "Ten dollars." To his utter shock Dr. Gordon reached into his wallet and handed the boy two five dollar bills. The preacher then took the cage. In a flash, the kid was gone with the cash.

In an empty lot that provided protection in the wild growth of weeds, Dr. Gordon opened the door of the cage and tapping on the rusty exterior, he encouraged the little birds, one at a time, to jerk and stagger out the narrow door. Huddled on the ground, they warily fluffed their feathers and flew away to safety.

Thus having accounted for the empty cage beside his pulpit, the pastor went on to tell what seemed, at first, a totally separate story. He told about how, once upon a time, Jesus and Satan had engaged in a negotiation. Satan had boasted how he'd baited a trap in Eden's garden and caught himself a world full of people. "What are you going to do with all those people in your cage?" Jesus wanted to know.

The Devil said, "I'm gonna play with 'em, tease 'em and make them marry and divorce, fight and kill one another. I'm going to teach them to throw bombs at one another. I'm gonna have *fun* with them!"

The Master said, "You can't have fun with them *forever*. What will you do when you get tired of playing with them?" "Damn them! They're no good anyway! Damn 'em! *Kill* 'em!" The Savior quietly asked, "How much do you want for them?"

The Wicked One replied, "You can't be serious! If I sell 'em to you, they'll just spit on you. They'll hate you. Why, they'll hit you and beat you. They'll hammer nails into you! They're *no good*." Jesus said, "How much?" Satan spat, "All of your tears and all of your blood. *That's* the price!"

Jesus took the cage, paid the awful price, and rising from death, opened the door.

"*That*," the minister told his congregation, "is why we're here this Easter Sunday. We're here to find the way out of our cages. Jesus is the *Way*. He purchased us with His blood so we could be free from the 'guilted' cage of sin. He opened the door to eternity." Glenn Davis Good day.



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**Reminder File HS-122 Homestead Declaration**

Homeowners are required to file with the State of Vermont Department of Taxes form HS-122 to declare their property as a homestead each year. The form can be found on the Department's web site <https://tax.vermont.gov/document/2021-form-hs-122> The due date is April 15, 2024.

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

**Veterans Property Tax Exemption and Property Tax Credit Claim Options**

Like other homeowners, veterans may qualify for a property tax credit. This Property Tax Credit Claim is made in conjunction with the Homestead Declaration. The state education property tax may then be adjusted based on a percentage of household income. You will need the following forms to file a Property Tax Credit Claim:

- Form HS-122, Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim
- Schedule HI-144, Household Income

**Note:** When completing the Property Tax Credit Claim, be sure to enter the housesite value and property taxes as shown in the housesite section of your property tax bill. For more information, see our fact sheets on the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit at tax. [www.vermont.gov/fact-sheets](http://www.vermont.gov/fact-sheets)

Contact Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs  
Call Toll Free 1-888-666-9844 or 802-828-3379  
Website: [www.veterans.vermont.gov](http://www.veterans.vermont.gov)

**DOGS & CAT RABIES CLINIC**

**Date:** Saturday, March 23, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Place:** Mount Holly Town Office

**Cost:** \$25.00 per rabies shot

**Vet:** Riverside Veterinarian Care

The Mount Holly Town Clerk will be present to register your dog. **All dogs must be registered by April 1, 2024.**

Cost for town tags:  
Neutered - \$11.00  
Unneutered - \$15.00

Please have your dog on a leash, and cat in a crate.

**Notice Dog Owners**

Dog Licensing will begin Tuesday Jan 2, 2024, calendar year which must be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

**ANIMAL LICENSE**

Town of Mount Holly, Vermont

NO.

**THIS CERTIFIES that** \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned, is the owner or keeper.  
of an animal kept at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

and described as follows: **NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **AGE** \_\_\_\_\_ **YRS** \_\_\_\_\_ **MOS**

**SIZE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COLOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BREED:** \_\_\_\_\_

AND IS THE ANIMAL DESCRIBED IN **RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE NO:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXPIRATION DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF OWNER OR KEEPER: \_\_\_\_\_

In reliance on the above certificate and the payment fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ the animal above described is licensed for the period ending \_\_\_\_\_.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ MOUNT HOLLY TOWN CLERK

**Dogs and Hybrids must wear a collar with license tag attached thereto.**





## WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER... SETS US APART!

When I hear a Vermonter express their concern about the influence that “out-of-staters” exert on their lives and communities, I can only imagine the impact that the Abenaki and other indigenous peoples must have felt when strangers moved into their territories. Talk about changes! The fact is we are all guests here. Some were born here and have lived all their lives; others found a way to make Vermont their home. Whether we are here by chance or by choice, we are all dedicated to preserving the environment, nature, and rural country charm that has kept us here or brought us here.

That’s why it is difficult to hear anyone talk about dividing our community...whether it’s which side of 103 we live or bringing out decades old controversies. We all care about our homes and community and regardless of our positions we want the best for our neighbors.

My wife and I have skied Okemo for over thirty years and like so many others dreamed of owning a ski house in the area. We bought a “fixer upper” twenty years ago and made our dream a reality. We found Mount Holly to be an active, vibrant, and friendly community and were warmly welcomed by our neighbors and residents, and we chose to make this our permanent home.

Like all residents, we pay taxes, support local businesses, utilize contractors, contribute to charities, clean up our lakes and streets, and help our neighbors recover from a devastating flood. We currently serve or have served on the boards of the Mount Holly Community Association, Black River Good Neighbors, and help to found Green Mountain Neighbors, an organization dedicated to helping older residents remain in their homes. In short, like so many lifelong residents and “out-of-staters” we have contributed our knowledge, talents, time, resources, and energy to a community we love and cherish. Our reward ... a bounty of life-long friends we would never have known if we had not made Vermont our home.

I encourage every resident in our community to respect our differences, appreciate each other’s contributions, enjoy our neighbors, and welcome those who, like us, have discovered the joy of living here. Let’s make Mount Holly an example of all that

is good in Vermont... a community that is charming, caring and welcoming to residents and visitors alike, and people who are willing to work together for the benefit of our town. Abe & Kathy Leber

**WALLY'S CORNER IS EXPANDING!**  
**COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK AT THE OLDE BARNYARD THIS MARCH.** We will be closed Saturday, March 2nd until Wednesday March, 13th to complete the renovation. We're looking for volunteers to help move inventory & stock our new room from 3/8-3/12. If you're available to help, please email Hallie, [hello@wallscorner.com](mailto:hello@wallscorner.com). Thanks in advance!

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## Solid Waste Stickers ORDER FORM

Solid waste stickers are required on all bags disposed of in the compactor.

Stickers can be purchased in advance at the Town Office Monday– Thursday, 8:30 am–4:00 pm or by mail. **Cost \$3.00 per sticker.**

### Transfer Site Hours of Operation:

Spring/Summer – Saturday, 8:00 am – 2:00pm;  
Wednesday, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Fall/Winter – Saturday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm;  
Sunday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Order Solid Waste Stickers by Mail:

Complete form, enclose your check with a self-addressed, stamped envelope or add .70 cents for return mail.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Stickers @ \$3.00 each = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Postage/handling \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **.70**

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to **Town of Mount Holly**  
**P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758**

you. Steve Hazelton

## VOTE YES FOR SCHOOL BOND

By Oliver Ellis

As a fifth grade student at Mount Holly School, I believe that the community of dedicated teachers and kids is what I love about our school! The students and adults strive for quality work, and I think that it's important for everyone to have what they need to do their best educationally.

Many of the students at Mount Holly benefit from additional support at school, whether it's occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, or special ed. With the two-thousand square foot addition included in the bond, these state-mandated (but not funded) programs will be given an appropriate space (rather than a corner of the cafeteria).

As students, we also need a comfortable environment to learn and grow as people. School is not only a place to learn, but a safe place where you know you can trust people. MHS will be many students' whole elementary school, from preschool to sixth grade. The people who attend our school will grow up to be doctors, lawyers, musicians, athletes, firefighters, carpenters, writers, and much more. We need to consider everyone, and address everyone's needs. More energy efficient systems will preserve and protect the environment that my generation will live in and the earth under our feet.

In conclusion, I believe that everyone, no matter who they are, deserves the resources they need to be their best self and to live and learn to their full potential. This means being in a safe, healthy environment both physically and emotionally, having a sufficient space to work and get the support that they need, and being able to learn and grow with an accessible, secure shelter. I think everyone should consider supporting our generation's future, so **vote yes for the MHS and LES bond.**

## Chit Chat Letter, re Open Meeting Law

Mount Holly has chosen to have a Select Board to manage town business. We have three good and knowledgeable members on our current Board. Each Board member brings different skills and strengths, but no one person is an expert at everything. Running a town's government is becoming more and more complex. State mandates and grant requirements have precise requirements that must be met exactly as specified. Thousands of dollars may be at stake, and "close enough" doesn't count.

We need a five person Select Board to add "hands on deck" and increase the expertise on the Board even further in order to deal with this complexity. This will benefit the town in three ways: 1) more people have additional experience and knowledge; 2) Board members will be able to share their knowledge and experience (and thus the work load) with other Board members, and 3) we increase the opportunities for the Board to respond quickly and accurately to issues and opportunities.

Vermont has an Open Meeting Law that prevents a quorum of the Mount Holly Select Board from discussing town business outside of a publicly warned meeting open to the public. With a three person Board, a quorum is two people. No two Board members can collaborate on a town issue or project outside of a warned meeting. One member cannot help another member, or even answer a question, no matter how valuable or important or timely the issue. One member can work alone on a project, but that's it. By law, any assistance or feedback from another Board member must wait for a properly warned meeting, open to the public. If they are not able to complete the project as specified and on time, Mount Holly loses the opportunity. If they do collaborate or even communicate to conduct any town business outside of a meeting and it is discovered, the actions can be negated, or they can be fined.

With a five person Board, one member can easily reach out to or work with another member between meetings without violating the Open Meeting Law because two people does not constitute a quorum. There is much more flexibility, and two heads are always better than one. The knowledgeable Select Board member not only shares their expertise in a timely manner, they educate the other Board member for the next time. Mount Holly wins.

Please support this change by voting Yes on Tuesday March 5. Thank



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## Hello from the Vermont Statehouse!

**On behalf of Rutland County Senators Dave Weeks and Terry Williams, I wanted to give you the report for this very special edition of the Mt. Holly Chit Chat. Congratulations on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue!**

On Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Vermont Senate passed H 850 which had already been passed in the Vermont House. As I write this report, it has now been sent to the Governor to sign the bill into law which he is expected to do. For some background, the Agency of Education had forecast that statewide education spending would increase by \$243 million from the previous fiscal year. This is an increase of nearly 15%. The estimate was based on warned school budgets. Funding for our education spending in Vermont comes from revenue from the lottery, sales tax and rooms and meals taxes and property taxes. If the money that comes from the lottery and sales taxes is not enough to cover actual expenditures, property taxes must be set at a level that makes up for the difference. When Act 127 was signed into law in 2022, there was a provision that capped growth in the homestead property tax rates to 5% and was intended as a way to transition in the weighting changes of the Act. It was obvious that, based on the increase of \$243 million dollars, that it was not going to work. H 850 repeals that 5% cap and instead implements a new mechanism for the next 5 years which will apply a “cent discount” to the pre-CLA homestead rate for each percent decrease a district experienced in tax capacity. It also allows school districts to re-warn or postpone budget votes until April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All three Rutland County Senators voted to support this bill.

As of this writing, the Budget Adjustment Act is still in a Committee of Conference and has not been finalized yet. The House and Senate version of the so-called BAA were very different, and it is up to the conferees to iron out those differences.

On a related note, S 160 was the first bill signed into law this session and is effective immediately. This bill will reimburse a municipality for certain state education property tax payments if the municipality granted tax abatements to property owners for damage caused by flooding.

Crossover deadlines were announced which are dates by which a bill must have been voted out of the committees of jurisdiction. The deadline for policy bills is March 15<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for bills which include appropriations or taxes (money bills) is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This session seems to be moving more slowly in terms of bills actually reaching the floor for a vote, but I expect the next month to see many more bills reaching the final stages.

There are still committees working in both the House and Senate dealing with housing issues and public safety but nothing as yet has come to the Senate floor for a vote.

As I discussed at a recent CEDRR (Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region) legislative breakfast, my feeling is “the cupboard is bare, and the pantry is empty.” Vermont received and appropriated over the last several years approximately \$10.9 billion from the CARES Act and ARPA. Those one-time funds are gone. While it is always tempting to want to fund additional programs and positions that are positive and well meaning, there are only 2 ways to do that. You can either cut an existing program or service to free up money, or you increase taxes or fees to pay for the new program. Most Vermonters are just beginning to feel the effects of the new payroll tax from last year to fund childcare and the new DMV fees which were used to pay for other budgetary holes. Add to that the very real possibility of increases in property taxes and further down the road the “affordable” heating bill looming in 2025 and I believe this is not the time to raise taxes or fees. We no longer have help from the

federal side and must learn to live within our means. Senator Brian Collamore, [BColamore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:BColamore@leg.state.vt.us)

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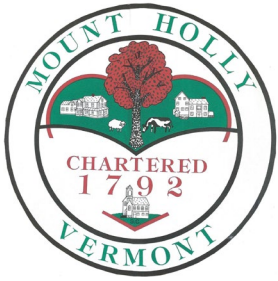
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jeremiah.c.johnson@icloud.com



## 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](http://www.okemovalley.tv) Computers with internet access are available at the Town Library.

**Special Select Board Meeting:** Mount Holly Town Office 50 School St Mount Holly, VT January 25, 2024 4:00 pm Minutes

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

**Attendance:** Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Caitlin Boyle, Jon McCann, David Johnson, Francis DeVine, Kathy Leber, Dennis Devereux, Brigid Sullivan, Ron Unterman

1. **Call to Order** at 4:00 pm.

2. **Sign Town Meeting Warning.** Mark Turco made a motion to sign the Town Meeting Warning with twelve ballot items, as submitted by the Town Clerk. Diana Garrow seconded; unanimously approved.

3. **Sign Bowlsville Bridge Finance and Maintenance Agreement.** Diana Garrow made a motion to sign the Agreement as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

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

4. **Discuss Public Comments on Town Plan.**

a. The Select Board received many letters of support for the proposed Town Plan’s passage as drafted.

b. In addition, the Select Board received seven letters and/or notated plans and one set of comments from an in-person meeting, in which specific edits were suggested for the Plan, or complaints were made; these comments were from Chris Pratt, Evelyn Tully Costa, Ted Crawford, Jon McCann, Kelly Beerman, Dennis Devereux and David Johnson, and the last was unsigned.

c. Regarding Evelyn Tully Costa’s letter, Jon McCann noted that he met with Ms. Costa regarding her concerns about the section of the Plan that concerned posting private land. The Town Plan’s wording echoes the wording of the current Vermont state statutes, and the Select Board noted that it would retain the statutory phrasing in the final draft of the plan.

d. Regarding Chris Pratt’s comments regarding cell towers and lighting, the Select Board discussed her concerns, and opted to keep the relevant language in the Plan the same, as the plan does not compel the Town to legislate lighting or cell tower design.

e. The Town received an unsigned, hand-delivered list of proposed changes that it read aloud into the minutes. The notations did not include specific recommended edits, but the Board considered each notation.

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f. The Select Board made the following minor edits and considerations to the Plan:

i. After discussion, the Select Board decided to keep childcare sections as in the proposed plan.

ii. The Select Board will clarify the phrase “Highway Access” to “Town Highway Access.”

iii. The Select Board will rephrase the language on page 2 to clarify the

**Mount Holly Town Office**  
**Will be CLOSED the following dates:**  
**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Open for Voting Only**

statutory backing for Act 250.

iv. The Select Board will add a note regarding the significant stone wall demarking Wallingford and Jackson Gore.

v. The Select Board will strike the sentence regarding declining student population.

vi. The Select Board will strike the phrase regarding “well-considered and controlled growth.”

vii. The Select Board will add links to support evidence of changing climate.

viii. The Select Board will add the word “excessive” to “economic hardship.”

ix. The Select Board will replace the paragraph describing Lake Ninevah with the updated version provided by Kelly Beerman.

x. The Select Board will incorporate the minor factual corrections regarding Town history submitted by Dennis Devereux.

xi. The Select Board will review the annotated plan from Ted Crawford and will indicate which notes it wishes to incorporate.

g. The Select Board will do a final review of comments for incorporation by Clerk prior to the next regular meeting..

h. Mark Turco thanked the Planning Commission for the energy and effort.

5. **Adjourned** at 5:41.

**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.

**Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office February 13, 2024 6:30 pm MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase (Zoom), Clinton Woolley (Zoom), Elizabeth Karle, David Johnson, Caitlin

**March 2024 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.**



Boyle, David Martin, Ethan Pepin, Dennis Devereux, Jay Kullman, Andy Schulz (Zoom), Ron Unterman (Zoom), Faith Tempest (Zoom), Francis Devine, Peg Glezen (Zoom), Jon McCann (Zoom), Diane Deegan (Zoom), Carol A Garrow-Woolley, Rhonda Rivers (Zoom), Dan Quaranto (Zoom), Paul Barton

1. **Call to Order at 6:30 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda**
  - a. **Approval of January 9, 2024 Minutes.** Diana Garrow made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted; Mark Turco seconded; unanimously approved.
4. **Reports**
  - a. **Highway and Transfer Station Update** - Clinton Woolley. Mr. Woolley noted that paving and structure grants are due to VTrans in April. Mr. Woolley suggested doing a portion of Hortonville, and noted that a culvert at Perry Road is in need of replacement. He also noted that the e-waste needs to be picked up at the Transfer Station.
    - i. Discuss Uniform Reimbursement. Clinton noted that the highway employees are interested in provisioning their own uniforms and doing their own uniform laundry, in lieu of a uniform service, as the current services are not meeting needs. Mr. Turco noted that the Board can make a decision at the next meeting.
  - b. **Town Treasurer Update** - Elizabeth Karle
    - i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: Ms. Karle noted that January was a strong month for delinquent tax collection; the Town is down to 1.4% total billings still outstanding. The Town is in good cash flow standing. Transfer Station costs are a little higher than budgeted to date, but are still in the range of annual expenses. Winter road expenses are also slightly high, though still within range of the budget. FEMA reimbursement work is taking up a significant portion of Treasurer time; all requests and documentation will be submitted shortly. The Town is still awaiting the state's response to the Municipal Equipment Fund request.
  - c. **Listers' Report** - David Johnson: The Listers will complete property inspections in the first part of April, and no extension will be needed.
    - i. Grand List Certificate of No Appeal. There are no appeals pending, and the Listers will file a certificate of no appeal.
  - d. **Conservation Commission Update** - David Martin. Mr. Martin noted that the Town has been approved for a MERP Mini grant in the amount of \$4,000; there is no required Town match; the funds must go to energy resiliency education project for residents. The MHCC is also planning ahead for mitigation of aquatic nuisance species this coming season at StarLake.
5. **New Business**
  - a. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Re: Regional Plan - Ethan Pepin. Mr. Pepin noted that the Rutland Regional Plan is in the process of being updated; the RRPC expects the plan to be complete in 2026. Like a Town Plan, the purpose of the Rutland Regional Plan is to provide framework within which individuals, businesses and local governments can make decisions regarding growth and development. Mr. Pepin encouraged residents to attend an open house in Wallingford regarding the revisions being considered; more information can be found at <https://www.rutlandrpc.org>. Public feedback and input is strongly encouraged.
  - b. Discuss Document Retention Plan - Elizabeth Karle. Ms. Karle noted that the Town Office currently stores many documents and should articulate a plan for document retention to guide archiving and disposal of materials. The state has a policy in place to guide municipalities; Ms. Karle recommends the Town follow the state's guidelines and use the state's archivist as a resource in instances where there is a question of what to retain or discard. The board agreed.
  - c. Discuss Four-Way Stop at Belmont Store - Dennis Devereux. Mr. Devereux noted that additional enforcement and signage may be needed at the intersection of Belmont Road and Tarbleville Road; if not a fourth stop sign, then perhaps additional signage. Mr. Paul Barton noted that he also observed speeding issues at the Tarbleville Road intersection. Mr. Francis DeVine observed that seasonal speedbumps might be a solution in warmer months. Mr. Barton agreed that additional road stencils or signage may be needed. Mr. Chase noted in order for a fourth stop sign to be enforceable, the Town may need to alter its traffic ordinance; this is not likely to be a burdensome task. He recommended starting with road stencils; Mr. Turco noted his agreement. Ms. Garrow noted that the Town can also research implementation of seasonal speed bumps.

## SELECT BOARD SEEKS ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

The Mount Holly Select Board seeks an Animal Control Officer to serve the remainder of the current FY23 term.

This is a paid position.

Roles include enforcing the Town's dog ordinance; conducting investigations; responding to animal complaints; supporting the Town's dog census, and coordinating with the Town Health Officer and Town Clerk.

A full job description can be found at the Town Office.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest to the Select Board (information below).

### CONTACT:

mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com  
PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758



**John Diekel**  
Office: (802) 975-0369  
24/7 Emergency: (802) 747-1280  
admin@masterplumbingandheating.co

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

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*Keith Hawkins*  
 PRESIDENT

d. Discuss Request for Conservation Easement on Farm & Wilderness/Ninevah Foundation Property and Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant Partnership -Jay Kullman. First, Mr. Kullman requested that the Town of Mount Holly serve again as the municipal partner for the Ninevah Foundation greeter program and diver survey, which is funded by the state's Aquatic Nuisance Control Environmental Stewardship Program. Second, he asked that the Select Board be aware of the Ninevah Foundation's request to the state for a conservation easement on Farm & Wilderness/Ninevah Foundation Property. If granted, the easement on the "Proposed Ninevah Forest Legacy Addition Project Area" would not change current uses of the land, including deer hunting,

dispersed recreation, etc. No additional roads or development would take place. Ms. Garrow made a motion to serve as the municipal partner for the Ninevah Foundation's application to the Aquatic Nuisance Control Environmental Stewardship Program; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved. The board stated no objection to the easement.

**6. Old Business**

a. Adopt/Revise Town Plan. The Clerk noted that the revisions approved at the most recent Town Plan workshop have been integrated into the draft document, and that she has received a minor list of additional typographical errors from Andy Schulz. Mr. Barton asked whether the Town had a map of all stone walls. Francis DeVine noted that 75-80% of those who sent comments to the Select Board were in favor of the Plan. Jeff Chase made several final minor recommendations for revision, which were discussed and integrated. Mr. Chase made a motion to adopt the Town Plan with the revisions as discussed; Mr. Turco seconded; unanimously approved.

- b. Sign Revised Personnel Policy. Signed.
- c. Sign MERP Mini Grants Agreement. Signed.
- d. Former MHVRS

i. Updates on Transfer of Assets and Supplies. The Clerk noted that the Town's attorney has been in touch with the former rescue squad's attorney regarding the final transfer of assets and supplies. A timeline for receiving all financial updates and final assets has been agreed upon by the former squad, and the Town attorney will follow up to close out final receipt of materials.

ii. Request for Use of Building by Fire Department. Fire Chief Billy Austin reiterated his request to enter into a lease with the Town for the use of the former rescue building. Mr. Turco noted that the Town attorney can draw up a lease agreement for review.

**7. Citizen Comments**



**Open House at Mount St. Joseph Academy March 7th, 5 pm to 7 pm.**

Mount St. Joseph Academy is a private, Catholic, college-preparatory school for students in grades 9-12. Located in Rutland, Vermont.

Come and meet teachers, staff coaches, administration and students. Guided tours and light refreshments will be provided.

- More than 95 % of Mount St. Joseph Academy graduates go on to college.
- We offers a variety of Advanced placement courses along with traditional grading and early college and dual enrollment options.
- Mount st. Joseph Academy welcomes students of all faiths.
- Tuition for MSJ is now **FREE** for families who reside in a "sending town", A "sending town" which are towns that are without their own public high school.
- Generous scholarships awarded to defray tuition costs



**TOWN SEEKS TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT**

The Town of Mount seeks a transfer station attendant to serve as an occasional back-up employee when the Town's regular attendants are unavailable.

Candidates should be able to lift up to 50 pounds; provide friendly support to guests; and to be available on short notice during Transfer Station hours.

Send letters of interest to the Select Board at [mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com](mailto:mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com); via mail at PO Box 247, Mount Holly, VT 05758; or by delivering a hard copy to the Town Office.

a. Diana Garrow noted that the Town Office's oil tank is leaking and the Town will replace it as soon as the oil level has decreased.

**8. Announcements**

a. Town Office Closed February 19 and March 5

b. Dog License Registration Deadline is April 1.

**9. Review & Sign Orders**

**10. Executive Session: 1 V.S.A. § 313** The Board entered executive session re: a private property matter.

**11. Adjourned at 7:55 pm** Respectfully Submitted By Caitlin Boyle

**Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic** – Regular Meeting Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Commission Members Present:** Jon

McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Stephen Michel, Andy Schulz (Secretary) (by Zoom)

**Also Present:** Faith Tempest

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 7:28pm
2. **Changes to agenda:** None
3. **Approval of minutes:** The clerk had previously distributed minutes from the meeting of December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Chair asked for two corrections, firstly to record accurately the Select Board decision regarding the renewal of the Belmont Village Designation, and secondly to correct the record of the discussion on the Town Plan approval process. Chair moved to approve the minutes with those two amendments, Commissioner Schulz seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. **Reports & Announcements**
  - a. **Administrative Officer:**
    - i. None.
  - b. **Planning Commission Chair:**
    - i. None.
5. **Correspondence:** none
  - a. **Subdivision proposals:** Robert Garrow. Chair noted that an application has been made by Mr. Garrow but it is not complete. Chair noted Mr. Garrow is not present and tabled the discussion until the next regular meeting. The AO will communicate with Mr. Garrow.
  - b. **Email / Other:** one public inquiry regarding zoning had been received, to which the AO responded. There was a question from a property owner about the siting of a future house on a neighboring property; the AO had responded that since Mount Holly does not have zoning, there was nothing that the Town could do.

#### Planning any new construction, alterations or renovations?

Mount Holly has a Building Construction Ordinance which ensures that the Town's Listers have correct and timely information on new construction in Town. If you are planning any new construction, or any construction which increases living space in an existing building, **you must complete a [Building Construction Registration Form](#)**, available on the Mount Holly website, or in hard copy at the Town Office. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Faith Tempest, the Administrative Officer, who holds hours in the Town Office on Tuesdays at 2-3pm or by appointment. Faith can be contacted by email at [administrative.officer@mounthollyvt.org](mailto:administrative.officer@mounthollyvt.org).

#### 6. New Business

- a. None

#### 7. Unfinished business

**Town Plan status:** Chair noted that the Select Board hearing had taken place on 16<sup>th</sup> January and the SB will take any written comments until 19<sup>th</sup> January and will vote on the proposed plan at the next scheduled meeting (February 13<sup>th</sup>). If the SB proposes substantial changes, there will need to be an additional SB hearing, taking the approval process into March. After Select Board adoption the Town Plan will be forwarded to the RRPC for review and adoption. Chair proposed that the PC should consider at the next meeting the submission for renewing the Belmont Village Plan so that the PC can be ready as soon as the Town Plan is adopted.

#### 8. Public comments: None

#### 9. Upcoming meetings: Regular meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, 7pm

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk

In draft form until approved on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

#### REGARDING THE PROPOSED SELECT BOARD EXPANSION

The February issue of the ChitChat included a thoughtful letter identifying six reasons why a 5-member Select Board is needed to help our town meet the challenges that lie ahead. The ChitChat also included letters questioning the need for the expansion, including one claiming that "they" want a 5-member board so "they can control the Town."

This is not a partisan issue. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns believes that 5-member Select Boards make it easier for the board members to work more effectively and efficiently. This also is not about trying to stack the Select Board with people who will vote one way or another on particular issues. If the voters approve the expansion, a separate vote will be held to fill the new seats. My personal hope is that this will create an opportunity for younger community members, who are not already involved in town government, to take an active role in Mount Holly's governance.

One of the reasons identified in last month's letter to the ChitChat supporting expansion of the Select Board is limiting the town's risk of liability under the State's Open Meetings law, which prohibits any two members of a 3-member Select Board from discussing town business outside a public meeting. This risk is illustrated by a lawsuit that arose out of the town of Norwich's attempt to get its work done by creating committees and working groups. According to VTDigger, the town spent \$100,000 in attorney's fees over three years before settling alleged violations of the Open Meetings law. See [bit.ly/3SRsl6y](https://bit.ly/3SRsl6y).

If anyone doubts the complexity and burdens of running a small town, I suggest they read the opinion piece recently published in the VT Digger by Chris Company, executive director of the Windham Regional Commission. See <https://bit.ly/3I77Qn9>. Among other things, Chris writes that many "volunteer elected municipal leaders give dozens of hours of their time each week to the needs of their respective towns, and it's still not enough. Their work has become more complex. . . . Every day I see our towns holding on by a thread or breaking, and I fear those doing the work of towns are on the verge of breaking as well."

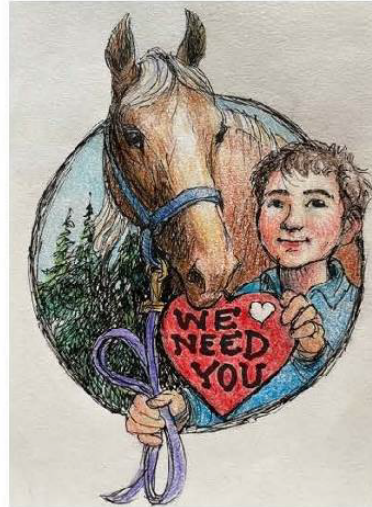
Feel free to contact me if you have questions at 802 259-2274 or [brigid526@gmail.com](mailto:brigid526@gmail.com). Brigid Sullivan

## COME JOIN OUR TEAM

### At REINBOW RIDING CENTER

#### A therapeutic horsemanship program in Belmont

*We're looking for an energetic, creative positive person to fill a part-time position as our*



## DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

#### Position Includes

- grant writing
- finding grants
- developing financial relationships & sponsors

If you are interested or have questions contact Lynn McDermot at [lynnmc@vermontel.net](mailto:lynnmc@vermontel.net) or Dardy Pour at [dardypour@rainbowridingcenter.org](mailto:dardypour@rainbowridingcenter.org)

*We are a 501(c-3) organization*

## Mount Holly Snow Flyers

What a sad winter it has been for our riders. Although our area does have snow compared to other areas in Vermont the conditions are not ideal. Riding in higher elevations will give riders the best trail conditions in our area. We can only hope March will give us plenty of snow for all of Vermont and snowmobilers. Annually, snowmobilers bring \$500 million dollars into the state of Vermont. Many local hotels, restaurants and gas stations depend on snowmobilers during this time of the year.

Our club sign board is once again on display on our trail system RD 76. This is a popular rest stop for riders. We hope our riders will support these businesses while in the area. We would like to thank the following businesses who so generously sponsored a sign on the board: Ludlow Insurance Agency, Pro Cycle, Beardmore Excavation, Cutting Edge, ARC Mechanical, Benny's Power, Wright Construction, Winning Image Graphix, William Raveis Real Estate Vermont Properties, Monster Performance, Hawkins Excavation, Calcutta's, Benson's Chevrolet, TPW Real Estate John Napier, Central VT Motorcycle and Yankee Home Management.

During this time of down riding we continue to monitor all of our trails. Steve Howlett, MHSF trail coordinator, reports that considering the lack of snow, we have one open water bar. He asks that all riders be always cautious, ride right and keep your hands on your snowmobile at all times. Should you see any trail problems, please report them to us. Email is best at [mounthollysnowflyers@gmail.com](mailto:mounthollysnowflyers@gmail.com). Please note the trail route number and closest junction.

We are hoping to have a club ride-in BBQ in March 2024 at the Stone House in Shrewsbury. Free hot dogs, hamburgers and



the fixings to all! (weather/snow conditions permitting). Our club has been trying to plan a fun event like such the past couple of years, but the weather has rained on our parade it seems. Monitor our website and facebook page for further information.

We sincerely appreciate all our landowners and your willingness to work with our club and know that it is a privilege to ride on your land; not a given right.

As always, our clothing apparel is always available online. You can view the merchandise online and purchase also directly online as well. Do not forget to get your Snow Flyer snow stake! We have custom snowmobile rider stakes and a Mount Holly generic one for those who may not be a rider. We will arrange a pick-up for your snow stake from a club member in the Mt. Holly area; we unfortunately are unable to mail these items due to the size of the stake. Get your snow stake before they are all gone!

Follow us on Facebook. Our website is: [www.mounthollysnowflyers.org](http://www.mounthollysnowflyers.org).

Our club meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Zoom options are available. Please consider joining in on one of our meetings to see what is going on! It takes many volunteers to be successful and we are fortunate to have many helpers in our club. Mount Holly Snow Flyers, Kim Lampert, Secretary



# DO YOU QUALIFY FOR *freefile*

Two out of three Vermont taxpayers qualify for Free File. How about you?

If you qualify for Free File options to electronically file your federal individual income tax return with the IRS, you may also be eligible to file your Vermont return electronically for free.

### FREE FILE YOUR

- Homestead Declaration,
- Property Tax Credit, or
- Renter Credit

Go to <https://tax.vermont.gov/free-file> to find out if you qualify.

### FREE FILE TIPS

- Most tax software vendors have two websites, one for the general public, where you may be charged a fee, and the other for those eligible for Free File.
- To use Free File for your Vermont return, file your federal and Vermont returns through the participating vendors listed on [our website \(https://tax.vermont.gov/free-file\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/free-file).

### FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

Free tax help to people who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. You may also be eligible for free tax help through the IRS, AARP, or [MyFreeTaxes \(https://myfreetaxes.com/\)](https://myfreetaxes.com/).

To learn where to find free tax help, visit <https://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/free-tax-preparation-assistance>.

If you have questions, please email [tax.individualincome@vermont.gov](mailto:tax.individualincome@vermont.gov) or call (802) 828-2865. For more information please visit <https://tax.vermont.gov>.  
Revised December 2023 | Publication FL-1167







## Grand Opening of Little Mexico

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the grand opening of [Little Mexico](#) in the Okemo Marketplace Plaza. Everyone is thrilled to welcome Little Mexico to Okemo Valley, and the grand opening has been a great success. Stop by to try their delicious enchiladas, tacos, margaritas, and so much more! In addition to Mexican food and drinks served bar side and in the dining room, the restaurant provides catering and hosts events.

For the ribbon ceremony, Owner Oscar Torres cut the ribbon with two of his team members behind him, Tim McEnaney (left) and General Manager Casey Crompton (right). Assistant Chamber Director Leah Kriebel (left) and Chamber Executive Director Carol Lighthall (right) holding the ribbon. Photo by [Images by Donald Dill](#).

For more information on places to dine and drink locally, visit our website [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com).

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit, member-driven association and the voice of 300+ businesses and the communities of 12 Towns

& Villages in South Central Vermont from the VT Scenic Route 100 Byway to Interstate Route 91, and surrounded by Okemo, Ascutney & Magic Mountains. OVRCC provides advocacy, support, and unified regional marketing to promote and enhance businesses in the region as well as the four-season economy. Photo by Donald Dill.

## March Gardens. Let's Begin!

As March begins, we can't be sure if it's going to snow or rain but there are garden tasks for us to do. Snow has buried any sprouts peeking up from the ground but the good news is that the snow means more water availability come spring. As the days get longer there are indoor and outdoor garden preparations we can be doing now, including planting, pruning, and feeding!

If you haven't yet pruned your **fruit trees** (apples, pears, cherries, etc.) use a mild day to get that pruning done before the trees break dormancy and buds swell. Basic pruning is the removal of dead, diseased, and downward growing limbs. Also cut off vertical "suckers" growing up from branches and trunks. [UVM Extension has helpful videos online](#) to show the basics of good pruning practices. I'll cover specific pruning of woody bushes (raspberries, blackberries, hydrangeas, etc.) in the April edition. After pruning, give fruit trees a first spray of Dormant Oil to smother the over-wintering eggs left by last year's pests.

Longer days trigger early growth on indoor plants so now is a good time to prune and feed them. If you have geraniums, fuchsia, peppers, or other outdoor plants give them a serious pruning. Remove any lanky, too long branches and re-shape the plant before they grow too much. Re-potting into larger containers with a fresh soilless starter/compost mixture (not "potting soil"! ) is often helpful. Root pruning to match top pruning is recommended. An early feeding with fish emulsion or other good soluble plant food will stimulate growth. Give them your best southern exposure for sunlight or artificial lights. (see previous article).

In early March you can plant **onion** seeds (I like 2 varieties: Ailsa Craig and Cipollini) along with **Wave Petunias**. Refer to last month's article for details about seed starting. These plants are slow to start and require a long head start before transplanting out

in late May so now is the time to sow them. Onion seedlings produce better & bigger onions and are much less expensive than sets (small bulbs grown from seeds last season) and come in better varieties than sets. You can also buy young onion seedlings ready to plant from many seed companies and garden stores later in the season but they are pricey. Most other seeds (vegetables & flowers) should wait until early April before starting. More on this in a future article.

Commit to **Composting** as one of the most important jobs every gardener can do. It's great for your soil and plants, keeps climate warming carbon out of the atmosphere, and reduces expensive hauling of materials to landfills or centralized composters.

## Freezin' for a Reason Polar Plunge

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Saturday March 23, 2024

12pm Lake Bomoseen Lodge, Bomoseen VT

On Saturday March 23, 2024 participants will plunge into Lake Bomoseen's icy waters, while raising awareness and funding for Cairo Shriners!

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Registration \$20 Per Plunger

**NO FUNDRAISING MINIMUM**

FOR CORPORATE SPONSOR INFO CONTACT

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## Ludlow Rotary Offers Free Books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five. Ludlow Rotary wishes to have all of our area's children receive these books. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly Parton started her Imagination Library for the children within her home county.

In 1995, Dolly Parton launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. In furtherance of Rotary's mission of literacy and in partnership with DPIL, the Ludlow Rotary Club offers the program to each child in our service area from birth until their 5th birthday. Every child who lives in Mount Holly, Ludlow, Plymouth and Cavendish is eligible to receive a free book every month delivered to their home via US Mail.

Ludlow Rotary "graduated" over 250 children to date through its participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

A parent or guardian may sign each child up and inform the Ludlow Rotary Club of any address change. The program is completely free to parents. The Ludlow Rotary Club and the Dolly Parton Foundation underwrite all the cost. The books are excellent reading material and the children love receiving and reading them.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is all about inspiration and imagination. Since launching in 1995, DPIL has become the premier early childhood book gifting program in the world by mailing well over 90 million free books in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Currently, the program mails over one million specially selected, age-appropriate books monthly to registered children from birth to age five. Dolly's vision was to create a lifelong love of reading, prepare children for school and inspire them to dream.

**Registration forms must be filled out by the parent or guardian and mailed to: Ludlow Rotary Club, P.O. Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149** Registration forms are available on line as well at [ImaginationLibrary.VTLUDLOW/](http://ImaginationLibrary.VTLUDLOW/)

Anyone interested in learning more about joining Rotary is invited to contact Kevin Barnes, Membership Chairman at (802) 228-8877, to receive an invitation to a meeting. Attached photo courtesy of Dolly Parton Library and available to general public Brigid Sullivan 802 259-2274



## Okemo Valley Grocery Stores Ensuring a Wonderful Winter Season

Following the 2023 summer flooding, grocery stores around the region have gone above and beyond, demonstrating exceptional dedication and community spirit. The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce selected six grocery stores as *the January 2024 Members of the Month* to honor their commitment and the work that they do to serve the region.

The January 2024 Award Recipients are:

- Chloe's Market at the Plymouth Country Store
- Londonderry Village Market
- Shaw's Supermarket (*Online only with local pick up*)
- Singleton's General Store
- Smitty's Chester Market
- Springfield Food Co-op

At the heart of their operations, these stores care deeply about their customers, and they continue to provide high quality and wide-ranging selections during this busy winter season.

The 2023 summer flooding has been difficult, and many have had to spend considerable efforts and finances on rebuilding; however, stores in the area have remained committed to serving the community. They're focused on creating convenient and welcoming shopping experiences with ease for all.

Recognizing the importance of the busy ski season as a prime time for visitors and locals, these grocery stores have taken proactive measures to cater to the needs of their customers this

winter. From carefully curating their inventory to stocking up on essential supplies to expanding their grocery offerings, they are committed to providing seamless and enjoyable shopping opportunities for everyone.

For more information and to hear their stories, visit our website [here](http://yourplaceinvermont.com) [Groceries in Okemo – 2024 Updates - Okemo Valley \(yourplaceinvermont.com\)](http://Groceries in Okemo – 2024 Updates - Okemo Valley (yourplaceinvermont.com)) or use the attached QR Code.

We would like to thank these grocery store superheroes for their unwavering dedication to the community and customers they serve within the Okemo Valley region.

The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit, member-driven association and the voice of 300+ businesses and the communities of 12 Towns & Villages in South Central Vermont from the VT Scenic Route 100 Byway to Interstate Route 91, and surrounded by Okemo, Ascotney & Magic Mountains. OVRCC provides advocacy, support, and unified regional marketing to promote and enhance businesses in the region as well as the four-season economy. [Leah Krieble](mailto:Leah.Krieble@yourplaceinvermont.com), **Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce**, 57 Pond Street Ste #8 - PO Box 333, Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-5830 [krieble@yourplaceinvermont.com](mailto:krieble@yourplaceinvermont.com) [www.yourplaceinvermont.com](http://www.yourplaceinvermont.com)



**RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN 2026**

Shape Our Future Together

**SURVEY NOW OPEN**

Accepting Responses through March 31, 2024

**Help us reach our goal!**

We are halfway to our goal of 1,000 survey responses from residents of the Rutland Region. So far, we have heard about the unique issues and opportunities of residents from all 27 towns in the Region, but we want to hear from you! We believe you hold the answers that will shape the future of the Rutland Region.

Have you already taken the survey? Please consider sharing with friends, family, coworkers, or neighbors! Take the survey at this at this site.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutlandRegionPlan2026](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutlandRegionPlan2026)

To learn more about the regional plan update and find a full list of upcoming events check out: [rutlandrpc.org/plan2026](http://rutlandrpc.org/plan2026).

Community Open House – Castleton Saturday, March 2, 2024, 1:00 pm -3:00 pm at Village School @ 47 Mechanic St. – Wallingford Saturday, March 30, 2024, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at Gilbert Hart Library @ 14 S Main St., - Rutland City Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 5:00 pm –8:00 pm at Paramount Theatre @ 30 Center St.

**Blue Jay Way Band Brings 50 years Of Rock ‘n Roll to Ludlow March 16**

The Blue Jay Way Band of Rutland will bring 50 years of rock ‘n roll music to Ludlow on March 16 in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.

The band, formed in 1974 at Castleton State College, has been providing audiences with rocking music and packing the dance floors since then. Two of the original members of the band, Tim Brown on guitar and Terry



Jarrosak on drums, are active members of the Blue Jay Way. Periodically, Dave Sabatino on bass, another founding member, appears. Brad Morgan, keyboardist, and Harry Drum, saxophonist, are also in the band.

The band has agreed to appear in Ludlow on Saturday, March 16 at 7 PM in the Heald Auditorium. At that time, Mark Huntley will join the Blue Jay Ways as a special guest performer. The event is sponsored by FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium).

According to Scott Stearns, the band will feature both rock ‘n roll music along with some dancing

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 pappynmummy@vermontel.net

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 Fresh Cage Free Eggs, Fresh Cage Free Poultry  
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music.

The Blue Jay Way band is pictured above as it performs some of its great music. For information on the March 16 event, contact 802-228-3238.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The State of Vermont's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is seeking input from stakeholders on the Second Amendment to the Vermont Recovery Housing Program Action Plan (RHP) that is to be submitted to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Recovery Housing Program’s FY23 allocation of \$991,106. The State of Vermont has been allocated RHP funds for FY20-FY23 that are intended to be used to address the needs of transitional housing for people recovering from substance use disorder in the State. The RHP Action Plan outlines priorities for the use of approximately \$3.3 million in federal funds being provided to the State.

The Second Amendment can be found on DHCD’s website at: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/vcdp/recovery-housing-program>.

Please send all comments via email to [Cindy.Blondin@vermont.gov](mailto:Cindy.Blondin@vermont.gov) or mail to Cindy Blondin, Grants Management Analyst, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, 1 National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620 by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2024.

**Hey, it’s up to you...**

Here are some things that you will see in the 2025 Mount Holly Calendar, due this July 1st. (give or take a few days).

**But...**

...this isn’t about the 2025 calendar, it’s about the 2026 Mount Holly Calendar and whether your photo will appear in it or not.

**One easy tip on how not to get into the calendar:**

The easiest way not get into the calendar is to not enter your photos into the competition and thereby not give the public the chance to choose your photo during Cider Days in October.

**But hey, it’s up to you.**  
 (But please do enter).

WARNING  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 4, 2024, AND MARCH 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the **Mount Holly School at 7:00 p.m. in the evening, Monday, March 4, 2024**, to act on the following articles, viz: **2 & 12**  
**On Tuesday, March 5, 2024, to vote by Australian ballot at the Mount Holly Town Office, polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** to vote on the following articles, viz.: **1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11.**  
Articles may be discussed on Monday evening.

- Article 1: To elect all Town Officers as the law directs. (Australian ballot)
- Article 2: To act on the Town Officer's Report.
- Article 3: Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2024 - 2025, to be raised by tax?  
A. General Fund (net) \$ **539,690.**  
B. Highway Fund (net) \$ **460,700.**  
Total A & B (Australian ballot) \$ **1,000,390.**
- Article 4: Does the Town vote **\$75,000.** for the Asset/Equipment Fund for fiscal year 2024 - 2025, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)
- Article 5: Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. an operating budget of **\$84,600.** for the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year, and Vehicle Replacement Fund of **\$65,000.** for a total of **\$149,600.** to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)
- Article 6: Does the Town vote **\$12,000.** for the Mount Holly Town Library, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)
- Article 7: Does the Town vote **\$2,000.** for the Mount Holly Chit Chat, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)
- Article 8: Does the Town vote the following for Community and Social Services totaling **\$8,635.**, to be raised by tax. (Australian ballot)
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| A. American Red Cross                               | \$ 500. |
| B. BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont    | 550.    |
| C. Rutland Mental Health Services                   | 1,302.  |
| D. VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region                | 1,313.  |
| E. RSVP & The Volunteer Center                      | 100.    |
| F. Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging            | 400.    |
| G. Regional Ambulance Service, Inc.                 | 620.    |
| H. Vermont Adult Learning                           | 500.    |
| I. Black River Good Neighbor Services, Inc.         | 1,000.  |
| J. Vermont Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired | 150.    |
| K. Marble Valley Regional Transit District          | 300.    |
| L. Vermont Center for Independent Living            | 100.    |
| M. Green Up Vermont                                 | 150.    |
| N. Child First Advocacy Center                      | 400.    |
| O. NeighborWorks                                    | 500.    |
| P. Okemo Valley TV                                  | 750.    |
- Article 9: Does the Town vote **\$2,500.** for the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 10: Does the Town of Mount Holly vote to fund the afterschool program at the Mount Holly School in the amount of **\$6,500** in the FY 2024 - 2025, to maintain state grant funding, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 11: Shall the Town of Mount Holly increase the Select Board from 3 to 5 members, with each additional Member to serve 2-year terms (pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2650)? (Australian ballot)

Article 12: To transact all other necessary and proper business.

Dated at Mount Holly, Vermont this 25th day of January AD, 2024.  
Town of Mount Holly Select Board

  
Mark Turco

  
Jeff Chase

  
Diana Garrow

Upon the closing of the polls, ballots shall be counted by the Boards of Civil Authorities under the supervision of the town clerks of Mount Holly at 50 School Street and Ludlow at 37 South Depot Street. The results will be certified by the respective town clerks and submitted to the District Clerk of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District.

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that an informational meeting will be held at the following location, date, and time for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed school building improvements.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
February 27, 2024	Ludlow Elementary School	6:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District duly called, noticed and held on January 17, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District on January 18, 2024.

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

District Clerk

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

Board of School Directors  
Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District



LUDLOW MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2024  
WARNING

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the Town of Ludlow and the Town of Mount Holly, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the following location:

- Ludlow Polling Place  
Ludlow Town Hall  
37 S Depot Street  
Ludlow, VT 05149
- Mount Holly Polling Place  
Mount Holly Office  
50 School Street  
Mount Holly VT 05149

on **TUESDAY, March 5, 2024**, between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.) at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE I

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District in an amount not to exceed Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making certain public school building improvements, namely the (1) Ludlow Elementary School building upgrades (\$5,056,181), and (2) Mount Holly School building upgrades (\$4,211,864), the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045).

**State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.**

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said special meeting identified in Article I shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of

5437207.1

**WARNING**

**LUDLOW-MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Voting By Australian Ballot

LUDLOW TOWN HALL and MOUNT HOLLY TOWN OFFICE

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
10:00am to 7:00pm**

The legal voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the towns of Ludlow Town and Mount Holly, are hereby warned to meet at the respective polling places on Tuesday, the 5th day of March for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot. The business to be transacted to include:

**Article I:** Shall the voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the School Board of Directors to expend \$9,134,520.00, which is the amount the school board of directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that the proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$13,287.45 per Long Term Weighted (L-TW) equalized pupil.

**Article II:** Election of School Directors.

Approved at a Duly Warned Meeting on January 10, 2024.

**Board of Directors:**

*Jamie Dickey*  
Jamie Dickey (Ludlow)  
*David Martin*  
David Martin (Mount Holly)  
*Paul Orzechowski*  
Paul Orzechowski (Ludlow)  
*Kelly Tarbell*  
Kelly Tarbell (Mount Holly)

*Maria Gambiolo*  
Maria Gambiolo (Ludlow)  
*Julie McKenzie*  
Julie McKenzie (Mount Holly)  
*Judith Pullinen*  
Judith Pullinen (Ludlow)  
*David Venter*  
David Venter (Mount Holly)

Received, filed and recorded Jan 23, 2024



**WARNING**

**LUDLOW-MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Ludlow Elementary School

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:00pm**

The legal voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the towns of Ludlow and Mount Holly, are hereby warned to meet at Ludlow Elementary School, in the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, on February 27, 2024 to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot. The business to be transacted at this meeting includes the following:

**Article 1:** To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.

**Article 2:** To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.

**Article 3:** To elect a Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.

**Article 4:** Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for each of its School Board Directors at \$1200.00 per board member and \$1,500.00 for Board Chair?

**Article 5:** Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for its School District Clerk at \$125,00?

**Article 6:** Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for the Treasurer at \$1500.00?

**Article 7:** Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District authorize its Board of School Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payments from member districts as provided in Title 16, Chapter 11, § 711, by issuance of notes of money orders, payable not later than one year from date, for the purpose of paying its expenses?

**Article 8:** To hear and act on the reports of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District Directors for the year ending June 30, 2023.

**Article 9:** To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

**Board of Directors:**

*Jamie Dickey*  
Jamie Dickey (Ludlow)  
*David Martin*  
David Martin (Mount Holly)  
*Paul Orzechowski*  
Paul Orzechowski (Ludlow)  
*Kelly Tarbell*  
Kelly Tarbell (Mount Holly)

*Maria Gambiolo*  
Maria Gambiolo (Ludlow)  
*Julie McKenzie*  
Julie McKenzie (Mount Holly)  
*Judith Pullinen*  
Judith Pullinen (Ludlow)  
*David Venter*  
David Venter (Mount Holly)

Received, filed and recorded Jan 23, 2024

Ulla Cook, District Clerk

# WARNING — VERMONT PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY — MARCH 5, 2024

A statewide Presidential Primary will be held on **TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024** to vote for candidates for the following offices:  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The polls will open at 10:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. The polling place(s) is/are located at:

Mount Holly Town Office  
60 School Street  
Mount Holly is March 4, 2024 4:00 p.m.  
(date and time office closes prior to election)  
*Cassidy Casanova-Woolley*  
Town (or City) Clerk

## VERMONT NOTICE TO VOTERS AND VERMONT VOTER RIGHTS

**EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** You can request early/absentee ballots at any time during the election year. The least a ballot can be requested in Mount Holly is March 4, 2024 4:00 p.m. (date and time office closes prior to election) (Town).  
You or a family member can request early ballots in person, in writing, by telephone, or on your My Voter Page at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov). An authorized person can request ballots for you in person or in writing.  
**CHECKLIST:** posted at town clerk's office by Sunday, February 4, 2024. If your name is not on it, then you must register to vote.  
**SAMPLE BALLOTS POSTED:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

**REGISTER TO VOTE:** There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. **Please register early** by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov).  
Methods of voting early/absentee in the 45 days before the election (ballots available by January 19, 2024):  
1. Voter may take the ballots out of the clerk's office and return in the same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.  
2. Have ballot mailed to you and return it to clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7 p.m. on Election Day.  
3. If you are in the military, live overseas, or are ill or disabled you may receive your ballot electronically and utilize our accessible online ballot marking tool, but you must print your ballot and return it by mail.  
4. If you are ill or disabled, you may ask the town clerk, on or before the deadline to request an absentee ballot, to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home on any day preceding the day of the election (once ballots are prepared or the day of election).

**Identification Required for First Time Registrants by Mail:** If you are registering individually for the first time by mail or online, you must provide a copy of identification along with your registration: current valid photo I.D., or a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing your name and current address. If you do not provide I.D. or other documentation with your registration and do not have it when you come to the polls, you will be offered a provisional ballot.  
**CASTING A PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** If you accept the offer to vote a provisional ballot, you must complete a sworn affidavit on the provisional ballot envelope swearing that you are qualified to vote in Vermont and in the polling place where you are, and that you submitted an application to register to vote before the deadline. You will be given a card explaining how you can find out if your ballot was counted or one week after the election by calling the Vermont Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-6883.

**If your name was dropped from the checklist in error or has not been added even though you submitted an application:** Explain the situation to your town clerk or presiding officer and ask that your name be added to the checklist. If the town clerk or presiding officer will investigate the situation, then you must appear at the polls on Election Day. If you then add your name to the checklist or explain why you cannot be added.  
If the town clerk or presiding officer and ECA members present cannot determine that you are entitled to be added to the checklist on Election Day, you may appeal to a superior court judge, who will give you a decision on Election Day OR you may vote a provisional ballot.

**Any voter who wants assistance for any reason** may bring the person of their choice into the voting booth to help or may ask for assistance from two election officials.  
Voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place may have a ballot brought to a car outside the polls by two election officials.  
Any U. S. citizen and resident of a Vermont town or city who submitted an application to register to vote on or before election day is entitled to vote regardless of race or physical ability.

**Any voter who wants assistance for any reason** may bring the person of their choice into the voting booth to help or may ask for assistance from two election officials.  
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Voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place may have a ballot brought to a car outside the polls by two election officials.  
Any U. S. citizen and resident of a Vermont town or city who submitted an application to register to vote on or before election day is entitled to vote regardless of race or physical ability.

# WARNING

## RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

(Member districts: Bellows Falls Union High School District #27, Expeditionary School at Black River, Green Mountain Unified School District #35, and Springfield School District)

## ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are hereby warned to meet in the RVTIC Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, Springfield, Vermont, on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 7:00 PM, to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot.

The business to be transacted to include:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of two years
- ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of two years
- ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for a term of two years
- ARTICLE 4: To see what compensation the School District will pay to the officers of the River Valley Technical Center School District.

ARTICLE 5: To hear and act on the reports of the School District officers.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the School District will authorize the Board of Directors to receive and expend funds received through grants, donations, or other outside sources during the ensuing year, so long as such funds do not change the technical-education tuition assessment derived from the operating budget approved by the School District voters.

ARTICLE 7: To authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds through a bridge loan to cover expenses while waiting for state funding to arrive.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally be brought before this School District Annual Meeting.

The meeting will then be recessed to Tuesday, March 5, 2024, on which date the voters of each member district are further warned to vote on the following article by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:

## VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT MARCH 5, 2024

### ARTICLE 1

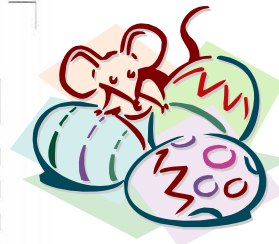
Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of three million, two hundred seventy-nine thousand, two hundred seventeen dollars (\$3,279,217) to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are further warned that a Public Informational Meeting will be held concerning the aforementioned Australian ballot article on Thursday, February 29, 2024, in the RVTIC Café, Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, immediately following the business portion of the School District's Annual Meeting.

For more information about the proposed 2024-2025 budget, please contact the office of the RVTIC Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301. Copies of the RVTIC Annual Report are available at town clerk offices and high schools of the member districts, or on our website at [rvtc.org](http://rvtc.org), or upon request by contacting the RVTIC office.

- Robert Flint, Chair
- Paul Orzechowski, Vice Chair
- Andrew Pennell, Board Secretary/Clerk
- Sarah Vogel
- James Rummil
- Lois Perlak
- Michael Slack
- Jessica Butlew
- Lyzia Gardiner
- Brenda Blodgett, Clerk, River Valley Technical Center SD

# SAMPLE BALLOT



**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING  
MOUNT HOLLY, VERMONT  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. **DO NOT USE PENCIL.**
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

<p align="center"><b>FOR TOWN MODERATOR</b></p> <p>1 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>ANDREW TANGER</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR CEMETERY COMMISSIONER</b></p> <p>3 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>PAUL NEVIN</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR AUDITOR</b></p> <p>3 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>CHRISTINE PRATT</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center"><b>FOR TOWN CLERK</b></p> <p>1 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>CAROL GARROW-WOOLLEY</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR</b></p> <p>1 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>PETER PERRINO</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR LMHUUSD SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p>3 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than TWO</span></p> <p><b>KELLY TARBELL MOUNT HOLLY</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center"><b>FOR TOWN TREASURER</b></p> <p>1 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>ELIZABETH L L KARLE</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS</b></p> <p>1 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>DAVID H JOHNSON</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR LMHUUSD SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p>1 Year <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span> Balance of 3 Year Term</p> <p><b>MARIA GAMBINO</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
<p align="center"><b>FOR SELECTMAN</b></p> <p>3 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>MARK TURCO</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p align="center"><b>FOR LISTER</b></p> <p>3 Year Term <span style="float:right">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p><b>ANN HANSEN</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	

**TOWN ARTICLES**

**Article 3.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2024 - 2025 to be raised by tax?

**A. General Fund (net) \$539,690.00**

YES

NO

**B. Highway Fund (net) \$460,700.00**

YES

NO

**Article 4.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$75,000.00 for the Asset/Equipment fund for the fiscal year 2024 - 2025 to be raised by tax?

YES

NO

**Article 5.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. an operating budget of \$84,600.00 for the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year, and Vehicle Replacement Fund of \$65,000.00 for a total of \$149,600.00 to be raised by tax?

YES

NO



VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT



# SAMPLE BALLOT

## ARTICLES CONTINUED

**Article 6.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote **\$12,000.00** for the **Mount Holly Town Library**, to be raised by tax?

YES

NO

**Article 7.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote **\$2,000.00** for the **Mount Holly Chit Chat**, to be raised by tax?

YES

NO

**Article 8.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote **\$8,635.00** for the **Community and Social Services**, to be raised by tax?

YES

NO

**Article 9.** (Town Warning) Does the Town vote **\$2,500.00**, for **Mount Holly Community Historical Museum**, to be raised by tax?

YES

NO

**Article 10.** (Town Warning) Does the Town of Mount Holly vote to fund the **Afterschool Program at the Mount Holly School** in the amount of **\$6,500.00** in FY 2024 - 2025, to maintain state grant funding, to be raised by tax?

YES

NO

**Article 11.** (Town Warning) Shall the Town of Mount Holly increase the **Select Board** from 3 to 5 members, with each additional Member to serve 2 - year terms (pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2650 (Australian Ballot))

YES

NO

## LUDLOW MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Article 1:** Shall the voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the School Board of Directors to expend **\$9,134,520.00** which is the amount the school board of directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that the proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$13,287.45** per Long Term Weighted equalized pupil.

YES

NO

**Article 1:** Shall general obligation bonds or notes of Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District in an amount not to exceed Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making certain public school building improvements, namely the (1) Ludlow Elementary School building upgrades (\$5,056,181), and (2) Mount Holly School building upgrades (\$4,211,864), the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045).

State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.

IF IN FAVOR OF THE BOND ISSUE

IF OPPOSED TO THE BOND ISSUE

## RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER

**Article 1:** Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of **three million, two hundred seventy nine thousand two hundred seventeen dollars (\$3,279,217)** to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

YES

NO



VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT



**REPUBLICAN PARTY  
OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

**FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

Vote for not more than ONE

RYAN L. BINKLEY of Texas	<input type="radio"/>
CHRIS CHRISTIE of New Jersey	<input type="radio"/>
RON DESANTIS of Florida	<input type="radio"/>
NIKKI HALEY of South Carolina	<input type="radio"/>
VIVEK RAMASWAMY of Ohio	<input type="radio"/>
DONALD J. TRUMP of Florida	<input type="radio"/>
(Write-in)	<input type="radio"/>

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

**FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

Vote for not more than ONE

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR of Delaware	<input type="radio"/>
MARK STEWART GREENSTEIN of Connecticut	<input type="radio"/>
JASON MICHAEL PALMER of Maryland	<input type="radio"/>
DEAN PHILLIPS of Minnesota	<input type="radio"/>
CENK UYGUR of California	<input type="radio"/>
MARIANNE WILLIAMSON of Washington, DC	<input type="radio"/>
(Write-in)	<input type="radio"/>



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

## At the MOUNT HOLLY TRANSFER STATION

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> & June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

8:00 am to 10:00 am only

The following items are typical of the household chemicals collected through the Household Hazardous Waste program. These materials may be dropped off at the scheduled event in Mount Holly or delivered to the HHW Depot at the Rutland County Solid Waste District's Gleason Road Transfer Station. The Gleason Road HHW facility is now open by appointment only.

Appointments must be made 24 hours in advance.

### Kitchen/Bathroom

Aerosol Cans  
Bug Sprays  
Floor Care Products  
Metal Polish  
Furniture Polish  
Oven Cleaners  
Drain Cleaners  
Bathroom Cleaners  
Tile Cleaners  
Disinfectants  
Toilet Bowl Cleaners  
Nail Polish Remover  
Fluorescent Light Bulbs  
Degreasers  
Mercury Thermostats  
Cooking Oil

### Garage/Workshop

Waste Oil  
Antifreeze  
Gasoline  
Brake Fluid  
Roofing Tar  
Auto Body Repair Pro.  
Automatic Trans. Fluid  
Other Oils/Cleaners  
Paint (Latex, Lead & Oil Based)  
Paint Thinner  
Paint Stripper  
Varnish & Stains  
Driveway Sealer  
Glues/Adhesives  
Grout  
Caulk Tubes

### Garden/Miscellaneous

Chemical Fertilizer  
Fungicides  
Herbicides  
Rat Poison  
Insecticides/Pesticides  
Artists' Paints, Mediums  
Dry Cleaning Solvents  
Fiberglass Epoxy  
Gun Cleaning Solvents  
Moth Balls  
Household Batteries  
Photographic Chemicals  
Pool Chemicals  
Rock Salt  
Muriatic Acids  
Propane Tanks (less than 20 lbs.)

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✉ [susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com](mailto:susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com)

🌐 [susanstarradams.exprealty.com](http://susanstarradams.exprealty.com)

082.013444



Hi Folks,

This is a copy of the very first Chit Chat.

The drawing here was done by Miles Richards he often would doodle pictures to fill in some space.

The Chit Chat would be typed out on a typewriter using stencil carbon type paper and no typing errors could be made as you would have to start all over again with a new stencil. After the stencil was done then it would go to a mimeograph machine to run off each page and they would have to be correlated and stapled together. Then the mailing labels were typed out to be mailed. Some papers were hand delivered.

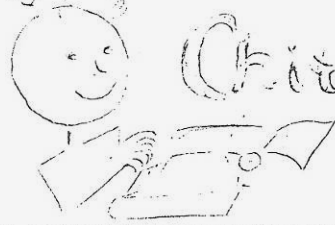
In the late 80's early 90's the paper would still be typed out but run through a copy machine with all the same process of putting together.

When Miles Richards took over in the late 90's, it was still typed out with a combination of some pages being computer generated and other pieces were cut and pasted. These made up pages which were taken to Express Copy to print, correlate, staple into a booklet or magazine style and Miles would have Sue our Town Clerk at the time print off the labels for him from her computer.

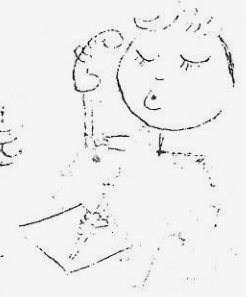
Then in 2004 the paper was completely

March 2024 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

Mt. Holly



Chit - Chat



Vol. I. No. 1

March 15 - April 15 1974

CALENDAR

Sundays	Mt. Holly Baptist Church Sunday School Service	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
	Belmont Community Church Sunday School Service	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
	St. Mary's (Mission Church - Wallingford) Mass	9:30 a.m.
Mondays	Boy Scouts - Mt. Holly Baptist Church, Elmer Wheelock Scoutmaster	7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	Boys' Club (Alternating Groups) - Fete Paggett's	6:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Girls' 5th & 6th grade Club - Mt. Holly Elementary School, Laura Lienhard (recess until spring)	after school
Saturdays	Belmont Library, Louis Harap - Librarian	2 - 4 p.m.
March 17	St. Patrick's Day Belmont Church Choir rehearsal - Easter Cantata - Mrs. B. Lambert, Director (augmented by singers from Mt. Holly and Ludlow - all singers welcome...come and join!)	5:30 p.m.
March 19	Grange & Jr. Grange - Grange Hall, Mt. Holly	8:00 p.m.
March 21	Rebekahs - Orrin Priest's home - Clockroom	8:00 p.m.
March 24	Belmont Church Choir rehearsal - Easter Cantata	5:30 p.m.
March 25	Theta Rho Girls - Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont	7:00 p.m.
March 26	Belmont Community Church Guild - home of Mrs. Earl Bladen	1:00 p.m.
March 27	Odd Fellows - Meeting Hall, Belmont	8:00 p.m.
March 28	Friendship Club - Mt. Holly Baptist Church	7:00 p.m.
April ?	Grange & Jr. Grange - Grange Hall, Mt. Holly Masons - East Wallingford	8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
April 4	Rebekahs - Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont	8:00 p.m.
April 6	Special Town Meeting - Town Hall, Belmont	10:00 a.m.
April 7	Falm Sunday Belmont Church Choir Rehearsal - Easter Cantata Volunteer Fire Department meeting - Fire Hall Women's Auxiliary of the VFD - Town Office	5:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
April 8	Theta Rho Girls - Odd Fellows Hall	7:00 p.m.
April 9	Belmont Community Church Guild	1:00 p.m.
April 10	Odd Fellows - O.F. Hall, Belmont	8:00 p.m.
April 13	Selectmen's Meeting	10:00 a.m.
April 14	E A S T E R Easter Cantata - "No Greater Love" by John W. Peterson sung by the augmented Belmont Community Church Choir, Mrs. B. Lambert, Director	7:00 p.m.

IT IS FINALLY HERE! The first copy of our own town newspaper: MT. HOLLY CHIT-CHAT!

This is the result of many residents' suggestions and helpful hints. Our community has never had a direct media for communication of significant news other than the telephone and the chance meeting of our neighbors. Chit-Chat is designed to give all citizens a chance to be heard. This media will also help to serve the town officials and appointed authorities, school personnel, various organizations and businesses, besides the residents at large. It is hoped to receive reports each month from all these people, either in their official or unofficial capacity.

The final incentive for Chit-Chat came through the need for a Civil Preparedness (Defense) Unit, in its infancy, which will serve to broaden volunteer help for our local elected and appointed officials. One of the aspects of the CP Unit is the Public Information Office and it is this group/became involved in the publication of the first newsletter. We could use many other volunteers! Chit-Chat will be published once a month and...remember...this is your newsletter; we need your continuing suggestions, contributions and donations! All news items must be submitted by the 10th of each month for publication on the 15th.

In future issues we would like to introduce some other neighbors through bio-

graphical sketches of personages, organizations, businesses etc. Also we hope to have a column on Vital Statistics.

For further details...and volunteering...contact Lucile Priest: 9-2271 or Gladys Hudak: 9-2410.

-----

TOWN      CE NEWS

Ele      results: New Officers:  
Moderator, Alfred S. Crowley; Clerk: Mrs. Patricia Morton; Treasurer: Mrs. Patricia Morton; Auditor (3 years): Mrs. Gladys Hudak; Selectman (3 years): William Clark; Lister (3 years): George Wessol; First Constable (1 year): John Remes; Second Constable (1 year): Jalo Rivers; Grand Juror (1 year): Warren Lackey; Tax Collector: Jalo Rivers; Trustee of Public Funds: Mrs. Patricia Morton; Town Agent: Roy Priest; Road Commissioner: Donald Tarbell; Town School Director: Gladys Gage.

Regular Selectmen's meeting: March 9, 1974. William Clark chosen as Chairman. Fence viewers: Allen Burton, Alson Chadburn, Warren Cole  
Inspector of Wood & Coal: Roy Priest  
Weigher of Coal: Roy Priest  
Tree Warden: Donald Tarbell

Special Town Meeting: Saturday, April 6, to vote on recission of Permanent zoning. This was sent to the Board of Selectmen by petition of 5% of the legal voters of Mt. Holly.

Town Listers have started work on preliminary things that have to be done prior to the listing date of April 1. On April 1 each person who resides in Mt. Holly must make out a Poll Tax card and return it to the Town Clerk's Office. Also, all property that has changed hands since last April 1, has to be listed on cards and appraised as of April 1.

Town Officers have an Educational Conference coming up. There are different dates and locations throughout the state for the convening of different town officers. The nearest ones for Mt. Holly are Middlebury Inn, Middlebury on Thursday, March 21, and at the Elementary School in Manchester on March 21. The Manchester meeting is the first meeting to be held at night.

All Officers of the Town are invited to attend. This includes: Listers, Auditors, Selectmen, Road Commissioners, Treasurers, Town Clerks, Planning Commissions and School Director. Anyone wanting more information can get in touch with the Town Clerk's Office. Also, anyone who wants transportation or who wants to help with transportation can call the Town Office.

Dog Licenses are due by April 1, 1974. Cost is \$2.00 for each male and spayed female and \$6.00 for an unspayed female. From that date until May 15 the cost is 5% more. Immunization against rabies is compulsory.

Small Animal Clinic at the Fire Station each Friday afternoon from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m. Dr. James Kinsey, veterinarian.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT - James Garfield Potter, Fire Chief

The Mt. Holly Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1946. The very first piece of equipment was a secondhand Larabee truck, bought in Long Island, with donations from several residents. 2 years later a portable pump was added and throughout the years other additions were made; one of the most important was a tank truck, as it soon became evident that lack of water to fight the fires with was a big problem. Most of our equipment has been secondhand with the men working many hours to make them efficient.

In 1960 it was decided to build a much needed fire house for all the equipment; in 1966 a 1954 GMC pumper was bought and in 1968 the old tank truck was replaced with a 1954 GMC oil truck; again many hours were spent in rebuilding this piece of equipment for our use. Next year this truck will have to be replaced with something larger and more capable of handling the needs of our growing community.

Besides working on the equipment the volunteers have attended schools on firefighting, and in the past 25 years several 45-hour courses were taken, as well as intensive training in the local depart

computer generated as the editor learned more about the computer programs she was able to email the paper to the printers Express Copy for all the work he would do to put it together and then when pdf became more known it was a breeze to email to the printer and quite sure much easier to be printed off each month.





ment during the past 3 years. It is hoped that in the near future we can have a 4 1/2-hour State course at the department with all members attending.

This winter we have 8 members attending an Advanced First Aid and Emergency Procedure Course in Rutland; better care and assistance will be given during fire calls as well as in various rescue and Civil Preparedness situations.

Raffles are being held monthly to raise money to purchase a vehicle to transport our resource material as well as to update the equipment itself.

Anyone interested in the Fire Department of Ladies' Auxiliary are cordially invited to attend monthly meetings, held on the 1st Sunday of each month at 8 p.m. Please check the calendar of this newsletter for further details.

Women's Auxiliary - VFD

At the last monthly meeting new officers were elected as follows:

- Phyllis Hendee, President
- Glenda Baker, Vice President
- Janoula Fish, Secretary
- Gladys Hudak, Treasurer

The Fire Department needs new emergency equipment in addition to what they have and the ladies discussed various ways to raise money to help buy this equipment. First, an Easter Dinner Basket was decided. The drawing will be April 7th:

- 1st prize: Complete Easter Dinner Basket
- 2nd prize: 3 lb. Cheese
- 3rd prize: 2 lb. Box Chocolates

In ensuing months the Auxiliary plans to have a rummage sale (...save items for this one please!...); date to be decided later. Other plans include a supper, and old-fashioned square dance; dates of these will be in later issues of Chit-Chat.

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

Civil Preparedness means that a community is prepared to react promptly to save life and protect property if it is threatened or hit by a disaster or major emergency of any type. This requires that planning and preparatory actions be taken before there is an emergency.

For the town of Mt. Holly it means that a Unit be organized with knowledge of supplies, equipment and trained people to meet any emergency we may have. Besides the organization, at present underway, 8 people are enrolled in the Red Cross Advanced First Aid and Emergency Procedure course in Rutland. This course requires 56 hours to complete and demands recertifications every three years. Another course may be given in Ludlow in the near future.

Besides our volunteer firemen, Civil Preparedness will give us intersection guards to assist in the safe passage of fire or emergency vehicles to the site. These guards will also act as guides for emergency vehicles drivers from other communities unacquainted with the area.

Communications with these guards, the firemen and first aiders will require a broader means than the present two fire phones. Volunteers will be needed, who are home, and can receive and pass on phone messages to those who will assist in the emergency.

A survey is being undertaken of volunteers and equipment available in the community; a quick look in this area indicates that there are 90 self employed residents. Some of these would have services and equipment to share with the Civil Preparedness Unit when necessary.

Through a well-organized and functioning CP Unit the town of Mt. Holly can take pride in its ability to meet any emergency and we have the resources and the talent to make this Unit a very successful one!

\*) From the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency Manual "Disaster Operations" - a Handbook for Local Governments.

CP Seminar

On March 8, 9 and 10 the Federal and State Civil Defense authorities held a Seminar at the Holiday Inn in Rutland. Gerald George and Garfield Potter were able to attend this timely Seminar.

Many topics were discussed under the rather new On Site Assistance Program, such as Organization of Civil Preparedness Units, Hazard

potential, Emergency Planning, Resources, Operational Facilities, Equipment, Rescue Service, Warning Systems, Communication & Transportation.

Mt. Holly Elementary School News

The 3rd marking period ends for Mt. Holly elementary students April 5th and report cards will be given to parents at conferences to be held at the school. These conferences will be scheduled on the afternoons of April 9, 10, 11 from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. This is a follow-up of conferences held in November.

A total of 74 students representing kindergarten through grade 6, have entered posters in a contest sponsored by the Vermont Association Snow Travelers. The posters depict the various aspects of snowmobile safety and these students are eligible for 75 prizes totaling \$10,000. Local snowmobile club member William Garrow Sr. is in charge of posters for Mt. Holly students and each participant will receive a decal and a certificate from the state organization.

Spring vacation will begin with Good Friday, April 12, and continue through the week of April 14. Students will report back to school on April 22.

Mt. Holly Parent's Club

Money raised by the Parents' Club will be used for school playground equipment to be installed this spring or early fall.

At present, there is a soup program underway sponsored by the Club. A small group of volunteers serve the children hot soup. Cost to the children is minimal, as only the cost of food is covered. The project takes only 45 minutes out of the day and volunteers are much needed. Please call Mrs. Georgiana Eddy if you are interested. May Pratt has been a tremendous help every week and she enjoys doing for the children. The volunteers and children alike appreciate her efforts. We can use several more willing hands.

Black River High School

Congratulations to the following Mt. Holly students attending B.R. High School, who are on the Honor Roll at the end of the last marking period:  
Silva Crowley                      Stephen Hudak  
Joann Evans                          Gene Syria  
Kathy Hill                              Sharon Turco

BLACK RIVER IS # 1!

Black River Girls' Basketball Team are State Champions  
Black River Boys' Basketball Team are Class M. State Champions

Congratulations to these lads and lassies!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Other: Over \$180 was realized from the Town Meeting Dinner served on March 5 by the Belmont Community Church Guild. Mrs. Allen Devereux, chairman, was assisted by members of the Guild; Mrs. Karl Wright had charge of the dining room, and Mrs. Donald Tarbell sold tickets.

SPECIAL THANKS to the following who helped us get Chit-Chat off the ground:

Miles Richards, Gerald George, Garfield Potter, Pat Morton, Mr. Notte, Hazel Devereux, Stella Beauchain, for their news information;

Betty Wheelock and Lucile Priest for culling endless lists for the Roster;

the VFD and W.A., Richard Kidson and the Mt. Holly Country Store for their monetary donations;

and all the people who gave information for the calendar.

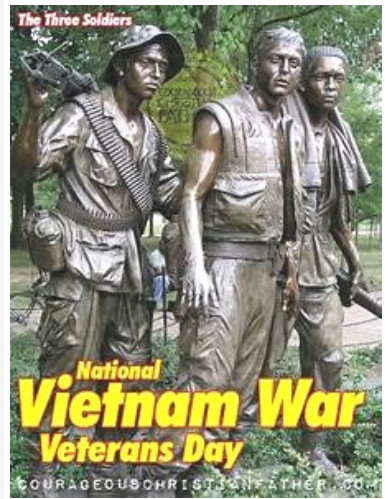
WE'RE OFF...AND WITH YOUR SUPPORT...LET'S KEEP GROWING!!

**Notes from the Mount Holly Conservation Commission**

In partnership with the Mount Holly Conservation Trust, we will be beginning a formal study of the vegetation around Star Lake. This will include both invasive and non-invasive species. When the study is concluded, results will be made available to the public. And the data will allow the MHCC to better support management of the Lake and surrounding area.

We have received a \$4,000 grant from Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) for public outreach in community energy conservation. Plans for a public energy fair and support to residents to reduce their energy costs are being developed for this summer.

The Commission is also in the beginning stage of a plan to reach out to local land owners in creating foot paths and hiking trails that will make recreational opportunities more available to all interested town residents.





# Open Sugarhouse

Saturday March 23, 2024

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

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Sample: our Award Winning VT Maple Syrup & Sugar-on-Snow  
 Been looking for Maple Cotton Candy? We have it!



- Sample our Award Winning Syrup
- Syrup Boiling Demo (weather permitting)
- Sugar-on-snow
- Maple Cotton Candy
- Refreshments



- Pancake Breakfast by and in support of Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project
- Enjoy our VT Maple Syrup on a stack of their pancakes from 8:00AM - 12:00PM at the Shrewsbury Meeting House (right across the street from our farm)

From: Rutland: Left off VT RT 103 just 2.5 miles - on the right  
 From: Cuttingsville: Just 2,1 miles up Town Hill Rd, right on Lincoln Hill Red Barn on right



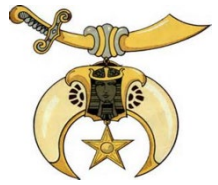
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Check our website <https://www.chcrr.org/patient-education/advance-directive-a-guide-to-your-healthcare-decisions/> for more information about Advance Directives.

Speak with your Community Health primary care provider or contact us at 802-779-9169.

### Community Health Tip: Why you need an Advance Directive

We face situations where we are unable to make important medical decisions like a severe illness, coma or any condition that makes communication impossible.

An Advance Directive is a legal document that names the person who you would like to make healthcare decisions for you if you are unable to make them yourself.

It also gives instructions about what type of healthcare or treatment you want, or do not want, in critical situations.

- Your desired types of treatments

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

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

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

Name .....  
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Phone ..... Email .....

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

[newsflash@mounthollyvt.org](mailto:newsflash@mounthollyvt.org)

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

**Also Check**

[www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com](http://www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com)

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

Kevin Plew is the primary NewsFlash attendant and Stu Berry is backup attendant at [stuberry1@gmail.com](mailto:stuberry1@gmail.com)

# Happy 50th Anniversary to The Chit Chat



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**Town Farm Road | Ludlow**  
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Website link: <https://bit.ly/36jK6MJ>



**Kent Farm Road | Wallingford**  
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Website link: <https://bit.ly/46c64LE>



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# THANK YOU

March 1974



A Heartfelt Thank You to the Chit Chat for  
50 years of helping our community stay connected.



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# Who's Got It Locally?

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Alistair McCallum Landscape Photographs & Paintings 802-259-2318  
 Linden Eller Studio [www.Lindeneller.com](http://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](http://www.stonecreekworkshops.com) 802-259-2254

## Birth & Postpartum Doula & Skilled Birth Attendant

Summers Williams [summers@rootsinvermont.com](mailto:summers@rootsinvermont.com) 717-919-4455  
[www.rootsinvermont.com](http://www.rootsinvermont.com)

## 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](http://www.Harryscafe.com) 802-259-2555  
 Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward [mojocafevt@yahoo.com](mailto:mojocafevt@yahoo.com) 802-228-6656  
 Squeels on Wheels BBQ [www.squeelsonwheels.com](http://www.squeelsonwheels.com) 802-558-9489

## Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 9 am  
 Rev Thomas Mosher [abvmludlow@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:jfscheumann@gmail.com) 603-439-0803  
 Rutland Jewish Center [office@rutlandjewishcenter.org](mailto:office@rutlandjewishcenter.org)  
 Rabbi Shemtov [rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org](mailto:rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org) 802-773-3455  
 St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 11 am  
 Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois [christhekingprsh@gmail.com](mailto:christhekingprsh@gmail.com) 802-446-2161  
 Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:45 BS Tue 7 pm  
[jeremiah.c.johnson@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:tabitacleaning@gmail.com)

## Electrical Services

Wirenuts Electrical LLC [bbates@vermontel.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com)  
 Sugar Hill Berry Farm [www.sugarhillberryfarm.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@wrightconstruction.com) 802-259-2094  
 Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

## Health & Community Health Care Providers

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

## 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](http://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](http://www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com)

## Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc., Don Reiser H 802-259-2722 802-362-0501  
[print@expresscopyinc.com](mailto:print@expresscopyinc.com)

## Masonry

Farrand Masonry –Angus Farrand [farrandmasonry@gmail.com](mailto:farrandmasonry@gmail.com) 802-417-1657

## Massage Therapy

Calm Moments Massage Studio – Irene Berry 802-228-7772  
 Massage Therapy/Bodywork, Thrive Center of Green Mtns 802-446-2499  
 Lisa Donohue MA, LMT ~ Linda O'Brien MT 802-446-2499

## Metal Fabrication

Wayne Jones Metal [www.waynejonesmetal.com](http://www.waynejonesmetal.com) 802-259-2521

## Mount Holly Email

Kevin Plew – [mthollynewsflash@gmail.com](mailto:mthollynewsflash@gmail.com) 802-259-2250

## Painters

Beardmore Painting [beardmorepainting802@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:admin@masterplumbingandheating.co) 24/7 Emergency 802-747-1280  
 Tailored Plumbing [tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com](mailto:tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com) 802-417-1647

## Real Estate Sales

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

TPW Real Estate, John Napier [jmn@tpw.com](mailto: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](http://www.countrysidealarms.com) 802-259-2213

## Septic System Design

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

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

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**