

## News Items DEADLINE

The 20<sup>th</sup> By 6 pm Next Month

Current Postal Patron  
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U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 8

Mt. Holly, VT 05758



51/10

# Mount Holly Chit Chat

December 2025



Church Listing on back page "Who's Got It Locally?"

Mount Holly Community Association – Contact [MHCavT@gmail.com](mailto:MHCavT@gmail.com) [www.MHCavT.org](http://www.MHCavT.org)

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)

PC Administrator Office Hours: Tues 2 -3 pm or by Appointment 802-259-2391 [administrative.officer@mounthollyvt.org](mailto:administrative.officer@mounthollyvt.org)

Town Library: Sat 9-1, Mon 10-2, Tue 1-5, Wed 2-4, Call 802-259-3707 <http://mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com>

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

Town Asst. Treasurer's Office Hours: Mon 10:00 am – 2:00 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

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fisher & Bobcat Begin ~ Deer Archery Begins ~ Rosa Parks Bus Boycott 1955	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	MH Conservation Commission, MH Town Office	Special Education Day 6:00 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	MH PTC Meeting, MH School	6:00 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Fire Station	Full Cold Moon 7:00 pm
5 <sup>th</sup>		AFL-CIO Founded 1955
6 <sup>th</sup>		Deer Muzzleloader Begins
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>		Pearl Harbor Day 1941
8 <sup>th</sup>		Soviet Union Dissolved 1991
9 <sup>th</sup>	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	6:00 pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	LMHUUS Meeting,	6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>		UNICEF Founding 1946
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>		US National Guard Founded 1636
15 <sup>th</sup>	Deer Archery Ends ~ Alexandre Eiffel 1832 ~ Bill of Rights Day 1791	
16 <sup>th</sup>	MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	Bobcat Ends 6:30 pm
	Ludwig van Beethoven 1770 ~ Battle of The Bulge Began 1944 ~ The Boston Tea Party 1773	
17 <sup>th</sup>	MH Town Library Meet, Library Wright Brother's 1 <sup>st</sup> Powered Flight Kitty Hawk, NC 1903	6:30 pm
	MH Community Association Meeting, Library	Operation Just Cause 1989 7:00 pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	13 <sup>th</sup> Amendment Abolishes Slavery 1865 7:00 pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>		US Space Force 2019
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>		Landing of The Mayflower 1620 ~ Winter Solstice
22 <sup>nd</sup>		Hanukkah Ends
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
24 <sup>th</sup>	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	Kit Carson 1809 ~ USAF Began Strikes of Laos 1964 ~ Christmas Eve	
25 <sup>th</sup>		Christmas
26 <sup>th</sup>		Kwanzaa Begins
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	George Cayley father of Aerodynamics 1773 ~ Louis Pasteur 1822	
31 <sup>st</sup>	Panama Canal Turned Over to Republic of Panama 1999 ~ Republic of Panama Assumes control of Panama Canal 1999 ~ Official End of WWII 1946 ~ New Year's Eve ~ Gray Squirrel, Partridge, Raccoon, Mink, Skunk, Red & Gray Fox, Coyote, Opossum, Weasel Season Ends.	



## Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954	802-259-27.700	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	NONE		Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-259-3610
Animal Control Rutland County Sheriff's Dept.		802-775-8002	Vermont State Police	802-342-1366
				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:** Ian Nugent (Pretty Good Painting) \* Cheryl & Ron Gantkin \* James & Jeanmarie Fitzgerald \* Robin & Don Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) \* Scott Crawford (Balsam Barn) \* Tim Stevens \* Kathy Stone (Stone Creek Workshops) \* Mary Morrissey \* Ron Unterman & Dottie Finnerty \* Doug & Ann Rose (Green Mountain Sugar House) \* John & Lindy Germano \* Karen Leonard (Crowley Cheese) \* Virginia Ward \* Town of Mount Holly \*



**December Birthdays:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-Archie Bussino (1942) \* Wayne Emmons 4<sup>th</sup>-Shawn Palmer 5<sup>th</sup>-Mary Beth Jacobs 6<sup>th</sup>-Nikita Abrae Howard 7<sup>th</sup>-Jim Devereux 8<sup>th</sup>-Zachary Taylor \* Heather Graham (1999) 9<sup>th</sup>-Carol Skarzynski \* Neil Jones 10<sup>th</sup>-Madeline Veysey 16<sup>th</sup>-Heather Jacobs \* Erin Devereux \* Shane Pearson \* Susan Dana Bassett 19<sup>th</sup>-Lia Wortman \* Jon Lombardi \* Sarah Devereux \* Fay Freeman 22<sup>nd</sup>-Leslie Colm 23<sup>rd</sup>-Kateri Collins 24<sup>th</sup>-Christopher Colm 27<sup>th</sup>-Richard Lee 30<sup>th</sup>-Jennifer Bussino Graham (1981) 31<sup>st</sup>-A.J. Labozzo



**December Anniversaries:** 11<sup>th</sup>-Joe & Donna McDonald (1976)

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 New Phone Numbers

<b>Mount Holly</b>		<b>802-219-1426</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm Sat
		7:30 am – 10:30 am
<b>Belmont</b>		<b>1-877-854-7062</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
<b>East Wallingford</b>		<b>802-245-6403</b>
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
<b>Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury</b>		<b>802-230-1996</b>
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am
	&	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 11:00 am
<b>Ludlow</b>		<b>802-228-7436</b>
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		– 802-245-6281



## 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, Andy Tanger  
**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)





### Jon A. Martin

Jon A. Martin of Lakeland, Florida, passed away on October 22nd at the age of 83. Jon was born on July 18, 1942 to Arnold & Lucile (Holden) Martin, in Mt. Holly, VT, and spent the first 50 years of his life in a “rural” town with just a flashing light at the crossroads. Jon, known to his friends as Jack, attended Black River High School in Ludlow, graduating in 1960. After graduating, Jack worked at General Electric as a toolmaker.

The consummate outdoorsman and athlete, Jack spent his time hunting, fishing, and running a logging and firewood business.

In 1994, a move to Lakeland, Florida, brought a lot of changes, including the purchase of a “Big Rig” and he drove for CCC Trucking in Auburndale, FL., for a year. He then moved on to work for Granite Construction as a foreman on road projects in the Lakeland area. Jack retired from Granite Construction in 2004.

Jack spent his retirement years golfing and as a member of the Lakeland Rifle and Pistol Club, where he was on the Board. In addition to practicing his marksmanship, Jack donated many hours volunteering for club activities, which included the Youth program, sporting clays events with meals, and manning the pistol range for Concealed Weapon Program classes.

Jack is preceded in death by two sons, Steve and Michael Martin, and his sister Marilyn Dunwoody. Jack is survived by his spouse, Karen Gwise, brother Gary Martin, daughter Michelle Martin Shaw, Granddaughters Alyssa Shaw and Brooke Shaw, and Stepsons Thomas and James Gwise. The family wishes to thank Vista Health Care and Lakeland Police Officer Marvin for the care and compassion given to Jack in his final days.

Arrangements will be made for a memorial event in Lakeland, Florida at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Jack’s honor to the Best Friends Animal Society. You can learn more about Best Friends at <https://bestfriends.org/> or go directly to this link to donate.



### CHUCK HOBBS - October 9, 1951 – October 29, 2025

Chuck Hobbs was truly one of the good guys. In fact, if there were more loving and caring people like Chuck, the world would be a much better place. He loved God, his family, and his friends. He always looked for the good in others and never spoke ill of anyone. To know Chuck was to have a friend.

Chuck loved working and spending time at Mountainview Farm on Maple Hill Road in Belmont. He became part of the Tatangelo family and attended every family gathering from the day they met. He cared for that farm as if it were his own, keeping it beautiful and well-tended. Countless times, he could be found chasing after a Scottish Highland cow, a horse, or a flock of sheep that had escaped their fencing and wandered off through the neighborhood.

A simple man at heart, Chuck loved hunting, fishing, and all kinds of music. He found peace in nature and fell in love with the beauty of Vermont. He tended the farm’s flower gardens with the same love and care he gave to his grandchildren. A gifted storyteller, he often shared tales of his youth—some filled with adventure and a touch of mischief.

Chuck is survived by his loving family: his daughter Staci-Rae Bickford, her husband Zachary, and granddaughters Skyler and Cheyenne of Wells, VT; and his son T.J. (Thomas) Turner, his wife Melissa, and

grandchildren Montana, Troy, and Phoenix of Cottageville, SC.

A special thank you goes to his best friend, Keven Stillwell, and to Lori Swartz, for their loving friendship and devoted care over the past several years.

Since Chuck’s favorite season was summer, a Celebration of Life will be held in the summer of 2026, with details to be announced.

### MESSAGE FROM GREEN MOUNTAIN NEIGHBORS

As Thanksgiving approaches, GMN wants to thank all our wonderful, selfless volunteers and supporters! Together, we have provided OVER 165 SERVICES for our seniors since the beginning of 2025!!! We are a volunteer led, 501c3, non-profit organization.

We know our members from Mount Holly, Wallingford and Shrewsbury appreciate your time and efforts to help make it possible for our seniors to remain in the homes and towns that they love, as long as they are able.

If you would like to learn more about Green Mountain Neighbors, become a member, volunteer or donor, please check out our website: [greenmountainneighbors.org](http://greenmountainneighbors.org)

### Hall Rental in Belmont

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

### Bone Builders

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



### SQUEELS ON WHEELS

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Cindy & Tump  
Owner-Operators

802.558.9489

[info@squeelsonwheels.com](mailto:info@squeelsonwheels.com)

[www.squeelsonwheels.com](http://www.squeelsonwheels.com)

BBQ Headquarters  
Mount Holly, Vermont

Featured in Food Network Magazine!

**November 2025, Mt Moriah Lodge Trestleboard**  
**DECEMBER MEETING** will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30PM.  
**Third Degree for Dana Hart** will be on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**.  
**The Master would like to have a quick rehearsal on the first section following this meeting, if possible.**  
**The District 11 Meeting** was a success with approximately 50 Brother Masons attending.  
**Mt.Moriah** won a plaque for having the most lodge officers attending.  
**Happy Thanksgiving. Fraternally, David Seward W.M.~Buster Seward Sec'y**

## Flanders Excavating & Firewood

### Complete Site Work Start To Finish

#### All Aspects of Excavating:

**Roads ~ Clearing Lots ~ Septic Systems ~ Ponds**

**Fully Insured – Call Steve @ 802-259-2147**

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

**Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered**



## Dear Neighbors & Friends of Mount Holly Town Library,

The Mount Holly Town Library is one of the organizations in Mount Holly that helps all of us feel the sense of community that is important to our mountain town. In addition to the financial support voted by the town, we have the Cider Days Book Sale and this annual appeal.

We have been showing monthly movies selected by Joe, our library director. These are great opportunities to see classic films and greet friends and make new ones. And – we have more comfortable seating in chairs that have replace the old wooden folding chairs.

The library has continued showing the Manhattan Short Film Festival, a world-wide event showcasing new independent short films. This becomes more popular every year for us. Drawing people from area towns.

We partner with Fletcher and Cavendish libraries, hosting programs for the state-wide Vermont Reads initiative. We also host programs provided by Vermont Humanities.

**Books.** We have new books for adults and children arriving throughout the year. We need your help in determining which books to order. Let us know the books you want to read! Also, you can “Adopt and Author” and buy the author’s books for the library (wholesale) and have the first opportunity to read them when they arrive.

The Mount Holly Town Library is you library in your town, strengthening your community.

Thanks very much for your support. The Mount Holly Town Library Board of Trustees

Please mail a tax deductible contribution for general support of the Mount Holly Town Library in following amounts:

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

To: Mount Holly Town Library, PO Box 92, Belmont, VT 05730 802-259-3707

## “Dog Registration”

**All Dogs** must be **Registered** and Have  
Up to date Rabies Shots Certificate  
**January 5, 2026 - April 1, 2026**

### Vermont State Law

Town Office Hours

Mon – Thurs 8:00 am – 4:30 pm  
802-259-2391



## MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS DECEMBER 2025



As we enter this busy time of year, with the holidays fast approaching, the shorter days and snowy landscapes, the Library Board wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you to our faithful volunteers who help us keep our library staffed. Thank you to the Mount Holly community for your continued support and patronage.

### What’s Going on at the Library:

- Saturday November 29, 2025 7 PM, “Baby Boom” starring the late Diane Keaton and Sam Shepard. While the Library itself will be closed that day, we will be showing the film that night.
- Saturday December 20, 2025 7 PM “It’s A Wonderful Life” starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, Henry Travers. Please join us for this holiday classic.

### LIBRARY HOURS 12/24/25 - 1/5/26:

The library will be closed from Wednesday December 24, 2025 - Sunday January 4, 2026. We will reopen for regular hours on Monday January 5, 2026 at 10 AM  
The library is not taking book donations at this time  
We will begin accepting book donations again in May 2026

Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT 05730 802-259-3707

[mthollylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mthollylibrary@gmail.com)

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

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Events, Lifestyle Photography

email: [info@karenleonardphotography.com](mailto:info@karenleonardphotography.com)





## A Christmas Song

Sing A Song of Christmas,  
Fill our HEARTS with CHEER.  
For All The World's A Merry Place,  
When Christmas Time is Here.

Sing a Song of Christmas,  
Fill our HEARTS with JOY.  
LOTS OF PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE,  
For Every Girl and Boy.

Sing a Song of Christmas,  
Fill our HEARTS with LOVE.  
For God Gave Us The Greatest Gift,  
His Son From Heaven Above!

Merry Christmas,  
Virginia Ward



## "Notice Dog Owners"

Dog Licensing will begin Thursday Jan 5, 2026, they must be paid by April 1st, each year. If your dog is no longer living please call the Town Clerk at 802-259-2391 so she can remove them from the list. The registration fee remains the same and must be paid on or before April 1st, 2026.

Please note this is a State of Vermont Law

### NEUTERED / SPAYED

On or Before April 1, 2026, = \$11.00

After April 1, 2026, = \$13.00

### UNNEUTERED OR UNSPAIED

On or Before April 1, 2026, = \$15.00

After April 1, 2026, = \$19.00

## 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

**EXPIRATION RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE NO** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ OWNER OR KEEPER: \_\_\_\_\_

In reliance on the above certificate and the payment fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ the animal above described is licensed for the period ending **2027**.

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

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

**If you use this form, please send a copy of the Rabies Verification Certificate**



### LET US HELP!

We offer hope, opportunity and a path forward out of crisis or poverty, so our neighbors and communities thrive. **Reach out** if you need help with any of the following services by calling 802-775-0878 or stop by our location at 45 Union Street in Rutland.

\* **FOOD** \* **FUEL ASSISTANCE** \* **ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE**

\* **HOUSING ASSISTANCE** \* **WEATHERIZATION**

\* **TAX RETURN PREPARATION** \* **CREDIT REPAIR**

\* **WORKSHOPS (BUDGETING, JOB SKILLS, ETC)**

\* **3SQUARESVT** \* **MUCH MORE**

broc.org



## HOW CAN YOU RESIST OWNING YOUR VERY OWN 2026 MOUNT HOLLY CALENDAR?

They're on sale now at the Mount Holly Town Offices, the Belmont Store and at Plew Farm

The Mount Holly annual calendar sales are an activity of the Mount Holly Community Association (MHCA) and all proceeds go to help support the many activities of the MHCA.

[mhphotos@gmail.com](mailto:mhphotos@gmail.com)





## 2025 MOUNT HOLLY CALENDAR CONTEST RESULTS

In September, and the first few days of October this year it seemed as though it was taking Cider Days 2025 forever to get here, but then it came and went in a flash. Unlike the Cider Days of recent years this year the weather decided to cooperate, and in a big way. You might say that it was perfect. And that brought out the public in a big way, adding to the usual high spirits of the vendors and volunteers. In the Community Room, where 68 potential calendar photos were on exhibit, nearly 250 people cast ballots for the photos they liked the best - the ones they wanted to see in the 2027 Mount Holly Calendar.

While all of the photos in the competition have to be of Mount Holly, the photographers themselves can come from anywhere. This year the furthest submission came all the way from Europe, and the closest submission came from me, the guy who is writing this story. The voters didn't care. Neither made it into the calendar.

As always, the professionalism of the photo entries made the choosing of just 16 for the calendar a major challenge for members of the public. But choose they did, and here you can see the 16 photos that received the most votes and will make up the 2027 Mount Holly Calendar. Which photo will go on which page of the actual calendar? Well, you will just have to purchase a 2027 calendar next year to find out. In the meanwhile you can see the winners of last year's competition by buying the 2026 calendar now on sale at the Belmont Store, the Mount Holly Town Offices and at Plew Farm. It's for a good cause, the support of the many activities of the Mount Holly Community Association.

A gigantic "thanks" to all the photographers who entered the competition this year. We hope to see more of your work next year.



*"Hide and Seek" by Tom Gates*



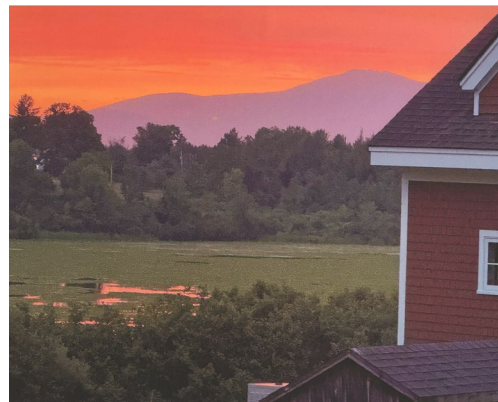
*"Limited Visibility" by Dori Beardsley*



*"Sun Set on the Past" by Jill Gates*



*"Haying Time" by Patrick Rose*



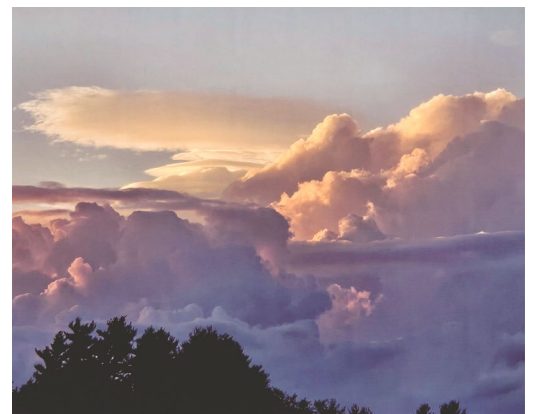
*"Sunset Over Star Lake" by Bill Williams*



*"Magical Nights" by Tracey Urbani*



*"Pumpkin Picker" by Leah Knoll*



*"Green Mountain Sunset" by Bob Crescas*

**December Chit Chat Deadline  
For the January issue  
Is Saturday December 20th  
To be in the mail the 23rd  
Many Thanks for all your  
Well wishes & prayers.**





*"Season Peace" by Paul Warren*



*"Summer Over Star Lake" by Jeanmarie Fitzgerald*



*"Summer Lovin'" by Andrew Haskell*



*"Little Buddy" by Kathleen Thompson*



*"Morning Fury" by Deidre Rogers*



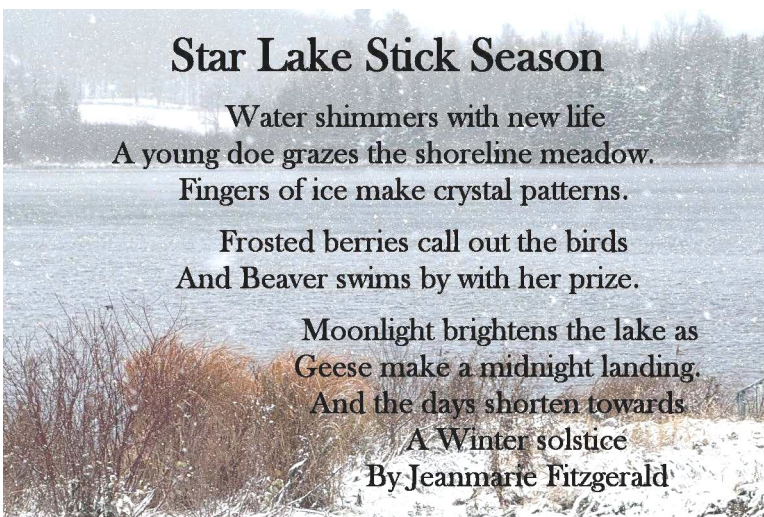
*"Pink Delight" by Susan Covalla*



*"March Icing" by Mary Leonard*



*"Falling Fresh Snow From Trestle" by Ann Hansen*



## Star Lake Stick Season

Water shimmers with new life  
A young doe grazes the shoreline meadow.  
Fingers of ice make crystal patterns.

Frosted berries call out the birds  
And Beaver swims by with her prize.

Moonlight brightens the lake as  
Geese make a midnight landing.  
And the days shorten towards

A Winter solstice  
By Jeanmarie Fitzgerald



## Wayne Jones Metal

### All Metals

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Wayne Jones

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East Wallingford VT 802-259-2521







The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum  
Fundraising Event

# Festival of Lights

Saturday, December 6th

Live Auction 5:30pm

Preview starting at 5pm

The Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont

\$5 Admission

includes 3 Tickets for Door Prize

Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments served

New and Vintage Items - Decorated Wreaths - Wine and Cheese Raffle

*The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum warmly invites all Mount Holly and neighboring community members to our Annual Festival of Lights Celebration & Fundraiser on Saturday, December 6, at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. Doors open at 5:00 PM, with a live auction at 5:30 PM.*

*This festive evening marks the start of the holiday season—enjoy delicious treats, drinks, and cheerful company while finding unique gifts at our lively auction. Among this year's highlights are six handcrafted holiday wreaths created by talented Mount Holly artisans, along with an array of treasures and donations from generous neighbors, local merchants, and area businesses, including ski area opportunities.*

***Come celebrate, bid, and share in the warmth of our wonderful community!***

*Community members have donated some very fine treasures from their own homes with the hopes the treasure will be cherished by another Mount Holly neighbor. Should you have cherished items at home that you would like to donate to the auction, there is still time...please contact Carol Serravezza at 802 259 2785 or Susan Covalla at 802 259 2042.*

**December Chit Chat Deadline**

**For the January issue Is Saturday December 20th**

**To be in the mail the 23rd**

**Many Thanks for all your Well wishes & prayers.**

December 2025 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



**WALLY'S CORNER**  
Gift Shop

**Your one stop shop for all things local and handmade:**

- MAPLE SYRUP
- CRAFT FOOD
- CIDER & BEER
- ANTIQUES
- & MORE!

Open Wed-Sun: 11am-6pm  
5444 VT 103, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

November 29<sup>th</sup> 11am-7pm: Sip & Save 🍷

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PARTY!** 🎉 Enjoy **Black Friday deals** & raffles all weekend, plus Saturday we'll host **food & drinks**. Let's kick off the holiday season together!

December 14<sup>th</sup> 10a-11am: Snowglobe Magic 🌟

Join us for a festive, hands-on snowglobe workshop filled with creativity, sparkle, and holiday cheer! 🌲❄️ A fun and cozy activity for kids, adults, and anyone who loves a little winter magic. **RSVP via email or Facebook**

Extended Holiday Hours: Open Daily 12/10-12/24

Besides being open every day, we will extend our hours to **10am-7pm 12/15-12/23**. We will be closed briefly 12/24 After 3pm, 12/25 & 12/26 🇺🇸🌲

[www.mounthollyvt.org](http://www.mounthollyvt.org) [chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net)



## Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

### THANK YOU:

The Community Historical Museum wishes to thank all our friends and neighbors for your generous participation and financial assistance during Cider Days Celebration. During the two days we recorded 350 people visiting the two Museums. Wow, a new record! Visitors included local young grade school students, high school students and young folks home from college for autumn break; plus Mount Holly neighbors, making their initial visits along with out of town visitors from VT, CT, MA and RI to name a few. Given that Sunday was a raw weather day, many sweatshirts disappeared as well other Museum merchandise. Many, many thanks!

### FUND DRIVE:

We are happy to announce that we are 25% towards our goal, in spite of asking for donations just before everyone's Mount Holly property tax rate was raised and due. We hope to gain another 50% in December and January when people give their year-end giving. At present we are working on two plans. One is to remove the floor of the old building and pour a new foundation. The second is to raise the old building and pour a new foundation. Many other repairs, such as repairing the roof and fixing the walls are the same in both tracks. We are in the process of obtaining estimates for each track. We have obtained preliminary approval from the State to work in the stream. We plan to make a final decision over the winter, once all estimates are received. Work will begin next Spring.



## Mount Holly Snow Flyers Gear Up for Snowmobile Season: Thanking Landowners and Announcing Trail Pass Deadlines

The Mount Holly Snow Flyers is thrilled to announce preparations for the upcoming riding season and extend sincere gratitude to the community members whose generosity makes the trails possible.



### Solid Waste Stickers ORDER FORM

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

### STICKERS REQUIRED AT TRANSFER STATION

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 \$1.00 for return mail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Postage/handling \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 1.00

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

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

The start of the season is looking promising! We are excited to share that **we have been experiencing snow every day, coupled with consistently cold temperatures.** We are optimistic that this early wave of fantastic weather will continue to lay down a solid base and allow our volunteers to groom exceptional trails for our riders.

#### **A Huge Thank You to Our Landowners!**

The Mount Holly Snow Flyers would like to offer a profound and heartfelt **thank you to the many private landowners** who generously allow riders to utilize their property. Without their cooperation and community spirit, our extensive trail system would not exist. We urge all riders to remember that we are guests on these lands, and to always practice respectful and safe riding.

#### **Club Updates and Business Opportunities**

- **New Sign Board Location:** To increase our visibility and exposure, the Mount Holly Snow Flyers sign board has been relocated to **Route 103.**
- **Business Sponsorship:** We are proud to have the support of approximately **20 businesses** who sponsor our club with a trail-side sign. We currently have **openings for new businesses** who wish to advertise and support the Snow Flyers. Please contact the club for more details on how to get involved.

#### **Secure Your Trail Access – Early Bird Discount!**

Riders are strongly encouraged to purchase their **VAST Trails Maintenance Assessment (TMA)** now. Don't miss out on the **early bird pricing!** To qualify for the discount, your TMA must be purchased **before December 15, 2025.**

To purchase your TMA:

1. Visit the official Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) website at [vtvast.org](http://vtvast.org).
2. When selecting your affiliated club, please remember to choose the **Mount Holly Snow Flyers.**

#### ☐ **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Lastly, the Mount Holly Snow Flyers wish all of our neighbors, family, friends, and supporters a very **warm and happy Thanksgiving!** We look forward to seeing you all on the trails soon!

Follow us on Facebook! [www.mounthollysnowflyers.org](http://www.mounthollysnowflyers.org) Kim Lampert, Secretary

**Merry Christmas**

## Benson's Chevrolet Launches Holiday Drive to Support Springfield Humane Society

Benson's Chevrolet is again partnering with the Springfield Humane Society to launch a donation drive aimed at collecting essential supplies and helping the shelter meet the needs of animals in its care this holiday season.

Benson's Chevrolet invites the community to help **"Fill the Shelves"** of the humane society by donating critical items needed for daily operations and animal comfort. Every donation, large or small, helps the dedicated staff and volunteers provide a safe, clean, and warm environment for homeless pets.

**The donation drive is currently underway and will run through Friday, December 19, 2025.**

### Needed Items Include:

The Springfield Humane Society is in need of the following supplies:

- **Cleaning Essentials:**
  - Paper Towels
  - Cleaning Products (Wipes, Sprays, etc.)
  - Laundry Detergent
  - Dish Soap
- **Pet Food & Treats:**
  - Dry Dog Food
  - Dry Cat Food
  - Dog Cookies (Please, **NO rawhide bones**)
- **Comfort Items:**
  - Gently Used Blankets
  - Gently Used Towels

**Donations can be dropped off during regular business hours at Benson's Chevrolet, located at 25 Pond Street in Ludlow.**

"We are thrilled to partner with the Springfield Humane Society, which does such vital work for our community's most vulnerable animals," said George Benson. "This time of year can be especially challenging for shelters, and we hope the generosity of our customers and neighbors can help ease their burden and bring comfort to the animals awaiting their forever homes."

The Springfield Humane Society relies heavily on community support to continue its mission of rescuing, sheltering, and adopting pets. Benson's Chevrolet encourages everyone to stop by the dealership, make a donation, and help make a difference in an animal's life this winter.

Benson's Chevrolet is a family-owned dealership serving the greater Ludlow and Springfield for over 94 years. Call Kim Lampert at 802-228-4000 if any questions.



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for the Home and Garden

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Mt. Holly, Vt 05758

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We buy old and interesting country items.  
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MAPLE CREST  
FARM**

**VT MAPLE SYRUP & GRASSFED BEEF**

**SMALL FARM FLAVOR & QUALITY**

Maple Candies	Locally Sourced	Ground Beef
Maple Cookies	Pork (cuts)	Grilling Steaks
Maple, Spices, Marinades,	Chicken (cuts)	Ribs, Roasts Briskets
Sugar & Snacks	& Eggs	Sausages & More

Gift bags of Vermont Goodies and Meat Freezer Boxes Available

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**We ship our Vermont maple syrup all over the USA**

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.



**HELP US  
HELP SHELTER  
ANIMALS**

We are collecting items in need for the Springfield Humane Society through December 19, 2025.

**Items Needed**

- Dry dog food
- Paper towels
- Peanut Butter
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Gently used blankets
- Dog cookies (no rawhide bones)
- Dry cat food

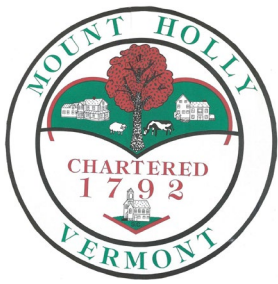
**CONTACT US:**

802-228-4000  
office@bensonschevy.com

**25 Pond Street, Ludlow, VT 05149**







## 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.

### Select Board Special Meeting Mount Holly Town Office October 22nd, 2025 4.30 pm MINUTES Attendance: Mark

Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Chad Farrar, Christine Pratt

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

1. Call to Order: 4.30 pm
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: none
3. New Business

**Regular Select Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Town Office. Items to be included on the Agenda are due by Noon the Wednesday before the meeting.**

**a. Advertising vacancy on the Planning Commission:** Mark Turco noted the opening in November and the need to advertise. All Select Board members agreed.

**b. Review of applications for Highway Maintenance Worker position:** three applications have been received, though no applicants have a CDL. Jeff Chase asked how to make the full salary and benefits package clear in adverts; he also noted that it may be possible to compensate if an employee does not want to take all the insurance benefits; and the potential use of smaller vehicles not requiring a CDL. Mark Turco stated that if the Town supports applicants in getting a CDL, they would need to work for a minimum of 3 years, or pay back whatever the Town funds. Following review of CVs, Select Board members agreed to call one applicant for a further discussion.

**c. Review of Dog Ordinance:** Mark Turco noted a number of recent incidents involving dogs and stated the need for better enforcement of the ordinance. Chad Farrar responded that there have been several dog bite incidents but only one formal complaint, making it difficult to identify 1st, second or third offences as required by the ordinance. Chad Farrar had submitted a letter to the Select Board and Jeff Chase highlighted two points, specifically that dogs involved in incidents are usually unregistered and/or unvaccinated, and that the Sheriff's office has not always been helpful. Jeff Chase noted that although the Sheriff will take an informal approach and is unlikely to issue tickets, having the Sheriff involved gives more weight to enforcement but the Town also needs to take steps to publicize the ordinance. Mark Turco proposed the

### Animal Control Sheriff's Dept.

All Animal Control issues will be handled by the Rutland County Sheriff's Department. They will handle all calls concerning domesticated and farm animals, including Animal Cruelty concerns. For more information or to make a report please call 802-775-8002.

position and stated his position that the Town should retain the Sheriff's services. Jeff Chase noted he was not opposed to combining the ACO and THO roles but wants first to meet with the Sheriff's department to make the Town's expectations clear and to improve communication including identifying where to send reports. Mark Turco proposed that the dog ordinance is revised to remove the current waivers, better define vicious dogs and nuisance dogs. Chad Farrar stated the need for better education of town residents about the requirements, including for

Select Board speak to the Sheriff to be clear about enforcement of the ordinance. Chad Farrar stated that calls come to him as THO because people do not want to call the police on their neighbors, and reiterated the need to get information on the ordinance publicized, including amongst the Sheriff's deputies; he also noted the problem of long response times by the Sheriff's office which is a problem if unvaccinated dogs bite a person and suggested a ACO based in the community would probably be able to respond more quickly; he also suggested that combining the THO and ACO roles may help. Jeff Chase noted the difficulty in getting the ACO on a stipend or voluntary

### TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY

#### *A Permit Is REQUIRED for OutDoor BURNING*

#### BURN PERMITS

May be obtained from

#### THE MOUNT HOLLY FIRE WARDEN

Jim Seward

Pager: 802-786-3408

Home: 802-259-2211

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

**SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS**

### Mount Holly Listers Hours

The Listers are at the Mount Holly Town Office most Tuesdays 10:00am-2:00 pm or by appointment. Please call 802-259-2391 for any questions.

### Mount Holly Town Office Will be **CLOSED** the following dates:

Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day  
Wednesday & Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving  
Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas  
Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve  
Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day

December 2025 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

example sending out flyers in the tax bill and sandwich boards. Carol Garrow-Woolley asked if fees should be changed and shared details of license fees charged in neighboring towns: there was no further discussion on this. Christine Pratt asked about enforcement when owners do not register or vaccinate their dogs. Chad Farrar asked that the penalties be made clear in any new ordinance. Jeff Chase confirmed that the Sheriff's department will undertake enforcement and the Town can ask them to write tickets for violations.

4. Adjourn 5.29pm



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

[chitchat@vermontel.net](mailto:chitchat@vermontel.net)

**Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office Nov 11th, 2025  
6:00 pm MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley, Elizabeth Karle, Zena Gates, James Seward, Christine Pratt, Jon McCann, Phil Leonard, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman, Phillippe Crane, June Capron, David Johnson, Amy Turco, Barbara and Steve Hazelton (via Zoom).

1. **Call to Order 6 pm**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** none
4. **Approval of Oct 14th and Oct 22nd meeting minutes:** Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

**5. Reports**

a. **Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley:** Transfer station warming shed has been replaced, and some insulation has been donated. A dumpster has been placed for tires. Jeff Chase asked if the Hortonville Road culvert was patched. Mr Woolley reported that a temporary fix has been made but the permanent one will be in the Spring. Mark Turco asked about the grader repair. - Mr Woolley said he has not been able to get any responses from those he's called.

b. **Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle:** approximately \$225,000 in tax payments were outstanding at the due date, around 3% of the total due. Peter Perrino has been instructed to start collection of outstanding taxes. Reimbursements and payments from the State have been received for Grants in Aid work on the roads in August, State Aid and Current Use payments. There is evidence that the Sheriff's Department has issued tickets. Philippe Crane asked why the financial reports were not posted

on the website? Mark Turco said that this could be done.

i. **Star Lake Mechanical Harvesting Permit:** Phil Leonard confirmed that a permit for harvesting in part of Star Lake has been issued. When harvesting occurs, will the Town be able to assist with taking it to a composting site. Mark Turco asked if there are any requirements for where it can be placed? Ron Unterman confirmed that the last time harvesting had happened there were no restrictions. Mr Leonard also noted that the Commission would like to raise funds to support the harvesting and improvements around the Lake, and asked if a tax exempt special fund could be used to collect donations via the Town. Elizabeth Karle responded that since the Town is not a 501(c)(3) organisation there would not be a tax benefit; Diana Garrow suggested doing this through the Museum or Community Association. Mr Leonard said he would

look into the various options. Ron Unterman noted that there may be options to make tax deductible donations through the Town if it is for public purposes. The Aquatic Nuisance Control grant has been spent and the report is due at the end of November.

**6. New Business**

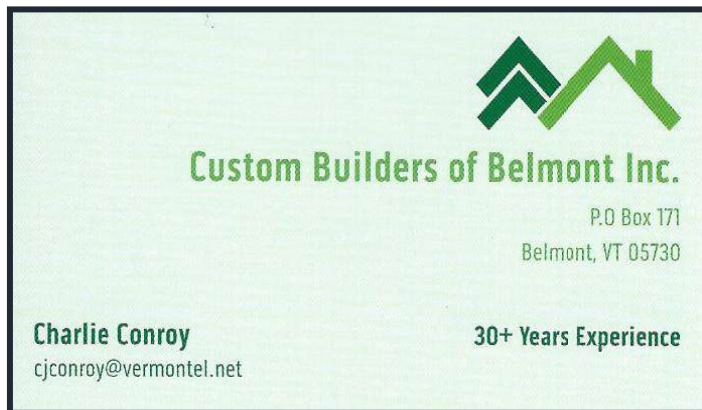
a. **Employee Health Insurance:** 2026 premium / renewal: Diana Garrow noted that the Town currently utilizes the top tier plan, but that there may be other options which cost less but have higher deductibles. Elizabeth Karle reviewed and responded that other options would limit the benefits and prevent use of the HRA. Diana Garrow moved to continue enrollment in the current tier of the plan, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

b. **Appointment to the Planning Commission:** Mark Turco reported that there had been two letters of interest, from Jon McCann seeking reappointment and from June Capron, both with multiple letters of support from Town residents. Mr Turco asked the two to present to the Select Board. Jeff Chase, noted that both are good candidates but based on his work with Jon McCann and Mr McCann's experience he moved to reappoint Jon McCann, seconded by Diana Garrow, motion approved by Jeff Chase and Diana Garrow. Jeff Chase and Diana Garrow encourage Ms Capron to consider an application in 2026 when two more positions will be open.

c. **Appointments to the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee:** Mark Turco made a motion to nominate Jeff Chase and Billy Austin, seconded by Diana Garrow, motion approved by Mark Turco and Diana Garrow.

d. **Renewal of [mounthollyvt.gov](http://mounthollyvt.gov) website - Elizabeth Karle.** The site was set up in 2025 and has the potential to enable/improve access to other government websites or utilize online services. Currently both [mounthollyvt.org](http://mounthollyvt.org) and [mounthollyvt.gov](http://mounthollyvt.gov) can be utilized to access the Town website. Mark Turco confirmed that the .gov website should be continued.

e. **Renew FWS permit:** Ron Unterman explained that there is a new process to renew the geese depredation permit and that he has already worked with the Select Board clerk on the process, but  
**December 2025 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.**







**Beardmore  
Excavating**

(802) 342-3507

Robert Beardmore, Jr. 5256 VT-155  
beardmoreexc@gmail.com Belmont, Vermont 05730

asked the Select Board to approve the permit for another year. Mark Turco moved to approve the FWS permit for another year, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously. Ron Unterman asked if there would be anyone who would be willing to take on the role for shooting the geese; the applicant needs to have a hunting license.

f. **PACIF Renewal:** Diana Garrow stated that the renewal paperwork had been completed for renewal of insurance of Town property and workers compensation. Jeff Chase moved to renew the PACIF insurance, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

#### 7. Old Business

a. **Speed limit on section of Rte 155: update on progress and next steps:** Diana Garrow noted the completion of the engineering

study with the report expected shortly. A meeting (in person and virtual) will be held on December 10th at 1.30 pm to make a decision on the request. Jeff Chase suggested people attend, and noted that details will be circulated once available.

b. **FEMA Beaver Meadow Bridge project time extension - Elizabeth Karle.** This is the last project outstanding from the 2023 floods, and a time extension request must be submitted with an adequate explanation of the reason for the request. Ms Karle asked the Board to approve the extension request. Jeff Chase asked how long the extension would need to be, but Ms Karle responded that there is limited guidance on this, but the project is expected to be completed by the end of October 2026. Diana Garrow made a motion to request an extension of the Beaver Meadow Bridge project until October 31st 2026, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

8. **Citizen Comments:** Diana Garrow asked Jon McCann about progress on the Municipal Housing Needs Study. Mr McCann noted that progress has been slow but noted that there should be a presentation to the Select Board in December; Jeff Chase noted that after a period of inactivity there is a draft report and he will discuss with the consultant and with RRPC about the need for an extension into the first quarter of 2026. There should be a public presentation of the draft, followed by a presentation of the final report. Ron Unterman made an observation about the Planning Commission, chaired by Jon McCann, that it has become more confrontational over the last year and expressed his view that the Commission should be more supportive of businesses and town residents and that he would like to see a change in tone in the Commission.

9. **Announcements:** Town office closed Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th November for Thanksgiving, and Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th December for Christmas, with a half day on 31st December, closed on 1st January.

#### 10. Review & Sign Orders

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

Mark Turco moved to go into executive session, seconded by Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

#### 12. Adjourn Respectfully Submitted by Faith Tempest



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and Maintenance

yankeehomemanagement.com

**802-259-3064**

**Keith Hawkins**  
PRESIDENT

MT. HOLLY, VT



### POSTING OF YOUR LAND

Update on Land Posting. Your registration with the State of Vermont is good for the year it is issued, not for the one year from the date it is issued. If you want your land posted for the full year, you should register in January. This appears to be a new interpretation by the Fish & Wildlife Department.

### Mount Holly Town Auditors Request

Mount Holly Town Auditors are requesting of all organizations who submit articles and or budgets for the Mount Holly Town Report to have your articles typed single spaced and mailed or dropped off or e-mailed to: mthollyauditors@gmail.com to the Town Office no later than January 12, 2026. All articles mail to the Town Office at the following address: Mount Holly Town Office, Attn: Auditors, P.O. Box 248, Mt. Holly, VT 05758



WIRENUTS  
ELECTRICAL  
LLC

bbates@vermontel.net

REBECCA BATES  
LICENSED ELECTRICIAN  
802-492-3406  
802-353-4376

### Notes from the Mount Holly Conservation Commission

In late Oct., over twenty people inaugurated new hiking trails, sponsored by the Mount Holly Conservation Commission. Entrance to the trails is located near the junction of Old Syria Road and Shunpike and feature well marked loops of one to two miles that wind through mature woods and past thriving beaver ponds. So, put on appropriate footwear, (there are some decidedly wet spots) as well as blaze orange and TAKE A HIKE! Directions and maps are on the Commission website

<https://www.mounthollyvt.org/conservation-commission/>

And, if you are a Mount Holly landowner interested in creating and maintaining hiking trails on your property, please contact the Conservation Commission at: [mounthollycc@gmail.com](mailto:mounthollycc@gmail.com).

We are continue our planning and work on improving access, shade and recreational opportunities at Star Lake.

The Commission has acquired a Thermal Camera, purchased with funds from a MERF grant. This camera is designed to help homeowners assess the amount of air 'leakage' in their home and identify areas of inadequate insulation. That information can then be put to energy and cost efficient updates. If you are interested in borrowing the camera, please e-mail the commission at [mounthollycc@gmail.com](mailto:mounthollycc@gmail.com)

And then there is this. The MHCC is reaching out to Mount Holly's elected representatives for assistance working with state agencies to find a workable solution to the aquatic weed nuisances at Star Lake. In pursuit of that goal, we sent the following letter:

**Dear Representative Kevin Winter, Senators Brian Collamore, Dave Weeks and Terry Williams,**

*We are writing on behalf of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission and Select Board. Star Lake is now covered by lilies, making it impossible to explore the lake by canoe or kayak. We are trying to revive boating on the lake by creating a few pathways on the lake for boaters to follow. One resident has designed and constructed a small boat to cut up the lilies and pile them on the shore where we can truck them away at no cost to the town.*

*However, the Agency of Natural Resources has informed us that using a small boat to harvest these lilies will require a wetlands permit and that the application fee will be at least \$20,000 even though work would not damage the wetlands as no herbicides would be used and the lilies will grow back in a few weeks and need to be cut again. It is like mowing your lawn. Is there any way you can work with officials at the ANR to help us find an affordable solution to the problem? We suggest that we meet with the four of you to answer your questions and coordinate a strategy to solve the problem. Meeting in Mount Holly so that you can see the lake and better understand the issue would be ideal, but if that*

*is not possible, we can meet at a location convenient for you. How should we proceed?*

*Sincerely, Mount Holly Conservation Commission* <sup>[1][1]</sup> <sup>[1][1]</sup> *Mount Holly Select Board*

**More information is available at our website.** <https://www.mounthollyvt.org/conservation-commission/>

"We have already received several interested and positive responses to the letter."

Our next meeting will be Dec. 2 at 6pm, at the Town Office. Zoom information will be posted at the Town office and both post offices. And Happy Thanksgiving to all!



Visit us on  
Facebook



<sup>22</sup> Pasture Raised <sup>22</sup>  
**PLEW FARM**  
Mt Holly, Vermont

Farm stand hours:  
12pm-5pm  
Thursday-Sunday  
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*dedicated to providing a local alternative  
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visit our farm stand for beef, pork, chicken, eggs,  
maple syrup & products, produce, honey, cheese, cider,  
dairy, gifts, baked goods & more

## 2025 Grant-in-Aid for Star Lake

The Town of Mount Holly was allocated funds for 2025 aquatic nuisance control work at Star Lake. This came under Grant 06140-25-WSMD-ANC-4269 from Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation through the Lakes & Ponds Program of the Watershed Management Division. The grant also includes funding for the Greeter Program at Lake Ninevah under the auspices of the Farm and Wilderness Foundation. Both the Mount Holly Conservation Commission and the Farm & Wilderness Foundation are grateful for the support provided by this grant.

Star Lake activities took place between May and early November, and reporting is due at the end of November. This article gives a brief summary of grant-supported activities. The work began with a May 29 public meeting co-hosted by the Mount Holly Conservation Commission and the Mount Holly Conservation Trust. June work sessions included cleanup and hand-pulling in preparation for the annual deployment of two bottom barriers facing the beach area. This was followed by further cleanup and the purchase and installation of a 30' Lake Bottom Blanket by a volunteer crew to provide boating access from Lake Street and to assess the use of barriers of this type. After evaluation, a second such Blanket, at 40', and accompanying rebar were purchased for use beginning in 2026. The crew continually monitored the barriers and their effect, and discussed modifications to rakes and possibilities regarding additional tools for hand-pulling. At the end of September the volunteer crew removed the 30' barrier and transported it for cleaning and winter storage. Some hand-pulling tools were ordered at season's end. After hibernation, volunteers will emerge for more work next spring and summer. We encourage more Mount Holly folks to join in next year's efforts.

## Mount Holly Transfer Station

**FALL / WINTER HOURS**

**SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm**

**SUNDAY, 9 am to 12 Noon**

**REMINDER: STICKERS REQUIRED, NO CASH**





## Rutland Airport Committee Advances Modernization to Strengthen Vermont's Regional Air Network

As Vermont's only commercial airport outside Burlington, RUT's planned upgrades aim to enhance safety, accessibility, and sustainability for southern Vermont.

The Rutland Airport Committee is moving forward with a modernization plan for Rutland–Southern Vermont Regional Airport (RUT), ensuring the state's second-busiest—and only other commercial—airport remains a vital transportation hub for passengers, pilots, and emergency services.

The Committee's current focus includes terminal improvements, expanded hangar capacity, and potential runway rehabilitation to meet modern aviation standards. The goal is to preserve and improve existing infrastructure while supporting safety, accessibility, and environmental responsibility.

### Part of a Statewide Transportation Vision

Following major upgrades at Burlington International Airport (BTV), Vermont's primary air gateway, RUT's modernization represents a complementary investment in the state's air transportation system. Together, these projects strengthen connectivity, improve regional resilience, and ensure equitable access to air service across Vermont.

### Accessibility and Sustainability

Plans prioritize ADA-compliant terminal enhancements, energy-efficient systems, and sustainable building practices designed to reduce long-term operational costs and environmental impact.

### Community and Economic Value

RUT supports scheduled Essential Air Service flights, general aviation, flight training, and emergency medical transport. The Committee also supports retaining aviation tax revenues generated at each Vermont airport for local reinvestment—keeping funds where they directly benefit communities.

"Modernization isn't about expansion—it's about reliability and relevance," said Bob Knudsen, Vice Chair and spokesman for the committee. "As Vermont's only commercial airport beyond Burlington, RUT plays a critical role in accessibility, tourism, and emergency readiness for southern Vermont."

The initiative has earned bipartisan interest from local legislators, town officials, and state officials, highlighting shared commitment to maintaining safe, modern, and sustainable infrastructure.

For more information, contact: Bob Knudsen, Vice Chair Rutland Airport Committee [bob@bobknudsen.com](mailto:bob@bobknudsen.com) 802.468.7874

## WESTON CELEBRATES THE SEASON WITH A DOUBLE FEATURE OF FESTIVE FAVORITES

Weston Theater Company invites audiences to kick off the holiday season with two joyful and uniquely Weston traditions: **The 8th Annual WESTON WINTER CABARET** and a **free Community Reading of A CHRISTMAS CAROL**. From musical mischief to heartfelt storytelling, this festive *double feature* weekend event will be presented at Weston's Walker Farm Theater from December 4 - 6 as part of the community's "Christmas in Weston" celebration.

It's tradition with a twist! The **WESTON WINTER CABARET** returns for its eighth year – bringing music and a little mayhem to the stage. Directed by **Megumi Nakamura** (THE TWELFTH NIGHT SHOW) and featuring a cast of Weston favorites including **Jacob Brandt** (RING OF FIRE), **Devin Johnson** (WEST SIDE STORY), **Maya L'Abbe** (PIPPIN), **Grace Martini** (OKLAHOMA!), **Isaiah Reynolds** (BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY), **Tomias Robinson** (PIPPIN), and **Alex Tan** (OKLAHOMA!), this rollicking evening of song and laughter is the perfect way to kick off the season. Holiday sweaters optional. Good cheer guaranteed.

The **WESTON WINTER CABARET** is playing **Friday, Dec 5 and Saturday, Dec 6 at 7:00 PM at Walker Farm Theater**. All proceeds from this event support the Weston Young Company, the theater's program for nurturing early-career artists.

On the same weekend, Weston hosts a free, festive, and heartwarming **Community Reading of A CHRISTMAS CAROL**. Directed by **Tom Costello** (Broadway: Associate Director, AMERICAN BUFFALO) and reimaged for Weston by **Sierra Hitchcock** and **Charlie Hitchcock** (NTG Theater), the event features beloved Weston artists including **Barbara Lloyd** (PIPPIN), **Susan Haefner** (WHITE CHRISTMAS), **David Bonanno** (AN ILIAD), and **Willy Appelman** (OUR TOWN). This 60-minute show includes joyful music, a touch of audience participation, and a spirited post-show carol sing-along.

A **Community Reading of A CHRISTMAS CAROL** is playing **Thursday, Dec 4 at 7:00 PM and Saturday, Dec 6 at 3:30 PM**. *This event is free, but reservations must be made in advance*. Donations are encouraged and will support the Weston Fire Department and Weston Theater Company.

Whether a long-time supporter or first-time guest, Weston welcomes you to join us this December. **Tickets and reservations are now available**. Early booking is encouraged due to limited seating. Visit [westontheater.org](http://westontheater.org) or call **802-824-5288** to reserve your spot.





## Dear Editor, Think Twice Before Wishing for an "Old -Fashioned" Christmas

Does a modern Christmas not seem to you to hold the spirit, charm, and warmth of an old-fashioned holiday? Before we lament the commercialization of Xmas we might consider what it was like in the days of yore. Only in the past 200 years has Christmas been celebrated by most Christians. In fact, it took over 300 years for the early church to decide on a day on which to honor the "Feast of the Nativity."

As far back as history is recorded, midwinter festivals were held in Babylon, Egypt, Iran and Germany to celebrate the return of the sun. The Romans built on this with the "party to end all parties," Saturnalia, where garlands, flowers and banners were hung; gifts and candles were exchanged; and the whole population, slaves and masters alike, celebrated with wild abandon. And "when in Rome, you do what the Romans do"... unless you're a Christian. Then a climactic event took place with Constantine's win at Milvian Bridge prompting his rise to sole rule and subsequent patronage of Christianity. In essence, he said, "Christians don't want to be part of this "eating, drinking and sleeping with Merry" so let them redeem this pagan festival and make the final day, Dec. 25th, an immovable feast on which to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, Jesus our Lord." We have no evidence of Christ being born on that day or even in that month. (It is unlikely that "shepherds were watching over their flocks" in midwinter!)

The assumption that the power of the government behind the date that church leaders had been lobbying for would quickly and forever end the drunken partying was proven wrong. Change did not come fast. The church was not pleased. Fast forward. Things became so bad, that the way Christmas was celebrated even became one of the planks that helped overthrow the English monarchy in 1649.

Puritan politician Oliver Cromwell was instrumental in the overthrow of King Charles I and the British Empire changed dramatically. The most profound change, for the common people, was the ban on *all* Christmas festivities during Cromwell's fifteen year reign. With Charles II returning to the throne the Puritans were tossed out into the streets and to the solemn colorless day riotous ribaldry returned.

With the holiday again a drunken street celebration, songs like "*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*," alluded to large bands of men demanding food, drink, and money at upper-class homes. "We won't go until we get some" carried an underlying threat of unpredictable violence. Churches, excepting Anglican and Catholic, simply closed their doors and ignored Christmas altogether. Police usually wrote off the often violent day as a "tradition" with few arrests. In many areas of London, Christmas was a day when women and children feared to venture into the streets. Other than the stubbornly held Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and the quiet family reflections of the Savior's birth at home, Christmas was anything but holy in almost all of the English-speaking world.

Across "the pond," beginning with the Puritan's landing at Plymouth Rock (1620), the holiday was banned throughout New England under threat of arrest and fines. These laws remained in effect for more than 150 years, through the Revolutionary War. Christmas was so largely ignored that beginning in 1789, and on each Christmas for the next 67 years, Congress met on Dec. 25th with no one stopping to acknowledge Jesus' birth.

Soon boatloads of immigrants overpowered the wishes of the Puritans and anti-Christmas laws were ignored as drunken parties and gang riots proliferated. Yet even as NYC put uniformed men out on the streets to protect life and property, the spirit of the season was about to change. Meanwhile, in homes throughout Germany, Christmas was the most holy day of the year, eclipsed only by the "Superbowl" of Christian HOLY-days, *Easter!* The music, the simple decorations, homemade treats, and evergreens made Christmas the most anticipated time of the year, especially for kids. Prince Albert brought all of this to Victorian England. In the U.S. (1822), Rev. Clement C. Moore's, *Night Before Christmas*, dramatically changed the way we look at the season, inviting children to view it as their own. And lastly, (1843) Chas. Dickens put charity, hope, love and family at the heart of his, *A Christmas Carol*, set against a culture where greed and hard labor ruled every facet of society. Ironically, with the introduction of Santa and Scrooge (yes, and commercialization), Americans and Brits finally got to experience the *real* meaning of the "first Christmas," a simple time of beauty and wonder. The birth of Christ was less about celebration than it was about family. Let us pray that we all might once again find *Christ* becoming the focal point of this season, and for *family*, especially children. So today, much more than in the past, we can truly sing, "*It's the most wonderful time of the year!*" Pastor Glenn

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

#### St. Patrick's in Wallingford

4:00 pm Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm New Year's Eve December 31<sup>st</sup>

&

#### Christ The King in Rutland

4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am & 9:30 am Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 pm New Year's Eve December 31<sup>st</sup>  
7:30 am & 9:30 am New Year's Day January 1<sup>st</sup>

&

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

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





## Okemo Mountain School Head of School Speaks at Ludlow Rotary Club Meeting



The Ludlow Rotary Club welcomed Mariel Meringolo, Head of School at Okemo Mountain School (OMS), as the featured speaker at its recent meeting. Meringolo shared the inspiring story of OMS, founded in 1991 to meet the academic and athletic needs of competitive winter sports athletes. Over the years, OMS has guided numerous Olympians and professional skiers and riders, earning a strong reputation for excellence both on the slopes and in the classroom.

During her presentation, Meringolo emphasized OMS's deep commitment to community involvement. The school offers eight scholarships each year to students from towns within the Two Rivers Supervisory Union, helping make world-class training and education more accessible to local families.

She also highlighted how OMS students have been giving back since the 2021–2022 season, volunteering with the Ludlow Elementary School snow sports program, skiing and riding alongside young students during their Wednesday afternoons at Okemo.

In addition, OMS runs The Three Maples Summer Day Camp, launched in 2022 as a low-cost camp opportunity for local children. The camp has become a popular summer tradition, offering fun, adventure, and outdoor education for area families. Applications for OMS scholarships and financial aid are available online.

### Rotary Business and Community Updates

In other business, the Ludlow Rotary Club presented a donation to the Mount Holly Fire Department, continuing its long-standing tradition of supporting essential local services and community organizations.

The meeting also featured guest speaker Erin Ladd, the new Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Ludlow, who shared information about the town's Better Connections Grant application through the Vermont Department of Transportation. The initiative could bring funding for safer streets, improved pedestrian walkways, expanded parking, and the creation of a master plan designed to strengthen the local economy and enhance village life.

Heidi Bates, representing the Black River Academy Museum, spoke about the upcoming Festival of Lights fundraiser — a festive four-weekend event featuring beautifully decorated trees. Visitors can purchase raffle tickets to win a tree of their choice, with the drawing and celebration scheduled for Wednesday, December 17.

The Ludlow Rotary Club also welcomed Lori Wright as its newest member, continuing Rotary's mission of bringing together community leaders in service and fellowship.

### About the Ludlow Rotary Club

The Ludlow Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, a global service organization dedicated to promoting goodwill, peace, and community engagement. The club meets Tuesdays at lunch to discuss local issues, coordinate volunteer efforts, and support programs that strengthen the Ludlow region and beyond. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may 'Serve Humanity' while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact any Rotarian or drop a note to Ludlow Rotary, PO Box 216, Ludlow, Vermont.

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## Vermont Home Gardener: November Garden thoughts

As the days get shorter and our gardens are resting it's a good time to reflect on what we did this season and what we would like to do next season. What worked well and what didn't are the basis for improving our next garden efforts. Lessons learned are the basis for having a better garden next year. New seed catalogs will begin arriving soon so new varieties and new tools will be tempting. This is a great time of year to begin planning for your new gardening season.

The most important lesson that I have re-learned is it all starts with the soil. Healthy soil produces healthy plants, vigorous and free of pests and diseases. Naturally, healthy plants produce healthy people. If garden plants are slow growing, feeble, and attacked by insect pests or plant diseases the soil is almost certainly not healthy. I've had good results for years with regular fall applications of composted cow manure and this year added homemade liquid plant extract fertilizer that boosted early plant growth by using weeds to make my free fertilizer. (Details are in the October article.)

**Prepare for spring now.** After I've cleaned up my garden and spread homemade compost, all growing beds (except those with perennials) are "tarpred" for the winter. I use 4 or 6 ft. wide [woven ground cover](#) (FEDCO, Johnny's, etc.) anchored with rocks and bricks. The tarp blocks any fall or spring weed growth and warms the soil in early spring. In the spring it is so nice to remove the tarp and find nearly weed free soil ready for

planting!

Seed catalogs and websites have become

more than just a place to buy seeds. You can research plant varieties and they include extremely useful tables and calculators for gardeners. They provide practical information including how many seeds to plant in a given area/row, seed to transplant or to harvest times, expected yields, disease & pest resistance, etc. This is not a complete list of seed companies, it's just the ones I know best and use. If you have other favorites please share your recommendations in the Comments section below.

Don't overlook the possibilities of winter compost for your garden and yard. Kitchen wastes, wood ash from your wood stove, and leaves make a great compost and can be added to your frozen

compost bin or pile all winter! Remember that "kitchen wastes can include the obvious coffee grounds, tea bags, fruit & veggie peels, spoiled bread or pasta, and crushed eggshells, but also other plant based biodegradables including soiled napkins/paper towels, used Kleenex tissues, and shredded newspapers. No need to carry these valuable materials to the Transfer Station when they can enrich your own gardens, for FREE! Here's a new short video to help you get your own compost started.

**Vermont Home Gardener** is available online for FREE. (<https://vermonthomegardener.com/>)



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Shrewsbury VT. 05738

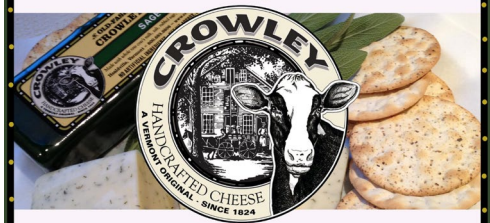
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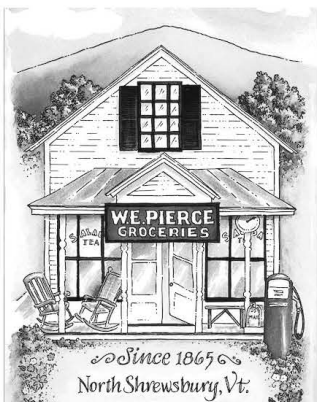


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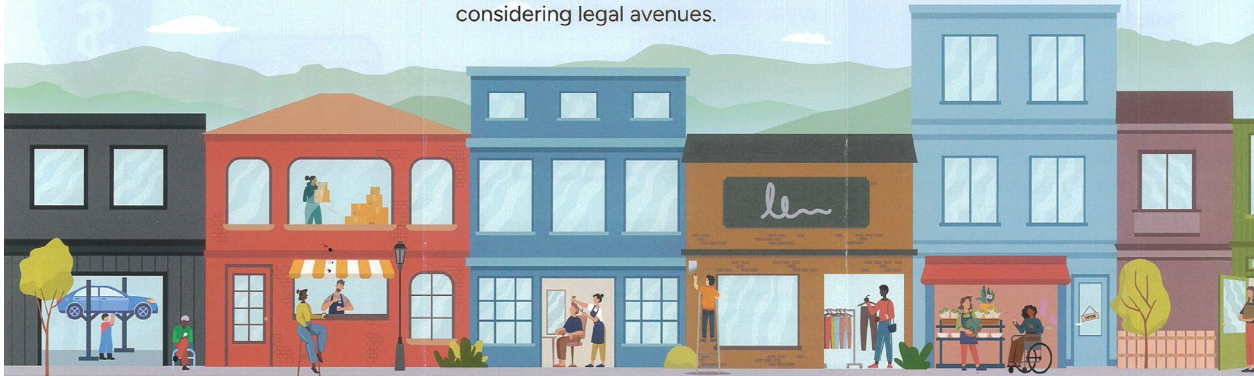
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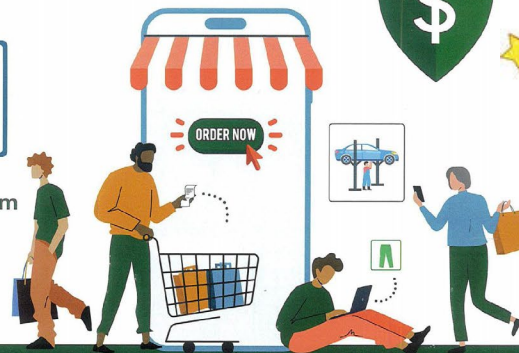


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VERMONT

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# 'Twas The Night Before Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, on Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky. So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St Nicholas

came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. He had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

## Clement Clarke Moore Miniature Biography

Clement Clarke Moore (1799 - 1863) came from a prominent family and his father Benjamin Moore was the Bishop of New York who was famous for officiating at the inauguration of George Washington. The tradition of reading 'Twas the night before Christmas poem on Christmas Eve is now a Worldwide institution and tradition.

Clement Clarke Moore (1779 - 1863) wrote the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas also called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" in 1822. It is now the tradition in many American families to read the poem every Christmas Eve. The poem 'Twas the night before

Christmas' has redefined our image of Christmas and Santa Claus. Prior to the creation of the story of 'Twas the night before Christmas' St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, had never been associated with a sleigh or reindeers!

Clement Moore, the author of the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas, was a reticent man and it is believed that a family friend, Miss H. Butler, sent a copy of the poem to the New York Sentinel who published the poem. The condition of publication was that the author of 'Twas the night before Christmas was to remain anonymous.

The first publication date was 23rd December 1823 and it was an immediate success. It was not until 1844 that Clement Clarke Moore claimed ownership when the work was included in a book of his poetry.



A bundle of Toys he



## Two Letters To Santa

By Annabel Sheila

I wrote a letter to Santa  
To make sure he would know  
It's only two weeks until Christmas  
And we still don't have any snow.

Just didn't want his reindeer  
To have to work too hard.  
I was afraid they might get stuck  
In the mud outside in our yard.

I mailed my letter on Monday,  
Only two days ago.  
As I dropped it in the mailbox,  
It slowly started to snow.

It's been snowing ever since,  
More as each day goes by.  
I'm getting kind of worried now  
That Santa will think I lied.

I'll write another letter  
And mail it off today.  
Tell Santa not to worry,  
There'll be lots of snow for his sleigh.

to hammer out silver (and then aluminum) to produce a shiny type of streamer called tinsel, they continued to use it on their Christmas trees to represent angel hair.

Evergreen trees were pagan symbols of life for centuries before Christians adopted the practice to celebrate Christmas. Ancient people prayed and worshiped outside among evergreens or decorated their homes with evergreen

After the Roman Emperor Constantine had selected December 25th as the date to celebrate Christmas in 336 AD and Pope Julius I made that the official Christmas date several years later, the holiday fell during winter for all of Europe. It made sense that Christians would adopt regional pagan rituals associated with winter to celebrate Christmas.

## Christmas Long Ago

—Dona M. Maroney

Frosty days and ice-still nights,  
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,  
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,  
That was Christmas long ago.  
Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,  
Icy-window filigree,  
Sugarplums and candle glow,  
Part of Christmas long ago.  
Footsteps stealthy on the stair,  
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,  
Stocking hanging in a row,  
Tell of Christmas long ago.  
Starry nights so still and blue,  
Good friends calling out to you,  
Life, so fact, will always slow...  
For dreams of Christmas long ago.

## Christmas Facts

You might find some of these interesting...

- The word Christmas is Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass.
- The first president to decorate the white house Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.
- Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.
- Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.
- "It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.
- Rudolph" was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930's for a holiday promotion. The rest is history.
- The Nutcracker" is the most famous Christmas ballet.

Soon after Christians began decorating Christmas trees, they would sometimes pretend that angels were actually decorating the trees, as a way of making the Christmas festivities fun for children. They wrapped paper streamers around Christmas trees and told children that the streamers were like pieces of angel hair that had been caught in the branches when the angels leaned in too closely to the trees while decorating.

Later, after people figured out how

## Remember the Reindeer

Hang up the stockings.  
Decorate the tree.  
Presents placed perfectly.  
What a sight to see!  
Milk and cookies are out,  
Kids are tucked in tight.  
There's so much to do  
On Christmas Eve night!  
Before you take a snooze  
And dream of the next day,  
Don't forget some food  
For the friends who pull the sleigh!  
You see, reindeer need snacks, too  
A little love and fun  
To help Santa through the night,  
And get the important job done!  
-Anonymous

CountryLiving



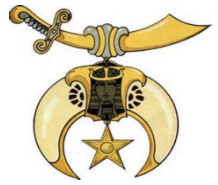




## Shriner Hospital For Children

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

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



### Community Health Holiday Hours

We know that getting sick has no schedule so we want you to know ahead of time when Community Health practices will be open during the holidays.

#### Christmas Hours:

- Christmas Eve all sites, including the Pharmacies, will close at 3pm. Express Care will close at 5:00pm.
- Christmas Day all sites will be closed. Express Care will close the Castleton location, and the Rutland location will close at 3:00pm.

## BONE BUILDERS

Join BONE BUILDERS

Free weights and lessons

No age limit Good Company

Great way to improve Balance  
And Strength

Call Judy at 802-259-2443



*Calm Moments  
Massage Studio*

101 Main Street, Ludlow, VT

1.802.228.7772

[www.calmmomentsmassage.com](http://www.calmmomentsmassage.com)

- The day after Christmas will be normal operating hours.

#### New Year's Hours:

- New Year's Eve all sites, including the Pharmacies, will close at 3:00pm. Express Care will close at 5:00pm.
- New Year's Day all sites will be closed. Express Care will close at 5:00pm.
- The day after New Year's will be normal operating hours

Express Care is open on holidays, but please take note of the locations and hours. Community Health is proud to serve our community throughout the year. Happy Holidays!

#### Alzheimer's and Diabetes Support During the Holidays

Community Health Alzheimer's and Diabetes Support groups will be

meeting in December with a mission to make the holidays a joyous family time of year.

Community Health's Alzheimer's caregivers group meets Tuesday, December 9th and the second Tuesday of each month at 4pm at Community Health North Main St. 231 North Main St, in Rutland. Caregivers are welcome to share feelings, thoughts and experiences with other caregivers. For more information message [kbathalon@cherr.org](mailto:kbathalon@cherr.org) or call 802-465 2255.

The Diabetes Support Group meets December 10 and the second Wednesday of every month.

- 1-2pm in Rutland at the Rutland Diabetes & Endocrinology Center
- 5-6pm in Castleton at Castleton Community Health

Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center have joined together to organize this monthly meeting, a place to share your challenges and successes and questions about medication management, continuous glucose monitoring, meal planning, exercise options and holiday suggestions. Contact our diabetes educators or your Community Health primary care provider or call 802-779-9169 for more information.



**For Sale:** Firewood –  
Cut, Split & Delivered.

Call 802-259-2147

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

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

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

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

Name .....

Address .....

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.

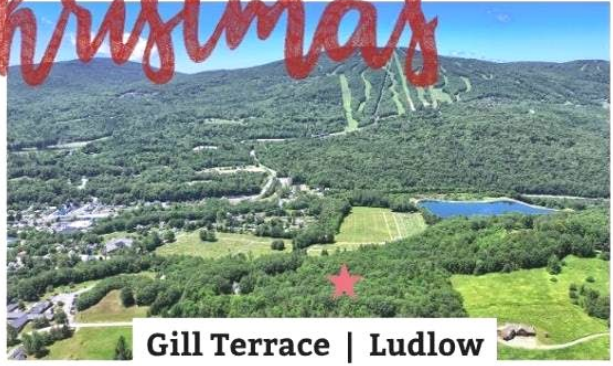
Kevin Plew is the primary NewsFlash  
attendant and Stu Berry is backup  
attendant at [stuberry1@gmail.com](mailto:stuberry1@gmail.com)



# Merry Christmas



**3215 Old Turnpike Rd | Mount Holly**  
Custom Post & Beam private retreat  
on 90+/- Acres with barn and pond.



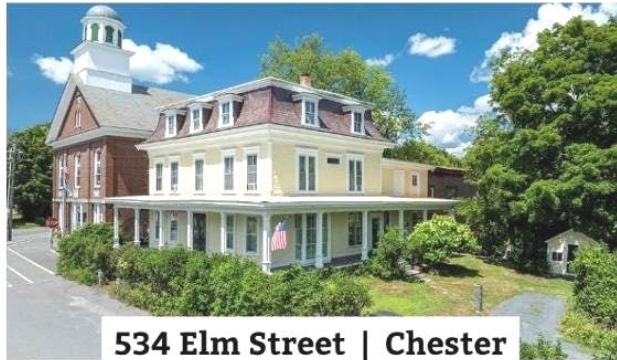
**Gill Terrace | Ludlow**  
13.94+/- Acre wooded lot with direct  
view of Okemo Ski Trails



**188 Station Road | Mount Holly**  
Five minutes to Jackson Gore and easy  
access to VAST trail



**9 Stryhas Trailer Court | Ludlow**  
Well-maintained manufactured  
home on leased lot in 55+ community



**534 Elm Street | Chester**  
Victorian Home near Depot Green  
Large Backyard. Sold Turnkey



**19 Strawberry Lane | Ludlow**  
Unique 3 Bedroom container home  
with Okemo slope view.



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72-B Pond Street | Ludlow | 802-228-5333



# Who's Got It Locally?

## Artists

Pretty Good Painting [prettygoodpaint802@gmail.com](mailto:prettygoodpaint802@gmail.com) 609-770-1507  
Stone Creek Workshops Pottery [www.stonecreekworkshops.com](http://www.stonecreekworkshops.com) 802-259-2254

## Building & Repairs – General Work

Champlain Timber Craft [Michael@champlaintimbercraft.com](mailto:Michael@champlaintimbercraft.com) 802-779-6138

## Burn Permits

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

## Catering - Restaurants - Stores

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 11am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm  
Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020  
Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11am & 3pm  
Until May 11am & 6pm 802-779-0300  
Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,  
11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS  
Pastor Jerry Scheumann [jfscheumann@gmail.com](mailto:jfscheumann@gmail.com) 603-439-0803  
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 [christthekingprsh@gmail.com](mailto:christthekingprsh@gmail.com) 802-446-2161  
Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:45 BS Tue 7 pm  
Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am  
Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

## 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 [Flanders.excavating@gmail.com](mailto:Flanders.excavating@gmail.com) 802-259-2147  
Hawkins Excavation Driveways, Ditching, Septic, Ponds, Etc 802-558-3082

## Farm Fresh Products

Fourteenth Star Farms Raw Milk  
802-236-7007  
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

## 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  
Salt Ash Nursery - The Balsam Barn – Scott Crawford 802-259-2146

## Garage Mechanical

Belmont Motor Works Harley Davidson, Adventure Touring & URAL Sidecar  
Motorcycles, Small Engine Repair, Welding & Metal Fabrication 802-259-3178

## General Contractors

Wright Construction Company [info@wrightconstruction.com](mailto:info@wrightconstruction.com) 802-259-2094  
Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

## Handyman

D'Arcy Home Improvements – Aaron D'Arcy 478-338-4878  
[DarcyHomeImprove@gmail.com](mailto:DarcyHomeImprove@gmail.com)

## 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  
[uthrive@vermontel.net](mailto:uthrive@vermontel.net)

## 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)  
Wally's Corner – Stewart Maple Syrup [hello@wallyscorner.com](mailto:hello@wallyscorner.com) 802-772-0507

## Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc. Casey Smith & Mike Harrington 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  
[requests@masterplumbingandheating.com](mailto:requests@masterplumbingandheating.com) 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  
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  
Lorien Kelly [Lorian@kelleyrealestate.com](mailto:Lorian@kelleyrealestate.com) Call or Text 732-670-8001  
Gabrielle Turco [Gabrielle.n.Turco@gmail.com](mailto:Gabrielle.n.Turco@gmail.com) Call or Text 802-353-0106  
[www.KelleyRealEstate.com](http://www.KelleyRealEstate.com) [www.OkemoValley.com](http://www.OkemoValley.com)  
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 Removal

DB Tree Works [joshbickford@gmail.com](mailto:joshbickford@gmail.com) Fully Insured 802-855-3216

## Volunteer Services

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

## Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

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

