

News Items DEADLINE
The 22nd By 6 pm Each Month



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51/12

MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT

February 2026

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

Mount Holly Community Association – Contact MHCavt@gmail.com www.MHCavt.org

Mount Holly Museum-Open Jul & Aug Sat & Sun 2-4pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org 802-259-2460 ddevereux@vermontel.net

Mt. Holly NewsFlash Town email sign up at newsflash@mounthollyvt.org Check Out www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

PC Administrator Office Hours: Tues 2 -3 pm or by Appointment 802-259-2391 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

Sun 1st *Freedom Day President Lincoln Approves 13th Amendment Abolishing Slavery 1865 ~ Full Snow Moon*
2nd *Ground Hog Day*

3rd	MH Conservation Commission, MH Town Office	6:00 pm
	MH Snow Flyers Meeting Via Zoom	6:30 pm
4th	MH PTG Meeting, MH School	6:00 pm
5th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station	7:00 pm

John Jeffries One of America's First Weather Observers b. 1744

40th Pres Ronald Reagan b 1911

Boy Scouts Founded 1910

9th Pres William Henry Harrison 1773

6th		9:00 am
7th		6:00 pm
8th		6:00 pm
9th		7:00 pm
10th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	
11th	LMHUS Meeting, <i>Thomas Alva Edison Founder of General Electric Co. 1847</i>	6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	
12th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm

16th Pres Abraham Lincoln 1809

Boston Latin School First Public School in USA 1635

League of Women Voters Formed 1920 – St Valentine's Day

Susan B Anthony Women's Rights Leader 1820 – Sinking Of The USS Maine 1898

President's Day

13th		7:00 pm
14th		6:30 pm
15th		6:30 pm
16th		7:00 pm
17th	Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm

18th	MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	6:30 pm
	MH Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont	6:30 pm
	MH Community Association Meeting, Library	7:00 pm
	MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	7:00 pm
19th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm

1st Pres George Washington 1732

Flag Raised on Iwo Jima 1945

20th	<i>John Glenn First American to Orbit Earth on Friendship 7, 1962 ~ National Caregivers Day</i>	7:00 pm
21st		9:00 am
22nd		7:00 pm
23rd		7:00 pm
24th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm

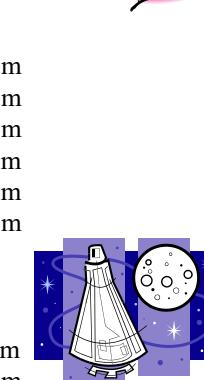
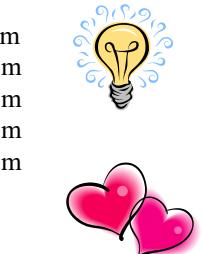
25th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
26th	Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations	7:00 pm
27th	<i>Levi Strauss 1829</i>	7:00 pm

US Supreme Court Upholds 19th Amendment For Women's Right to Vote 1922 ~ Battle of Java Sea 1942

* * * * *

Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954	802-259-27700	911	Poison Control	(802) 658-3456
MH Fire Warden – Jim Seward	802-786-3408	802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency	802-228-2880	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-773-9101
MH Constable NONE			Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-342-1366
Animal Control Rutland County Sheriff's Dept.		802-775-8002	Vermont State Police	802-773-9101



Send ARTICLES to: Diana Garrow, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758 Phone 802-259-2314 or E-Mail to chitchat@vermontel.net Check out Mt. Holly Web Site www.mounthollyvt.org

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

Donation Thank Yous: Mount Holly Community Guild * Wilson Belmont House –Barbara Conley, Nancy Drake, Sarah McKay, Ken Wilson * Gini Marconi * The Keen Family (Keen Woodworking) * June Capron * Maria Nitzsche *Andrew Schulz * Margaret Whyte * Rebecca Bates (Wirenuts Electrical) * Cindy Dilworth & Tump chiari (Squeels on Wheels) * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo) *



February Birthdays: 2nd–Justin Bussino (2004) 4th–Chris Charuk 6th–Candace Bussino 8th–Alyssa Collins Yamartino * Debbie Pearce 9th–Emma Coldwell Vastola 10th–Amy Perrino * Jack Koponen 18th–Andy Bolalek * Peggy Taylor 19th–Dennis Turco * Denise Turco 20th–Barbara Palotta 21st–Ben Veysey 25th–Meghan Garrow 27th–Mary Crawford



February Anniversaries: 17th–Lisa & Todd Bussino (1990) 28th–Andy & Teresa Bolalek

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

Local Post Office Hours New Phone Numbers

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

MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow

ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

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

PHOTOS: Color photos of events are required as they look great on the Town website.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mt. Holly NewsFlash: Mount Holly's Town email system. Primary attendant is Kevin Plew and backup attendant Stu Berry at stumberry1@gmail.com. Email items to newsflash@mounthollyvt.org www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com



David H. Johnson

David Hubert Johnson, 70, of Mount Holly died Thursday December 18, 2025, at his residence. He was born on August 2, 1955, in Rutland, the son of Hubert and Lucille (Bumps) Johnson.

David graduated with the last class from Wallingford High School.

David served the town of Mount Holly as Treasurer for over 30 years until retiring in 2023 to become the assistant treasurer. He also served the town as a justice of peace and lister.

He was a member of the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department for 56 years, joining the department when he was 14 years old and served many years as the treasurer & secretary.

David was a longtime member of the Free and Accepted Masons Mount Moriah Lodge #96, The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Colfax Lodge #21 and the Grand Lodge of Vermont, Trustee of Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Maple Grove Cemetery Board, New England Herford Association and Mount Holly Snow Drifters.

He enjoyed following Mill River High School Basketball and Soccer.

Survivors include several cousins.

He was predeceased by his mother in 1995 and his father in 1986.

Burial will be at 2:30 pm on Thursday May 21, 2026, in the Maple Grove Cemetery, East Wallingford, VT. A celebration of his life will follow.

Friends did call on Friday January 2, 2026, from 4-6 pm at the Aldous Funeral Home, 44 North Main Street, Rutland, VT. A masonic service was held at 6pm.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 114, Mount Holly, VT 05758



Peter W. Lackey

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Peter (Pete) Lackey. Pete passed away unexpectedly at home on December 8, 2025, at the age of 63.

He was born to Warren H. and Jean (McGinley) Lackey on June 20, 1962, in Rutland, VT.

He was raised in Mount Holly and attended Mount Holly Elementary School and Black River High School in Ludlow.

Pete worked for Green Mt. Sheetmetal, Blodgett Plumbing and Heating, Black River Mechanical and most recently Bill Lohsen Plumbing and Heating.

He enjoyed spending time with his boys and grandson. He also enjoyed snowmobiling, 4 wheeling and camping.

Pete is survived by 3 sons Brandon of Mount Holly, Cameron of Wallingford and Dakota of East Wallingford and one grandson Cohen Lackey of Wallingford and granddaughter Rayleaha Lackey, his mother Jean Lackey of Rutland, sisters Gloria Vitale (Steve) of Rutland and Judy Durant, 2 brothers mark Lackey (Shella) of Rutland and James Lackey of Rutland.

He was predeceased by his father and a brother Paul Lackey.



Mark Lackey Obituary

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mark Lackey, who passed away unexpectedly on December 23rd at the age of 65.

Mark was born on November 16, 1960, in Rutland, Vermont, to Warren and Jean (McGinley) Lackey. He was raised in Mount Holly and attended Mount Holly Elementary School and Black River High School in Ludlow, Vermont.

Throughout his life, Mark was known for his strong work ethic. He was previously employed at Vaillancourt Tree & Landscape and MetroMail, and later retired from Carris Reels.

Mark found great joy in the outdoors and in working with his hands. He loved camping, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and 4-wheeling, and took pride in woodworking projects. In quieter moments, he also enjoyed playing bingo and assisting with the Shriners bingo events. Mark was a proud member of the Modern Woodmen of America (MWA). He was also known for his amazing sense of humor and quick wit, which brought laughter and light to those around him. Most of all, he cherished spending time with his children and nephews, and he looked forward with great joy to the arrival of his granddaughter.

Mark is survived by his better half, Shella Mills, of Rutland, Vermont, with whom he shared 39 years together; his daughter, Jenna Lackey, of Proctor, Vermont, and her fiancé, Tim; and his son, Trevor Lackey of Boise, Idaho (Connie), who are expecting a daughter, Oakli. He is also survived by his mother, Jean Lackey of Rutland; his siblings, James Lackey and Gloria Vitale (Steve), both of Rutland; his sister, Judy Durant of Proctor; and his nephews, Brandon of Mount Holly, Cameron of Wallingford, and Dakota of East Wallingford.

Mark was predeceased by his father, Warren Lackey, in 2017, and by his brothers, Paul W. Lackey in 2004 and Peter W. Lackey on December 8, 2025.

To remember and celebrate the lives & legacies of Mark and Peter Lackey, we invite family and friends to a get-together on Wednesday Dec. 31st from 1:00–4:00 PM at the Rutland American Legion at 33 Washington St. in Rutland VT.



David Richard Josselyn

April 10, 1959 - January 10, 2026

On January 10th, 2026 David, 66 of Belmont, Vermont, passed away surrounded by family after battling cancer.

David Josselyn was survived by his wife of 42 years, Beth Josselyn and their two sons, Ethan and Wesley Josselyn. Dorothy Josselyn, and daughters Chloe and Ava; Meagan Keith and daughters, Ella and Bailey. His parents Richard and Marion Josselyn; Siblings and spouses; Peter and Pamela Josselyn, Joseph and Lynn Josselyn, Matthew and Darla Josselyn, Angela and Greg Martin, along with extended family.

David was born and raised in Ludlow, Vermont. Graduated Paul Smith's College, NY. David's life's work was in carpentry.

Completing his career with Josselyn Brother's Construction. Teaching his craft to his sons and family.

David enjoyed the outdoors; hunting, fishing, and gardening. He was loyal to family first and foremost, devoted to those he loved with unwavering commitment. His sense of loyalty extended beyond blood, embracing close friends, colleagues, and all who became part of his chosen family. To know him you were met with strength, courage, and respect.

All are welcome to attend a Celebration of Life that will be held on Saturday, February 7th, 2026 from 1-5 pm at the American Legion Post 36, 133 Main Street, Ludlow, VT. No gifts are necessary; just bring a pleasant memory to share.



Sally Susan (Puro) Seyller

Sally passed away peacefully on Jan. 4, 2026, following an eight-year struggle with dementia.

Born on May 28, 1943, in Fitchburg, Mass., Sally made Vermont her lifelong home, and held a deep love for its natural beauty, four seasons, welcoming people, and abundant wildlife – especially birds. She was a fierce advocate for animal rights, and a devoted supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, always championing the underdog and those in need. Sally especially loved dogs, and opened her home to many rescue dogs over the years.

Sally was predeceased by her beloved husband Gary Ivan Seyller Sr., of Mount Holly, Vt.; her parents Irma (Ojala) Zentz and John Puro; her sister Elsie (Puro) Shaw; her brother John Puro; and the matriarch of the family, her maternal grandmother Zella "Aiti" Ojala, of Mount Holly, Vt.

She is survived by her son Gary Ivan Seyller Jr. (Leyla); her daughters Sharon Seyller (Margaret Maccini) and Kristin Veysey (Thomas); six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Sally adored her family, and took great joy in spoiling and spending time with her grandchildren whenever she could.

Proud of her Finnish heritage, Sally embodied the Finnish concept "sisu," which she defined as "tenacity of purpose against all odds." Sally overcame many challenges throughout her life, and in 1985 committed to lifelong sobriety. In 2003, she made a meaningful journey to Finland with her husband Gary and daughter Kristin, where she was able to visit the final resting place of her namesake, as well as immerse herself in the culture and language.

A self-taught chef, Sally had a remarkable ability to transform any recipe into something gourmet, relying on simple, fresh ingredients and an intuitive approach to cooking. She looked forward to annual family gatherings at "The Grange," where, for many years, she welcomed all family members: her children and grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, partners, and cousins and their children, making everyone feel at home.

Sally loved plants and flowers, and the many gardens that she and Gary planted were her pride and joy. In years past, she won several blue ribbons at the Vermont State Fair for the award-winning gladiolas that she treasured. Her love of flowers was rivaled by her love of reading, and she owned thousands of books, many of them first editions.

She grew up spending summers at the Ojala farm in Mount Holly with her grandparents. As a result of these wonderful childhood memories, Sally decided to move back to the special place where she and Gary would raise their family. Sally and Gary eventually purchased the historic one-room schoolhouse from her grandmother, where Sally and her mother Irma both attended school as children. Gary and Sally cherished their home and lived out their lives there. They spent many evenings on their back deck admiring the wildlife, especially the deer and their young. Sally often shared that love and experience with her grandchildren.

Her strength, generosity, and quiet determination will be remembered always by those who loved her.

In accordance with Sally's wishes, all services will be private. She was extremely generous to both St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Rutland County Humane Society, and anyone wishing to honor her memory is encouraged to send a contribution to either organization in her name.

Her family is deeply grateful for the exceptional care she received at Crescent Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Bennington, Vt., and for the compassionate support provided by the Bayada Hospice team during her final weeks.



Candace Neary

June 29, 1937 – December 22, 2025

Candace had a great memory from her childhood: the date – August 14, 1945 – when her parents purchased an 1820's farmhouse in Mount Holly. There she spent her summers until it became her permanent home 37 years ago. Besides her work, she gave her energy and devotion to many social causes: affordable housing, health care for all, civil unions, gay marriage, and mental health care. She was a sought after gifted group leader of courses to assist families with care for their mentally ill loved ones. Participants thanked her for her knowledge, skill, compassion and humor. Candace was honored for her unprecedented 25 years on the board of The Housing Trust of Rutland County where she advocated for affordable housing development in Mount Holly: three serious efforts were defeated by septic issues or market forces. In her Belmont childhood, Candace was a wicked first base player in the Sunday morning baseball pick-up games. Four years ago, illness forced her to move to a senior living facility where she died peacefully at age 88. Her ashes will be brought home to Mount Holly in the spring.



Are you a gardener?

Pre-order starter plants by April 15th for your own spring and summer garden: veggies, herbs, flowers, and some native shrubs.

Want fresh veggies every week?

Free choice vegetable CSA shares are available from March through December, to pick out right there in Shrewsbury.



www.eveningsongcsa.com

eveningsongcsa@gmail.com

(802) 342-4304

PTG NEWS

WE ASKED THE KIDS:

AND THEY OVERWHELMINGLY LOVED THE IDEA OF **CHANGING OUR MASCOT** FROM THE **CATAMOUNT** TO THE MOUNT HOLLY **MAMMOTH**—HONORING A PIECE OF OUR LOCAL HERITAGE!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:

WHAT DO YOU THINK? YAY OR NAY?

WE ARE LOOKING TO GATHER THE COMMUNITIES INPUT TO PRESENT AT THE MARCH 4TH MEETING.

TO VOTE US THE QR CODE OR EMAIL US FOR THE LINK



WINTERSPORTS UPDATE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARENTS TO CONTRIBUTE. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP OUT, PLEASE REACH OUT TO MELANIE—WE'D LOVE YOUR SUPPORT!

CONTACT US

Mthollyptg@gmail.com

ATTN PARENTS AND KIDS!!

PTG SNACK & SIP WED 2/4 6PM

1086 GATES RD - WINTER BREAK GIFT ASSEMBLY

CLICK FOR ZOOM LINK PASSWORD: MHESPTG

WHAT'S NEXT?

- 1/19/2026 MLK DAY NO SCHOOL
- 1/21/2026 WINTERSPORTS
- 1/28/2026 WINTERSPORTS
- 2/4/2026
 - WINTERSPORTS
 - PTG MEETING
- 2/8/2026 TRSU MEETING
- 2/11/2026
 - WINTERSPORTS
 - LMHUSSD BOARD MEETING
- 2/16/2026 PRESIDENTS DAY NO SCHOOL
- 2/20/2026 EARLY DISMISSAL
- TBD - WINTERFEST
- 2/23/2026 TO 2/27/2026 WINTER BREAK
- 3/4/2026
 - WINTERSPORTS
 - VOTE DATE
 - PTG MEETING
- 3/5/2026 TO 3/6/2026
 - EARLY DISMISSAL
 - STUDENT LED CONFERENCES
- 3/9/2026 IN SERVICE NO SCHOOL
- 3/11/2026 WINTERSPORTS
- 3/18/2026 WINTERSPORTS

PLASTIC RECYCLING ENDS JANUARY 30

DUE TO THE EFFORT REQUIRED AND LACK OF VOLUNTEER SUPPORT, PTG WILL DISCONTINUE PLASTIC RECYCLING AFTER JANUARY 30. PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR RECYCLING EFFORTS BY USING LOCAL OPTIONS:

- ✓ SHAWS IN LUDLOW
- ✓ HANNAFORD
- ✓ PRICE CHOPPER

THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY GREEN!

JOIN US & BE PART OF OUR MOUNTIE FAMILY



A PLACE



TO BELONG



Accepting Applications for the 2026-27 School Year

To Apply....please visit msjvermont.org



THANK You:

* Mount Holly Town
Offices
(Carol Garrow-Woolley)

* The Belmont Store

* Plew Farm

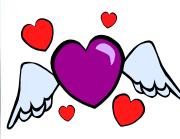
for being sales locations
for the 2026 Mount Holly
Calendar. You made it a
banner year for the
Calendar.

Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings

9:00 am

Community Center at the Library
For Weights and more information
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443



The Mount Holly Community Association Invites You to Community Art Group!

This relaxed, no-instruction open art studio is designed for local artists to gather, draw, paint and create together.

Mount Holly artists of all skill levels, age 16 and up are welcome. Just bring your supplies, your imagination and enjoy making art alongside others. Please note that we do not have the ventilation needed for oils or turpentine, but welcome all other mediums.

We're starting with six sessions this winter: The second and fourth Wednesdays (6-8 pm) in January-March in the Community Center. (That's January 14th and 28th, Feb 11th and 25th; March 11th and 25th).

Think you'll come? Have questions?
Contact Zhena Dickinson Hadar at
zhadar@hadarfamily.com

Looking forward to working together!

LMH School Board Approves 2.97% Budget Increase

The Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District on Wednesday, January 14, approved a budget for submission to the voters for their consideration on town meeting day in March. The proposed budget includes spending of \$10.46 million, an increase of 2.97%. Additional grants and other revenue will reduce the increase in the amount to be raised by taxes to 2.14%. If there had been no change in the common level of appraisal, this would have led to a tax rate decrease of two cents -- (\$20) for each \$100,000 of property value. Unfortunately, the state has determined that property values in both Mount Holly and Ludlow have increased faster than in other areas of the state and as a result the property tax increase in Mount Holly is estimated to be 14.97% and in Ludlow 7.44%. The legislature is now considering proposals that could significantly reduce these tax increases, but the final outcome cannot yet be predicted.

Much of the school spending increase in recent years is attributable to special education costs. Federal law requires the district to meet the special education needs of all its students, but the superintendent is now working to identify ways that the cost of delivering these services can be reduced. One possibility is partnering with neighboring supervisory unions to offer services that currently require placement at private schools.

The continued gradual reduction in student enrollment and increase in costs led the board to establish a committee to examine possibilities for restructuring the way we educate our students. The board agreed that we must maintain strong educational programs for our students, value our educators and respect the role of local schools in our community, while ensuring fiscal responsibility and durable stewardship of our schools. The committee will include members of the school board, parents, teachers and other local community members, with equal representation from our two towns. In February the board will solicit volunteers to join the committee. Their meetings will be open to all.

Needed Justice of Peace for Mount Holly Republican Committee

With the town's loss of David Johnson, there is a Justice of the Peace opening with the Republican Committee in Mount Holly. If interested in serving the town in this capacity and you have questions about what that would entail, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for considering this. Millicent Johnson, Chair of Mt. Holly GOP committee. Call 802-259-2386 email pappynmammy@vermontel.net

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

Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered



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Belmont, VT 05730

30+ Years Experience

Charlie Conroy
cjconroy@vermontel.net



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

February 15th 10 am to 11am: Good Vibes Jars! ☀

Kick off the new year with an easy, inspiring craft workshop led by one of our local artisans. You'll decorate a jar and use it all year to collect weekly notes about the best moments—creating a meaningful keepsake to read at year's end.

Winter Break ❄

We're taking a quick trip to visit friends & family (and prepare for a new baby!), so **the shop will be closed 2/26-3/5.**

Hoping to shop during that time—or having a maple syrup emergency? Text us at (802) 772-0507 to ask about our VIP shopping program.

“Dog Registration”

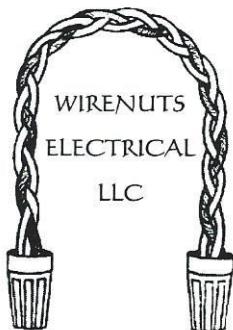
All Dogs must be Registered and Have
Up to date Rabies Shots Certificate
January 5, 2026 - April 1, 2026

Vermont State Law

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

Hall Rental in Belmont

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



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Mount Holly Ptg Requests:
Help Us Choose Our Next School Mascot!



MASCOT VOTE!

We are considering an exciting change—

Should we keep our current mascot, the Bobcat... or switch to the Mammoth?

We want every voice in our school community to be part of the decision.

Or vote using this QR Code:



Voting Opens: Jan 26th
Closing on Vote day: March 4th

Where to Vote:
Mount Holly School Lobby PTG Board
Town Office

Belmont General Store
Mount Holly Library
MHCA
Historical Museum

CHOOSE WISELY

THE OPTIONS!

Bobcat
Our long-time mascot—quick, clever, and full of energy. A symbol of strength and school pride for years.



To help keep our results fair for everyone, please vote only once. We appreciate your honesty and community spirit!

Mammoth
A powerful new option that connects directly to our town's unique heritage. With a real mammoth fossil discovered right here in our community, the Mammoth represents history, resilience, and a one-of-a-kind identity tied to our own backyard.



YANKEE HOME MANAGEMENT

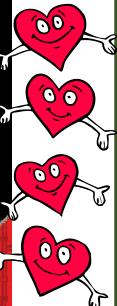
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News from your MHCA

When one writes a monthly article there are times you wonder what is there to say, how can this be spiced up and made interesting to dedicated news readers. A favorite fall back is finding something that is new or some unusual information. Hmmm, let's google what is February known for ... According to the almighty google search, February represents "purification and cleansing"? Febra is latin meaning "to cleanse", which is linked to the Roman purification ritual of Februalia held mid-month to atone and cleanse before spring planting. In modern times February is more often known for love (think Valentine's Day) and the Board of Directors of MHCA want to send a special Valentine's Day love to a few of our unsung heroes: Patti Kahoots and Russ Garrow. Patti has been our long time clean and tidy gal who keeps the community center from dust bunnies, mud, spider webs, and trash overflowing. Russ, bless his heart, has taken on hand to hand combat with the snow shoveling for us the last couple of years and we are so very thankful. If you see either of these folks around town, please let them know you too appreciate their contributions to keeping our community center up and running.

We submitted our annual review for the town report last month. It's always fun to see the list of activities MHCA sponsors and how they are involved in our community. Mount Holly has a lot going on in its various organizations and we are proud to be a central part of community life that encourages gathering, participation and volunteerism. This year's event lineup includes:

The Spring Mudd Fling	May 2	Mount Holly Day/Cookout	TBD
The Galley Art Show	May 23 & 24	Caberet	Sept. 6
The Perennial Swap	TBD	Cider Days	Oct. 10/11
Music on the Green	July / August	Holidays in Mount Holly	TBD
The Garden Tour	July 25		

As always we would like to plant a seed for local artists and gardeners to consider getting involved in the Art Show in and the Garden Tour events. Last year we held our first gallery art show, it was a big success with over 70 people coming to admire the local talent we have in Mount Holly. We want to continue to provide an opportunity for artists to have a venue to exhibit their work within their community. This continues the vision of Penny Coldwell, a local artist and longtime MHCA board member who passed away in 2023. Zhena Hadar, board member and local artist, coordinates this event (zhadar@hadarfamily.com). The Garden Tour

"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 UNSPAYED

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**

has been an annual summer event for years and is a summer favorite with folks coming from all over to meander through a variety of landscapes tended by folks who love working in the dirt as their favored artistic medium with a palate of flowers and vegetables. Leah Knoll coordinates this event, please feel free to reach out to her at leahknoll@yahoo.com.

Windows update: For those of you who have been tracking our buildings window situation, you might have noticed that the storm windows have yet to be installed. Manufacturing delays have led to a change of plans, we are now looking at a spring installation. As always, we will keep you posted.

The Mount Holly PTG is looking to gather community input on a proposed change to the school mascot. Ballot boxes will be found around the community including the community center. The PTG hopes that this will help ensure every family and community member has an opportunity to participate. If you visit the community center please feel free to register your opinion. Voting will be open from January 26th - March 4th.

We leave you with a quote from Mary Lou Retton to consider: "Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive good things and good people will be drawn to you". And with that, our favorite chit chat readers, we wish you a happy February!

Dear Editor,

There seems to be controversy where there should not be regarding the Belmont General Store.

Admittedly, I have a huge soft spot for the store. It brought me to this town. It was literally being shut down by the Health Department back in 1990. It went through a major renovation then and became a thriving store again.

In 1998, the store suffered a fire inside. The Mt. Holly Volunteer Fire Department put the fire out and saved the structure. The store was cleaned out with the help of the community. It was the Mt. Holly Community who came out to help clean it up. They had fundraising dinners - even provided housing for us while the building was being repaired.

It wasn't long, thanks to the community, that the store was re-opened.

There used to be Four stores in Mt. Holly: The Hortonville Store, The Mt. Holly Store, The Tarbellville store and the Belmont General Store. Slowly, over the years they closed and the Belmont General Store is the only store serving the community of Mt. Holly.

The Belmont General Store is, indeed, on the Vermont Registry of Historic Buildings. That's a great honor, but it does not preclude or restrict improvements or renovations - it makes it that much more important to all of us to make sure it keeps going.

General Stores are a dying concept and people who love them must really get creative to keep them vital and relevant. One of the most important factors is keeping the building intact. We all know what it takes to maintain our own homes.

The Belmont General Store was built in 1843. It's older than most of our homes and is over 5,000 square feet - that takes a lot to maintain. It's a huge undertaking to renovate and maintain so that it will be here for generations to appreciate.

I am urging everyone to stand with Alissa in her endeavor to make this store relevant in today's ever-changing world and preserve it so that it remains relevant in the future.

I read the Jurisdictional Opinion from Quinn Mann, District Coordinator for Act 250. HUGE!

Here's a quote from that Opinion:

"Conclusion. None of the work that has been completed by Kivi LLC's (c/o Alissa Tilly) at the Store or Meadow property has qualified as development (10V.S.A. @ 6001(3)(A)(i); therefore, none of the work has required an Act 250 permit."

When you get an approval letter from the Act 250 board, you take it! It's a win. You don't say, "Are You sure?".

We need our store! It's the heart of the Mt. Holly Community - The direction Alissa is taking it will increase property values and keep Mt. Holly moving forward into the future. Respectfully, Gail Beardmore
As Administrative Officer I would like to make a clarification. You state "When you get an approval letter from the Act 250 Board" - this was not an approval letter, it was a determination by the Act 250 Coordinator that, based on the work done to date, no application for an Act 250 Permit is required. Faith Tempest

This item will be on Town Meeting ballot for the Town's people to vote to adopt or not adopt.

VERMONT DECLARATION OF INCLUSION

REASONS TO ADOPT THE DECLARATION

America has always welcomed all people and embraced their cultures, languages, foods, customs, and religions. This is nothing new. The Statue of Liberty is our monument to this sacred tradition. Let's take this small but affirmative step to continue this most meaningful piece of our heritage. Adopting the Declaration of Inclusion would mark the town and its leaders as a caring community of people doing what is right and deeply rooted in Vermont values.

1. Vermont is in competition for businesses and residents. New businesses and new residents are vital. The Declaration of Inclusion positions our state to better compete, domestically and internationally.
2. Most Vermont towns are losing population, those who remain are aging. Young Vermonters get their education and often leave the state. New young families are not coming here. If this continues, we do not attract the new people that we need to grow.
3. The Governor and key statewide organizations have strongly endorsed this initiative. Among them are the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and Vermont Interfaith Action.
4. In guiding a town in addressing its various challenges and opportunities, it is increasingly important that its leaders be creative, positive and forward thinking. Attracting new businesses and new people are a vital part of leadership responsibility.
5. Vermont Futures, the research arm of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, in July 2023, reported on the positive, direct connection between growth and inclusion the report states that 10,000 Vermonters will be retiring each year for the next 10 years. A 2025 follow-up study by Vermont Futures confirmed the findings of the earlier one. In short, we need more people.
6. Lastly, there is power when entities, including Vermont towns, stand together. There is a reason why businesses government and non-profit organizations, promote their strengths. As a unique state, adopting the Declaration showcases that Vermont has a powerful opportunity to be seen as.... and reap the benefits of being.... a welcoming state.

To find out more about the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion go to <https://vtdeclarationofinclusion.org/faq/> you will see "Frequently Asked Questions", you will also see a list of towns that have adopted the Inclusion. We already practice much of this. I wasn't happy with the Implementation Ideas as I felt it a lot to ask of a small town to provide as we have a hard time finding volunteers. Diana Garrow, Mount Holly Selectboard

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ONLY 8 MORE MONTHS UNTIL THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MOUNT HOLLY CALENDAR!

(Okay so maybe there's no rush yet but you should be out there taking winter photos).



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

Mount Holly Ptg Presents

Winterfest

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND • 2:00–4:00 PM

STAR LAKE



Grab your mittens and your biggest winter smiles— Enjoy an afternoon packed with frosty fun:

- **Snowman Contest** – bring your best snow-person-ality!
- **Ice Skating & Boot Skating** – no skates? no problem! slide, glide & laugh your way across the ice
- **Hot Cocoa Station** – warm hands, happy hearts
- **Sugar on Snow** – the sweetest winter treat
- **Possible Sledding on Lake Street** – if the weather plays nice!

Bundle up, bring your friends, and come play in our winter wonderland at Star Lake!

We can't wait to celebrate chilly fun with you!

Need a warm-up? MHCA will be open for bathroom access and a cozy break.

MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS FEBRUARY 2026

Coming up at the Library

- **Movie February 28, 2026 7 PM**
“Downhill Racer” starring Robert Redford and Gene Hackman.
- **March 7, 2026 1:30 PM**, A discussion about the 2026 Vermont Reads book, “The Light Pirate”, facilitated by Rachael Cohen. The library has multiple copies of the book for you to read ahead of time.
- **March 21, 2026 10:30 AM**, Casey Junker Bailey hosts a kids arts and crafts program celebrating Mud Season: “Little Blue Trucks” Keep in mind that the library has kids and adult snowshoes available for checkout!

THE LIBRARY BOOK DROP IS CLOSED FOR THE WINTER. PLEASE RETURN MATERIAL INSIDE

Winter Hours

Monday 10-2 Tuesday 1-3 Wednesday 2-4 Saturday 9-1

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 www.mthollytownlibrary.org

Greetings from the Vermont Statehouse!

We are finishing up our third week in the second year of the biennium. As of this writing (January 22nd), no bills have passed either the House or Senate of any note.

The first bill of substance will be the BAA (Budget Adjustment Act). Right now, it is being drafted in the House and, once passed by that body, will be sent to the Senate probably the week of Jan 26th.

The BAA is a truing up of the fiscal 2026 budget and normally is not a bill with substantial policy or monetary amendments. From what I can gather, that is true this year as well. The Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee has stated it is a very "clean" budget adjustment this year. I look for it to be taken up and voted on by the Senate in early to mid-February.

The overriding issue for the legislature to consider this year remains educational system reform. Much of the needed reform will have a great impact on the overall budget for fiscal year 2027. Act 73, which passed in June during the veto session, remains in play but so far, there have been no maps presented which is critical before many of the other decisions can be made regarding governance, funding, classroom size, etc. The special Education Task Force which met in the summer and fall did not create any maps to consider. Governor Scott in his State of the State address, made it clear he will not sign any budget bill unless and until the education reform process has been taken up. In the budget address on Jan 20th, the Governor proposed using \$105 million of one time surplus to "buy down" the property taxes Vermonters face. Tax Commissioner Bill Shouldice had reported back in December that the average property tax bill would rise by nearly 12%. If the Governor's proposal is approved, it would lower that to about 6%.

Overall, the Governor's proposed budget would increase by about 3% from fiscal year 2026 and state spending would be \$9.4 billion. His proposal will now move to the House Appropriations Committee for review and consideration and eventually to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Of concern to me is the fact that Vermont depends on funding from the federal government for slightly more than 30% of our budget. There continues to be indications that more cuts in that funding are possible. With less federal funding comes a larger hole for Vermont government to fill if we are to continue to provide existing services. The second worrisome gave the administration pause and resulted in the Governor lowering expectations of continuing growth in state revenues. Both Vermont's state economists recently reported steady overall revenues but highlighted a slowdown in key areas like corporate and meals/rooms taxes, offset by strong personal income tax, signaling an end to large surpluses and a tougher budget year ahead with less room for tax cuts as federal funding wanes and national economic uncertainty persists.

They project slow growth, requiring lawmakers to focus on living within means despite the steady but flat outlook.

In other words, we are not in the same position we have been where we could depend on stable federal help and our own revenues continuing to grow.

There will be other bills worked on this session focused on continuing public safety, housing, energy regulation and health care costs. Committees in both the House and Senate are working on those issues now but it is still very early in the session.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or suggestions, you can email me at bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us Regards, Senator Brian Collamore, Rutland District

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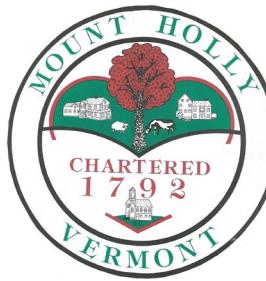
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From: Rutland: Left off VT RT 103 just 2.5 miles - on the right



From: Cuttingsville: Just 2.1 miles up Town Hill Rd, right on Lincoln Hill Red Barn on right



Mount Holly Town News

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

Special Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office 50 School St Mount Holly, VT 05758 **January 6, 2026 4:00 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Carol Garrow-Wolley, Clinton Woolley, Dennis Devereux, Mary Surething, Stephen Michel, Brigid Sullivan (via Zoom), Liz Karle (via Zoom), Gary Norton, Lori Norton, Phil Crane, Tiffany

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

Treasurer to present the proposed budget.

4. Liz Karle went through each budget item and clarified the rationale for keeping or adjusting each item. In the main these were minor adjustments reflecting (to the degree possible mid-way through the year) actual expenditures and expected changes.
5. A larger budget change (approx 12%) is the increase in the cost of general employee benefits including retirement, childcare and payroll taxes. Engaging the Sheriff for Animal Control and Traffic enforcement increases costs. There is also uncertainty regarding future costs for Ludlow Ambulance Services, and of costs associated with FEMA's Beaver Meadow Road culvert improvement. The Treasurer also noted that the impact of the early payment 4% tax discount on education taxes has been underestimated over recent years in the budget. It does generate interest income and quarterly collection, which some towns do, would increase administration costs.
6. The Treasurer raised a question regarding how the Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer function will be budgeted. Select Board members agreed to discuss this at a later date.
7. The budget workshop concluded with an agreement to continue on 13th January at 5pm to discuss the outstanding item of Highway Operating Expenses.
8. Mark Turco adjourned the meeting at 5.52pm.

Animal Control

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**.

3. **Town Budget Workshop (continued):** Liz Karle outlined the budget elements relating to Highway Operating Expenses, costs for which have risen over the last year. Jeff Chase noted that pay rates need to be competitive if the open Highway maintenance position is to be recruited. Mark Turco proposed a 6% increase. Liz Karle noted that equipment repair and maintenance has been under budgeted in the past. Submissions from the Volunteer Fire Department and the Conservation Commission asked for amendments to these sections of the budget which had been discussed in the last budget workshop. Costs for the Treasurer function, which were previously split between Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were placed under a single budget item. Liz Karle noted that \$35,000 from the specified fund balance and \$85,000 from the general fund balance could be applied to reduce the tax burden, rather than being kept as a surplus, which would still leave three months of operating costs at the end of the fiscal year to allow the Town to operate until the next tax payments come in. Jeff Chase asked whether there was a risk that the Town ran down its surpluses and needed to borrow funds, but Ms Karle said this was a very low risk if the amount shifted was \$100,000. She also stated that without applying these funds to the budget, the increase would be almost 20% year on year; with it, the budget increase would be 11.46%. Mark Turco supported the proposal to buy down taxes.
4. Meeting adjourned 6.02 pm.

Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office January 13, 2026 6:00 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase (via Zoom), Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Dennis Devereux, Elizabeth Karle, Mary Surething, Stephen Michel, Carol Garrow-Wolley,

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.

Austin, Faith Tempest (via Zoom)

1. Mark Turco called the meeting to order at 4pm.
2. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** none
3. Mark Turco introduced the Budget Workshop and asked the Town

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Home: 802-259-2211

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SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS

Special Select

Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office 50 School St Mount Holly, VT 05758 **January 13, 2026 5:00 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase (via Zoom), Diana Garrow, Liz Karle, Clinton Woolley, Carol Garrow-Wolley, Phil Crane, Stephen Michel, Mary Surething, June Capron, Dennis Devereux, Faith Tempest.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** none.

3. **Town Budget Workshop (continued):** Liz Karle outlined the budget elements relating to Highway Operating Expenses, costs for which have risen over the last year. Jeff Chase noted that pay rates need to be competitive if the open Highway maintenance position is to be recruited. Mark Turco proposed a 6% increase. Liz Karle noted that equipment repair and maintenance has been under budgeted in the past. Submissions from the Volunteer Fire Department and the Conservation Commission asked for amendments to these sections of the budget which had been discussed in the last budget workshop. Costs for the Treasurer function, which were previously split between Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were placed under a single budget item. Liz Karle noted that \$35,000 from the specified fund balance and \$85,000 from the general fund balance could be applied to reduce the tax burden, rather than being kept as a surplus, which would still leave three months of operating costs at the end of the fiscal year to allow the Town to operate until the next tax payments come in. Jeff Chase asked whether there was a risk that the Town ran down its surpluses and needed to borrow funds, but Ms Karle said this was a very low risk if the amount shifted was \$100,000. She also stated that without applying these funds to the budget, the increase would be almost 20% year on year; with it, the budget increase would be 11.46%. Mark Turco supported the proposal to buy down taxes.
4. Meeting adjourned 6.02 pm.

Mount Holly Transfer Station

SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm

SUNDAY, 9 am to 12 Noon

REMINDER: STICKERS REQUIRED, NO CASH

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.

June Capron, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Zena Gates, Jon McCann, Ron Unterman, Dottie Finnerty, Carol Devine, Andrea Auld, Francis Devine, Kathleen Leber, Kristen Mailhiot, Lauren Excott, Abe Leber, Nancy McKeegan, Dan Quaranto, Billy Austin, Philippe Crane, via Zoom: Barbara and Steve Hazleton, Sabrina Brown, Michael Sherman, Charlie and Savannah Baker, Maggie O'Brien, Don Patch, Michael Chronert, Ashley Rose, Harrington

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 6.09pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: Noting that lengthy documents had been submitted at short notice regarding item 7b, Mark Turco tabled this item for discussion at a Special Meeting to be held on 22nd January.

4. Approval of December 9 2025, Jan 6 2026 Minutes: Diana Garrow moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

5. Reports

a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley: Salt deliveries continue, but given the high costs the crew is trying to use it sparingly to ensure there is enough. There are no issues with the Transfer station. Mr Woolley sought a quote for removing dead trees at Carlton cemetery, Star Lake, the Museum, and one residence, which came in at \$9,000 for two days' work.

b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle

i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: there has been more progress in delinquent tax collections, the cash balance is holding steady. Winter expenses for highway labor, winter salt and sand are high. The budget is on track in most areas of spending. Grant funds for paving from the State are still to be reimbursed.

ii. Finalize and Approve FY27 Budget: The special meeting finalized the budget with a total amount to be raised by property tax of \$1,400,640, an increase of 11.46% over the current year. This will go to vote at the Town meeting. Although this includes a higher utilization of the previous year's surplus to reduce the taxes, there have still been significant increases in costs of materials, labor. Without the buy down, the increase would have been almost 20%. Mark Turco noted that costs have increased due to inflation and tariffs, but also that Town office staff have not taken an increase in pay this year. Mark Turco moved to approve the FY 27 budget, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething: The Town wide reappraisal will start at the end of this year, to be completed early in 2028. The Listers' office now has a vacancy; interested candidates can petition for this.

d. Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane: The Commission held a useful meeting with Senator Williams regarding harvesting of weeds at Star Lake and will continue that dialogue. Mr Crane reiterated the possibility of injecting ash trees against emerald ash borer and discouraged pre-emptive cutting. The Commission is available to help people who may wish to do this.

6. New Business a. Mount Holly PTG Winter Fest: Andrea Auld asked for feedback on a proposal to host a community event at Star Lake as a fund raiser, including skating on the lake and creating a sledding hill on Lake Street, which could be created if the road crew could help with snow management. The event would be during the day on either 20th or 22nd February. Diana Garrow asked about safety and the need for a barrier to Belmont Road. Ms Auld responded that the PTG is aware of the need for a barrier but has not yet worked out what might be best. A number of people suggested hay bales. Jeff Chase warned of the difficulty of creating a sledding hill. Mark Turco noted that the Board has no objection and asked PTG to come back to the next meeting with more specific details.

b. Appointment of Trustee of Public Funds: Dennis Devereux noted that David Johnson was Trustee of Public Funds, and prepared an annual report. Liz Karle has confirmed she can provide the relevant information to Mr Devereux for this year's report. Mr Devereux confirmed that there is now a candidate for the position which will be voted on in March.

c. Southeast Region Emergency Preparedness Discussion - Maggie O'Brien RRPC: RRPC is hosting an upcoming exercise between the REMC and Rutland Regional Disaster Cooperative, which focuses on coordination and collaboration between Towns during an emergency. Ms O'Brien asked for Town participation in a meeting on Feb 4th, with other nearby towns. Jeff Chase, Billy Austin, Mark Turco and Clinton Woolley (depending on the weather) confirmed they would attend.

d. Sherman/Moes request for fireworks display: Michael Sherman presented his request for a fireworks display at his daughter's wedding,

Mount Holly Town Office

Will be **CLOSED** the following date:

Monday, February 16th, 2026
for President's Day

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

The Mount Holly Select Board reminds residents that plowing snow into the public roadway is prohibited, per Vermont State Statute 23 V.S.A. § 1126a, as follows:

Title 23 : Motor Vehicles

Chapter 013 : Operation of Vehicles

Subchapter 011 : Miscellaneous Rules

§ 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across certain highways prohibited. (a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the Agency of Transportation (in the case of State highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder, or sidewalk of a State highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

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

with the display set up on the family's property adjacent to the Lake. A professional fireworks company will stage the 15 minute display starting at 10 pm, and proof of insurance was provided. Fire Chief Billy Austin said he was happy, with the only concern being the dry weather/drought which may mean cancellation. Mr Sherman confirmed he understands that if weather is an issue it may need to be cancelled. Sabrina Brown, coordinator of the event confirmed that the company will be in touch the month before and the week before and asked to send a permit to the Select Board. Jeff Chase asked that, as a courtesy, the display could be completed by 10 pm rather than starting at 10 pm. SB members confirmed they are content with the proposal. e.

Warning for Declaration of Inclusion: Faith Tempest

confirmed that VLCT guidance gave flexibility on how the Declaration should be warned since it is a non-binding resolution. Mark Turco proposed including the full declaration in the warning, and also circulating this beforehand in the newsflash and Chit Chat. Diana - reason for objecting was that the entity suggests various onerous actions to support the declaration, and it is not easy to do this. Stephen Michel responded that all of the recommendations are voluntary and not binding. Suggested signing off and posting on the website.

f. 2026 Mileage Certification Updates: Mark Turco moved to approve the certificate of mileage of 73.578 miles, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

7. Old Business

a. Municipal Planning Grant Housing Study - next steps: public comment period, meeting on 27th Jan in Town Office. Jeff asked people to comment if they have thoughts

b. Letter from Chair of Planning Commission to Select Board: tabled until the Special Meeting, 22nd January.

8. Citizen Comments:

Elaine Martel: Ms Martel wrote regarding illegal firework displays on Alpine Drive. Billy Austin noted the Fire Department has no jurisdiction and Mark Turco confirmed that the Sheriff would be the entity to contact. There is no noise ordinance and so residents are encouraged to call local law enforcement. Kathy Leber asked if this is a rental property, and if so to ensure landlords are aware that this is illegal. Mark Turco asked for information to be put in the Chit Chat and Newsflash and confirmed that the Select Board will be in touch with Ms Martel to identify the property.

Town Cemetery Commissioner

The Town of Mount Holly is looking for someone to run for the position of cemetery commissioner. We have three commissioners and one is elected every year to a three-year term. It does not require you to actually mow and trim. We try to find volunteers to perform those tasks. The deadline to file to run is next Tuesday.

If you would like to know more, please contact Dennis at 802-259-2460 or ddevereux@vermontel.net . . .



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Shrewsbury VT. 05738

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Ground Beef	Ham Steaks
Ribeyes	Chicken Breasts
Briskets	Local Eggs
Sauages	(as avail)

Fall in love with shopping local at our small farm store!

Dennis Devereux asked about the intersection at Belmont General Store and whether there is a plan to install a 4 way stop. Mark Turco responded that this is still being discussed but cannot be addressed during the winter.

9. Town Meeting Warning: Select Board members agreed to do this on 22nd January, preceded by a special meeting on item 7b. Mark Turco requested that Jon McCann and Ron Unterman attend.

10. Announcements

a. Dog License Registration Deadline is April 1.

b. Town Office Closed on January 19 for MLK Jr. Day.

11. Review & Sign Orders

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

13. Meeting adjourned

Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Commission members present: Jon McCann, Jim Seward, Andy Schulz (via zoom), Andrew Seward, Stephen Michel

Also present: Faith Tempest, Jason Burt, Ron Unterman, (via Zoom) Michael Gilbert, Maria Gilbert, Kate Nadler, Alison Nadler.

1. Call to order: Chair called the meeting to order at 6pm.

2. Changes to agenda: Chair asked to add an announcement after item 3.

3. Approval of minutes: Andrew Seward moved to approve November 18th public hearing and regular minutes, seconded by Stephen Michel approved unanimously.

4. Chair announced the death of David Johnson, Town Treasurer, former Planning Commissioner, lister. His encyclopedic knowledge of the Town and his support for the Town will be missed.

5. Reports & Announcements

a. Administrative Officer: AO will follow up with Tyler Siegordner regarding a BCR for construction on Sawyer Hill Road.

b. Planning Commission Chair: The Commission has received an environmental notice of a stream alteration and river corridor construction on the Bowlsville Road – this is related to the work to move the bridge from Rte 103 to Bowlsville Road. The Chair noted discussion regarding the Planning Commission at the last Select Board meeting and recited the contents of a letter sent by the Chair to the Select Board in response to comments made by Ron Unterman.

6. Correspondence

a. **Subdivision proposals**

i. **Gilbert sketch plan review:** AO introduced the application for a minor subdivision at 180 Straight Road; she thanked Mr Burt for including the wetlands on the plan, and for submitting the Permit Navigator results with the application. Chair invited Mr Burt to add any other relevant details. Mr Burt stated that there is a ww permit in place for Lot 1, design works are underway for a waste water system for the proposed Lot 2 but the permit has not yet been issued. Each parcel will have a residence constructed on it. Chair noted that without the second ww permit, procedurally this may be complicated given the Town's subdivision regulations, requiring a second application to the Planning Commission once construction is to begin, so procedurally it would be simpler to wait for the ww permit to be issued. Mr Burt responded that the landowners want to be sure the subdivision will progress before they move ahead with further expenditure. Chair acknowledged the limitations in the Town's regulations, but also noted that if all of the checklist criteria are met, then the Commission can potentially make a finding on the application moving forward. The checklist was reviewed, with all criteria met except for the requirement for a wastewater permit. Chair asked if the parcel was part of an earlier subdivision; Mr Burt confirmed that there was a previous subdivision but it was not recorded. Mr Burt has the survey, provided by the property owners. Chair asked Mr Burt to submit this earlier survey to the Commission. Commissioner Schulz asked about the wetlands and the 50 buffer, but there is a proposed underground service through the wetlands and asked if this may be a problem and if so, is there an alternative location? Mr Bu that this could be done by boring to avoid disturbing the wetlands. Commissioner Schulz also noted his appreciation of the concerns of the owners about investments before the sub-division is approved, but also noted that the public hearing may raise issues which the Commission has not considered. Chair responded that the Commission can only provide advice at the moment but confirmed that the proposed subdivision does not suggest any problems, and suggested the owners go ahead with the ww application, streamlining the process to one hearing. Once the ww permit is available the application can be considered complete and the Commission can move to setting the hearing date. Mr Burt and the landowners agreed with this process.

b. **Email / Other:** none.

7. **New Business**

a. **Act 250 Tier 3 mapping:** Chair noted two changes to Act 250, the road rule which has already been agreed and tier three mapping of important and significant natural resources for which there is a draft map. The proposed maps are based on certain geographic features, but there is an opportunity for comments. The method has generated maps which show natural resources, but have not identified key resources (eg headwaters, habitat connectors) which are noted in the Mount Holly Town Plan. The deadline for comments is not clear. Chair suggests further discussion, but also could ask for clarification of why some things are not on the maps, and asking for the Town Plan maps to be considered. Chair proposed coming back to this after the holidays.

b. **Comment period on updated Wetland Rules:** This is the Governor's executive order relaxing wetland rules to facilitate more residential housing, and DEC is revising the rules. Most of the relaxation occurs in village centers or built-up areas and reduces buffers around wetlands. Chair suggested there is little to comment for Mount Holly given there are no wetlands in village areas, and very little development pressure on wetlands. Commissioners agreed that this is no need for comments.

c. **Comment period for Okemo LRMP public scoping:** Chair attended a public scoping, but there is no draft plan yet and this will take several years to develop. There was limited opportunity for public comment, though there will probably be an opportunity for further discussion once there are specific plans to consider.

8. **Unfinished business**

a. **Subdivision Regulations revision process:** Chair has been in touch with Cavendish, spoke to the PC chair, and participated in the public hearing for subdivision regulations. Cavendish have sent their RRPC version and their final version. This is the first time the Cavendish PC have prepared subdivision regulations, so the Mount Holly PC may have a different view, but we can use these documents to help move the process forward. Commissioner Andrew Seward asked if there is any update on potential RRPC support, but Chair noted this is still not forthcoming.

b. **Commissioner Michel raised follow up on the Belmont General Store JO,** but had forgotten his notes. He gave a synopsis from memory, including the information provided vs information not provided. There is also confusion in the opinion and documentation over Commissioner Schulz' email to the coordinator and on whose behalf it was sent. Communication about the historical designation of the building are unclear, though the Coordinator asked the store owners to speak to the Vermont Historic Preservation Society but it is not clear if they did. Questions around the familial relationship between different LLCs to create more than one acre were not considered by the Coordinator, who only looked at legal entities. There was no consideration of the contracts between the various LLCs involved in the running of the store. Commissioner Jim Seward noted that the number of

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Planning any new construction, alterations or renovations?

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

Black River Grief Support Group

A safe space for individuals to share their experiences, find comfort and learn coping strategies after a loss.

Meeting Monthly:

The second Monday of each month

Where:

Fletcher Memorial Library
88 Main Street, Ludlow

When:

1 PM - 2 PM

For Information call: 802-228-3663

Offered by:

Black River Good Neighbor Services

Schulz's email to the Act 250 Coordinator. Commissioner Schulz reiterated that his email was a legitimate action in the JO process, that there was no violation of any laws or rules, that he acted to provide information since the Tilly's were not forthcoming in their interactions with the Act 250 Coordinator, and that it is appropriate for both private citizens and Planning Commissioners to provide information to the State. Commissioner Schulz asked that a line be drawn under the discussion. Chair noted that the question of information being sought by the Act 250 Coordinator from the PC were a result of the Store owners' unwillingness to provide information despite several requests. Mr Unterman reiterated that the Planning Commission has become adversarial and

does not support business, and the specific contents of Commissioner Schulz's email to the coordinator. Commissioner Andrew Seward noted that everyone should follow the same rules and standards, as others who have had Act 250 applications have done, and that there is nothing wrong in asking for the JO and providing information which relates to it. Mr Unterman stated that his only interest is in keeping the Store open.

10. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Michel adjourned the meeting at 8.07pm.

These minutes are in draft form until approved by the Planning Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

A video of this meeting is available at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-1218-11>

i. rt noted

Kevin, pictured left cleared the snow to make a skating rink on Star Lake New Year's Eve.





Mount Holly Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING

The town received a municipal planning grant from Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development last year to perform a Housing Needs Assessment and compile a action plan. A Housing Needs Assessment is a process to understand the current housing issues - which types of housing are most needed and who in the community needs them most - and proposes solutions for the Town and local stakeholders to alleviate these issues. We have been working with a planning consultant, SE Group, to perform the assessment and draft a plan. A action plan has been drafted and is available for review. A link to the housing assessment and draft action plan can be found on the town website:

<https://www.mounthollyvt.org/announcements/>

or <https://tinyurl.com/3ytwy3d7>

Printed draft action plans will also be available at the town office.



SCAN ME

In January we will be holding a public meeting to discuss and provide a overview of the draft action plan and collect public comments. Comments can also be emailed to planningcomm@mounthollyvt.org or sent in writing to town office. Comments due by 2/1/2026. The plan will be finalized in February.

Housing Needs Assessment & Action Plan

PUBLIC MEETING DATE:

January 27, 2026 @ 6 PM in the Town Office and online at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89818026866?pwd=xwibjwtsQRZ5LraGbAcMCOMFesA1fP.1> If prompted use the passcode 604824

SEEKING ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Town Treasurer, Liz Karle, is seeking an Assistant Treasurer to perform daily duties in the town office. This is largely an in person position. The role is expected to be 10-15 hours per week for most of the year. During the month of August, the requirements are expected to be 20 hours per week to assist with tax collection.

For those interested in being appointed to this position, please email Liz at treasurermthollyvt@gmail.com or call her directly at (413) 652-5440. Do NOT call the town office for enquiries in response to this notice.

The rate of pay is to be determined, between \$25-\$30/hour, dependent on relevant experience. Ability to assist in the near future is ideal.

Duties of Asst. Treasurer:

- Accounts Payable
- Deposits/Cash Receipts
- Answer emails and respond to requests for tax bills and tax payment status
- Payroll Processing
- Assist with audits
- Assist with grants as needed
- Filing
- Other duties as requested



Elizabeth Karle, Treasurer, Town of Mount Holly, P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758

February 2026 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

Town of Mount Holly Seeks Highway Maintenance Worker

Looking for a full time Highway Maintenance Worker with a positive attitude and strong work ethic. Will work under the guidance of Highway Foreman.

Responsibilities includes plowing and sanding roads, repairing roads and drainage systems, roadside mowing, brush and tree removal, sign install and flagging. Expected to perform daily safety inspections, maintenance and repairs on equipment.

Qualifications, must have high school diploma or GED. Looking for a minimum of 2 years of relevant experience. Must have a valid CDL A or B driver's license and clean driving record.

Physical and Mental Demands include frequently lifting of 50-100 lbs. Must be able to drive equipment for prolonged periods of time that include darkness and challenging weather conditions. Must adhere to all federal drug and alcohol testing requirements.

Work Environment involves overtime during winter months and emergencies. Work schedule will vary with weather and will include nights and weekends. Normal work hour 6:30 am to 3:00 pm M-F. Pay range depending on experience \$24-\$27/hr.

The Town of Mount Holly is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include paid time off, health and dental ins., uniforms, and VMERS pension eligibility.

Contact Town of Mount Holly Selectboard at 802-259-2391 or mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com Full job description and application available at Town Office 50 School St., Mount Holly, VT 05758 or www.mounthollyvt.org/announcements-bulletin-board/

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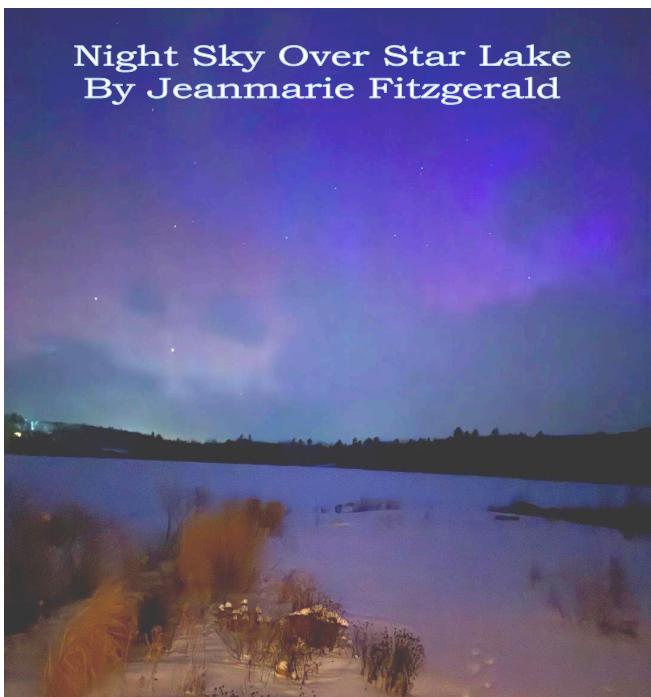
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Night Sky Over Star Lake By Jeanmarie Fitzgerald



Notes From the Mount Holly Conservation Commission

A small group of Conservation Commission members and others met informally with one of our Mount Holly legislators, Senator Terry Williams, from Poultney, who is an outdoorsman, conservationist and the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. He is interested in working with lake associations and others facing regulatory issues connected with lake improvements. Our discussion was helpful, and we will seek his help and follow his suggestions with respect to our own efforts to improve Star Lake.

And on that front, we are continuing to work on the plans to renovate the Star Lake park area to include an ADA approved entrance, play areas for children and adults, as well as landscaping for shade and as a buffer against future flooding.

As part of an energy conservation grant, the Conservation Commission has acquired an infrared camera which is able to detect temperature difference due to leaky insulation and other heat leaks in homes. For example the wall joists in exterior wall are easily identified. The Commission intends to make this camera available to Mount Holly residents for loan from the town library and is currently preparing a simplified "how to" note to explain its use and interpret images acquired with the camera.

Looking forward, the Ash Borer Mitigation Program will restart as soon as ash trees begin to leaf out in the spring. Since ash borers have been found in the Buttermilk Falls area, Mount Holly will soon have these insects attacking our ash trees. The Conservation Commission program does not perform the injection for land owners, but provides the tools, chemicals, and guidance for land owners to do this themselves. Land owners will need to pay for the chemicals they use which has been about \$4 per injection and roughly 8-12 injections depending on the size of the trees. Interested Mount Holly land owners should contact the Conservation Commission at mounthollycc@gmail.com

We dont boast of crowded cities,
Where the millions come,
and go;
But we have our share of beauty,
I was raised here, and I know
When God made these old Green Mountains,
And these valleys, fresh and fair,
He just put his seal upon them,
You will find it, everywhere.
And when you are right down tired
And its rest, and change,
you want,
Pack your grip, and some fine morning
Take a trip, to old Vermont



Up where the north winds blow just a little keener,
Up where the grasses grow just a little greener,
Up where the mountain peaks rise a little higher,
Up where the human kind draws a little nigher,
That's where Vermont comes in.

Up where the snows of winter last a little longer.
Up where the heart beats just a little stronger,
Up where the handclasp is just a little warmer,
That's where Vermont comes in.

Up where the lonesome pine its nightly requiem sighs,
Up where the unpolluted waters take their rise,
Up where the sons of toil have fought for freedom's sod,
Up where all nature's mood is a little nearer God,
That's where Vermont comes in.

Where our manhood fights for honor
And where woman shrinks at sin,
Where health is man's best riches,
That's where Vermont comes in.



Charles H Darling



BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES
Serving Belmont, Cavendish, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth and Proctorsville



Dear Neighbors,

As 2025 comes to a close, we share our mission's core focus...*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*. Fighting hunger and poverty since 1964, Black River Good Neighbor Services continues on a daily basis to be an active community resource. For many, we are the initial point of contact when hardship strikes and folks are struggling to get back to their normal. We are here, this is what we do!

Serving the community in many ways, our priority and an overwhelming need includes food insecurity. Twice monthly we provide close to 100 bags of food to community residents, and serve free community meals, feeding over 200 folks. While the meals are nourishing and especially helpful for those who can't quite make ends meet, we have learned that many also come to connect with friends and neighbors.

Recently an elderly lady came by to thank us for offering the meals, but also wanted to apologize. When asked why, she explained "the meals are always wonderful, but we don't get out much or see people, so the meals are the only opportunity we have to enjoy the company of others." Providing nourishing food together with friendship really does go a long way! For sure, a genuine dividend of fighting hunger here in our community.

In keeping with those needs, our food shelf is a critical resource, and while recent significant increases have occurred, we consistently work hard to ensure that every family and individual receives a well-balanced, healthy amount of food. All of this occurs with grateful support from our community, thrift and furniture store sales.

Important to share is our volunteer force, who provide-critical assistance including Community Meals, Memory Cafe, Rummage Sales, Meals on Wheels deliveries, furniture & trash pickup, Board of Directors, Music Group and Sr. Planet. So many community services!

Trusting in and valuing our work enables Black River Good Neighbor Services to effectively serve those needing help, and for that we are truly grateful. Please consider a contribution to support this critical community resource. With appreciation, Krey Kellington, Executive Director 37B MAIN STREET• LUDLOW, VT 05149 • PHONE (802) 228-3663 • brgongoodneighbors@gmail.com • WWW.BRGN.ORG

Derk Bearmore Jr



BeardmorePainting802@gmail.com

Update on Green Mountain Neighbors:

Now that we have all turned the page on 2025, GMN would like to update you on what we have accomplished this past year. We provided over 175 services to our members in Wallingford, Shrewsbury, and Mount Holly, including transporting them to appointments, attending educational events, and hosting monthly luncheons and wine-and-cheese events.

We now have over 60 members and 50 volunteers! As our membership grows each year, so does our need for more volunteers! If you would be interested in becoming a member or exploring the idea of volunteering for GMN, please check out our website: greenmountainneighbors.org You can also call 802-417-2292 and listen to the prompts. We are an A501-C3 organization, run entirely by volunteers. We would love to have you participate in our efforts to help our seniors stay in the homes and towns they love, as long as they are able.

GMN Leadership Update:

One of our original Neighbors, Sally Deinzer, though still healthy, has made the decision to leave her long-time home in Shrewsbury for the relative ease of living at The Gables in Rutland: no shoveling, weeding, or worries about navigating her driveway or whether that washing machine will last through the year—etc. etc. It is very hard for her to leave her community of friends, the trails in her own woodland and other places in town that she has enjoyed daily for 25 years, the gardens she watched bloom in reward for her labors the prior year – until 2025 when her legs and knees wouldn't let her move about as she needed.

Sally expects to put her house on the market by March and hopes to be able to move before this year's spring ephemerals and bulbs bloom, when it will be much harder to leave. She knows she leaves Green Mountain Neighbors in good hands. The Gables is less than a half hour away, and she plans to come to check out those Shrewsbury roads and trails, maybe even go to GMN luncheons as a guest.

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Vermont Home Gardener ~ February Gardening

February is too early to start most seeds indoors but not too early to get organized and ready for planting in March-April. Our growing season is too short for many plants (tomatoes, peppers, and many flowers) to sow their seeds outdoors in the spring but we can get a jump start by starting them indoors and effectively extend the season. If we provide the right conditions of soil, light, and temperature our favorite plants will be ready to transplant in spring. Buying our own seeds also lets us select the best varieties for local conditions (not what commercial sellers provide!) and to save some money. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing your own garden plants grow from seed to harvest so let's get started.

What to Grow? Easy, grow what you like! You can always buy young plants later but if you really like certain varieties it's best to start your own, at least for a few. I think it's worthwhile to start tomatoes, peppers, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, and some flowers because we have found certain varieties do better here and they're easy to grow. For example, we really like Amish Paste, Sun Gold, and Juliet tomatoes. King of the North and New Ace sweet peppers produce well here and ripen in our short season.

We are limited by our short growing season of about 125 days between frosts (May 21 to Sept. 24) but we can extend the season by 6-8 weeks by starting seeds indoors. If we start too early the plants may get too tall or lanky for easy transplanting. Late March or early April works well for most plants. Onions, petunias, and other slow growers need an early March start.

Seed Starting Basics. Seedlings need soil, moisture, warmth, and light. The best medium for seedlings is a good quality "starter mix" which is very light, porous, and drains well (not "potting" soil!). The best mixes are soilless with coir (coconut fiber), peat, vermiculite, compost, and other light materials that contain beneficial microbes and drain well to prevent growth of disease fungi. Seeds contain their own initial supply of nutrients so will not need fertilizing for the first couple weeks. The containers you use can be plastic (little pots, 6-packs, etc.), peat or cow pots, soil blocks, or homemade. Remember to provide ample root space for growing seedlings (not egg cartons) and bottom trays for regular watering. If you start with very small containers or open trays you need less space but your seedlings will have to be "up planted" when they've outgrown their containers.

Warmth is essential for good plant growth. I provide warmth with electric germination mats (available at local garden stores and online) because our house is too cool and germination will be better with a steady temperature of 75-80 F. Mats may seem expensive (\$25-30) but last many years and assure good seedling growth. A worthwhile investment for every gardener.

Getting Started. Before filling your containers, moisten and mix the starter medium thoroughly so you don't have to water for a week or more. It's best to let it sit & soak for a few hours before using. Fill each cell or container by gently packing the soil in with your fingertips and fill up level to the very top, leaving no depression or cavity on the surface. Soil will gradually settle down and any depression helps fungi grow on the surface resulting in "damp off" disease. If you keep your starting mix in a 5-gallon bucket you can fill each container *inside* the bucket, avoiding a mess of spilled soil.

Use a small, pointed stick or pencil to make seed holes, following the package instructions for depth. Sow seeds, usually one, in the middle and gently tamp covering soil. Once seeds are sown, label every container or pack. When things get moved, up-planted, re-planted, etc. those labels will be critical. Ideally, watering should be done from below with room temperature water, never pouring water onto tiny seedlings but pour into the bottom tray for absorption, bottom up. Leave enough time between waterings to allow the surface soil to be just dry. Over-watering is the most common cause of seedling loss from damp off and root rot. (same for house plant) Remember that the warming mats will help the soil dry out quicker. Covering your plantings with a clear "dome" with help keep them warm and moist. Remove the dome when you have half the seeds germinated.



Light. Plants need light to grow. Winter daylength is too short and most south facing windows but do not provide sufficient light intensity or hours of light in March or April. Artificial lighting with a fluorescent or LED grow light over a plant table works well and you can use it for seed starting or indoor plants for many years. Commercial light stands are expensive but you can use [online plans](#) to build one from cheap PVC pipe. Make it taller so you can raise the lights as your plants grow but keep your light source very close to your seedlings, no more than 1-2 inches above the top leaves. My stand (see photo) accommodates up to 4 trays with germination warming mats under them. Be sure the lights are on for *at least* 14 hours every day as soon as the seedlings germinate. A simple plug-in timer works well for this.

Food & Exercise. Your seedlings will only need to be fed after they have grown their first "true leaves" that appear above the initial seed leaves (cotyledons) that emerged from the seed. Liquid fertilizer such as fish emulsion/hydrolysate is best but any soluble plant food diluted to half strength will do. Apply every 2 weeks until transplanting outside. **Exercise** your seedlings with a fan or your gently sweeping hands after they are 3-4 inches tall. Wind naturally exercises (flexes) plants to stimulate strong stems and a fan on low for 15-30 minutes twice a day will do the trick. This exercising reduces thin, weak stems of indoors seedlings.

These are just the basics of seed starting. Watching for fungal diseases (too wet), bugs, and nutritional deficiency (light colored leaves) will keep you busy caring for your plants and learning from them. Expect some problems, failures even, but enjoy the successes of your own plants.

If you have
different ideas,
please let me
know!

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www.champlaintimbercraft.com

Belmont Septic Design



Soil Test Pits /
Design-Permitting

802.733.2561

kevin@belmontseptic.com

Kevin Hollebeek

www.mounthollyvt.org chitchat@vermontel.net



MAY 1st Deadline by State Law 32 V.S.A. §3802(11)

- Mail form to: Office of Veterans Affairs, 118 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-4401 or
- Email to: mil.ovainfo@vermont.gov or
- Fax to: 802-828-5932

Phone: 802-828-3379, Toll-free in VT: 888-666-9844; website: www.veterans.vermont.gov

2026 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS

The home must be owned and occupied as the established residence of the veteran/survivor.

The State of Vermont offers a property tax reduction on the appraisal value of the **primary residence** of eligible veterans and their survivors. The amount of the reduction varies from \$10,000 - \$40,000.

Please contact your city or town clerk for property tax related information or questions.

- **Non-Qualified Property:** Includes land only, second homes, vacation or summer cottages, and any part used for business or rental.

PLEASE READ COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF FORM.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:	Applicant is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran	<input type="checkbox"/> Survivor
-------	---------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Mailing Address:

Town:	State:	Zip:
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Phone Number:	To receive your eligibility confirmation via EMAIL , provide email address:	
---------------	--	--

Physical address (if different from mailing):

School Parcel Account Number (SPAN) for Property:

SPAN is an 11-digit number listed on your property tax bill. Contact your town clerk if you do not have a bill.

*****PLEASE READ & SIGN BELOW*****

I understand that it is my responsibility to provide current documentation to verify eligibility for this benefit. Without it, my application will be returned to me. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs if my eligibility status changes or if the property above is no longer my primary residence.

Signature:	Date:
------------	-------

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for the exemption, **Veterans** must meet one of the three criteria listed below:

- Receive Disability Compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive Improved Pension (also called Non-Service Connected Disability Pension) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.

To be eligible for the exemption, **Survivors** must be the unremarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.

State of Vermont, Office of Veterans Affairs

January 2026

**ONLY 8 MORE
MONTHS
UNTIL THE
DEADLINE
FOR THE
NEXT MOUNT
HOLLY
CALENDAR!**



**(Okay so maybe there's
no rush yet but you
should be out
there taking
winter photos).**

Reminder File HS-122 Homestead Declaration

Homeowners are required to file with the State of Vermont Department of Taxes form HS-122 to declare their property as a homestead each year. The form can be found on the Department's web site <https://tax.vermont.gov/document/2021-form-hs-122>. The due date is April 15, 2025.

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

Veterans Property Tax Exemption and Property Tax Credit Claim Options

Like other homeowners, veterans may qualify for a property tax credit. This Property Tax Credit Claim is made in conjunction with the Homestead Declaration. The state education property tax may then be adjusted based on a percentage of household income. You will need the following forms to file a Property Tax Credit Claim: Form HS-122, Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim Schedule HI-144, Household Income.

Note: When completing the Property Tax Credit Claim, be sure to enter the housesite value and property taxes as shown in the housesite section of your property tax bill. For more information, see our fact sheets on the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit at tax. www.vermont.gov/fact-sheets Contact Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs Call Toll Free 1-888-666-9844 or 802-828-3379 Website: www.veterans.vermont.gov

Maple Grove Cemetery East Wallingford, Vermont

A Lovely Historic Cemetery
Landscaped With The Charm Of Old Majestic
Maple Trees



Established More
Than 200 Years Ago



Residents and Neighbors are Welcome
To Come and Wander The Grounds

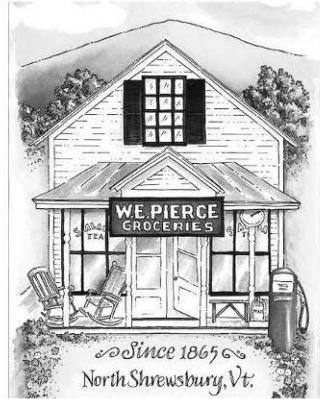
Many Lots Available

1 Person \$600 - 2 Person \$1,200

Ask about Cremation Lots

For More Information Call 802-259-2810

VISIT HISTORIC
PIERCE'S STORE
SHREWSBURY, VERMONT
EST. 1865



LOCAL CRAFTS VT PRODUCTS
PRODUCE SNACKS DAIRY

DIRECTIONS:

From Mount Holly follow Rt. 103 west to Cuttingsville.

Take a right on Town Hill Rd. and follow for 2 miles.

Go right on Lincoln Hill Rd. (changes to Northam Rd.)

Follow 3 miles to the store.

2658 Northam Rd., Shrewsbury, Vt.
(802)492-3366

Dear Editor,

What Made the Bells Ring?

How would you define sacrifice? Missionary friends of ours passed along this beautiful story to illustrate.

Bill and LeVeta Sparks returned from furlough to western Guatemala with their four kids to start inviting folks to know Jesus in a rural area called San Pablo. But, soon after they arrived they began to realize that the welcome mat was not out. Word on the street was that the gringos had arrived. Some villagers refused to rent to them, others wouldn't sell them food. Controversy eroded confidence and stalled the new family's plans. Days turned into weeks then months as the Sparks prayed fervently for a breakthrough. Then one morning in the first week of December, the unimaginable happened. While playing by a river nearby their home their daughter, Mary Lee, tragically drowned.

News of the death of the Sparks girl swept through the valley like wildfire. Within hours 29 children, playmates of Mary Lee, crowded into the Sparks living room and sat in silence. Bill and LaVeta decided to bury their dear Mary Lee in the San Pablo cemetery. That's when it happened. This seemingly small decision pierced the heart of the village. Suddenly the sacrifice the Sparks had made to live in San Pablo was recognized. The next morning as the funeral procession made its way to the cemetery, bells in the steeple rang. God's Spirit used Mary Lee's death to open ears to hear the Good News. Today worshipers in the little church left by the Sparks number over 300 believers on any Sunday.

Sacrifice is a compelling force. It might be defined as "the surrender of something prized for the sake of something considered as having a higher or more pressing claim." Almost every culture on earth esteems sacrifice, and with good reason.

Sacrifice engenders respect. We rightfully honor our military and public servants who stand in harm's way for our benefit. We respect volunteers who give time, talent and treasures to further worthy causes.

Sacrifice can demonstrate love. When someone sacrifices for our benefit it communicates their heartfelt concern. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends." That is exactly what God did in sending his Son to redeem us. And in that transaction, God the Father, the sender, and God the Son, the sacrifice, both surrendered something of priceless value to give us full rights to be adopted sons and daughters in His Forever Family. That changes everything!

It ought to make us ponder what prize (time, talent or treasure) God may want us to surrender after we've made the decision to follow the Jesus Way. Believers in San Pablo are convinced that the day Mary Lee died marked the day when God's Spirit settled upon their village changing lives forever! Pastor Glenn



Green Mountain Conservation Camp

Educating youth about Vermont's wild habitats to inspire meaningful relationships with the environment and foster genuine connections with their peers.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp (GMCC) offers hands-on learning experiences about fish, wildlife, ecology, botany, forestry, hunter firearm safety, outdoor first aid, and so much more.

GMCC offers opportunities for hiking, canoeing, fishing, archery, .22 rifle and shotgun shooting,



orienteering, and other fun activities. Campers have a unique opportunity to meet Vermont State Game Wardens, foresters, fisheries and wildlife biologists, and others who work in the outdoors.

Wildlife education and outdoor skills are the focus of GMCC and the program's goal is to cultivate a caring attitude among our youth for Vermont's fish and wildlife resources. <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>

Conservation Camps open June 21 and continue until August 21. Tuition is \$300 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment, and financial assistance is available. Information and registration are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information, contact FWGMCC@vermont.gov or call 802-522-2925.

"The Black River Rod and Gun Club will be sponsoring boy and girl between the ages of 12 to 14 years who wish to attend the coming Conservation Camp. To apply please either write or phone our Conservation Camp Coordinator, Mary Nortunen at 1405 VT Route 103 South, Mount Holly, VT 05758 or call 802-259-2412

Also doing sponsorship is Ludlow American Legion at the following:
#16 American Legion Attn: Ray Martell 133 W. Main Street Ludlow, VT 05149
802-228-9807

MAHJONG
© Fletcher Memorial Library
TUESDAYS
FEBRUARY 10, 17, & 24
@ 11 AM



All Levels of player experience are welcome!

88 Main St
Ludlow, VT 05149
802-228-8921
www.fmlnews.org



WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026, AND MARCH 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the **Mount Holly School** at 6:00 p.m. in the evening, **Monday, March 2, 2026**, to act on the following articles, viz: **2 & 14**

On **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**, to vote by Australian ballot at the **Mount Holly Town Office**, polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to vote on the following articles, viz.: **1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13**.
Articles may be discussed on Monday evening.

Article 1: To elect all Town Officers as the law directs. (Australian ballot)

Article 2: To act on the Town Officers' Report.

Article 3: Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2026 - 2027, to be raised by tax?
A. General Fund (net) \$ 452,755
B. Highway Fund (net) \$ 584,900
Total A & B (Australian ballot) \$1,037,655

Article 4: Does the Town vote \$85,000 for the Asset/Equipment Fund for fiscal year 2026 - 2027, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 5: Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. an operating budget of \$94,700 for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year, and Vehicle Replacement Fund of \$85,000 for a total of \$179,700 to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 6: Does the Town vote \$12,000 for the Mount Holly Town Library, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 7: Does the Town vote \$2,000 for the Mount Holly Chit Chat, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 8: Does the Town vote the following for Community and Social Services totaling \$8,635 to be raised by tax. (Australian ballot)

A	American Red Cross	\$ 500
B	BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont	\$ 550
C	Rutland Mental Health Services	\$1,302
D	VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region	\$1,313
E	RSVP & The Volunteer Center	\$ 100
F	Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 400
G	Regional Ambulance Service, Inc.	\$ 620
H	Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 500
I	Black River Good Neighbor Services, Inc.	\$1,000
J	Vermont Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 150
K	Marble Valley Regional Transit District	\$ 300
L	Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 100
M	Green Up Vermont	\$ 150
N	Child First Advocacy Center	\$ 400
O	Cornerstone Housing Partners, formerly NeighborWorks	\$ 500
P	Okemo Valley TV	\$ 750

Article 9: Does the Town vote \$2,500 for the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 10: Does the Town of Mount Holly vote to fund the afterschool program at the Mount Holly School in the amount of **\$6,500** in FY 2026 - 2027, to maintain state grant funding, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 11: Does the Town vote to exempt Colfax Lodge # 21 Independent Order of Odd Fellows from Town tax and be responsible for the school portion of taxes to be paid to the State of Vermont for a period of 5 years?
(Australian ballot)

Article 12: Shall the Town of Mount Holly adopt the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion which reads: The Town of Mount Holly condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community. As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment. The Town of Mount Holly has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.
(Australian ballot)

Article 13: Shall the town authorize the elimination of the office of Town Auditor, with future audits to be provided by a public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with 17 V.S.A §2651b(a)?
(Australian ballot)

Article 14: To transact all other necessary and proper business.

Dated at Mount Holly, Vermont this 22nd day of January AD, 2026.
Town of Mount Holly Select Board

Mark Turco

Jeff Chase

Diana Garrow



Get Portal Power at Community Health

Secure access your health information, test results, and more with Community Health's **Patient Portal**. Accessing your health information online is easy from your desktop or smartphone!

The **Patient Portal** helps you manage your healthcare, message your provider, renew a prescription, request an appointment, pay your bill or update your health record.

For more information, ask your primary care provider or call the Patient Access Center at 802-779-9169 or visit our website <https://www.cherr.org/patient-portal/>.

Eye Care for Your Whole Family

Community Health Eye Care provides everything from routine and age- and illness-related screenings and treatments to prescriptions for glasses and contact lenses for adults and children ages 5 and up.

As a part of your overall primary care, Community Health Eye Care is a full-service provider of comprehensive eye care services including:

- Routine eye examinations
- Emergency eyecare
- Fitting and selection of affordable lenses and frames
- Contact lens prescriptions
- Diabetic eye disease referrals
- Evaluation for cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration

Community Health Eye Care is committed to providing excellent eye care with a focus on prevention through routine examinations and accessible and affordable comprehensive services.

Call for an appointment 802-773-2020.

Fola Presents Gypsy Luv Free Concert

Saturday February 14 Two Of Vermont's Favorite Bands From Two Different Genres Join Forces On Valentines Evening For A "Gypsy Luv Concert" Here In Ludlow. Presented By F.O.L.A. Rick Redington & Tuff Luv & Gypsy Reel Have Been Friends For Many Years & Always Enjoy The Chance To Keep Spreading The Luv Whenever Possible. This Will Be Their Second Time In This Amazing Venue After Last Year's Success. Heald Auditorium At Ludlow Town Hall Will Once Again Be Feeling The Gypsy Luv On This Night That Celebrates Human Kindness & Compassion. **This Is A FREE CONCERT** So Please Bring Your Big Heart & Best Pair Of Dancing Shoes! Doors Open At 6:30 PM For A 7 PM Showtime.



My Latest Review!



"Susan is an amazing realtor. She was always on top of deadlines and made sure to keep things moving along. I appreciate her attention to detail and positive attitude. She was super helpful and I'd recommend her to anyone looking to buy a house. She's amazing!!"

Creative solutions,
honest guidance - focused on
your move, your goals, your success.

Thinking of buying or selling? Let's talk.



Sue Starr-Adams
802-236-8028
susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com
linktr.ee/sue.starr.adams



188 Station Road | Mount Holly



Five minutes to Jackson Gore and easy access to VAST trail. Motivated Seller. Come see this Fully Furnished Move in Ready Retreat! This four bedroom home with two car garage and large basement has it all. Master suite above the garage gives privacy yet easy access to the rest of the home. Large slate entry has room for all your outdoor gear. Unwind in your 4/5-person hot tub, new in 2025. Quick access to both the VAST snowmobile and Catamount nordic trail systems. At the top of the Healdville trail you will find the fire tower with expansive views of the Okemo Valley. A fairly level yard and driveway allow for easy maintenance while a wooded area gives privacy and space for nature. The Generac generator will even kick on if you ever lose power. Furnished, cared for and ready for the next owner. Come see all this location has to offer!



When it's Time to Buy or Sell...Choose Kelley Real Estate
Visit www.KelleyRealEstate.com to learn more about these listings
and other properties for sale in the Okemo Valley

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



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 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

Everyone Deserves Affordable Quality Healthcare. Healthcare is Affordable at Community Health
Community Health serves all patients regardless of income or insurance status, so we have developed several services to help you create an affordable healthcare plan that works for you and your family.

Community Health provides discounts, payment plans and sliding fee scales for those who don't have health or dental insurance. They include:

- If you don't have medical insurance, you will automatically receive a 20% discount on your primary care services. And, If you pay your bill at the time of service, you will receive an additional 15% discount, giving you a total 35% discount.
- Dental self-pay is 20% discount if paid on date of service.
- Payment plans are set up as a monthly amount deducted automatically from a credit or debit card.
- Sliding fee program adjusts fees by family income and size and are discounts for essential services, including pharmacy .

In addition to Medicare and Medicaid, Community Health accepts over 15 different health insurance plans. For the complete list, check our website: <https://www.chcr.org/insurances-accepted/>. If you need insurance, Community Health has certified counselors who can help you review the options. To make an appointment with a Patient Navigator, call 802-342-4224.

If you need assistance applying for any of these plans call our Patient Access Center at (802) 779-9169 and ask for the Patient Outreach Coordinator. Everyone deserves affordable quality healthcare.

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

For Sale: Firewood –
Cut, Split & Delivered.
Call 802-259-2147
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

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

Also Check

www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

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

Kevin Plew is the primary NewsFlash
attendant and Stu Berry is backup
attendant at stubby1@gmail.com



New Listings Loading...

This February, choose to fall in love with a new home.

**Be on the lookout for several new listings in your area, with
prices ranging from \$399,000 - \$1,300,000.**

Happy Valentines Day!



126 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149 • 802-975-0338
okemo.evrealestate.com

Engel & Völkers. All rights reserved. Each brokerage is independently owned and operated. Engel & Völkers and its independent licensees are Equal Opportunity Providers and we support the principles of the Fair Housing Act.

Who's Got It Locally?

Artists

Stone Creek Workshops Pottery www.stoncreekworkshops.com 802-259-2254

Building & Repairs – General Work

Champlain Timber Craft 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 802-228-6656

Squeels on Wheels BBQ www.squeelsonwheels.com 802-558-9489

Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 9 am

Rev Thomas Mosher abvmludlow@comcast.net 802-228-3451

E. Wallingford Baptist – PS 9:15-10:00 am SS 10 am, Worship 11 am

Pastor Kevin Miner 802-259-2831

First Baptist Church, Wallingford, SS 11am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm

Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020

Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11am & 3pm

Until May 11am & 6pm 802-779-0300

Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,

11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS

Pastor Jerry Scheumann jfscheumann@gmail.com 603-439-0803

St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 11 am

Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois christthekingprsh@gmail.com 802-446-2161

Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:45 BS Tue 7 pm

Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am

Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

Electrical Services

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

Emergency Services

Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency # 802-228-2880 911

Stephanie Grover NRP Chief Cell 802-380-2635 sgrover.las@tds.net

MH Vol Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954 911

Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

Beardmore Excavating beardmoreexc@gmail.com 802-342-3507

Flander's Excavating 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 802-259-2250

1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly

Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC, Grassfed Beef & VT Maple 802-492-2151

2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Sugar Hill Berry Farm www.sugarhillberryfarm.com 802-259-2155

Fire Warden

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

Firewood

Flanders Firewood Cut Split Delivered 802-259-2147

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 802-259-2094

Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

Handyman

DArcy Home Improvements – Aaron D'Arcy 478-338-4878

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 uthrive@vermontel.net 802-446-2499

Home Management Services

Belmont Country Gardens Property Management 802-259-2364

Mowing & Plowing Jon Lienhard

Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 802-259-3064

Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 802-228-7151

Plew Farm 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly www.plewfarm.com 802-259-2250

Smith Maple Crest Farm LLC Grassfed Beef & VT Maple 802-492-2151

2450 Lincoln Hill Rd, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Wally's Corner – Stewart Maple Syrup hello@wallyscorner.com 802-772-0507

Marketing & Promotional Services

Express Copy Inc. Casey Smith & Mike Harrington 802-362-0501

print@expresscopyinc.com

Masonry

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

Massage Therapy

Calm Moments Message 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 802-259-2521

Mount Holly Email

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

Painters

Beardmore Painting ~ Derk Beardmore 802-353-9493

beardmorerepainting802@gmail.com

MRS Unlimited Visions LLC Interior/Exterior Painting –Melissa 802-259-3989

Pretty Good Painting ~ Ian Nugent 609-770-1507

prettygoodpaint802@gmail.com

Plumbing & Heating

Master Plumbing & Heating Inc. John Diekel 802-975-0369

requests@masterplumbingandheating.com 24/7 Emergency 802-747-1280

Tailored Plumbing tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com 802-417-1647

Real Estate Sales

Cummings & Co. Lisa Kelley lisa@cummingsvt.com 802-345-6581

Engel & Volkers, Okemo - Woodstock Gail Beardmore 802-975-0338

Gail.Beaardmore@evusa.com (Mobile) 802-236-5431

eXp Realty Sue Starr-Adams susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com 802-236-8028

Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Owner/Broker Office 802-228-5333

Don Eatmon Don@KelleyRealEstate.com 802-228-5333

Ty Murray Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-777-8047

Alex Eatmon Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com Call or Text 802-345-7886

Lorien Kelly Lorian@kelleystate.com Call or Text 732-670-8001

Gabrielle Turco Gabrielle.n.Turco@gmail.com Call or Text 802-353-0106

www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com

TPW Real Estate, John Napier jmn@tpw.com 802-228-9400 x 1309860-559-9334

Roofing

Buddy Systems Roofing Contact Buddy 802-259-3989

New Roofs/Roof Repairs & Replacement – Slate/Wood/Asphalt/Metal

Security

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

Septic System Design

Belmont Septic Design – Kevin Hollebeek C 802-733-2561 H 802-259-3898

kevin@belmontseptic.com

Therapeutic Riding

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

Tree Removal

DB Tree Works 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 802-259-3232

www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com



President's Day

