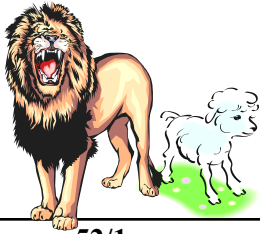


News Items DEADLINE
The 22nd By 6 pm Each Month



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Mt. Holly, VT 05758



Mount Holly Chit Chat

52/1

March 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

2nd Annual Town Meeting, MH School Gym



Peace Corps Founded 1961

Purim Begins 6:00 pm

Texas Independence Day

3rd VOTE Town Office

Purim Ends

Polls Open 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

MH Conservation Commission, MH Town Office

Full Worm Moon 6:00 pm

MH Show Flyers Meeting Via Zoom

Alexander Graham Bell 1847 6:30 pm

"Star Spangled Banner" made, US National Anthem 1931

4th MH PTG Meeting, MH School

Brain Injury Awareness Day 6:00 pm

5th Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station

7:00 pm

6th 

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni 1475

54th Iditarod Sled Dog Race Anchorage Alaska

International Women's Day ~ Daylight Savings Begins

Sat 7th

Sun 8th

10th Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

9:00 am

Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom

Mount Holly Chit Chat Est. 1974

11th LMHUUS Meeting,

6:00 pm

ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

7:00 pm

12th Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station

Girl Scouts Founded 1912

Sat 14th

17th Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations

St. Patrick's Day 1631

7:00 pm

MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom

6:30 pm

18th 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

20th

Spring Begins – Vernal Equinox

Sat 21st

World Down Syndrome Day

Sun 22nd

Civil Rights March 1965

23rd

National Diabetes Alert Day

Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

9:00 am

25th ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

Seward's Day Alaska

7:00 pm

26th Fire Dept. Work Night, Fire Stations

7:00 pm

Sun 29th

National Vietnam War Veterans Day 1973

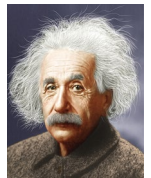
31st

Cesar Estrada Chavez US Labor Organizer 1927

* * * * *

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: Patrick Angstadt (Riverwood Lawn Care) * Ryan & Kara Fitzbeauchamp (Evening Song Farm) * Don & robin Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * Michael Huck (Champlain Timber Craft) * James McGough * Jim & Kathy Heald * Nick & Palma Cassone * Dale F Lein (DF Lein Handyman Service) * Karin Lanzelin * Rene Bugnon * Derk Beardmore Jr (Beardmore Painting Interior/Exterior) *



March Birthdays: 2nd-Doris Nelson * Donald Reiser * Nicole Reiser 3rd-Violet Colm 4th-Deborah DeTore 5th-Morgan Coldwell * James Johnson 7th-Elijah Teter 8th-Mike Dawley Sr. 9th-Hanna Colm 10th-Dennis Devereux 12th-Julie Parsells 13th-Elizabeth Manuel 1995 14th-Shawn Wortman 15th-Cassandra Parsells * Karen Ham 17th-William Palmer Jr 19th-Patrick Melvin * Andrew Garrow * Eureta Johnson 20th-Bill Jacobs 21st-Jeremiah Johnson 22nd-John Taylor * Rachel Manuel (1971) 23rd-Megan Carrara 25th-Nicole Griffin * Lucy Columb. 28th-Bessie Centini 29th-Nancy Columb 30th-April Melvin * Mary Nortunen * Brian Roberts



March Anniversaries: 26th-Raymond & Linda Tarbell

If you would like to add or remove yours or a family members birthday and or anniversary from the list please send the information to me at the above address or e-mail me at chitchat@vermontel.net 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:	Mon – Fri	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 Isidoro **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



Viola Higgins 11/29/1925 to 1/23/2026

Viola died peacefully with family members at her side in Rutland Regional Medical Center. She was born on 11/29/1925 in Patchogue, NY. The daughter of Victor Maki and Katrin (Skystta) Maki. She attended Bayport Elementary School. Her father passed away when she was 9 and had to leave her home that her father built in Bayport to live in Harlem so her mother could work as a maid in Manhattan. Viola attended and graduated from Washington Irving High School with a course in Fine and Applied Art in 1943. She became a professional artist working for magazines and newspapers creating advertisements for children’s and women’s clothing. She gave up her successful art career to become a house wife to her husband William Higgins as what was done those days. Giving birth to and raising six beautiful children. Viola was a very loving and way

too kind mother. She had got her children involved in 4-H and accentuated art, musical and physical activities. In 1980 after William retired she moved onto her mother’s land in Mt. Holly into a house that she designed and had built by Carl Parsells. She loved and wanted to be with her mother but she unfortunately died shortly after moving into their new home. Viola loved Mt. Holly was an active member of her Finnish community and enthusiastic artist. Viola has several Blue Ribbons from Vt. State fair for her quilts. Bill and Viola loved dogs and always had a German Shorthair Pointer. They loved to travel to exotic locations such as Cozumel, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Spain, Malaga, Samoa among other countries.



Archie Mederick Bussino

Archie Mederick Bussino, born December 3, 1942, in East Wallingford, Vermont, passed away on February 13, 2026, at RRMC after a brief illness, following a life centered on family, friendship, and the things he loved most. He spent most of his life in Mount Holly, Vermont, and also enjoyed time living in North Fort Myers, Florida. Archie was born to Archie George Bussino and Grace Harriet Crossman and was lovingly raised with the guidance and care of his grandmother, Louise Rebideau, of whom he held especially fond memories. He was married to his beloved late wife, Mary Alice Bussino.

He is survived by his sons, who were the pride and center of his life: Jeffrey Bussino and Helen Graham of Mount Holly; Todd Bussino and wife Lisa of Punta Gorda, Florida; Dennis Bussino and wife Sally of Mount Holly, Vermont; Michael Bussino of Cuttingsville, Vermont; Shane Stocker and husband Ray of North Carolina; and Lance Bussino and Heather Deem of Mount Holly, Vermont. He also leaves behind 12

grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews and cousins whom he adored.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughters, Dannielle Bussino in 2015 and Rebecca “Becky” Bussino in 2021; and a grandson Harold “Charlie” St. Francis, his brothers, Harold, Ronald, and Loren Baker; and his sister, Grace Lafond.

Archie worked many years driving truck and logging with his boys, building not only a livelihood but a closeness he deeply cherished. Family was always the most important part of his life, and that bond was something he continually strived for and nurtured. It is a legacy of love and togetherness his family hopes will carry on in his memory.

Archie had a passion for stock car racing and loved being at the track. In his later years, he found great joy helping his son and grandson work on their cars and watching them race. He also had a deep love for karaoke, one of his favorites to sing was “Make the world go away, by Eddie Arnold” he had a great voice for it and through which he made many cherished friendships over the years. He was known by many nicknames — Bo, Pa, and Arch old boy — but his greatest role was Dad. Anyone who knew Archie knew that his boys were his world.

He will be remembered for his love of family, his loyalty to friends, and the joy he found in simple moments spent with those he loved. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

Mount Holly Transfer Station
SPRING/SUMMER HOURS
Begin
WEDNESDAYS, 4 pm to 7 pm
SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm
Last Sunday is March 29th
First Wednesday is April 1st
Closed Sunday April 5th
REMINDER: STICKERS ONLY, NO CASH



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Complete Site Work Start To Finish
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Flanders.excavating@gmail.com
Firewood – Cut, Split & Delivered

Dear Ludlow-Mount Holly School District Community,

For your convenience, the LMHUUSD annual report is available on the Two Rivers Supervisory Union's website at www.TRSU.org.

This document contains essential information to help voters make informed decisions at the polls in March. The superintendent's report within the annual report explains how school taxes and education funding are determined in the state of Vermont. It is important to understand that your school taxes are influenced by factors beyond statewide education spending. The superintendent's report clarifies how much of the change in your taxes is due to increased education spending across Vermont versus changes in the market values of local property.

For the 2026-27 school year, LMHUUSD is proposing a "level service budget." In practical terms, this means the district is requesting just enough funding to maintain all current programs, staffing, services, and daily operations exactly as they are—without adding or eliminating anything. To achieve this, we are seeking a modest increase in our budget to account for rising costs associated with providing these same services next year.

The current LMH budget is \$10,153,619, we are seeking a level service budget for 2026-27 of \$10,455,017. This is a 2.97% increase.

We appreciate your attention to these details and encourage you to review the attached annual report and visit our website for more information. If you have questions or would like further clarification, please reach out to the district office. Most Sincerely,

Layne Millington, TRSU Superintendent

Layne Millington, TRSU Superintendent Two Rivers Supervisory Union 609 VT Route 103 South Ludlow, Vermont 05149 p: 802-875-3365 f: 802-875-6438

A "Winter Perfect" Evening in Belmont!

What a spectacular night for the Ludlow Rotary Club! We couldn't have asked for better conditions as we gathered in Belmont for an old-fashioned winter celebration. The air was crisp, the snow was fast, and the company was even better.

The Need for Speed

We had a fantastic lineup of sleds hitting the hills, ranging from classic racers to modern flyers. While the competition was friendly, there was a clear standout: the blue highly decorated sled! It officially took the title of "Fastest on the Hill" for the day—though we suspect the extra decorations might have added some aerodynamic magic.

Warm Hearts and Festive Eats

A massive thank you to Brigid Sullivan for keeping us cozy! Brigid provided a roaring fire log that served as the perfect hub for the evening. Between runs, we enjoyed a spread of festive food that kept everyone fueled and spirits high.

A Sweet Vermont Tradition

To wrap up the evening, we treated ourselves to a true Vermont classic: Sugar on Snow; thanks to President, Kevin Barnes. It was a delight to watch several of our guests experience this for the very first time! There's nothing quite like that perfect mix of hot maple syrup with fresh snow.

Thank you to everyone who came out to make this event so memorable. Its days like these that remind us why we love our Vermont community!




School Budget Vote Tuesday, March 2

The school budget proposed to voters would increase spending by less than 3%. Property taxes will go up more, though the amount will not be known until the legislature acts. Most of the tax increase is attributable to the State's determination that property values have been rising quickly in Mount Holly and the fact that most of our tax payments go to fund schools in towns with less valuable property.

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.

Some residents advocate voting no on the budget, not because they think a 3% spending increase is excessive but because they want to send a message to legislators in Montpelier. Unfortunately the legislators would not interpret the message as insistence that they fix the formula but rather would view it as an argument that the State needs to take management of schools away from small towns. Current proposals would let voters in Springfield decide our budget, whether our schools should remain open and where our children should go to high school. Please vote YES on the budget and tell our representatives that control of our schools should remain in our town. David Martin



Custom Builders of Belmont Inc.
P.O. Box 171
Belmont, VT 05730

Charlie Conroy
cjconroy@vermontel.net

30+ Years Experience

Mount Holly Snow Flyers Announce the "Ultimate Build Battle" Across the Mount Holly and VAST Trail Network

The Mount Holly Snow Flyers (MHSF) are calling on all citizens, families, riders and winter enthusiasts to brainstorm and help make our area festive with the **Snow Flyers Ultimate Build Battle**. Starting today and running through **March 29th**, the club is turning Mount Holly and their local VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers) trail junctions into an open-air art gallery.

This interactive event encourages community citizens to get into the snow to create the most imaginative snow creatures, snowmen, or sculptures Mount Holly has ever seen.

How to Join the Battle:

The contest is designed to be easy to enter while exploring the beautiful Mount Holly area and trail system:

- **BUILD:** Construct your masterpiece within the Mount Holly town limits and/or at **any VAST junction** within the Mount Holly Snow Flyers' network.
- **DOCUMENT:** Take a high-quality photo of your creation. **Crucial:** The photo must clearly show the **VAST Junction Number** and/or the 911 location so the judges can verify the location.
- **POST:** Upload your photo to the **Mount Holly Snow Flyers Facebook page** to officially enter or email us at mounthollysnowflyers@gmail.com.

The Grand Prize

Creativity is the name of the game. The builder of the most impressive or unique snow sculpture will be crowned the Ultimate Build Battle Champion and will receive a \$100 gift card to DJ's Restaurant!

"We wanted to give people a fun reason to stop, take in the scenery, and leave a little bit of magic on the trails and in town," said President Dale Sutherland. "Whether it's a giant Prinoth groomer, a trail-side yeti, or a classic frosty, we want to see Mount Holly's creativity on full display. You do not have to be a snowmobiler – build it in Mount Holly or just find one of our junctions and start building!"

Event Guidelines

- **Deadline:** All entries must be posted by midnight on **March 29th**.
- **Safety First:** Please ensure sculptures are built safely off the groomed path/roadway to keep trails clear for passing cars/riders.
- **Leave No Trace:** Use only natural snow and ice; please refrain from using non-biodegradable decorations (or take down the items on 3/30/26).

Grab your gear, get creative, and let it snow!

About the Mount Holly Snow Flyers

The Mount Holly Snow Flyers is a volunteer-led snowmobile club dedicated to maintaining

high-quality trails, promoting rider safety, and fostering a vibrant winter community in the heart of Vermont. Our club meets on the first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. every month and all community citizens are welcome to attend.

We sincerely thank our landowners for allowing us to travel through their property. It's been a great winter so far and we hope it continues well into April! Ride right and always keep your hands on your sleds!
www.mounthollysnowflyers.org Kim Lampert, MHSF, Secretary

SNOW FLYERS ULTIMATE BUILD BATTLE

Fun for everyone

Through March 29, 2026 we will be holding a contest for the best snow-built creature, snowman, sculpture!

Build your creation within the town of Mount Holly and/or at any one of our VAST junctions, post it to our Facebook Page (with the location) and the winner will receive \$100 gift card for DJ's Restaurant!



www.mounthollysnowflyers.org

Yummy!

Pancake Breakfast

With Real VT Maple Syrup!

Saturday March 21, 8 am - 11 am



Shrewsbury Meeting House
88 Lottery Rd Shrewsbury VT

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

Hosted by Shrewsbury Community Church

Benefit: Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project.

Enjoy Smith Maple Crest Syrup on our pancakes!
Visit their sugarhouse right across the road!



SUGAR HILL
berry farm

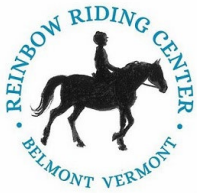
www.sugarhillberryfarm.com

802-259-2155

3237 Sugar Hill Road, East Wallingford, VT 05742

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for days and times open



RAINBOW RIDING CENTER WELCOMES NEW INSTRUCTOR

Rainbow Riding Center, a therapeutic horsemanship center based in Belmont VT, is excited to announce the addition of **Julia Adams** as its new full-time Instructor and Program Director.

Julia is an 8th generation Vermonter with deep roots in Rutland County. She is a graduate of both Rutland High School and Castleton University and has worked in public education for the last 13 years, in addition to running her own small business.

established in 2008

As a youth Julia grew up very involved in the University of Vermont (UVM) 4-H horse program and then volunteered as a 4-H leader in Rutland County. As a leader at the state level, she coached Vermont teams in communications and horse bowl. Julia is an "A" carded New England 4-H Horse Show Judge and over the last decade has traveled New England to share her equine knowledge by judging Open shows, 4-H shows, and also the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA), the Youth Equestrian Development Association (YEDA), and the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA). Still an Open professional rider herself, Julia enjoys riding and competing with her own American Quarter Horse, Billy. She will combine her talents of teaching, coaching, and horsemanship to bring fun, educational, and holistic experiences to all of Rainbow Riding Center's participants. Rainbow looks forward to a wonderful season with Julia taking the reins of the program!

The mission of Rainbow Riding Center is to improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and/or cognitive challenges through a customized therapeutic equine experience. Rainbow Riding Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization established in 2008. We strive to meet the needs of every individual that participates in our therapeutic horsemanship programs, mounted or unmounted, regardless of their ability to pay.

Rainbow recently earned a 2026 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level awarded, from CANDID, an independent organization that ranks non-profits. To learn more about the various ways to make a contribution, go to: rainbowridingcenter.org/support-us.

For information about opportunities to volunteer with us, you can learn more and apply here: www.rainbowridingcenter.org/volunteer

For more information about the organization and our programs, please visit our website at: www.rainbowridingcenter.org

You can also show your support by following us on our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn social media channels! P.O. Box #395, Shrewsbury, VT 05738 (mailing address) 892 Tarbellville Road, Belmont, VT (seasonal riding facility physical address – by appointment only) www.RainbowRidingCenter.org Photo by Loose Rein Photography



Call for Committee Volunteers: Ludlow-Mount Holly School District

The Ludlow-Mount Holly District is forming a special committee to develop a vision and comprehensive plan focused on fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability for our district, in accordance with the state of Vermont's redistricting efforts as mandated by Act 73. We are seeking dedicated volunteers who are interested in shaping the future of our schools and community.

If you are interested in serving on this important committee, please email the superintendent at layne.millington@trsu.org with a brief statement introducing yourself and indicating your town of residence. Your involvement will help ensure that multiple perspectives are represented as we move forward with this critical work.

The committee is seeking to fill the following positions:

- 2 board members – one representative from each town
- 2 teachers – one from each school
- 2 parents – one from each town
- 4 community members at large – two from each town

We encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds and all areas of the Ludlow and Mount Holly communities to apply. The time commitment and meeting schedule will be determined by the

committee once formed. Most Sincerely, Layne Millington, TRSU Superintendent



DOGS & CAT RABIES CLINIC

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Place: Mount Holly Town Office

Cost: \$25.00 per rabies shot

Vet: Carol Gifford, DVM
Riverside Veterinarian Care

The Mount Holly Town Clerk will be present to register your dog. **All dogs must be registered by April 1, 2026.**



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



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

All Mount Holly Post Office Recipients

As Mount Holly Post Office is closed due to health safety issues, all Mount Holly mail Rural Route and PO Box is at the Belmont Post Office.

All Mount Holly PO Box Holders will have a key issued for your box in Belmont and please assured your address remains the same.

Thanks for your patience as we work to solve the problem.

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.

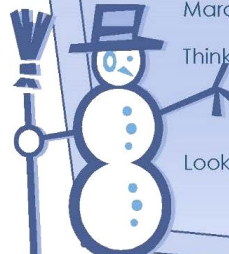
Mount Holly artists of all skill levels, age 16 and up are welcome. Just bring your supplies, your imagination and enjoy making art alongside others. Please note that we do not have the ventilation needed for oils or turpentine, but welcome all other mediums.

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 Zhenia Dickinson Hadar at
zhadar@hadarfamily.com

Looking forward to working together!



Mount Holly School **PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Thursday, May 14, 2025
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
By Appointment
(802) 259-2392



For children who will be 3 years old on or before August 31, 2026

Please bring the following:

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

You will be able to see our inside and outside classrooms.
Boots recommended!

Ms. Cristy, Ms. Devin and Ms. Siri will all be on hand to answer questions and provide important information about the program.

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Someone was seen shooting photos in Mount Holly for the 2026 calendar competition...

Was it you?

LET'S HOPE SO!!!

Never heard of this earth shaking event? better call (802) 259-3947 or send an email to mtollyphotos@gmail.com to get the lowdown.



News From Your Mount Holly Community Association

Well - March is upon us, having watched the winter Olympics March seems like the month at the start of the downhill ski slope. It's ominous, looks like a long way from the finish line, but before you know it, the end (aka winter in this analogy) is in sight, the race begins and then wha la...it's over. However, as any Vermonter knows and as in any good race, "it ain't over til it's over" so stay prepared. March is also the kickoff for MHCA event planning as we look forward to the seasons ahead in 2026 and we are knee deep in it.

Before we get into our event updates, we would like to give a **special shout out to Mount Holly's beloved road crew.** When there is only so much space for snow to go, who ya gonna call...snow busters! Our limited space and rising vertical pile has been causing us consternation as temperatures fluctuate and we remember the desperate phone call last year that the community room was

being invaded by water from the melting snowbank. The road crew responded to our cry for help and with their massive bucket loader removed snow from the community room entrance. **We appreciate them keeping an eye on our snowy situation, THANK YOU ROAD CREW PEEPS!** We also want to **express our appreciation to the Belmont General Store** for having a meet and greet. MHCA has long been discussing what we can do to help new residents meet their neighbors and fellow community members. A number of years ago we started sending out welcome letters with things you might want to know about when you move to Mount Holly, but we thought we could do more. Then Alissa, family, and staff rolled out the meet and greet - we were so excited about this, we wanted to say **THANK YOU for encouraging community gatherings!**

Upcoming events:

Spring Mudd Fling Dance - Saturday, May 2

It's more than a dance, it is a time to emerge from the blanket of winter and come hang out, eat, drink and be merry! This year we have the Better Days Band; you can find them on Facebook and YouTube for a preview. Mark your calendar for a special night out of boogie woogie in the mountains. More info to come next month.

Open Studio Art Show - MHCA is sponsoring its second annual open studio for local artists to gather, connect, and share their creative works. **This year the gallery will be a part of Vermont's Craft Council's Open Studio Tour.** We are super excited to join the tour



GREEN MOUNTAIN SIGN & GRAPHICS

PRINTED SIGNS MAGNETICS POSTERS WALL MURALS
 VEHICLE GRAPHICS COLOR COPIES FLOOR GRAPHICS
 WINDOW GRAPHICS BANNERS STICKERS CARVED SIGNS

16 Pond Street Ludlow (802) 856-5612
CUSTOMVTSIGNS@GMAIL.COM

and provide local artists with a venue to collectively display their talents, explain their process, and demonstrate what they do to both a local and statewide audience. Mark your calendars for Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24 from 10-5. If you are an artist and would like to participate in the gallery tour, please contact Zhenia Hadar at zhadar@hadarfamily.com

In the works...

Windows Update

We are happy to report on the new storm windows, designated for the library, which are in the final stages of manufacturing. The last update indicated they will be shipped in March and fingers crossed & pending no further delays should be installed by the end of April.

Change with Mount Holly Day

Last year Mount Holly Day was rained out. In lieu of a rain date, MHCA held an impromptu cookout for the last concert for Music on the Green. It was a huge success with more people attending the cookout than have most recently attended the Mount Holly Day picnic. We had so many requests to make this a regular event the board decided to focus our picnic energies on a Music on the Green Cookout and to remove Mount Holly Day from our summer plans at last month's Board meeting. It is not an easy decision to discontinue traditional events but sometimes change can be a good thing - so we make adjustments and see how things go.

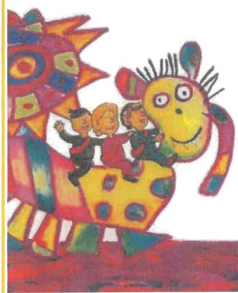
Cider Days

Although our fabulous community annual fall festival is months away, MHCA has already begun the planning process. Given that

Mount Holly School

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
 3:30—4:15 p.m.
 By Appointment
 (802) 259-2392



For children who will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2026

Please bring the following:

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

Families are invited to meet with Mrs. Craver and hear all about what kindergarten has to offer.



Students currently enrolled in the MHS preschool program will not need to register again for Kindergarten.



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for all things local
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Open Wed-Sun: 11am-6pm
5444 VT 103, Cuttingsville, VT 05738

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Winter Break ❄️

We're taking a quick trip to visit friends & family (and prepare for a new baby!).

The shop will be closed 2/26-3/5.

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

March 21st 10 am to 12pm:

High Tea & Hand Stitching at Wally's Corner 🌸

Join us for a cozy morning at Wally's Corner – sip beautiful teas, enjoy sweet treats, and relax with an embroidery hoop in hand. Perfect for beginners and seasoned stitchers alike. 🍷🧵 Seating is limited, so RSVP by emailing us hello@wallyscorner.com.

with three quotes regarding gratitude and appreciation:

“When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.”

Willie Nelson

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others, belong to us all as well.” Voltaire

“Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation sincerely and without expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find you have more of it.” Ralph Marston
By Jennifer Burrows & Linda Miller

Cider Days have grown in size and popularity we decided we need to make adjustments in how we manage the festival. We are proactively engaging with our vendors, capping the number of vendors (to maintain our small village charm), securing vendor commitment by early summer, and developing a parking/traffic management plan that we will present to the select board sooner rather than later. Cider Days will be held October 10th & 11th.

Membership Drive Update:

THANK YOU! This year we have exceeded our membership goal. We are extraordinarily thankful to those of you who have financially contributed to our membership drive. We simply could not do what we do for our community (sponsoring 9 events, maintaining the building that houses the community center/library, providing free community meeting space for non-profit organizations & affordable rental space for community members, as well as supporting other community organizations) without you!! From the bottom of our hearts, we are grateful and appreciate the trust you give us when you support the Mount Holly Community Association.

As we close this month's news from your MHCA, we wanted to share that being thankful is a theme that permeates our board of directors. We are honored to be a part of this community and organize activities that promote community connectivity and spirit. With that, and since this is the third month of 2026, we leave you (our favorite chit chat readers)

**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**



Because flavor matters, make it:



*Please stop by our farm store, and sample our Pure VT Maple Syrup.
While you are here, stock up on :*

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

Gift bags of Vermont goodies and meat freezer boxes available

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

Mount Holly Special Republican Caucus

All Republican Voters of the Town
Of Mount Holly in County of Rutland
Are hereby notified to meet in caucus
on

Thursday, February 26, 2026
6:30 pm

Mount Holly Town Office

To Nominate Justice of Peace
To Fill Vacancy
(Sections 2381-2385 of 17 V.S.A.)

Please Join Us For This
Important Meeting

More Info Call 259-2386

Hi To All in Ludlow, MT. Holly and Shrewsbury,

This is Kevin Winter your Republican representative to The Vermont House. I have been in Montpelier for several weeks now working diligently, supporting the efforts of our Governor Phil Scott and working to fulfill the promises I made to our community of "NO more taxes, NO to all unnecessary spending, NO more band-aids and YES to fixing the root cause issues". Thanks to Republican support we have successfully put an end to the "Clean Heat Standard", for now, which threatened huge increases on our heating bills in Vermont and more is on the way! Feel free to email me with any questions or comments on issues that you feel important this legislative session. Respectfully, Kevin Winter at kwinter@leg.state.vt.us

To the Town of Mount Holly

My name is Stephen Michel, and I am running to represent Mount Holly on the Ludlow Mount Holly School Board. I had no plans to run, until one of the Mount Holly representatives on the Board announced she was not running this year. I have been attending Board meetings and had made comments about their annual report. It was then suggested I might want to run to replace her.

I understand I would join the Board during a difficult time, with the new school reorganization law and the large increase in property taxes. I would join the Board with no preconceived opinions. I am willing to listen to all ideas and will attempt to

understand how the state determines our school property tax.

I was an accountant my whole career. For five years I was the Director of Finance for a Catholic High School in NYC. I retired in 2019 and moved permanently to Mount Holly. I am presently on the town planning commission and serve on the board of The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum and the Springfield Area Parent Child Center.

I am asking for your support this election day.

To the voters of Mount Holly

My name is June Capron, and I am running for Lister to replace Dave Johnson, who recently passed. While no one can replace him and his knowledge, I wish to try. I have been a full-time resident of Mount Holly for almost 20 years. I am currently involved in the community by being the treasurer of The Mount Holly Community Museum and the Mount Holly Community Guild. I am retired and can devote the necessary time to take all the required courses and my time is flexible to put in the hours in the office to service the community. Prior to retiring from the information technology field, I was responsible for numerous computer systems, which included accounting systems, claims and risk management. This will allow me to learn the current system that maintains the town's master list of homes. Before working in the computer technology field I worked in the accounting field, assuring that the data input was accurate and reports generated from the system were useful. I was able to work with various levels of management to prepare budgets, explain reports and variances and research the underlying data. I promise to be fair, accurate and open-minded. I am asking you to vote for me on March 3rd. Thank you. June Capron



*Want fresh veggies
every week?*

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

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.



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to commercially produced factory food*

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

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MT. HOLLY, VT

Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT

Greetings from Montpelier!

I am writing this a week before the Town Meeting Day break. This normally indicates we are about halfway through the year. This year's legislative session is very different from past sessions. Bills from both the House and Senate are moving very slowly. In my view, there have not been any bills passed of significance. The Budget Adjustment Act this year did go to a committee of conference, but the differences were very minimal, and it is very much a truing up of the FY 26 budget.

Education Reform remains front and center as an issue that needs to be addressed.

The two main school district consolidation maps introduced by Vermont education committees in early 2026, one from the House and one from the Senate—propose fundamentally different approaches to reducing the state's school districts, ranging from a 28-district model to a much larger 11-district model. They are not the same, offering competing visions for the future of school governance.

The House version:

- Proposes to merge the state's 119 school districts and 52 supervisory unions into **27 or 28 new districts**.
- **Focus:** Aimed at creating smaller, regional units with roughly 2,000 to 4,000 students each.
- **Structure:** Focuses on consolidating districts to manage governance.

By contrast, the Senate version:

- Proposes to cut the state's 119 school districts and 52 supervisory unions in half, aiming for **at least 11 larger districts**.
- **Focus:** Centers on a voluntary, three-year on-ramp period for mergers, with potential for mandated mergers afterward.
- **Structure:** Primarily focuses on consolidating supervisory unions to share resources.

The two versions share some similarities:

- Both aim to consolidate the state's 119 school districts.
- Both are considered preliminary "first drafts" or "thought experiments" that will likely undergo significant revisions.
- Both respond to the pressure to reduce the number of districts under Act 73.

Work will continue on each version and cross over to the other Chamber after the March break.

I have received several emails regarding the current school alignment in Mount Holly. My understanding is there are some Mount Holly residents who want to eliminate the Ludlow-Mount Holly Union District. Once Black River High School was closed it seemed to make less sense to keep Mount Holly in the Two Rivers UUSD. Ludlow is aligned with Cavendish and Green Mountain in Chester, and some discussion has them more involved with Springfield. By contrast, Mount Holly is in Rutland County, and a good number of 7-12 graders attend Mill River in Clarendon, and some attend the Stafford Tech Center in Rutland.

I would like to invite any comments about this from any constituents. How do people feel about this? It will help when it comes time to make a decision.

You can email me at bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us

The other wrinkle in this discussion is that the Governor made it very plain in his address to a Joint Session. He will not sign a budget until the education reform work is completed.

Budget

On January 20, 2026, Vermont Governor Phil Scott proposed a \$9.4 billion total budget for fiscal year 2027 (FY27), representing a 1.2% increase over adjusted FY26 levels. The proposal focuses on addressing a \$139 million cost-of-living increase and a downgraded revenue forecast without raising broad-based taxes. In his address, the Governor said "on January 21st, the state's General Fund revenue forecast was downgraded. That hasn't happened since 2017. And while we have enough revenue to meet our obligations, just doing what we did last year cost \$139 million more this year.

The Transportation Fund revenues, totaling \$317 million, were also downgraded by \$9 million from last January. We've known supporting the Transportation Fund with the gas tax would eventually lead to shortfalls as fuel mileage has improved and electric vehicle use has grown, and previous legislatures have taken money from this Fund to support other areas of government.

Fixing structural issues is also necessary to stabilize our Education Fund, which will require \$2.56 billion dollars this year. That total represents a 39% increase in just the last five years. The increase has required a 41% increase in property taxes. We also dedicate about \$800 million from revenue sources like the sales tax, lottery proceeds, motor vehicle purchase and use, and more to cover Education Fund costs."

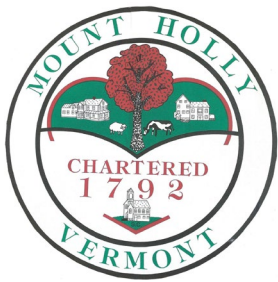
Other issues

Vermonters struggling with energy affordability received good news recently. Vermont's Public Utility Commission formally abandoned the Clean Heat Standard. The Democrat supermajority overrode Governor Scott's veto in 2024 and imposed a tax on heating fuel. More work needs to be done to make energy more affordable in Vermont, including a repeal of the Renewal Energy Standard, which is projected to increase Vermont electric bills by \$1B over the next 10 years.

Housing affordability and availability continue to be a major concern for Vermonters. VHIP, CHIP, MHIP, and MHDP all have the potential to help with Vermont's housing crisis, but there simply isn't enough public money to solve this enormous problem. It almost always costs more to build a home in Vermont than the home is worth, which blocks new home construction and, in many cases, makes renovation financially impossible. We simply have to address the costs and uncertainty of permitting, regulation, and public infrastructure to reduce the cost of construction and renovation.

As always, please reach out to me via email or phone (802-773-1365) to let me know your thoughts. Email is bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us. Respectfully, Senator Brian Collamore, Rutland District





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 22, 2026 4:00 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Dennis Devereux, Stephen Michel, Mary Surething, Lisa Kelley, Francis DeVine, Nancy McKeegan, Dan Quaranto, June Capron, Kethleen Leber, Abe Leber, Ron Unterman, Dottie Finnerty, Michael Chronert, Alissa Chronert, Carol Garrow-Woolley **Via Zoom:** Andrew Seward, Gail Beardmore, Robert Beardmore, Carol

Devine

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.

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

factoring in the use of surplus to reduce the tax burden; he proposed reducing the early payment discount to 3% and reducing the increase in some aspects of the highway budget, specifically highway labor and road retreatment which would bring the increase in the municipal portion of taxes down from 11% to 6%. Jeff Chase made a motion to approve a general fund budget of \$452,755, and the highway fund budget of \$584,900 giving a total of \$1,037,655, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

4. Elimination of Town Auditor positions: Carol Garrow-Woolley noted that Town Auditors are putting together the town report and no longer carry out the audit function which is undertaken by a professional audit firm. She suggested removing the position of Town Auditor and appointing a Town Report Committee. Dennis Devereux noted that many small towns do this. Diana Garrow noted that this must be put to the town for a vote which means that the position would not be removed for a year. SB members were not opposed to putting this on the Town Warning. Stephen Michel asked if the auditors get paid, and if the committee would be paid? Mark Turco responded that this could be decided if and when there was a change. Mark Turco moved to put on the Town Warning the proposal to eliminate the position of town auditor, Diana Garrow, seconded, approved unanimously.

5. Creation of Town Report Committee: Mark Turco noted that this will be reviewed once the Town Meeting has taken place and the results of the ballot are available.

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY
A Permit Is REQUIRED for Outdoor BURNING
BURN PERMITS
May be obtained from
THE MOUNT HOLLY FIRE WARDEN
Jim Seward
Pager: 802-786-3408
Home: 802-259-2211
Leave a phone number where Jim can call you back.
Do not burn until you have spoken to him.
SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS

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**.

6. Signing the Town Meeting Warning: Mark Turco read out the details of the Town Warning. Diana Garrow moved to accept the warning as written, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

7. Letter from Chair of Planning Commission to Select Board: Mark Turco noted that Jon McCann could not attend the meeting and so this would be a limited discussion. Alissa Chronert read a statement reiterating points she had made in an earlier written submission to the Select Board, and noted that statements by the Planning Commission Chair could negatively affect town residents' perception of her, ultimately damaging the General Store. Ron

Unterman gave his overview of events in recent weeks and also reiterated points he had made in a written submission to the Select Board. Mr Unterman, based on a discussion with his lawyer, questioned the position of the Planning Commission Chair that two members of a five member board can discuss or act on an issue; he also questioned the veracity of the statement by the Planning Commission Chair that the Commission had voted to take actions in relation to the Jurisdictional Opinion on the Belmont General Store, stating that he could find no record of those decisions in meeting minutes. Mr Unterman questioned the ability of the Planning Commission to take decisions which are in the interest of the town's people. Lisa Kelley noted that the work that Ms Chronert has done for the Store will ensure it will last for another 200 years, but these actions should be supported by Town Commissions to ensure that businesses run, and comments and statements about the actions of town residents can be misconstrued by those who do not know them. Kathy Leber noted the time that Ms Chronert has put in to justify her actions when she could have been called to a Planning Commission meeting. Abe Leber noted that Mount Holly is a diverse community and anyone who serves the community needs to acknowledge that. Andrew Seward, a member of the Planning Commission informed the Select Board of his resignation from the Commission. Mark Turco reiterated that Mount Holly is one community and tabled further discussion since the Chair of the Planning Commission was not present to respond. Nancy McKeegan asked if there would be any action by the Select Board. Mark Turco responded that the Board would discuss the issue in executive session at the next Select Board meeting.

8. Jeff Chase reminded participants of the public discussion of the Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan on 27th January at 6pm.

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.

PLANNING COMMISSION OPENING

Concerned about Mount Holly's Future?

Interested in Planning?

Willing to Learn, or Background in Planning?

Please send a Letter of Interest to the Mount Holly Select Board
by March 9th Noon.

Please state your qualifications and your interest in the position
in the letter.

Letter can be emailed: mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com,
or mailed: PO Box 248, Mount Holly 05758.

For more information, check the Town of Mount Holly website
<http://www.mounthollyvt.org/town-services/planning-commission/>

Term runs until November 2027.

9. Mark Turco adjourned the meeting at 5.13 pm.

Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office February 10, 2026 6:00 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Layne Millington, Dennis Devereux, Jim Seward, Zena Gates, June Capron, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman, Amy Turco, (via Zoom: Morgan Collins, Don Patch, Liz Karle, Alissa Tilly, Michael Chronert, one person unidentified).

1. Mark Turco called the meeting to order at 6.00pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: Mark Turco added adoption of updated road standards added as item 6f.

4. Approval of Minutes Jan 13th Special Meeting, Jan 13th Regular Meeting, Jan 22nd Special Meeting: Diana Garrow moved to approve all

minutes as written, seconded by Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

5. Reports

a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley: Clinton Woolley was unavailable due to plowing responsibilities. Jeff Chase noted his submission of an application for a grant to fund tree and ledge removal to improve road safety. Mark Turco noted two bids received for tree removal: GM Tree Tech \$4800 for removal of one tree on Branch Brook Road, and from McCullough Bros \$9000 two days with a 4 person crew and unlimited tree removal. Dennis Devereux asked if this could include one tree at Carlton Cemetery (to be funded by the cemetery fund) and one at the Museum (to be paid by the Museum). Liz Karle noted that the tree fund does not include as much as \$9000, but Clinton Woolley would need to advise as to whether there are options to move from other aspects of the budget. Jeff Chase moved to contract McCullough Bros using the ash tree budget, Museum and cemetery reimbursements, and using the Highway budget for the remaining costs, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle

i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: there has been limited activity in January, \$60,000 of the paving grant for Hortonville Road has been received, with the \$120,000 remainder expected before the end of February. Highway employee expenses remain in budget since there are only 2.5 employees. The Aquatic Nuisance control grant reimbursement has been received, with most to be forwarded to the Ninevah Foundation.

ii. Audit: The 2025 draft Audit has been submitted and the Select Board is asked to accept it. The report is too late for inclusion in the Town Report, but Ms Karle will consider how to distribute it more widely, including in the March issue of the Chit Chat, an electronic version on the website, and a hard copy made available by request. For 2026, major changes to auditing standards has led to more front loading by the audit firm including signing an engagement letter and making a down payment now. Ms Karle recommended to the Select Board that they engage RHR Smith, with few other audit firms available.

c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething: In Ms Surething's absence, Faith Tempest presented two documents for approval and signing - the Certificate of no appeal to the Grand List, and the contract with CAI for data mapping services at a cost of \$3000. Diana Garrow moved to sign the contract with CAI, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

d. Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann. Mr McCann thanked Andrew Seward for his service on the Planning Commission. The Commission has approved two subdivisions in recent weeks. The comment period for the Housing Needs Assessment is extended for another week. Jeff Chase confirmed that the final report will arrive in the next week. Mr McCann hoped the report would be adopted by the Select Board at their next meeting. The PC will continue its work on updating the subdivision regulations. Mr McCann noted that he was not able to attend the Select Board's recent special meeting, but has submitted a letter for the record in response to statements made at that meeting and agreed it is now time to move on and focus on Town business.

6. New Business

a. Vacancy on Planning Commission. Mark Turco thanked Andrew Seward for his service on the Planning Commission, and requested any interested people to apply to the Select Board for the vacant PC position for the remainder of the term to end in November 2027.

b. Vacancy Board of Adjustment alternate: Due to the death of David Johnson, there is a vacancy for an alternate on the Board of Adjustment. Mark Turco requested applicants to submit a letter of interest to the Select Board. Mr Turco moved to post a plaque in the Town Office honoring David Johnson given his many years of service to the Town, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

c. LMHUUSD presentation on the school budget: Layne Millington. Mr Millington gave a presentation on the 2026-27 school budget and its impact on tax rates. LMHUUSD is proposing a level service budget (ie no increase except inflation); he also noted that there has been a correction since the initial budget which brings the rate down slightly (there will be a correction notice sent out to residents). Mr Millington's main point was

March 2026 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

Mount Holly Transfer Station

SPRING/SUMMER HOURS

Begin

WEDNESDAYS, 4 pm to 7 pm

SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm

Last Sunday is March 29th

First Wednesday is April 1st

Closed Sunday April 5th

REMINDER: STICKERS ONLY, NO CASH

**SELECT BOARD SEEKS
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
ALTERNATE**

INTERESTED IN PLANNING ISSUES?

The Mount Holly Select Board seeks One alternate member to fill vacancy. For the town panel to review Planning appeals when they arise.

Please send a Letter of interest to The Mount Holly Select Board by March 9th, 2026, with your qualifications.

Please mail letters of inquiry to mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly 05758

there is a proposed change to the mileage certificate. Jeff Chase moved to reclassify the TH37 class 3 section to 1.52 miles and class 4 to 0.64 miles, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

8. Citizen Comments: Jeff Chase attended the regional sub-region disaster meeting with Shrewsbury, Wallingford, which was a good experience sharing opportunity.

9. Announcements

a. Dog License Registration Deadline is April 1. Mark Turco reiterated the request for dog owners to register their dogs and get them vaccinated.

b. Town Office Closed on February 16 for President’s Day.

10. Review & Sign Orders

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

12. Adjourn at 7 pm.

Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Public Hearing December 16th, 2025 6.00P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Andrew Seward, Stephen Michel , Andrew Schulz (via Zoom)

Also present: Faith Tempest, Lisa Kelley, John Manning (via Zoom), John and Danielle Tirico (via Zoom), Tom Gates (via Zoom).

- Chair called the hearing to order at 5.30pm
- Chair stated the purpose of the hearing to consider application PC 2025-03 for a minor subdivision for a 55 acre lot to be subdivided into two lots of approximately 28 acres each on Bowlsville Road N.
- Chair swore in Lisa Kelley as the representative of the property owner Gregory Kelley.
- Chair asked Planning Commissioners of any conflicts of interest or ex-parte communications. None were declared.
- Chair asked interested parties to identify themselves. Tom Gates, Jon Manning, John Tirico all asked to be noted as abutting property owners. Chair recognized them as interested parties.
- Chair invited the applicant to speak. Ms Kelley stated that the 55 acre property is owned by Gregory Kelley who lives in California, and intends to give a parcel to each of his two brothers (one of whom is Ms Kelley’s husband Chris Kelley). Ms Kelley had no information on the intentions of the other proposed recipient, but she and Chris Kelley intend to build a residence on the property. Chair reviewed the exhibits submitted, specifically the final plat, and confirmed with Ms Kelley that there are no existing wastewater permits.

that the State’s approach to equalizing the tax burden (the Common Level of Appraisal) has a high effect on the overall tax payments residents make, with limited ability of school districts to influence the overall tax rates. Stephen Michel asked where the information on CLA can be found. Liz Karle responded that the State provides information. Amy Turco asked how long time residents can be protected from the effects of price rises fueled by recent purchases. Mr Millington responded that residents are being penalized because the CLA is looking at the value of properties in the whole town. He also noted that there is a homestead reimbursement for those on an income below \$115,000 which can reduce taxes. Liz Karle noted that all residents should submit their homestead declaration because there is also a reimbursement element to the town.

d. SAM Renewal: Faith Tempest confirmed that this has been completed.

e. Open meeting law annual training: Mark Turco confirmed that he will undertake annual training on the Open Meeting law.

f. Updated roads standards: The State has improved its standards and Towns are asked to adopt the new standards. Jeff Chase noted that while the Town is mainly following these there are a couple of things to adjust. Liz Karle noted that any FEMA reimbursement needs to provide proof that these standards are being followed. Mark Turco proposed updating the Town’s standards and bringing them to the next meeting for adoption.

7. Old Business

a. 2026 Mileage Certification Updates: Following some exchange with the AoT

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

at the
MOUNT HOLLY TRANSFER STATION

Saturday, April 11th, & June 13th, 2026

8:00 am to 10:00 am only

The following items are typical of the household chemicals collected through the Household Hazardous Waste program. These materials may be dropped off at the scheduled event in Mount Holly or delivered to the HHW Depot at the Rutland County Solid Waste District’s Gleason Road Transfer Station. The Gleason Road HHW facility is now open by appointment only. Appointments must be made 24 hours in advance.

Kitchen/Bathroom

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

Garage/Workshop

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

Garden/Miscellaneous

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

A Letter to Mount Holly Residents from Tiffany (Norton) Austin

I am pleased to introduce myself as candidate for Lister. I was born and raised in Mount Holly and I make the 5th generation of being part owner of the Charles Garrow Farm which is now called Windy Acres Farm where I run a horse boarding farm. I have worked for Nortons Property Management and have worked side by side with my parents, learning all aspects of landscaping and building. Just 3 years ago I built my own house with help from others, and I learned a lot about how houses are built.

I am a member of the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department where I have been Secretary and I just recently took over being treasurer since the passing of David Johnson.

I have worked putting the Town Report together with others for the past 4 plus years.

I know the state of Vermont has passed a requirement for elected and appointed listers and that is VPA I. I am willing to put the time in for the many hours of training to learn all that I need to do.

I know Mary and Ann and I know we can work as a team to benefit the town.

Please vote for me on March 3. Thank you in advance. Tiffany Austin

necessary. Chair reconfirmed that this process is proposed since the recipients of the land do not currently own it, but if the subdivision is approved then the new owners could move ahead on the permitting process. Commissioner Schulz asked Ms Kelley if any payment would be made by the brothers receiving the land. Ms Kelley stated that there would be no payment.

9. Chair asked interested parties if they had any comments: John Manning expressed concern about road access and his view that the road remain Class 4 to the extent possible. Chair responded that questions of access were discussed at the sketch plan review. Ms Kelley stated that they have no interest in improving the class 4 road. Chair stated that interested parties could reserve their right to comment and could submit their comments in writing within a week before the Planning Commission undertakes its deliberations.

10. Tom Gates asked about power to the parcel, and whether additional power lines would be installed, and if so, where. Ms Kelley stated that underground power will be brought in from the existing pole on Bowlsville road once the wastewater permit is in place. John Tirico expressed concerns about water, when a pond was dredged it affected the water supply to neighboring property, and sought reassurance that there would be no impact on the water table, water supply. Commissioner Andrew Seward noted that the State has clear regulations regarding proximity of new water sources to existing sources. Chair noted that the subdivision proposal being considered would not allow any development; that would only happen once a new application is submitted and another hearing is held. Since there are no specific plans yet for wastewater and power, Chair asked Mr Tirico what his specific concern is. Mr Tirico responded his concern is water supply. Mr Tirico also asked what intentions are for the cabin, Ms Kelley stated that they may try to save it, but it may be demolished.

11. Chair noted that this would only really be able to be addressed once specific plans are in place which will be considered at the second phase of this development. Chair

Chair stated that it is possible to permit a subdivision without these permits, but it would require language referred to as deferral of permits. Chair noted that as a gift this could be considered under the specific part of the subdivision regulations relating to gifts, meaning it would be exempted from the requirement for approved wastewater permits at the time of the subdivision. The Chair confirmed with Ms Kelley that Kelly McGlashen, previously on the deed, had signed a quit claim deed.

7. Chair reviewed the minutes of the Planning Commission’s sketch plan review to ensure that all requested changes had been made to the survey.

8. Chair asked if Commissioners had any comments. Commissioner Michel pointed out to Ms Kelley that if the subdivision is approved, before starting any construction Ms Kelley would need to submit an application for amendment to the subdivision along with a wastewater permit. Chair confirmed this, and proposed that if the subdivision is approved and if all transactions are completed within a year, then a second subdivision fee will not be required, although the application will still be

“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

noted that some improvements to the road would need to be made at the access point, and confirmed with Ms Kelley that she knows that the Town will not maintain it. She acknowledged that they are aware of this. Chair confirmed that all abutters and the applicant are in agreement that the class 4 road not be improved.

12. Chair agreed to allow abutters to submit written comments by 23rd December. All interested parties confirmed they have no objection to approval of this subdivision.

13. Chair closed the hearing at 6.02pm. For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk

A video recording of this hearing can be found at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-public-hearing-1216>

Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 20, 2026 6:30 PM

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

Also present: Faith Tempest, Ron Unterman, Alissa Chronert, Michael Chronert, Francis Devine

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 6.30pm

2. **Changes to agenda:** none.

3. **Approval of minutes of the regular PC meeting of 18th December.** With two minor amendments Commissioner Michel moved to accept the minutes, seconded by the Chair, approved unanimously. AO noted that minutes of the Kelley public hearing will be shared with Commissioners shortly.

4. Reports & Announcements

a. **Administrative Officer.** BCRS received from:

Rifleman Ranch, Sawyer Hill Road, single family residence; a wastewater permit was also submitted.

Cohen, Emu Lane, 24' x 45' storage shed.

Steve McDonald asked about the possibility of dividing a parcel on Loop Road, Lake Ninevah, between the three current owners and enlarging three parcels contiguous to this each of which is owned by one of the three owners. It is not clear if this would be a subdivision or a boundary line adjustment. Commissioner Schulz said he would recuse himself from any decision. Chair asked the AO to ensure Mr McDonald speaks for all owners, and asked for a sketch plan review with all parties.

Chair asked for assurances that the Thrall boundary line adjustment (of December 4th) had been noted in the minutes.

b. **Planning Commission Chair:** The State is undertaking listening sessions on Vermont conservation issues, with the one in Rutland on the same day as Town meeting, others are in Randolph and Burlington.

5. Correspondence

a. Subdivision proposals

i. **Gilbert status update:** the wastewater permit is still in process, so the applicants have asked to wait to set the hearing date.

ii. **The decision on the Wagner subdivision** has been issued. The Gregory Kelley decision should be issued shortly.

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

6. New Business

a. **Adopt VLCT-based Rules of Procedure and Hearing Procedures:** Chair noted that the existing rules of procedure for the PC are outdated, and include a conflict of interest policy, rules of procedure for hearings and procedures for meetings. and VLCT has recommended adopting its latest model. Chair noted that the Town adopted a conflict of interest policy which applies to all commissions, so there is no need for a separate one solely for the PC, which may also lead to inconsistencies between the two. Commissioner Michel asked whether the SB needs to ask each town body to sign it? Chair responded that VT statutes state that Boards must have a policy and the Select Board version applies. The revised procedures are split into two separate documents, one on procedures for hearings and one for meetings. VLCT also suggests a handout for the public. Chair proposed addressing this through the website. Chair noted other revisions: the model does not include a secretary but the proposed draft does since this has proved to be useful in the past; the attendance rule of the previous rules has not been carried forward; a two-hour time limit in the previous rules has been dropped. Chair noted that the guidance from VLCT allows for a “non-meeting” if there is not a quorum, but he proposed not including this. Commissioner Michel asked about whether hearing deliberations should be closed as they have been in the past, although the proposed procedure allows for open deliberations. He also asked about rules of voting, in which decisions need to be made by a majority of the Commission. Chair clarified that all motions carry on the majority of the number of seats, not Commissioners present. Commissioner Andrew Seward asked if the section on public participation is based on the VLCT model? Chair confirmed they are except in the case of requiring (or not) speakers to state their name and/or give their address. Commissioner Andrew Seward acknowledged the benefits of separating the two aspects of public hearings and meetings, and made a motion to table the discussion to the next PC meeting, seconded by Jim Seward, approved by Jim Seward, Andrew Seward, Steve Michel.

b. **Form for documentation of subdivision process:** Chair proposed a format for collation of documentation/ information to be completed by the AO before a sub-division hearing is held, and which would facilitate deliberations. It will also help to distinguish the roles of the AO in comparison with the PC. A number of suggestions for improvements were made including adding the legal owners name or title to the property; moving the service list to an appendix; requiring a copy of the deed; not requiring a mylar at the time of the hearing; and including copies of existing permits as well as the results of permit navigator. The AO noted the need for consistency across the subdivision regulations (once updated), the application form and the checklists. Commissioner Schulz moved to approve the checklist subject to the proposed changes, seconded by Commissioner Andrew Seward approved unanimously.

c. **Annual Report:** Chair had submitted a draft of the annual report to the Town Auditors but asked if there were any suggestions for revision. Commissioner Michel suggested that the Housing study, was not fully a Planning Commission action, but a co-project between the Chair and the Select Board. No suggestions were made for changes.

7. Unfinished business

a. **Subdivision Regulations revision process:** Chair received a document from Cavendish but proposed tabling it until the next meeting to allow more time for consideration of the first draft in comparison with final version. Commissioner Andrew Seward asked



whether RRPC had provided any support. Chair responded no, but also noted that as a town without zoning, Mount Holly is an outlier in the region and is unlikely to get much support from the RRPC. Commissioners agreed to table to the next meeting.

b. Chair noted that there is no additional discussion on the Belmont General Store.

8. **Public comments:** Alissa Chronert submitted a letter which she had submitted to the Select Board, and stated that she had answered all of the questions asked by the Act 250 Coordinator in a timely fashion, except for one case.

9. **Upcoming meetings:** next regular meeting 17th February 6.30pm.

10. **Adjournment:** 8.09pm

A video of this meeting is available at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-120-10>



Notes From the Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Waiting for winter to wane, the MHCC has several projects in mind for future, milder days.

Permits for bottom barriers and mechanical harvesting are in hand and await only the right season to go to work limiting aquatic nuisance weeds in the swimming and boat launch area at Star Lake. Come early summer volunteers will still be needed to hand pull weeds and we continue to work with local residents to find an environmentally positive 'home' for all the vegetation that will be pulled from the Lake.

Look for upcoming fundraising efforts to support the creation, construction, and maintenance of Robert Mojeski's marvelous mechanical harvester.

Commission members will follow up with our recent meeting with state Senator Terry Williams, looking toward increasing access and viability of Star Lake as a recreation area.

Infra-Red cameras that can help home owners assess the energy efficiency of their home are available to residents at the Mount Holly Library. These cameras can provide money saving insights into energy usage.

Also in spring, we are hoping to coordinate a tour of some of Mount Holly's vernal pools. These ephemeral but critically important wetland areas provide wildlife habitats, (especially critical for amphibians and reptiles), flood protection, help prevent erosion and encourage diverse plant growth.

And of course, the Ash Borer program will also return in early summer. There are reports that the Emerald Ash Borer has been spotted as close as Buttermilk Falls, so property owners looking to protect their ash trees from this invasive should keep an eye out for the program's restart. Susan Presson

Photo "Frozen Wave" by Jeanmarie Fitzgerald



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

Josh and Jamie Rose New Owners of Green Mtn. Sugarhouse Speak at Luncheon



Josh and Jamie Rose of Plymouth, VT became the new official owners of the Green Mountain Sugarhouse in early January 2026. Since Josh was a little boy, he's been in the sugarhouse or woods daily. Josh's parents, Doug & Ann Rose continue their normal work routine; Ann in the office/shop and Doug in the sugarhouse. Ann's father, Dave Harlow started the GMSH in the 1950's running it to 1985 when Doug and Ann stepped in and took over.

Josh stated they completed their 13,000 tapping process just before the big snowstorm arrived in January. They have three parcels they currently tap located in Reading. In the woods, Josh shared with us a vacuum sensor and remote monitoring equipment which is located at the tree runs. This piece of equipment allows Josh to monitor the vacuum process through his smartphone sensing any possible leaks or faulty sap lines in the woods. He can plan his work day with this piece of equipment and get to the faulty line if need be much quicker than having to walk all lines looking for a leak or damage.

Jamie stated nothing will change with maple candy, fudge or cremes. (A big cheer from the Rotarians!) One of her initiatives is to help boost their online sales. Years ago, it all started with a catalog, then online sales came about. One idea she hopes to create a possible "subscription" idea allowing customers to receive maple syrup right to their door to their liking; perhaps a quart every month if that is the customers wish. With their three young children you might expect to see them in the office at their desk doing homework on weeknights if you stop by; like Josh said he and his sister did years ago during sugaring season. Gift baskets, individual syrup, homemade maple products and unique Vermont gifts can be found at the store along RTE 100.

Josh and Jamie invite everyone to stop during sugaring season to see the operation. The fresh smell of maple syrup is like no other!

As the world faces increasing challenges, the Ludlow Rotary Club is reaffirming its commitment to the dual pillars of **Community Service** and **World Peace and Conflict Resolution**. Local Rotarians are inviting community members to join their mission of "Service Above Self" to create a ripple effect of positive change starting right here in the Okemo Valley. LRC meets Tuesdays at DJ's at 12:15 p.m. We invite others to pop in and have lunch with us to learn about what we do. Visit us at www.ludlowrotary.com or like us on Facebook!

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The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission invites you to Living With Bears!!!



We are excited to view a mother bear and her cubs scampering across the road but less enthused when meeting a huge one exiting our garage with a trail of upturned garbage cans and refuse behind it – or worse, finding your car windows bashed in from where a bear tried to access garbage bags inside that had been destined for the dump. All of the above occurred in this writer's neighborhood recently!

Tom Gieder, Wildlife Specialist with the USDA Wildlife Services, will lead a presentation and discussion about Vermont's black bears and what individuals and communities can do to better share Shrewsbury with these curious and powerful animals. He will discuss bear biology, ecology, the factors that bring bears too close to our homes, and what we can do to prevent future conflicts with bears. Tom will be presenting on identifying bear attractants, securing attractants, and keeping bears wild. He will also discuss USDA Wildlife Services' new role in combating human wildlife conflicts and other services he provides to the public.

Tom Gieder has been a Wildlife Specialist with USDA Wildlife Services since 2017. He holds a B.S degree from Penn State University in Wildlife and Fishery Science. Prior to working for Wildlife Services, he worked for 12 years managing and researching various wildlife across the United States, from deer, turkeys, shorebirds, fox, bear, and many others. He currently works with human wildlife conflict in Vermont, mostly concentrated on bear conflicts.

Come join us at the Shrewsbury Library on March 13 at 7:00pm

18 www.mounthollyvt.org chitchat@vermontel.net

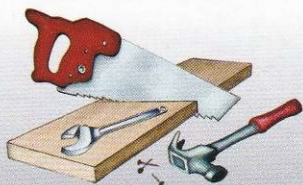
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Vermont Home Gardener

March Gardens, Let's Begin!

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

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

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

Inspect your **indoor or houseplants** closely for tiny pests like aphids, spider mites, or white flies. They should be treated promptly and repeatedly with insecticidal soap or neem oil, or both. Both are organic and can be applied every week or two safely. Scale (common on orchids) can be removed by wiping their leaves off with a rubbing alcohol swab.

In early March you can plant **onion** seeds (I like Ailsa Craig) along with **Wave Petunias**. Refer to last month's article for details about seed starting. These plants are slow to start and require a long head start before transplanting out in late May so now is the time to sow them. Onion seedlings produce better & bigger onions and are much less expensive than sets (small bulbs grown from seeds last season) and come in better varieties than sets. You can also buy young onion seedlings ready to plant from many seed companies and garden stores later in

the season but they are pricey. Most other

seeds (vegetables & flowers) should wait until early April before starting. More on this in a future article.

Commit to home **Composting** now as it's one of the most beneficial jobs every gardener can do. It's great for your soil and plants, keeps climate warming carbon out of the atmosphere, and avoids expensive hauling.



This film will make you fall in love with bats!



The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission is thrilled to invite you to attend a showing on February 20 at the Shrewsbury Library at 7:00 pm of **The Invisible Mammal**. This film is about bats, their struggle to survive, and the humans who help them. This award-winning movie tells the captivating story of a dedicated team as they strive to protect

North America's bats against a deadly disease rapidly spreading across the continent. In this intensely cinematic film, bats are rendered poetically visible: spectacularly streaming out of caves or bridges, or cradled in a gloved hand, wings extended. This film follows Project Fat Bat, a potential solution to help rebuild healthy bat populations across North America. Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, attributed to a bat species in China, their work gets interrupted, but their commitment never waivers. The race to save bats is on.

At once a nature film, a science film, and a character-driven adventure film, **The Invisible Mammal** will immerse you in the world of bats and forever change the way you feel about these amazing little creatures.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Ludlow Community Center
37 Main St, Ludlow

Thursday, March 5

Serving at NOON

Stuffed Chicken Breast

BINGO follows the meal!

All are welcome, free of charge

MEAL PROVIDED BY:
BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES
with support from:
Vail Resorts Epic Promise Foundation &
Okemo Mountain

March 2026 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.



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kevin@belmontseptic.com

Kevin Hollebeek



Green Mountain Neighbors Monthly Update

transporting them to appointments, attending educational events, hosting the monthly luncheon, performing small household tasks, and offering our gentle chair yoga class. Our chair yoga classes are held each Wednesday at 9:30 at the Mount Holly Community Center. We have increased in numbers each week—come and join in! The cost is \$5 for members and \$10.00 for non-members.

We also arranged a lovely snowshoeing event on one of the warmer days! We have already scheduled several informative talks for March and April, one on scams and another on financial management & creation of wills.

As our membership grows each year, so does our need for more volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a member, a supporting member, or exploring the idea of volunteering for GMN, please check out our website: www.greenmountainneighbors.org

You can also call 802-417-2292 and listen to the prompts. We are a 501-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.

“The volunteers from GMN are on time, polite, kind, and super helpful. What a wonderful service to have in our community. Lucky us!” —Cathy and Carl Mitchell Pictured members of Green Mountain Neighbors Snowshoeing in Belmont.



Ludlow Rotary Readies for 100th Anniversary

Back on January 27, 1927, the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) was chartered by Rotary International. It had 25 chartered members. Since that time the LRC has grown and become a major contributor to the Okemo Valley area, the nation and international groups.

As it prepares for its 100th anniversary, it is gathering information on the club’s history, membership, and many activities.

Sharon Bixby and Jim Rumrill, co-chairs of the anniversary committee, indicated that, while it has a large volume of information for its summary report of the club’s history, it needs the help of people in its service area, Ludlow, Mt Holly, Cavendish, and Plymouth, to gather more information and photos that area residents may have of the LRC’s activities, members, and contributions to the area.

“If local folks possess any photos or information about the club, we’d love to receive it”, noted Rumrill. He added that all such contributions would be recognized by the club. To send such information to the LRC, there are several ways to use:

By email – ralphcp@comcast.net By regular mail - : Ludlow Rotary Club, PO Box 216, Ludlow, VT 05149

In Person Delivery – Sharon Bixby, Ludlow Insurance, 150 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149

“This a monumental time for the club”, said Bixby, “and we’d like to have our neighbors part of it.” This is a photo of the Ludlow Rotary members at the club's 93rd anniversary.



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- BRUSH HOG/WET AREAS

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SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

ARTICLES CONTINUED

Article 8. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$8,635.00 for the Community and Social Services, to be raised by tax? YES NO

Article 9. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$2,500.00 for Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, to be raised by tax? YES NO

Article 10. (Town Warning) Does the Town of Mount Holly vote to fund the Afterschool Program at the Mount Holly School in the amount of \$6,500.00 in FY 2026 - 2027, to maintain state grant funding, to be raised by tax? YES NO

Article 11. (Town Warning) 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? YES NO

Article 12. (Town Warning) Shall the Town of Mount Holly Adopt the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion which reads: The Town of Mount Holly concerns 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. YES NO

Article 13. (Town Warning) 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(e) YES NO

LUDLOW MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Article 1: Shall the voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, approve the School Board to expend \$10,455,017.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,420.88 which is 4.15% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year. YES NO

FOR LMHUUSD SCHOOL BOARD 3 Year Term Vote for not more than TWO	FOR LMHUUSD SCHOOL BOARD 2 Year Balance of 3 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR LMHUUSD SCHOOL BOARD 3 Year Term Vote for not more than TWO
STEPHEN MICHEL (Write-in)	BETH MERRILL (Write-in)	KAITLYN BENSON (Write-in)

RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER

Article 1: Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of three million, five hundred thirty-seven thousand, two hundred thirty-eight (\$3,537,238.00) to delay current expenses for the ensuing fiscal and to pay outstanding orders and obligations? YES NO

OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MOUNT HOLLY, VERMONT
MARCH 3, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the name.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 4" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

FOR TOWN MODERATOR 1 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR SELECTMAN 3 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS 1 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE
ANDREW TANGER (Write-in)	JEFFREY T CHASE (Write-in)	CHERYL LIENHARD (Write-in)

FOR TOWN CLERK 1 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR CEMETERY COMMISSIONER 3 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR LISTER 3 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE
CAROL GARROW-WOOLLEY (Write-in)	(Write-in)	TIFFANY AUSTIN (Write-in)

FOR TOWN TREASURER 1 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR 1 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE	FOR AUDITOR 3 Year Term Vote for not more than ONE
ELIZABETH L. KARLE (Write-in)	PETER PERRINO (Write-in)	LORI NORTON (Write-in)

TOWN ARTICLES

Article 3. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2026 - 2027 to be raised by tax?
A. General Fund (net) \$452,755.00 YES NO

B. Highway Fund (net) \$584,900.00 YES NO

Article 4. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$85,000.00 for the Asset/Equipment fund for the fiscal year 2026 - 2027 to be raised by tax? YES NO

Article 5. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. an operating budget of \$94,700.00 for the 2026 - 2027 fiscal year, and Vehicle Replacement Fund of \$85,000.00 for a total of \$179,700.00 to be raised by tax? YES NO

Article 6. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$12,000.00 for the Mount Holly Town Library, to be raised by tax? YES NO

Article 7. (Town Warning) Does the Town vote \$2,000.00 for the Mount Holly Chit Chat, to be raised by tax? YES NO

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KEITH Hawkins president

HAWKINS EXCAVATION Mount Holly, Vermont

802 558.3082

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

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.



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 Mount Holly, Vermont

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


 Mark Turco


 Jeff Chase


 Diana Garrow

WARNING

LUDLOW-MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Voting By Australian Ballot

LUDLOW TOWN HALL and MOUNT HOLLY TOWN OFFICE

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026
10:00am to 7:00pm**

The legal voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the towns of Ludlow Town and Mount Holly, are hereby warned to meet at the respective polling places on Tuesday, the 3rd day of March for the purpose of voting by Australian ballot. The business to be transacted to include:

Article I: Shall the voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the School Board to expend \$10,455,017.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$16,420.98 which is 4.15% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Article II: Election of School Directors.

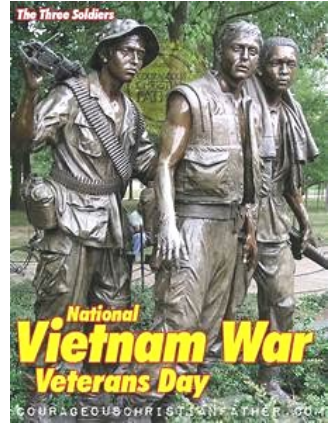
Approved at a Duly Warned Meeting on January 14, 2026.

Board of Directors:

Kaitlyn Benson
Kaitlyn Benson (Ludlow)
Katie Kleczkowski
Katie Kleczkowski (Mount Holly)
Julie McKenzie
Julie McKenzie (Mount Holly)
Jenn Michalke
Jenn Michalke (Ludlow)

Jamie Dickey (Ludlow)
David Martin
David Martin (Mount Holly)
Beth Merrill
Beth Merrill (Ludlow)
K. Tarbell
Kelly Tarbell (Mount Holly)
Ulla Cook
Ulla Cook, District Clerk

Received, filed and recorded 1/15, 2026



WARNING

LUDLOW-MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Ludlow Elementary School

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:00pm

The legal voters of Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the towns of Ludlow and Mount Holly, are hereby warned to meet at Ludlow Elementary School, in the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, on February 24, 2026 to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot. The business to be transacted at this meeting includes the following:

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Article 2: To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Article 3: To elect a Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2026.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for each of its School Board Directors at \$1200.00 per board member and \$1500.00 for Board Chair?

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District approve the annual honorarium for its School District Clerk at \$125.00?

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

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District authorize its Board of School Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payments from member districts as provided in Title 16, Chapter 11, § 771, by issuance of notes of money orders, payable not later than one year from date, for the purpose of paying its expenses?

Article 8: To hear and act on the reports of the Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District Directors for the year ending June 30, 2025.

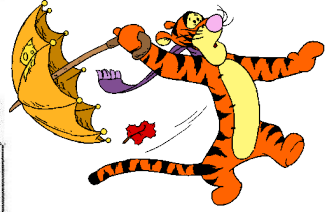
Article 9: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

Board of Directors:

Kaitlyn Benson
Kaitlyn Benson (Ludlow)
Katie Kleczkowski
Katie Kleczkowski (Mount Holly)
Julie McKenzie
Julie McKenzie (Mount Holly)
Jenn Michalke
Jenn Michalke (Ludlow)

Jamie Dickey (Ludlow)
David Martin
David Martin (Mount Holly)
Beth Merrill
Beth Merrill (Ludlow)
K. Tarbell
Kelly Tarbell (Mount Holly)
Ulla Cook
Ulla Cook, District Clerk

Received, filed and recorded 1/15, 2026



WARNING
RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER SCHOOL
DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL
MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

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

ANNUAL MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are hereby warned to meet in the RVTC Caf , Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, Springfield, Vermont, on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM, to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot.

The business to be transacted to include:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of two years

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of two years

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for a term of two years

ARTICLE 4: To see what compensation the School District will pay to the officers of the River Valley Technical Center School District.

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

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

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

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

The meeting will then be recessed to Tuesday, March 3, 2026, on which date the voters of each member district are further warned to vote on the following article by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:

VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT MARCH 3, 2026

ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of **three million, five hundred thirty-seven thousand, two hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$3,537,238)** to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations?

The legal voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District are further warned that a Public Informational Meeting will be held concerning the aforementioned Australian ballot article on Thursday, February 26, 2026, in the RVTC Caf , Rm. B106 at the Howard Dean Education Center, immediately following the business portion of the School District's Annual Meeting.

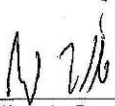
For more information about the proposed 2026-2027 budget, please contact the office of the RVTC Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301. Copies of the RVTC Annual Report are available at town clerk offices and high schools of the member districts, on our website at rvtc.org, or upon request by contacting the RVTC office.


Robert Flint, Chair	Chris Hoddsen
Jessica Burlaw, Vice Chair	Kate Lamphere
Andrew Pennell, Board Secretary/Clerk	Kelly Tarbell
Lyza Gardner	Sarah Vogel
Desiree Giroux	Brenda Blodgett, Clerk, River Valley Technical Center SD

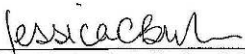
RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER SCHOOL
DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
And
VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT
MARCH 3, 2026

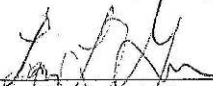
Dated at Springfield, Vermont, in the County of Windsor, on this 14th day of January 2026.


River Valley Technical Center Board of Directors



 Robert Flint, At-Large Member
 Board Chair


 Desiree Giroux, At-Large Member


 Jessica Burlaw, Springfield SD Representative
 Vice Chair

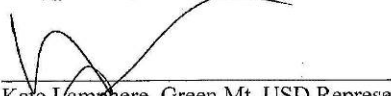

 Lyza Gardner, At-Large Member

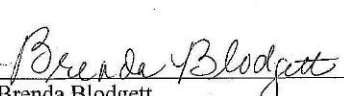

 Andrew Pennell, At-Large Member
 Secretary/Clerk


 Sarah Vogel, At-large Member
 Fall Mtn. Regional School District



 Kelly Tarbell, LMUUSD Representative


 Chris Hoddsen, BFUHS Representative


 Kate Lamphere, Green Mt. USD Representative


 Brenda Blodgett
 Clerk, River Valley Technical Center SD

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 There are only a
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 for the 2026
 Mount Holly
 Calendar
 Competition





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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Selectboard
Town of Mount Holly
Mount Holly, Vermont

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont as of June 30, 2025 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

3 Old Orchard Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
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To see the complete Audit, the official bound copy will be available at the Town Office.

Smith Maple Crest Farm Open Sugarhouse

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Come Celebrate and Sample the Sweetness of the VT Maple Season! *Saturday, March 21, 2026*

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

*We look forward to your stopping by and experiencing the tradition
that has been carried through by our family for generations.
Come stock up on Maple Syrup and Grassfed Beef at local farm pricing!*



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

- Pancake Breakfast by and in support of Shrewsbury Community Sharing Project
- Enjoy our VT Maple Syrup on a stack of their pancakes from 8:00AM - 11:00AM at the Shrewsbury Meeting House (right across the street from our farm)

smithmaplecrestfarm.com



Dear Editor,

We are not sure if our friends and neighbors in town are aware of Governor Scott's message of January 25th of this year.

We believe it is an important message to be shared at this time in Vermont communities. The Governors message below. Thank you, Marcy and Andy Tanger

Governor Phil Scott January 25, 2026

Enough...it's not acceptable for American citizens to be killed by federal agents for exercising their God-given and constitutional rights to protest their government.

At best, these federal immigration operations are a complete failure of coordination of acceptable public safety and law enforcement practices, training, and leadership.

At worst, it's a deliberate federal intimidation and incitement of American citizens that's resulting in the murder of Americans. Again, enough is enough.

The President should pause these operations, de-escalate the situation, and reset the federal government's focus on truly criminal illegal immigrants. In the absence of Presidential action, Congress and the Courts must step up to restore constitutionality



Dear Editor:

The Guthrie Case has dominated the news and captured the nation. From the purported ransom notes to the DNA and blood trail to the unsettling images of a masked gunman, this has been a shocking and strange case. Having an older woman go missing with a daughter seen on TV is extraordinary. *There is even a Vermont connection.* Col. Cameron Guthrie is Nancy Guthrie's son. He's a longtime fighter pilot with the Green Mt. Boys & retired from the VT Nat'l Guard ('18). Sister, Savannah, flew with her older brother in a VT F-18 in 2016. Dead or alive, mom has left a legacy.

"Faith has always been a part of my life since I was a little girl," says Savannah. "I grew up in a pretty churchy, religious upbringing and there's so much that I really love and revere about that, to this day, that I keep with me, like the old hymns. I am so grateful for that upbringing, but there was also a part of it that was really scary for me. I felt a lot of guilt and I always wondered if I was in trouble with God. I always worried that I'd not done the right thing. Over a lifetime I've learned that no matter what we may wonder about where God is or what He's up to, mostly what God is doing is *loving* us. The way He loves us is *so* profound and it has nothing to do with what we do or what we are. There is nothing we can do, for or against Him, to make Him love us *more* or love us *less*. It's all about who *He* is. It's not about who *we* are. [The] closest I could come to understanding that, is when I had my kids, because when we love our kids, there is nothing they can *do* that would make us love them less. Can we love ourselves like that? I think we can. I think [God's] love can enable us to love and forgive ourselves [and others]... Through faith I finally figured it out... God is huge and we are tiny, but never too tiny for Him.. So, we're tiny, small, insignificant, nothing *and* we're *everything* to Him, *both* at the same time. Only with God as the connective tissue between those opposites, does it make any sense at all. He loves us!"

"The greatest gift my mother gave me was faith and belief in God. It changed my whole life." Over the years, on The Today Show, Savannah has often shared her mom's many life lessons. "I've never lived away from home and it was really hard to leave her. That's when she said, 'If you can't *leave* me, then I didn't do my job right, Savannah. I am *not* going to stand in the way of your dreams. You go..."

From the very beginning Nancy and her husband, Charles, raised their three kids to have deep convictions and deep faith. "God was the sixth member of our family..." They relied on that sixth member [especially] following [father] Charlie's tragic death in 1988 on a mining exploration project in Mexico. Savannah was only 16 years old. She says, "I remember a friend asking, 'How can you still believe?' I remember saying, 'Oh no, this is when I need Him the *most*. I can't lose my dad *and* lose God!" [Mother] Nancy became the backbone of the Guthrie family who gravitated toward one another, relying on their faith and resilience. Savannah has shared that faith in Jesus with her *own* children, Vale and Charlie. "When they grow up, it's *theirs* to choose." The family is following Nancy's lead in faith and strength. Savannah has said, "Mom, I just want to thank you for being a great example and being my mom and I will never stop needing you." Someone has said, "It is easy to be faithful when things are going well in your life, up on the mountaintop, but God is not only the God of the mountains, but of the *valleys* too." Pray for all the innocent people who've been abducted, injured, forced to face pain inflicted on loved ones for no justifiable reason. Pray for the Guthrie family...*and* your own. PG

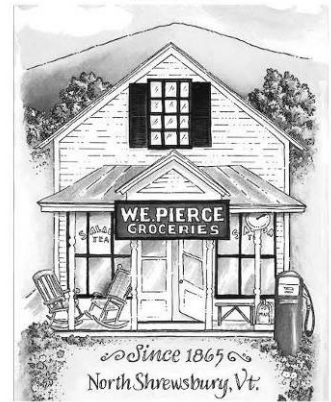
Reminder File HS-122 Homestead Declaration

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.

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DEADLINE MARCH 6TH

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hannah@vso.org

"My rotation at Community Health was one of the most valuable parts of my education. The providers were supportive and truly invested in helping me grow as a clinician. I gained confidence, hands-on experience, and a deeper understanding of patient-centered care." — 2025 PA Student



Are you a student seeking a preceptorship, rotation, or clinical experience?

Community Health welcomes students from a variety of healthcare disciplines, providing a range of hands-on clinical experiences, including:

- Clinical rotations
- Preceptorships
- Practicum placements
- Externships



These experiences vary by discipline and program requirements but all emphasize integrated, patient-centered care in a team-based setting.

Students at Community Health are paired with experienced providers and interdisciplinary care teams who are committed to mentorship, professional growth, and skill development. Our clinical training opportunities help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world practice—giving you the confidence, skills, and support to succeed in your field.

If you are interested, or know of student who might be interested in our training programs, fill out our Clinical Placement Request Form, and we'll follow up as soon as possible to discuss next steps <https://www.chcrr.org/clinical-preceptorship-at-community-health/>

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My Latest Review!

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"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!!"

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2335 Main Street | Cavendish
Five Bedroom Mostly Furnished
Antique Village Home



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



Route 155 | Weston
5+/- Acres with driveway
Owner Terms Possible



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



130 Pleasant Street | Cavendish
Three Bedroom, 2 bath Village Home
Large Deck



188 Station Road | Mount Holly
Home for ALL SEASONS just minutes
to Okemo



When it's Time to Buy or Sell...Choose Kelley Real Estate
 Visit www.KelleyRealEstate.com to learn more about these listings and
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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

Community Health Pharmacies in Rutland and Brandon: Making Wellness Simple, Friendly, and Local

Open six days a week, Community Health's pharmacies in Rutland and Brandon offer simple, friendly and local services for Community Health patients as well as the general public.

Our knowledgeable staff answers your questions about your prescriptions and we accept walk-ins for medication questions and prescription refills. After hours, leave us a message for the next business day. Online prescription renewals can be processed through [RX Local Patient Portal](#).

- ❖ Community Pharmacy Rutland, 62 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701 [802-775-4321](tel:802-775-4321)
- ❖ Community Pharmacy Brandon, 420 Grove Street, Brandon, VT 05733 [802-465-0011](tel:802-465-0011)

For more information about hours and locations, check our website <https://www.chcrr.org/service/pharmacy/>

Beating the Winter Blues

Here it is March and we are so looking ahead to spring. But it's still winter, and we are in the final stretch. Here are a few tips to help you over the finish line:

- Stay active - short walks prevent depression
- Sleep - aim for 7-9 hours a night
- Eat your veggies and fruit - eat a balanced diet, don't skimp
- Get some sun - even small amounts can energize you
- Set aside time to relax
- Socialize - volunteer or be with family

The days are getting longer and the "winter blues" will fade. If you feel as if you cannot cope, contact your Community Health primary care or behavioral health provider. Call our Patient Access Center at 802-779-9169.

Have you scheduled your free Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

Free Annual Wellness Visits at **Community Health** focus on prevention and are designed to keep you healthy, lower your risk of illness and injury and support a healthy quality of life.

The annual wellness visit includes:

- meeting with a nurse or other care team member working with your provider
- blood pressure, height and weight taken
- questions about your medications, vaccines, mood, memory, mobility, family and living situation
- a wellness plan

Take advantage of this Medicare benefit. Medicare patients who have been enrolled in Medicare Part B for at least 12 months are eligible. Schedule your wellness visit today at Community Health <https://chcrr.org> or call 802-779-9169 for more information.



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

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

Flanders.excavating@gmail.com

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 stuberry1@gmail.com



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Broker | Owner
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Who's Got It Locally?

Artists
Stone Creek Workshops Pottery www.stonecreekworkshops.com 802-259-2254

Auto Dealership
Benson's Chevrolet www.bensonschevy.com 802-229-4000 802-228-4001

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 11 am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm
Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020
Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11 am & 3 pm
Until May 11 am & 6 pm 802-779-0300
Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,
11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS
Pastor Jerry Scheumann jfscheumann@gmail.com 603-439-0803
Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org
Rabbi Shemtov rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org 802-773-3455
St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 11 am
Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois christthekingprsh@gmail.com 802-446-2161
Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:45 BS Tue 7 pm
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 802-446-2499
uthrive@vermontel.net

Home Management Services

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

Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 802-228-7151
Plew Farm 1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly www.plewfarm.com 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 – mthollynewsflash@gmail.com 802-259-2250

Painters

Beardmore Painting ~ Derk Beardmore 802-353-9493
beardmorepainting802@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.Beardmore@evusa.com (Mobile) 802-236-5431
eXp Realty Sue Starr-Adams susan.starr-adams@exprealty.com 802-236-8028
Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Owner/Broker Office 802-228-5333
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@kelleyrealestate.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 cwv@vermontel.net 802-259-3232
www.chesterscustomwoodworking.com



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY