



52/3

Mount Holly Chit Chat



May 2026

Church Listings, 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 2-4 pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org 802-259-2460 ddevereux@vermontel.net

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-Sun & Holidays Phone 802-259-2391

Town Asst. Treasurer’s Office Hours: Mon 10:00 am –3:30 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

Town Lister’s Hours: Tues 10:00 am – 2:00 pm or 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: Wed. 4 pm – 7 pm & Sat. 8 am – 2 pm

	1 st	<i>Loyalty Day ~ May Day ~ Empire State Building Opened 1931 ~ Full Flower Moon</i>	
Sat	2 nd	<i>Captain John Smith Landed at Jamestown 1607</i>	
	4 th	<i>National Teacher Day</i>	
	5 th	MH Conservation Commission, MH Town Office <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6:00 pm
		<i>National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women</i>	
	6 th	MH PTG Meeting, MH School	6.00 pm
	7 th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting <i>National Day of Prayer ~ Robert Browning 1812</i>	7:00 pm
	8 th	<i>V-E Day WWII 1945 ~ World Red Cross Day ~ 33rd Pres Harry S Truman 1884 – Military Spouses Appreciation Day</i>	
Sat	9 th	<i>Transcontinental Railroad Completed 1869</i>	
Sun	10 th	<i>Ethan Allen & Green Mountain Boys Captured British-held Fortress of Fort Ticonderoga, NY 1775</i>	
		<i>Mother’s Day</i>	
	12 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont <i>Florence Nightingale 1820</i>	9:00 am
		Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	6:00 pm
	13 th	LMHUUS Meeting,	6:00 pm
		ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
	14 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station <i>Lewis & Clark’s Expedition 1804</i>	7:00 pm
	15 th	<i>Peace Officers Memorial Day 1962</i>	
Sat	16 th	 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>	
Sun	17 th	<i>National EMS Week 17th-23rd ~ New York Stock Exchange Est 1792</i>	
	18 th	<i>Mount St Helen’s Erupted 1980</i>	
	19 th	MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	6:30 pm
	20 th	MH Town Library Meeting <i>First Solo Transatlantic Flight by Charles Lindbergh 1927</i>	6:30 pm
		<i>First Solo Transatlantic Flight by a Woman Amelia Earhart 1932</i>	
		MH Community Asso Meeting	7:00 pm
	21 st	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations <i>American Red Cross Founded by Clara Barton 1881</i>	7:00 pm
	22 nd	<i>United Spinal Asso Founded 1946 ~ National Maritime Day 1933</i>	
	25 th	<i>Igor Sikorsky First Helicopter Invented b. 1889 ~ Memorial Day Observed</i>	
	26 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont <i>Voting Rights Bill of 1965</i>	9:00 am
	27 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont <i>Wild Bill Hickok 1837</i>	7:00 pm
	28 th	Fire Dept. Drill <i>Jim Thorpe Olympic Gold Medalist 1888 ~ Sierra Club Founded 1892</i>	7:00 pm
	29 th	<i>35th Pres John F Kennedy 1917</i>	
Sat	30 th	<i>Traditional Memorial Day 1868</i>	
	31 st	<i>Blue Full Moon</i>	



Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954 802-259-2700	911	Poison Control	802-658-3456
MH Fire Warden ~ Jim Seward 802-786-3408	802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency 802-228-2880	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey 802-793-2776	802-773-9101
Mount Holly Constable NONE		Health Officer – Chad Farrar 802-259-3610	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

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

Donation Thank You's: Francis McKeon * Kevin & Patti Plew (Plew Farm) * Sue Dawley LeBlanc * Sam McMillan (Sam's All Small Engine Repair) * Savannah Baker (Personal Home Services) * Max Yaffe * Melissa Batchelder (MRS Unlimited Visions) * Buddy Batchelder (Buddy System Roofing) * Jon & Amy Lienhard (Belmont Country Gardens Custom Stonework & Property Management) Craig Tomkinson * Rebecca Bates (Wirenuts Electrical) * Jim Chester (Chesters Custom Woodworking) * Angus Farrand (Farrand Masonry) * Gail Beardmore (Engle & Volkers Okemo) * Gail Nadok * Mount Holly SnowFlyers * Wayne Jones (Wayne Jones Metal) * Jim Hatrick * Lydia Graves & John Manning * Susan Starr-Adams (eXp Realty) * Maria Gambino * Keith Hawkins (Yankee Home Management & Hawkins Excavation) *



May Birthdays: 2nd-Dawn Howlett * 3rd-Karl Parsells III 5th-Debby Bernagozzi * Olivia Beardmore-Turco 10th-Amy Taylor 16th-Heather Garrow * Chad Getchell 19th-Allison Bussino (2013) * Savannah Baker 20th-Patrick Chadburn 24th-Greg Herbst * Christopher Jacobs * Jordan Devereux 26th-Karen Blodgett * Brigid Sullivan * Austin Turco * Amy Turco 30th-Jeffery Columb II * Linda Roberts 31st-Tom Veysey * Beth Hart



May Anniversaries: 3rd-Donna & Rick Lee 16th-Jack & Kathleen Koponen 17th-Bill & Mary Ellen Jacobs 18th-Dennis & Fern Melvin * Jeff & Lucy Columb (1985) -Peter & Raye Lin Collins 28th-Steve & Maria Howard * Jim & Kathy Heald (1966) 30th-Douglas & Lynnette Devereux (1970) 31st-Sarah & Zak Delphia

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

Local Post Office Hours

Mount Holly		1-802-219-1426
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		1-802-245-6403
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		1-802-230-1996
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 –		1-802-245-6281



Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc.

PUBLISHER: Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc., a Non Profit Vermont Corporation; Federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt statuses

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Dennis Devereux V. **PRESIDENT:** David Venter
SECRETARY: Terri Isidro **TREASURER:** Diana Garrow
DIRECTORS: Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, Kevin Plew
MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow
ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Martha Howard

Martha Howard (née Simonds), 83, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2026, at the Rutland Center for Health and Rehab. Born in Trenton, New Jersey, on August 13, 1942, Martha was the daughter of the late John and Caroline Simonds. She grew up in Mount Holly, Vermont, and graduated from Mount Holly High School. Early in her life, Martha followed a profound spiritual calling and became a Nun, devoting her years to God and the service of others. During this time, she pursued her passion for education, earning her bachelor’s degree in teaching. Eventually, Martha’s heart led her toward a different path—one where she could fulfill her dream of having a family of her own. She married John “Jesse” Howard, and together they welcomed their daughter, Christie, who remained the light of Martha’s life. Martha’s career in education was a testament to her patience

and kindness. She spent several years teaching 1st grade in the Rupert, Vermont, school district before finishing her career in Williston, Vermont, where she found great fulfillment working with special needs children. After moving to Rutland in 2016 following the loss of her late husband John, Martha remained devoted to her faith as a parishioner of Christ the King Church, which she attended faithfully with her dear friend, Sister Margaret. She loved to read books and to laugh with her family and friends. Everyone could recognize her giggle from across the room. Martha is survived by her daughter, Christie Raymond; her two sisters, Zena Gates and Theresa Young; and her three brothers, Thomas Shannon, Mark Simonds, and Mike Simonds. She also leaves behind a large, loving extended family of nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, John; her brothers, Jim Simonds and Jack Simonds; and her sister, Carol Simonds. Friends may call from 4-6 PM on Friday, April 24, at the Aldous Funeral Home in Rutland. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at St. Patrick’s Church in Wallingford. Burial will follow in the Maple Grove Cemetery in East Wallingford.



Douglas J. McKee

Douglas J. McKee, 79, of Mount Holly, Vermont, passed away on April 3rd after a courageous battle with cancer.

Doug was born on November 24, 1946, in Barre, Vermont, the son of Lila (Dickinson) and Newell McKee. He attended Spaulding High School and was a graduate of the General Electric Apprenticeship Program.

In 2000, Doug married Patricia Loomis McDevitt. The couple made their home in Rutland for many years before moving to Mount Holly.

Doug had a long and dedicated career, working for General Electric, GW Plastics, and Mack Molding before retiring from Boston Scientific. Even in retirement, he remained active, working at the Vermont Country Store.

Doug’s greatest joy in life was watching his grandchildren play sports and spending time talking about his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia of Mount Holly; his son Eric and wife Beth; his daughter Susan and husband Todd; his stepsons Andrew and wife Meagan, and Matthew and wife Brianna. Doug was a proud grandfather to six grandchildren: Nicholas Blow; Maxwell and Jack McKee; and Jacob, Ellie, and Griffin McDevitt. He is also survived by his brother, William McKee, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Doug was predeceased by his parents, his son David McKee, his brother Robert McKee, and sister Betty Murray.

A celebration of Doug’s life was held on Saturday, April 11th at 1:00 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Rutland, Vermont. A private family burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Rutland County Special Olympics, 4 Butterfly Avenue, Rutland VT 05701

Viola Higgins

Viola Higgins burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery on June 6 at 11am. Pastor Jon Bliss of The Old Parish Church will be presiding over the ceremony. All are invited. For more info call Gregory Higgins 802-259-2964

David H Johnson

A burial service will be held Thursday May 21st, 2026 at 2:30 pm Maple Grove Cemetery in East Wallingford, VT with reception/memorial following at the Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont. Donations may be made in David’s memory to Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 114, Mount Holly, VT 05758


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

The Capture of Fort Ticonderoga

The capture of Fort Ticonderoga occurred during the American Revolutionary War on May 10, 1775, when a small force of Green Mountain Boys led by Ethan Allen and Colonel Benedict Arnold surprised and captured the fort’s small British garrison. The cannons and other armaments at Fort Ticonderoga were later transported to Boston by Colonel Henry Knox in the noble train of artillery and used to fortify Dorchester Heights and break the standoff at the siege of Boston.


Capture of the fort marked the beginning of offensive action taken by the Americans against the British.^[a] After seizing Ticonderoga, a small detachment captured the nearby Fort Crown Point on May 11. Seven days later, Arnold and 50 men raided Fort Saint-Jean on the Richelieu River in southern Quebec, seizing military supplies, cannons, and the largest military vessel on Lake Champlain.

Although the scope of this military action was relatively minor, it had significant strategic importance. It impeded communication between northern and southern units of the British Army, and gave the nascent Continental Army a staging ground for the invasion of Quebec later in 1775. It also involved two larger-than-life personalities in Allen and Arnold, each of whom sought to gain as much credit and honor as possible for these events. Most significantly, in an effort led by Henry Knox, artillery from Ticonderoga was dragged across Massachusetts to the heights commanding Boston Harbor, forcing the British to withdraw from that city.



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Make a Difference
GREEN UP DAY
1st Saturday of May
Join Us to Keep Vermont Clean!
greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
Green Up Vermont is fast approaching, **Saturday May 2nd**. Vermont is the only state in the country to

hold a statewide trash cleanup day! Last year, over 25,000 Vermonter's picked up close to one million pounds of trash, 14,307 discarded tires and cleaned 95% of all road in the state.

To participate, register where you will clean and pick up special green trash bags on **Saturday, May 2nd 8 am to noon at the Gazebo on the Belmont Green**. Early pick up is fine! Bags are available at the town office or contact coordinator Leah Knoll at 259-4137, or leahknoll@yahoo.com

Volunteers will receive eggs from Plew Farm and Maple Creamees from the Belmont General Store!

🎓 Calling All Mount Holly High School Seniors!

Are you a graduating senior residing in the **Town of Mount Holly**? Are you planning to pursue higher education this fall? If so, the **Mount Holly Snow Flyers** want to help you take that next step!

We are officially opening applications for our annual scholarship program. We take great pride in supporting our local students as they head off to college, university, or trade school.

How to Apply: Don't miss out on this opportunity to help fund your

future! To request an application, simply send us an email at: ✉ mounthollysnowflyers@gmail.com

Deadline: May 22, 2026

Please share this info with a local senior or parent who should see this. We look forward to hearing from our talented local students! ❄️🌨️🌨️ Call Kim Lampert at 802-259-3877 if any questions.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2026 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS!

Reinbow Riding Center Announces 2026 Season Schedule

Reinbow Riding Center, a therapeutic horsemanship program based in Belmont, is now accepting applications for 2026 program participants! The mission of Reinbow Riding Center is to improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and/or cognitive challenges through a customized therapeutic equine experience.

Reinbow Riding Center also announces their upcoming 2026 season schedule. This year they will be offering three (*Spring, Summer & Fall*) 7-week sessions, with one-week breaks between each session. The Spring session will run from May 18 to July 3, the Summer session will run from July 13 to August 28, and the Fall session will run from September 7 to October 23. There will be four 1-hour lessons (*individual & group*) per day, from Monday to Friday at 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Applications to participate in the Spring 2026 session, as well as financial assistance forms, can be found on their website at: reinbowridingcenter.org/therapeutic-horsemanship. **The application DEADLINE for the Spring session is Monday April 20.** The application deadline for the Summer session is Monday June 15, and for the Fall session on Monday August 10. Participants are reminded to wear pants and closed-toed shoes. They are also responsible for their own transportation to and from the riding facility.

For more information about Reinbow Riding Center and all their programs, please visit their website at:

www.reinbowridingcenter.org . If you are interested in sponsoring or supporting the upcoming 2026 season, please go to their website at: reinbowridingcenter.org/support-us. You can also show your support by following their Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter and LinkedIn social media channels!



Notice: All Invited
Mechanicsville Cemetery
Monthly Volunteer Clean Up Schedule

1st Thursday of each month 2025

May 5 th , 8 am	June 2 nd , 8 am
July 7 th , 8 am	Aug 4 th , 8 am
Sept 1 st , 8 am	Oct 6 th , 8 am



Got Bees?



Warmer weather can cause honey bee colonies to Swarm and go looking for a new home. If you see a big new mass of honeybees (not wasps or hornets) hanging in the open from your house, a tree branch or shrub, or anyplace it might be a honeybee swarm. They are Not aggressive and should not be disturbed or harmed! Call me as soon as you see them and I will come by to collect them from your property in Mount Holly, no charge. Call or text Jim at Fenn Farmstead & Gardens at 781-307-0394.

Green Mountain Neighbors Monthly Update Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

As our membership grows each year, so does our need for more volunteers. You don't even need to leave home! Could you help plan an event? Perhaps you could help with IT/Tech? We can use all skill sets. If you are interested in becoming a member, a supporting member, or exploring volunteering with GMN, please check out our website at 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.

Events: Chair Yoga is on hiatus until the end of May. Bingo at Wallingford House, 1:30 - 3:30, on the third Monday of each month.

Our luncheon this month will be held on Thursday, April 23, at 12:00 noon at Mildred's Place (The Vermont Country Store) in Weston. Let us know if you would like to carpool. Shopping at The Vermont Country Store after lunch is a definite plus!

Future events include a session on Estate Planning as well as "Starting the Conversation", a session on end-of-life questions and answers presented by VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region.

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate your commitment to helping the seniors in our community with your services. Thank you for always being ready, willing, and able to help us whenever necessary. When I shattered my right arm (the driving one, of course) your members have driven me to doctors' appointments, grocery stores, and to my hair stylist. Each volunteer was prompt, courteous, and also provided much-needed companionship as they ferried me to these appointments. And I am forever grateful! Your organization is a much-needed blessing to our community. Thank you," – Carol Serravezza



MHCA COMMUNITY ART GROUP CONTINUES

JOIN US ON THE 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY
MAY 6, 20 -- 6-8:00 PM
COMMUNITY ROOM

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.

Have questions? Contact Zhenia Dickinson Hadar at zhadar@hadarfamily.com

Looking forward to working together!

Hall Rental in Belmont

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

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Celebrating 60 years of marriage!

Dick & Nancy Tilton celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 16, 2026!

Their daughter Mary made arrangements for delivery of this cake and flowers to the Tilton's.

Community Association (MHCA)

Awakening from winter's blanket the daffodils tell us spring is arriving. Of course the mud might be another sign that despite winter's last protests the Green Mountains are coming alive. Each season seems to have its own beauty for a period and then surrenders to the next one as the earth rotates around the sun. The rhythm of life, predictable, comforting, although not always appreciated, keeps us moving forward with hope for another day.

Speaking of rotating, the **Spring Mudd Fling** (y'all know how we feel about mudd season it should be a double D word to give it its proper due) is **May 2**. Doors open at 7 with music starting at 8pm. There has been a last minute change in music, unfortunately there has been a health issue with one of the band members from The Better Blues Band; lucky for us Board Member Mary Alberty was fast on her feet and quickly found a replacement! Frydaddy will help us celebrate our favorite spring dance. Come one - come all to boogie woogie with your friends and neighbors. Although we will have light refreshments available, feel free to bring something to share & BYOB. And in the words of funk-pop singer songwriter Prince who enthusiastically shared..."lets party like it's 1999". Did you know that the song was a reference to dancing through the fear of the world ending in 2000?

Get your tickets ahead of time via the QR code →
or pay at the door (\$15.00).



Look up, have you seen the new storm windows?

The library windows have received a beautiful facelift! We are so excited at how they look and are anticipating the addition of four windows having screens very soon with the interior window refurbishing planned for later this month. *Thank you to all MHCA members* who make this a possibility through their financial contributions!! Thank you Adam Grimes and Board Member Kathleen Smith for coordinating this project.

Upcoming events

Spring Perennial Swap - May date TBD - watch the newsflash for an announcement

May 23 & 24 - Mount Holly artists in the Vermont Spring Open Studio Tour!

We are very excited to provide a venue for local artists to gather and participate in this state wide event. We have 7 artists who will display their creative wares and or demonstrate their craft over the weekend. We invite you to join us at the community center (below the town library) in celebrating our local artists Saturday (10am-5pm) & Sunday (10am-5pm).

July 2 - Music on the Green kick off

Every Thursday evening in July and August we celebrate musicians from Vermont. It is one of those family friendly summer evening events that fills life with memories and enjoyment listening to music waft across the green whilst you visit and catch up with friends and neighbors.

July 25 - The Garden Tour

We are hoping to continue this annual tradition but it has been a bit slow getting gardeners this year, in truth it is always a wee bit challenging. We have 4 commitments and are looking for 3 folks to share their lovely landscapes with us. Don't be shy, reach out to Leah Knoll at leahknoll@yahoo.com to join this year's gardening tour - it is a fun way to spend the day and be the recipient of appreciative gardeners who love to see other gardeners' creations and inspiration.

Music on the Mountain

Planning is underway for the second Music on the Mountain concert to be held in September. Mr. Pianoman - Jamie Ward has volunteered to coordinate the event. We are thrilled to continue the local music scene into the fall season bridging the gap between summer and Cider Days in Mount Holly. Stay tuned for more information.

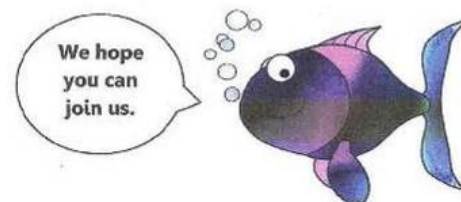
And that, the beautiful people of Mount Holly, is the news from your dedicated MHCA Board of Directors. We hope your boots don't get stuck in the mud, that you can breathe through life's challenges, and that you can find something to be grateful for everyday!



Black River Valley Rod & Gun Club

Will hold its **Annual Kid's Fishing Derby** on **Saturday, May 9th, 2026**.
Sign up begins at 8:30 am and Fishing starts at 9 am.

All Children up to 15 years of age are eligible To participate. The Fishing derby will be held at **Cook's Pond** located on **Rod & Gun Club Road** In **Ludlow, Vermont**. Prizes will be awarded And refreshments served.



FOOD SHELF

BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES
37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM
Phone: 802-228-3663

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MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS MAY 2026

The Mount Holly Conservation Commission has placed a handheld thermal imaging camera at the library for public use. This device will help you determine hot and cold spots within your home. It is available on a first come, first served basis.

Our movie for May is "Sherpa", about the lives of the native people of the Solu Khumbu region of Nepal, the gateway to the Mount Everest region.

Join us for this wonderful documentary Saturday May 16th at 7 PM

THE LIBRARY BOOK DROP IS OPEN AGAIN

Library Hours: Monday 10-2 ~ Tuesday 1-3 ~ Wednesday 2-4 ~ Saturday 9-1

We are accepting donations again for our annual book sale in October

Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT 05730 802-259-3707 mthollylibrary@gmail.com
www.mthollytownlibrary.org

Beardmore Excavating
(802) 342-3507
Robert Beardmore, Jr. 5256 VT-155
beardmoreexc@gmail.com Belmont, Vermont 05730

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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- & MORE!

Upcoming Events & Announcements
Mother's Day May 10th & Father's Day June 21st

Find the perfect gifts for the people in your life at our shop. We're always updating our inventory & you'll love what you see!

Say hi to some new faces!

When you stop in, you will be greeted by different members of our lovely family, who are graciously keeping our doors open. Thanks to their kindness & generosity, we will have regular store hours while we welcome **Baby #2**.

Open Wed-Sat: 11am-6pm | Sun: 11am-7pm

We will update our Instagram & Facebook stories on days where our hours will be disrupted. Find us @wallyscorner to be kept up to date.

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Keith Hawkins
PRESIDENT

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We're Looking for Anyone who wants to
Come Join the Fun!

Become a Volunteer for Rainbow Riding Center's Therapeutic Horsemanship Program

No experience necessary, just the desire to help children and adults overcome challenges and have FUN with Horses!
(non-horse-related opportunities available as well)

We will be holding Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, May 9th starting at 10:00 a.m.
At Stone Wall Farm, 892 Tarbellville Rd in Belmont

Please come see if this is your cup of tea. Visit our website at rainbowridingcenter.org or see us on Facebook and Instagram

For additional information please email janetupton@rainbowridingcenter.org

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Free seeds @ your library!

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Fletcher Memorial Library Presents

The Correspondent
By Virginia Evans

Book Discussion on Mon 5/11 @ 6PM

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POST ROTTED AND FALLING?
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SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026

At the Odd Fellows Hall
37 Lake Street
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Starting at 5:00pm

Benefit
Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department
ROAST BEEF SUPPER
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetables, Rolls and Desserts

All You Can Eat – Family Style

Take outs Available Starting at 4:45pm

Adults \$18.00
Children 12 Yrs. & Under \$8.00

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MOUNT HOLLY GROUP ART SHOW

Participating in VCC's Open Studio Tour

• May 23 & 24 •
Saturday and Sunday

• 10 am to 5 pm •
Community Center Room

Celebrating Local Talent and Community
Free Entry...Refreshments Served

This event is hosted by the Mount Holly Community Association and is part of the Vermont Crafts Council Spring Open Studio Tour.

GREEN MOUNTAIN NEIGHBORS

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Invites you to attend...

Nature Friendly Gardens, Lawns & Container Plants: Best Practices for Springtime

Presenter:
Master Gardener Jim Corven

Sunday, April 19, 2026
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Mount Holly Community Center
26 Maple Hill Road
Belmont, VT 05730

FREE - OPEN TO ALL - FREE

PLEASE RSVP AT:
<https://tinyurl.com/3hxw3ewe>

Questions?
802-417-2292
<https://greenmountainneighbors.org/>

Just another example of GREEN MOUNTAIN NEIGHBORS bringing communities and neighbors together!

16TH ANNUAL **spring**
MUD
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SATURDAY, MAY 2ND • 8:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT
 ODD FELLOWS HALL • BELMONT, VT
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Horses On The Road

IT'S THE LAW Title 23§1127
 That horses have the right-of-way
 On all roads.

Horse owners and riders are asking that you slow down.
 Give the horse some extra room, and proceed with caution.

There are many things that frighten a horse:

- The sounds of different road conditions.
- Water puddles or if it's raining.
- Maybe you hit a big pothole with your vehicle.
- Stones on a dirt road – the sound of them hitting your vehicle, or when they fly out from the tires.
- Maybe you are pulling a trailer and the items in it are making loud noises.

Things like these can cause even the best-trained horse to become afraid and make unexpected movements – SOMETIMES JUMP INTO THE ROADWAY!

WE SHARE THE SAME ROADS. SO PLEASE PASS THE WORD ON.
 SLOW DOWN AND GIVE A HORSE AND RIDER
 SOME EXTRA ROOM FOR SAFETY.

THANK YOU

FROM THE
 VERMONT
 HORSE COUNCIL



www.vthorsecouncil.org



Mount Holly School

**PRESCHOOL
 REGISTRATION**

Thursday, May 14, 2026
 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!

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 answer questions and provide important information
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Hi again from the Vermont State House!

State Senator Brian Collamore



We are in the middle of week 16 of this legislative session. Since I wrote last, the House Education Committee has presented its version of the reform to the education system and in a close vote, it passed the House at the end of week 15. It will now move to the Senate for consideration. The vote in the House was 79-62 to approve the bill with 9 Representatives absent, 5 of those who probably would not have supported it. The vote was not strictly along party lines and critics

said it's unlikely the legislation will lead to the cost savings envisioned under last year's wide-ranging reform package, Act 73. The bill, H.955, offers a process far different than the forced consolidation envisioned in Act 73, last year's education law. After months of gridlock in the House Education Committee, lawmakers said they lacked the political consensus to move forward on any form of forced mergers. In a story in VT digger, "Gov. Phil Scott has made it clear the proposal is unacceptable. School districts are expected to receive less money under the foundation formula. Without consolidated school districts, the new foundation formula would "punish" smaller or more rural districts that lack room in their budgets to adjust, he said earlier this month."

The Senate, while working on its own proposal, appears more sympathetic to Scott's vision and will likely make significant changes to the House's bill. The Senate plan includes supervisory unions as a governance construct and empowers the State Board of Education to require mergers after a two-year local merger process. The number of superintendent offices would be reduced from 52 to 22. H.949, a bill that sets FY27 education property tax rates, passed unanimously out of the Senate Finance Committee and buys down the average property tax bill increase to 3.8%. You may recall that the House proposed to buy down the increase to 7.0%. 3.8% is not enough, but it is the most that can be done with available general fund resources and local spending decisions. The Senate Finance Committee also included language previously passed in S.220, which reduces the excess spending threshold and penalty from 118% to 112% in FY28.

The budget is expected to pass through the Senate this week, but I won't have details until next month on the budget for FY 27.

At the moment, it looks like the session will extend well into May and even into June.

The focus last week was also on Act 181. This is a bill that I voted against when it was on the Senate floor, and I voted later to sustain the Governor's veto of the Act. After an uprising not seen in nearly half a century in Vermont and pushback especially from the rural areas of Vermont, the House Environment Committee appeared likely to repeal two provisions of the bill, namely the 800 foot "Road Rule" and the Tier 3 designation. The Chair of that committee, Rep Amy Sheldon of Middlebury, who was one of the key defenders of Act 181 when it was passed two years ago, abruptly changed her mind and announced that she was willing to work to repeal those sections. All of this came in the face of a rally at the State House on the steps and a Facebook page that attracted almost 12,000 members who demanded the Legislature take steps to correct what they said was an attempt to take away property rights. The bill is S 325 and has not yet advanced out of the House committee. A floor vote on repeal is expected, with rural Democrats likely to join Republicans in support. According to an op ed piece by Robert MacCleod from East Hardwick, which appeared in VT digger:

"The rural uprising over the last month has been a remarkable example of what can be achieved through focused, direct citizen action. Although we are on the cusp of achieving our immediate objective of repealing the 800-foot road rule and the Tier 3 designations of Act 181, there is a much bigger objective that we still need to accomplish.

One of the most significant problems with the entire process by which Act 59 — which set the goal of conserving 30% of Vermont's landscape by 2030 and 50% by 2050 — and Act 181 were created was that both pieces of legislation were classic examples of what may be termed "power over" instead of "power with."

"Power over" is characterized by hierarchy. It is characterized by a governance model that shades toward authoritarianism. It is a process by which a small, select group makes decisions that are binding on others but may not be binding on themselves. It is a centralized process. It is predicated on the false belief that some have more, and superior, knowledge than others.

In contrast, "power with" is characterized by a decentralized democratic model where all interested parties have a seat at the table, and all interested parties have a voice that is heard and considered. It is

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;
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P.O. Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758**

collaborative and recognizes that all parties have valuable knowledge and wisdom that must be included in the process.

In my view, this exactly describes the manner in which Acts 59 and 181 were created. Neither landowners, farmers, foresters, nor any group that actually represents them were invited to be part of the process by which these laws were drafted. Establishment environmental nonprofits and others were perfectly willing to impose the law on those of us who live in and work rural lands.

The position of Rural Vermont Rising — a grassroots advocacy organization representing rural landowners and farmers — is that the legislative model moving forward must be “power with.”

We must be in the room, at the table, when legislation that will substantially affect us is being drafted.

Are development regulations necessary? Yes, otherwise deep-pocketed developers will run rampant in our beautiful state. Is land conservation necessary? Yes, because we need to maintain and support a healthy ecosystem. Is achieving these goals through a democratic process time consuming and messy? Yes, but it turns out to be a lot less messy and time-consuming than when a power majority attempts to compel a power minority to submit to their misguided plans.”

Both chambers have also advanced **\$89** that expands \$80,000 line-of-duty death benefits to more public service workers, including law enforcement, DOC employees, and certain DCF-FSD staff. It could potentially raise future General Fund costs, although impacts are unpredictable due to the low frequency of such deaths. Line-of-duty deaths are rare (only 29 in VT history) the bill keeps the \$80,000 benefit amount, does not include immediate appropriations, and allows the Emergency Board to cover funding shortages.

The Senate Transportation Committee approved a mileage-based user fee set at roughly 1.4 cents per mile, phased in starting in 2027 for electric vehicles, expanding to plug-in hybrids, conventional hybrids and fuel-efficient vehicles (more than 25 MPG) in 2029, and covering **all vehicles by 2031**. EV owners could opt for a flat annual fee of \$178 instead. **The gas tax stays**. Mileage would be recorded at annual inspections and reported to DMV. The committee also voted to redirect \$50 million in vehicle sales tax revenue from the education fund to the transportation fund over five years.

If you have questions or comments or concerns, please email me at bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us or call my home phone at 802-773-1365. I collect my phone messages each Friday (I live in Montpelier during the week) and I promise to call you back. Sen Brian Collamore, Rutland District

Assistant Senate Minority Leader - Chair, Senate Government Operations Committee - Senate Committee on Agriculture - Vice Chair, Judicial Retention Committee - Vice Chair, Joint Pension Oversight Committee - Senate Rules Committee - Senate Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel - Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee

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**Mount Holly Independence Day
Parade
Saturday, July 4th
Downtown Belmont**



**Inviting All Community Groups, Local
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**Now is the Time to Organize
Create a Float, Walk in Costume,
Decorate a Car or Bike and join the fun!
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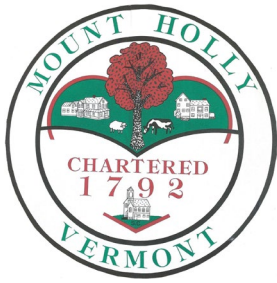
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Mount Holly Town News

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.

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.

Railroad Crossing Maintenance - Summit Rd., Mount Holly (DOT 859-867U) will be closed to traffic May 1 & 2 for Rail Road Crossing maintenance.

SELECT BOARD MEETING Town Office, 50 School Street Mount Holly, VT 05758 **April 14 2026, 6 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Christine Pratt, Cheryl Hammond, Dennis Devereux, James Seward, Zena Gates, June Capron, Kelly Tarbell, Phil Leonard, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Isaac Turco, Julie Parsells, Angelette Turco, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman.

Via Zoom: Barbara and Steve Hazleton, Michael?

1. Call to Order 6.03pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance



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

3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** School Board appointment and laptop purchase for Assistant Treasurer were added to new business, junk ordinance complaints, animal control complaints, and paper of record were added to ongoing business.

4. **Approval of March 10 Minutes:** Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes, seconded Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

5. **Reports**

a. **Highways & Transfer Station Report - Clinton Woolley:** Mr Woolley proposed hiring a crack sealer at cost of \$4500 for road repairs and to protect the newly paved Shunpike and Hortonville Roads. He will work with Shrewsbury to try to get a better price. The State suggests that salt sheds be filled now to avoid winter shortages; Mr Woolley asked if it would be possible to draw funds this FY rather than next FY. Jeff Chase asked how much can be stored - 6 loads, though the use is about 10 loads. Mark Turco asked Mr Woolley to get a price on 6 loads and bring that back to the Select Board. Mr Woolley noted that grading is ongoing, some culverts have collapsed and the price of replacements has risen. Jeff Chase noted some underspend on staffing and summer road materials (though bills may yet be coming and some winter and summer materials were mixed) which may provide the capacity for purchase of some salt; Mr Woolley will follow up with vendors.

i. **Contract for Uniforms:** Cintas has provided an updated quote which will be a similar cost to the previous uniform reimbursement for Highway employees. Jeff Chase moved to switch from reimbursement to the Cintas contract, seconded Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY
A Permit Is REQUIRED for OutDoor BURNING
BURN PERMITS
 May be obtained form
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

ii. **Transfer Station staffing:** Mr Woolley reported on the hazardous waste collection the previous weekend; there are efforts to get the Rutland County Solid Waste District management back in order. Mark Turco proposed an executive session to discuss staffing.

b. **Treasurer Monthly Income & Expense Report - Elizabeth Karle.** In Ms Karle’s absence, Mark Turco asked Julie Parsells to present the monthly report. Ms Parsells responded that a lack of support from the Treasurer means that assistant treasurers are not receiving guidance, and as such, actions are being delayed. Ms Parsells asked if this could be discussed in executive session.

i. **Town Credit Card limit:** tabled.

c. **Listers’ Report - Mary Surething:** in Ms Surething’s absence this report was tabled. .

CLOSED
Mount Holly Town Office
Thursday May 21st for
David Johnson’s Memorial
 Burial Service at Maple Grove Cemetery
 At 2:30 pm Followed by Reception/Memorial at
 The Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont
Monday May 25th In Observance
Of Memorial Day

d. **Mount Holly Planning Commission Report - Jon McCann.** Mark Turco read out the report sent by Jon McCann. The PC is working on another subdivision; the website has been revised to post links to PC decisions on subdivision; a subcommittee to undertake pre-feasibility work on a Belmont Village wastewater system has been formed. Mark Turco asked if the Town was expected to fund such a village waste water system. Jeff Chase and Faith Tempest confirmed that earlier discussions were focused on how users would fund it. Planning Commissioner Ron Unterman stated that the rules of the PC allow the Chair to form the committee, but that the committee has not yet been formed. Amy Turco asked why this was being considered for Belmont and not other locations and stated that taxpayer’s money should not be used for this. Mark Turco responded that no town funds would be used for this; Dennis Devereux noted the fire district approach used in other towns to fund such systems. Jeff Chase noted the need to investigate and plan for the future and be more forward thinking on the future needs of the Town. Kelly Tarbell asked if Act 181 would have any implications for such a development.

6. **New Business**

Transfer Station
Spring/Summer Hours
 Wednesdays 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
 Saturdays 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Driveway Grading / Ditching
Site Work / General Excavation
New Lawns / Ponds
House Sites / Septic Installations
Land Clearing / Driveway Installations

KEITH Hawkins
 president

LOCAL

HAWKINS EXCAVATION Mount Holly, Vermont
 802 558.3082

establish a water supply to the school. Faith Tempest confirmed that the Town attorney had reviewed the wording of the deed. Diana Garrow moved to sign the easement deed to resolve the school water problem, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

f. **School Board appointment:** There is one vacant position for Mount Holly on the School Board who requested the Select Board's view on interested candidates. Mark Turco noted the Select Board does not weigh in on such appointments. Kelly Tarbell was happy to hear the SB had no opinion.

g. **Laptop for assistant treasurer:** Jeff Chase asked which budget this would come from - Diana Garrow noted there is a budget for Treasurer's office costs which does have funds. Jeff Chase moved to approve up to \$400 for laptop for the Assistant Treasurers, second Diana Garrow approved unanimously.

7. **Ongoing & Old Business**

a. **Conservation Commission:**

i. **Appointment to the Commission:** John Ackerman has expressed interest. Diana Garrow moved to accept Mr Ackerman's appointment for a three year term, second

Mark Turco, approved unanimously. Mark Turco noted there is still one vacancy and encouraged interested persons to apply.

ii. **Star Lake Planting:** Jean-Marie Fitzgerald confirmed she ordered plants for Star Lake recreation area and requested reimbursement. She asked about the possibility of removing dangerous trees which have been identified by the Commission, the Tree Warden and the contractor mowing the area for the Town. Clinton Woolley asked to meet with the Conservation Commission to identify the issue and seek quotes.

iii. **Use of MERP Grant:** no proposals as yet.

b. **Dog Licenses:** Follow up on unregistered dogs. Carol Garrow Woolley noted that there are still 89 unregistered dogs with 55 owners, reminder letters have been sent out.

c. **Municipal Planning Grant Housing Needs Assessment:** adoption of final report. Jeff Chase noted that the report is complete and will be submitted to the State. Diana Garrow moved to accept the Housing Needs Assessment Report, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

d. **Junk ordinance complaints:** Mark Turco has received multiple complaints regarding junk on Shunpike Road in two locations. He asked the Clerk to send letters to the property owners.

e. **Animal control complaints:** Mark Turco had received reports of dogs chasing boys on Shunpike Road; he asked the complainant to call the Sheriff's department as animal control officer. Diana Garrow noted reticence for public complaints in fear of reprisal. Mark Turco confirmed that the Sheriff has served tickets to dog owners in Mount Holly. Jeff Chase asked if Mr Turco could get more details from the Sheriff regarding specific actions they have taken.

f. **Paper of record:** Faith Tempest noted a conversation with the Vermont Journal who have offered to deliver to Belmont General Store but could not deliver more widely in Belmont. Mark Turco stated that there is no clear advantage to one or the other option and so the Board will stick with the decision to use the Rutland Herald as the paper of record.

8. **Citizen Comments:** Mark Turco has been approached by a number of residents asking if the Town will take a position on Act 181 and the potentially adverse effects on development, including the permitting costs of Act 250. Dennis Devereux stated the adverse effect is on small towns with benefits for cities; he noted that some elements are being delayed but he would like to see the Town send a letter. Ron Unterman noted that the rural component makes the situation worse, when the main objective is to stimulate housing development in urban areas. Kelly Tarbell also urged the Town to draft a letter. Mark Turco made a motion to draft a letter to be considered at the next SB meeting, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

9. **Announcements/Other Business:** Diana Garrow has prepared text for a plaque to honor David Johnson and asked others to review.

10. **Review & Sign Orders**

11. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel:** Mark Turco made a motion to go into executive session.

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.

What we look forward to in the spring:

1. Warm weather
2. More warm weather
3. Less mud
4. Pretty things popping up from the ground
5. The annual Mount Holly Calendar!

Okay, so #5 should have been #1 but we didn't want you to get too excited. **IT'S COMING!**



Animal Control
 The any 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**.

12. Adjourn.

SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING Town Office, 50 School Street Mount Holly, VT 05758 **April 21 2026, 4.30 pm**

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Christine Pratt, Dawn Augustine, Dennis Devereux, Susan Covalla, Mary Surething, Tiffany Austin, Stephen Michel, June Capron, Julie Parsells, Carol Garrow-Woolley.

13. **Call to Order:** 4.30

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

15. **Transfer Station staffing:** Mark Turco stated that an application was received from Pete Hill for the position of back up transfer station attendant. Diana Garrow moved to appoint David Pete Hill as additional Transfer Station attendant, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

16. **Concerns regarding discharge of Treasurer Function:** Mark Turco moved to enter into executive session, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously. On return to the meeting Mr Turco noted that the Select Board had received some information but more investigation is needed to continue this discussion, which will happen at the next Select Board meeting. Mr Turco also made clear the Treasurer is an elected position and the Select Board does not supervise the Treasurer, who is accountable to the Town's residents. Julie Parsells asked why she had not been in the executive session, Mark Turco responded that she had participated in a previous executive session and that the Board can bring people it deems relevant into the executive session to provide information.

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meetings; performing work requiring public relations, administrative, clerical, email, word processing, and records management skills; and working with minimum supervision.

The number of hours can vary considerably from one month to the next depending on land use activity, but typically average around 10-16 hours per month. The position may be done partially remote (a portion of the work will need to be done on location at the town office). Regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm.

Email a letter of interest and your resume to the Planning Commission at planningcomm@mounthollyvt.org by May 8th 2026.



Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:30 PM

Commission members present: Jon McCann, Jim Seward, Andy Schulz (via Zoom), Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman.

Also present: Faith Tempest, Jeff Chase, Lisa Kelley.

- 1) **Call to order:** 6.49 pm
- 2) **Changes to agenda:** none
- 3) **Approval of minutes of February 17th Regular meeting.** Approved, Chair abstained.
- 4) **Reports & Announcements**
 - a) **Administrative Officer:** On behalf of the Town Clerk, the AO asked if applicants (for approved subdivisions or boundary line adjustments) could provide their own copies of ledger size plats for Town records since there are limited options for the Clerk to have them made from the mylars as a backup. Chair noted that this would then require a second signature from the PC, and that an electronic copy of the mylar is better as a backup; ultimately this is a decision for the Town Clerk.
 - b) **Planning Commission Chair:** An ADU seminar is taking place and may be of interest to PC members and the community. Chair reported he had completed open meeting law training and a course on the new Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP). He also noted that Cavendish passed their new subdivision regulations.

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Vacancy Mount Holly Administrative Officer and Planning Commission Clerk

Do you have great organizational skills and have a desire to help your community?

The Mount Holly Planning Commission is looking for a strong candidate to serve as our Clerk. A successful candidate will also be recommended to the Select Board for appointment and hire as the Town's Administrative Officer.

These positions serve the community by helping to administer permits for our land-use bylaws, manage administrative tasks, and work with the Planning Commission to provide customer service to the public. Duties include attending Planning Commission

**WHAT DID
PHOTOGRAPHER
ANSEL ADAMS
SAY ABOUT
MOUNT HOLLY?**

Answer: Nothing, he was never here. But if he had visited he would have said "Wow, what a photogenic town" and would have entered the annual Mount Holly Calendar competition.

Okay, so maybe this is all BS but the annual photo competition isn't. CLICK AWAY!





5) **Development review**

a) **Review of Gregory Kelley Final Plat changes:** Chair had found discrepancies between the final approved plat and the mylar submitted for signatures which he could not accept unilaterally. He noted that the colors are different, that the elevation data is missing and that the paper copy was not signed and the mylar is. Chair asked if Lisa Kelley could get the mylar updated. Chair asked Commissioners if they expect a signed paper copy; to which they agreed. Commissioners also agreed that the Chair could sign the updated mylar with the changes as agreed. Given the delay, Commissioners also agreed to waive the 30 day limit for signature and completion.

b) **Status of McDonald/Huyler/Carney land division:** Mr McDonald has confirmed that a survey is being prepared. AO has sent again the subdivision application to Mr McDonald with a request for completion.

Commissioner Unterman asked why this cannot be considered as a Boundary Line Adjustment. Chair noted that BLAs are part of the subdivision regulations, and that since this project would also extinguish a lot it should have the scrutiny of the Planning Commission.

6) **New business**

a) **Welcome Ron Unterman as replacement for Andrew Seward:** Chair welcomed Commissioner Unterman and stated that despite recent difficulties, he hopes that the PC can work collaboratively going forward in the interests of the entire community. He confirmed that Commissioner Unterman had received the rules of procedure and conflict of interest policy.

b) **Confirm Town's recently readopted Conflict of Interest Policy:** Chair identified the section of the Town CoI policy which binds the PC to this Town policy. Commissioner Michel noted that the Town policy does not mention perceived conflict of interest; Chair noted that this is referenced in Article 7. All Commission members confirmed they agreed with the content and that there were no questions of issues to refer to the Select Board. Commissioner Schulz stated that as public officers Commissioners should avoid situations where there is an appearance of conflict of interest. All Commissioners agreed to abide by the Town's CoI policy.

c) **Review and discuss Housing Needs Assessment action plan:** Chair noted that the final report is available and that the assessment notes that there is limited ability to build homes of the type required due to septic constraints particularly in the Village center (Belmont) but also in Mount Holly and Hortonville. The report also notes the need for local champions for action in this area. Also noted is the effect of subdivision regulations, including incentives for year round residence through revised subdivision regulations, and different approaches to construction eg ADUs/ back-lots. The lack of zoning is potentially positive to encourage development in Mount Holly, in comparison with other towns. Lisa Kelley commented that engineers need to be educated on options for shared septic or for systems which can be expanded in the future to accommodate additional residences, for example multi-generational households. This shared services approach is cheaper but requires clear articulation at the outset. Chair agreed that this is a good approach to addressing need and that bylaws can support/encourage this kind of development through eg subdivision regulations.

d) **Establishment of Belmont Village Wastewater Planning Committee:** In response to the Housing Needs Assessment, Chair proposed establishing a committee to consider the potential options for a Belmont Village Wastewater system. Chair noted that funding may be available. Chair read a statement to establish the committee, and requested Commissioner Unterman and Faith Tempest to identify 5-7 prospective members for a committee to bring to the next meeting.

Commissioner Unterman asked how a community system would help with housing and proposed that the first thing to consider is where housing could be built in larger numbers. Chair responded by noting that funding is available for village centers, and that there is potential for ADU development in Belmont where septic systems are at capacity; the survey undertaken for the Belmont Village Plan found community support. Commissioner Michel noted limited land availability in the Village but Chair responded that there is potentially more land than may be initially obvious and the Act 250 exceptions may also support further development. Questions of what area a system would serve, where a system could be located, where land is available, etc would be considered by the committee. Jeff Chase noted that this is a long term plan, and should take a forward looking view. Chair noted that focusing on Belmont is partly because of funding, but also the documented need over the last 40 years which supports the kind of work which is required. Other parts of Mount Holly may have such systems in the future. Commissioner Unterman again asked where land for housing development is in Belmont. Chair responded that we should go ahead with a study to be able to make an informed decision before discounting it. Jeff Chase confirmed he would join the committee. The Committee was asked to report back at the next meeting on potential members of the committee.

7) **Unfinished business**

a) **Subdivision Regulations revision process:** tabled. Chair asked Commissioners to read Cavendish's regulations. Chair noted he will also circulate other examples including those with zoning, and in ski areas.

8) **Public comments:** none

9) **Upcoming meeting:** April 21st 6.30 regular meeting.

10) **Adjournment:** 8.35pm

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

A video of this meeting is available at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-317-7>

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**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST INFORMATION AND APPLICATION**

The Photo Calendar contest is a new event sponsored by the Friends of the Fletcher Memorial Library. The Friends are developing a 2027 Calendar which will feature photos of Ludlow and be sold in the Fall of 2026. All proceeds will be used to support the library. We are looking for photos that showcase some aspects of Ludlow: our beautiful mountains, lakes, flowers, wildlife, and quaint village are all ideas that come to mind. Ludlow is beautiful in all four seasons! The competition is open to all amateur photographers. We welcome photos from our residents as well as neighboring towns, second homeowners and visitors who love our town as much as we do!

An independent panel of judges will pre-screen all submitted photos to narrow them down to 24 semi-finalist photos. The 24 semi-finalist photos will be voted on by the public during the week of August 10-15. Photos will be displayed in Fletcher Memorial Library, and ballots can be obtained from the front desk.

Rules of the contest:

- All submissions must depict some aspect of Ludlow. The photo is required to be an 8X10 nonglossy photo using landscape orientation.
- It should be unframed and unmounted.
- Only 1 photo is accepted per photographer.
- Photos can be dropped off at Fletcher Memorial Library
 - or mailed to: Fletcher Memorial Library at 88 Main St. Ludlow, VT 05149.
 - Attention: Friends of the Library.
- The contest begins April 13. **Photos must be submitted no later than July 13, 2026.**



Photo Entry Form

Name *print* _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Name/Description of Photo: _____

If selected as a winner, I understand that my photo will become the property of Fletcher Memorial Library. Any profit realized by the Friends of the Library calendar sale is the sole property of Friends of the Library. I understand that winning photos may be used for future PR to include social media. Credit will be given to the winning photographers on their photo in the calendar.

Signature _____ Date _____



Ludlow Sidehill Cronchers Snowmobile Club Announces 2026 Scholarship Opportunity

The Ludlow Sidehill Cronchers Snowmobile Club is pleased to announce the return of its **Annual Scholarship Program**, offering a **\$1,500 scholarship** to an eligible graduating senior for 2026.

The scholarship is open to **college-bound seniors from Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Cavendish** who plan to enroll in a **two- or four-year college or a technical school**. Preference will be given to students pursuing careers that support the sport of snowmobiling, including **forestry, mechanics, environmental studies, and public health and safety**. Financial need and demonstrated involvement or support in these fields will also be considered.

Applications must be submitted **no later than May 1, 2026**. Students may submit their application essay through their school's scholarship application process or email it directly to the Ludlow Sidehill Cronchers Scholarship Committee at ludlowshe@gmail.com, with a copy sent to their school guidance advisor.

The scholarship award will be disbursed after the recipient completes their first semester of study and provides proof of enrollment for the second semester.

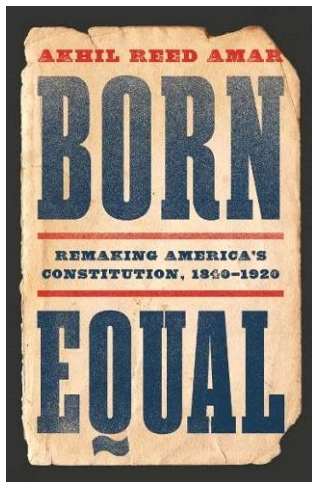
As part of the award acceptance opportunity, scholarship recipients and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are invited to attend the club's **Annual Landowners Dinner**, typically held in early May at a local restaurant in Ludlow. During the event, the scholarship certificate will be presented, allowing landowners and club members to meet the recipient. If the student is comfortable, they may choose to read all or part of their application essay; participation is optional.

About the Ludlow Sidehill Cronchers Snowmobile Club

The Ludlow Sidehill Cronchers Snowmobile Club is dedicated to supporting snowmobiling in the region while promoting responsible land use, community involvement, and appreciation for the landowners who make trail access possible.

For More Information: Ludlow Sidehill Cronchers Scholarship Committee ludlowshe@gmail.com Michelle Doyle: 413-531-2134 www.ludlowsidehillcronchers.com





Community Book Discussion of Born Equal by Akhil Reed Amar

The Book Nook and The Fletcher Memorial Library invite all readers to join our lively non-fiction book club for a discussion of Professor Akhil Reed Amar's *Born Equal - Remaking America's Constitution, 1840-1920*. The discussion will take place on Wednesday April 29 at 5pm at the Fletcher Memorial Library at

In *BORN EQUAL*, Amar continues his legal and political history of the United States by focusing on the time leading up to the Civil War and its aftermaths. Its narrative includes great American leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Abraham Lincoln.

Jeff Shesolin in the *New York Times* describes the strengths of the book in the following line - "Amar's treatment of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, among other episodes, showcases his expertise. Rather than simply recount the back and forth, he uses it as a prompt to consider 10 interpretations of "created equal" — from the narrowest, which holds that the phrase was just misleading rhetoric, to the most expansive, that government has a duty to provide "a fair chance" to all, as Lincoln later put it. Amar is similarly effective in showing how the 1848 Seneca Falls declaration responded to the Declaration of Independence."

Copies of *BORN Equal* are available at The Book Nook at a 15% discount. And at the Fletcher Memorial Library for lending.

The round-table discussion will start at 5 pm on Wednesday April 29. All are welcome to join the discussion. Please RSVP at 802-228-3238 or send email to scott@thebooknookvt.com. Scott Stearns The Book Nook *An independent bookstore in Ludlow, Vermont* <http://www.thebooknookvt.com>

The Phoenix Presents 3rd Annual MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL "A Concert Celebrating Recovery"

Saturday, May 16 at Jackson Gore Village on Okemo Mountain Featuring genre-blending rock band Eggy, LaMP, Scott Metzger, Soule Monde and Many Others

WHAT: The Phoenix, the National 1M member sober community, is hosting its 3rd Annual "[Music on the Mountain](#)" festival, a substance-free music and arts festival benefiting the Divided Sky Foundation, a Ludlow, Vermont-based recovery center co-founded by the Grammy-nominated frontman and guitarist of the legendary band **Phish**, Trey Anastasio, on Saturday, May 16 at the Jackson Gore Village on Okemo Mountain. This year's event will feature **family-friendly** activities celebrating recovery, with local arts vendors, food trucks, and the splendor of Vermont's Green Mountains.

The day will culminate with a one-of-a-kind super jam, "BIG Weekend All-Stars," featuring Eggy, LaMP, Scott Metzger (of JRAD), and Vermont's own Russ Lawton and Ray Paczkowski (of Trey Anastasio Band and Soule Monde). Electric bassist and songwriter Karina Rykman returns with her vibrant stage presence and infectious sound. MOTM veteran Anders Osborne joins Jackie Greene for a special duo set, and Daniel Donato and Natalie Cressman are back as artists-at-large,

joined by Jennifer Hartswick appearing for the first time. New this year is 2ŁOT, blending electronic production, jazz

fusion, and high-energy improvisation, plus a special appearance by The Trombone Shorty Foundation Band, which brings a dynamic ensemble of emerging New Orleans musicians, will take the stage and transport festival goers to the stratosphere before the BIG Weekend All-Stars close out the event.

Weekend activities also include:

WHO: BIG Weekend All-Stars featuring Eggy, LaMP, Scott Metzger, Russ Lawton, and Ray Paczkowski, Soule Monde, Karina Rykman, Anders Osborne, Jackie Greene, Daniel Donato, Natalie Cressman, Jennifer Hartswick, members of The Phoenix, treatment professionals, and community leaders

WHEN: May 16, 2026, 12pm - 8pm (after the Divided Sky Fun (d) Run)

WHERE: Jackson Gore Resort on Okemo Mountain, 111 Jackson Gore Road, Ludlow, Vermont

WHY: The Phoenix has created a national movement of more sober inclusive music events and festivals to foster community, connection, and sobriety. The Phoenix has impacted more than 750,000 individuals in recovery and seeking long-term sobriety and those affected by substance abuse through free-to-join fitness, health and wellness, arts, and social programming.



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May 2026 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc

Mount Holly Transfer Station

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SATURDAYS, 8 am to 2 pm

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Save the Date: America's 250th Birthday Celebration in Ludlow VT!

Join us for a day of patriotic fun & community spirit. Be a part of history!

Saturday, July 4, 2026

10:00 AM: Kick off the day with our Grand Parade! * Following the Parade: Head over to **Veterans Park on Main Street** for a Johnny Murphy BBQ, live music, dancing and family-friendly festivities. Meet George Washington & Thomas Jefferson!

We Want You in our 1776 themed Parade! We are looking for:

Kids with decorated bikes (win a prize for best decorated)

Civic organizations & local clubs

BRHS Alumni floats

Local businesses & performers

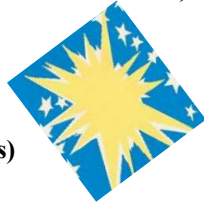
Classic vehicles & marching groups

Animals (horses, cows, oxen, goats, llamas)

Dress up your dog and win a prize!

Parade is open to all surrounding towns!

To be in the parade contact co-chairs Kim Lampert at 802-228-4000, kimberlylampert@bensonschevy.com OR, Penny Wu at 802-228-2860, pwu@ludlow.vt.us



market, as seasonal visitors and second-home owners are drawn to areas with trail access.

Those interested in getting started are encouraged to explore guided rides through organizations such as Snowmobile Vermont, which provide instruction and a safe introduction to the trails. Riders must have a registered snowmobile, liability insurance, and a trail pass. Individuals born after 1983 must also complete a safety course.

For more information, visit VAST at www.vast.org.

The Ludlow Rotary Club welcomes community members to its Tuesday lunch meetings. Those interested in learning more or getting involved are encouraged to reach out to a local member. Photo Patty Companik with

President Kevin Barnes



Ludlow Rotary Donates to Ludlow 4th of July Fireworks and welcomes Parks and Recreation Director Nick Miele

The Ludlow Rotary Club recently welcomed guest speaker Nick Miele, Director of Ludlow Parks and Recreation, to discuss upcoming community events and initiatives including this year's highly anticipated Fourth of July celebration.

In support of the festivities, Ludlow Rotary made a donation toward the town's annual fireworks display, helping ensure a memorable celebration as the nation prepares to mark its 250th anniversary. Events like these not only bring the community together, but also provide a meaningful boost to local businesses, from restaurants and retail shops to lodging and service providers.

Miele also highlighted the many programs and activities offered through the Ludlow Community Center (LCC), located at 37 Main Street. Open to all, the LCC features a fitness room with cardio and strength equipment, as well as recreational opportunities including pickleball, pickup basketball, adult

volleyball, and indoor soccer.

Miele, a graduate of Colby-Sawyer College with a degree in Sports Management, has played a key role in organizing community events such as The Great Easter Egg Hunt, Green Up Day and many more. This year's Green Up Day will take place on May 2 at 8 a.m., with volunteers receiving supplies and gathering afterward for a community barbecue.

Additional upcoming events include:

May 9 – Little League Opening Day ~ **May 16** – Fishing Derby at the Rod and Gun Club

June 12 – Senior Solutions: Aging Successfully ~ **June 21–August 9** – Summer Concert Series at Veterans Park (6:30–8:00 p.m.)

June 22 – Co-ed Softball

For more information, visit Ludlow Parks and Recreation at www.ludlowvtparksandrec.com.

Through partnerships like this, Ludlow Rotary continues to support programs and events that strengthen the local economy and enhance quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Community members interested in learning more about Rotary are invited to attend a Tuesday luncheon as a guest. Contact a local member for more information. Photo: Ludlow Parks and Recreation Director Nick Miele

May 2026 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc

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Vermont 250th Anniversary Grant Funding

Vermont Humanities has two exciting grant opportunities for communities to take advantage of for 250th-related activities. The **Rapid Response Grants** were just released and are intended as quick turn-around small grants for humanities-focused community projects. Applications will be accepted on a **rolling basis**. Vermont Humanities' second round of 2026 **Project Grants** is also open. All 250th-related projects are eligible for funding and encouraged to apply.

The summer deadline is Wednesday, May 20 2026.

For more information including future 2026 grant deadlines, funding guidelines, and applications, visit the Vermont Humanities links below. <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/grants/rapid-response-grants/> <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/grants/for-applicants/project-grants/>

Need inspiration? The Vermont 250th website now has a page for all 250th Anniversary Project Grant recipients. We will continue to update this as more project grants are awarded. If you are curious about what kind of projects are happening in preparation for the 250th Anniversary, start your research here.

Vermont 250th Calendar is back! After much discussion, the events calendar on the Vermont 250th website will be returning. If you have an event planned for 2026, please email the details to sov.vermont250@vermont.gov and we will add it to our calendar. For more information contact Dennis Devereux at 802-259-2460 or email ddevereux@vermontel.net

To The Editor

REPURPOSED BY GRACE

The grapes and olives are budding in Marathon, Greece. Laura and I just returned from a conference similar to Doctors Without Borders where medical professionals come to learn new techniques and get recertified. We care for their kids using puppets, songs and stories and lots of playtime. The 4 and 5 year olds learn to give grace to each other and share. The battery operated cars occasionally get their wheels caught in hair and we lose our marbles now and then, but one toy is very popular.

In the early 1930s, Cleo McVicker came up with a product that could be used as wallpaper cleaner. Back then, most homes were heated by coal, and walls became covered in soot. Cleo's invention could be rolled out over wallpaper and would pick up the grime. Well, due to the popularity of oil and gas furnaces and washable vinyl wallpaper, the wallpaper cleaner never became popular, but decades later, a nursery school teacher used Cleo's product in her classes to create Christmas ornaments. Cleo and his brother Noah, a product developer, had come up with a winning formula that they wanted to call *Rainbow Modeling Compound*. From that was born a new company - Rainbow Crafts - and the wallpaper cleaner was repurposed as a children's toy, with a superior name invented by the nursery school teacher: "Play-Doh."

On a far greater scale, God has a way of repurposing *people*. We remember the biblical story of Joseph and his "coat of many colors." As a young man, he was a lowly shepherd and was sold into slavery by his brothers.

But God led Joseph through great difficulties and into the top ranks of government. Eventually Joseph became "repurposed" as "the ruler of all Egypt." Yet Joseph's calling was not about power but about *grace* - something he extended to his brothers as he forgave them. In a sense, all of us are "failed products." It's through the grace of a Son, Jesus, that we are repurposed into greater things. As you do life today, think of your higher purpose and remember to extend grace to others, just as Christ does for you and for me..

Dear God, if I've forgotten the grace You've called me to, please remind me and help me to extend it to others. Amen. Pastor Glenn

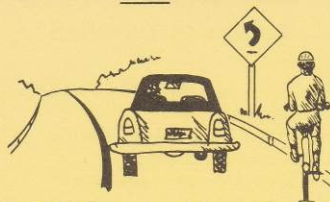


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1. Ride on the right with the flow of traffic.
2. Ride single file.
3. Stop at stop signs and traffic lights.
4. Signal by hand for turns.
5. Give the right of way to pedestrians.
6. Give a clear warning (bell, horn, or voice) when needed for safety.
7. Carry no passengers (except on approved baby seat).
8. Check your brakes often.
9. Equip your bike with front and rear reflectors, pedal reflectors and reflective material on both sides.
10. Do not adjust handlebars above your shoulders or alter the front fork of bike.
11. Do not ride on express or limited access highways.
12. You may ride on the sidewalk outside of the business districts unless the city or town prohibits it.
13. Equip bike with white light in front, red light on rear.

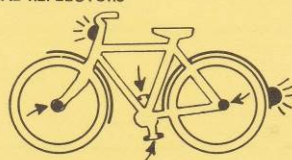
RIDE ON THE RIGHT WITH TRAFFIC



USE HAND SIGNALS and look before turning



HAVE GOOD BRAKES EQUIP BIKE WITH FRONT, REAR, SIDE and PEDAL REFLECTORS



Prevent Head Injuries

PLEASE!
Wear a helmet
while cycling



Dear Editor

After reading Pastor Glenn’s letter to the Chit Chat last month (“How We Should View Muslims”), I was surprised that he made no mention of Sharia Law. Under this barbaric Islamic Code of Conduct, practiced by many Muslims women have absolutely no civil rights or freedoms whatsoever. Women can be and have been executed if seen in public without having their entire bodies covered from head to toe. Women cannot be formally educated after the age of 11. These are just two examples of how women are treated under Sharia Law. Unfortunately, many of these Sharia practicing Muslims are being imported into this great nation of ours. As a proud American and Christian, I believe that all people are created equal and deserve to be treated with both dignity and respect. There is no place in America for Muslims who treat women in this manner. I certainly hope that Pastor Glenn would agree.
Virginia Ward

1976 July 4th Bicentennial Celebration Parade of our Country’s 200th Anniversary in Belmont.



Memorial Day Tribute

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

– President Harry S. Truman



Vermont Home Gardener May Gardening

It's the time of year when we can put some things in the ground. Some seeds can go in now, while others need to wait for warmer days. How do we know what to plant when? In April and early May most soil is still too wet to dig unless you have raised beds. Let's look at several ways to know when it's OK to plant seeds or put out transplants. Also, a few words about the benefits of not mowing lawns in May, the benefits of wasps, and making your own biofertilizer from weeds.

Frost Free Dates. Climate change has affected our growing season, so an earlier spring might help us to plant sooner. Most plants can't take a real "frost" (when the air is still) or a "freeze" (when there is a breeze) so they need to go in after danger has passed. That is tricky since we can't be sure what the weather might bring this month (or next week!) but we do know the average dates based on years of historical weather records. At higher elevations in Mount Holly (1,600 to 1,800 ft.) the safe planting date is *usually* after May 30 and at lower elevations of Wallingford, Shrewsbury, or Ludlow that is about May 24. These are averages and best guesses, not absolute rules! Remember that your plants do not need to go in on the earliest dates possible. See my recommendations for specific plants below.

The University of [Vermont Extension/Master Gardeners](#) program has an excellent website that includes [planting schedules](#) based on agricultural zones plus details about spacing, depth, and number of seeds. This website has many links to good resources for all kinds of useful gardening information. This should be your basic Go To place for reliable information. Note that depending on your exact location, we are in either zone 4 (higher elevation) or 5 (lower elevation). Johnny's Seeds also has a [calculator online](#) that uses your zip code/hardiness zone and to tell you when to start seeds indoors and the earliest dates to transplant outside by plant.

The [Old Farmers' Almanac](#) has a similar table plus they include planting by the moon information. An added feature of the Almanac is that clicking on the name of the plant opens a growing guide for that specific plant. Very handy.

I also use a "natural" way to determine earliest planting dates based on observing nature's local signals ("You can see a lot by observing", Yogi Berra) We can determine time to plant by using our own local natural events. Scientists refer to these chronological events as "Phenology" but they are really just simple observations that you can make. Here is a list of suggestions to use in your garden, wherever you are located:

Earliest times to plant... **Peas & onion** sets when forsythia or daffodils begin blossoming. **Lettuce, beets, carrots, spinach** when first lilac leaves open, dandelions in bloom. Transplant **broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi, cabbage** when dandelions are in full bloom. **Potatoes** when dandelions are in full bloom. **Beans, cukes, squash** when lilacs are in peak bloom. Transplant **tomatoes** when lily of the valley are blooming or apple blossoms open. **Corn** when oak leaves are dime size (young). **Peppers, melons, eggplants** when irises are in full bloom

Using these planning tools can take the guesswork out of planting and make gardening more productive and enjoyable. I tend to be conservative and plant a little later than the earliest dates. Delayed planting of squash and cucumbers, for example, can also avoid the main hatching of cucumber beetles and thereby reduces pest damage.

If you are an eager gardener, there are a couple simple "season extending" tricks to get an earlier start. Most effective are raised beds that drain better and warm quicker than flat ground. Also, covering your planting areas with black woven ground cover a couple weeks ahead of planting (or over the whole winter) will warm the soil and activate the beneficial soil life sooner. Finally, covering young transplants like broccoli, cauliflower, lettuces, etc. with row cover (Agribon) helps retain daytime warmth overnight.

A great conservation idea is called "**No Mow May, let the pollinators play**". This is very simple and makes sense. Avoid mowing your lawn in the month of May so that those early wildflowers (dandelions, clover, violets, etc.) can blossom and provide early nectar for pollinators. Alternatively, don't mow areas with abundant dandelions and clover blossoming and raise your mower to its highest level. These flowers are the first available major food for many wild pollinators, honeybees and bumblebees, and gives them a spring boost. It also gives you a good excuse to delay mowing! If you like this idea, you can extend the benefits by mowing less lawn all summer and converting some areas to pollinator gardens. After May when I find a patch of wildflowers in the lawn I avoid mowing there until they have finished blossoming. At the very least, raise your mower blades to mow higher. That results in healthier grass with deeper roots too. More information is available online at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

What good are wasps? Wasps are one of our best allies for garden pollination and pest control. Wasps are *beneficial* predators and play a vital role in keeping leaf eating bugs under control. There are well over 100 species of wasps in Vermont and the good news is that fewer than 2% of wasps are the stinging "social wasps" that we avoid (yellow jackets, paper wasps, bald-faced hornets). These stingers are the familiar wasps that build (and protect!) their nests in the ground or hanging above ground and will sting if threatened. Unless they are located near human activity, even stinging wasps should not be harmed and be appreciated for their benefits of keeping nature in balance.

You can easily encourage early wild pollinators like the small nonstinging mason bees with nesting houses of reed tubes made from the invasive Phragmites stems! Cut them into 6-inch-long pieces, then bundled together and hang out for pollinator housing.

Early spring is the time to watch for wasp nest building near your home. If you quickly remove new small nests and they will move elsewhere. There is no need to kill them with poisons! Most importantly, 98% of all wasp species will not sting you but will provide great insect control around your home and garden. Some are believed to attack Emerald Ash Borer, a new serious tree pest in Vermont. Encourage their presence with small flowering plants such as fleabane, Queen Ann's Lace, asters, mints, milkweeds, tickseed (Coreopsis), goldenrod, white clover, and boneset. If you see a mass (swarm) of honeybees hanging somewhere in your yard, call me and I will remove them for free.

Compost happens. Keep improving your soil with homemade compost. Compost adds valuable organic matter and beneficial soil microbes that will feed your plants, conserve moisture, and improve soil pH (acidity).

Spring is an ideal time to make your own liquid **Biofertilizer** too. Stop cursing the weeds and use them for your own good. Simply chop up weeds like Bishops weed, dandelions, nettle, burdock, etc., pack them into a 5-gallon bucket (Full-ish), fill the bucket with water, mash the plants with a bat or stick, cover and wait 2-4 weeks. Add a hand full of mature compost or forest soil as an optional booster. Do not mix it. You will produce a nutrient rich green liquid biofertilizer to apply to your growing young plants everywhere. Apply it diluted 10:1 to the soil or sprinkle on the foliage with a watering can. Weeds to fertilizer for FREE! [Here is a video](#) to help you get started.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKoKC0vGkPo>)





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The Ludlow Rotary Club Requests Your Support

The Ludlow Rotary Club, Ludlow, VT is Joining our District for a larger cause. We will be collecting specific Back-to-School items as listed below to support Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Lakota Nation in SW South Dakota. The Reservation spans 1.7 million acres. The Nation faces severe challenges - constantly ranking among the poorest areas in America.

*Please Support the Ludlow Rotary in
Supporting the Oglala Lakota Nation*

Our Club is Seeking Donations of:

Crayons (24 colors), Glue Sticks, and Student Erasers.

Collection Dates: March 30 — May 22

Drop-off sites: Belmont Store, Benson's Chevrolet, Chloe's Market, Ludlow Insurance, Fletcher Memorial Library, M&T Bank and Singleton's Store.

*Thank You for your Support to Help Families who are
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PHOEBE TUCKER FOR VERMONT CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER!

Please join us on **Saturday May 16th 11am-2pm**, for the launch of Phoebe Tucker's campaign for State Representative.

Savor John Murphy's famous BBQ chicken with 2 side dishes for only \$15 per meal! Meet us at Ludlow's Mini Park (next to the Town Hall on Depot Street). The event is rain or shine! Come enjoy the festivities, music, and meet Phoebe Tucker, your candidate for the Ludlow, Mt Holly, and Shrewsbury legislative district.

*Paid for by Phoebe For Vermont Treasurer: Scott Garren,
135 Spring Lake Road, Cuttingsville, VT 05738*



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Contact: Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

Call our office for more information at 802-468-7056.

If you enjoy being around children, have lots of patience, and the willingness to give and get hugs, give us a call!



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Community Health Tip - Learn the Symptoms of Tickborne Diseases

Community Health providers say the best way to prevent tickborne diseases is to use a safe recommended repellent, dress protectively, check your clothes and body for ticks, and learn where ticks thrive. Protect yourself and your family and try to avoid those places.


It's also very important to know the symptoms of tickborne diseases. They include:

- **Lyme disease** - fever, headache, fatigue and skin rash that looks like a bullseye. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system.
- **Anaplasmosis** - fever, severe headache, muscle aches, chills and shaking. Anaplasmosis doesn't cause a rash. Illness occurs 5 to 21 days after exposure to an infected tick.
- **Babesiosis** - when symptoms occur, they typically begin one to four weeks after a tick bite and can include fever, chills, sweats, headache, body aches, loss of appetite, nausea or fatigue.


See your Community Health provider if you feel any of these symptoms as early diagnosis and treatment are important. Learn more on our website <https://www.chcrr.org/patient-education/tickborne-diseases/> or call Patient Access at (802) 779-9169 for more information.

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Tonia Fleming, Director of Marketing and Planning, Springfield Hospital speaks to Ludlow Rotary Club



Tonia Fleming spoke to the Ludlow Rotary Club about the challenges facing Vermont's hospitals in general and Springfield Hospital in particular.

Challenges facing Vermont health care providers include a shortage of workers, reimbursements that don't cover costs, increased patient complexity and an aging population, among others. Recently 30% of the patients in the emergency room were there for mental health or substance abuse issues, including a high number of young people.

There are many other challenges as well that are not controllable by the hospital, such as transportation, day care challenges and affordability.

There are State initiatives including regional efforts to plan for the future. Springfield Hospital is collaborating with Grace Cottage, Brattleboro and Ascutney Hospitals to address broader issues facing all the hospitals and health care facilities in Vermont. The group is looking into whether they can share staff or recruit from local nursing schools to avoid paying for traveling nurses, which are expensive, among other

initiatives.

Springfield Hospital serves a six county service area, as they have been doing for the past 106 years. They are hoping to share some of the \$195 million of federal health care dollars recently allotted to Vermont. Their mission is to provide personalized high quality care in their niche market of 25 beds for short term care. Fleming encouraged Rotarians to look at costs in advance on the Springfield Hospital website and compare those with other facilities. She indicated their facilities provide a wide and comprehensive range of specialized clinical services from routine to complex surgery, day case procedures, diagnostic services and physiotherapy. She encouraged attendees to stay local for care.

Cost and convenience are Springfield hospitals core strengths, giving them the ability to compete with other healthcare providers in the future. Pictured Tonia Fleming, Director of Marketing and Planning at Springfield Hospital speaks to Ludlow Rotary Club recently.

TECH TIME ::::

W/MATT

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Are you at risk for diabetes?

Over 29 million Americans have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes - 49,000 in Vermont - according to the latest state and national data. About 10% of Vermont's population has diagnosed prediabetes (a serious condition where the blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough for a type 2 diabetes diagnosis). There are certain risk factors to consider.

Michele Redmond, RN, BSN, CDCES, coordinator of Community Health's Diabetes Care and Education Program says if there is family history of diabetes or if you were diagnosed with gestational diabetes during pregnancy, it is important to notify your primary care

provider. Your provider will order appropriate screening tests and recommend appropriate follow-up.

If you are diagnosed with diabetes, Community Health's diabetes educators can tailor a plan that will focus on lifestyle changes for prediabetes, and education for how to manage diabetes.

Contact your Community Health primary care provider for more information about diabetes. Call 802-779-9169 for more information about our Diabetes Support Group.

Diabetes Support Group Meets Monthly In Rutland and Castleton

Join us the second Wednesday of every month for the **Diabetes Support Group**.

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

Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center have joined together to organize this monthly gathering. It's a no-judgement, no-lecture meeting, a place to share your challenges and successes and questions about medication management, continuous glucose monitoring, the new GLP1 drugs, meal planning and exercise options.

Contact your Community Health primary care provider for more information about diabetes. Call 802-779-9169 for more information about our Diabetes Support Group.

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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

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.

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Alex Eatmon, Principal Broker

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

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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 – SS 10 am, Worship 11 am 802-259-2831

1st Baptist Church, Wallingford, SS 11am Prayer Meet Wed 7 pm 802-446-2020

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

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

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

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

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

Rutland Jewish Center office@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

Cleaning – Caretaking

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www.Vermontlandscapingandstonework.com

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DarcyHomeImprove@gmail.com

Health & Community Health Care Providers

Community Health – <https://www.cherr.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

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28

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