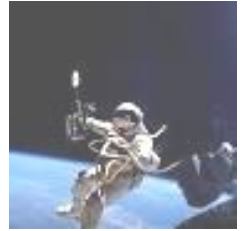




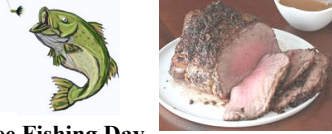
Mount Holly Chit Chat

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
Mt. Holly NewsFlash Town email sign up at newsflash@mounthollyvt.org Check Out www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com
PC Administrator Office Hours: Tues 2 –3 pm or by Appointment 802-259-2391 administrative.officer@mounthollyvt.org
Town Library: Sat 9-1 Mon 10-2 Tue 1-5 Wed 2-4, Call 802-259-3707 <http://mounthollytownlibrary.wordpress.com>
Town Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Closed Fri-Sun & Holidays Phone 802-259-2391
Town Asst. Treasurer’s Office Hours: Mon & Tue 9:00 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>Brigham Young, Mormon Leader B. 1801 ~ National Trails Day Est 1993</i>	
2 nd	MH Conservation Commission <i>US Citizenship Granted to All American Indian’s 1924</i>	6:00 pm
3 rd	MH PTG Meeting <i>Sally Priesand, 1st Woman Rabbi in USA 1972</i>	6:00 pm
	<i>Astronaut Edward White 1st American to Walk in Space 1965</i>	
4 th	Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Fire Station <i>Battle of Midway Begins 1942</i>	7:00 pm
5 th		
Sat 6 th		
8 th		
9 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont <i>First Hot-Air Balloon Flight 1783</i>	9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom <i>D-Day Normandy 1944</i>	6:00 pm
10 th	LMHUUS Meeting, <i>US Bill of Rights by James Madison 1789</i>	6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
11 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station	7:00 pm
Sat 13 th	Roast Beef Supper Benefit MHVFD Odd Fellows Hall Free Fishing Day	4:45 pm
Sun 14 th	<i>Flag Day ~ 1st Non-Stop Transatlantic Flight 1919 ~ US Army Est 1775</i>	
16 th	MH Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom	6:30 pm
17 th	MH Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont <i>Bunker Hill Day 1775</i>	6:30 pm
	MH Community Asso Meeting <i>Pan-Am 1st Airline For Around-The-World Flights 1947</i>	7:00 pm
18 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations <i>Sally Ride 1st US Woman in Space 1983</i>	7:00 pm
19 th		
Sun 21 st	<i>Juneteenth</i>	
22 nd	<i>Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress 1942 ~ GI Bill Signed into Law 1944</i>	
23 rd	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	9:00 am
	Mason Meeting, Mt. Moriah Lodge, E. Wallingford	7:30 pm
24 th	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	7:00 pm
25 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station <i>Korean War Began 1950</i>	7:00 pm
Sat 27 th	<i>Helen Keller 1880 ~ PTSD Awareness Day</i>	
29 th	<i>Strawberry 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
Mount Holly Constable	NONE		Health Officer – Chad Farrar	802-259-3610
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 Yous: Lisa Kelley (Cummings & Co) * Karen Leonard (Monkey Boo Photography) * Barbara Hawkins Fairbanks * Mike & Mary Beth Dawley * Scott Garren (Phoebe 4 Vermont) * Alex Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * Dr. Joseph Donohue DC (Chiropractic Care Thrive Center of The Green Mountains) * Lisa Donohue MA, LMT (Massage Therapy Bodywork Thrive Center of The Green Mountains) * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo) * Theresa Nyiri Nadler * Emma Seward (Seward Farm Stand) * Steve Flanders (Flanders Excavating & Firewood) * Andrew Royce Sr * Rebecca Bates (Wirenuts Electrical) * Emma Wright (Ludlow Farmers Market) * Mike & Maria Blais (Countryside Lock & Alarms) * Rose Richter (Summer Camp FEF) *



June Birthdays: 1st-Torey Surething 4th-Johnathan Davis * Emily Colburn Freedman 5th-Diane Perry 6th-Jason Turco * Sandy Bassett 7th-Kristin Veysey 8th-Al Labozzo 9th-Barry Gagner * Mary Ann Farley * Molly Gagner 10th-Jennifer Turco * Alex & Beth Lee * Steve Hazelton 13th-Dylan Pierro * David Crossman * Shannon Labozzo 16th-Timothy Garrow * Zak Delphia 19th-Stephanie Bussino (2000) * Jonny Bassett 20th-Andrea Kilroe 21st-Emily Jones 22nd-Roger Garrow 24th-Natalie Brown 29th-Helen Graham 30th-Ted Garrow



June Anniversaries: 1st-Mark & Leah Knoll (30 Yrs) 12th-Clinton & Carol Woolley 14th-Mike & Mary Beth Dawley (1969) 18th-Bill & Marnie Dassler (1966) * Susan Dana Bassett & Sandy Bassett 20th-Donald & Jean Gates

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

Local Post Office Hours New Phone Numbers

Mount Holly		802-219-1426
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am & 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 4:45 pm Sat 7:30 am – 10:30 am
Belmont		1-877-854-7062
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am & 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 4:45 pm
East Wallingford		802-245-6403
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am Sat 7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury		802-230-1996
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am & 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 5:00 pm Sat 7:30 am – 11:00 am
Ludlow		802-228-7436
Lobby Hours:	Mon – Fri	6:30 am – 5:30 pm Sat 6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours:	Mon – Fri	8:30 am – 5:00 pm Sat 8:30 am – 10:30 am
Wallingford Post Master –		802-245-6281



Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc.

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

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Dennis Devereux V. **PRESIDENT:** David Venter
SECRETARY: Terri 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.

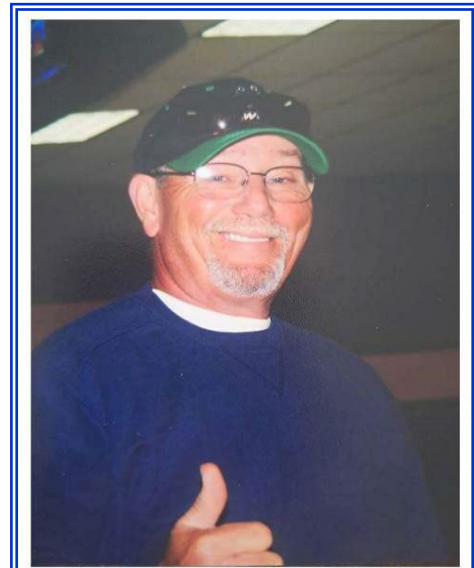
Mt. Holly NewsFlash: Mount Holly's Town email system. Primary attendant is Kevin Plew and backup attendant Stu Berry at stumberry1@gmail.com . Email items to newsflash@mounthollyvt.org www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com



Linda (Beauchain) Swanson

It is with great sadness that the family of Linda Swanson (of Proctor, VT) announces her passing on May 6, 2026 after a brief battle with cancer. Despite the challenges of her illness, her humor remained intact until the very end, a reflection of her strength. She was a light in this world — a bright spirit, a fun-loving, sweet soul whose kindness left a lasting impact on everyone she met. She was impossible to know without loving. Linda was born in Rockingham, VT on October 12, 1953 to James and Mary Beauchain of Mount Holly, VT. She was the oldest of 5 sisters and proudly carried that title throughout her life. She attended Mount Holly Elementary School and Black River High School. She married the love of her life, David Swanson in 1991. They resided in Wells for over 27 years, where she enjoyed her beautiful flower beds, secret gardens, walks in the quarry with her

animals and the serenity of their land. For many years they were a part of the VT Chapter Freedom of the Road/Southwest Freedom Riders and hosted the Ron Williams Run at their home for 15 years. Throughout the years, she was employed at Mac Molding, an activities coordinator at Equinox Terrace, a loving caregiver and a housekeeper. In her early years, Linda enjoyed drag-racing the quarter mile track in South Glens Falls, drag-racing her Father, bowling and found immense joy in creating memories with loved ones. Linda was a loving and devoted Mother, Mimi, sister, aunt and friend. She adored her mentee, Abby for several years through the Mentor Connector Program. Linda loved her family the most and she carried our family history in her heart — never forgetting a birthday, an anniversary, or the traditions that kept us connected. She brought a sense of occasion and care to everything she did, making even ordinary moments feel meaningful to everyone around her. Linda enjoyed dancing, music, flowers, the ocean, Lake Dunmore & Hampton Beach adventures with her grandsons, attending games and performances for her 5 grandchildren, cooking, collecting recipes, finding beauty in the mundane, bird watching, any time spent with loved ones, many rides on her '77 Harley Davidson Sportster and reapplying her lipstick. Linda is preceded in death by her parents (James & Mary Beauchain) and husband of 26 years (David Swanson). Survivors include her son, Travis and Joyce Corey of Clarendon; daughter Tiffany and Matthew Esslinger of Clarendon, five grandchildren, Austin, Tyler and Evan Corey, Casey and Carly Orzechowski; her sisters Lorraine Quinn (Stephen Quinn), Janet Beauchain, Brenda Timmons (Tom Timmons), Judy Hyjek; her nieces, nephews and lifelong friends. It is impossible to wrap the essence and all of her light into words. Some people leave an impression; she left light. Her unforgettable spirit, laughter, and unwavering love will remain with all who knew her. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rutland County Humane Society in honor of Linda and her love of animals. Linda's family will be holding a Celebration of Life on May 30th, at the Loyal Order of the Moose, on Center Street in Rutland, VT from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Light fare will be provided. They invite all family and friends to bring stories to share and spend an afternoon celebrating her beautiful life with them.



Join us July 11th at 1 pm at the village Baptist church in Belmont for a service and Celebration of life for Charles Hobbs who passed away Oct 29, 2025

animals and the serenity of their land. For many years they were a part of the VT Chapter Freedom of the Road/Southwest Freedom Riders and hosted the Ron Williams Run at their home for 15 years. Throughout the years, she was employed at Mac Molding, an activities coordinator at Equinox Terrace, a loving caregiver and a housekeeper. In her early years, Linda enjoyed drag-racing the quarter mile track in South Glens Falls, drag-racing her Father, bowling and found immense joy in creating memories with loved ones. Linda was a loving and devoted Mother, Mimi, sister, aunt and friend. She adored her mentee, Abby for several years through the Mentor Connector Program. Linda loved her family the most and she carried our family history in her heart — never forgetting a birthday, an anniversary, or the traditions that kept us connected. She brought a sense of occasion and care to everything she did, making even ordinary moments feel meaningful to everyone around her. Linda enjoyed dancing, music, flowers, the ocean, Lake Dunmore & Hampton Beach adventures with her grandsons, attending games and performances for her 5 grandchildren, cooking, collecting recipes, finding beauty in the mundane, bird watching, any time spent with loved ones, many rides on her '77 Harley Davidson Sportster and reapplying her lipstick. Linda is preceded in death by her parents (James & Mary Beauchain) and husband of 26 years (David Swanson). Survivors include her son, Travis and Joyce Corey of Clarendon; daughter Tiffany and Matthew Esslinger of Clarendon, five grandchildren, Austin, Tyler and Evan Corey, Casey and Carly Orzechowski; her sisters Lorraine Quinn (Stephen Quinn), Janet Beauchain, Brenda Timmons (Tom Timmons), Judy Hyjek; her nieces, nephews and lifelong friends. It is impossible to wrap the essence and all of her light into words. Some people leave an impression; she left light. Her unforgettable spirit, laughter, and unwavering love will remain with all who knew her. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rutland County Humane Society in honor of Linda and her love of animals. Linda's family will be holding a Celebration of Life on May 30th, at the Loyal Order of the Moose, on Center Street in Rutland, VT from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Light fare will be provided. They invite all family and friends to bring stories to share and spend an afternoon celebrating her beautiful life with them.

Notice: All Invited Mechanicsville Cemetery Monthly Volunteer Clean Up Schedule

1st Thursday of each month 2026

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



TOWN CEMETERY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are looking for a volunteer(s) to mow the Mount Holly Cemetery on Turnpike Road. If interested, please contact me with a message at 802-259-2460 or ddevereux@vermontel.net for a site visit.

Mount Holly Town Cemetery Commissioners: Dennis Devereux, Paul Nevin, Chester Gates, Jr.

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Bone Builders

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

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 .

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 Up Vermont

Thank you to all who came together to make Green Up Vermont a great success! While the weather wasn't great on Saturday, May 2nd, rain and chilly temps did not dampen the enthusiasm of our many volunteers.

93 volunteers signed up to clean 49.75 miles of roads in Mount Holly (Let's call it 50!). We picked up 840 lbs of trash, 1,000 lbs of metal and 8 tires!

Special thanks to **Clinton Woolley and the road crew** for picking up all those green bags, **Mary Jane Osborne** for baking treats for our volunteers, **Belmont General Store** for maple creemees and **Plew Farm** for eggs for all our volunteers!

Green Up Day is unique in the nation as a one day, state-wide clean up event. Just one of the many things that make Vermont such a special place. Of course, we can all help keep Vermont clean and green by picking up trash throughout the year. Thanks again and see you next year! Leah Knoll



Green Mountain Neighbors Monthly Update

Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

Volunteers: As our membership grows each year, so does our need for more volunteers. You don't even need to leave home!. We are particularly interested finding a Web Administrator Tech -The ideal person would have experience with cloud administration, Google workspace, Zoom workspace, SaaS application software administration, Mailchimp or other similar types of mail delivery software a plus.

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 June. Bingo at Wallingford House, 1:30 - 3:30, on the third Monday of each month.

Our luncheon this month will be held on Thursday, May 28, at 12:00 noon at Sweet Caroline's in West Rutland. On Wednesday, June 24, we will host the Vermont Visiting Nurse Association as they present "Start the Conversation: Planning Ahead for Your Healthcare Decisions". 1:30 - 3:30 Gilbert Hall Library in Wallingford.

Future events for the summer include a session on Estate Planning as well as Blueberry Picking and Nature Walks. "We can't thank you enough for driving Carl to paint class, shoveling our stairs and driveway and picking up a prescription in Ludlow. We appreciate everything your volunteers have done. When I tell friends in other states or even in Vermont that a service like this exists they are amazed and tell us how lucky we are. They are so right! Lucky us!," - Carl and Kathy Mitchell



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News and musings from the Mount Holly Community Association

Oh how we love the summer, finally the temperatures begin to rise, flowers begin to pop, the trees are full of green and the hills are alive with music. Or maybe it's the brain that is alive with music which periodically happens. The latest brain wave of summer song goes something like this (hum it to "(Sitting on) The Dock of the Bay")

Sitting in the morning sun 🎵
 I'll be sitting here until the evening comes
 Swatting as the black flies roll in
 Then cursing them over and over again

Sitting on the dock at star lake
 Watching the lilies take over the place
 I'm just sitting at the dock on star lake
 Wasting time

I left my home in Mount Holly
 Headed for the beach at Star Lake
 I've been cooped up all winter
 Looks like warm weather's finally coming this way

So I'm sitting on the dock at star lake
 Watching the lilies take over the place
 Just sitting on the dock at star lake
 Wasting time....

Well now, if Otis Reading was hanging out in Mount Holly he would certainly not be resting his bones as we wind up for summer. There is so much happening and to look forward to! And The Dock will soon be back in Star Lake. It needs a new floatie, which comes from Ferrisburg, so as soon as we pick up the new part, you too can be "sitting on the dock at Star Lake wasting time".

So what's happening this summer...well first we need to say our THANK YOU'S first! Just like counting your blessings before bed.

Here is a big twist and shout thank **you to FryDaddy** for our Spring Mudd Fling! Folks had a blast and hung out til the Odd Fellow Hall closed down. We so appreciated their energy and break from the down and dirty reality of mudd season.

In our continued building maintenance this year we have had landscaping done. Our all-volunteer board agreed this year we needed to do some outside refreshing, kinda like spring cleaning, and decided we would hire someone to do the job right instead of piecemealing it ourselves. A big **thank you to Hanna Prentiss** for her beautification efforts, the place looks mah-va-lus!

Upcoming events

July 2 - Music on the Green Thursdays at 6:30

Here is your Thursday evening summer line up:

July 2	Tim Caira	August 6	Jenny & the Betts
July 9	Jamie Ward	August 13	Jeb Porter & friends
July 16	Better Days Band	August 20	Shady Pines
July 23	Krishna		
August 27	Mount Holly Folk Club		
July 30	Bunty Station (Ohio band)		



July 25 - The Garden Tour - CANCELED

Oh no, say it isn't so... This year has been exceptionally challenging to find enough gardeners & gardens to pull off this annual event. We regretfully made the decision to cancel, regroup and contemplate changes for next year. One idea we are kicking around is to include "tiny houses" as well as gardens in next year's tour.

August 27 - Community cookout

Back by popular demand! We love our community and are excited to host a community cookout for the last music on the green. Burgers, Dogs, and side dishes. As the granddaughters say "sharing is caring". We'll keep you posted on the details, just mark your calendar and plan on joining your friends and neighbors for a friendly feast.

Renewed Community Partnership

MHCA is excited to renew our partnership with Friends of Star Lake (FOSL). Back in the day, FOSL was a committee of MHCA, and, once again, they have asked to resurrect their affiliation with the community association in order to maintain a beautiful community resource. We love increasing our volunteer base to address special projects for our community and are thrilled to have Phil Leonard and Jean Marie Fitzgerald spearhead this committee for us.

And that, our favorite chit chat readers, is all the news for the month of June. We look forward to seeing you out and about!

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ROAST BEEF SUPPER

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026

At the Odd Fellows Hall
37 Lake Street
Belmont, VT 05730

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

More Info Call 802-770-8112

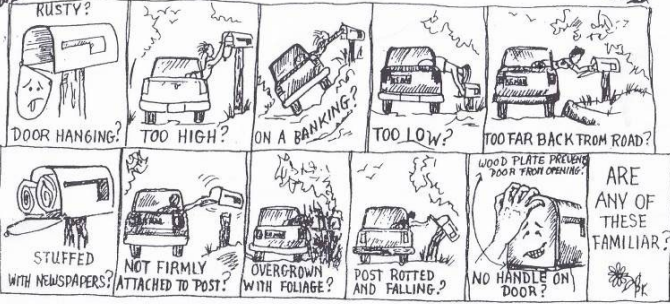


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Saturday, July 4th - 11am
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AMERICA 250 Inviting all AMERICA 250

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Create a Float
Walk in Costume - Decorate a Bike or Car
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Let's Make this the Biggest Parade Yet!
Meet at Dodge Rd for line-up at 10:30am!

Chicken BBQ at the Odd Fellows Lodge after the Parade

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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.

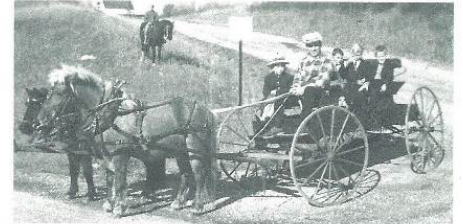
Things like these can cause even the best-trained horse to become afraid and make unexpected movements – SOMETIMES JUMP INTO THE ROADWAY!

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



Rutland Regional Medical Center

1d • 🌐

RRMC and My Healthy VT are pleased to offer a FREE High Blood Pressure Management class beginning Wednesday, June 3. This in-person class will help you learn the basics of controlling your high blood pressure through eating healthier, becoming active, and more! Register today:
<https://bit.ly/4ufEsBB>

High Blood Pressure Management

1 in 4 Vermont Adults Have High Blood Pressure

Our Health Coaches are Here to Help

Free In-Person Class ▪ Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main St., Ludlow
 Wednesdays, 9-10:30am ▪ June 3 – July 22, 2026



For More Information or to Register,
 Scan QR Code, Visit www.MyHealthyVT.org or Call 802.859.5913





MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Home of the Vermont State Terrestrial Fossil

Dear friends and neighbors,

A year ago, we embarked on a fundraising campaign to restore the Will White Blacksmith Shop Museum from the brink of disrepair. As many of you know, water damage and flooding have taken a heavy toll on our building. Originally, our goal was to repair the existing foundation as well as securing and repairing the damage to the building. As with any project involving a structure of this age, the restoration revealed new challenges and an opportunity to not just “patch and repair” but to protect the building for future generations.

After consultation with experts and the Board, the decision was made to raise the building, to pour a new concrete foundation, and repair the damage to the structure. This change has shifted our budget from \$150,000 to \$207,000. We expect to begin the project this coming Fall.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of many, we are thrilled to share that between our community’s \$50,000 in donations and the museum’s own commitment of \$75,000 in savings, we are more than halfway there.

In addition to our community and internal support, we are aggressively pursuing external funding. We have applied for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant for \$50,000 and expect a decision by late May 2026. While we continue to identify and apply for additional grant opportunities, these competitive funds are never guaranteed.

To cross the finish line and complete this restoration, we need to raise the remaining \$82,000.

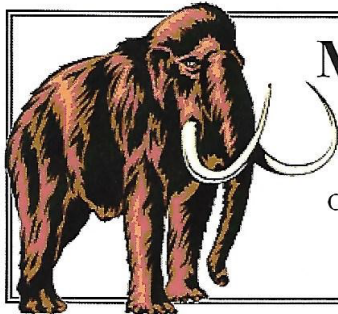
If you have already donated, we thank you. Your support made this start possible. If you have not yet had the chance, please consider a contribution to help us reach our final goal.

Donations can be made by mail to: MHCHM, P.O. Box 17, Belmont VT 05730

Secure online donations at: GIVE BUTTER - <https://givebutter.com/HryDbQ>

Your investment in the Will White Blacksmith Shop will ensure that future generations will continue to learn from and appreciate this special part of our community’s past. With gratitude, Dennis Devereux, Museum Board Chair

Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, Board of Directors: Lynn Anderson, Mary Alberti, Maggie Blane, June Capron, Sue Covalla, Philippe Crane, Dennis Devereux, Craig Fortier, Maria Fortier, Susie Hamilton, Mary Leonard, Karen Lyon, Stephen Michel, Carol Serravezza, Peter Smith, Pat Vogel, Alison Weintraub, Richard Weintraub, Robin Eatmon (Curator)



MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

PO Box 17 Belmont, VT 05730

Our mission is to enlighten our community with an understanding of our past to promote an objective vision of the future.

Home of the Vermont State Terrestrial Fossil

Mount Holly Historical Society

The Mount Holly Historical Society welcomes summer with the opening of our Museums on Saturday and Sunday, May 23rd and 24th from 2:00 PM-4:00PM. New exhibits offer new experiences. This summer we will be joining the Mount Holly Community at large in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of our Country. Close behind, another celebration comes next year with the establishment of the Vermont Republic in 1777. It is a time of remembering who we were and who we are today.

Please plan to make a visit to the Perkins House Museum on the Belmont Village Green and a second stop for a different presentation at the Will White Blacksmith Shop, a short walk down Tarbellville Road.

The Museum will be open June, July and August.

Private visits can be arranged by calling or emailing:

Steve Michel: 802 259 2049 email—stevem671@aol.com

Dennis Devereux: 802 259 2460 email—ddevereux@Vermont.net

Be on the alert for significant announcements and dates from the Museum the next month. Dennis Devereux will be offering various hiking tours, including a walk on June 13th walking the historic Crown Point Road built in 1759-60 by the British Army during the French and Indian War.

Our most significant news at this time is our update and progress report about the restoration of the Will White Blacksmith Shop. Please read our letter to our Community, neighbors and friends. We are so grateful to each of you and look forward to your continued support.



VT Representative Kevin C. Winter announces his run for re-election for the Rutland/Windsor District of Ludlow, Mount Holly and Shrewsbury.

Hello fellow Vermonters! I have been honored to serve as your Representative in the Vermont State House these past two sessions since you elected me in 2024. During that campaign I reached out with the message that if elected I would do everything I could to moderate the downward, unaffordable direction that has plagued our State for the past several decades.

Together we have experienced the Vermont Legislative majority lead us with policies, laws, rules and regulations that have caused runaway spending and catastrophic tax increases, making it nearly impossible for our young people to own a home and raise a family, along with the uncertainty faced by our senior Vermonters who fear they won't be able to afford to live here anymore, as well as the oppressive burden on Vermont's disappearing middle class.

Good news is scarce these days in Montpelier, but in 2024 Vermonters elected the largest team of Republicans in the entire United States, eliminating an uncompromising super-majority stronghold on common sense legislation that would improve the economic lives of Vermont citizens. While there is still a Republican minority, I have been able to vote to sustain the Governor's agenda and slow down the runaway train that has brought us to the bleak financial problems we are facing today, particularly related to education, health care and energy costs.

THERE IS A LOT MORE WE NEED TO DO!

We need root cause solutions, not more Band-Aids and study committees that have accomplished nothing other than kicking the can down the road while property taxes explode. Vermont has a declining tax base as families are forced to leave Vermont for less expensive States with better paying jobs. My constant voice in the VT House and Committee is that Vermont needs good full time jobs that will support young families, less regulations to decrease the costs of building and buying homes, and energy policy that doesn't strangle Vermonters with some of the highest heating fuel and electricity costs in the country.

BUT, without Vermonters gaining a stronger voice in Montpelier these common sense solutions will not even get off the wall in Legislative committees, no real progress in fixing our State issues will be realized. All we can do at this point is slow the degradation.

It is with this in mind that I would like to announce my intention to run for re-election to the Vermont House for the 2027-2028 session this November. If I am re-elected I promise to continue to fight and vote for common sense solutions!

1. No new taxes without clearly defined parameters, accountability and financial advantages for Vermonters
2. Reduce un-necessary and overly restrictive permitting and zoning laws and rules that infringe on Vermonters property rights and exacerbate the housing shortage/crisis.
3. Eliminate programs that mask problems like homelessness and drug addiction and replace them with real solutions that build healthy and productive citizens.
4. Support policy that will bring good paying, clean manufacturing jobs to Vermont and attract families that will fill our schools and become permanent community members who contribute to the tax base.

I am asking for your support and your vote this November to re-elect me to the Vermont House where I will continue my unwavering commitment to real affordability for all of us who struggle to live and keep our families here in our beautiful State.

I really enjoy talking with anyone who would like to discuss their challenges and work together to find the best solutions so PLEASE, feel free to call or text me and we'll find a convenient time to get together. 802-245-4190. I can also be reached via email at Kevin.winter@Vtleg.gov Most sincerely, Rep. Kevin C. Winter VT House: Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury



Solid Waste Stickers ORDER FORM

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

STICKERS REQUIRED AT TRANSFER STATION

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

Transfer Site Hours of Operation:

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

Order Solid Waste Stickers by Mail:

Complete form, enclose your check with a self-addressed, stamped envelope or add \$1.00 for return mail.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Stickers @ \$3.00 each = \$ _____

Postage/handling \$ _____ 1.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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





Benson's Chevrolet Inc
Vermont's Oldest Family Owned & Operated Chevrolet Dealer

Servicing all makes and models
Car rentals available / Fisher Snow Plow Dealer
Your local sales and service dealership since 1931

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Because flavor matters, make it:



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

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

Gift bags of Vermont goodies and meat freezer boxes available

OPEN WEDNESDAY-MONDAY 10AM-5PM

2450 Lincoln Hill Road, Shrewsbury VT. 05738

SmithMapleCrestFarm.com 802-492-2151 maplecrest.info@gmail.com

We ship our syrup and products all over the USA

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



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

Greetings from the Vermont Statehouse

I wish I could tell you as I write this on May 20th that we are close to a resolution to the educational reform that has become **the most important issue this year**. But I cannot.

The education reform debate has appears to have become even more intense on multiple fronts as the Senate worked to produce its version on the House's version (H 955) before we run out of time. It is on the Action Calendar for this week on the Senate floor. The latest amended version reflects many of the House proposals, keeping the CESA's which are Cooperative Educational Services Areas, voluntary merger study committees, reduced Average Daily Membership thresholds to 1,500 instead of 2,000 and the so-called foundation formula pushed out to not take effect immediately. The guess is now that if there are not enough votes to either sustain or override a veto, it will almost certainly proceed on to a three-way negotiation with the Governor. The other option is that this whole topic will be sent to a conference committee which will delay anything happening until probably the end of May. And the Governor has made it very clear that he will not sign any educational reform bill or the State budget until he is satisfied.

Couple that with continued disagreement between the two chambers on the taxing proposals and it does not look very likely that by the time you read this that we will have adjourned. Just for information purposes, inside the already passed Act 73, are excess spending levels for school districts. In House bill H 949, which is this year's property tax bill there was testimony including hearing from the Joint Fiscal Committee. JFO presented two options for aligning the ESA (Excess spending adjustment) threshold with the [Act 73](#) foundation formula base amount: either adjust

the current multiplier from 118% to approximately 114.2%, or replace the formula entirely with the statutory base amount (inflated annually). Both approaches pretty much do the same thing. But the more contentious issue is what the Senate did with it. The Senate-passed version drops the current multiplier to 112% (a more aggressive constraint) but then adds broad exemptions, including construction debt service plus exemptions for flat spending, flat per-pupil spending, and administrative appeals to the Secretary of Education. Some House members were concerned that **these carve outs could effectively neutralize the ESA's intended fiscal discipline**.

This is a crucial design question for the future of the Education Fund. The ESA is the primary cost-containment tool in the current system (particularly if the foundation formula continues to get delayed). The Committee repeatedly **emphasized predictability for school boards and equity for high-poverty districts** that face legitimate cost pressures (special education, mental health services, workforce shortages) that the ESA doesn't distinguish from discretionary spending growth.

There appeared to be some movement toward a compromise early this week, but nothing definite yet. By the time this is published, we may have found resolution. That would trigger an adjournment within a week or so.

Another issue that has yet to be resolved as I write this is the Act 181 situation. **S.325, which the Senate** drafted to include the repeal of the Tier 3 designation, and the Road Rule is now in a conference committee with the House. That conference committee will determine final jurisdiction and planning provisions related to Act 181.

There is also new iteration of the Bottle Bill. According to the Vermont Chamber of Commerce: "Following changes adopted by the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Finance Committee took testimony this week on [H.915](#), which would restructure Vermont's bottle redemption system through a Producer Responsibility Organization model. The proposal would add an additional one cent per container at checkout for consumers and impose an estimated \$2 million in new costs on beverage manufacturers." However, a recent letter to the Rutland Herald on behalf of one of our local redemption centers has asked for support for the bill. It would allow redemption centers to keep the increase in the handling fee for beverage containers. I plan to vote in support of the bill.

H.944, the Transportation Bill, is now in a Committee of Conference. The underlying problem is serious. According to the Agency of Transportation, the Transportation Fund revenues missed forecast by \$7.4 million in FY2025, construction costs are up 62% since 2020, and fuel tax receipts are falling as vehicles grow more efficient. The Agency of Transportation has already cut 62 positions. Current appropriations to the Fund for FY 27 covers repaving of just 46 miles of interstate and 56 miles of state highway, leaving roughly a third of state highways in poor or very poor condition. Without structural change, 60% of Vermont roads will be in very poor condition by decade's end. The bill's most significant policy change: starting January 1, 2027, EV owners will pay \$0.014 per mile, capped at \$178 annually, replacing the current \$89 flat fee. Hybrids and plug-in hybrids follow in 2029. An earlier proposal to extend the mileage fee to all light-duty vehicles by 2031 was dropped.

H 942 which is a House Agriculture bill returned to Senate Finance on Tuesday. The bill exempts convenience stores under 7,000 square feet from unit pricing requirements and creates a new sales tax exemption for forestry equipment — skidders, forwarders, log loaders, firewood processors, and related gear — along with repair parts used in timber operations. There is no indication what the final decision will be in Senate Finance on those provisions.

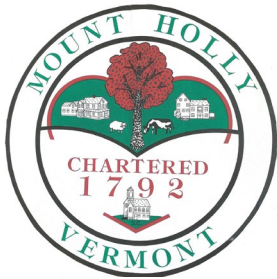
With so many bills and issues still in play, it is difficult to estimate when the Legislature will adjourn. I certainly hope by the end of May!

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know. My home phone is 773-1365 and you can leave a voicemail. My address here is bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us Senator Brian Collamore Rutland County District

Country Antiques
for the Home and Garden

Ed and Sylvia Smith
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Mt. Holly, Vt 05758

sssbkceper@vermontel.net
We buy old and interesting country items.
Please call us at 802 259-2406.



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.

SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING Town Office, 50 School Street Mount Holly, VT 05758 April 29 2026, 4.30 pm

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.

Attendance: Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Faith Tempest, Dennis Devereux, Stephen Michel, Julie Parsells, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley.

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

1. **Call to Order:** 4.34 pm
2. **Town Treasurer:** Mark Turco announced the resignation of Liz Karle as Town Treasurer and moved to accept, Diana Garrow, with regret, seconded, approved unanimously. Mr Turco clarified that since

the two Assistant Treasurers serve at the pleasure of the Treasurer, they no longer hold these posts. He also confirmed that the Treasurer has been asked to submit all documentation as is required; outgoing Assistants will also need to do this. Mr Turco stated that the Select Board will now appoint a new Treasurer to complete the term (until March 2027). Stephen Michel asked if the two Assistants can be kept on? Faith Tempest clarified that one or both of them would need to be appointed by the Select Board. Mr Turco requested the Clerk to advertise the Treasurer position.

3. **Dennis Devereux** asked about moving to an appointed treasurer in the future, though this would need to be a Town resident. Jeff Chase noted that this is an issue to put on the agenda for a regular Select Board meeting since a vote would be required, as well as a vote to allow an appointment of a person not a registered voter (resident) in the Town. If a vote were held there would still be a one year period during which time an elected Treasurer would be required.

4. **Mark Turco** noted that the Town attorney was surprised that the Town is not using NEMRC as its financial management software since they provide significant support to Towns; as Treasurer Liz Karle had proposed this and it may be the way forward. Jeff Chase noted the additional complications this may bring in the near future.

5. **Mark Turco** asked for clarification on who prepared and signed checks: currently Dawn Augustine as Assistant Treasurer is authorized to sign. Faith Tempest noted that the advice was to have two check signers; the attorney has also confirmed that it is possible for a Select Board member to be a check signer as an interim arrangement. Diana Garrow asked that Liz Karle be requested to provide a list of all banking

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

CLOSED
Mount Holly Town Office
June 19th In Observance
Of Juneteenth

entities in which accounts are held. Carol Garrow Woolley noted that for the Credit Union of Vermont, the only signer is Shireen Geimer (a previous Assistant Treasurer).

6. In order to be able to conduct the financial business of the Town Diana Garrow moved to appoint Dawn Augustine as interim Assistant Treasurer, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously. Diana Garrow moved for Mark Turco to be a second signer for the Town accounts, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

7. **Mark Turco** noted the advice to undertake an audit as of the end of the Treasurer/Assistant

Treasurer tenure. Faith Tempest reported that she had spoken to the audit firm but still needs clarity from them on what specifically is required and how much it would cost.

8. **Julie Parsells** asked if the Select Board were happy for her to provide relevant information to Dawn Augustine at the Town Office. Select Board members had no objection.

9. **Meeting adjourned** 5.08pm.

Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office May 12th, 2026 6:00 pm

1. **Attendance:** Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Dawn Augustine, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Zena Gates, Dennis Devereux, Julie Parsells, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley, Jessie Prucnal, Martina Barnes, June Capron, Steven Michel. Via zoom: Barbara and Steve Hazelton, Michael G?

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.

GREEN MOUNTAIN SIGN & GRAPHICS
PRINTED SIGNS MAGNETICS POSTERS WALL MURALS
VEHICLE GRAPHICS COLOR COPIES FLOOR GRAPHICS
WINDOW GRAPHICS BANNERS STICKERS CARVED SIGNS
 16 Pond Street Ludlow (802) 856-5612
CUSTOMVTSIGNS@GMAIL.COM

2. **Call to Order**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** Mark Turco added pest control in Town office as item 7g, and Treasurer Applications as item 8g.
5. **Approval of Approval of April 14th, 21st and 28th Minutes:** Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes as presented, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
6. **Reports**

a. **Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley:** three quotes have been received for removal of 6 hazardous trees at Star Lake Recreation Area: McCullough Brothers \$19350, Willow Tree Service \$8000 without debris pick up, DB Tree Works \$4000 including clean up. Jeff Chase clarified that although this was not budgeted, since they are hazards they need to be removed; Mr Chase made a motion to remove 6 trees at Star Lake to be funded through summer road outside services budget line, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously. Mr Woolley reported that the State of Vermont inspected the Transfer Station and found breaches due to residents not following the rules especially for the burn pile; a report will be forthcoming and there may be fines. Mark Turco asked Mr Woolley to speak to the attendants,

to consider limiting entry through a one way system to allow better monitoring by the attendants, and also asked for research into alternatives to having a Town transfer station. Jeff Chase proposed closing the burn pile. Mark Turco said he would not oppose removing the open top containers (metal, construction rubbish) and keeping only trash and recycling. Jeff Chase asked that the State be notified of actions taken as soon as the report is received. Jeff Chase made a motion to close the burn pile immediately, and close the open top containers for construction debris and metal at the end of the financial year, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

i. **Status of Hortonville/Shunpike intersection, culvert on Hortonville/103:** Clinton Woolley reported that the intersection has broken up during the winter meaning the scope of work is broader than originally expected; an RFP will go out for those repairs and retreatment from Rte 103 up to the junction. Jeff Chase noted there are funds in the retreatment budget. The exact specifications will be based on how much funds are left.

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**.

ii. **Sawyer Hill and Beaver Meadow Culvert Replacement - Material Procurement RFP.** Jeff Chase reported he has done the drawing, and is working on the ANR stream permit and Army Corp of Engineers approvals. He will seek quotes for the installation. Julie Parsells asked for more details; Jeff Chase responded that there is a State Grant to fund these repairs and enable the State Standards.

b. **Town Treasurer Update - Dawn Augustine**

i. **Monthly Income and Expenses Report:** activities were similar to last

month; delinquent taxes are almost all paid, with only \$67,676 outstanding. Clinton Woolley noted he has spoken to VLCT about insurance coverage for using the man-lift: the Town is covered, and an additional safety demonstration will be held. Using the lift will save the Town considerable money.

ii. **RHR Smith Reappointment for Auditor:** Faith Tempest reported that the official engagement letter has been sent. She is in discussion with the auditors about how to manage an interim audit following the departure of the Treasurer.

c. **Listers' Report - Mary Surething.** In Ms Surething's absence due to a family emergency Faith Tempest reported that the Listers are working on reassessments and grievance notices should be sent out in around 2 weeks.

d. **Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane:** tabled.

7. New Business

a. **US Forest Service Spring update:** Martina Barnes Manchester District Ranger, gave an update on ongoing projects and USFS reorganization. She noted two successful prescribed burnings at Tarbellville and Beaver Meadow Road which reduces fine fuels and helps to maintain wildlife habitat. Ms Barnes noted that drought conditions mean the need for the public to be careful to avoid fires. Work on a statewide mountain bike trail will start in this region this year, and will pass through Mount Tabor. Jessie Prucnal noted the five-year timber sale happening in Mount Holly, with the objective of supporting wildlife habitat with the timber as a byproduct. Stephen Michel asked about access to the bike

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

at the MOUNT HOLLY TRANSFER STATION

Saturday, June 13th, 2026

8:00 am to 10:00 am only

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

Kitchen/Bathroom

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

Garage/Workshop

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

Garden/Miscellaneous

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

KEITH Hawkins
president



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

HAWKINS EXCAVATION Mount Holly, Vermont
802 558.3082



Town of Mount Holly TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

Due to misuse of Transfer Station facilities, risking fines for the Town, the Select Board is making the following changes:

With immediate effect: the burn pile will be closed, no further materials can be added to it.

From July 1st: scrap metal and construction waste (C&D) will no longer be accepted.

From July 1st, the only waste accepted will be zero sort recyclables, bagged household trash and recyclable electronics.

REMINDER: Payment is by sticker only, available for purchase at the Mount Holly Town Office. **CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED** at the Transfer Station.

Sticker prices for trash: 30 gallon bag or smaller: 1 sticker **Contractor bag:** 3 stickers

Stickers can be purchased at Mount Holly Town Office Mon – Thur 8:30 am – 4:00 pm @ \$3 each

that this would be part of a move to a single machine for the whole office, and that this would be funded from the office supplies budget. Diana Garrow moved to lease the Symquest color copier for \$199.14 per month, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously. Jeff Chase asked to code the expense to copier expense (in the budget line). Stephen Michel asked if the copier is owned by the Town at the end of the lease - Ms Garrow Woolley confirmed it would not.

c. **Delta Dental renewal:** annual renewal is on July 1st with a 2.58% increase in the premium. Mark Turco moved to accept this, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

d. **Rutland Sheriff Department report of Traffic Control and Animal Control activities:** Mark Turco will speak to them again regarding a full report.

e. **2026 Rutland Region Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement:** agreement signed.

f. **Pest control for Town office:** Mark Turco asked for Carol Garrow-Woolley to get 3 quotes, including for boxes for the outside of the building.

8. Old Business

a. **Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Annual Update and Approval:** Jeff Chase reported he will have the Plan for the next meeting.

b. **Act 181 letter:** Mark Turco read a draft letter to the Vermont Legislature. Dennis Devereux noted that the legislature is working on repeal. Diana Garrow moved to accept the letter, Jeff Chase second, approved unanimously.

c. **Dreamhost account:** Faith Tempest reported that a DreamPass account, at \$14.99 per month for the first year, \$19.99 thereafter, was agreed with EndeavorOps to be the best account for the Town. Diana Garrow moved to allow Faith Tempest to set up the Dreamhost account, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

d. **Administrative Officer/ Planning Commission Clerk appointment:** The Planning Commission Chair confirmed that an application had been received, but the Commission has not had time to discuss and proposed extending the term of the incumbent by a month. Mark Turco noted that a special meeting is likely and proposed tabling this until that time.

e. **Dog license update:** Carol Garrow Woolley reported that only 26 dogs with 20 owners remain unregistered and she is still working on the issue. Ms Garrow Woolley asked if the SB can have this updated in June before deciding what further action may be required.

f. **Posting places for public notices:** Mark Turco proposed to amend the earlier vote to go back to posting notices at the Mount Holly Post Office instead of the Oddfellows Hall, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

g. **Treasurer applications:** Mark Turco noted the need to appoint a Treasurer for the remaining term of the elected position; he would like to put to the Town a vote for an appointed treasurer. The Select Board received applications from Marc Miller and Amy Tayler and interviews will be held as soon as possible.

9. **Citizen Comments:** Dennis Devereux asked about removing the hazardous tree at Carleton Cemetery, with quotes becoming very high; could work be done at least to remove the canopy to make any fall less dangerous? Clinton Woolley responded that he will speak to DB Tree Works about this.

10. Announcements

a. **Town Office Closed** for David Johnson Memorial May 21st (Maple Grove Cemetery, 2.30pm followed by Oddfellows Hall for reception), and for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

trail from Mount Holly; Ms Barnes responded that there have been conversations about this, but no action but the recent appointment of a permanent staff member handling this means that further discussions and action are possible.

b. **Town office photocopier replacement:** Carol Garrow Woolley presented a quote from Symquest; McGee has not responded with a full quote. The most cost effective option is leasing a color copier. The current copier is no longer serviced. Jeff Chase confirmed



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Saturdays 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Diana Garrow moved to allow Faith Tempest to set up the Dreamhost account, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

d. **Administrative Officer/ Planning Commission Clerk appointment:** The Planning Commission Chair confirmed that an application had been received, but the Commission has not had time to discuss and proposed extending the term of the incumbent by a month. Mark Turco noted that a special meeting is likely and proposed tabling this until that time.

e. **Dog license update:** Carol Garrow Woolley reported that only 26 dogs with 20 owners remain unregistered and she is still working on the issue. Ms Garrow Woolley asked if the SB can have this updated in June before deciding what further action may be required.

f. **Posting places for public notices:** Mark Turco proposed to amend the earlier vote to go back to posting notices at the Mount Holly Post Office instead of the Oddfellows Hall, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.

g. **Treasurer applications:** Mark Turco noted the need to appoint a Treasurer for the remaining term of the elected position; he would like to put to the Town a vote for an appointed treasurer. The Select Board received applications from Marc Miller and Amy Tayler and interviews will be held as soon as possible.

9. **Citizen Comments:** Dennis Devereux asked about removing the hazardous tree at Carleton Cemetery, with quotes becoming very high; could work be done at least to remove the canopy to make any fall less dangerous? Clinton Woolley responded that he will speak to DB Tree Works about this.

10. Announcements

a. **Town Office Closed** for David Johnson Memorial May 21st (Maple Grove Cemetery, 2.30pm followed by Oddfellows Hall for reception), and for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25



11. **Review & Sign Orders**
12. **Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3)** – personnel (if needed)
13. **Adjourn.** 7.14 pm Respectfully Submitted by Faith Tempest

SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING Town Office, 50 School Street Mount Holly, VT 05758 May 13 2026, 4.00 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Diana Garrow, Jeff Chase, Faith Tempest, Julie Parsells, Marc Miller, Amy Tayler

1. Call to Order

2. Meeting Treasurer Candidates: Mark Turco noted the purpose of the meeting to interview the applicants for the Treasurer position which will run until next March. Although the Select Board expects to put to vote a switch to an appointed Treasurer, even if successful there will still be a one year period during which an elected Treasurer would be in post.

3. Mr Turco asked Marc Miller to introduce himself. Mr Miller noted his previous banking experience, current restaurant business which he runs remotely, and his familiarity with Quickbooks. In response to questions from the Select Board Mr Miller responded that he would be comfortable managing investments for the Town, and has familiarity with audit requirements from his business experience. In terms of understanding the Town’s budget, Mr Miller noted his role as a Town Auditor in Stratton when he originally moved to Vermont. He acknowledged that he has no experience with grant management. When asked about his availability to be in the Town Office regularly, Mr Miller confirmed he is able to do this but noted that for a two week period in August he will be away. Asked if he would be interested in running for the elected position Mr Miller responded that he would need to better understand the full obligations before making such a commitment.

4. Mr Turco asked Amy Tayler to introduce herself. Ms Tayler noted her desire to help the Town, which she had done in the past as a Town Auditor. In response to questions from the Select Board Ms Tayler outlined her experience in two previous positions using bespoke accounting software and working with the bank to manage payroll taxes. Ms Tayler acknowledged that she does not have experience with Quickbooks and is not a CPA, but she noted her experience with bookkeeping and accounting. She also noted her experience in banking, initially as a teller and then a loan adviser. Ms Tayler noted the complexities of managing the Town’s money and that having worked for forty years in customer service she would be able to deal with concerns from taxpayers about their tax bills. Asked if she would be interested in running for the elected position Ms Tayler responded that she would be open to it if she had more familiarity with the role.

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

6. Adjourn Respectfully Submitted By Faith Tempest

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Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Public Hearing March 17th, 2026 5.30P.M.

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

Also present: Faith Tempest, Jason Burt, Susan Covalla, (via Zoom): Kate Nadler, Elizabeth Nadler, Michael Gilbert, Maria Gilbert, Steve Cohen, Ralph Ingriselli, Christine Ingriselli.



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1. **Chair called the hearing to order** at 5.48pm
2. **Chair stated the purpose of the hearing** to consider an application PC 2025-04 from Michael and Maria Gilbert for a minor subdivision for a 10 acre lot to be subdivided into two lots of approximately 1.9 acres and 8.1 acres at 180 Straight Road.
3. **Chair asked Planning Commissioners of any conflicts** of interest or ex-parte communications. Chair stated that the owners’ surveyor is an acquaintance of his brother, but there has been no discussion between them. No conflicts or communications were declared.
4. **Chair asked AO to present the package** which she did, giving the dates of actions completed to bring the application to the public hearing.
5. **Chair identified Jason Burt** as the representative of the property owners Michael and Maria Gilbert.
6. **Chair asked interested parties to identify themselves.** Ralph Ingriselli, Susan Covalla, Christine Ingriselli, Stephen Cohen all asked to be

noted as abutting property owners. Hearing no objection from the Commissioners Chair recognized them as interested parties. Elizabeth Nadler and Kate Nadler, sisters of the applicants who will be purchasing the lots, asked to be recognized as interested persons. Chair noted the law on interested parties, which prevented the recognition of these two as interested persons but acknowledged that they would be given an opportunity to speak.

7. Chair swore in all of the persons recognized as applicants, agents, interested persons.

8. Chair invited the applicant to speak. Jason Burt presented the proposal to subdivide the property; there are now wastewater permits for proposed residences on each lot and the proposal creates conditions on both lots to allow substantial setbacks from the road and between each lot for each residence. The potential environmental impacts – the wetlands – have been mapped and include a 50 ft buffer to the wetlands. Michael Gilbert noted that the Nadler family has been associated with Mount Holly for many years and this

subdivision would allow for two families to construct 1500 sq ft houses for permanent residence in the town.

9. Chair asked Planning Commissioners to comment. Commissioner Michel asked if a Town Highway Permit had been issued for the access to Lot 2. Jason Burt confirmed that they do not have one as yet. Chair noted it is a prerequisite, but proposed that the record be left open, that the applicants apply for this permit and have it submitted into the record. Sue Covalla asked about the specific location of the new access; Mr Burt showed the location. Commissioner Schulz asked if the proposed underground electrical service requires a permit or a wetlands review since it passes under the wetland. Mr Burt stated he did not know, but in his experience this is negotiated with State authorities. Michael Gilbert noted that electric service may be provided overhead by Green Mountain Power. Mr Burt also noted that directional boring is not technically disturbance of the wetland. Commissioner Schulz confirmed that he would be happy if language regarding the need to obtain any State Permits was included in any decision. Chair asked about details of the proposed house construction. Michael Gilbert confirmed the houses would be occupied year round, and would be Cape Style, and approximately 1500 sq ft. Chair clarified with Mr Burt that the parcel is within a residential area in the Town Plan Maps, but also has a riparian corridor running through it. Chair noted it is outside the Village Center and asked if the surveyor could include in the supplemental information a measurement of the distance to the edge of the Village Center. Chair asked for confirmation that the proposed location of structural improvements are outside a 50' buffer of the stream, which Mr Burt confirmed. Chair also asked about storm water run-off into the stream, and specifically the impact of the proposed parking area; Mr Burt responded that there is less hard pack than requires a state storm water permit and there is a permeable surface between the parking area and the stream. Chair asked if the owners would be happy to have a vegetative buffer or a no disturbance area around the stream, and conditions relating to storm water management. The applicants confirmed they have no objection.

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

11. Chair asked interested parties if they had any comments. Sue Covalla stated that she had been worried about the wetlands, but is happy that there is no building in that part of the property. Ms Covalla confirmed she supports the application. Ralph Ingraselli and Christine Ingraselli asked where the houses might be located on the property. Mr Burt clarified the locations. Mr and Ms Ingraselli confirmed they support the application. Stephen Cohen was concerned about the potential effects of improvements on water runoff down Maple Hill Road, especially if access is from Maple Hill Road. Jason Burt noted that there is not enough impermeable surface to create runoff and the fields have established grass vegetation. Mr Cohen confirmed his support for the application.

12. Chair asked for public comments from other parties. Kate Nadler confirmed she would like the opportunity to return permanently to Mount Holly.

13. Chair agreed to allow the applicants to submit additional documentation (Town Highway Access Permit, distance to village center), within the next two weeks, during which time the record will remain open. Deliberations will take place after that. Chair allowed for additional time if the delay is on the part of the Town. AO noted that there was a mistake in the maps posted on the website but they would be updated. Chair then offered to abutters that they could also submit additional statements also within the two week period.

14. Chair recessed the hearing at 6.41pm. For the Commission, Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk

A video recording of this hearing can be found at: <https://okemovalley.tv/mount-holly-planning-commission-public-hearing-317>



Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2026 6:30 PM

Attendance: Jon McCann, Jim Seward, Stephen Michel, Andrew Schulz (via Zoom), Ron Unterman

Also: Faith Tempest, Dennis Devereux, Michael Huck, Julie Campbell (via Zoom), Lynn Sheldon, Lisa Kelley, Jeff Chase, Pat Teter (via Zoom).

1. **Call to order** 6.34pm

2. **Changes to agenda:** Chair noted that Commissioner Unterman wanted to speak on a number of issues and added this to public comments; Chair added an information item from VLCT to 4c.

3. **Approval of minutes:** Approval of minutes of the Gilbert hearing was tabled. Chair asked for two changes to the minutes of the March 17th meeting; with these changes Commissioner Schulz moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Unterman seconded, minutes approved unanimously.

4. **Reports & Announcements**

a. **Administrative Officer:**

i. **BCRs:**

Buechner Shunpike Road, Kitchen/bathroom/dining room renovation

Shapiro Lake Ninevah Road, 20'x30' Bunkhouse/ADU,

School District 10'x14' building for School Water Treatment system.

Cohen and Barlow Gates Road, Deck and Porch roof extension

Precino 13'x28' Garage

ii. **A Town resident David Martin** asked about the Sawyer Hill development by Mr Longobardo and whether this is subject to Act 250. AO reported that she has been in contact with Mr Longobardo to enquire as to whether he has contacted the coordinator but has not yet received a response on this. If Mr Longobardo does not respond the AO will seek a JO as to whether this does require an Act 250 permit.

iii. **Wetlands designation:** A town resident Melody Bothers received notification from the State that her property has been declared a wetland and wanted to know what could be done to channel water away from her house. Michael Huck has also had a portion of land designated. Chair asked about the process for making such declarations. Lisa Kelley noted concerns about the burden of this on the property owner. Is there some guidance to give to owners, or ask the State about this. Chair asked about getting a better understanding of





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continued his statement to clarify the open meeting law requirements of this committee, which are the same as those applying to the Commission itself, ie substantive discussion must take place in publicly warned meetings. Chair also outlined the necessity for such openness and transparency. Commissioner Unterman noted that the housing study proposed that such wastewater systems should also be considered for Mount Holly hamlet and the municipal center. Chair responded that if Commissioners wish they can propose committees to look at other areas. Jeff Chase asked for clarification about what specific information can be shared within the committee by email and what can and cannot be discussed. Chair reported on discussions he had with VLCT to clarify this. Dennis Devereux spoke about his experience developing the Open Meeting law. Commissioner Schulz noted the difficulties of conforming to the law. Commissioner Unterman stated that he had not been appointed to the wastewater committee; Chair noted that Commissioner Unterman could decline, but preferred that he did not. Chair asked Jeff Chase to confirm his chairing and membership of the committee; Faith Tempest confirmed her membership, Commissioner Unterman declined. Commissioner Unterman stated that Kevin Hollobeck has confirmed that he is interested in being a member of the committee.

5. Development review

a. **Review of Gregory Kelley Final Plat changes:** A mylar of the final plat had been submitted again, with corrections to the earlier printing errors. Chair asked for confirmation from the commission that he could sign. There was no objection from the commissioners.

b. **Status of McDonald/Huyler/Carney land division:** AO confirmed that Mr McDonald will come to the Town Office to complete the application. AO asked about map titling as a Boundary Line Adjustment when a decision has not been made regarding whether this is a BLA or Subdivision. Chair said that this was an issue of form, the application should be treated under the subdivision regulations. Chair also noted there may be some issues regarding the deed which means the subdivision may be from one to two lots rather than to three lots if there has been no prior merger of the parcels under discussion. This could be addressed in a hearing but it is possible that part of this does not need to be approved.

c. **Huck subdivision sketch plan review:** Mr Huck shared the documents he currently has and presented the proposal, including a 1993 survey and a sketch of the proposed subdivision. Mr Huck asked about wetlands permits; Chair directed Mr Huck to the Permit Navigator and the wetlands coordinator. The surveyor who conducted the 1993 survey is still working and Mr Huck will try to use him to update the survey. Mr Huck asked which neighboring landowners need to be notified, and why those who were some distance away need to be noted. Chair clarified the statutory role of abutters, and that the PC does not have any control over who has these rights. Chair noted that interested parties do not have veto power. Commissioner Schulz asked if the existing structures on the survey were still there? Mr Huck confirmed they are. Commissioner Unterman asked about the specific location of the Town highway access permit – Mr Huck referred him to the Town Roads Foreman who had determined the location.

6. New business

i **Review Rutland Town Permit Tracking Ordinance:** Chair had shared examples of neighboring towns without zoning and how

how the State is doing this and proposed Chair and AO meet wetlands coordinator to find out about the process to bring back to the Commission on this including what the procedures are, what notice is given to residents, what opportunities for Town input, what appeal rights exist.

b. **Planning Commission Chair:** Chair noted some changes to the website, including a page for decisions and plats, linked from the Google drive. Chair sent the video of the Regional Planning Commission first session on Essentials of Land Use Planning. The Regional Plan Final Hearing is May 19th.

c. **Belmont Village Wastewater Planning Subcommittee— report,** if any, and clarification and restatement of prior action, including membership, charge, and process: Chair read a statement on the establishment of the advisory committee, its role, what is expected of it, its rationale in relation to support of housing development. He noted that Jeff Chase will serve as chair of the committee. He confirmed that the committee is advisory but also subject to open meeting laws. Commissioners Unterman and Michel questioned whether the committee had been established at the previous PC meeting. Chair asserted that the first task of the committee was to look for additional members and that the committee is now clearly established. Commissioner Schulz recalled that the committee was established at the last meeting, with a first task to find additional members; a view concurred by Jeff Chase who confirmed that his understanding was that committee had been formed. Chair noted that his statement was intended to resolve any ambiguity and asked commissioners if such ambiguity had been resolved. Commissioners Unterman and Michel agreed that in terms of going forward from today it had. The discussion moved on without resolving the ambiguity from the March 17, 2026 meeting. Chair

they monitor development through construction permit tracking. These are intended to ensure that residents conform in advance to any State permit requirements and reduce the need for the Town to chase applicants. This could be a basis for review of the BCR which currently allows owners to start construction immediately, without informing them that they should conform to State law. Chair clarified that this is not zoning. Commissioner Michel asked if this would require a revision to the bylaw? Chair confirmed yes. Commissioner Unterman asked if this would be approved by the Select Board. Chair confirmed yes, the ordinance would need to be presented to the Select Board, and if approved the PC/AO would develop the associated form. Chair proposed further discussion at the next meeting.

ii Analyze Act 181 potential impacts.

The Select Board proposes to write a letter regarding Act 181. Chair noted that the LURB was unwilling to share the latest version of the maps due to the repeal process. The PC had reviewed the draft Regional Plan future land use map (which is used to prepare the LURB maps) in December and proposed some changes, but overall the map did not raise concerns. Chair reviewed with the Commission the changes made to respond to the comments.

Commissioner Unterman asked if the Rural Agriculture and Forestry category would preclude development of affordable housing. Chair responded he did not think so, but noted that under the current Act 250 rules as a one acre town a multi-unit development would likely trigger Act 250. Jeff Chase asked if the Regional Plan would limit funding to try to direct development to village centers and away from Rural Agriculture and Forestry areas. Chair noted that the overall intention is to try to prevent sprawl and concentrate development. Commissioner Michel asked about Tier 1 areas. Chair responded that Mount Holly has no Tier 1 areas and very few Tier 3 areas, so much of the Town remains in Tier 2 which keeps the status quo, meaning very limited effect of Act 181 in Mount Holly if it remains as currently proposed. Commissioner Unterman reiterated that he wants to ensure that the land use maps do not have a negative impact on housing. Chair asked Faith Tempest what she required for drafting the Select Board's letter.

She noted that the repeal process has changed the situation but the thrust of the letter may be related to the limitations in the process. Chair noted that the PC cannot specifically address the implications of the Tiers since the maps have been closed in anticipation of repeal. Commissioner Unterman proposed that vagaries on the process should be emphasized. Commissioner Schulz noted the process problem – the legislature stated the Tiers, but left the definition as a non-transparent process which led to reaction from the public. Ms Tempest said she would use these comments in the drafting of the Select Board's letter.

7. Unfinished business

i Subdivision Regulations revision process: Chair hopes to make progress on this and proposed review of those issues.

**Town of Mount Holly
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**OFFICE HOURS
8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays**

To: The Vermont General Assembly

12 May 2026

The Town of Mount Holly Select Board wishes to express our concerns regarding Act 181, in particular its potential effects on rural towns such as ours.

We recognize that the legislature has a difficult task in balancing the need to protect sensitive areas from inappropriate development and the need to encourage development which supports the growth of our economy and the construction of homes for Vermonters. The idea of making it easier to build homes for Vermonters by exempting projects from review in areas that are already developed while requiring review in environmentally sensitive areas makes sense.

We are no longer able to view the specific proposals for Tier designations given the repeal process for Act 181 but do have concerns regarding the implications of Future Land Use designations, for example Rural Agriculture and Forestry, on the ability to support the development of affordable housing, or whether there would be limits on funding in an attempt to direct such development only to village centers. How the proposed Land Use Review Board would interpret these uses and their links to the proposed Tiers is uncertain.

These questions point to the broader concern regarding Act 181: the Legislature gave very little detail of the Tiers and left definition and the development of regulations to a process which is untransparent and gives little opportunity for input or comment by the public who will ultimately be most affected by such regulations.

As the repeal process moves ahead, we hope that the Legislature will follow through on proposals to consult more broadly on how to balance the need to support economic growth and access to housing with the objectives of protecting forest blocks and sensitive environmental areas from over-development. The solution may include more carrots, such as subsidies for landowners who choose to conserve their land, than sticks such as prohibition on development, but whatever solutions are proposed should be based on strong public engagement.

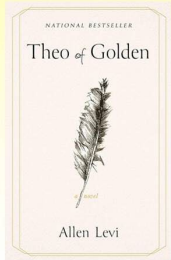
Respectfully submitted

Mark Tempest Chair
Jeff Chase *Diana L. Barrow*
Mount Holly Select Board

Commissioner Unterman asked why there was no written proposal to review, stating that he was unable to consider any changes without such a document. Chair identified problematic issues, specifically: noted a number of issues which have already been recognized including:

- a. **Our regulations** do not require a written finding, contrary to State law.
- b. **Sketch plan review** should this be kept? Formalized? Should it only be for major subdivisions? Commissioner Schulz noted that it is useful to guide applicants, and does not seem burdensome and so has value in keeping it. Commissioner Seward agreed that it is useful for both applicants and the Commission.

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- c. **Should there be a simplified path** for amendment? Should there be an amendment process which gives more options for administrative approval on some amendments including eg minor boundary line adjustments. Commissioner Unterman proposed a clearer BLA adjustment policy.

- d. **Should the regulations retain** a two-stage review for major and single stage for minor and make this much clearer in the regulations. If retained, the two stage process must make clear that there would be two hearings.

- e. **Should the regulations continue** agricultural and conservation exception and how the term sole purpose is interpreted – all lots, or only the lots being created. Commissioner Seward proposed keeping the exemption. Commissioner Schulz asked for more clarity on the gift exceptions to make it clearer what counts as a gift.

- f. **What could be included** in the regulations to encourage housing?

- g. **Lot mergers** – can lots be merged without continued independent existence. There is no automatic lot merger in the current bylaw, and there should be something which allows this. Commissioner Schulz asked how the BLA and lot merging are related. Chair noted that BLA and dissolution of intra-lot lines would be possible without requiring lot dissolution.

- h. **Should the AO** be responsible for noticing or the applicant?

8. **Public comments:** Commissioner Unterman asked to clarify how to get items on to the agenda if he sends an email 72 hours in advance; asking if the Chair has discretion over whether it is added. Chair confirmed that the Chair has this discretion. Commissioner Unterman asked how to communicate information to the Commission related to the wastewater committee. Chair proposed that information be sent to the committee Chair, which is possible since Commissioner Unterman is no longer on the committee. Commissioner Unterman noted his

request for a continuation of the discussion of the housing needs assessment – can he submit that analysis of all options in the action plan to the Commission. Chair noted that if this relates to implementation of the action plan yes it can be submitted for discussion by the PC, and acknowledged that the PC has a responsibility to help the SB to implement the action plan. Commissioner Unterman asked about the focus on Belmont, and potential for other areas of focus. Chair responded that the arc of planning is long, and that much work has already gone into the discussion on Belmont. Chair agreed that the issue of what aspects of the HNA could be taken up could be discussed at the next meeting. Commissioner Unterman asked about changing the PC's rules to prevent the Chair from being the only one to constitute committees. Commissioner Seward noted that this has been in the rules for many years. Chair noted that the rules are updated annually and can be revised at the next review.

9. **Upcoming meetings:** May 19th 2026, 6.30pm.

10. **Adjournment:** 9.32pm For the Commission Faith Tempest, Planning Commission Clerk



Friends of Star Lake (FOSL) Revival

For an extended period surrounding the 2015 dam renewal at Star Lake, Ron Unterman and Dottie Finnerty led a group known as Friends of Star Lake (FOSL) dedicated to raising funds for improvements at Star Lake. FOSL first operated as a committee of the Mount Holly Community Association, and later as a committee of the Mount Holly Conservation Trust. Following discussion initiated by the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC), the Mount Holly Community Association (MHCA) is preparing to welcome FOSL again as a committee inside its structure. This arrangement will provide the possibility of tax-deductible donations in support of Star Lake efforts, including the limited mechanical harvesting authorized by the State Vermont.

More information about Star Lake initiatives appears elsewhere in this ChitChat edition. Keep in mind (and look for in the Mount Holly Newsflash) cleanup activities on June Saturdays as well as fundraising activities to be initiated by the revived Friends of Star Lake. Phil Leonard, MHCC Recorder, (802) 259-2694

Notes from the Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Since our last note, our dedicated editor of this note, Susan Presson, has taken a leave from the Conservation Commission. We thank her for her inspiring contributions and great pictures. But we are also welcoming a new commissioner, John Ackerman, who was formally appointed at the April Select Board meeting. Welcome John!

Finally if as you read this and wonder how you can be part of the commission's program. You can!

We are planning several weekend mornings in June to enhance the recreation area at Star Lake. See the below. PLEASE come help us.

Drop us an email at mounthollycc@gmail.com. We will welcome you!

Other Spring programs are about to swing into action.

- 1.) Injecting Ash trees against Ash Borers... if interested, contact us at mounthollycc@gmail.com
- 2.) Improving the recreation area at Star Lake. Planting shrubs, removing dead and dying trees, maintaining picnic areas. We have ordered plants and shrubs and will invite help in planting and maintaining these!
- 3.) Removing weeds from the swimming area at Star Lake. This effort will not only require physical work, but will also need fiscal support. We are soliciting both. We have permission for this in a rather limited area near the beach and are seeking a permit to expand this area. Details will be announced in the Newsflash and posted around town. In this activity, we are resurrecting FOSL (Friends Of Star Lake) in collaboration with the Community Association to aid the fundraising efforts. See the note below
- 4.) Publicizing the cultural and recreational opportunities in and around Mount Holly. This includes walking trails etc in and around town. Help us make Mount Holly THE place to be!
- 5.) Increasing awareness of various invasive species that are in Mount Holly and how to limit or eliminate them. The note below is from Alex Yuster.
- 6.) Walk on the trails of the old Syria farm on the Shunpike. Details on the Commission website. <https://www.mounthollyvt.org/conservation-commission/>

Invasive Species in Mount Holly

Spring is a perfect time to start addressing invasive plants, a conservation priority. CC member Alexandra Yuster held a practical session on her property on 17 May, sharing with neighbors from Mt Holly, Shrewsbury, Wallingford and Bridgewater how to recognize and get rid of Japanese Barberry, a pretty but invasive shrub that spreads easily and provides prime habitat for mice and the ticks they carry. You can learn more about Barberry and other invasives species at www.vtinvasives.org We plan to work further on invasive management along roadsides with our neighbors in Shrewsbury.

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MOUNT HOLLY SNOW FLYERS ANNOUNCE ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER AT FOX RUN

Local Snowmobile Club Seeks Players, Tee Sponsors, and Tournament Partners for July 19 Event

The Mount Holly Snow Flyers are trading the snowpacks for the greens this summer! The club has officially announced its upcoming "Let's All Putt Together" golf outing fundraiser, scheduled for Sunday, July 19, 2026, at the scenic Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow, Vermont. Registration is now open, and the club is actively seeking both players and community sponsors to help make the event a success.

Proceeds from the annual tournament will directly benefit the Mount Holly Snow Flyers' community programs, including their ongoing trail maintenance efforts and their local scholarship program, which supports graduating senior students in the region.

"While our passion is usually hitting the trails on sleds, this golf outing is one of our most important events of the year," said Robert Beardmore, club representative. "It brings the community together in the beautiful Vermont summer to support the work we do year-round—from maintaining safe, accessible trails to backing the next generation of local students through our scholarship fund."

Event Details:

- **Date:** Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Fox Run Golf Club, Ludlow, VT
- **Format:** Scramble (Open to golfers of all skill levels)

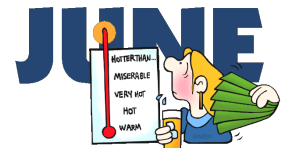
How to Get Involved:

- **Register to Play:** Foursomes and individual golfers are welcome. Early registration is encouraged as spots fill up quickly.
- **Become a Sponsor:** Businesses and individuals can support the cause through sponsorship tiers, including **Tee Sponsors, Green Sponsors, and Tournament Partners.** It's a fantastic way for local businesses to gain visibility while supporting a staple community organization.
- **Donate:** The club is also accepting donations for raffle prizes and auction items.

Whether you are looking to enjoy a premier 18-hole course, network with local community members, or support the scholarship fund, the Snow Flyers promise a great day on the course for an excellent cause.

To register a team, secure a sponsorship, or find more information about tournament timing and fees, please visit the Mount Holly Snow Flyers website at www.mounthollysnowflyers.org or email us at mounthollysnowflyers@gmail.com for a registration/sponsor/donor form.

About the Mount Holly Snow Flyers: The Mount Holly Snow Flyers is a non-profit snowmobile club dedicated to developing and maintaining high-quality trails in the Mount Holly, Vermont area. Through volunteer efforts, the club promotes safe winter motorsports, environmental stewardship, and community philanthropy, including awarding scholarships to local graduating seniors.





A Long Overdue Dedication

At a very special Volunteer Orientation Clinic on Saturday, May 9th—if you consider pouring rain special—Reinbow Riding Center, a therapeutic horsemanship center, dedicated a beautiful Teak bench to the Founder of our organization Mary Jane Osborne. Being portable the bench will be able to follow the organization wherever it goes. And move we have.

But first let me tell you what we do. Our mission is to improve the well-being of individuals with unique physical, emotional and/or cognitive challenges through a therapeutic equine experience. And we strive to meet the need of every individual that participates in our programs, mounted or unmounted, regardless of their ability to pay.

Our travels: In 2001, after a stringent certification process Mary Jane became a PATH certified instructor, the standard for this type of work, and began giving lessons in a small ring on her front lawn. This small program grew and in 2003 an opportunity presented itself to build a facility with a barn and a large ring, a sensory trail, obstacle course and trails on a beautiful hillside setting in Shrewsbury, VT. While here the program grew and

officially became known as Reinbow Riding Center. It was incorporated in 2008 and in 2011 also became a PATH Certified Center and non-profit 501©3.

In July of 2017 we moved down the road in Shrewsbury to Beaver Meadow Farm with sweeping views of the mountains amid Vermont farmlands. We continued to grow and began working with area schools and started a Military Families program. It was here we had some of our busiest years and soon outgrew this location so in 2021 Reinbow moved back to Belmont, VT, the town where it all started in 2001. Through all this moving Mary Jane has been there to steer the ship, teach the participants with the assistance of many dedicated volunteers and train the very special horses we use in our therapeutic horsemanship programs.

So finally in the 18th year of our existence, and 3 years after she retired, although she still volunteers, and is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors, we are making this long overdue gesture of our respect. We have yet to obtain the bronze plaque that will be placed on the bench, but it will read like this:

**Dedicated to the Founder of Reinbow Riding Center
MARY JANE OSBORNE**

Visionary. Mentor. Leader. Your commitment, integrity, and willingness to go above and beyond has made Reinbow Riding Center the success it is today. We are forever grateful.

For more information about Reinbow Riding Center and our mission please visit our website: reinbowridingcenter.org and follow us on Facebook or Instagram @reinbow_riding_center LinkedIn! Contact us at programs@reinbowridingcenter.org or 802-236-2483 to inquire about our programs and lessons. For information about opportunities to volunteer with us contact janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org.

REINBOW RIDING CENTER



**Sketches by
Grace Brigham
Of Shrewsbury**





Join us on Sundays!

Meet on Depot Street in downtown Ludlow every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. to shop at our vibrant farmers market! Find a variety of local produce each week along with fresh baked goods, handmade crafts and gifts, cold beverages, live music, and more. We can't wait to see you for fresh food, community, and fun!

www.ludlowmarket.org | @ludlowfarmersmarket



Bethany Birches Summer Camp For Ages 5-16.

Fun. Outdoors. Friends. A great space for kids to unplug, have fun and build friendships and faith. Day Camps Ages 5-10, Overnight Camps Ages 6-16, Winter Camps Grades 3-11 and Leadership Development programs allow any age camper to build skills and enjoy outside adventure and friends. A tiered pricing system helps make Bethany Birches affordable for all. Consider trying BBC this summer! Summer 2026 dates are [available here](https://bethanybirches.org/register-now/) (<https://bethanybirches.org/register-now/>) and registration is now open. Here's what a 2025 camper parent had to share: I was so impressed with all of the activities you offered. She loved the food and the cooking. I also thought she learned some important lessons that she will bring with her beyond camp."

Vermont Aviation Community Meets with Lawmakers During Aviation Day at State House

Airport leaders, pilots, aviation businesses, educators, students, and community partners from across Vermont gathered at the State House in Montpelier this week for Aviation Day, a statewide effort to share information and build awareness around the role aviation plays in communities throughout Vermont.

Participants from airports across the state spent the day meeting with legislators, offering presentations, and engaging in informal conversations about how aviation supports a range of everyday needs. Discussions included topics such as emergency response, medical transport, education and workforce development, tourism, and general transportation access.

The event was designed as an opportunity for policymakers to hear directly from those involved in Vermont's aviation system and to better understand how airports function as part of the state's broader transportation infrastructure. Organizers emphasized that Vermont's airports serve a wide variety of communities and functions, particularly in rural areas where geography and distance can present unique challenges.

In addition to operational and community-focused discussions, the day included participation from education and workforce programs, youth organizations, and industry partners, including BETA Technologies.

According to Vermont's 2021 Airport Economic Impact Assessment, airports across the state support more than 3,400 jobs and contribute significantly to economic activity and visitor spending.

Organizers described the event as a positive opportunity to highlight the many ways aviation supports Vermont communities and to continue building constructive dialogue with state leaders and partners, including the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Aviation Day participants expressed appreciation for the time and engagement of legislators and staff, and indicated interest in continuing similar conversations in the future. Bob Knudsen, Vice Chair Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport 802.468.7874

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Jack Jacob of Wise Oak tree service addressed a recent meeting Of the Ludlow Rotary Club

Jack Jacob is an arborist and lawn maintenance expert from South Londonderry who spoke to the Rotary Club about the loss of many tree species, such as Ash, American Chestnut and Elm Trees. There is also a Beech bark disease attacking local Beech trees.

A major issue facing the Northeast is the Emerald ash borer, a native of SE Asia, where there are natural controls, attacking ash trees. The first population was found in Michigan in 2002. The damage is concentrated in New England and the Midwest because of its weather conditions and large population of ash trees. The disease does not discriminate between young versus old or sick versus healthy trees.

Moving firewood is a huge problem in terms of spreading diseases. Monocultures are also a problem. Ash tree removal is the best option for larger stands because chemical treatment is too expensive for broad application at \$400 to \$500 per tree. Trees must be removed before

they are dead to protect any arborist who must climb the tree to remove it. Rotarians had many questions for Jacob as he ended his talk.

The LRC meets Tuesdays for lunch in Ludlow. The LRC is small and is always looking to welcome new members. If you would like to attend a meeting and learn how you may 'Serve Humanity' while enjoying the fun and fellowship of others, please contact any Rotarian or drop a note to Ludlow Rotary, PO Box 216, Ludlow, Vermont.

Photo: Rotary President Kevin Barnes (Left) with Arborist Jack Jacob at a recent meeting Brigid Sullivan 802 558-1416



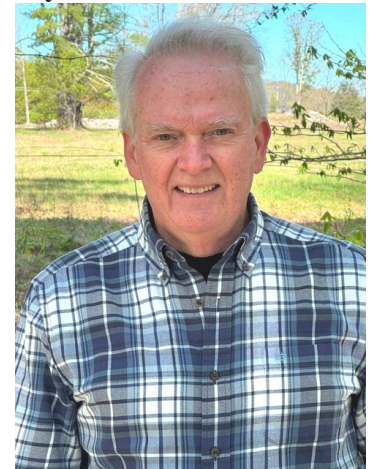
Veteran Broadcaster B.J. Finnell Named Executive Director of Okemo Valley TV / WLUD

Veteran broadcaster and multimedia communications professional B.J. Finnell has been named Executive Director of Okemo Valley TV and WLUD Radio in Ludlow. Finnell brings decades of experience in broadcasting, journalism, marketing, and public relations, having worked for CBS, NBC, ABC, Regan Communications Group of Boston and other companies across the United States. He is an Emmy and Associated Press Award winner and his background includes roles as a television news producer, radio news anchor, and multimedia communications consultant.

Finnell succeeds longtime Executive Director Patrick Cody, who is transitioning into an advisory role and taking on special projects, after leading Okemo Valley TV for nearly all of the organization's 25-year history of community service. Under Cody's leadership, Okemo Valley TV has become a trusted local media resource dedicated to covering community events, local government, schools, and regional stories throughout the Okemo Valley.

In his new role, Finnell will oversee ongoing operations and strategic growth for Okemo Valley

TV while also leading the development and launch of WLUD Radio, which is scheduled to debut in late 2026 or early 2027.



"B.J.'s extensive experience makes him the ideal leader to guide our organization into its next chapter," said Wendell Perkins, Board President of Okemo Valley TV and WLUD Radio. "As we celebrate 25 years of community service and launch the community radio station (WLUD), we are excited about the vision, energy, and leadership he brings. We're also grateful to Patrick Cody for his decades of dedication and the tremendous foundation he has built for local media in the Okemo Valley."

"I've always believed local media plays an essential role in bringing communities together," said Finnell. "Okemo Valley TV has built an incredible legacy over the past 25 years thanks to Patrick's leadership and commitment to the community. I'm honored to continue that tradition while helping launch WLUD Radio as a new local voice for the region. I look forward to finding new ways to inform, entertain, and support the people and organizations that make this community special."

Okemo Valley TV has served the region for 25 years with a growing variety of community-based media services for residents, municipal government, schools, and nonprofit organizations throughout the region. The addition of WLUD community radio later this year will expand the organization's ability to keep the community connected. More information is available on the station's website at okemovalley.tv. (Photo provided: BJ Finnell) Wendell Perkins, Board President (802) 228-8808; board@okemovalley.tv

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RIDE RIGHT!

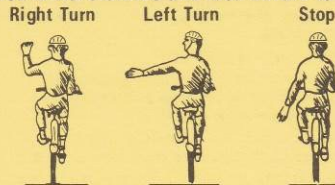
BICYCLE RULES OF THE ROAD

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



Six State Historic Sites to Open for 2026 Season

Visitors Can Explore Vermont's Captivating Past Starting May 22

On Friday, May 22, six of Vermont's state-owned historic sites will open for the 2026 season. Scattered across the state, the sites showcase impressive museum collections and educational exhibits that chronicle our state's story. Including prehistoric Indigenous settlements, Revolutionary War battlegrounds, and the homes of U.S. Presidents, the sites shine an authentic spotlight on the remarkable history of Vermont:

- **Chimney Point**

This Addison archeological site features "Unfinished Revolutions," a K-12 student art exhibition exploring the ongoing work of creating a more perfect Union. Inhabitants of the site are chronicled in historical sequence, from the first native American populations 9,000 years ago to post-Revolutionary War colonists.

- **Revolutionary War**

Visitors can explore Vermont's vital role in securing American Independence at the **Hubbardton Battlefield**, the **Bennington Battle Monument**, and **Mount Independence** in Orwell.

- **Presidents' Homes**

Visitors will discover executive history at the **Chester Arthur State Historic Site** in Fairfield and the **Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site** in Plymouth Notch. While the Coolidge Homestead/Boyhood Home is closed for essential preservation work, all other buildings remain open: the President's birthplace, Cilley Store, Aldrich House, Summer White House, school, barns, cheese factory, and museum with giftshop. Significant historical items from inside the Homestead have been moved to the exhibit in the museum.

Full scheduling details for these activities and more are available at the Vermont [State Historic Sites Calendar](#).

Ongoing Historic Preservation Work

- The Senator Justin Morrill Homestead in Strafford and the Old Constitution House in Windsor will remain closed for the 2026 season due to critical updates to infrastructure.
- The elevator at the Bennington Battle Monument will remain closed for the 2026 season due to ongoing mechanical and moisture issues. To share your feedback on long-term restoration plans and the overall future of the landmark tower, please visit [HistoricSites.Vermont.gov](#) to participate in our public feedback survey.

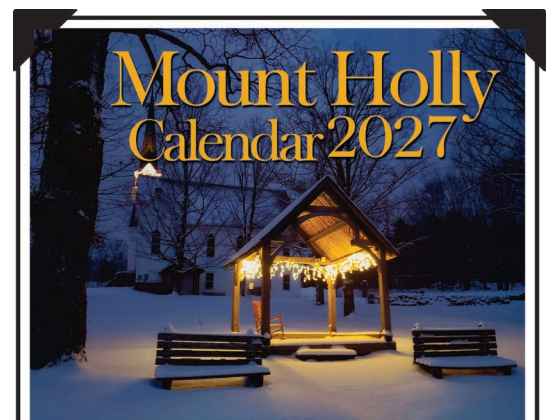
Special Off-Site Programming

Despite the building closures, community programming continues. Special events hosted by the [Friends of the Morrill Homestead](#) and [VT250th](#) are scheduled throughout the summer.

To experience history where it happened, Vermonters are encouraged to visit [HistoricSites.Vermont.gov](#).

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST INFORMATION

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. 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. **Photos must be submitted no later than July 13, 2026. Stop by the library for the rules and the application form.**



The icy cool cover of the new
Mount Holly Calendar:
what you want to be looking
at when the temperature
reaches 80° (and it will!)

On sale July 1st at the
Mount Holly Town Offices
The Belmont Store





FOLA Announces New Schedule For Summer/Fall Events

FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) has put together a program of events for some major programs this summer and fall.

The offerings will begin with its annual and popular ‘Silent Movies Festival’ on Saturday, August 22. This season the main feature will be a hilarious movie, “Safety Last” starring that silent movie comedian, Harold Lloyd, who may be seen hanging from a flagpole far above the street. The festival will begin with a funny short called “Liberty” featuring the silent version of Laurel and Hardy. Jeff Rapsis will return to play the background music to both films with his marvelous music to support the movies.

On Saturday, October 17, Ludlow will see the return of the Enerjazz orchestra that promises to provide music to get those dancing feet moving to their great dancing music along with some real old-timers music that get feet stomping and smiles on your face. The orchestra, featuring 17 great musicians, will also feature melodies that will remind the audience of the great jazz age.

With an election coming up in November, FOLA will continue its forum for general election with Vermont senate candidates for Windsor County plus the candidates seeking the Ludlow, Mt Holly, and Shrewsbury house seat. This event will be held on Thursday, October 15 and the moderator will be Jim Alic. Questions will be asked concerning property taxes, school reorganizations, plus numerous events currently demanding attention.

While these events are definitely planned, FOLA program director, Scott Stearns, indicated that additional events may be scheduled during this period.

A Christmas program is being considered additionally.

He also indicated that FOLA hopes to show the opening game of the World Cup on June 12, as well as the final championship game, scheduled for July 19. This is all subject to the consent of the Cup’s leadership to permit such coverage. If approved, times will be announced in the future.

All events will be held in the Heald Auditorium at the Ludlow Town Hall. They will begin at 7 PM with doors opening at 6:30 PM. Unless otherwise specified. As usual, these events are free but donations are appreciated to help underwrite the cost of the events. For further information call 802-855-8896.

Pictured above are some of the members of the Enerjazz orchestra as they last played for FOLA and a very happy audience in Ludlow. They will be returning to the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall on Saturday, October 11.

Joint Committee Votes to Exclude Pro-Housing Provisions of Land Use Bill

S.325 Committee of Conference Votes to Recommend Final Bill Without Several Senate-Passed Housing Reforms

Yesterday, May 21st, the Vermont Legislature’s joint Committee of Conference on S.325 voted to recommend a final version of the land use bill designed to reform Act 181. Governor Scott vetoed Act 181 in 2024, largely due to the expanded Act 250 jurisdiction via Tier 3 and the Road Rule. The legislative supermajority overturned the veto, clearing the way for these new Act 250 triggers. Yesterday’s Committee recommendation includes repeal of Tier 3 and the Road Rule but does not include several provisions passed by the Senate to expand and improve pro-housing Act 250 exemptions.

The provisions omitted from the final committee recommendation include:

- an extension of the interim Act 250 housing exemptions to 2030;
- the removal of certain arbitrary parcel size constraints;
- an expansion to include more rural communities in the interim exemptions, and
- an expansion of the Priority Housing Project to encourage mixed-income and affordable housing development throughout the state.

Alex Farrell, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, issued the following statement regarding the vote:

“In the midst of a deep housing affordability crisis, this joint committee cast aside a series of thoughtful, reasonable pro-housing changes the Senate already passed. In a time of great urgency to create more housing for Vermonters, committee leadership is again adopting a half-hearted approach to undoing the poor policy decisions of the recent past, and this is insufficient.

So, while some legislators like to talk about our housing crisis on the campaign trail, they refuse to make systemic policy change that would actually benefit Vermonters.

Giving the Environment and Natural Resources committees the vast majority of jurisdiction over housing policy results in bad outcomes for would-be homebuyers, home builders, and Vermonters in general. The passage of floor amendments in both the House and the Senate against the will of environmentally focused committees is evidence that they’re out of step with Vermonters and legislators on both sides of the aisle. I find it utterly disappointing that many still refuse to prioritize housing and rural economic development.”

Kevin Lambert | Director of Communications and Strategy Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, 1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501 (802) 461-9353 accd.vermont.gov

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Thursday, June 4
Serving at Noon

A welcoming, homestyle meal:
Chicken & Biscuits

Free of charge, all are welcome

STAY & PLAY:
BINGO!

Meal provided by:
Black River Good Neighbor Services

Vermont Home Gardener June Gardening

After the cool, wet days of May we can now get seriously planting and cultivating our gardens. While there are many plants that can be seeded outdoors now don't be tempted to start working your soil if it is still too wet. If you till your garden it is very important to wait until the soil has drained and dried enough to be crumbly, not sticky. I do not till my garden soil at all because tilling is very damaging to soil structure, fertility and is unnecessary. If you have raised beds you can get started sooner because of better drainage, warmer soils & no tilling is needed. Whether you are beginning a new garden or wish to improve an established garden, raised beds will make your garden more productive, more convenient, and are less work in the long run (no tilling, ever!). Raised beds do very well in the hilly, rocky, weedy, cool, wet, northern New England conditions. Because the spring weeds have been growing so well now is also a great time to start making your own "weed bio-fertilizer" that will improve your garden soil for free!

Raised Beds. While building raised beds will require some extra effort in the beginning, they will save you work later plus all the benefits are well worth the effort. In case you need convincing, here is a summary of the specific benefits:

- ✓ Deeper soil for better root growth (bigger, healthier plants)
- ✓ Better drainage in wet, clayey soils
- ✓ Faster soil warming in the spring
- ✓ Efficient use of your planting space (grow more in limited areas)
- ✓ Reduced soil erosion on slopes
- ✓ Improved soil structure and aeration
- ✓ No need to ever rototill, dig, or plow the garden (earthworms do that work)
- ✓ Creates an attractive garden appearance
- ✓ High raised beds are more accessible (less bending)



Building raised beds is work, but there are several techniques that you can choose from to suit your preferences and circumstances. Since you should never step on the raised beds be sure they are no wider than *twice* your arm's reach, usually about 4-5 feet across. Raised beds can be as long or as short as you wish!

My favorite way to establish a **new bed** on top of lawn or a field is without any tilling or sod removal. Simply mow or weed whack the grass or weeds as short as possible (less than 1 inch, if possible) in the area you have designated for your new bed(s). Cover that shaved ground with corrugated cardboard or 10 layers of newspaper and then spread compost/soil mixture (50:50) on top of the bed. No side walls are necessary, and you should make your bed 6-12 inches deep. Few weeds can penetrate that paper barrier from below and after the grass or weeds die they will become part of your valuable soil organic matter. Worms and beneficial microbes will flourish, and the bed will become one with the ground over the first summer after the cardboard or paper has decayed.

The new raised bed can be planted with seeds or transplants on the same day it is made! If you're doing multiple beds leave a walkway space of about 2-3 ft between each bed. Walkways can be mowed grass or covered with newspaper and wood chips. Depending on the size of the mature plants, you can plant 1 to 4 rows lengthwise in each bed or you can use the productive [Square Foot Garden](#) method to organize your bed. Remember that you NEVER step on the bed so the soil will remain loose. No rototilling or digging will be necessary, ever. Weeds will be more controllable, and the bed only needs added compost annually to keep its depth and fertility.

If your garden area is relatively small or you prefer an organized look then bed walls work well. You can buy ready-made kits for beds from sources like Vermont's own [Gardeners' Supply](#) that are easy to set up but are expensive. You can build your own bed walls from lumber, concrete blocks, or stones. There are corner anchors using [concrete corner forms](#) made just for this purpose. They are solid, stackable, and inexpensive. Do not use older pressure treated lumber or old railroad ties as the preservatives may leach out into your soil and contaminate your plants and food over time. Cedar is a very durable wood to use but expensive. Locally available Locust is very good because it lasts longer (10+ years) while fir and pine are also useable but have a shorter life (3-5 years) in contact with moist soil. I've had success with 2" x 12" locust but 2" x 8" or 2" x 10" will work. Lumber usually comes in 8 ft lengths so raised beds that are 4 ft wide and 8 ft long or 4 ft wide by 4 ft long avoid wasted lumber.

It's not advisable to line the beds with a plastic weed barrier but if you have a problem with voles (not moles) you can line the bottom of the bed with ¼ inch wire mesh ("hardware cloth") folded up and stapled to the wooden sides to keep them from sneaking in from below. Fill the beds with a 50:50 mixture of topsoil and compost and you're ready to plant. There are several good DIY videos and [instructions online](#) if you want some building help.

A second approach is to first half-fill the bed boxes (or the open beds described previously) with old rotting logs (that old firewood you never used), branches, and/or wood chips before filling with compost/soil. This provides height and bulk to the beds plus a slow release of organic matter and nutrients for several years. Do not use black locust or black walnut, they are toxic to other plants and decay too slowly. This technique is originally from Germany and is called "[Hugelkultur](#)".

What to Plant now? June is prime planting and transplanting time in Vermont. We continue seeding salad greens, kale, carrots, radishes, beets, spinach, etc. Onion plants and sets need to be up and growing well *before* June 21 when daylength changes to shortening days so they can form enlarged stems we eat. Tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, squash, beans, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, etc. should be in the garden now. Side dress transplants with compost and then mulch to feed the soil and keep in moisture.

Bio-fertilizer. Turn your weeds into free liquid fertilizer! Any weeds will do but I especially like converting invasives like bishops weed (goutweed), garlic mustard, & dandelions into fertilizer. Simply pull them, chop them (roots and all), fill a 5-gallon bucket with them and add water to fill. Cover and let it ferment for 2-4 weeks (no mixing necessary) and you will have a couple gallons of nutrient rich, liquid bio-fertilizer extracted from your weeds. Dilute the liquid 10 to 1 with water and apply to all outdoor plants. Young plants, new transplants, and stressed plants will especially benefit. This liquid is rich in the nutrients that the weeds took out of your soil and high in beneficial microbes to enrich your soil. Add the weed solids to your compost and start another batch.

Looking for more Lawn & Gardening information? The [University of Vermont \(UVM\) Extension Master Gardeners](#) are available to answer questions from gardeners in Vermont on a broad range of home horticulture topics including soil bed preparation and planting; vegetable and fruit gardening; annuals and perennials; backyard composting; sustainable lawn care; plant diseases and integrated pest management, among others.

Volunteers will answer calls on the Master Gardener Helpline from 9 a.m.-noon, Thursdays through October. Call (802) 656-5421. They also take online written questions at the above link. The online form includes an option for providing up to three photos. Gardeners also are encouraged to use the online system to submit photos of plants damaged by insects and diseases.

[VermontHomeGardener.com](#)

Jim Corven

Dear Editor

MARATHONS

Why in the world would you run a marathon? THAT is a dangerous thing to do! The ancient Greek man who "invented" the marathon, do you know what his cause of death was.. he died running a marathon! If you don't know the story, the ancient Greeks were invaded by the Persians, so they fought this big battle and they won, which was their preferred outcome. Fun fact: did you know we run a marathon, because in ancient Greece, after the Battle of Marathon, 490 BC, there was this guy, Pheidippides, (Fih-dip-i-deez), not to be confused with Hippocrates or Mediocrates, who ran from the city of Marathon (26.2 miles) to Athens to deliver a message and when he got there he dropped dead! He was the only guy in his race and he somehow still managed to lose. The Greeks found it hilarious, for some reason, and so we honor the man by continuing to run the exact distance that killed him. Now, we just recreate that guy's death as a sport... down to the point two. That's rude. Seems insensitive. This was one of their soldiers, but they didn't seem to feel bad about it. They're like, "He died? How far did he run? Twenty six miles? I could run that far without dying!" So, they proceeded to run the marathon in the first Olympics. They couldn't wait to start making fun of this guy. They probably had the finish line at his grave so they could yell insults as they passed his tombstone. "You couldn't run this far, Pheidipa- please?" Actually, the council should have decreed, "This guy is a hero. It is henceforth illegal to run that far ever again! We're going to have a memorial 5K Fun Run with lots of water stops..."

Have you ever run a marathon, by any chance? Cool... not impressed, because now I know you were just making fun of a 2,000 year-old Big Fat Greek guy. Nowadays that's called "fat shaming." You're not an athlete, you're a bully! That's what you are! You train for a marathon for a long time, right? Pheidippides didn't train. They told him to deliver the message. So, he put down his Euro, and his baklava, and his falafel. He left his Greek salad untouched. He stripped off his clothes and handed them to another soldier and said, "Listen, Eu-rip-ides, Eu-mend-eh-deez!" And then he did a Phlip-de-deez and he started running. Some of you are wondering why this Marathon joke is so long. Well, I decided to make it like a marathon... like where you get tired in the middle and where you hit a wall and you want to quit, but if you push through, it's worth it.



Greek victory over Persia at the Battle of Marathon to the people of Athens. — Luc-Olivier Merson (1869)

So here's the message Pheidippides was delivering: "Victory is ours! We have won the Battle of Marathon over the Persians!" He arrived before the city council. They opened the note and went, "We won!" and they looked down and said, "Whoa, he lost!" Do you know why that's so sad? That's not an urgent message. That didn't need to be sent RUSH delivery. That's not a message like, "The British are coming!" He could've walked with that one. I also want to point out that by this point in history, the horse had been invented. It turns out that Paul Revere had the right idea. Someone said, "Hey, Paul, go run and tell every Middlesex village and farm that the British are coming!" "No, Dude, I'm gonna have to borrow your horse!" By the way, I broke down and bet \$10 on the first race the other day. Hey, if Paul Revere had that horse, we'd still be under British rule. That horse was so slow the next time it ran was from a bottle of glue. I just want everyone to know, you've now completed the Marathon Joke Marathon. In fact, when Pheidippides gave the message, "We won!" the whole populace of Athens said, "Yeah, we know. The Kenyan guy got here 2 hours before you... and he's not even tired. In fact he's over there dancing!"

To be serious for a moment, the Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of a marathon race to describe the Christian life, urging believers to run with discipline, focus and purpose to win an "imperishable" prize. He emphasizes running to win, highlighting self-control and intentionality to avoid being disqualified. We all ought to follow Paul's example of fighting the good fight and finishing well in life by serving others and obeying Jesus no matter what the cost. Victory is ours! Pastor Glenn

What will be on the cover of the 2028 Mount Holly Calendar?

YOUR PHOTO HERE?



It could be your photo!

But you have to enter the calendar competition first. Deadline is Monday, September 28th, 2026. Look for further details in the August Chit Chat, or ask for information at mthollyphotos@gmail.com

Grateful for my clients and their kind words!



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As Rabies Cases Rise, Vermont Meets the Moment With Wildlife Vaccination Efforts

Rabies cases in wildlife are up. Here's what Vermont is doing about it.

Over the next few weeks, small packets (that look a bit like ravioli) will start appearing in areas of Vermont. They're part of the state's rabies prevention effort.

[The U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), working with the [Vermont Departments of Health and Fish and Wildlife](#), is distributing rabies vaccine bait packs across parts of the state. **The goal is simple: immunize wildlife, like raccoons and skunks, to slow the spread of rabies before it reaches people or pets.**

This matters because rabies activity has been higher than usual.

- Vermont confirmed **66 rabid animals** in both 2024 and 2025.
- That's **more than double** the typical annual average.
- Most of the time, rabies prevention isn't something people think about until there's a potential exposure.
- Behind the scenes, there's a steady system in place:
- Animals are tested at the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory.
- Epidemiologists investigate exposures.
- The Rabies Hotline helps people if they encounter a potentially rabid animal.

"People don't always realize how much goes into rabies prevention," said Dr. Natalie Kwit, state public health veterinarian. "Our epidemiologists, lab staff, and communications team all play a role in making sure we can respond quickly and keep people informed."

Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms begin, but it's preventable if treated promptly after an exposure. Getting the response right every time is critical.

What changes at the CDC mean for Vermont

You may also be hearing about changes at the [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\)](#). In recent months, the federal rabies program has lost staff and access to expert consultation isn't as consistent as it once was.

For Vermont, our work hasn't changed. But the federal changes make our strong state and local coordination even more important.

What can you do?

- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals.
- Call 1-800-4-RABIES if you see unusual animal behavior or think you've been exposed.
- Wash any animal bite right away and contact a health care provider.
- Keep pets up to date on rabies vaccines.
- Leave vaccine baits where they are.

The bottom line

Rabies cases are higher than usual, and Vermont is actively working to reduce the spread, including vaccinating wildlife. Avoid wild animals, report unusual behavior, and keep pets up to date with annual rabies vaccines. Learn more

at HealthVermont.gov/rabies. This article was written in collaboration with State Public Health Veterinarian at the Health Department, Dr. Natalie Kwit, DVM, MPH, DACVPM.

Community Health Eye Care for the Whole Family

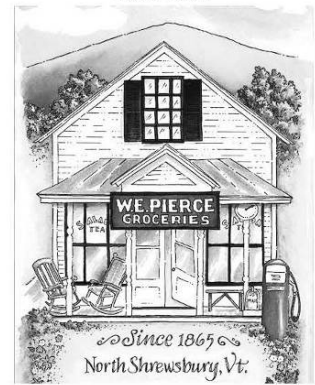
[Community Health Eye Care](#) in Rutland now features a complete selection of fashionable frames, safety glasses and sunglasses. We've also grown our team of qualified vision specialists and offer a full range of services, including comprehensive eye exams, diagnostics, treatment for common and complex eye conditions, and surgical consultations.

Services include:

- General eye care for ages 5+
- Routine eye examinations
- Emergency eye care
- Fitting and selection of affordable lenses and frames
- Contact lens prescriptions
- Diabetic eye disease referrals
- Evaluation for cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration

Community Health Eye Care is here to help you protect your vision with routine eye exams and affordable comprehensive eye care services. To schedule an appointment, call 802-773-2020. Learn more at CHCRR.org.

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

Alzheimer's Support Group Meets Every Month

20,000 family caregivers provide essential support to people living with dementia in Vermont. Are you one? Caregivers and family members of Alzheimer's patients are welcome to share feelings, thoughts and experiences with other caregivers at [Community Health's Alzheimer's support group](#).

- When: the second Tuesday of each month at 4pm
- Where: Community Health, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT

Join our group of caring individuals and engage with other caregivers. For more information message kbathalon@chcrr.org or call 802-465 2255.

Community Health's Sliding Fee Discount Program

At [Community Health](#), affordable care is within reach for you and your family. Regardless of your income or insurance status, no one is denied access due to an inability to pay.

If you're unable to pay the full cost of your care, you may qualify for our Sliding Fee Discount Program. Discounts are based on your household size and income, helping make healthcare more manageable.

To learn more or get started, call 802-342-4224 to schedule a time with a Patient Navigator. They'll walk you through your options and help you find a plan that works for you and your family. <https://www.chcrr.org/sliding-fee-scale/>

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

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

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

Name

Address

Phone Email

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

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

Also Check
www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

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

Kevin Plew is the primary NewsFlash attendant and Stu Berry is backup attendant at stuberry1@gmail.com



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Who's Got It Locally?

Artists

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

Auto Dealership

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

Building & Repairs - General Work

Champlain Timber Craft Michael@champlaintimbercraft.com 802-779-6138

Burn Permits - Fire Warden

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

Catering - Restaurants - Stores

Mojo Café - John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 802-228-6656

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

Church Listings

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

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

E. Wallingford Baptist - SS 10 am, Worship 11 am 802-259-2831

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org 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

Savannah sbaker81224@gmail.com Call or Text 802-417-0913

Electrical Services

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

Emergency Services

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

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

Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

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

Flander's Excavating Flanders.excavating@gmail.com 802-259-2147

Hawkins Excavation Driveways, Ditching, Septic, Ponds, Etc 802-558-3082

Farm Fresh Products

Fourteenth Star Farms Raw Milk 802-236-7007

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

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

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

Firewood

Flanders Firewood Cut Split Delivered 802-259-2147

Food Shelf

Black River Good Neighbor Services - Krey Kellington 802-228-3663

Funeral Homes

Clifford Funeral Home 802-773-3010

Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

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Vermont Landscaping & Stonework - Jeb Porter 802-725-8295

www.Vermontlandscapingandstonework.com

Garage Mechanical

Belmont Motor Works Harley Davidson, Adventure Touring & URAL Sidecar

Motorcycles, Small Engine Repair, Welding & Metal Fabrication 802-259-3178

General Contractors

Wright Construction Company info@wrightconstruction.com 802-259-2094

Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

Handyman

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

DarcyHomeImprove@gmail.com

Health & Community Health Care Providers

Community Health - <https://www.chcrr.org> Medical, Dental, Pediatrics

Behavioral Health - Patient Access Center 802-779-9159

Express Care Rutland - 802-773-3386

Dr. Joseph P. Donohue - Chiropractic Care, Thrive Center 802-446-2499

uthrive@vermontel.net

Home Management Services

Belmont Country Gardens Property Management 802-259-2364

Mowing & Plowing Jon Lienhard

Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 802-259-3064

Maple Syrup

Green Mtn. Sugar House 802-228-7151

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

Marketing & Promotional Services

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print@expresscopyinc.com

Masonry

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

Massage Therapy

Calm Moments Message Studio - Irene Berry 802-228-7772

Massage Therapy/Bodywork, Thrive Center of Green Mtns 802-446-2499

Lisa Donohue MA, LMT ~ Linda O'Brien MT 802-446-2499

Metal Fabrication

Wayne Jones Metal www.waynejonesmetal.com 802-259-2521

Mount Holly Email

NewsFlash - Kevin Plew NewsFlash@mounthollyvt.org 802-259-2250

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beardmorepainting802@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com

TPW Real Estate, John Napier jmn@tpw.com 802-228-9400 x 1309 860-559-9334

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kevin@belmontseptic.com

Therapeutic Riding

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Tree Removal

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