



52/5

MOUNT HOLLY CHIT CHAT

July 2026

Church Listings, back page "Who's Got It Locally?"

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

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

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 10:00 am –3:30 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

Town Lister's Hours: Tues 10:00 am – 2:00 pm or by appointment 802-259-2391

Town Garage: 802-259-3179

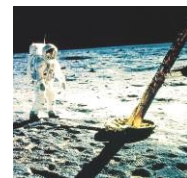
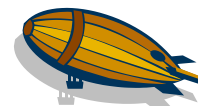
Burn Permits: Call Fire Warden ~ Jim Seward 802-786-3408 or 802-259-2211

TRANSFER SITE: Wed. 4 pm – 7 pm & Sat. 8 am – 2 pm

1 st		<i>Battle of Gettysburg, PA Began 1863</i>	
2 nd	Fire Dept. Business Meeting	<i>US Civil Rights Act of 1964 ~ US Army Air Corps Est. 1926</i>	7:00 pm
3 rd		<i>Battle of Gettysburg, PA Ended 1863</i>	
Sat 4 th	Parade & Chicken BBQ , Odd Fellows Hall	Parade Step Off 11 am & BBQ	11:30 am
		<i>30th Pres Calvin Coolidge B. 1872 ~ Independence Day 1776</i>	
Sun 5 th		<i>Salvation Army Founded in London 1865</i>	
6 th	<i>1st Airship Crossing the Atlantic 1919 ~ Revolutionary War, British Captured Ft. Ticonderoga 1777</i>		
7 th	MH Community Association Meeting, Library		7:00 pm
	MH Conservation Commission, MH Town Office		6:00 pm
8 th	LMHUUS Meeting,		6:00 pm
	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont		7:00 pm
	<i>Colonel John Nixon Gave The 1st Public Reading of The Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia 1776</i>		
9 th	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station		7:00 pm
	<i>The Declaration of Independence was Read Aloud to General George Washington's Troops in New York 1776</i>		
10 th		<i>The US Frigate "United States" was Launched 1797</i>	
Sun 12 th		<i>Roman Emperor Julius Caesar b. 100 BC ~ Henry David Thoreau 1817</i>	
14 th	Com. Guild Meeting	<i>William Bonney "Billy The Kid" shot by Sheriff Pat Garrett 1881</i>	9:00 am
	Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom	<i>38th Pres Gerald Ford b 1913</i>	6:00 pm
15 th	MH Town Library Meeting, Library	<i>William H Bonney "Billy The Kid" died age 21, 1881</i>	6:30 pm
	MH Community Association Meeting, Library		7:00 pm
	<i>Rembrandt Van Rijn b 1606 ~ Apollo 18/Soyuz 19 US/USSR linkup 1975</i>		
16 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations		7:00 pm
20 th		<i>1st Manned Moon Landing Apollo 11, 1969</i>	
21 st	MH Planning Com, Town Office & Via Zoom	<i>Ernest Hemingway 1899</i>	6:30 pm
22 nd	ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall	<i>Katharine Bates wrote America The Beautiful 1893</i>	7:00 pm
23 rd	Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station		7:00 pm
Sat 25 th	Roast Ham Supper , Benefit Mt Moriah Mason's Odd Fellows Hall		5:00 pm
		<i>CIA Created 1947 – National Hire a Veteran Day</i>	
Sun 26 th		<i>Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 –National Parents' Day</i>	
27 th	 <i>Bugs Bunny Cartoon Debut 1940 ~Veterans Armistice Day ~ Korean War ends 1953</i>		
28 th	Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont	<i>World War I Began 1914</i>	9:00 am
	Mason Meeting, Mt Moriah Lodge, E. Wallingford		7:30 pm
29 th		<i>Full Buck Moon</i>	
30 th	Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations	<i>Henry Ford 1863</i>	7:00 pm

Emergency Services

MH Fire Dept. Chief Bill Austin 910-915-5954 802-259-2700	911	Poison Control	802-658-3456
MH Fire Warden ~ Jim Seward 802-786-3408	802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Ludlow Ambulance Service Non-Emergency 802-228-2880	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey 802-793-2776	802-773-9101
Mount Holly Constable NONE		Health Officer – Chad Farrar 802-259-3610	802-342-1366
Animal Control Rutland County Sheriff's Dept.	802-775-8002	Vermont State Police	802-773-9101



Send ARTICLES to: Diana Garrow, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758 Phone 802-259-2314 or E-Mail to chitchat@vermontel.net

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

Donation Thank Yous: Robin Eatmon (Kelley Real Estate) * Greg Durgin (Belmont Motor Works) * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo) * Charles Conroy (Custom Builders of Belmont) * Craig & Janet Hayman * Robert Beardmore (Beardmore Excavating) * Karen Lanzelin * Louise Hyypa & John Palatine (Sugar Hill Berry Farm) * John Diekel (Master Plumbing & Heating) * Theresa Cole *



July Birthdays: 1st-Jacilyn Turco 2nd-Diana Garrow * Maurice Turco 3rd-Joshua Griffin 4th-Jane Harrington 6th-Morgan Collins * Stella Beauchain * Jackson David Mailhiot 7th-Hilary Perrino 8th-Mark Turco Jr * Rhyann Devereux 10th-Joan Garrow * Corbin Chadburn 11th-Josh Manuel 1997 12th-Megan O'Toole 14th-Vincent Guerrero 15th-Hailey Gates 16th-Kyle Alberty * Kayla Jones 17th-Brandon Birdsall * Parker Beardmore-Turco 20th-Christopher Brown * David Guerrero 21st-Sean Covalla * Larry Manuel 1970 22nd-David Crystal 23rd-Ethan Devereux 24th-Mike Pearson 27th-Ginger Palmer * Andrew Zlotnick 28th-Caleb Palmer 29th-Jamie Turco Fitzgerald * Cathy Chadburn 31st-Lance Bussino (1990)



July Anniversaries: 2nd-Howard & Karen Hill 4th-Vernon & Stella Beauchain * Dennis & Sally Bussino (1996) 5th-Bob & Cheryl Kapitan 6th-Ed & Sylvia Smith (1963) 8th-Amanda & Sebastian Frank 14th-Wayne & Lizzie Emmons (1962) 16th-Joseph & Betsy Keimig 22nd-Mark & Amy Turco 24th-Beth & Kenny Hart (1993) 27th-Al & Shannon Labozzo (1991) 30th-Maurice & Lori Turco

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



Douglas Albert Stocker

Douglas Albert Stocker, 69, of Mount Holly, died on Monday, May 25, 2026, at his residence following a long illness.

He was born in Rutland on November 6, 1956, the son of Fredrick and Beverly (Trombley) Stocker. He had been employed as a mechanic on big rigs and had been a logger, selling firewood as well as doing body work and painting. He had also been a foreman for a bucket crew, trimming and cutting on power lines and roadsides for the state of Virginia.

Doug was very active and liked staying busy. He built his own house in Mount Holly. He was a kind man and loved hunting and fishing with his kids. He also enjoyed putting models together and collecting Indian things.

He is survived by his wife Darlene Stocker, two boys Douglas Stocker II and Danny Stocker, a stepdaughter Glynnes Howe, 2 granddaughters and 2 great grandchildren, and sisters Linda Perry and Sandy Colbeth.

He was predeceased by his brother Christopher Stocker.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. He will be missed very much.



Janice Mary (Laumann) Bamforth

Janice Mary (Laumann) Bamforth of Fremont, NH, formerly of Kingston, NH; Belmont, VT; and Lynnfield, MA, died peacefully on June 8, 2026, 100 years young at Colonial Poplin, Fremont, NH. She was born on January 6, 1926 in Swampscott, MA; the daughter of Henry Irving Laumann and Kathleen

Louise (White) Laumann.

Predeceased by her husband, Charles Allan Bamforth of 64 years.

Janice graduated from Northfield School for Girls, Mount Herman, MA, in 1943. Married Charles Allan Bamforth in 1950. They lived in Lynnfield, MA until their retirement in 1983. They moved to Belmont, VT, where she was active with the Belmont guild and the continued development of the local historical museum. Her hobbies included sewing, quilting, reading, and knitting. She and Allan traveled the US in their motor home and enjoyed many winters in Lillian, Alabama.

She is survived by her daughter, Judith Jervis, of Danville, NH; her son, Charles Henry Bamforth and his wife, Debora, of East Hampstead, NH; her grandchildren, Kathleen and Clayton Jervis and Craig and Ariana Bamforth; Great Grandson, Colton Laidlaw; and nieces Margaret Adam, Jeanne Bamforth, Carolyn Laumann and Kathleen Laumann, Susan Dauphinee O'Hara and Cindy Wonson.

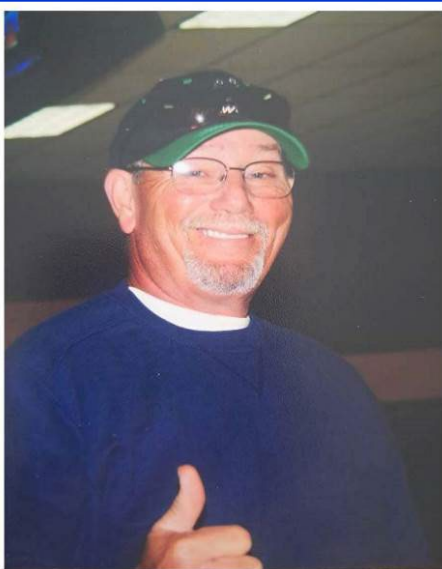
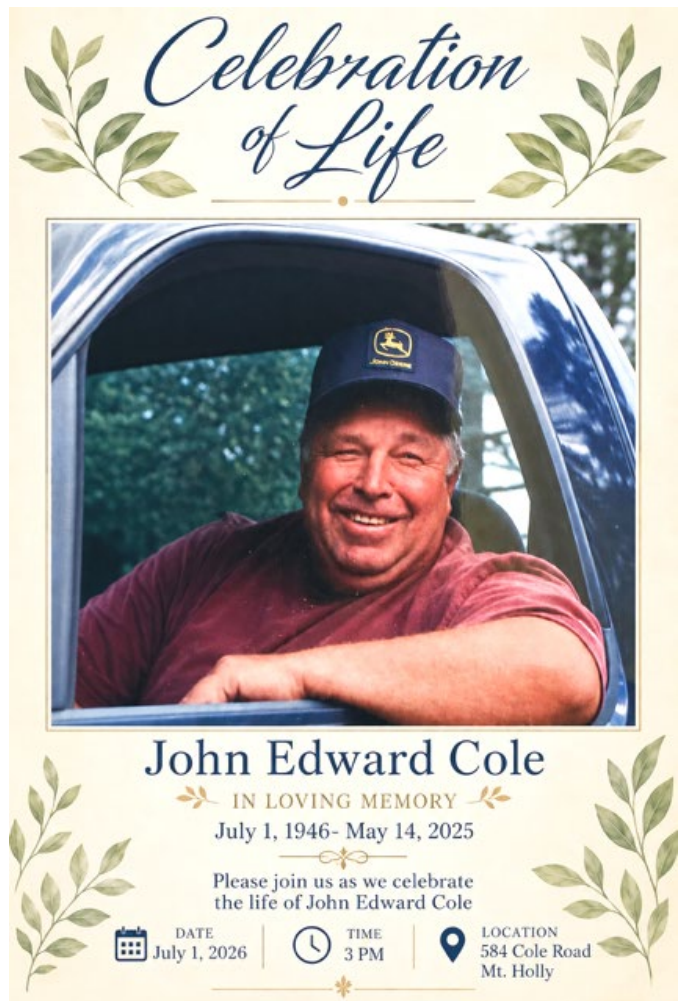
In addition to Allan, and her parents, Jancie is predeceased by her brother, Gordon Henry Laumann; her sister, Barbara Louise Laumann Polley Wonson; and her nephew, Gordon H. Laumann Jr.

There are no calling hours.

Services for Janice will be held privately by the family, and she will be laid to rest at the Swampscott Cemetery, Swampscott, MA.

Memorial contributions in memory of Janice Bamforth, may be made to the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, Belmont, VT 05730 at <https://mounthollyvtmuseum.org/> For more information, visit

www.brewittfuneralhome.com



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



Notice: All Invited Mechanicsville Cemetery Monthly Volunteer Clean Up Schedule

1st Tuesday of each month 2026

July 7th, 8 am

Sept 1st, 8 am



Aug 4th, 8 am

Oct 6th, 8 am

Suppers For Mount Holly Organizations



Settings Start 5:00 pm

At

The Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont
All You Can Eat - Served Home Style
Adults - \$15 & Children Under 12 - \$8
Children 5 and Under no charge



July 4th Odd Fellows - Chicken BBQ 11:30 am (\$15.00)

After Town Parade Step off at 11:00 am

July 25th Mt. Moriah Masons - Baked Ham

Sep 5th Historical Museum – Baked Ham

Oct 10th Colfax Lodge – Baked Ham



Eat In or Take Out,

With Take Out meals starting at 4:45 pm

More Info Call 802-259-2460

*** 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.



Custom Builders of Belmont Inc.

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Belmont, VT 05730

Charlie Conroy

cjconroy@vermontel.net

30+ Years Experience

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Thursday, July 2nd

Ludlow Community Center

37 Main Street, Ludlow

Serving at NOON

A welcoming homestyle meal of:

BARBEQUE CHICKEN

Meal followed by BINGO

Free of charge, all are welcome!

Meal provided by:

Black River Good Neighbor Services

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.



Mount Holly Guild Artisan Fair

The Community Guild's Artisan Fair is Saturday August 1st from 10:00 to 4:00. We are selling hand crafted items which we've been working on all year. Come and see our beautiful quilts, knitted items, pillows, kitchen goodies and so much more.

Flanders Excavating & Firewood

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Robert Beardmore, Jr.

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5256 VT-155

Belmont, Vermont 05730

Celebrate Our Nation's 250th Birthday

Mount Holly Independence Day Parade

**Saturday, July 4th - 11am
Downtown Belmont**



Inviting all



**Community groups, Local Businesses,
Veterans, Families and Friends**

Create a Float

*Walk in Costume - Decorate a Bike or Car
And Join the Fun!*

**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

News and musings from the Mount Holly Community Association

According to Jenny Han “everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August”. Is Jenny referencing the whole summer or simply the month of July? One might wonder if July is being called out as the best month of summer, which could be debatable, however, it is likely that we all can agree there is something special about summer in the Green Mountains! Lest we discuss the value of July as the most magical month, July does have its highlights, according to AI, which include:

- National Ice Cream, Hot Dog, Cheesecake, Spooner’s and Cowboy Days
- Disability Pride Month
- The month of space explorations major achievement with Apollo 11 landing folks on the moon
- It was renamed after Julius Caesar, who apparently reformed the calendar.
- And, of course, Independence Day us

Well, there certainly is a lot going on, but before we share this month's “hap-nins” we want to give a **shout out to the town road crew** who took care of the removal of landscape ties for MHCA’s landscape makeover at the library/community center. We love you guys - thank you!

Upcoming Events

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

Here is your Thursday evening line up for July:

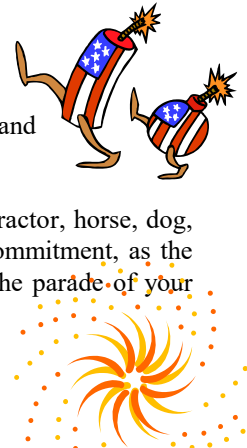
July 2	Tim Caira	July 9	Jamie Ward	July 16	Better Days Band
July 23	Krishna	July 30	Bunty Station (Ohio band)		

July 4 - Parade and Cookout sponsored by the ODD Fellows

This is your chance to show off and get involved! Make a float or decorate your bicycle, 4-wheeler, golf cart, tractor, horse, dog, cow or just yourself and join the fun celebrating our 250-year anniversary of independence. It's not a huge commitment, as the entire parade lasts all of 3 minutes, but it makes a HUGE summer memory of fun and frolicking. Following the parade of your lifetime is the best chicken BBQ at the ODD Fellows. Come join the fun!!

August 27 - Community cookout

- Last concert of the summer - Thursday August 27 @ 6pm
- In front of the Belmont General Store



**FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT EVERY THURSDAY 6:30 PM
IN JULY & AUGUST ON THE BELMONT GREEN**

MUSIC ON THE GREEN

JULY 2 - TIM CAIRA
JULY 9 - JAMIE WARD
JULY 16 - BETTER DAYS BAND
JULY 23 - KRISHINA
JULY 30 - BUNTY STATION - OHIO BAND
AUG 6 - JENNY PORTER & THE BETTS
AUG 13 - JEB PORTER & FRIENDS
AUG 20 - SHADY PINES
AUG 27 - MT. HOLLY FOLK CLUB

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

* (In case of rain, concert will be held in the Mount Holly Community Center. Our Thanks to the Village Baptist Church for use of the Green.)



- MHCA will provide burgers/dogs/chips etc.
- Bring a dish to share (please) - potlucks are always the BEST. Full disclosure - it's not a requirement BUT last year we did run out of side dishes and folks were disappointed ☹️

TBD - Summer Square Dance in August

Looks like we might be having ourselves a hoe down! Talks are in the works to have a street square dance party. Keep your eyes peeled for further announcements. Yee Haw!, love me some dancing in the streets 

Announcements

Membership Drive

MHCA operates on a fiscal year which means we are kicking off our 2026/27 donor drive! It's hard to believe MHCA has been around since 1978, that's 48 years! It all began with community and that's what it's still about - providing a space for community gatherings, a home for our town library, putting on events and activities for folks to enjoy, and partnering with community organizations to make our community Vermont Strong. The volunteer board members dedicate their time and energy because they love living here and believe in and value community. The Board appreciates feedback and ideas on how they can continue to be of service. This year's goal is to raise \$12,000. Watch your mail and inbox for our invitation of support for the 2026/27 drive. Thank you!

MHCA Annual Meeting August 19, 7pm

Come join us at the community center for the annual review of what we have done, our hopes and dreams for the coming year, and board elections. We love to hear feedback and community input for events and new ideas.

And that, our favorite chit chat readers, is all the news for the month of July. We look forward to seeing you out and about! Jennifer Burrows & Linda Miller

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

KEITH Hawkins
 president

HAWKINS
 EXCAVATION

Mount Holly, Vermont
 802 558.3082

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- & MORE!

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Upcoming Events & Announcements
 WE'RE BACK IN FULL SWING!

Sunday July 19th - 10am-11am
Wildflower Arrangements

☀️ To get us back in the crafting spirit, our host, Lauren Escott, will lead us in creating beautiful wildflower arrangements in jars. Will be so lovely to enjoy the local flora on our own countertops.

Friday July 24th - 9am-1pm
Barn Quilt Painting Workshop 🎨

👤 Our very first extended craft workshop as we welcome local instructor Sarah Hathaway of The Bur-Ger Farm" for a special 4-hour Barn Quilt Painting Class! Participants will create their own beautiful painted barn quilt. Great for beginners or experienced painters to join!



Horses On The Road

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

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

There are many things that frighten a horse:

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

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

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

THANK YOU
FROM THE
VERMONT
HORSE COUNCIL

www.vthorsecouncil.org

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CUSTOMVTSIGNS@GMAIL.COM

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call or check Facebook
 for days and times open

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 _____

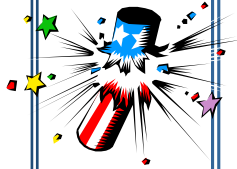
Address _____

_____ 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



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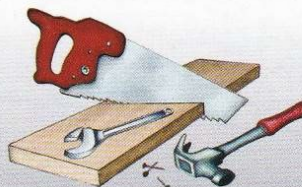
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The Mount Holly 1976 Bicentennial Parade

Picture Left is Scott Turco on Prancer and Jeff Lienhard on Cricket as Green Mountain Boys – Scott's sister made their costumes from burlap grain bags – Middle is Jean Fish as Betsy Ross – Right are photos from the Museum with no names listed

Baked Ham Supper



Saturday July 25th

Starting at 5:00 pm

Take Outs Start at 4:45 pm

Benefit the Mt. Moriah Mason's

Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont

Baked Ham Supper

**Potato, Vegetables, Rolls
And Home Baked Pies**

All You Can Eat - Home Style

Take Outs Available



Adults \$15.00

Children Under 12 \$8.00

Children 5 and Under no Charge

More Info Call 802-259-2460



Mt. Moriah Lodge June 2026 Trestleboard

Next Meeting Tuesday 07/28 7:30PM

Brother Clovis Leach's funeral will be at 1PM at the Scottsville Cemetery tomorrow, the 20th, with a Masonic Service being conducted by Mt. Moriah Lodge.

Our Grand Lodge Communication was held at the Grand Hotel in Killington, on June 10. The Grand line of officers remained the same as last year.

Our Ham Supper will be on the last Saturday in July this year. We need at least 25 pies so we don't run out. Hillary-Sweezy-Hurst will be the chef for us. Please help us by donating one or two pies if you can. Fraternally, James Goss W.M. - Buster Seward Sec'y

MOUNT HOLLY TOWN LIBRARY NEWS JULY 2026

KIDS SUMMER READING PROGRAM!!

Sign up for the summer reading program NOW!!

Read at least 5 books between June 15 - August 15 and qualify for prizes and a treat!

In addition there will be 2 arts and crafts programs with this year's theme: "Unearth a Story"

The arts programs feature Casey Junker Bailey and are on Tuesday July 21 and Tuesday July 28th 10:30-12:00



July monthly movie:

July 18th at 7 PM

"National Treasure" w/ Nicholas Cage

In honor of the nation's 250th birthday

Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Manhattan Short Film Festival. This years show dates/times:

Thursday Sept. 24th 7 PM

Wednesday Sept. 30th 7 PM

Saturday Oct. 3rd 2 PM

The library will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Saturday July 4 - Independence Day

Monday September 7 - Labor Day

Library Hours

Monday 10-2

Tuesday 1-3

Wednesday 2-4

Saturday 9-1

We are accepting donations for our annual Cider Days book sale in October

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

mthollylibrary@gmail.com

www.mthollytownlibrary.org



BELMONT VILLAGE TOUR

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum is offering a walking tour of Belmont Village at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 11th. Meet at the Perkins House Museum on the Village Green for a tour that will last a little more than an hour. Learn about the families and the history of the houses. In case of rain, a tour of the museum's collection will be offered. Call 802-259-2460.

VFP # Belmont, Vermont 26-Sept to 11-Oct 2026

MANU/ENVI/EDU 8 VOLS Age 18+

Belmont is a beautiful, rural community on Star Lake at 600 meters elevation in the Green Mountains of central Vermont. Belmont is a small but very active community with lots of events at one of the most beautiful seasons of the year.

WORK: Volunteers will help with manual work at various projects in support of the Mt. Holly Community Association (Cider Days), Historical Museum and Conservation Trust, The Friends of Star Lake and a fund raising dinner event for the International Order of Odd Fellows. Volunteers must be prepared for flexibility and any type of work (indoor and outdoor) including painting, moving artifacts, digging weeds and moving sand at the lake, etc. Discussions on peace issues and ecological sustainability will also take place.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Cots at the IOOF hall located on the shore of Star Lake near the center of Belmont, Campers must bring a sleeping bag, pillow and work shoes. Vegetarian meals available. Be prepared for cool nights.

LOCATION: In a beautiful, rural community in Central Vermont.

TERMINAL: Train, bus or flight to Rutland, Vermont (RUT).

LEISURE ACTIVITIES: The camp is in a remote rural area, but volunteers will enjoy swimming, campfires and community activities including a musical event (Party For Peace).

SPECIAL REMARKS: Volunteers must speak English and be willing to work both indoors and outdoors doing physical labor. No smoking in buildings.

MOUNT HOLLY DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS

FOR

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
NOMINATIONS**

FRIDAY JULY 10TH 6 PM

COMMUNITY ROOM

26 MAPLE HILL RD BELMONT VT 05730

Questions? Andy Tanger, Chair

atanger@vermontel.net

802-345-5195



Mount Holly Republican Caucus

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

Thursday, July 16, 2026
6:30 pm

Mount Holly Town Office

To Nominate Justice of Peace

Please Join Us For This
Important Meeting

More Info Call 802-259-2386
Millicent Johnson Chair

Final greetings from the Vermont Statehouse!

The Vermont legislature adjourned sine die on Friday, May 29th officially ending the 2025-26 biennium. This means it spent a total of 21 weeks, or an extra 3 weeks in session. Many feel it was a session which refined or in some instances "corrected" what had been passed in the previous sessions when there was a supermajority especially regarding education reform and land use policy.

H955, the education transformation bill, became the single most important bill of the session for many lawmakers. Vermont's education crisis is apparent when one looks at the numbers. Spending has risen 40% over the last 5 years. The student population has dropped from 110,000 to fewer than 80,000. In order to not have property taxes rise by nearly 12%, \$100 million in surplus funds had to be used this year to hold the average education property tax increase to roughly 3.5%. H949, which is the so-called "yield bill" sets the property dollar equivalent at \$9,401, the income yield at \$12,960, and the nonhomestead rate at \$1.643 per \$100 of equalized value. It is the second consecutive year lawmakers had to come up with one-time money to use as temporary fix for a structural problem.

It might be tempting to look at these numbers and blame our public school teachers, support staff, administrators, and school boards. That would be unfair and a mistake. Vermont's education problems are systemic and demographic-based.

Educators are doing their best to deal with a system that has increasingly become chaotic.

According to projections from the Agency of Education, K-12 enrollment peaked 30 years ago. Currently, Vermont has 74,000 K-12 students and will likely bottom out at around 62,000 K-12 students in our public schools.

The Governor signed the bill on June 17th and here are the highlights:

- **Creation of merger committees statewide:** School districts across Vermont will be grouped into regional merger committees that are tasked with studying and recommending potential governance consolidation opportunities. The conference committee finalized 20 regional groupings covering districts throughout the state.
- **Continued movement toward regionalization:** While mergers are not directly mandated, districts are expected to participate in a formal review and planning process that is intended to encourage larger, more regionally coordinated governance structures.
- **Foundation formula transition:** The bill continues Vermont's transition toward a foundation funding formula, which would significantly change how education funding is distributed beginning later this decade. Several timelines in the bill were accelerated during negotiations.
- **Limits on tuition and supplemental spending:** The agreement includes guardrails intended to control future spending growth, including restrictions on schools charging tuition above public tuition amounts and limits on supplemental district spending above educational opportunity payments.
- **Legacy debt aid:** The bill creates a new legacy debt aid structure that would provide districts with 75 percent aid on eligible school construction debt approved before the end of 2024, though eligibility is tied to participation in the merger process.
- **Class size and operational standards:** The conference committee also refined definitions and implementation timelines around class size standards and district quality requirements.

In my view, the second most significant bill enacted last year was the partial repeal of **Act 181**. Passed in 2024, with very close margins in the Senate, the bill was then vetoed by Governor Scott but was overridden by the super majority at the time.

Rural Vermonters mounted a fierce grassroots backlash against **Act 181**, citing the land-use law as state overreach that trampled property rights, devalued land, and penalized rural communities. This intense opposition successfully forced Democratic lawmakers to join with Republicans and Governor Phil Scott to enact a partial repeal which was in **S 325** and signed by the Governor on June 16th.

The most controversial provision was a permitting requirement for private roads longer than 800 feet, which landowners argued made creating new homesteads prohibitively expensive and restricted how they could use their property. Proposed maps designating fragile ecosystems and "Tier 2" and "Tier 3" conservation zones stirred up fears that local landowners would be unfairly burdened by strict development regulations to combat forest fragmentation. Many rural residents felt the law was pushed through by urban-centric planners and a legislative supermajority without properly considering the needs and input of rural communities. There will be further considerations of land use policies when the Legislature convenes again next January.

Other bills of note that were passed in this pass session were:

H 739 where Vermont becomes the first U.S. state to ban the toxic herbicide paraquat, which is heavily linked to Parkinson's disease. Signed into law in May 2026, **House Bill 739** prohibits the sale and use of the chemical effective November 1, 2026. While the general sale and use of the chemical end in late 2026, the law allows a phased transition period. State regulators can grant special permits to farmers allowing limited use for specific fruit orchards and berries until December 31, 2030.

S 64 which is the so-called Optometry bill. Vermont's primary eye care bill, S.64, expands the scope of practice for optometrists. Passed by the legislature in May 2026 and signed by the Governor on June 17, 2026, the bill creates an "advanced therapeutic procedures specialty", allowing qualified optometrists to perform certain surgical and laser procedures currently restricted to ophthalmologists.

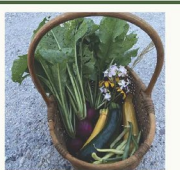


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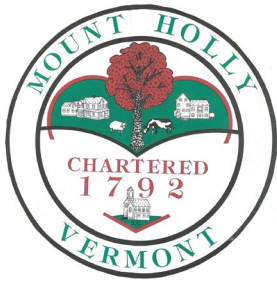




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Mount Holly Town News

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

SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING Town Office, 50 School Street Mount Holly, VT 05758 May 20 2026, 4.30

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.

pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Carol Garrow Woolley, Marc Miller

1. **Call to Order** 4.30pm
2. **Treasurer Appointment:** Mark Turco noted that the Board interviewed two candidates and decided to offer the position to Marc Miller, who confirmed his acceptance. Mark Turco moved to appoint Marc Miller as Treasurer, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
3. **Administrative Officer Appointment:** Diana Garrow noted that the PC Chair had made a recommendation to reappoint Faith Tempest to the position of Administrative Officer. Diana Garrow moved to appoint Faith Tempest for a period of 3 years as AO, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
4. **Pest Control for Town Office:** Carol Garrow-Woolley contacted three companies, but only two visited and only one gave a quote. Vermont Pest Control provided a quote of \$250 initial service fee, then \$150 per quarter. Mark Turco moved to accept VPC's quote for a onetime fee of \$250 and \$150 per quarter, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
5. **Executive Session:** Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed) Diana Garrow moved to enter executive session, second Mark Turco approved unanimously.
6. **Adjourn:** 4.52

Select Board Meeting Mount Holly Town Office June 9th 2026 6:00 pm

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Marc Miller, Clinton Woolley, Mary Surething, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Stephen Michel, Zena Gates, Christine Pratt, June Capron, James Seward, Dennis Devereux, Paul Wellin.

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

Via Zoom: Morgan Collins, Donna Seward, Michael Miller,

1. **Call to Order:** 6.00pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda:** none

4. **Approval of May 12th, May 13th, May 20th Minutes.** Diana Garrow moved to accept the minutes as written, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

5. Reports

a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley. Work funded through the 2026 grants-in-aid has brought Packer Road up to compliance. Sawyer Hill Road will be next. Highway staff have undertaken flagging training, and if approved a VLCT grant will fund \$1500 for signage, with \$500 from the Town. DB Tree Works has removed the tree in Carlton cemetery, cost at \$3500, rather than the \$3000 quoted. Trees at Star Lake will be removed shortly.

i. Review Transfer Station facilities: The inspection asked for a number of actions, but did not impose a fine. Diana Garrow asked about the burn pile: Mr Woolley noted it is difficult to monitor and proposed keeping it closed. Mark Turco stated he has been approached about keeping the construction and metal open containers but he has concerns about inappropriate materials being placed in them. Mr Woolley noted they do help Town residents. Jeff Chase asked if the Select Board should consider reversing its earlier decision to remove the open containers. Mr Turco was open to reversing the decision but is concerned about inappropriate materials and the possibility of a fine. Mr Chase noted that the cost of the open containers is half the Transfer Station budget, stickers do not cover the full costs, and proposed sticking with the agreed closure which would reduce the Town's losses. Stephen Michel asked if cameras could be used to monitor what people are depositing; Mr Turco noted that this would require power and internet. Mr Michel also asked if money is made on the metal? Mr Chase responded that the transport costs outweigh any return. Mr Turco stated that the Board would keep to its earlier decision unless Town residents petition the Select Board for a change. Paul Wellin stated his concern that residents will dispose of rubbish on the roads

and burn inappropriate materials. Stephen Michel said he disagreed with the decision and the SB was penalising the majority of Town residents.

ii. Hortonville Road paving RFP: Jeff Chase has posted the RFP and contacted firms directly. He asked for the RFP to be put on the Town website.

b. Town Treasurer Update - Marc Miller

i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: Marc Miller reported that the Town is in a reasonable fiscal position for the end of the year and

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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.

should not go over budget. Jeff Chase asked if culvert expenditure was correctly allocated. Mr Miller acknowledged that there is still clarification required on where and how income and expenditure is allocated. Jeff Chase asked about moving funds from retreatment to cover part of the Hortonville Road RFP, and made a motion to move the balance of the retreatment funds (approximately \$55,000) second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

ii. Assistant Treasurer Appointment: Marc Miller noted has appointed Dawn Augustine as Assistant Treasurer. Mr Miller asked about purchase of a cash counting machine and whether this requires Select Board approval. Mark Turco responded that this is something which should come out of the Treasurer's office expenses budget.

c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething: The Listers have completed their reassessments of property values for those which have made changes. On June 2nd letters of changes in assessment were sent out and the grievance hearing set for June 19th. The abstract has been lodged with the State. Listers have completed training.

d. Planning Commission Update - Jon McCann. Tabled in Mr McCann's absence.

6. New Business

a. Belmont General Store liquor license. Diana Garrow moved to renew, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.

b. VLCT Special meeting - designation of Voting Delegate. Mark Turco moved to allow Faith Tempest to attend on behalf of the Select Board, Diana Garrow second, approved unanimously.

c. Board of Adjustment Vacancy. Mark Turco asked for letters of interest for the vacant position (three year term) and two alternates (two year term).

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**.

d. Renewal of contract with Rutland County Sheriff's Department: Mark Turco noted the contract is for both speed enforcement and animal control, at a cost of \$63.26 per hour, capped at \$10,880. Diana Garrow moved to accept the enforcement contract at that price, seconded Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

e. Fire protection Town Office and Town Garage: Clinton Woolley stated the need to update fire protection equipment in the Town Office and Town Garage. Cintas have provided a quote for new extinguishers (where needed) and annual servicing for \$190. Jeff Chase asked if this covers extinguishers in Town

vehicles, Mr Woolley confirmed this. Mark Turco agreed that this was a clear priority and should come from the maintenance budget, Diana Garrow moved to accept the contract with Cintas to meet fire protection requirements, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

7. Old Business

a. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Annual Update and Approval: Jeff Chase noted the main changes to the plan, updating contacts and equipment. Diana Garrow moved to adopt the Plan, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

b. Dog License update: Carol Garrow-Woolley reported that despite follow up, seventeen owners of twenty one dogs have still not registered them. Ms Garrow-Woolley had drafted a warrant to the Sheriff's Office to impound dogs if the Select Board wishes to proceed. Mark Turco moved to send the Warrant to the Sheriff to impound dogs at the Sheriff's discretion, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.

c. 250th anniversary events: Dennis Devereux noted that there will be a parade and bbq on the 4th of July, but also that for Vermont for Vermont the State 250th anniversary will be bigger.

8. Citizen Comments: Dennis Devereux asked about painting the intersection at the

Belmont, Tarbellville crossroad and placing a stop sign. Jeff Chase noted the sign requires curbing and he will look into options, and into painting. Mark Turco agreed a four way stop is required but preliminary work needs to be done. June Capron asked if there has been any revenue from the Sheriff's department? Mark Turco responded he is trying to get the information. Faith Tempest asked about moving the radar sign; Mark Turco agreed it can be moved.

9. Announcements: Diana Garrow announced the Hazardous Waste Collection at the Transfer Station, Sat 8-10am. Carol Garrow-Woolley noted the Town office will close at 2pm on Thursday 11th June and will be closed all day on Tuesday June 23rd.

10. Review & Sign Orders

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

a. Highway Department Salaries

12. Adjourn

Transfer Station Spring/Summer Hours

Wednesdays 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
Saturdays 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Calendar Competition Entry Forms Available

So if the sheer excitement of the 2027 Mount Holly Calendar arriving isn't enough, the entry forms for this year's calendar photo competition are also here! The deadline is September 28th. Find the forms at:

• the **Mount Holly Town Offices**

• the **Belmont Store**

or by requesting a digital copy at

mthollyphotos@gmail.com



Anyone, resident or non-resident, can enter up to three photos of Mount Holly into the annual Photo & Calendar Competition. See entry forms for all details. The competition is an activity of the Mount Holly Community Association (MHCA) and all proceeds from calendar sales go to support the activities of the MHCA.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Thursday, July 16

*Ludlow Community Center
37 Main St, Ludlow*

SERVING AT NOON

A welcoming, homestyle meal of:

BEEF STROGANOFF

free of charge, all are welcome

BINGO

follows the meal!

Meal provided by:
Black River Good Neighbor Services

Mount Holly Board of Adjustment Vacancies

The Town of Mount Holly is seeking applicants to fill a position on the Board of Adjustment (three-year term), and two positions as Alternate Members of the Board of Adjustment (two-year terms).

In Vermont, the Zoning Board of Adjustment is a municipal panel that hears appeals from zoning administrator decisions, reviews conditional use and variance requests, and addresses unspecified uses on property.

Please submit a letter of interest by July 13th 2026 to mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com or by mail to the Select Board, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758. Letters can also be dropped off at the Town Office, 50 School Street, Mount Holly, VT 05758.



Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:30 PM

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

Also present: Faith Tempest, Walter Siegordner, Janice Slagle, Marina Huyler (via Zoom), Steven McDonald (via Zoom)

1. **Call to order:** 6.30pm
2. **Changes to agenda:** none.
3. **Approval of minutes:** Commissioner Michel moved to approve the minutes of the subdivision hearing March 17th, Commissioner Schulz second, approved unanimously. For the minutes of April 21st Chair asked for changes for clarity regarding the language relating to lot mergers; Commissioner Schulz proposed language. Commissioner Unterman asked for changes to language regarding the Wastewater committee, and to language regarding Act 181. With those changes the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Reports & Announcements

a. Administrative Officer:

BCRs: Murphy, Fowler Brook Road, 56'x38' barn/ADU, existing WW permit.

Lynch, Indian Brook Road, 22'x24' two story addition, existing WW permit **Cole**, Cole Road, 26'x46' house, existing WW permit.

The AO had received a WW permit for a property on Hortonville Road (Gilmore), for a 4 bedroom SFR. No BCR has been received yet.

The AO reported her exchange with Mr Longobardo, Sawyer Hill Road. Mr Longobardo has confirmed that he is in communication with the Act 250 Coordinator regarding the

construction on his property and whether it would be subject to Act 250.

b. **Planning Commission Chair:** RRPC are holding the final regional plan hearing this evening.

c. **Belmont Village Wastewater Planning Subcommittee** (Jeff Chase). No update.

5. Development review

a. **Walter Siegordner sketch plan review**—Roger Hill Road: Mr Siegordner presented a proposal for a subdivision of a 14acre parcel on Roger Hill Road into 4 lots, each of approximately 3.5 acres and with access from Roger Hill Road and from Rte 103, with each access shared by two parcels. Access permits from the Town and the State have been granted. There has been an initial review by a septic engineer, and the sketch proposes house and

septic locations. Chair asked about wetlands on the site; Mr Siegordner noted a wet area close to Rte 103 but construction would not encroach. Chair asked if Commissioners would be interested in a site visit, though he felt that would be premature until a hearing. Mr Siegordner stated that septic design will be for 4-bedroom houses, he may build a 3-bedroom house. Chair asked if a shared septic was considered – Mr Siegordner noted people's concerns about this. AO noted it would be a major subdivision. Chair suggested to Mr Siegordner that he review the sub-division regulations and stated that it would help to address some housing constraints. Mr Siegordner noted this would not be affordable housing, though he has another property which may be more useful for a cluster housing approach with communal wastewater. Chair and all Commissioners agreed they are content with the concept.

b. **McDonald/Huyler/Carney sketch plan review**—Loop Road: Commissioner Schulz recused himself. This Boundary Line Adjustment is of a 1.5 acre property which was the result of a previous subdivision in the 1960s. Chair noted that Mount Holly does not have any law which automatically merges lots and so pre-existing lots do not need to be explicitly divided by the actions of the Planning Commission. Specifically in relation to this proposal, the recent survey proposes an equal division of the 1.5 acre lot and does not appear to propose using the former boundaries which would give a slightly unequal division of the lot amongst the three owners, but which would reinstate the earlier boundaries in the case of two of the three owners of the property. Mr McDonald clarified that the surveyor had set new stakes to define boundaries but would defer to the surveyor to confirm if these are new or match the earlier boundaries.

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Commissioner Unterman noted that the proposed lots are of exactly the same size, suggesting these are new boundaries. Chair stated that however this is presented would not affect the merits of the application but would impact how the application is considered. If the earlier boundaries are adopted there may not need to be multiple boundary line adjustments, rather a lot merger in the case of two of the proposed lots and a boundary line adjustment for the third. Chair noted that the issue is whether there is a reference deed which would allow conveying today; the survey of the proposed division does not reference that. This would affect how the Planning Commission considers the standard of review for the sub-division. Mr McDonald asked if the surveyor could clarify this at the hearing. Chair proposed scheduling a hearing if the surveyor could confirm the division line of lot 3 is precisely the division line of the deed owned by Carney, and if that can be attested to by the surveyor on the plat; alternatively a new plat will be required which adjusts the boundaries to match the original 5A and 6A boundaries. Chair noted that all owners would need to agree. Chair asked the AO to contact the surveyor to clarify the questions and to confirm with Mr McDonald and the other owners how they wish to proceed. If there is clarity, and if needed a new survey, by 28th May, the hearing could be scheduled for 16th June. If not, the issue would need to come back to the regular meeting on 16th June.

6. New business

a. **Administrative Officer Recommendation:** Chair noted that one application had been received from Faith Tempest, the current AO. Chair moved to communicate to SB Faith Tempest's reappointment, seconded Commissioner Unterman, approved unanimously.

b. **Review draft updated "BCR" ordinance:** Chair noted that the draft circulated sets out the rationale for the update, and asked if Commissioners wanted to discuss specific issues. Commissioner Michel noted that it could be more succinct, and also he felt it was not appropriate to share with Select Board yet. Chair noted the ex officio role of Select Board

and that he now copies them on Planning Commission business. Commissioner Unterman asked if there had been a request to change the current ordinance? Chair replied no, and responded that this proposal solves legal issues, specifically the lack of legal basis for the current ordinance, and the process which allows property owners to start work immediately upon submission which is contrary to State law; this presents risks to the Town. The current approach also gives very limited guidance to applicants. An updated ordinance needs to be clear that Town is a facilitator of permit or regulatory obligations, with the AO role to guide people through the state requirements as well as Town requirements.

Commissioner Michel gave an example of simplification, section 3d in which the AO has two different roles (consulting and asking for determinations) and this could be simplified. Commissioner Schulz noted the difference between consulting and asking for a determination. Chair agreed and noted that there is value in having this stated explicitly, supported by the AO. Commissioner Unterman asked if the proposed bylaw would bring a new permit, and if so would it create push back from Town residents? Commissioner Unterman noted that it is unclear when this would need to be used, raising the example of a shed. Chair responded that it would depend, eg a shed in a flood hazard area may need a permit. Commissioner Schulz noted that this is intended to help residents to avoid running afoul of the requirements of both Town and State. Commissioner Unterman commented that the information requirements are onerous; and that it may not appear that this is in fact helpful, leading to pushback. Chair noted that the PC needs to take action to support the role of AO, enabling the AO to support Town residents before they go ahead with a project rather than after the fact; builders also note that the Town does not give clear guidance on what to do. Commissioner Michel noted that the ordinance does not give guidance on when/how to go to the State; he also asked why there is scope for revisions in the future. Chair responded that this section is written to prevent over-reach in the future. Commissioner Michel also asked why there are questions on occupancy. In response Chair noted the value of having data to allow tracking issues such as new housing, new rental units etc which can be stored centrally to support other actions, especially those in the Housing Needs Assessment study. Commissioner Unterman asked about the type of permits noted; Chair responded that the informational permit is not subject to any action by the Town to stop the development going ahead and so in that sense is not a permit. Commissioner Schulz agreed with Commissioner Unterman that the application could have a different name to permit, with clarity that this is not approval but simply an acknowledgement that information has been provided. He noted that regarding the question of renting out a home, there are associated state requirements and this would assist the AO to help residents to know this. Chair agreed there is some merit to considering the name but there is also value in calling it a permit since it creates a pause to allow review and indicates to residents that they need to consider this ahead of time. Commissioner Seward proposed using the term registration rather than; Chair agreed there may be value to this, but it might not be understood to be different to the current process, and it might be confused with short term rental registries which may be considered by the Town in the future. Other terms proposed were certificate of completeness or disclosure. Commissioner Schulz suggested that Commissioners review the document and make list of revisions to



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include and circulate ahead of the next meeting for discussion at that time.

c. **Discuss additional ways to implement the Housing Action Plan.** Tabled.

7. **Unfinished business**

a. **Subdivision Bylaws update:** review statute/requirements. Chair had circulated a document outlining the legal basis for subdivision and asked if commissioners had any questions about this. Chair reviewed the document and outlined key points including issues which subdivision bylaws should include (mandatory) or could include (optional). He asked Commissioners to review before the next meeting where this will be brought back for discussion. Commissioner Unterman asked whether the Cavendish regulations would be helpful. Chair noted that aspects may be useful but since Cavendish has not had any regulations previously and there are few examples which are in the same situation as Mount Holly.

8. **Public comments:** none.

9. **Upcoming meetings:** Public Hearing on 16th June, 5.30pm (to be confirmed). Regular meeting 6.30pm June 16th.

10. **Adjournment:** 9.09pm

Second Star Lake cleanup NEXT (not this) Saturday

On June 27 (Saturday of next week) we will continue to prepare for bottom barriers to be installed at Star Lake. Please join us beginning at 10am to help out. The session will run from 10am to 12 noon.

Many thanks to all who aided our June 13 efforts, during which 3 brimming tractor bucket loads of weeds were removed from the scene. Participants ranged in age from 19 to 80+. We missed out two decades (30's and 40's) in between. Please help us fill in the gap - the future depends on it.

Letter To The Editor

This is a note regarding our Transfer Station. Thanks to some individuals, we will NO Longer be able to leave off metal in the metal bin. We NO Longer can leave wood in the burn pile, or other items in the bin used for construction and Misc. items.

We have known for years we couldn't put pressure treated or wood with paint on it in the burn pile. For over a year we have been advised NO mattresses were being accepted and we could not leave air conditioners or refrigerators. So, what do people do dump items that the town has said can't be dropped. The attendants aren't there to babysit and can't monitor what everyone is doing.

Now with the state coming in to inspect, the Select Board has No choice but to close down the metal and construction bins and the burn pile to avoid the town having to pay a large fine, which would fall on the tax payers.

The result of people not following simple rules, the rest of us now have to make other arrangements to take item to Hubbard's or To Gleason Road sites. This will be more costly and very inconvenient for those of us who have followed the simple rules.

Before the transfer site is closed in entirety, try to follow the last simple rules. Christine Pratt

QUILT RAFFLE AND SAVE THE DATE

The Guild will be selling raffle tickets for this colorful handmade quilt. Second and third place prizes include Vermont pottery and Grafton Cheeses with accessories. Look for us in the coming weeks at the Transfer station and in front of the Belmont General Store. Drawing at conclusion of the

Mount Holly Guild Artisan Fair

Saturday, August 1 from 10 am to 4 PM at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. Save the date: Quilts and Crafts, baked goods, sandwiches and drinks for sale. All proceeds go toward a scholarship for a Mount Holly graduating senior.



Fletcher Memorial Library

**CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY &
THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE.**

Activities for all ages

- US Flag Scavenger Hunt- Pick up form @ the library and start your search!
- Book Discussion- Those Turbulent Sons of Freedom Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys and the American Revolution by Christopher Wren
Thursday, July 9th @ 10:30 am

Fletcher Memorial Library
88 Main St., Ludlow VT 05149

www.fmlnews.org 802-228-8921

**2027
is here!**



**The 2027 Mount Holly
Calendar, that is.**

**You can find them now at the
Mount Holly Town Offices
and at the
Belmont Store.**

The annual Mount Holly Calendar is an activity of the Mount Holly Community Association (MHCA) and all proceeds from calendar sales support the MHCA.

Guide to the Mount Holly TRANSFER STATION

SPRING & SUMMER: WEDNESDAY 4-7 PM and SATURDAY 8 AM-2 PM

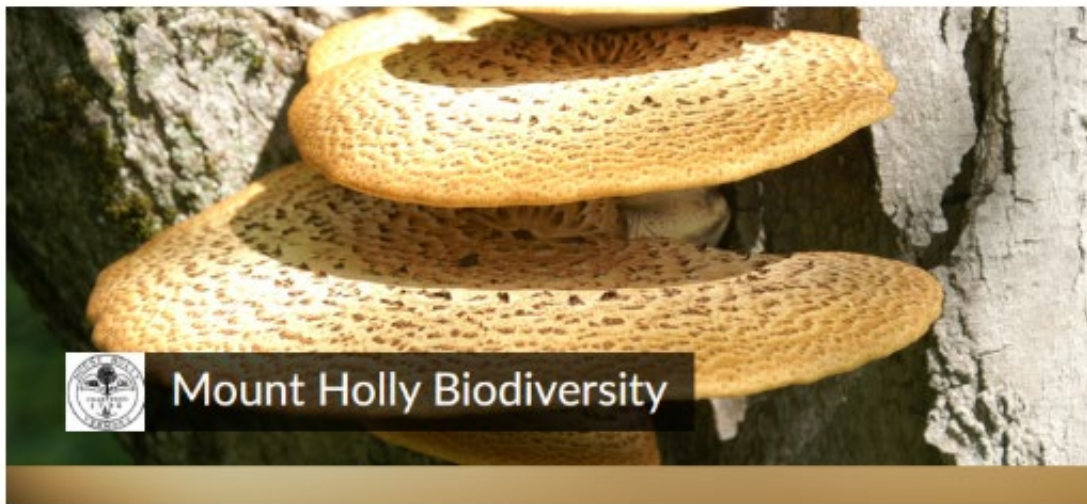
FALL & WINTER: SATURDAY 8 AM-2 PM and SUNDAY 9 AM-12 PM

Payment is by sticker only, available for purchase at the Mount Holly Town Office.

CASH IS NOT ACCEPTED at the Transfer Station.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART	We rely on you to comply with the rules to ensure that our Transfer Station can stay open. State inspectors monitor our site, and violations result in fines and closures that affect all residents. All household trash requires stickers. We count on you to be honest. Sticker fees pay for attendants and a portion of operating costs. Your compliance keeps us open. Please do your part.
STICKER PRICES	BAGGED HOUSEHOLD TRASH: 30-gallon bag or smaller: 1 Contractor bag: 3 TIRES WITHOUT RIMS: Passenger: 1 Truck: 2 Oversized: 6 Tires on rims are not accepted
RECYCLABLES	Recyclable materials are empty/clean glass, aluminum, steel, #1 to #7 plastic containers, and clean/dry paper, boxboard and cardboard. Styrofoam, black plastic and plastic film/grocery bags are not accepted.
FOOD SCRAPS	Food waste may not be disposed of with household trash; this is a State law. The Transfer Station has marked bins for food scraps and sawdust is available to add to bins after disposal.
ELECTRONICS	Electronics should be disposed of in the electronics container. Electronic items are not accepted in the Swap Shed.
SWAP SHED	The Swap Shed accepts clean, usable household items that are in working condition, for example: dishes, kitchen items, garden tools, books, puzzles, and games. Clothing, shoes and electronic items are not accepted in the Swap Shed. If you are not sure, ask an attendant before you donate an item.
PROHIBITED ITEMS	HAZARDOUS WASTE: Hazardous materials are not accepted in household trash, including refrigerators, air conditioners, propane tanks, paint, batteries, bulbs (LED, fluorescent, CFL), poisons, adhesives and corrosive materials. This is a State law. Watch the Chit Chat for announcements of hazardous waste collection days, which occur twice a year. Staples also accepts batteries via their electronics recycling program, and Home Depot accepts LED bulbs. Traditional incandescent bulbs and halogen bulbs are non-toxic and can be disposed of in household trash; wrap them well to protect handlers. Alternatively, dispose of hazardous materials at the Gleason Road Transfer Station in Rutland. MATRESSES, BOX SPRINGS, WOOD AND FURNITURE, SCRAP METAL and CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS are not accepted. Alternative disposal sites for these items are Gleason Transfer Station, Gleason Rd, Rutland or Hubbard Brothers, Cold River Rd. N. Clarendon

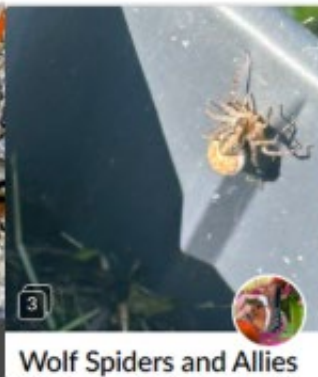
REPORT: Recent sightings in Mount Holly



Overview	6,401 OBSERVATIONS	1,445 SPECIES	1,394 IDENTIFIERS
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Eastern Newt



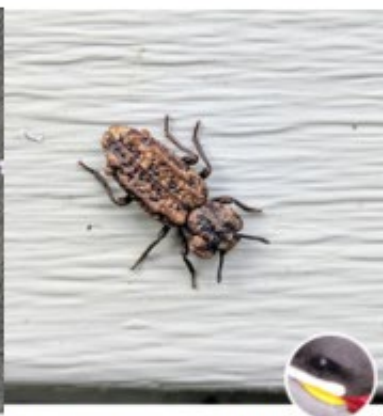
Wolf Spiders and Allies



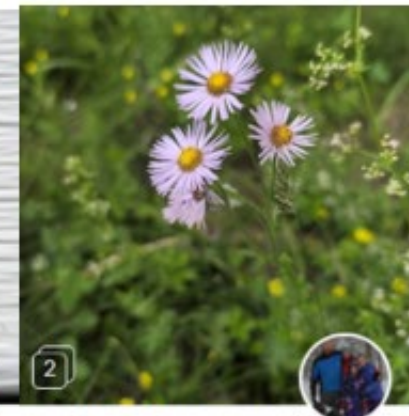
Pearl Crescent



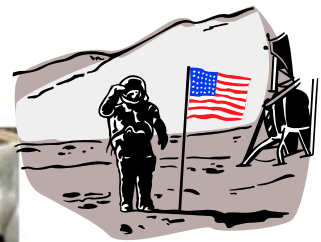
Red-bellied Snake



Eastern Ironclad Beetle



Robin's-Plantain



What have You seen lately? Please report your observations to the

[Mount Holly Biodiversity Project](#)

New to iNaturalist? Learn more at [Getting Started](#)

Sponsored by the [Mount Holly Conservation Trust](#) & the [Mount Holly Conservation Commission](#)



MHCA 26-27 Donation Drive Begins this July



Why Support the Mount Holly Community Association?

Here's what your donation does:

You Fund Events that Foster Community Connection

Because of your donation, the MHCA is able to create opportunities for us to come together. Whether it's our town-wide Music on the Green, a holiday gathering, or a local festival, your membership helps us create memorable moments that strengthen our bonds and make our town feel like home.

You Help Preserve a Historic Landmark our donation directly supports the upkeep and preservation of the historic building that houses our town's community center and town library. Maintaining this cherished landmark is vital for preserving Mount Holly's heritage and ensuring a dedicated space for learning, gathering, and connection.

You Champion Local Talent and Support Local Arts and Culture

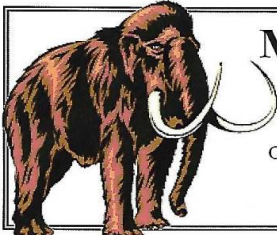
We believe in the power of art and music to enrich lives. Your pledge helps us bring a diverse range of local artists and musicians to our community throughout the year. From concerts to art exhibits, you'll be directly supporting the creative talent right here in Vermont and helping to make Mount Holly a hub for cultural expression.

*Supporting MHCA is about investing in the heart of our town
and fostering a connected and vibrant community*

Super Benefactor Over \$250/year To donate, scan QR code	Benefactor \$250/year To donate, scan QR code	Patron \$100/year To donate, scan QR code	Sponsor \$50/year To donate, scan QR code	Family \$35/year To donate, scan QR code	Single \$20/year To donate, scan QR code
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Please help us reach our goals. We love our community and love to see it thrive. Thank you for being an integral part of it!





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



Two exciting events to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary!

The Big Event: Saturday, July 4

Parade at 11:00 a.m. with a surprise museum float!

Museum open 10am-1pm

Annual Meeting and Potluck: Tuesday, July 21 at 6pm at Odd Fellows Hall

Bring a side dish or dessert to share as well as your own place setting for the potluck at 6. A short business meeting will follow dinner, along with a presentation by members of the Vermont 250 Commission which will outline the state's plans for next year.

This program is free and open to the public — please join us!

July and August Museum Hours: Saturday and Sundays 2-4pm

Private visits can be arranged by appointment. Contact Dennis Devereux 802-259-2460 ddevereux@vermontel.net or Steve Michel 802-259-2049 stevem671@aol.com.

*Once again, we wish to express our gratitude for the generous outpouring from the Mount Holly Community for the Will White Blacksmith Fundraiser. Originally we thought we could restore the building for \$150,000. However after further building review it is clear we need to raise the building, pour a new concrete foundation and repair the entire structure. Our budget has shifted to \$207,000. Given the initial \$50,000 collection plus the Museum's own \$75,000 in savings, **we are more than halfway to our goal.** We expect the restoration work to begin this Autumn, 2026.*

*If you have already donated, **we thank you.** Your donation started the project! We urge you to consider giving so we can complete the project, so that precious artifacts and history will be preserved for the Community for years to come.*

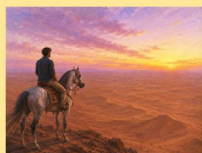
Donations can be made by mail to: MHCHM, PO Box 17 Belmont, VT 05730

Secure online donations can be made via GIVE BUTTER - <https://givebutter.com/HryDbQ>.

The month of July promises to be eventful and we hope to see many of you at the July 21st annual meeting and potluck!

**IT IS THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS
WHO MAKE THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM COME ALIVE!**

Mission In the Kingdom



Ralph Pace

Local Writer Publishes Three Books in June

It's been a busy month for Ralph Pace, resident of Rutland. He's managed to have three original books published in June.

Pace, a resident at the Gables, is a retired Information Technology specialist.

In early June, his first book, "Chronicles of a Grumpy Old Man", was published. It was the story of a old man in a retirement home who decides that life was something "beyond waiting for you maker", as the author put it.

In mid-June, he released his second book, "Mission to the Kingdom". This book was about an American family's adventures in Saudi Arabia as the husband worked to install the first computer system in the kingdom.

Finally, at the end of the month, Pace released a very different story, "Anatomy of a Conspiracy". This is a story about a major discovery in space travel and how others sought to steal it.

When asked what his next book would be, he simply indicated that he didn't have the slightest idea what would be forthcoming.

He observed that "I think my mind needs a rest. I'll just wait until it is fresh enough to consider new challenges."

All publications consisted of three different formats, hardcover, paperback large print, and eBook/Kindle, all available through Amazon.com.

Vermont State Historic Sites Commemorate 250th Birthday of the United States of America

On **July 4**, the [Vermont Division for Historic Preservation](http://HistoricSites.Vermont.gov) is pleased to invite visitors to readings of the Declaration of Independence at your State Historic Sites. At the President Chester A. Arthur, President Calvin Coolidge, Chimney Point, Hubbardton Battlefield, and Mount Independence State Historic Sites, readings will commence at **11:30am**. Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site will host a reading at **noon**.

In addition to the reading, on **July 4**, the President Coolidge State Historic Site will offer **free admission for the day** to celebrate the birthday of America's 30th president and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A U.S. Air Force Aerial F-35 Flyover honoring the events of the day is scheduled for the morning as well as a Naturalization Ceremony. The day before, on **July 3 at 6pm**, bring a picnic and lawn chair to the site and listen to patriotic tunes presented by the 26-piece John Masko's Orchestra, presented at no charge. The Civil War Hemlocks will be there with their canon to accompany the 1812 Overture. Living historians from the group will be available for conversation before the concert. More information on these events can be found at HistoricSites.Vermont.gov.

A reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place on the porch of Old Constitution House State Historic Site on **July 8 at 6pm**. This reading commemorates the first public reading of America's founding document by Colonel John Nixon on the State House Yard in Philadelphia. The occasion also marks the 249th anniversary of Vermont adopting its own constitution – formalizing a government for the independent republic. The reading will be one of thousands taking place on the same day and time across our nation. A reading will also take place at Bennington Battle Monument **at 6pm**, following a concert by the Army's Marching Band **at 4pm**.

On **July 11 and 12**, the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site will transport visitors back to July 1777, when colonial forces faced off against the British in one of the most successful rearguard actions in American military history. Reenactors will demonstrate military tactics, including a large demonstration of the battle on **Sunday, July 12 at 8am**. More information can be found at HistoricSites.Vermont.gov.

Shape the Future of the Monument as part of your 250th Festivities!

As we conclude celebrations marking the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, VDHP invites everyone to take impactful action. The **Bennington Battle Monument** is facing critical structural conservation needs, and we need the community's voice to determine how to best restore, operate, and maintain Vermont's tallest historic landmark. Please take five minutes to share your thoughts on the tower's long-term future. Public input gathered online this summer will directly shape the final technical plans presented during our upcoming state review session. Visit HistoricSites.Vermont.gov to access the official survey.

About the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, part of the Department of Housing and Community Development, is responsible for the stewardship and interpretation of state-owned historic sites. Through its programs, the Division for Historic Preservation integrates Vermont's history into community growth and planning, fostering research, education, and the adaptive use of historic properties across the state. **Joshua Bell** Director of State Historic Sites, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

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](https://twitter.com/ludlowfarmersmarket)

**VERMONT MAPLE SYRUP
GRASSFED BEEF
& MORE**

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We Know Just the Place.®

Call for Nominations for Okemo Valley TV

Board of Directors

Okemo Valley TV is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. The nonprofit organization is celebrating its 25th year in providing locally-based media services to the Black River Valley & Okemo region. This includes the long-running community access TV station and soon WLUD, the new community radio station, which will begin broadcasting at 93.3 FM in March 2027.

There are three (3) seats up for election, which will be held during the annual meeting on Tuesday June 30th. The deadline for getting a candidate's name on the ballot is June 19th, to accommodate early voting. The electronic ballot will be made available on Okemo Valley TV's website (okemovalley.tv) one week prior to the annual

meeting.

Any resident of Andover, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, or Cavendish who is at least 18 years of age is eligible to serve on the Board. Those interested in becoming a candidate or nominating someone they know should email Patrick Cody at pcody@okemovalley.tv, or call the station at 228-8808. Anyone meeting that criteria and with an interest in helping lead the organization into its next chapter is encouraged to run.

The Annual Meeting on June 30th will begin with an Open House at 5:30pm, during which time attendees will be given the opportunity to tour the recently-renovated facility, which has undergone numerous upgrades. The event is open to the public but RSVPs are requested. More information about the event and the Board of Directors election is available online at okemovalley.tv.

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.

Belmont Septic Design



Soil Test Pits /
Design-Permitting
802.733.2561

kevin@belmontseptic.com

Kevin Hollebeek

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Ludlow Rotary Hears about Internet Safety

Ludlow Rotary heard horror stories about scams and frauds from M&T Bank branch manager, Art Randolph at a recent meeting. Randolph, a long time Rotarian, provided written and verbal details of how to avoid becoming a victim of such scams.

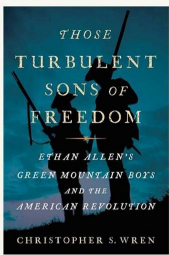
He cautioned that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. He also said count to ten on any call, text or email which is suspicious. He urged skepticism and further checking the source of emails which are possibly a fake from what is believed to be a familiar source, by hovering over the sender address to see whether the sender is valid. Oftentimes they look like a familiar business or contact, but the email will not be from that source. Those are all scams.

People in our communities are falling victim to scams daily. The bank makes an effort to discourage withdrawal of unusual amounts of funds from individual accounts for what they have found to be fraudulent sources. Randolph also cautioned, "never let a stranger come to your home to pick up large amounts of cash, regardless if they say it is for a loved one." Take it slowly

and never act with urgency to be safe.

As the world faces increasing challenges, the Ludlow Rotary Club is reaffirming its commitment to the dual pillars of **Community Service** and **World Peace and Conflict Resolution**. Local Rotarians invite community members to join their mission of "Service Above

"Friends" of Fletcher Memorial Library Present



Those Turbulent Sons of Freedom

By Christopher S. Wren

**Book Discussion on
Thurs 7/9 @ 10:30 AM**



A riveting and revealing account of one of the misunderstood parts of the War of Independence. This was a war without flags or drums, waged on the remote northern front. Wren offers an important history of this campaign with all its intrigue and drama.

Copies Available

Please Join Us
www.fmlnews.org
802-228-8921



Open to the Public
88 Main Street
Ludlow, VT



ORGANIZING & DECLUTTERING 101

**Saturday, July 18th at 11AM
at Fletcher Memorial Library**

Join professional home organizer Kris Harmelink for helpful tips for successful home organizing. Whether you have some decluttering projects in mind or pesky organizing problems you'd like help with, come and join us!

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



Everyone's Welcome!

Music on the Library Lawn

Featuring
Mount Holly Folk Club

**Monday, July 6th
4:30-6:30pm**

Fletcher Memorial Library
88 Main St, Ludlow VT 05149

New Listing!

680 Government Rd., Mt. Holly, Vt.
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath
9.45 +/- acres
\$685,000



Contact me for more information!

Sue Starr-Adams

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susan.starr-adams@exp Realty.com
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Weston Theater Company's Young Company Hits the Road with Free Tour of SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!

Weston Theater Company's Young Company will bring learning, laughter, and classic songs to communities across Southern Vermont this summer with a free tour of **SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!**, running June 19 through July 4.

Based on the iconic Emmy Award-winning television series, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* transforms favorite educational songs into a lively theatrical experience filled with unforgettable tunes, energetic performances, and plenty of fun for audiences of all ages. Featuring beloved classics including "Conjunction Junction," "Just a Bill," "Interplanet Janet," and "The Preamble," the production celebrates the joy of learning through music.

Directed by Weston veteran **Susan Haefner**, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* is brought to life by a creative team that includes Music Director **Jaz Koft**, Choreographer **Brionna Trilling**, Scenic Designer **Danielle DeLaFuente**, Costume Designer **Jennifer Salter**, and Stage Manager **Sami English**.

Haefner has been a member of the Weston artistic family since 1991 as a performer, director, and educator. *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* marks her 32nd production with the company.

Says Haefner, "One of the things I love most about *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* is that it reminds us learning can be joyful. These songs have a way of sticking with you...not just because they're catchy, but because they spark curiosity and imagination. Bringing this show directly into communities across Southern Vermont allows us to share that joy with families who may be experiencing theater for the very first time, while giving our Young Company artists the opportunity to connect with audiences in a meaningful way."

The cast features emerging musical theater artists from some of the nation's leading training programs: **David Bautista**, **Oliver Boomer**, **Melea Dessommes**, **Aidan Ramirez**, **Jessica Olexy**, and **Bella Van Bergen**. Bautista, Olexy, and Van Bergen return to Weston following appearances in last season's *White Christmas* and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, while others make their company debut as part of the theater's 90th Anniversary Season.

For performance information and free reservations visit westontheater.org or call 802-824-5288. Weston Theater Company is a non-profit organization supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and an ever-growing family of individuals and organizations who believe in the impact the performing arts make on its community.

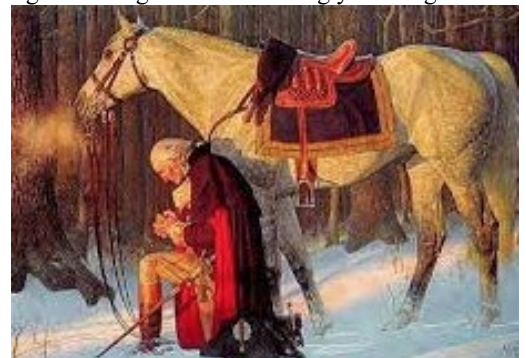
Dear Editor,

A Backward Glance and A Forward Gaze

An elitist multi-millionaire (a cohost on The View) recently stated, "I'm embarrassed of this country, of the assault on the press, of our Congress, by the criminal felon President...Frankly, I feel this country is a failed experiment." In addition, a shocking poll out of Harvard (a school once preparing young men for ministry) showed that the number of students saying that "political violence can sometimes be acceptable" towards someone disagreeing is over 30% (roughly 1/3). That makes you wonder how we *survive* as a country. This being our 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence we remember those stirring words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal". Will this, our country, continue to be around 250 years from now? We think back to 1787 when a group of wise men gathered in Philly during one of the most sweltering summers in memory and penned the greatest charter of self-governance ever known to mankind, the US Constitution. Upon exiting that convention, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a local Philly socialite who asked, "Mr Franklin, what form of government have you given us?" Franklin replied, "Doctor, we have given you a republic, *if you can keep it!*"

A republic is only kept when the people actually settle their differences with words and at the ballot box. The moment we stop doing so and instead take up knives and guns to settle disagreements we move toward the dark side. There has been an anarchist movement in this nation for a long time. In 1901, William McKinley was assassinated by the American Anarchist movement. *Recently*, comedian Alex Stein, debating with a college student, heard the parting words, "Watch out for a hole in the neck!" We are seeing a 21st century reincarnation of this communist anarchist movement (of which Hasan Piker is the latest embodiment). Radical voices have been mainstreamed, suggesting that 9/11 was justified, October 7th was "Israel asking for it" and regarding the current president, "someone has to do it..." and "the demise of the Soviet Union was one of the 20th century's greatest catastrophes". In reality, communism has an even greater death toll than Nazi fascism. From Communist China to the killing fields of Cambodia under Pol Pot, communism is undoubtedly the single deadliest ideology in the history of mankind. But, just when we thought it was gone it rears its ugly head again *here!*

I love my country so much. I see political violence as the greatest threat to our country. I recall Sam Houston and his men, after the Alamo, retreating eastward. They came to a fork in the road known as "Which-way Tree." Faced with a choice Houston took the road that led to San Jacinto to surprise the overconfident Mexican troops. Crushing the Mexican Army, Houston captured San Jacinto and a great republic was born. As *America* stands at her *own* crossroads, there are several things we ought to do: 1.) *We ought to review our blessings.* We are blessed with natural resources, fertile lands, rich oceans, gracious people, a varied climate and much more. America is a masterpiece of magnificence painted by the Divine artisan. 2.) *We ought to remember our heritage.* Our greatest resource is our people. George Washington prayed and then with his men crossed the Delaware, and in the cold dawn of December 26th 1776, defeated the Hessian soldiers and turned the tide of freedom. American historian Carl Sandburg describes his emotion one night as he viewed the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial in the nation's capital. Looking also at the white crosses in Arlington National Cemetery, Sandberg exclaimed, "There is something there that men *die* for." Our problems today are more *spiritual* than economic and godlessness is the national termite eating away our soul. And this is one thing out of which we cannot buy our way! 3.) *Repentance and renewal of our faith is our only hope.* Sir Walter Scott wrote these great words, *Breathes there the man with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land! Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd, As home his footsteps he hath turn'd, From wandering on a foreign strand?...* With gratitude as our soldiers return and prayer for our nation's rebirth. *Pastor Glenn Davis*



Ludlow Rotary Receives Grant for Okemo Valley Swiftwater Rescue Team

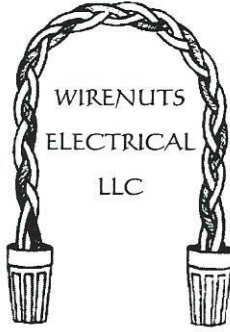
Ludlow Rotary received a Global Grant to fund the Okemo Valley Swiftwater Rescue Team (OVSRT) in the amount of \$62,922. The grant will fund training and equipment to outfit 15 emergency personnel in techniques for making rushing water and other technical rescues while remaining safe themselves. Safety for our local emergency personnel was a key factor in receiving the Global Grant from Rotary International(RI).

The grant is part of the emergency response recovery program of Rotary International. It was funded by a collaboration of Rotary Clubs from Ludlow, and surrounding area clubs; individual Rotarians in southern Vermont and Swellendam, South Africa; a club in Moinabad, Telangana, India; the Rotary District of Southern VT and NH; and the RI World Fund.

After the devastating flood in 2023, the Ludlow Rotary Club received numerous generous donations for flood recovery. As a Club they decided to keep \$15,000 of those donations for a project that would benefit all four communities served by the Club. When the Technical Rescue team was selected to receive the funds, it was suggested that those funds could be enhanced by the new RI emergency response grants, if international partners could be found. The Club has spent the past year and a half securing the necessary partners and putting the funding together with Ben Whalen, vice president of the Technical Rescue Squad.

The Okemo Valley Swiftwater Rescue Team is composed of emergency personnel from Cavendish, Ludlow, Mount Holly and Plymouth. Whalen indicated the equipment and training will help protect the emergency personnel of all 4 communities, many of whom are volunteers, in addition to the public who face danger in the face of increasing weather and related hazards. Many of those trained recently said it was the best training they had ever had.

The LRC meets most 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 Kevin Barnes at 802 558-0479 or any Rotarian. Brigid Sullivan



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Make HIV, Hep C Screenings Part of Your Routine Healthcare

Routine checkups are about more than getting your blood pressure taken. *"There is a lot of room for improvement, especially in HIV and Hepatitis C and cancer screenings,"* said Community Health Director of Population Health and Quality Bis Pradhan, MPH, MSW. *"Our HIV screening rate is one of the lowest in the country."*

In all of Vermont, only 15% patients between the age of 15 (which also includes children) to 65 have been screened for HIV. *"The national average is 50 or 60% for HIV screening,"* Pradhan said. *"We are only at 15%. It's so low. The patient population research may not be that prevalent here, but again, it's about prevention."*

Why should these screenings be part of a regular checkup?

"Screenings are benchmarks for individuals, families and communities. They are preventive - identifying potential illness, trends or problems in the future," Pradhan said. *"It's important to help patients understand that when a provider recommends a screening, it's to keep our patients healthy."*

HIV and Hep C Are Preventable and Treatable

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. The only way to know if you have HIV is to get tested. Most people who get HIV get it through unprotected sex, or by sharing drug injection equipment like needles or syringes with someone who has the virus. There are many ways to prevent HIV, like using PrEP, PEP, condoms and never sharing needles. HIV treatment helps people live long, healthy lives and prevents HIV transmission in the community.

Hepatitis C is a viral infection spread through contact with infected blood. This can happen through unsafe injections, unscreened blood transfusions, sharing of needles and syringes among people who inject drugs or sexual practices that lead to exposure to blood. Left untreated, hepatitis C can lead to serious liver problems. Treatment that cures hepatitis C is available, and early treatment can prevent serious complications like liver scarring, liver cancer and death.

Not sure if you need HIV or Hep C tests?

All adults should be screened, at least once. HIV and Hep C are preventable and treatable, so take the first step and get screened. There's freedom in knowing. Everyone between the ages of 15 and 65 should get tested for HIV at least once. Screening for Hep C is recommended for adults ages 18-79.

"There's nothing wrong with getting screened," Pradhan said. *"HIV and Hep C tests are part of adult care. It's quick. It's confidential. All you have to do is ask."*

In places where sexually transmitted illnesses (STI) are prevalent, providers recommend doing HIV screening once every year for anyone above 18, whether you are in the risk category or not. The screening is recommended once a year for the peace of mind.

HIV and Hep C testing is easy. Your provider can do a single finger prick. If you are unsure, ask your provider about recommended screenings and how often you should be tested. Screenings are preventive and make early treatments and cures accessible. Learn more about services, locations, hours, and career opportunities at CHCRR.org or contact Patient Access at 802-779-9169.

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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



Community Health Has Pharmacies in Rutland and Brandon

Need a prescription filled? Have a question about your health? Just want pharmacy service that feels a little more personal? Community Health pharmacies in Rutland and Brandon have you covered – with things like local delivery in Rutland, blister packs, and helpful advice whenever you need it.

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

Community Pharmacy Rutland, 62 Woodstock Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701 **802-775-4321**

Community Pharmacy Brandon, 420 Grove Street, Brandon, VT 05733 **802-465-0011**

Community Health Tip - Know How to Do a Tick Check Because Tick Season is HERE!

The best way to prevent tickborne diseases is to avoid places where ticks hang out, wear an effective repellent and do a body check after being outdoors.

In Vermont, the most tickborne illnesses occur between early spring and late fall, when blacklegged ticks are active.

Protect yourself. Do a body check. Carefully remove any ticks. Watch for symptoms of tickborne illnesses and contact your Community Health provider if you develop any symptoms. Tell your provider about a recent tick bite, when it occurred, and your outdoor activities. Some tick bite illnesses can be treated with a short course of antibiotics. Most people who begin treatment early on fully

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recover. For more information, call Community Health Patient Access at 802-779-9169.

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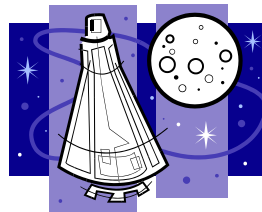
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Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc., 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758

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

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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 11am Prayer Meet Wed 7 pm 802-446-2020

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

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

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

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

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

Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org 802-773-3455

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

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

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

Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am

Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

Cleaning – Caretaking

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

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

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

Farm Fresh Products

Fourteenth Star Farms Raw Milk 802-236-7007

Plew Farm (meat, eggs, maple) www.plewfarm.com 802-259-2250

1966 Healdville Rd, Mt. Holly

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

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

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

Firewood

Flanders Firewood Cut Split Delivered 802-259-2147

Food Shelf

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

Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

Belmont Country Gardens Quality Custom Stonework & More 802-259-2364

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marketing & Promotional Services

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

print@expresscopyinc.com

Masonry

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

Massage Therapy

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

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

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

Metal Fabrication

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

Mount Holly Email

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

Painters

Beardmore Painting ~ Derk Beardmore 802-353-9493

beardmorepainting802@gmail.com

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

Pretty Good Painting ~ Ian Nugent 609-770-1507

prettygoodpaint802@gmail.com

Plumbing & Heating

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

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

Real Estate Sales

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

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

Gail.Beardmore@evrealstate.com Cell 802-236-5431

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

Kelley Real Estate 72 B Pond Street, Ludlow Office 802-228-5333

Alex Eatmon Principal Broker Call or Text 802-345-7886

Alex@KelleyRealEstate.com

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

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

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

www.KelleyRealEstate.com www.OkemoValley.com

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

Roofing

Buddy Systems Roofing Contact Buddy 802-259-3989

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

Security

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

Septic System Design

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

kevin@belmontseptic.com

Therapeutic Riding

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

Tree Removal

DB Tree Works joshbickford@gmail.com Fully Insured 802-855-3216

Volunteer Services

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

Woodworking, Cabinets & Furniture

Chesters Custom Woodworking cw@vermontel.net 802-259-3232

www.chestersestimatewoodworking.com

