

THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

"THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS"

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

EMAIL: BOLTINGAZETTE@GMAVT.NET

VOLUME #2 ISSUE #8



AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR TO THE TOWN OFFICE!

We think this young Snapping Turtle may have wandered up to see what all the ruckus was out on Route 2! But we managed to convince him (her?) that Route 2 was not a good place for investigation and gently guided him back towards the Winooski River. Thanks for the visit!



CESU SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED UNIFICATION VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014

An informational meeting will be held at Smilie School on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 6 p.m. to discuss the proposed merger, with a vote taking place in conjunction with state and federal elections on November 4, 2014.

Please see pages 7 & 8 of this Gazette for much more information. You can also visit cesu.k12.vt.us and/or contact one of your school board members for the meeting schedule and for additional merger information. Thank you!



Remember that on November 4, 2014...

**YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR VOICE....
BE HEARD.** 



CLERK'S CORNER

AMY GROVER • TOWN CLERK & TREASURER
CLERKBOLTON@GMAV.T.NET

REAPPRAISAL IN WEST BOLTON WRAPPING UP

If you live in the West Bolton area and have not had your property reappraisal, please call the town office to schedule an appointment. Appointments are scheduled on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Reappraisals are now being scheduled for the Duxbury Road area. Please call the office to schedule your appointment if you live in either area. Thank you!

THE CSWD ROVER IS COMING!

Mark your calendars! The CSWD ROVER will be in Bolton on Saturday, October 18th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Bolton Fire Station. The ROVER accepts (from Chittenden County households only) paints & stains, cleaners, automotive fluids, insecticides, chemicals and more. Call CSWD for more information at 872-811 or go to www.cswd.net

TOWN OF BOLTON WEBSITE

Our tech savvy website volunteers are continuing to work towards having a fully functioning and complying town website back online in the near future. The town is grateful for the support we have received from the Snelling Center, and we thank you again for your patience and understanding as we work to address and fully comply with Vermont's Open Meeting Law changes, ACT 143.



PHOEBE ENJOYS THE CHAIRLIFT SEAT!

PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION

OF THE MONTH!

Have you noticed that the “chairlift seat” at the town office has been moved? Thanks to our Bolton Valley neighbors; Keith Chase, Harold Herbert and the summer work crew, not only has the seat been moved out of range of the Route 2 winter salt, it's been repaired and repainted “Vista Green!” Do you know what year Bolton Valley first opened for skiing? Do you think there was snowmaking then? How many lifts do you think there were? Find out in next month's issue!

WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: Bolton has 9 named brooks ~ Joiner Brook, Duck Brook, Goose Pond Brook, Gleason Brook, Honey Hollow Stream, Preston Brook, Pinneo Brook and the south branch of Mill Brook. See page 10 for more information!

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS
WELCOME BACK!



“WHOOHOO! WE’RE BACK IN SCHOOL!”

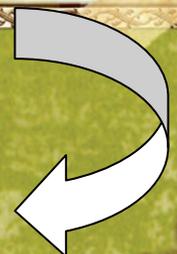
It has been a busy summer here at Smilie School!

Our gardens are wonderfully bountiful! Our dedicated volunteers, led by Virginia Haviland, Master Gardener, kept the gardens watered and weeded all summer. Neighbors and the Richmond Food Shelf enjoyed the early harvest of carrots and lettuce. We will now be picking tomatoes, beets, kale, and beans for use in our lunch program over the next couple of months. We also applied for and received a \$3,500 Fruit and Veggie Grant from the state. The money from this grant allows us to purchase and serve fresh vegetables and fruits to students throughout the year, as daily snack.



**SMILIE’S BOUNTIFUL GARDENS!
MARIGOLDS, LETTUCE, BEANS,
KALE, BEETS, TOMATOES, 2
VARIETIES OF SQUASH, CARROTS,
CUCUMBERS, PEPPERS AND
BROCCOLI!**

SMILIE NEWS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



After a few months of haggling over whose responsibility it was to repair the peeling paint on our school's metal roof, a company called *All Tech Industrial Division* arrived this summer and repaired the peeling paint;  this was under warranty, and at no cost to the taxpayers. We have a brand new phone system, which we all are getting to know. The system is connected to our computers and allows for a variety of options.

Our custodial team, Deb Nadeau and Wayne Ring have done a great job preparing the school for the new year. The floors are shining brilliantly. All the windows have been cleaned. We have installed a new rug in the entryway that extends all the way to the gymnasium door. It is an embedded rug which will make closing the doors easier and will keep the floor less slippery for everyone coming into the building.

We have five new staff members: Kim Aucter is our new Art teacher, Kelly Spreen is our new P.E. teacher, and Janet Gill is our Special Educator. We have two new para professionals: Carolyn Smith and Ursula Ovitt. Teachers have been very busy with our beginning of the year in-service trainings. From the looks of their rooms and our conversations, I'd say we are ready for the 2014 – 2015 school year! Welcome back, and please stop in for a visit.

Sincerely,
Barbara Tomasi-Gay, Smilie School



Handwritten notes in cursive script, partially obscured by the chalkboard image.

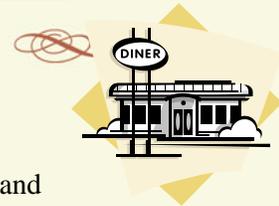
BOLTON UP AND DOWN TOWN CLUB SENIOR DINNER

Annual Trip to the Wayside Diner!

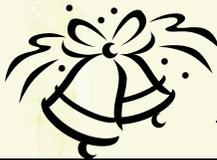
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014

Place: Wayside Diner, meet there!

Time: 5:00 PM



Note: you must RSVP to Doris Wheelock for this annual diner dinner trip, and please call if you need transportation ~ 434-3769. Thank you!



SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Special congratulations to Bolton's Lister Linde Emerson and his bride Raelene on celebrating their golden 50th wedding anniversary!

CONTRACT, ELECTED STAFF & DRB VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN

CONTRACT STAFF ~ DRB: The Town of Bolton is accepting applications for a part time contract staff position to support applicants, town boards and the zoning administrator. Duties will include application review, preparation of staff reports, drafting meeting minutes and decisions of the Development Review Board and potential grant writing. Availability for night meetings is mandatory. Strong secretarial and communication skills, and familiarity with Bolton's adopted zoning, subdivision and flood hazard regulations is desired.

ELECTED OFFICIAL ~ LISTER: Bolton is seeking two Listers to be appointed by the Select Board until the 2015 Town Meeting when the two positions will be open to election. Listers are part time paid elected officials who are responsible for the valuation of real property (real estate) in each town, and make up the Lister Board (three Listers). The Listers are responsible for assisting Bolton's Assessor in the preparation and overall maintenance of the Grand List, a comprehensive list of every property in Bolton, ensuring that it is as accurate and equitable as possible. The duties include appraising all real property in Bolton in compliance with applicable Vermont State statutes, updating changes resulting from building permits, and address changes. For more information about the functions and duty of the Listers and the Lister Board go to: <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/pvr/listerhandbk.pdf>

DRB VOLUNTEER POSITION ALTERNATE: The DRB has the responsibility of reviewing and taking action on proposals for land development under Bolton's Land Use and Development Regulations. Responsibilities include conducting Site Plan and Conditional Use Review, Subdivision and Variance Review, and hearing appeals of decisions of Bolton's Zoning Administrator. Appeals of decisions made by the DRB are referred to the Vermont Environmental and Superior Courts.

To apply or serve, please submit a cover letter and resume to the town office either in writing: 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Waterbury VT 05676, or via email: clerkbolton@gmavt.net Please no phone calls. If you would like more information about the positions, please submit that request in writing or via email. Thank you.

PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

Reminder: The first installment of property taxes is due on September 15, 2014. Payments **MUST** be received in the town office by 4 p.m. on the 15th, or postmarked on the 15th, to be considered on time. Late payments incur a 1% interest penalty each month. Please note: the registered voters of Bolton approved the due dates for property tax installments, and there is no grace period.

If you have NOT received your tax bill, please contact the office as bills were mailed out on August 11th.

TOWN OF BOLTON T-SHIRTS ARE BACK IN STOCK!

Town of Bolton T-shirts are back in stock – the shirts are dark green with “Town of Bolton” in white on the front and the town seal in white on the back. Available in sizes medium to 2x large.

THANK YOU TO...

Jen and Mark Andrews for their many years of service to the town in so many capacities; moderator, DRB and Planning Commission members, poll workers, and many volunteer roles in between. You will be greatly missed by the Bolton community and we wish you all the best in your new community ~ they are lucky to have you!

The VT Primary Election Poll workers ~ Carol Devlin, Linde Emerson, Brenda McKeown and Paula Gervia. Bolton saw a 5.5% voter turnout of 50 voters, compared to the statewide average of 9%.

The Green Mountain Club for providing the town office with new assorted maps and guidebooks to have on hand as references for hikers and explorers that stop in!

BOLTON GAZETTE INFORMATION

Reminder: The deadline for submissions in the 15th of the month for the following month's edition. To OPT IN to receive the Bolton Gazette electronically and in color (help the town save \$ on paper and postage costs!) email boltingazette@gmavt.net

Please note: due to the associated costs, Select Board minutes are no longer going to be included in the mailed hard copies of the Bolton Gazette. Approved Select Board minutes are regularly posted on Bolton's Front Porch Forum and on the Facebook Page, and hard copies of all boards' meeting minutes are on file and available in the town office. Once the town website is fully functioning, meeting minutes of all town boards will be posted within 5 days of the meeting date.

We welcome all submissions, in any format: stories, news, events, art, poetry, photographs. Drop submissions at the town office or, you've got it, email them to boltingazette@gmavt.net!

Proposed Merger ~ By Andrew Pond ~ Smilie School Board Chair

An informational meeting will be held at Smilie School on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 6 PM to discuss the proposed merger. Nine other meetings will be held in October. Please visit cesu.k12.vt.us or contact one of your school board members for the meeting schedule or for merger information.

The Modified Union structure will allow up to two existing elementary districts to remain separate if they choose, while the other elementary districts would join together with the existing Mount Mansfield district to form a new Mount Mansfield preK-12 district.

The Chittenden East Supervisory Union Voluntary Merger Committee has completed Articles of Agreement that outline how the proposed new district would function. The State Board of Education has found these Articles to be advisable. On November 4th the voters from the six elementary districts (Bolton, Huntington, Richmond, Jericho, Underhill, and Underhill ID) will decide if the new district should be formed. Also on November 4th, representatives will be elected from each of the elementary districts to serve on the potential new school Board (Bolton will elect one representative). Smilie and other existing school boards would continue through June 30th, 2015. The new Mount Mansfield prek-12 school board would begin meeting in December 2014 and take responsibility for the new district on July 1, 2015.

Through at least June 2016, students would attend the same elementary schools. Over time, the new-MMU board could make changes to where students attend school, and to how school buildings are used. If the new-MMU district no longer wanted to use Smilie, the Town of Bolton would have the option to purchase the building for \$1. The merger committee has not anticipated any changes to the existing schools. Any changes would be made by the new-MMU board after it has had sufficient time to consider the benefits of any alterations.

Students across the new district would benefit from increased equity, unified planning, and potential school choice. The existing disparities between elementary schools in technology, facilities, and offerings (like enrichment) would be reduced over time. The new district would be able to plan curriculum and hold schools accountable for student performance for all grades, as compared to the current fragmented approach. In addition to our students, taxpayers would also reap some benefit. Initial calculations include savings on administration, bookkeeping, and operating expenses. Further cost reductions could be realized by more efficient use of staff and facilities, including the potential to move our central office to a district-owned building. Unlike other towns where the tax implications are less dramatic, Bolton would see significant savings. Our cost per pupil would be averaged across the new district, instead of just our small school.

Please attend one of the informational meetings and vote on November 4th.

CESU School District Proposed Unification Vote on November 4, 2014

John Alberghini, CESU Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

Over the course of the past 11 months, the Chittenden East Voluntary Merger  Planning Committee (VMPC) has been studying and discussing unifying Chittenden East Supervisory Union's (CESU) eight school districts into one unified school system. As part of its work, the VMPC has prepared a [Report and Articles of Agreement](#) outlining the framework of a proposed unified school district. The report and articles were submitted to the Vermont State Board of Education on July 29, 2014. After review and an affirmative recommendation from the Vermont Agency of Education, the State Board of Education approved the report and articles on August 19, 2014. The action of the State Board of Education established a date for the electorates of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Incorporated and Underhill Town School Districts to vote on unifying CESU's eight districts. This vote will take place in conjunction with state and federal elections on **November 4, 2014**. Per state statute, the unified school district can look different depending on how many towns approve the unification article. If the unification article passes in all of CESU's member municipalities, a Unified Union School District will be formed. If the article passes in a majority of CESU's municipalities (i.e. four out six), a Modified Union School District will be established. Under a Modified Union School District, one or two towns that do not pass the unification article will continue an independent elementary district and have proportional representation on the new Modified Union School District Board.

As specified in state law, elections of board directors must take place on the same date that the unification article is voted. Community members interested in serving on this new union school board can pick up petitions at their local town office. Residents of the following school districts can find petitions at these locations:

School District	School Director Positions	Petitions Available at:
Bolton:	One 3-year term	Bolton Town Office, CESU Website
Huntington:	One 2-year term One 3-year term	Huntington Town Office, CESU Website
Jericho: 	Two 1-year terms One 2-year term One 3-year term	Jericho Town Office, CESU Website
Richmond:	Two 1-year terms One 2-year term One 3-year term	Richmond Town Office, CESU Website
Underhill ID:	Two 2-year terms	Underhill ID Elementary School, CESU Website
Underhill Town:	One 1-year term One 3-year term	Underhill Town Office, CESU Website

For more details on the work of the Voluntary Merger Committee, contact information for committee members and dates and locations of community forums, please go to www.cesu.k12.vt.us and click on Voluntary Merger Discussion.

New Additions and Moving Forward

Mark Carbone, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School

We are excited to welcome Lashawn Whitmore-Sells as the new Assistant Principal. Ms. Whitmore-Sells has been Assistant Principal at Lyman C. Hunt Middle School for the past two years. She has nine years of experience as an elementary teacher and twelve years as Diversity/Multicultural Affairs Director in Virginia and as the Diversity Director and ESL Coordinator in the Burlington School District.

Other additions to the CHMS team include: Matt Young as part-time Physical Education Teacher and Dave Cavanaugh as Guidance Counselor. Renee Provost, half time with Browns River Middle School, will work with teachers integrating technology in the curriculum.

This coming school year, 6th grade students will join in the 1:1 laptop initiative. Combined with the 7th and 8th graders already participating, 75% of the CHMS student body will have daily access to laptop technology.

This summer, our teachers have been working on professional development in Readers and Writers Workshops as well as the program, Math Menu. The physical plant at Camels Hump is undergoing the annual rigorous preparation including: new carpeting, painting, wall partition replacement, heating and ventilation system upgrades, and electrical work.

Please mark your calendars for the First Annual Punkin' Chuckin' on Saturday, October 25th, 10am-3pm. Come and witness pumpkins in flight! There will be various divisions—expert to novice. This fun family event will help support the continuation of the PROSPER Program; a 7week program for 6th grade students and their families to assist both through the challenges of adolescence.

Camels Hump Middle School is looking for parent and community volunteers to help in the education and success of our students. Math and reading volunteers are needed to support math and literacy development skills. Math volunteers will help with basic calculation and computation skills. Literacy volunteers will assist with reading fluency and comprehension. Training is provided and schedules are flexible.

Please consider volunteering. For more information, please call 434-2188 or email: mark.carbone@cesuvt.org. The next CHMS/MMU school board meeting will be held on September 11. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

BOLTON'S OWN LITTLE LIBRARIES (AKA "BOLLS") – AUGUST 2014 UPDATE

Caretakers of Bolton's Own Little Libraries were busy this August, rotating books in all five locations. Each library has a great selection of fresh titles for all ages...from picture books to adult novels. Fall is a great time to curl up and relax with a "new" book!

We would like to share a few other BOLL updates:

- ❖ There is the possibility of relocating the library at the bottom of the Bolton Access Road to Duxbury Road.
- ❖ A new library will be installed on Route 2 at the new Long Trail entrance. Stay tuned as we await an install date from the construction crew!
- ❖ A new library will also be installed just outside the Town Office; however, the BOLL board is seeking a volunteer to build the box. Please contact Amy Ludwin at amy@mymountain.com if you are interested.

As a reminder, the current five BOLL's are located at:

- Fernwood Manor (at the end of East Street)
- Bottom of the Bolton Access Road (just before potholes)
- Black Bear Inn
- Stage Road (just after golf course condos)
- Notch Road (at about 2300)



Finally, we would like to thank the folks at the Jonesville Post Office for assisting us with storage needs. Happy Reading!

WITH OUR SYMPATHY

The town sends heartfelt condolences to the Streeter family on the loss of Richard Senior, the Mallow family on the loss of Gerald "Windy," and the Cunningham family of Huntington, formerly of Bolton, on the loss of Kevin.

BOLTON'S NAMED BROOKS

At least three of Bolton's brooks are named for Bolton's earliest settlers: The Prestons and Pinneoes came to Bolton in the 1790s, and Francis Joyner (Joiner) was the first selectman of Bolton. As far as the other names, let's guess that Mill Brook was named that because of all the sawmills that were on it during the lumber boom of the late 1800's, and Duck and Goose Pond brooks were named after local wildlife. But what about Gleason and Honey Hollow – where did they get their names? Let me know if you know! **WOOF!** I do know that they are all pretty, and all fun for me to play and swim in!