

THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

“THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS”

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

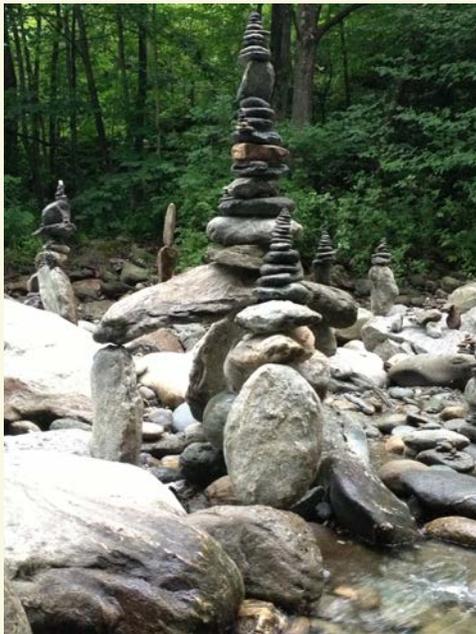
JULY 2014

EMAIL: BOLTINGAZETTE@GMAV.T.NET

VOLUME #2 ISSUE #7



JOINER BROOK SCULPTURE GARDEN



TAX GRIEVANCE & APPEAL PROCESS

There seems to be some confusion in Bolton regarding Vermont's tax grievance & appeal process.

The process is *open to any property owner that does not agree with their property's assessed value*, not just those that have received a change in appraisal/assessed value notification.

There are very specific timeframes and deadlines which are dictated by Vermont Statute, and the town has absolutely no flexibility outside of those. The process begins with a grievance before the listers. This is a mandatory first step. If you don't grieve, you cannot continue in the process to appeal.

To grieve, you need to know the date of “grievance day,” which is always held in June in Bolton. Notice will be posted by the town, and it is your responsibility to contact the listers or the town office by June 1st to learn this important date, and to make sure you schedule an appointment to appear before the listers on that date, either in person or by letter, to ensure that your grievance is heard.

The tax grievance/appeal process has been completed in Bolton for the upcoming '14 – '15 tax year. Learn more about the process at: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/258632/Appealing.pdf>



CLERK'S CORNER

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

THANK YOU!

It seems hard to believe that I stepped into the town office just over a year ago to begin my new job as Bolton's Town Clerk and Treasurer. The past year has certainly brought challenges and a steep learning curve, but it also has brought the support and kindness of so many folks to whom I am extremely grateful. Thank you again for your patience and understanding. Looking ahead, I plan to continue to strengthen Bolton's financial and archiving practices, confirm compliance with statutory requirements in multiple areas, and continue to serve you - Bolton's residents and property owners, to the very best of my abilities!

TOWN OF BOLTON WEBSITE

You might have noticed that the town of Bolton website has been disabled and a notice posted. This was a difficult decision made by the Select Board in response to Vermont's Act 143, which amended the open meeting laws, and the accompanying realization that the town could not currently meet website publication deadlines. This is being addressed, and plans are being made to have a fully functioning and complying website back online in the future. Please see the notice posted on the disabled website for more information, and thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to address and fully comply with the required changes.



PHOEBE IN JOINER BROOK

PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION

OF THE MONTH!

You know that I love to swim in Joiner Brook (and retrieve sticks too, because, well, I'm a golden retriever!), but do you know how many other named brooks there are in Bolton? And where did they get their names? Where do you think the name "Joiner" came from? Find out the answers and more about Bolton's brooks in next month's issue!

WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: There are about 20.3 miles of the Long Trail in Bolton and I have had fun following Bolton's section of the Long Trail from near the summit of Camel's Hump, all the way up and over the summit of Bolton Mountain! Read more about the Green Mountain Club and the Long Trail on page 7!

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS



Only 42 more days until the start of school on Wednesday, August 27th! ☺



Dear Bolton Parents and Guardians,

I have been in contact with the YMCA-Preschool Coordinator named Meg Edmunds. She and I have met and discussed the **real possibility** of having a before and after school Child Care program, at Smilie, for children 3-5 years of age, this 2014-2015 school year.

In order for us to develop a child care program at Smilie, we need to have at least **10 students who can commit to the program. Currently, we are very close to our target number with 8 families interested in this before and after care preschool program.**

I am providing the flyer (see page 4) that Meg created. Please get in touch with **Meg Edmunds** if this is something in which you and your family are interested. All of Meg's contact information is on the flyer. Please **copy me** on your email or **let me know** as well so that I can keep track of our numbers of interested children.

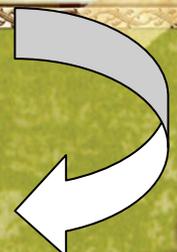
I am excited about the possibility of providing this service to our Bolton families!

Here are the possible times that your child could attend this program.
Smilie Before & After Pre-K Hours
7:30 am-6:00 pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM care (4 yr old group)	7:30-10:30 (3.0 hrs)				
PM care (3 yr old group)	10:30-6:00 (7.5 hrs)				
PM care (4 yr old group)	2:15-6:00 (3.75 hrs)				

Care for 3 yr olds could be up to 7.5 hours per day
Care for 4 yr olds could be up to 6.75 hours per day

Sincerely,
Barbara Tomasi-Gay
Smilie School Principal



Y Child Care Program at Smilie Elementary

Welcome to the Y Child Care Program! For the past 39 years we have been providing quality care to young children in our community. We pride ourselves in offering a safe, warm and comfortable environment in which each child can build strong, positive relationships with adults and other children. We are looking forward to joining the Smilie community and working together to help our children grow. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Meg Edmunds, Director of Preschool Programs, 652-8148, email: medmunds@gbymca.org

Our philosophy is to provide a quality experience for children ages 3-5 years, fostering social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and creative development through enriching experiences and positive relationships

Our curriculum is a blend of teacher-directed and individual learning experiences incorporated within a hands-on, play based approach. Teachers use the Vermont Early Learning Standards as a guideline in developing curriculum

We offer a variety of activities including cooking, music and movement, outdoor play and field trips

We provide daily nutritious snacks

Staff models Y character traits: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility

As a Y Child Care family member you can also enjoy 20% off a membership to the YMCA. Y members earn discounts on birthday party packages and swim lessons and have free access to over 75 YMCA's-and that's just in New England!

A Bit About The Y Child Care Program:

gbymca.org or 862-YMCA

BOLTON UP AND DOWN TOWN CLUB SENIOR DINNER

Celebrate "summah" with some "chowdah!"

Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014

Place: Bolton Fire Station

Time: 5:00 PM

Menu: Chicken Corn Chowder, Salad, Biscuits & Pie a la mode



See you there! Doris Wheelock 434-3769



SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Special congratulations go out to Deb Lariviere and Arnie Parenti on their June wedding. We wish Deb & Arnie all the best and many more years of happiness together!

CONTRACT STAFF POSITION OPENING

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.

To apply, 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 position, please submit that request in writing or via email. Thank you.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY!

There are currently 234 owners of unclaimed property listed in Bolton! Maybe you or some of your family or friends are on that list! To get more information and to see if you have unclaimed property, go to the Vermont Treasurer's website:

<http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/unclaimed-property>

BOLTON GAZETTE INFORMATION

Reminder: The deadline for submissions in the 15th of the previous 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

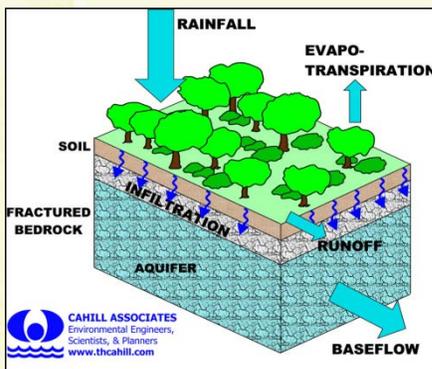
We welcome all submissions, in any format: stories, news, events, art, poetry, photographs. Drop submissions at the town office or, you've got it, email them to boltingazette@gmavt.net!

Stormwater—How You Can Help Protect Ponds and Streams

Submitted by Ann Smith
 Executive Director
 Friends of the Winooski River



Stormwater is rain or snow melt that does not soak into the ground. Even from small rain events, stormwater is a danger to our streams and lakes, often leading to localized flooding and erosion as well as water quality degradation from added pollutants. Harmful debris sitting along the edge of water bodies is carried into streams and ponds by fast moving stormwater. In fact, it is the first half inch of runoff that carries the vast majority of pollutants.



In a natural environment with trees, shrubs and tall grasses, most stormwater does soak in and is used by vegetation or slowly enters streams as groundwater. This natural process filters the water and removes pollutants. Even in these undisturbed areas, a certain amount of overland flow occurs. However, by changing the natural landscape from forest and meadow to lawn and driveway, we create impervious surfaces that increase the amount of overland flow.

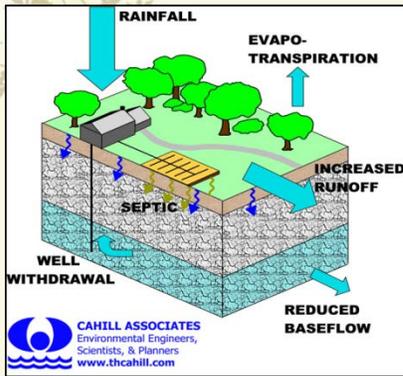
This increase in stormwater is a problem for two reasons. First, rapid runoff causes localized flooding and erodes and destabilizes stream channels. Second, it carries pollutants to the streams such as phosphorus, bacteria, hydrocarbons and more. The best way to address these problems is to reduce runoff at the source.

The goal today with stormwater is to: Slow it down, spread it out, soak it in. Every landowner can help do this.

For decades, the goal of stormwater management was to collect runoff as quickly as possible, route it into a drainage system (ditches or pipes) and route it to a stream, lake or pond. We also regarded stormwater runoff as an urban problem. However, stormwater management is just as important in village centers, suburban and rural areas where cumulative changes to the natural hydrology can lead to localized flooding, poor water quality, and impacts to downstream properties.

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Large lawn areas on top of compacted soil, long gravel driveways, sizeable rooftops, development on steep slopes, and networks of backroads all generate stormwater runoff. This runoff is often connected and collected by roadside ditches that transport water, sediments, and pollutants directly to nearby headwater streams. In addition to negative impacts on streams, this runoff contributes to road maintenance costs by eroding road surfaces and damaging culverts. During extreme storm events, these small streams can quickly

overflow their banks and drastically change course. In some cases, the impact isn't felt until far downstream.

Village, suburban and rural landowners have many opportunities to control stormwater runoff from their properties. Controlling stormwater will benefit you and your neighbors. It can save the town and its residents money, since reduced runoff from private property to roadways means less road maintenance and lower costs. It will help protect the natural waters, keeping them clean and healthy environments for wildlife and recreation. **Interested in learning more? Visit www.winooskiriver.org/stormwater**



VERMONT'S LONG TRAIL

"The Green Mountain Club was established to build and maintain Vermont's Long Trail, America's first long-distance hiking trail. The Long Trail traverses the high peaks of Vermont for 270+ miles from the Massachusetts state line to the Canadian border. Established in 1910, this 10,000 member, statewide organization also maintains the Appalachian Trail in Vermont and trails in Vermont's beautiful Northeast Kingdom. Relying on roughly 1,000 volunteers annually, the club manages more than 500 miles of hiking trail and 70 shelters and other overnight sites, has conserved more than 25,000 acres of high-elevation forest land, provides youth education and workshops, and stewards hundreds of miles of trail corridor lands. The club relies heavily on member support to keep up with this work. Thank you!"

This information is from the Green Mountain Club's website. Find out more about the GMC and their Winooski Bridge project and Long Trail re-location in Bolton at <http://www.greenmountainclub.org>



Summer Food Service Program for Children Announced

Our Community Cares Camp is participating in the Summer Food Service Program for Children. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the program is designed to ensure that children who rely on free or reduced price meals during the school

year continue to have adequate nutrition throughout the summer. Participating children who are members of food stamp households or receive Reach Up benefits are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits at eligible program sites. Children who are members of families with gross incomes at or below the levels in the chart below are also eligible for free meals at eligible program sites.

Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	21,257	1,772	886	818	409
2	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552
3	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695
4	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838
5	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981
6	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124
7	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267
8	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410
For each additional household member add	7,437	620	310	287	144

Acceptance and participation requirements for the Program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at these sites and times:

**Camels Hump Middle School: Monday – Thursday, July 7 – 31:
Breakfast 7:45 – 8:45; Lunch 11:15 – 12:10.**

**Richmond Free Library: Fridays, June 20 – August 8 (not on July 4)
Pizza Fridays - noon – 12:30**

**Huntington Public Library: June 20 – August 8 (not on July 4)
Pizza Fridays - 11:30 - noon**

For enrollment information, contact *Our Community Cares Camp* at 802-434-6006 or email occc@gmavt.net. Leave the name of the child, age, school and name of site(s) you will attend. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thank you very much.

Jane Thomas

Community Punkin Chuckin' at CHMS
By Mark Carbone, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School

Get your trebuchets and air cannons ready for launch! Plans are underway for a Community Punkin Chuckin' this October. Why? you ask... the reasons are plentiful! Do a Google search on "pumpkin chuckin" and you will find, amazingly enough, there exists a World Championship Punkin Chuckin' Association (WCPKA) with the mission of "fueling innovative engineering and science-based ideas that draw spectators from all over..." that "...cultivates the odd, challenging, and competitive quest for distance that inspires creativity, ingenuity, teamwork, and passion."

Organizers of the upcoming event envision "punken chuckin'" as a great way to bring families and community together for a fun, educational event to raise funds for the continuation of CHMS's Prosper series.

In the spring, CHMS offered a successful pilot program, in partnership with UVM Extension and PROSPER Partnerships, for sixth grade families. Participants in the hands-on learning opportunity met weekly for seven sessions which included family dinner, games and activities, and childcare for younger siblings. For a portion of the time, parents attended workshops on topics such as setting limits and computer/Internet safety, while the student group discussed topics such as saying no, advocacy, and problem solving. The program afforded families quality time spent together; parents honed their parenting and communication skills; and students learned tips for surviving and thriving in middle school.

We are excited about this upcoming Punkin Chuckin' contest—and hope that you and your family will join in the fun!

