

# THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

"THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS"

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

NOVEMBER 2016

EMAIL: [BOLTONGAZETTE@GMA.VT.NET](mailto:BOLTONGAZETTE@GMA.VT.NET)

VOLUME #4 ISSUE #11



## A 2015 COMMUNITY FORUM

### BOLTON COMMUNITY FORUM

It's time to plan Bolton's future! One year ago, over 100 Bolton residents attended community forums to tell the Bolton Planning Commission about their hopes for the future of Bolton. The Planning Commission has been working hard to use that information to write the Bolton Town Plan. We've turned your big ideas into actions for the Town Plan. **Now, we need your feedback again!** Come tell us which actions you would like to see the town take, and what the town's priorities should be. For more information on the Town Plan, visit [BoltonVT.com/TownPlan](http://BoltonVT.com/TownPlan).

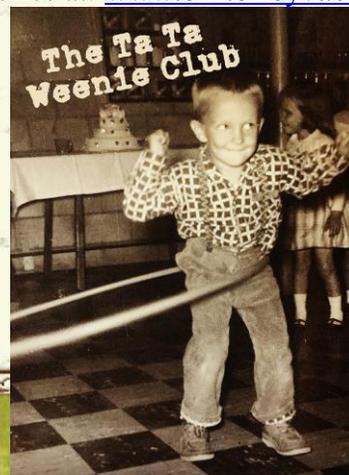
**Please join us for a community forum on December 5, 6-8 pm in the Smilie School Gym.** We'll celebrate the progress we've made over the last year and continue to define our future. Light refreshments will be served and free childcare will be provided!

### BOLTON'S OWN STORYTELLER

Did you know that West Bolton is home to an accomplished storyteller? We didn't either until we heard about resident Bill Torrey on VT Public Radio, and asked him about it one day when he stopped by the town office. Bill started storytelling in the spring of 2014, and said that as he had spent most of his life working alone in the woods, talking mostly to trees, he figured it was time to branch out! He entered five "Moth" story slams in Burlington, winning three, and won VPR's 2014 Listener's Appreciation Party Story Slam Competition.

In 2015, Bill gave writing a try, publishing his first book "The Ta Ta Weenie Club" ([www.greenwriterspress.com](http://www.greenwriterspress.com)), a collection of humorous stories about the life of a young boy in 1960's rural Vermont.

Bill is continuing to delight listeners with his storytelling both here in Vermont, and across the lake in New York. Find out more about Bill and his stories at: [www.billtorreyvt.com](http://www.billtorreyvt.com)



A Story Collection  
from the Four-Time  
Moth Story Slam Winner

BILL TORREY



## CLERK'S CORNER

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

### PROPERTY TAXES DUE

#### NOVEMBER 15TH!

Reminder: the second installment of property taxes is due on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Payments must be received by 4 p.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> or have a federal postmark of November 15<sup>th</sup> to be considered ontime. There is no grace period and late payments incur a 1% interest penalty monthly.

### PRESTON LAFRENIERE

#### HOMESTEAD SALE

The State of Vermont finally had a closing (the new owners' bid was accepted last November) on the Preston Lafreniere Homestead this fall, and the new owners are already hard at work restoring the property.

We know that the Bolton community is looking forward to  the new owners giving this historic property the fitting care and attention it deserves, and we welcome them to Bolton!



### PHOEBE ENJOYS THE FIRST SNOW!

#### PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION

##### OF THE MONTH!

Winter sure is on its way, and it really felt like winter when I went for a hike with my humans at Bolton Valley Resort and got to play in snow for the first time this year! I heard my humans talking about something special that is happening at Bolton Valley Resort this winter...do you know what that could be? Hmmmm...? Find out in next month's issue!

#### WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: Mr. Menz at Smilie School reported that there was a fantastic voter turnout by Smilie School students to vote on the 2017 dog tag shape! And the winner, by a landslide, was the DOGHOUSE! I'm so excited thinking about getting my new doghouse dog tag on January 1<sup>st</sup>!

**Smilie Memorial School News Update**

October was been a month full of learning opportunities and special presentations. A couple of our employees are members of the Bolton Fire Department. October was Fire Awareness month and Deb Andrews, Brittany Spence, along with Jeff Leete, shared tips about fire safety with all of our students. All students got to sit right inside the fire truck! They were thrilled.



The first and second grade classes had a wonderful trip to Shelburne Farms. The weather held out for us as we explored the farms and everything it has to offer! The students broke up into four groups to make a communal pizza. One group gathered the toppings from the garden, another group made the sauce (including chopping the onions with many tears!), the third group made the dough (gluten free too!) and the last group MADE the cheese! Each group assembled their own pizza, they were cooked together and then we enjoyed them as a community. In addition to making pizza, we explored the gardens, pet the animals, and read a story! It was an amazing trip learning firsthand what goes into the farming community!



Kindergarten students had a great time making apple pies after their visit to the Chapin Apple Orchard in Essex.



**SENIOR HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS**  
**ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

Food  Drive

Bring your non-perishable food items to

Smilie School 

for Bolton Senior Holiday Gift Baskets



Also Accepting Cash or Check Donations  
(checks payable to the Town of Bolton)

Town of Bolton, 3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Bolton, Vermont 05676

To volunteer, organize a food drive or to be added to the senior basket list (65 or older)

Contact: [Darlene.Autery@yahoo.com](mailto:Darlene.Autery@yahoo.com)



***Baskets of Cheer***

*By Tony Barbagallo*



The Holidays are Coming!

Oh how they quickly come and go  
It's that Special Time of Year  
To help out the ones you know  
Baskets of good tidings  
Bring comfort and bring joy  
And add a little something extra  
For Bolton's senior girls and boys

Because each of us was young one once  
And each of us will age  
It's the Season made for giving

And here's a chance for you to engage  
Drop us a donation  
Either in groceries or in cash  
And we'll add it to the Baskets  
That we'll deliver in a dash

For the wisdom and the memories  
Because they've helped us as we've  
grown  
To wish them Merry Christmas  
For the little kindnesses they've shown  
A Holiday Basket Greeting  
To remind someone that you care  
Holiday Baskets for our seniors  
Let them know you know they're there

**SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

Grades Preschool through grade 4, have worked collaboratively on a Project Based Learning Presentation. These projects are based on grade level standards in our social studies and science units. The presentation is entitled: “A Taste of Vermont” and students displayed what they learned on Friday morning, October 28, in our gymnasium/cafeteria.

Smilie 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students have been studying the geography and the economy of Vermont! We started our unit by identifying the borders of Vermont including Lake Champlain, the Connecticut River, The Taconic Mountains (which help to separate southern Vermont from New York), New Hampshire, Canada and Massachusetts. We then located the Green Mountains that run right down our state from North to South. Afterwards, students broke into groups. Each group focused on the activities and products of a particular Vermont region, Northern, Central and Southern. We made posters and collected brochures for each region. Afterwards, each group made a video highlighting their region and performing a short skit to illustrate how money might change hands in that region. We shared these with our families at our “Taste of Vermont” celebration along with all of the rest of the Smilie School!

**Learning the CHMS Way**

**By Mark Carbone, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School**

The school year is well under way! Walking through the halls of our school, one feels the energy and camaraderie among students and teachers—perhaps due to the brave leaders of teams Sequoia, Spark, Grit and Summit who brought their learners on overnight field trips throughout Vermont over the past month.

Team Spark had a fun time on their camping trip to Lake Carmi State Park and Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge. The group bonded as a team, and did some place-based learning at two beautiful locations. Some of the student highlights:

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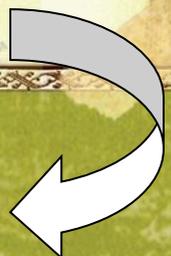
- "I learned that I can figure out animals by the tracks they have."
- "My group and me were in juniper and we found a lot of trails in the woods. It was memorable because we learned a lot about each other."
- "I learned that I really do like being part of a functioning team, working together to do useful stuff."
- "Hanging out in the campground was fun because you got to hang out with people you wouldn't always hang out with outside of school."

Summit students enjoyed a visit to the historical sites at Crown Point, NY. As they walked around the ruins of Fort St. Frederic and the Fort of Crown Point, students learned about the desirability of that location to colonial powers during the 17th and 18th centuries and why rebel American colonists wanted control over the fort following the Battles of Lexington and Concord. From there, Summit students made their way to Button Bay where the team participated in teambuilding activities, science drawings and writings pieces. The night was complete with some stargazing! The following morning, Summit students' exploration of Vermont's role in the Revolutionary War continued with a visit to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Team Grit went camping at Grand Isle State Park. The team's first stop was at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Students watched an informational video in the visitor's center before heading out to the trails for guided tours. Then they travelled to Grand Isle State Park for lunch and some free time. As students sketched in their scientific journals, geese flew in formation overhead. Despite the weather, GRIT students were troopers when guests from St. Michael's College came to discuss water quality and help students take samples. The final stop was the Ed Ween Fish Hatchery where students learned how fish are being raised to help stock Lake Champlain.

Team Sequoia ventured to the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. There they learned about the motions of celestial bodies and global climate change. That night, at Ricker Pond Campground, groups performed Greek myths in a reader's theater format. Afterward, an astronomer from the planetarium led a star party, where students observed constellations and listened to Roman and Greek myths. Sequoia students concluded their adventure with a rather soggy hike up to Peacham Bog

We continue our partnership with UVM and UVM Extension to provide the PROSPER Program; a 7 week program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families to assist both through the challenges of adolescence. The CHMS PROSPER program is now in its third year and 6th session. Participants in this hands-on learning opportunity meet weekly for

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seven-sessions and include 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 discusses topics such as saying no, advocacy, and problem solving. The PROSPER program affords participating families quality time together; parents hone their parenting and communication skills; and students learn tips for surviving and thriving in middle school. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Rebecca Thompson by phone 434-2188 or email [rebecca.thompson@cesuvt.org](mailto:rebecca.thompson@cesuvt.org).

The CHMS community is collecting food donations for those in need. Our collection supports two important efforts: "Break Boxes" and weekly "Food Backpacks". At this time, 3-4 backpacks are given out weekly. For school breaks we hope to provide 15 break boxes with each containing: 20 bananas, 15 apples, 4 lbs of cheese, 2 gallons of milk, 2 loaves of bread, cereal, granola bars, canned vegetables (corn, beans), peanut butter and jelly, fruit snacks, canned soup, applesauce/fruit cups, boxed mac and cheese, raisins, oatmeal, pancake mix and syrup, and canned tuna. Thank you for your continued support of this important effort!

We are always looking for help with after-school programs for our students. If you have a knack for kickball or a love of Pokémon, give me a call to discuss the endless possibilities. I can be reached by phone 434-2188 or email [mark.carbone@cesu.k12.vt.us](mailto:mark.carbone@cesu.k12.vt.us). The next MMMUSD school board meeting will be held on November 7, 6pm, at Browns River Middle School. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.



"Summit" at Crown Point's historic forts



"Spark"



"Grit" at Grand Isle State Park

**WINTERY WEATHER IS ALREADY HERE!**

Yes, our highway crew has already needed to plow! You can review the Winter Operations Plan (snowplow plan) on the town website at: <http://boltonvt.com/documents/> You can help our highway crew by making sure your driveway culvert and the road right of way are both clear of debris before Old Man Winter fully sets in! Thank you!



**BOLTON UP AND DOWN TOWN CLUB HOLIDAY GATHERING**

*Please note the CHANGE OF DATE!*

Date: Thursday, *December 1, 2016*

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Bolton Fire Station

Meal: Potluck (please call Doris @ 434-3769 to let her know what favorite dish you would like to bring)

Due to the holiday season fast approaching, we're combining our November and December dinners into one delicious December dinner, our last for 2016, and we'll enjoy a Yankee Swap too (if you want to bring an inexpensive gift to share in the swap – it will be fun!).



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Jill Drinkwater and Linda Baker for tucking in the Town Office gardens for the winter!

**VTRANS NOTCH ROAD TUNNEL PROJECT**

Seventeen residents, along with our representative Theresa Wood, attended the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting with VTrans concerning the rehabilitation of the Notch Road Tunnel, aka as a "box culvert."

With feedback from the attendees, VTrans will continue to look at options to provide for increased pedestrian safety in the tunnel, and will likely schedule another meeting. The rehabilitation will

necessitate the closure of the tunnel, anticipated to be in the 30 – 60 hour range, over a weekend. During the time the tunnel is closed, VTrans will provide for staffed emergency vehicles (fire & ambulance) to be stationed on the West Bolton side of the tunnel to provide for quick emergency response. We appreciate VTrans providing this opportunity for an information exchange and an avenue for the town to provide them with feedback on this project. Stay tuned!



**SEEKING RFPs FOR AUDITING AND ASSESSOR SERVICES**

Due to the newly adopted procurement policy, the Select Board is seeking Requests for Proposals for contracted auditing services and assessor services. RFPs are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016. See the full RFPs on the town website at:

<http://boltonvt.com/documents/>

**BOLTON GAZETTE INFORMATION**

Reminder: The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 [boltongazette@gmavt.net](mailto:boltongazette@gmavt.net)