

THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

“THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS”

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

OCTOBER 2014

EMAIL: BOLTONGAZETTE@GMA.VT.NET

VOLUME #2 ISSUE #9

PRESTON LAFRENIERE HOMESTEAD

FOR SALE

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services are requesting bid proposals for the purchase of the 30 acre former Preston Lafreniere Homestead.

The property is located in Camel's Hump State Park on the southwest corner of Duxbury and Honey Hollow Roads, and includes approximately 25 acres of woodlands, several acres of open meadow, and the early 19th century farmhouse.

The property will be sold subject to restrictions that would prohibit further subdivision and development of the property and protect the open space and historic character of the property.



The property will be open for inspection by potential bidders on **Thursday, October 16, 2014 from 10:00 A.M. through 12:00 Noon.**

The deadline for submittal of proposals to the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services is 4:00 P.M. on **December 1, 2014**. Please note: **Proposals must be received by the department by the above date – not simply postmarked by this date.** Proposals, as well as requests for additional information and questions should be addressed to:

Allen Palmer
Division of Property Management
VT Department of Buildings and General Services
4 Governor Aiken Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05633-7001



A sales brochure along with a great deal of additional information can be found at:
<http://bgs.vermont.gov/propman/landsale/preston-lafreniereproperty>

For more information on the property's National Historic designation see:
<http://www.uvm.edu/histpres/HPJ/NR/preston/webpreston.html>



CLERK'S CORNER

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

REAPPRAISALS IN WEST BOLTON AND DUXBURY ROAD

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 underway on Duxbury Road. Please call the office to schedule your appointment if you live in either area and have not had your reappraisal. Thank you!

REMINDER - THE CSWD ROVER IS COMING!

Been doing some fall cleaning and don't know what to do with that old paint? Bring it to the Rover! 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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Bolton resident Alison Bechdel who was named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow! Against the standard of "exceptional creativity," only 23 fellows were announced in 2014. High praise for Bechdel's work noted that "Bechdel is changing our notions of the contemporary memoir and expanding the expressive potential of the graphic form." Vermont is home to three other MacArthur Fellows.



PHOEBE AT THE "MYSTERY TREE!"

PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION

OF THE MONTH!

This is a very special "mystery tree!" Do you have any guesses why? Look carefully, there is paint on it, paint on a rock near the bottom of the tree, and a funny piece of metal at the bottom, called rebar, with pink flagging tape on it. Why would someone put that near this tree? Hmmmm...? Find out in next month's issue!

WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: The Deslauriers family purchased 8,000 acres of land in Bolton in 1964, and Bolton Valley Resort opened in December of 1966, with three double chairlifts. At that time there were plans for a two mile aerial tram to the summit of Bolton Mountain! The Bolton Valley Access Road had to be built, and it cost \$400,000! Today that would have been \$2,931,433! And snowmaking? Nope! Only Mother Nature provided the white stuff then!

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS



On Wednesday September 10, 2014. Grades Preschool - 4 had a vote during lunch at Smilie School. We were voting for the design of the town dogtags. The choices were a heart, a dog bone and a badge. Sixty-one out of seventy-three kids voted. That means that we had an 83% voter turnout. After the ballot box was unlocked, the votes were counted the winner was... the dog bone! Make sure to register your dog beginning January 1, 2015 so he or she can wear this stylish bling ;) ! By Lukas

Since the beginning of school, the students in Ms. Cafferty's and Mr. Menz's classrooms have been working to create a community between the two classrooms. The students defined community as, "A group of people working together, playing together and helping each other be successful." They practiced this by creating pieces of art on 6 inch squares of paper in ever increasing groups of students. Their final art piece was created by all of the students in both classes! They determined that in order to be successful, communities needed a strong leader and a willingness to communicate and share thoughts and ideas with each other.



Here's a picture of Emma leading our community in their art project.



*Dear Jane of
Smilie - You say you
gardens in
St. Paul
yesterday*

COMMUNITY FORUM: CANDIDATES FOR BOLTON'S SEAT ON THE BOARD OF CESU'S PROPOSED UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



FROM LYNDA DESLAURIERS

I was born and grew up in Burlington, graduated from Rice High School, and then UVM with a BA in English. I moved to Bolton in 1970, and except for the 90's when I lived in Burlington and 8 months in Jackson Hole in 2002, I have lived here in Bolton since then. My former husband, Ralph DesLauriers built and operated Bolton Valley for 35 years. I had a separate business on the mountain called Trailside Condominiums, which handled the rentals and

property management for approximately 150 properties, including condominiums and private homes. I ran this business for 30 years until I sold it to the then owners of Bolton Valley in 2000.

My husband and I raised five children who are now grown, and have seven grandchildren, two of whom are in the school system - Lincoln who is in 5th grade at Camels Hump, and Henry who is in 3rd grade at Smilie.

A number of years ago I was on the Smilie School Board, and then the Chittenden East Supervisory Union School Board for many years.

It is my opinion that the merger of the elementary schools in our district will probably be approved by the voters. Originally, I was very much opposed to this concept, and feared for the continuation of Smilie School. Now I think it is likely that the Bolton voters will approve the merger on November 4th, that it will probably be financially advantageous for our taxpayers, and that it will not necessarily mean the demise of Smilie School. Smilie is an excellent school, and gives our children a very sound basis from which to begin their education. I am in favor of keeping the school open, and think that it will be possible.



FROM ANDREW POND

On November 4th Bolton and the other five elementary districts in the Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) will vote on forming a Unified Union School District. I would appreciate your vote for the Proposed Board position that will represent Bolton in a merged district.

After 7 years on the Smilie Board (4 years as Chair) and 4 years on the CESU Executive Committee (3 years as Vice-Chair) I am eager to continue to lead our schools into a more flexible governance



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structure. Bolton taxpayers have been punished by the statewide tax formula that is unfair to small districts like ours. The merger will result in a 5% drop in Bolton school property taxes the first year. Further savings will depend largely on the actions of the Proposed Unified School Board. My familiarity with the current schools and the 2012 Smilie Feasibility Study will help me continue to be an outspoken advocate for Bolton. Our new Unified Board will consider changes to how we educate our students throughout the CESU community. This will likely include considering closing schools and/or using existing school buildings for different educational purposes to maximize taxpayer return while improving access to education for all our students. My experience assisting with contract negotiations and time on the CESU Policy committee will also help me further these goals.

Please vote yes for the Unified Union School District and Andrew Pond for the Proposed Board seat.

COMMUNITY FORUM

OPINIONS ON THE CESU PROPOSED UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FROM MAUREEN MCINTYRE

I'm writing this letter to share my thoughts regarding the Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) plans to create a Unified Union School District.

I believe the merger vote is being rushed, and the order of the process is all wrong. The first order of business should start with our Legislature at the statewide level. The education funding system needs to be reformed. It's obvious that we need another funding revenue to subsidize the property tax and the VT state lottery revenue to support education in the State of Vermont. This would take some of the burden off homeowners and alleviate the education property tax across our state. This work should be done before a Unified Union School District is voted for.

If the CESU Merger does pass, Bolton has a lot to lose. Our town school is important for Bolton. It's the glue of our community. Smilie will close in 2019. The Governor's mission is to close all small schools. This merger is a stepping stone to get the job done. The CESU Voluntary Merger Committee writes in the Modified Union Report that, **"no school closures are planned in the immediate future because no school closures are permitted in the first four years."** I guarantee that once these four years are over, Smilie will no longer be a school.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Voting yes for this merger is voting to close Smilie after the initial four years of the merger is over. The new 15 member Modified Union Board will make the decision of what school or schools will close, and Bolton will have one vote on this 15 member board.

Finally, this consolidation of the elementary schools is supposedly about saving money. However, there's no solid data to support this. The state is giving some incentives during the first four years, which they believe will buy your yes vote, but there's no data supporting that our property taxes will go down. There's a good possibility that property taxes will continue to go up if real property tax reform is not provided by our legislature. And, Bolton will no longer have their community school.

I'm voting no on this merger and hope many others will too.
Respectfully,
Maureen McIntyre

FROM THE SMILIE SCHOOL BOARD

The Bolton School Board supports the merger of the majority of the Elementary districts and the existing MMU district into a Unified School District.

We strongly believe this governance change will enhance educational opportunities for Bolton (and other) students, have a positive effect on our taxes, and ensure we are able to educate our students at a reasonable cost in the future.

Please attend the informational meeting on Wednesday October 29th at 6 PM at Smilie School to discuss the proposed merger and vote on November 4th.

VERMONT GENERAL ELECTION, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Polling Place: Smilie School ~ Polls Are Open: 7 a.m. to 7 pm.

Absentee and early voter ballots are now available for registered voters from the town office.

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**

...be HEARD

BOLTON UP AND DOWN TOWN CLUB SENIOR DINNER

Thanksgiving in October!

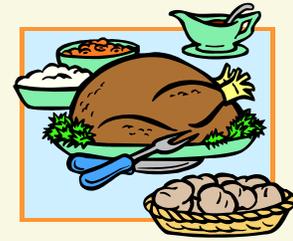
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2014

Place: Bolton Fire Station

Menu: Turkey & Gravy, Potatoes, Squash Casserole, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls and Pumpkin Pie!

Time: 5:00 PM

Questions? Contact Doris @ 434-3769. Thank you!



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD ALTERNATE POSITION OPEN - VOLUNTEER

The DRB has an open seat for an alternate to serve when a regular member is not available.

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.

Please contact the town office if you are interested in serving your community on the DRB.

PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

Reminder: The second installment of property taxes is due on November 17, 2014. Payments **MUST** be received in the town office by 4 p.m. on the 17th, or postmarked on the 17th, to be considered on time. Late payments incur a 1% interest penalty each month. Please note: there is no grace period.

TOWN OF BOLTON T-SHIRTS FOR CHRISTMAS!

It's never too early to do some Christmas Shopping! 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. There are also limited sizes of sweatshirts available.

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

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!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION
TRAVEL CLUB **FUN RUN!**

What: A truly FUN run along a beautiful 4-mile loop in Jericho/West Bolton.

When: Sunday October 26, 2014 at 11:00 A.M.

Where: Parking at Wheeler Field (corner of Nashville Rd. and Stage Rd. in West Bolton).

Directions: from Route 2 in Bolton, take Notch Road to Stage Road. Wheeler Field will be on your left shortly before the 4 way intersection of Stage, Nashville, Cemetery and Mill Brook Roads. From Jericho, take Nashville Road about 3.75 miles.

Who: This pre-Halloween event is for the whole family! Costumes are highly encouraged.

Prizes: We have lots of great prizes; gift cards, Vermont State Park passes, a Burton snowboard, and more, all to be awarded by bib raffle!

All proceeds: help to fund our service trip to Ecuador. We will be bringing school supplies, tents, and our hard work to build a school, help with irrigation, or provide any services that we can once we arrive in Ecuador in February.

Preregistration: \$12 please visit the MMU Travel Club website: mmutraceclub.org

Race Day Registration: \$15

Contact: Sandy Alexander ~ sandy.alexander@cesvvt.org



About the MMU Travel Club: We are a group from Mount Mansfield Union High School located in Jericho, Vermont. In February of 2015, we will embark on a trip to Quito, Ecuador, where we will begin our journey into the Andes Mountains. There, we will perform the service portion of our trip through World Challenge.



CHMS LEADS BY EXAMPLE

by Mark Carbone, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School

What a great opening to the school year! I am pleased to share the latest goings-on at Camels Hump.

This summer, CHMS was one of 48 schools honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. as a Green Ribbon Schools for “exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including STEM, green careers and civics.” U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, touted Camels Hump Middle School as a leader in this effort using the school’s solar array and resulting decreased electric bill to illustrate.

The new after school program, Part 2, has joined the CHMS community expanding the present offerings with more enriching and fun opportunities for students. The Part 2 program offers a safe environment for kids to develop and grow socially, academically, physically and artistically after the school day is over. For more information about the program, visit <http://part2kids.com/>

We are excited about the upcoming Punkin’ Chuckin’ on Saturday, October 25th, 10am-3pm. Come and witness pumpkins in flight! The contest will include expert to novice divisions. We hope that you and your family will join in the fun and 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.

Last year, CHMS offered a successful pilot program, in partnership with UVM Extension and PROSPER Partnerships—this year two sessions of this important program are planned—now with the support of MVP. In October, the board of the PROSPER program will be hosting a Friday Food Affair to share dinner and conversation with neighbors.

Camels Hump Middle School continues to look for parent and community volunteers to help in the education and success of our students. We are hoping to expand our after-school opportunities. What would you like to share with kids—yoga, crafts, science experiments—some funding is available. 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 October 9 at MMU. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

A public service announcement from the Bolton Gazette:

