

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending April 11, 2014

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following information highlights some activities which occurred:

Town Manager's Office—Dawn Francis, Town Manager

Volunteers are needed to help with Colchester's annual spring cleaning on Vermont's Green Up Day, May 3.

Starting at 8:00 a.m. on May 3 at the [Colchester Police Department](#) at 835 Blakely Road, members of the [Colchester Conservation Commission](#) and coordinators for Colchester's Green Up Day will distribute bags and road assignments to residents. Cleanup of litter along town roadsides, parks, and waterways is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to noon, followed by a free hot dog cookout for volunteers from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Although advance registration is not required, scout troops, youth groups, churches, neighborhoods, and other groups are asked to call (802) 862-9807 to speak with Tim Moran, Colchester's Green Up Day coordinator, in advance to arrange for an area to clean up. Volunteers are asked to call even if they want to clean up the same area as last year in order to ensure that the area does not get assigned to another group.

Volunteers are not required to pick up trash for the entire four hours and may select their own road or area to clean, provided that it has not already been assigned. Instructions on where to leave bags for pick up by the Town's road crews will be provided when volunteers receive their bags. Volunteers are reminded to separate scrap metal and tires from other roadside trash.

For questions, or to sign up a group, please contact Tim Moran; he is available at (802) 862-9807 or via e-mail at tgmvt@comcast.net.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5509.

Economic Development Department—Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

Below are some of the initiatives on which the Economic Development Department is currently working:

- **Exit 16 Landscaping**—We are continuing our efforts and working with various state agencies in the pursuit of further incorporating landscaping into the Exit 16 improvements. We believe Exit 16 is one of the gateways to our community, and we want to ensure that the improvements in the proposed plan have ample landscaping and amenities that will work with the new road design.
- **Residential Brochure**—The work on the new Colchester Residential Guide is moving ahead at a great pace. The guide will be used for existing and new residents and will be available by late spring or summer. *The compilation of the guide comes at no cost to the Town.* We utilize these types of low- to no-cost services whenever possible.
- **CCTA Bus Service**—We held two public hearings on the commuter bus service scheduled to begin on June 16, 2014. We also have been working closely with area businesses to solicit their input on the proposed bus schedule to ensure that it will assist with employee transportation. We will be developing a marketing plan with CCTA to alert both residents and other businesses about the services, schedule, and start date.
- **Economic Development Opportunities**—I work continually with prospects on relocating to our community. While we work with these prospects, we also partner with local, regional, and state agencies to offer as much assistance as possible to keep Colchester competitive in the relocation process. I also work with existing businesses on expansion and retention efforts. During this process, partnering with other agencies is also utilized to help in our retention efforts.

- **Energy Park**—We are pursuing the possibility of developing an energy park in Colchester and have approached the appropriate landowners, utilities, and stakeholders. The options we are exploring include waste-to-renewable energy, solar power, wind turbines, and the like. We are holding the initial meeting in May.
- **Colchester Community Development Corporation**—We meet monthly with CCDC and work closely on many projects for the business community. Most recently, we held two breakfast meetings. The December meeting had our legislative representatives as the presenters. They gave a summary about what their respective committees would be working on this session as well as what they thought the business community could expect out of this year's session. In March, the breakfast meeting was about health care and the many issues facing our businesses and residents. We will continue holding quarterly meetings for the business community and plan on a June meeting. Details about this meeting will be forthcoming.
- **Colchester Promotional Videos**—The work on the promotional videos has started, and we anticipate that the videos will be filmed in June. These five videos will showcase Colchester and the many attributes it has. *The videos are being produced free of charge to the Town* and will be used on various social media avenues, including the Town's website and the www.relcation.org website.
- **Businesses Outreach**—I have met with more than ten Colchester businesses since the March newsletter. I believe this is the most exciting part of my job. I am able to meet with and learn about the many innovative and creative businesses that call Colchester home. These businesses are not necessarily medium-to-large businesses; they are often sole proprietorships and small businesses. The creativity and energy displayed on a daily basis is what makes this my favorite part of the economic development process.
- I attended Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce's First-Annual Small Business Summit, Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Breakfast, and the Visiting Nurse Association Community Day.

For more information about the Economic Development Department, please e-mail Kathi Walker O'Reilly at koreilly@colchestervt.gov, or call (802) 264-5508.

Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director

The Planning and Zoning Department reports the following:

- The Development Review Board met on March 26 and approved a new 20,600 sq. ft. office building for 525 Hercules Drive, a slope stabilization project for 13 East Island Road, a two-lot subdivision at 920 Shore Acres Drive, a stormwater detention system with seawall gabions at 662 West Lakeshore Drive, and a seasonal awning for a restaurant at 18 Severance Green.
- The Development Review Board met on April 9 and approved a two-lot subdivision and new 5,200 sq. ft. veterinary clinic at 5770 Roosevelt Highway and a five-lot subdivision resulting in three new single-family homes at 538 Bean Road.
- The board will meet again on April 23 and will consider a 9,900 sq. ft. office / warehouse building on Lot One of Brentwood Park as well as a four-lot residential subdivision at 949 East Road. The board will resume consideration of a new 6,000 sq. ft. shopping center at 38 Lower Mountain View Drive that was recessed from March 26 at the request of the applicant.
- The Colchester Planning Commission attended the second public hearing of the Colchester Selectboard on the Town Plan on April 8. The plan was adopted by the selectboard and is now in effect. The commission will return to its regular meeting schedule at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room at the Colchester Police Department on April 15. The commission will meet with the Energy Task Force to hear its recommendations.
- The new interactive map is back and improved. It can be found at <http://www.caigisonline.com/ColchesterVT/> or by using the link on the Planning and Zoning webpage.
- A reminder that spring brings with it the risk of flooding. For information on flooding, flood risk, and flood insurance, we encourage community members to review the new information at http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/faqs/flood_facts.pdf. This information can also be found under the FAQs at the Planning and Zoning Department webpage. The American Red Cross also has a free flood app for download at www.redcross.org.

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/planningZHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5600.

Burnham Memorial Library—Kelly Tomaseski, Director

Here at the Burnham Memorial Library, we would like to let our community know about an exciting visitor. On Thursday, April 17, Governor Shumlin plans to stop by our library as part of National Library Week. At 11:00 a.m., he plans to read a few stories to our regular Preschool Story Time group.

On Saturday, May 10, we will host an American Red Cross babysitter's training session for eleven- to fifteen-year-olds. The training is fun and fast paced, and it runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; please register at our website, as space is limited.

And finally, if you have not yet seen our renovated Children's Department, please stop by and take a look!

Here are a few of our upcoming events:

- Wednesday Preschool Music with Derek—Every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
- Burnham Knitters/Other Needleworkers—Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- Stories with Governor Shumlin—Thursday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m.
- Saturday Drop-In Story Time—Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
- Young Adult Film Crew with LCATV—The third Monday of every month (April 21) at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the library, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Library/>, or call (802) 264-5660.