

## **Colchester's Weekly Town News**

For the Week of August 9, 2013

**Preamble:** "Colchester, Vermont, located on Lake Champlain's Malletts Bay, is a diverse, civic-minded community endowed with a rich heritage of commercial, agricultural, recreational, and educational gifts. Proud of the quality of life already enjoyed here, the people of Colchester seek to build upon this foundation to ensure economic prosperity, recreational opportunity, and an entrepreneurial spirit for future generations" – Vision Statement, Heritage Project, 2012.

**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**

- We received 37 applications for the Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Town Manager position (Joan Boehm is retiring in October) with 16 of the applicants coming from in-state. Interviews are taking place this week and next.
- We also received 18 applications for the Economic Development Director position with 10 of the applicants coming from out of state and we will be interviewing next week.
- Our Public Works Department was recognized by the state for its excellence in preparing a stormwater management plan and we are being regarded as having prepared a model for other communities to use.
- The Fast Trash experiment for the month of August located at the Malletts Bay Fire Department on Saturday mornings had less than 10 citizens take advantage of the service on its first day of operation.
- Our Planning Department held a hearing on shore land regulatory issues and we obtained some valuable suggestions from the public.

### **Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director**

- We still have a few programs left for this summer - check out our website for a list and to register.
- Thanks to everyone who has been coming out for the Colchester Farmers' Market. The market is on Wednesdays from 4-7 pm, in front of the library. If you haven't stopped by yet, come and see us next week!
- Monday, Aug. 12, 19, 26 - First-Time Kindergartners at 10:30 am
- Wednesday, Aug. 14 - Booktivity: Corn Husk Dolls at 2 pm

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

- Friday, Aug. 16 - PuppeTree presents "Caps for Sale" at 5 pm
- Monday, Aug. 19 - DINOMAN! at 11:30 am
- Monday, Aug. 19 - Inventive Vermonters: Farm Tools and Implements talk at 6 pm

**Police Department –Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief**

- A six car crash on route 15 during morning commute slowed traffic on Monday August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Lawrence Alers, age 41 of Colchester, was arrested on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> and charged with Aggravated Domestic Assault and Unlawful Restraint.
- Kevin C Hayes, age 55 of Colchester, was arrested as a Fugitive from Justice on Wed Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. He was wanted on multiple charges from Maryland.
- Also on Wed Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Timothy P Barcomb, age 36 of Colchester, was arrested for DUI (2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offense) as a result of a single car crash investigation.
- CPD made four other arrests the past week for various offenses.
- CPD responded to 180 calls for service and had 61 contacts through motor vehicle stops.
- The Colchester Police Department, in conjunction with the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Department and Colchester Rescue, hosted the third annual Public Safety Awareness Camp this week at St. Michael’s College. The camp is designed to educate youth about various aspects of public safety including law enforcement, rescue and fire service. Campers participate in activities structured according to three public safety disciplines. They observe and participate in demonstrations such as use of police K9s, providing emergency care, fire suppression, vehicle extrication and confined space firefighting. Campers learn valuable skills such as: first aid/CPR, self-defense, firearms safety, effective communication and teamwork. This is an important public outreach activity made possible by the collaboration of Rescue, Fire and Police Services.

**Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief**

- Rescue responded to 25 EMS calls, and transported 14 people to the hospital.
- Technical Rescue assisted with the recovery of a 12 y/o drowning victim in Winooski.

**Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director**

In the Recreation Division the following camps/programs are taking place the week of 8/12:

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- Explorer Day Camp
- Lakeside Lacrosse
- Tennis Tots
- Tennis Academy
- Secrets in the Sand
- Adventures in the Water
- Rock and Ropes
- Adult Sand Volleyball

#### Bayside Activity Center

- Monday, Wednesday & Friday Walk In hours 10 am-4 pm
- Monday- 10 am-Cardio Mix
- Wednesday- 10 am- Cardio Mix
- Wednesday- 1 pm- Writing Stories
- Thursday- 9:15 am- Gentle Yoga

In the Parks Division, the following is a list of projects/work they accomplished this week

- Mowing and trimming all athletic fields twice a week
- Mowing and trimming all municipal buildings
- Mowing all shoulders of recreation paths
- Groomed all the infields of baseball and softball fields
- Cleaned all park bathrooms every day
- Emptied trash barrels at parks three times per week
- Worked on washouts on the Causeway
- Cut back low tree limbs along recreational paths

#### **Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director**

- First weekend of the Fast Trash pilot project had a total of eight customers generating approximately \$80 in revenue, or about 8% of what is required for the program to be sustainable. We have been receiving a number of phone calls and e-mails questioning the logic and merit behind the Fast Trash Pilot Project. The Select Board has been attempting to site a permanent drop off facility on Heineberg Drive on the lands previously acquired for the Circumferential Highway. There have significant complications with the use of this land and the Town is continuing to work and negotiate with the Vermont Agency of Transportation on the use of this property. In the interim, the Board asked the Public Works Department to explore other alternatives including a Fast Trash Facility. While our analysis of this alternative concluded that for the majority of the Town's residents, it would be

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more expensive than other alternatives, the Board requested that we go forward with the program in the hopes that it would provide some benefit to even a small number of residents. There is no cost to the Town for the operation of this one month pilot.

- Held planning meeting for scoping of traffic improvements for Exit 17 as one of the Town's circ. Alternatives Projects.
- Met with consultants to review preliminary plans to create an emergency storm water overflow on East Lakeshore Drive in the area of Smith Estates.
- Developed a draft RFO for consulting services associated with the further exploration of the redevelopment of Malletts Bay

#### **Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director**

- Held well attended public meeting on Shore land & Floodplain Regulations. The Planning Commission will look at these regulations over the winter.
- The Commission will take up the Economic Development Plan at its August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Work continues on our new permitting software.

#### **Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk**

- Taxes are due August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Credit cards accepted, with a service fee to the credit card company
- Call 264-5520 for more information re: credit cards
- 12 taxpayers filed their homestead declaration last week
- Check your tax bill to verify if you have filed your homestead
- Taxes billed were \$38,792,671, with \$12,930,874 due in August
- Taxes collected to date are \$6,919,702

#### **Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO**

- The finance department is busy finalizing year-end accounting and preparing for the audit.