

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of August 16, 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

The Town's Selectboard and School Board held a joint work session which had not been done in quite some time. The session resulted in an agreement to consider the sharing of information technology resources, the possibility of locating a community center on school property near the high school and active engagement on both the School Board and Selectboard on a Malletts Bay redevelopment initiative in an attempt to grow the grand list and provide an accessible and attractive waterfront venue and employment center which will attract residents and tourists to the Bay area.

We hope to make an announcement about a new Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Town Manager and a new Economic Development Director within the next 2 weeks as a result of a full slate of candidate interviews that we held this past week.

Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director

With summer programming starting to wind down, we still have a wide variety of year-round programs available at Burnham Library:

- Toddler Storytime, with music and stories, every Tuesday at 10:30 am.
- Young Adult Film Crew with LCATV, for those 12-18 who are interested in making their own videos, the third Monday of every month at 6:30 pm.
- Pajama Storytime, with bedtime stories for little ones, the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm.
- Our Knitters Group meets every Wednesday at 6 pm, and is open to people of all skill levels.

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

- Additionally, we've made some changes to our lending periods: books (except for those on the new shelf) now go out for three weeks, and periodicals go out for one week (but you can now take out the most recent issue). Ask at the desk if you'd like to know more!

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

- Troubleshooting software problems
- Worked on Access database
- Installed dual monitors
- Regular network updates, upgrades
- Set up 2 new replacement computers

Police Department – Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

- This week was a relatively quiet week for the PD.
- CPD made three arrests in the past week for various offenses.
- CPD responded to 155 calls for service and had 61 contacts through motor vehicle stops.
- Sgt. James Roy distinguished himself and the department by presenting at a national conference of Drug Recognition Experts. DREs are specially trained police officers who can identify drug impaired drivers. Sgt. Roy is considered a national expert and peer leader in this area.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue:

- Responded to 15 EMS calls, and transported 12 people to the hospital.
- Participated in the Farmer's Market
- Received 11 applications for our full-time opening, and interviewed 5.

Tech. Rescue:

- Assisted with the removal of 2 injured hikers last weekend. One on Mt. Mansfield, and the other on Camel's Hump.
- A few members are attending a Structural Collapse Course this week.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division, the following tasks were being worked on or completed.

- Fall Program Offerings
- Fall Brochure To the Printers
- ACE After School Staff Training Preparation
- ACE Program Student Information Data Consolidation
- Evaluations of Summer Programs
- Investigation Into Registration Software Upgrades

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

- Preparations for Muck it Up Outdoor Challenge Race

Bayside Activity Center Week of August 19th

- Monday, Wednesday & Friday Walk In hours 10 am-4 pm
- Monday- 10 am-Cardio Mix
- Monday- 12 pm- Living Well with Chronic Fatigue/Fibromyalgia
- Wednesday- 10 am- Cardio Mix
- Wednesday- 12 pm- Managing Menopause Naturally
- Thursday- 9:15 am- Gentle Yoga
- Friday- 10 am- Self Care for Neck/Shoulder Pain
- Friday- 12 pm- CVAA Lunch

In the Parks Division, along with the usual weekly maintenance, the following is a list of projects/work they accomplished this week:

- Worked on washouts on the Causeway
- Cut back low tree limbs along recreational paths
- Prepared Athletic Fields for Fall Sports

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

- Reviewed documents associated with deeding the Town owned water storage tank on Water Tower Hill to the Champlain Water District.
- Finalized a re-evaluation of the Town's Capital Equipment fleet and replacement program and formulated recommendations to be submitted to the Select Board on August 27th.
- Met with the Town Manager, Planning Director, Select Board members and Severance Corners Developers to explore opportunities to advance further development within the Town's Designated Growth Center.
- The second weekend of the Fast Trash pilot project had a total of 9 customers generating \$120 in fees.
- Performed an analysis of River Road in response to a citizen request to install speed humps and presented the findings to the Select Board.
- Developed and gained approval from the Board for the amendment of the Town's Traffic Ordinance to establish speed limits and stop signs on newly constructed streets (Caleb Court and Fox Run Extension)
- Developed and gained approval from the Board for the amendment of Chapter 14, Public Works Specifications and Standards.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

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

- The Planning and Zoning Department continues to receive comments on a recent camp rebuild on East Lakeshore Drive as well as the seawall at the former Camp Holy Cross. These two properties were properly permitted and developed in compliance with the regulations. Current regulation allows, with DRB approval, complete tree removal in the Shoreland District. Seasonal camp rebuilds can also be rebuilt up to 40 feet in height. While the Planning Commission held a meeting on lakeshore regulation on August 6th, the majority of the comments related to the floodplain restrictions with only one person commenting on seawalls. If you were unable to attend the meeting and have comment on these regulations, please consider sending a letter to the Commission care of our office at PO Box 55.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- The Clerk's office has been extremely busy with tax collection
- 7 taxpayers filed their homesteads last week
- Check your bill to verify if you have filed your homestead
- Taxes collected to date are \$13,430,908
- 12 passports were processed this week
- The Civil Board is wrapping up the tax appeals for this year. Five tax appeals have been heard, 14 appeals have been withdrawn and a group appeal of 101 camps on leased land are pending until there is a decision from the group whether they intend to proceed or withdraw their appeal

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

- Reviewing the "2014 Preliminary Sales Study" (the State's rough draft of the Equalization Study that is used in determining the Towns educational tax rate).
- E-911 Atlas review includes the Master Street Address Guide updates report as well as Automatic Location Information and Geographic Information System (GIS) report.

Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO

- The budget process is underway for FY 15.
- We will present a preliminary budget to the Select Board at the beginning of November and the departments will meet with the Select Board to discuss their budgets during the remainder of November.
- Adjustments will be made to the preliminary budget as a result of all these meetings and a refined budget will be presented to the citizens at a Select Board meeting in December.

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

- The Select Board must accept a budget by January 21, 2014 for voting by the Town on March 4, 2014.

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