

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of August 23, 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

- Announced the hiring of Aaron Frank as CFO/ATM to replace Joan Boehm and Kathi Walker O'Reilly as Economic Development Director. Both will be on board by the end of September. Due to five retirements or employees going to other jobs, the Town has had to recruit for seven replacement positions since the beginning of the year.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- The first tax installment was due August 15th
- The total due for the installment was \$12,931,589
- The amount collected was \$12,717,489
- \$214,100 went delinquent, which is ½ percent; resulting in an amount of \$23,310 due for penalty and interest
- Thanks to the taxpayers of Colchester for being so responsive
- If we can be of any assistance with all of the different methods of paying your taxes please call us at 264-5520
- 13 passports were processed this week

Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO

- Did you know that the Town of Colchester operates a number of funds, but not all of the funds are supported by your tax dollars.
- The funds in which your property taxes provide primary support are the General Fund (which covers day to day operations of the Town), the Capital Transportation Fund (roads, bike paths, culverts, etc) the Capital Equipment Fund (vehicles and mowers) and

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the Debt Service Fund which is used to pay off previously issued bonds for town improvements.

- The Recreation Program Fund and the Wastewater Fund operate as self sufficient funds that pay for their expenses with revenue generated from fees paid by users. The salaries and benefits of most of the recreation employees are paid for out of the Recreation Program Fund.
- In addition, the Town receives grant funds each year from the Federal Government, the State of Vermont and other sources. These grants may support some or all the expenditures related to the grant.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

- The Town's Janitorial Contract has been re-bid resulting in an annual savings of approximately \$6,000 per year.
- The Department is proposing to conduct a Facility Needs Assessment to address both current and long term needs associated with Town facilities. The proposal will be discussed with the Select Board during their meeting of August 27, 2013.
- A \$80,000 grant application has been submitted to the State of Vermont for the design, permitting, and construction of the first phase of a park & ride facility on Heineberg Drive.
- A Request for Qualifications has been completed in support of the future selection of a diversified consulting team to advance the redevelopment of Malletts Bay. The RFQ will be issued within the next 1-2 weeks.
- A first draft of the department's updated Safety Manual has been completed with focus now on finalizing the document and the development of training modules.
- An analysis is being conducted of the traffic signal timing at both the Bayside intersection and the intersection of Prim and Porter's Point Road.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

- On August 20th the Planning Commission met and reviewed the Colchester 2013 Economic Development Plan to include in the 2013 Town Plan. Over the next several meetings the Commission will start in on reviewing the rest of the Town Plan.
- On August 28th the Development Review Board will meet to consider approval of several items including the final plat subdivision application of the property formerly known as Camp Holy Cross.
- Permit software install has been pushed back a month due to version updates.
- Appeal to Environmental Court received for 76 West Lakeshore Drive by Neil Gardner who is appealing the violation citation for an illegal apartment. Our office will continue

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to work with the owners of the property on their failed wastewater system during the appeal process.

- Responded to health complaint at Grand View apartments, 5877 Roosevelt Highway, for animal infestation. Found minor rental code violations and no infestation present. Owner given until 9/6 to fix minor violations.

Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director

At Burnham Library, we'd like to thank everyone who made it out to our Inventive Vermonters talk on Monday. This coming week's programs:

- First-Time Kindergartners, for kids and parents who are headed to Kindergarten, on Monday, Aug 26, at 10:30 am
- Preschool Music, for kids 3-5, every Wednesday at 1 pm
- Burnham Knitters, for all skill levels, every Wednesday at 6 pm
- Saturday Drop-In Story Time, which has music and stories for kids, every Saturday at 1 pm

In September, we'll be having a two-part SAT Practice Exam (9/21 and 9/28), and our Preschool Story Times will return on Mondays and Thursdays, at 10:30 am (starting 9/9).

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- Rescue responded to 20 EMS calls, and transported 14 people to the hospital.
- Tech Rescue assisted in an injured hiker on Camel's Hump.

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