

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of August 31, 2012

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:

Burnham Memorial Library: Rubi Simon, Director

This week at the library, we entered a relative (and brief) lull in programming, as we shift from summer to the school year. We finished up our first-time kindergartners program, and had sessions for our intergenerational dessert book discussion and adult writing group. Our summer adult book discussion also wrapped up, though we'll be starting a civil war-themed series of discussions next month. We have also extended our library card design contest until September 28th, to give more people the chance to participate - entries are available online, and in-person. Finally, we're taking sign-ups for a two-part practice SAT test on Sept 22nd and 29th.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

Voting took place this week at the Meeting House and at Malletts Bay School. Our department prepared the laptops, tested the wireless internet connections and checked the telephone lines at both locations. The laptops are necessary for the Town Clerks to use during polling hours to access the Secretary of State's HAVA website which has voter registration information. A telephone is setup at each location for use by those who might not be able to vote by paper ballot. Other work included troubleshooting computers, help desk tasks and database work.

Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

The new Police Department facility is within two weeks of completion – if some lockers "lost in transit" appear soon. Furniture has arrived and is being set up in various offices. The Community Room is just about complete and will be available for the community to use once the Department "settles in" to its new building. There will be an open house for the community to see their new police department probably the Saturday or Sunday of September 15 or 16 between 10 AM and 1 PM.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Colchester Rescue responded to 20 calls this week. We provided one intercept, and transported 12 people to the hospital.

Along with Colchester Rescue, Colchester Technical Rescue responded to a large animal rescue - another area that the team is trained in. This type of rescue, as with much of what the Tech Team does, requires specialized equipment, and a great deal of safety to ensure that no one is injured during the

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rescue. In this situation, a person was trail riding, when her horse stepped between two rocks getting his foot caught, causing both the horse and rider to fall to the ground. Luckily, the rider was uninjured, and the horse was freed from the rocks, brought out of the woods, and treated by a local vet.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

Fall brochures have been mailed out and if you have not received one then please contact our office at 264-5640 or you can download one from our website www.colchestervt.gov

We are still looking for teams to register for our Muck It Up adventure triathlon. The race takes place on Saturday, September 15th. So grab a friend and join us for a fun race. Call 264-5642 or visit our website for more information. If you are not ready to race then how about volunteering? We still need about 10 volunteers to assist us in making the event a great success.

Construction is continuing on the Colchester Causeway. The contractor is making great progress and the great weather is certainly helping.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

A bid opening was conducted for the repair of a storm water outfall on Porters Point Road. A total of seven (7) contractors submitted cost proposals in response to the Departments RFP. The low bidder was All Seasons Excavating from Colchester. Contract documents are now be processed with work expected to begin within the next month. The project is expected to be completed before winter.

The East Road Depot Road Intersection Project is progressing well. The majority of the mass excavation has been completed and work is now beginning on the new water main. The contractor is currently ahead of schedule which may allow the roadway to be reopened ahead of schedule.

Low lake levels have revealed damage to a storm water outfall on East Lakeshore Drive caused by the ice flow from this past spring. An assessment is currently underway to determine how best to repair the damage. Repairs will be completed prior to winter.

Four storm water structures were reconstructed this week by DPW maintenance crews. Additionally, approximately 3 tons of asphalt was placed within potholes throughout the community.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

Given the recent election and the upcoming November election, we would like to remind the community about regulations pertaining to political signs. Signs for political purposes are exempt from local sign regulations provided that they are no more than five square feet in area and no more than three feet in height and located on private property. Larger signs require sign permits. Signs may not be displayed in the State right-of-way. Political signs along local rights-of-ways must be removed within two weeks however are subject to removal by the Town at any time. All signs must be removed within five days after the election.

In closing, our Administrative Assistant, Taylor Foster, will be leaving us at the end of September for a position as Regional Planner with the Lamoille County Regional Planning Office. While we are happy for

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her and wish her well, she will leave big shoes to fill as our primary “front line” person on the phones and at the counter that many of you may have come to know.

Clerk’s Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

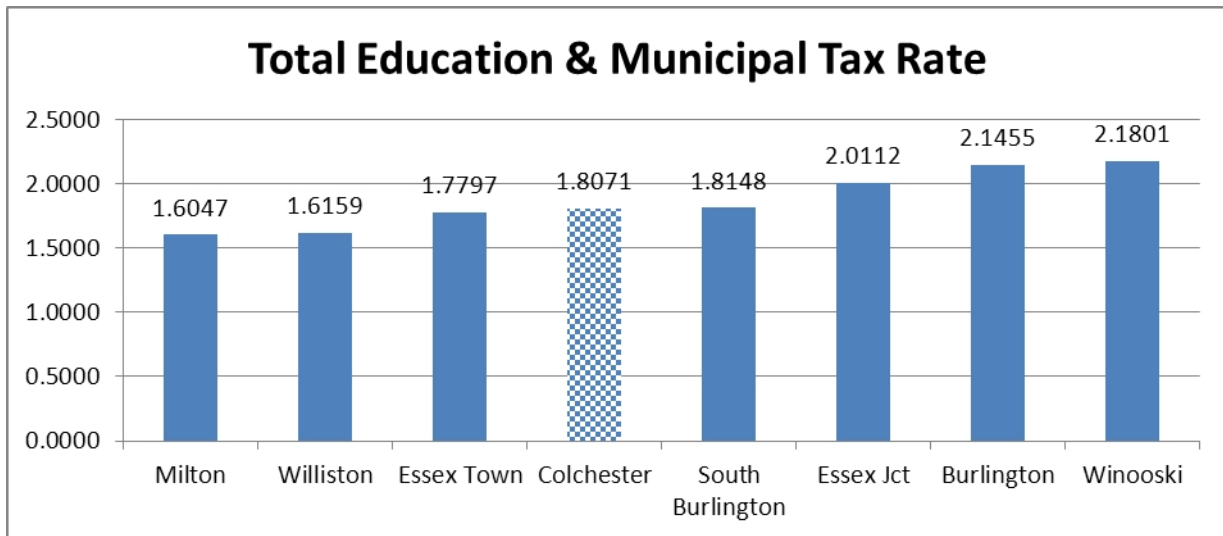
Tuesday was Primary Day and the Board of Civil Authority oversaw the election. With the close race for the Attorney General the Town Clerk participated in the County recount. For the remainder of the week the Board and Town Clerk have been busy arranging and conducting inspections of houses appealing their 2012 appraisals.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) has heard most of the appeals for 2012 Grand List (GL), and will be inspecting the properties over the next month and ruling on their findings. As soon as we receive the decisions from the BCA we will be entering into the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software the information from the BCA. When all the decisions are entered we will be able to finalize the GL and start entering data for the 2013 Grand List.

Finance – Joan Boehm (Asst. Town Manager/CFO)

The graph below shows where Colchester stands in relation the surrounding towns for total municipal and Homestead education taxes. Colchester is below the median and the average of the towns shown.



Town Manager’s Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager

After dropping the ball, the Town in association with CEDAC is renewing its request for economic development assistance from the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development. Regarding the Town’s survey I also heard this week from three citizens complimenting the Town and its employees for their excellent care and attention to their respective needs. One of those citizens was rescued by the Town’s Marine Patrol after running aground while attempting to sail to New York to celebrate a wedding anniversary. This week the community gathered at the Technical Rescue building

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to recognize and appreciate the members of the Tech Rescue Team for their service. Also recognized were members of the community who contributed time, expertise and money to build the garage that houses all the Tech Rescue equipment.

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