

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending December 13, 2013

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

Following five special work sessions with the Selectboard, a draft of the FY 2015 budget was presented to the Selectboard and public. A public hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting House in the Village. We are projecting a budget increase of \$443,588 or 3.99% to be raised by taxes, with an anticipated change in the tax rate of 0.0181 or a 3.21% increase in the tax rate. Of note, is that our operating expenses or non-personnel related expenses are only \$5,500 more than the FY12 budget. The cost drivers in our budget are personnel and benefit related which is to be expected as we are a service oriented organization. Town staff has undertaken a number of cost containment measures including:

- Reduced janitorial services by \$7,500 with new bid and centralized waste
- Change in health care plans - 7.9% change instead of past double digit increases
- Evaluation of options for additional public safety dispatch and policing
 - Limited overtime is less expensive than adding staff considering benefits and equipment
- Equipment maintenance and restoration improvements
 - Longer life and higher resale value on vehicles
 - Town garage heating supplemented with vehicle waste oil
- Sharing of equipment and services with other communities and the school district
 - Town maintains School District equipment and vehicles
 - Town and School collaboration on communications staff and school resource officers
 - Town and School District share telephone system and newspaper insert
 - Town uses School facilities for after school child care
 - Provision of public safety dispatch for Milton under contract
 - Mutual sharing of specialized road maintenance equipment with other towns
- Vermont Corrections work release program provides grounds maintenance
- Citizen Committees and volunteers perform critical functions
 - Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Technical Rescue
 - Conservation Committee provides Greenup Day, Leaf Collection, and Beautification
 - Boy Scouts provide federally mandated storm water information storm drain painting
- Improved gravel road grading and dust control process
 - Eliminated contractor expense
- Installation of LED lighting cut related bills in half
- On-line services for boards reduced paper, photocopier, and mailing costs
- Cross-training of town employees
 - Expansion of Town office hours by one hour a day
 - Increased workforce available for seasonal needs such as plowing
 - Increased staff available for wastewater maintenance
- On board vehicle systems
 - Police mobile data system reduces paperwork and increases safety

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

- Public works vehicles mobile data system optimizes salt use

For more information about the budget, go to: <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/TownMeeting.shtml>

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

Burnham Memorial Library—Kelly Tomaseski, Director

- The library will be closed on Tuesday, December 17 from 11:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., and we apologize for any inconvenience.
- For the month of December, the library is collecting for two different groups; we are collecting nonperishable foods for the Colchester Community Food Shelf, and we are also running our annual sock and mitten tree for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.
- The annual gingerbread house contest is up and running, so stop by and vote for your favorites!
- On Wednesday, December 18 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., join us for a Harry Potter-themed book discussion with Cole Fenton, designed for ages 9–13. Come join the book discussion, play trivia games, and have Harry Potter-related food and drink; call 264-5660 to sign up.
- Starting January 9, the Colchester Police Department and the library will offer a six-week self-defense class on Thursdays, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The course is taught by certified Rape Aggression Defense instructors and takes place at the Colchester Meeting House, next to the library. It is open to women ages thirteen and up. To sign up, please contact Corporal Jaime L. Bressler at jaime.bressler@state.vt.us or 264-5555.
- Here are a few of our other upcoming events:
 - Gentle Drop-In Yoga—Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. (the class will *not* be held on December 24 or December 31)
 - Scrabble Meet-Up—Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. (at the library)
 - Pajama Story Time—Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Saturday Drop-In Story Time—Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Library/> or call (802) 264-5660.

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

Town Clerk's Office—Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- This week, the Colchester Town Clerk's Office hosted the monthly meeting of the Chittenden/Grand Isle Clerks' Association. Our guest speaker, Attorney Kevin Shortell, from the law offices of Fred Peet Esq., spoke to us about foreclosures, trust documents, and life estates. Understanding the documents that are received for recording gives us a better knowledge of how to index them, which in turn makes them easier to search in the future.
- As the calendar year winds down, remember that you can call 264-5520 or you can e-mail us to request a statement of taxes paid for the year and a copy of your tax bill for tax purposes. The e-mail addresses are available on our website: <http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/townClerkHome.shtml>

For more information about the Town Clerk's Office,
<http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/townClerkHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5520

Economic Development Department—Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

Highlights of the activities of the Economic Development Department this week include the following:

- Held legislative breakfast
- Met with potential new business; streamlining process for them
- Met with firms regarding in-kind services
- Attended Allen & Brooks 2013 Real Estate Presentation
- Met with developer regarding proposed project
- Met with representatives of a new business and toured the facility
- Attended Community Center Initiative & Recreation Advisory Board Joint Meeting
- Attended Vermont Community Development Authority Annual Meeting
- Held a meeting to determine possible partnership with UVM Engineering
- Met with local business regarding logo contest and selection committee
- Continued working on logo contest and CCV professor partnership
- Continued working on building vacancies throughout the town

For more information about the Economic Development Department, please visit
<http://www.colchestervt.gov/CommEconomicDev/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5508.

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

Parks and Recreation Department—Glen Cuttitta, Director

The following are highlights from the recreation division of Colchester's Parks and Recreation Department:

In the Recreation Division:

- Youth basketball is in full swing
- Breakfast with Santa was a huge success again
- Working on instructor packets for the new LIFE program to be launched in Fall 2014
- Winter/Spring Program Guide will be going to the printer this week
- Planning for Winter Carnival
- Put down temporary lines on MBS gym floor for youth basketball
- In contact with Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) about developing trails at the Village Park

Bayside Activity Center—Week of December 16

- **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday walk-in hours:** 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- **Monday:** 10:00 a.m.—Body N Mind Mix
- **Monday:** 10:30 a.m.—Drop-In Game Time
- **Tuesday:** 1:00–2:00 p.m.—Tai Chi
- **Tuesday:** 5:30-7:30 p.m.—Holiday Block Printing Party
- **Wednesday:** 9:00–9:45 a.m.—Hatha Yoga
- **Thursday:** 1:00–2:00 p.m.—Tai Chi
- **Friday:** 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.—Crafty Club
- **Friday:** 1:00 p.m.—Movie matinee

The following is a list of projects/work accomplished this week in the parks division of Colchester's Parks and Recreation Department:

- General maintenance duties
- Tree and trail work at Airport Park
- Seasonal park employees are finished work for the year

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/parksNRec.shtml> or call (802) 264-5640.

Public Works Department—Bryan Osborne, Director

- A Request for Proposals from architectural firms to perform a Facilities Space Planning Assessment was issued. There are several public facilities that currently have inadequate space for their current and future uses. The study will evaluate and identify the preferred options to address these needs, including an assessment of other public facilities that may potentially offer solutions.

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

- Applications are currently being prepared for submission to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission for work to be performed within its FY'15 Unified Planning Work Program. Candidate projects include an assessment of all pedestrian crossings within the community to evaluate signage and the possible use of rectangular rapid flashing beacons, as well as a condition assessment of existing sidewalks to identify areas in need of repair for inclusion into the Capital Transportation Program.
- Attended a meeting at the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), along with Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Natural Resources Board, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Organization, and other interested parties to discuss on ongoing development and implementation of Fair Share Legislation, which attempts to apply transportation improvements costs more equitably to developers throughout the state.
- Attended a meeting of other Chittenden County MS4 Communities to discuss the development and implementation of a flow monitoring program within the impaired streams of Chittenden County as required under the recently renewed MS4 Stormwater Permits.
- Work continues on the reconstruction of the Meadow Drive drainage ditch, weather permitting. Design, permitting and right-of-way acquisition continue on the River Road sidewalk project, the Smith Estates stormwater overflow project, the East Road Culvert replacement project, the West Lakeshore Drive Shared Use Path, Fort Ethan Allen sidewalks, stormwater culvert replacement project on Malletts Bay Avenue and the water storage tank project on Water Tower Hill.
- To date, a total of 152 tons of salt and 164 yards of sand have been used within our Snow and Ice Removal Operations.

For more information about the Public Works Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PublicWorks/Home.shtml> or call (802) 264-5620.

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads—Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- Colchester Rescue responded to eighteen calls and transported fourteen people to the hospital. Three calls were turned over to other agencies because we were already on a call.

For more information about Colchester Rescue, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Rescue/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5990.

Assessor's Department—Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Assessor's Department is reviewing all new residential construction in Colchester that was under construction as of April 1 of this year or that was started after April 1 of this year.

If you have built or have purchased a newly constructed condo or house, we will be attempting to contact you to set up an appointment for an inspection of the interior and exterior of your new dwelling. A typical inspection takes roughly thirty minutes, the purpose of which is to assess all properties in town to the Fair For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

Market Value using the most up-to-date and accurate data possible; this will ensure that property owners do not pay more than their fair share of the tax burden.

If you would like to set up an appointment to have the assessor inspect your new dwelling, please call Donna at (802) 264-5670.

For more information about the Assessor's Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Assessor/assessorHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5670.

Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director

- The Selectboard approved Supplement 34 to the Zoning Regulations on December 10. These are the final four rezonings along Prim Road.
- The Development Review Board met on December 11 and approved the following:
 - 1) a new CVS pharmacy to replace the old Friendly's Restaurant building at Exit 16 on Roosevelt Highway
 - 2) an addition to the bowling alley on Lower Mountain View Drive
 - 3) a two-lot subdivision
 - 4) a seawall.

The Board also authorized staff to complete three site plans administratively.

- Continued Vermont Department of Commerce and Housing committee work on growth centers.
- Reviewed possible new tenant for restaurant at Severance Corners.
- Prepared build-out analysis for the Colchester Planning Commission on the wastewater allocation ordinance.

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

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