

**Colchester's Weekly Town News**  
For the Week Ending January 17, 2014

**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**

The Selectboard presented a revised budget at the January 14 public hearing. It reflects modifications suggested throughout the process of our six budget development meetings over the last five months. The proposed municipal general fund operating budget for FY'15 is \$11,828,841. There are \$2,086,436 in revenues from services like the ambulance, contracted public safety dispatch, grants for highway operating expenses, deed recording fees, and permits, as well as state and private payments in lieu of taxes. The net operating budget, proposed to be covered by property taxes, is \$9,742,405.

The Town of Colchester's citizens have authorized debt and multiyear capital programs to maintain our public infrastructure. In FY'15, these obligations total \$1,796,259. Our annual debt service for drainage improvements, the Bayside property, and the municipal and police buildings is \$629,012. Our capital programs for transportation, equipment, technology, communications, and parks total \$1,167,247.

Here are a few of the highlights as they relate to the amount of the budget to be raised by property taxes:

- Non-personnel-related expenses are \$51,211 *less* than they were four years ago
- 2.99 percent property tax increase
- The average municipal tax bill for a \$300,000 property would be \$1,742—an increase of \$50.67, or less than \$1 per week.
- \$0.0169 tax rate increase per hundred dollars of property value
- \$0.58093 tax rate per hundred dollars of property value

For an overview of the budget, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/TownMeeting.shtml>.

The Town received a clean, "unqualified" opinion on its annual independent audit. *The auditor noted that Colchester is a model for municipal government finance.* This is a tribute to the folks in the Finance Department: Mike Moffatt, Lara Alemy, Joe Landry, and Suzanne Murray as well as retired CFO Joan Boehm and Finance Officer Coral Coleman. Every department is involved in the Town's financial business and has contributed to this success. **We encourage you to view the audit; it is available at <http://colchestervt.gov/Finance/auditreports.shtml>.**

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

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

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

The library will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The federal tax forms should be arriving soon. The state no longer makes its tax forms available through libraries. In the next or two, citizens should be able to procure these forms 1) by e-mail request to [taxforms@state.vt.us](mailto:taxforms@state.vt.us); 2) by telephone at (802) 828-2515, or 3) on the web at [www.tax.vermont.gov](http://www.tax.vermont.gov). The library is now taking tax help appointments for the [AARP Tax Aide Service](#). Appointments are open to seniors and lower-income individuals and take place on Saturday mornings from February 1 to April 12.

One-on-one tutoring with [Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences](#) students will start up again soon for students in grades 1–6; the schedule is still to be determined.

The library will host a practice SAT exam on February 15 with a follow-up review on February 22.

There will also be a practice ACT exam on March 22 with a follow-up review on March 29; those interested in either or both of the practice exams will be able to register online on our website.

On Wednesday, January 29, the library will host a showing of the HBO documentary [The Final Inch](#), sponsored by the [Rotary Club of Colchester-Milton](#); the film is about the efforts to eliminate polio worldwide. After the film, Dr. Alicia Jacobs, MD, will speak about polio and the importance of vaccines.

Here are a few more of our upcoming events:

Toddler Story Time—Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Burnham Knitters—Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday Drop-In Story Time—Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Book Discussion: [Fourmile](#) by Watt Key—Monday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m.

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

## **Parks and Recreation Department—Glen Cuttitta, Director**

Highlights of the activities of the Parks and Recreation Department this week include the following:

- A [Colchester Recreation Advisory Board](#) meeting took place on January 9
- A Colchester Triathlon Committee meeting took place on January 9
- Winter programs have begun; registration is open
- [Colchester Youth Basketball League](#) completed Week 2 of its game schedule
- Winter Carnival's Colchester's Got Talent auditions held January 16 and 17 at [Colchester High School](#)
- Winter Carnival planning continues; the event will take place January 31–February 2, 2014
- Volunteer coaching applications are being accepted for youth lacrosse season

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- Registration for Colchester Youth Lacrosse League is open
- Applications are being accepted for summer employment
- Planning has begun for Summer 2014 camps, programs, and concerts
- A meeting between Colchester Parks & Recreation Department, Colchester School District, and community members took place on January 15 to discuss the LIFE program
- Ice removal of parking lots within Town parks has continued
- Preparations for the ice rink at Airport Park are under way; icy conditions and rain have delayed the project
- Tree removal and pruning within Town parks and around Town buildings due to ice storm damage is under way

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

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