

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of January 18, 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:

Burnham Memorial Library: Rubi Simon, Director

This week has been a busy one at the Burnham Library. For kids, we've had story times on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and on Wednesday we had our regular music and our monthly pajama story time. Tutoring starts next week. We also had our monthly Film Crew program, where teens collaborate with a staff member from LCATV to make their own video productions. For grown-ups, we had yoga, knitting, and a seminar on planning for college costs. Please note that the library will be closed on Monday, January 21, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Finally, for those who typically pick up tax forms from the library, neither the State nor Federal agencies have distributed their forms yet. We're expecting the Vermont state forms at the beginning of February. Though we haven't received a timetable from the IRS, they intend to start accepting filing on January 30, so there is some likelihood that paper forms could come out by/around that date. We will update our website as the forms arrive.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

The department has been engaged with typical support and troubleshooting this week, including desktops and servers, hardware and software.

Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

Colchester Police assisted the Colchester School District this week in a sweep of Colchester High School by several canine teams for the presence of drugs. CPD Corporal David Dewey is a canine instructor for the Vermont Criminal Training Council and he held a regional training for canine handlers on Monday January 14th at the high school. Corporal Dewey and K-9 Tazor joined teams from UVM, Shelburne, and Hardwick in the sweep. While this event provided training for the dogs and handlers, Colchester Police investigators and school administration were on hand to deal with any finds the dogs may have made. No drugs were located during this event.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue responded to 20 EMS calls, and transported 15 people to the hospital.

We are also happy to report two more of our members have completed the Paramedic testing

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

process. Once these two are brought up to speed with the current protocols, we will then have 4 full-time, 2 Per Diem, and 1 volunteer Paramedics!

We also have our first member finishing up the new curriculum of Advance EMT, and we have three more that have just started the course. Training is something that is ongoing in EMS. Whether it is members advancing their level of certification, or obtaining the 72 hours of continuing education we each need to recertify every two years.

Nothing to report from the Technical Rescue Team this week.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

This week auditions for the “Colchester’s Got Talent” show are taking place. There are 64 applicants trying out for 29 spots for the show that will take place on Friday, February 1st. The show kicks off the 30th Annual Colchester Winter Carnival. You can get more information about all the events at

www.colchestervt.gov

Work has started on the 29th Annual Colchester Triathlon. Our department is finalizing the new website and getting ready to go “live” with registrations in the next few weeks. New to the triathlon this year will be timing chips and instant online results. We are quite excited about moving forward technologically with this race.

In the parks, work continues on the repairs to the slope at Bayside Park. That work is a FEMA project that should be completed by the middle of February. The ice skating rink has been set up at Airport Park. With temperatures dropping over the next few days skating should be available by the beginning of next week. Praying for snow would definitely help get those XC trails going at Airport Park.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

Nothing to report this week.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

After some turn-over in staff in 2012, the Department of Planning and Zoning has recently filled two vacancies. We welcome Sarah Copen as our Administrative Assistant and Cathy Neary as our part-time Records Clerk. Both Sarah and Cathy brighten our front office and have started our new year on a very positive note. Supplement 32 to the Zoning Regulations, mostly pertaining to form based code for Severance Corners, has been warned by the Select Board for a hearing on February 12th and the regulations are now in effect. The Planning Commission continues to be busy with an update from Regional Planning on the ECOS project on February 5th and an update on the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan on February 19th. For upcoming Commission and Development Review Board agendas, please visit the Town’s website and use the ClerkBase page to view all applications and associated plans.

Clerk’s Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

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The deadline to file your petition if you are running for office is January 28th at 5 p.m. You need 30 signatures of registered voters. To date the following petitions have been filed: Dick Paquette – Selectman, 3 years; Marc Landry – Selectman, 2 years, Leora Black- Library Trustee, 5 years; Karen Richard – Town Clerk/Treasurer, 2 years; and Jerry Flanagan – Moderator, 1 year. There is an open position on the cemetery commission. It is a 5 year term. There are 3 positions on the school board and a lister position. Please call 264-5520 if you have any questions about the positions or the petition process.

We have been extremely busy processing passport applications. If you intend to vacation out of the country check your passport to see if it is current. Renewals are mailed directly to the passport agency. If you are applying for a passport for the first time we are able to process your application and do the passport photos.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

The preparations for the 2013 Grand List is ongoing. We are now inspecting all properties that have had physical changes . These inspections will continue until all neighborhoods in town have been reviewed. As well as site inspection we conduct ratio studies to ensure all properties are assessed at the same market level. By assessing all properties to the same market level we will have a fair and equitable property tax.

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

Leading up to the March vote on the FY 14 budget, we are enumerating some of the services that the Town provides to citizens. The Town’s operations could be divided into 4 categories: Public Works, Public Safety, Culture and Recreation and Administrative Services. For the next 4 weeks we will list some of the services offered by each category of service.



Public Works services make up 20% of the General Fund Budget for a total of \$2.29 million.

Public Works services fit into 6 subcategories:

- * Transportation
 - * Snow removal
 - * pavement markings
 - * traffic signals
 - * pot hole patching
- * Fleet Services
 - * Repair and maintenance of Police, Rescue, Public Works, and Parks equipment
- * Facilities Maintenance

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- * Cleaning, repair and preventative maintenance of 12 Town buildings
- * Water Pollution Control Management
 - * Street sweeping, basin and culvert cleaning
 - * Water quality monitoring
- * Engineering
 - * Traffic studies
 - * Development review, design services
- * Capital Improvements
 - * Paving, sidewalks, roadway and drainage improvements

Town Manager's Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager

Two important meetings occurred this week. The first was a meeting between the Selectboard and the FD#2 Prudential Committee to discuss the idea of collaborating on the development of a waste water system for the Malletts Bay area(s) of Town. The FD through its consultant, Joe Duncan, outlined the option of a sewer line extending from the Winooski River to Goodsell Point. The Town through its consultant, Brad Aldrich, outlined preliminary findings of the Lake water study. It was agreed that the Town would provide the Prudential Committee with information being developed about potential land uses on West and East Lakeshore Drives before the two Boards would meet again in March.

The second meeting of importance this week was the organizational meeting of the Governance Committee organized as a study group under the Heritage Project. The Governance Committee will review and update the Town's Charter. Additionally, the Committee will examine more substantive issues regarding community governance given the growth of Colchester. As an initial step towards its mission, the Committee decided it wanted to meet with the Selectboard to introduce themselves and discuss the broad issues of governance for the purpose developing a trusting relationship as the foundation to develop a new Charter for the Town's consideration.

Town offices will be closed Monday, January 21st in celebration of Martin Luther Day.