

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week of January 19, 2015

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

We appreciate the community's patience as we have undertaken investigations including external reviews and an evidence audit in the aftermath of Tyler Kinney's arrest on November 10, 2014.

Shortly after the arrest, Chief Morrison called for an audit of the Department's evidence and procedures. On November 24th, with the knowledge of the Selectboard and Chief Morrison, I engaged the services of Dan Troidl, a former 27 year veteran investigator with the Vermont State Police and now owner of DT Investigators, to conduct an independent and objective assessment of the Colchester Police Department's investigation practices and procedures as it relates to an earlier allegation involving Tyler Kinney.

We have provided a summary of the findings of these investigations on the Police Department's website at <http://www.colchestervt.gov/Police/inforelease.shtml>

Recommendations for changes to policies, procedures and resources as well as a status report on implementing same are included. While in hindsight, a more rigorous investigation could have taken place and some policies/best practices were not followed, I am supportive of Chief Morrison's leadership and believe she has the support of the Department's employees and the Colchester Selectboard to move the Department forward such that it will be an even stronger organization in the future.

We thank the community for their support of Chief Morrison and the Colchester Police Department throughout these last two months. Many people have reached out to us and expressed their appreciation for the exemplary work that our employees do day in and day out. Our sincere hope is that the actions of Tyler Kinney do not cast doubt on the rest of the department who work tirelessly to protect Colchester. All of us are committed to making positive changes to ensure that something like this incident does not happen again. We thank you for your understanding and will be working hard to regain the community's trust in the days ahead.

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

Our Winter Book Sale takes place on Saturday, February 14th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Burnham Library. Don't miss our wide variety of gently used books and audiovisual materials - all at bargain prices! The sale will include books, CD's, movies, and more, for kids and adults.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

We'll be accepting book donations until Wednesday, February 11th. Please, no encyclopedias, textbooks, periodicals, or books in bad condition. The Friends need extra hands; call the library at 264-5660 for info about volunteering.

From our Young Adult department - At Teen Tinker Tuesday (February 17th at 4:30 pm) we're making tiny books for necklaces, keychains, phone charms, or just to enjoy on their own. At B*Tween the Classics: Readaloud (Feb. 12 and 26 at 4:30 pm) you can come listen to some great stories.

One-on-One Tutoring with the Albany College of Pharmacy students is up and running again. The program focuses on grades 1-6.

The library is starting a writing group for adults. Our organizational meeting will take place on Monday, February 9th at 6:30 p.m.

The AARP Tax Aide program is once again going to be offering free tax help to low-income Seniors and others, with appointments on Saturday mornings.

The library will only get a limited selection of forms: **1040**, **1040A** and **1040EZ** from the IRS; and **no** forms from the State. To get forms from the IRS, you may

- download them from <http://irs.gov/Forms>;
- request them online at <http://irs.gov/orderforms>;
- request them by phone at 1-800-829-3676.

To get forms from the State, you may

- download them from <http://tax.vermont.gov/>;
- order them via e-mail at taxforms@state.vt.us;
- order them by phone at 1-855-297-5600.

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

The following is a small sampling of tasks completed by Colchester's Parks and Recreation Department:

- Meeting with LIFE Advisory Board to identify how to market programs to the public
- Coordinating LIFE program Instructors
- LIFE program is in full swing with many participants registering for programs
- Youth Basketball is in full swing with games taking place on Saturdays
- New kindergarten basketball program is running with great success
- Winter/Spring program brochure is complete and registrations are currently being accepted
- ACE Afterschool program currently being run in four Colchester Schools

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

- Working on grant for Building Bright Futures program
- Activity brochure for Colchester Winter Carnival is now available online.
- Looking for Winter Carnival volunteers. Contact us at 264-5640 if interested
- Talent Show auditions for Winter Carnival
- Visited all Colchester Cemeteries and will be evaluating maintenance status of each
- Ongoing Maintenance of Colchester Cemeteries
- Developing a long term maintenance and repair plan for the Colchester Cemeteries
- Working with Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to create a trail network at new Village Park
- Working on Recreation Trails Grant for Village Park
- Completing Land, Water Conservation Fund Grant application for trail network at Village Park
- Identifying space need for new Parks Maintenance building at Airport Park
- Assisting Public Works in completing the RFP for the Parks Maintenance building at Airport Park
- Received six applications for the Artistic Bike Rack call to artists and they will be displayed at Winter Carnival
- Currently working on summer camps and programs
- Advertising for and contacting summer staff
- Creating new refund and weather policy for all race events offered by Colchester Parks and Recreation

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

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.