

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of July 7, 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 Governance Committee met with the Selectboard to present some suggested changes to the Town's Charter. The Selectboard will be holding a work session on 7/17 to review the changes and hope to hold hearings in September and October in advance of a town vote on these changes on November 4th. A summary of the recommended changes under consideration are:

- Rather than an 8 % penalty for late tax payments established in the Charter, allow the Selectboard to determine the penalty via policy.
- Change the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions so as to be appointed by the Town Manager rather than elected subject to the advice and consent of the Selectboard in order to vet credentialed candidates that are prepared for the immense complexity and responsibility of the positions.
- Remove positions that are no longer relevant such as the Grand Juror, Fence Viewer, Constable and Tax Collector.
- Housekeeping changes and removal of references to a specific start time for Town Meeting as well as the requirement for the Town Manager to attend every Selectboard meeting.
- Change the process for Ordinance adoption, amendment and repeal.
- Changes to the structure and responsibilities for the Cemetery Commission.

As always, your thoughts about these proposed changes are welcome and more detail is available on the town's website at

http://www.colchestervt.gov/governance/Governance_ProgressReport_July.pdf

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

News and updates from Burnham Library:

- Book Sale - We'd like to thank everyone who came out and made our book sale such a success. We would also like to sincerely thank the many volunteers whose sweat and hard work these many weeks made the sale possible. Funds from the book sale and the Friends of the Library's other efforts help to support our programs over the summer, and throughout the year.
- Farmers' Market – The Colchester Farmers' Market is up and running. Every Wednesday (rain or shine) you can stop by the Library green from 4-7 pm. The market features local farmers, artisans, food vendors, and music. Come for entertainment, a snack, and some produce.

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

- July 16 – Our musical act will be Audrey Houle, and at our wellness table the Lions Club and Colchester Family Practice will talk about “Check your sugar!”
 - July 23 – Our musical act will be Suzuki Violins, and at our Wellness table will be Amy Bacon Catering and Colchester Family Practice with a food demonstration called “Fresh Sauces.”
 - July 30 – Our Wellness table will have RehabGYM talking about “Use It to Lose It.”
- Blue Collar America - In this four-part Vermont Humanities Council program, we'll be discussing the working class, looking past stereotypes to examine the realities of minimum wage existence, small-town economics, and social divisions. The discussions will be led by Suzanne Brown. On **Monday, July 21 at 6 p.m.** we'll discuss *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo. Copies of the book are available for checkout.
 - Summer Programs – The library has a wide variety of programs for all age ranges this summer! Here are a few examples:
 - For kids** we've got:
 - Gases - Not Just Hot Air! (Monday, July 14 at 3:30 pm)
 - Monster Hunters (Friday, July 18 at 3 pm)
 - Colchester Baby/Toddler Social (Saturday, July 26 from 12-2 pm).
 - For teens** there's:
 - Body Art/Henna Tattoos (Thursday, July 17 from 2-4 pm)
 - Tie Dye for Teens (Tuesday, July 22 at 4 pm)
 - Toss your Cookies (August 5 from 3-5 pm).
 - For adults** we have:
 - Bird Songs & Calls (Monday, July 28 from 6-7 pm)
 - Trivia at the Library (Thursday, Aug. 7 at 6:30 pm)
 - Autumn Garden Display (Monday, Aug. 11 from 6-7:30 pm).

We also have adult summer contests for reading books, attending programs, and guessing author photos—stop by to participate. You can find out more by picking up a brochure, or checking out our website (colchestervt.gov/Library/). You can register for all of our programs at our website as well.

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

- Completed work for the July 4th activities
- Planning for the Colchester Triathlon continues as athletes register. The Triathlon will take place on July 27th
- We are now recruiting Colchester Triathlon volunteers

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

- Created a new day camp for children on wait-lists for the Explorer Camp
- Coordinating the start of the Bayside Summer Concert Series on July 24th
- Created the ACE program for Colchester Middle School students
- Coordinating up to seven camps per week.
- Working on creating the first brochure for the LIFE program which will be out in August.
- Hosted Men's Lacrosse Tournament at Airport Park
- Athletic field scheduling is currently taking place.
- Pavilion rentals requests are currently taking place with most weekend dates already reserved.
- Colchester Village Park Phase 1b construction is on track to be completed by July 15th
- Creating bid documents for replacement of two mowers in the Capital Equipment Plan

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