

## **Colchester's Weekly Town News**

For the Week of July 20, 2012

**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**

It was another active week at the library. We've just launched a contest to design our new library cards, which is open to all residents until Aug. 24th - entries are available online, or at the library. Week two of the Farmers' Market went well, with a few new vendors selling produce, lemonade, and tea. Last weeks' programming included our Welcome Baby Ice Cream Social (along with Building Bright Futures of Colchester), a session of games and races for kids on the front lawn, and another meeting of the Young Adult Film Crew with help from LCATV. Finally, we'd like to give a belated thanks to Claussen's Greenhouse, for all of their help at our Book Sale in June.

### **IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department**

This week we began preparing surplus equipment for sale to the public. Josh has begun the process of developing an updated version of the town website and continues to keep the Facebook and Blog up to date.

### **Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief**

With the end of the Fiscal Year, June 30, the Police Department analyzed our statistical data. Comparing FY12 with FY 11 found a 1.8% drop in our total incidents. In this period we further experienced a 5.5% drop in crime and a very slight decrease in crashes investigated.

### **Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief**

Colchester Rescue responded to 21 calls, and turned over 1 call while on another. Of the 21 responses, 15 people were transported to the hospital.

Colchester Technical Rescue did not have any calls this week. However, it has been working on purchasing replacement equipment, funded through another Homeland Security grant. This grant has a quick 30 day turn around. Which means that obtaining quotes, as well as ordering and receiving the equipment, has to be completed by July 31st.

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

### **Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director**

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Colchester Triathlon will take place and we are in dire need of volunteers to assist us in the transition zones. This is a great Colchester event and when you volunteer you get a really cool Triathlon T-Shirt. If you can help us please contact Kelly McGinley at 264-5647.

Do you enjoy playing Wiffleball? Get a team together and join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill Kohlasch Wiffleball Tournament. The cost is \$225 per team and the proceeds go to his children's college fund. Bill was a teacher at Malletts Bay School for 18 years and assisted us during the summers. In 2005, he passed away after a 5 year battle with melanoma. This event is loads of fun so go to our website at [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov) for more information.

Reminder that the Colchester Community Band is performing at Lower Bayside Park on Saturday, July 21 at 7pm and our Bayside Concert Series continues on Thursdays, July 26, August 2 and August 9 at 7pm.

### **Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director**

Bid opening was held for the East Road Depot Road Intersection reconstruction project. A total of eight contractors submitted bid proposals for the project. The low bid was \$448,360 which is \$161,640 under the \$610,000 project budget. An additional \$260,000 in grants and other funding has been secured for this project. Final project cost to the community is expected to be approximately \$188,000, or about a \$422,000 savings.

### **Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director**

At the last Select Board meeting, the Board decided to extend the waiver of fees for temporary sign permits until the new permit fees go into effect. Please note: All signs still require permits! The Planning & Zoning Office continues to be busy with both building permits and Development Review Board applications with hearings now being booked for September as these are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for action have also escalated with neighbor complaints as more people leave windows open during the hot weather. Colchester does not have a noise ordinance and enforcement for these types of complaints is therefore limited. We urge everyone to be considerate.

### **Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk**

Town Clerk's Office – The tax bills were mailed last week. The Clerk's office has been very busy fielding questions re: the tax bills, state credits etc. If you have not received your bill, or if you have any questions regarding your bill, please give us a call.

Election note: If your polling location is Colchester High School, you will be voting at Malletts Bay School for the state primary election that is being held on August 28<sup>th</sup>, due to a scheduling conflict at the High School. Colchester 9-1 will be voting at the Meeting House on Main Street, as usual. The ballots have arrived and you are welcome to stop by the office to vote early.

### **Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor**

The Assessor's Office has been updating the mailing addresses so we have the most current addresses of all the citizens that live in town. We have been very busy over the last couple of months preparing information for appeals of the Board of Civil Authority's 2011 decisions to the State Appraiser and

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Superior Court. We are also working on assigning E-911 addresses to the new buildings being built this spring and summer.

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

Nothing to report.

**Town Manager's Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager**

Nothing significant happened this week. Negotiations with the State moved along after a hiccup or two regarding education taxes for a nonprofit corporation. The United States Department of State has asked the Vermont Council on World Affairs to host a delegation of people from Kazakhstan interested in “local government”. The Council in turn has asked the Town to meet with this delegation to discuss the process of local governance. Kazakhstan was under Soviet control prior to its downfall but remains under Russian influence. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week in December. These discussions will be open to the public and provide an opportunity for a “people to people” exchange. If anyone would like to host a delegate please call the Town Manager.