

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of June 7, 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:

Town Manager’s Office – Dawn Francis, Town Manager

The bond vote for the Windemere Estates Mobile Home Park wastewater upgrade passed and I am appreciative of the voters’ support of this much needed loan to the non-profit owner of the park. The taxpayers will be protected by an escrow in the unlikely event of a default and there are no additional impacts to the taxpayers expected.

Jennifer Morrison, Deputy Chief of Police of Burlington has been provided a conditional offer of employment for the position of Police Chief in Colchester. This offer is subject to an extensive background investigation and the negotiation of the terms of employment which are just getting underway. This background investigation may take up to 3-4 weeks, and therefore, a formal announcement of Jennifer’s hiring is premature.

This decision was extremely difficult given the solid reputation of the Colchester Police Department and the support the community and the department has expressed for both Lt. Jeff Barton, and Lt. Doug Allen who were also qualified contenders for the position. I have asked the prospective Police Chief candidate to work with both Lieutenants as part of the management team that will bring new energy and ideas to improve the already excellent reputation of the department and its service to the community. Ms. Morrison has already reached out and met with both Lts. as I have emphasized she will need to work closely with them as a management team to move the department to another level of excellence. While the initial news was difficult to deliver and receive, Lts. Barton and Allen have been gracious and pledged to assist in the transition when it occurs.

Burnham Memorial Library: Hannah Peacock, Assistant Director

Here at the library, we're looking forward to the start of our summer programming, on

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Monday, June 17th. We'll have kickoff music that day, with The Irregulars, a talented and energetic youth ensemble, at 3 pm (at the Colchester Meeting House). From June through August, we'll have a full schedule of events, such as *I Dig Legos!* for kids, *Reading Buddies Mentorships* for teens, and *Urban Gardening* for adults - check out our calendar for more information. We'd like to thank everyone who attended Jack Mayer's talk on his book *Life in a Jar* on Monday, as well as the Vermont Humanities Council for making it possible. Next Wednesday (June 12th) will be the inaugural Farmers' Market of the season, from 4-7 pm. There will be a wide range of food and craft vendors, as well the Polka band "Inseldudler" from 5:30-7 pm. Looking ahead, our Summer Book Sale takes place from June 28-30.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

We prepared equipment for the vote, and undertaken various printer and software fixes. The town email address has been spoofed by spammers and we have experienced the rejection of emails sent to some addresses because of blacklisting.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue responded to 17 EMS calls, and transported 15 people to the hospital. One call was turned over while we were already on a call.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division, Charter Day is finally here! There has been lots of energy from committee members and staff in planning the Charter Day events taking place on Saturday, June 8 from 12:30 to 7:30 pm at Bayside Park. Staff training will be taking place for all our seasonal staff. There is limited space in camps so get to our website and register now. Staff also assisted with School District in putting up a tent for Porter Point's Project Inside Out Program.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

The Colchester Planning Commission was presented with the final findings of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan. A building permit for site work was issued for a new 30,150 sq. ft. building with two suites on Rathe Road. We are continuing to work with the owners of the failed wastewater system at Broad Acres Bingo to install a new system and regularly pump out the tank in the interim.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

As the fiscal year comes to an end, we begin to prepare the new tax bills that are mailed mid-July. As part of the preparation we receive reports from the state tax department, informing us

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if our residents have filed their homestead forms. At this time there are approximately 500 residents that had a homestead status last year and have not filed yet this year. Failing to file will result in a tax bill calculated at the non-residential rate. Please verify that you have filed your homestead form. If you are unsure you can call our office at 264-5520 for the information, or you can check our website for the updated list at

<http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/images/SPAN05292013.xls.pdf>

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

The 2013 “Abstract” Grand List has been completed. The “Change of Assessment Notices” has been sent out on May 31, 2013. Only the property owners that had a change in their assessments will receive a “Change of Assessment Notices.” The Abstract Grand List is available for review at the town office. Appeal hearings to the Board of Listers will be held on June 14th and 17th, 2013. If you have any questions please contact the Assessor’s Office @ (802) 264-5670.

Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO

I will be offering a Municipal Finance Course on July 17 at the Town Hall on Blakely Road at 7 PM. The course should last about 2 hours. The course will be on government accounting and budgeting to help anyone learn more about the finances of the Town work. Several people have indicated their desire to attend. If anyone else should want to attend, please contact me at jboehm@colchestervt.gov

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