

## Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of June 14, 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**

Due to the hard work of many, Colchester’s Charter Day celebration was a resounding success with several hundred people in attendance. The community will also be celebrating the official launch of the Bike Ferry at the end of the newly renovated Causeway trail this weekend. The summer ferry schedule will be: 10am to 6pm Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays (June 14 - September 2). Volunteer shifts to work as deckhands and greeters are needed to make this community asset work.

### **Burnham Memorial Library: Hannah Peacock, Assistant Director**

At the Burnham Library, we are getting in to the swing of Summer. We had our first Farmers’ Market on Wednesday, with a wide-range of vendors as well as polka music. The Market will be taking place every Wednesday from 4-7 pm, until September. We have a wide variety of summer programs available for all ages,

([http://colchestervt.gov/Library/attachments/summer\\_reading2013.pdf](http://colchestervt.gov/Library/attachments/summer_reading2013.pdf)) - from circus arts and reptiles for kids, to an animation camp for teens, and gardening for adults. Follow the link on our website (<http://colchestervt.gov/Library/>) to sign up. On Monday, June 17 at 3 pm, we’ll launch our summer schedule with the help of the band ‘The Irregulars’ - stop on by! We’ll also have a program entitled Urban Gardening for Dummies, led by landscape architect Paul Simon and master gardener Charlie Nardozi; that will take place on Monday, June 24 at 6:30 pm. And keep in mind - the Friends of the Library Summer Book Sale runs from June 28-30!

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

Rescue responded to 17 EMS calls, and transported 12 people to the hospital.

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

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

In the Recreation Division, the Causeway 5/15K race was a success, with 200 runners participating. With school ending on Wednesday, summer staff training is taking place this week with camps kicking off on Monday. Many of the camps are full, so check the Parks and Recreation website at [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov) for availability. An Open House for the former Senior Center was held and we invite you to come by and check out the programs at our new Bayside Activities Center.

In the Parks Division, staff is working hard to keep up with all of the mowing due to the rain. Park preparations are continuing for camps and pavilion rentals.

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

The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday 6/18 to discuss rezoning in the vicinity of Heineberg Road. The Commission listened to property owner feedback at the May meeting and is now proposing to keep and maybe even expand GD1 (mixed use) zoning in this area. The Commission will also discuss revisions to the regulations to allow drive-throughs at shopping centers. The June 26<sup>th</sup> DRB meeting is full and the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting is now being booked.

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

This is the time of the year that our office reviews all of the delinquent taxes and determines which accounts need to be turned over to an attorney for tax sale. In this current year we billed more than \$36 million dollars. The amount remaining delinquent at this time is \$206,069. The amount for the previous year is \$72,500. If you happen to have delinquent taxes please contact us at 264-5520 so that we can work out a payment plan and avoid attorney fees.

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

The 2013 "Abstract" Grand List has been completed. Appeal hearings to the Board of Listers will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Result of Grievance Notices will be sent out within 14 days of the close of the Lister Grievance hearings. If you have any questions please contact the Assessor's Office @ (802) 264-5670.

### **Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO**

Our year-end is approaching. We will be analyzing the results for the year and preparing for the audit. We expect a surplus this year due to changes we made to reduce our health insurance costs and to staff vacancies. In addition, we have had an officer deployed for much of the year. As data becomes more refined, I will report the results for the year soon.

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