

## Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of June 21, 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**

I continue to spend time attending various community events, boards, committees and familiarizing myself with the issues in the community. The highlights this week included meetings with the Colchester Community Development Corporation and the Colchester Community Economic Development Advisory Council to obtain their comments on the draft Economic Development Action Plan. This plan is available on the town's website or at the library and town hall for the public's review and comments. Let us know what YOU think!  
<http://www.colchestervt.gov/CommEconomicDev/documents/ColchesterActionPlan-Draft-1.pdf>

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

Exit 16 Sidewalk Project is under construction.

Capital Paving Program is scheduled to commence on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>. Roads to be paved are -Blakely Road, Malletts Bay Avenue, Pine Lane, Creek Road and Shetland Lane. Work is expected to be substantially completed by July 8, 2013.

Heavy rains within the last week of May have revealed significant problems with portions of the Town's aging storm water system. It is estimated that repairs/replacements of these facilities may cost upwards of \$500,000.

Design work has begun on the Fort Ethan Allen sidewalk project and the West Lakeshore drive Multi-Use Path.

Design work is continuing on the Water Tower Hill Water Storage tank, the River Road sidewalk project, the Meadow Drive Drainage project, and the Severance Corners Intersection project.

The Integrated Water Resource Project has now been completed with the final presentation having been delivered to both the Planning Commission and Select Board.

Maintenance crews are performing the annual application of pavement markings

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

throughout the community with cross priority being placed on pedestrian cross walks in high traffic areas.

Crews are continuing to perform grading on the Town's 13 miles of gravel roads in preparation for the application of dust control agents. While these operations have been hindered by persistent rains over the past 3-4 weeks, the goal is to have this work completed by July 1, 2013.

The LED Street Lighting project is now substantially complete and we are seeing a 57% reduction in our monthly street lighting bills which equates to approximately \$72,000 per year.

DPW is exploring a fleet lease opportunity through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for an electric car. Our goal is to reduce our transportation and fleet costs through the exploration of alternative fueled vehicles.

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

This week we are finishing our Network and Security Assessment being performed by PanurgyVT. We should receive a 'report card' within the next two weeks. We are also preparing for next week's installation of a new server and backup system.

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

Rescue responded to 20 EMS calls, and transported 16 people to the hospital.

The Technical Rescue Team was dispatched to help with an overturned kayaker, but later cancelled when she was located safe and sound.

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

In the Recreation Division, the first week of summer camps has begun. Our Explorer Camp has a record of 80 campers and the staff has been fantastic. Along with that camp we had seven others that are running this week. Planning continues for the Fourth of July parade and fireworks show just two weeks away. More information will be forthcoming, but with high lake levels right now the fireworks show will be held on the softball field at Bayside Park. Planning continues on the Colchester Triathlon which will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of volunteers for this huge community event. If you are interested, contact Derek Mitchell at 264-5642.

In the Parks Division, pavilion rentals are at an all-time high, so cleaning and preparing this area has the staff quite busy. Swim area lines were installed at Bayside Beach and Rossetti Natural Area. Airport Park was quite busy last weekend with Nordic Cup soccer and baseball events. Airport Park is hosting an adult lacrosse tournament.

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

The Department continues to be busy with summer construction projects and has received many requests for inspections or certificates of compliance for sales and refinancing.

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

We are in the process of preparing the tax bills for the upcoming year. Expect to see your tax bill in your mailbox close to July 10<sup>th</sup>. The first installment is due August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are a resident of Colchester please check your bill to make sure that it has been calculated at the residential tax rate. You must file your homestead declaration in order to have the residential rate on your bill. If you have any questions regarding the homestead declarations you may call our office at 264-5520.

**Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor**

The 2013 "Abstract" Grand List has been completed. Appeal hearings to the Board of Listers are complete and the Results of Grievance Notices will be sent out no later than 7 days of the close of the Lister hearings. Any changes to the Grand List will be made and the Grand List will be "lodged" with the Town Clerk. If you have any questions please contact the Assessor's Office @ (802) 264-5670.

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

Nothing to report.