

**Colchester's Weekly Town News**  
For the Week Ending March 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 Town's budget proposal was defeated by 166 votes in Australian ballot voting on Town Meeting Day by 2,956 voters out of 11,319 registered voters. We had a high turnout of 300-plus people for the community dinner and budget presentations the night before the vote. On behalf of the community, thank you to Town Clerk Karen Richard, all of the employees in the Town Clerk's Office, Public Works employees, our poll workers, and Colchester School District employees who all had a hand in the Town Meeting Day preparations. We also appreciate our legislators who took the time to provide us with important information about the legislative session.

We all share our taxpayers' frustration with the rising tax burden, and our selectboard and staff will be working diligently over the next few weeks to present budget reductions that will involve the tough choices necessary to regain your support and trust in the services that are being provided to you. But we need your help. Please e-mail me, or use the form available on the Town's website (<http://colchestervt.gov/survey.shtml>) to provide us with your ideas as to what should be cut. Our budget proposal is also available on our website for your perusal.

We appreciate the voters' support of the articles to change our Capital Equipment Plan so as to allow for major building repairs and the additional appropriation for the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA).

We also thank selectboard member Renn Niquette for her years of service in the Town of Colchester. She led and served the community admirably and made difficult decisions over her many years on the Colchester School Board (1998–2007), Colchester Selectboard (2011–2014), Vermont State Legislature (one term), and as a justice of the peace (2003–2015).

Finally, we welcome our newest selectboard member, Jeffrey Bartley, and look forward to working with him on making our community a better and more sustainable place to live.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml>, or call (802) 264-5509.

**Economic Development Department—Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

Below are some of the initiatives the Economic Development Department is currently working on.

- **Healthcare Breakfast**—After surveying our business community, we are cohosting a business breakfast on health care and its impact to our business community with the Colchester Community Development Corporation (CCDC). Join us and the CCDC on Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00 a.m. at the Hampton Inn. The following speakers will share a variety of information:
  - **Al Gobielle**, chair of the Vermont Green Mountain Care Board, will share his perspective as a business owner on how the rollout is going, what glitches need to be fixed, and how to plan for future health care costs.
  - **Cassandra Gekas**, planning and policy chief of Vermont Health Connect (VHC), will provide an update on where things stand with VHC, what the State is doing, and what the business community should plan for.
  - **Cathy Davis**, vice president of public affairs with the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce (LCRCC), will share some of the concerns that she hears from the business community, any legislative actions, and what LCRCC is doing to advocate for the business community.

Come join us for a panel discussion on health insurance and how it affects you and your business!

- **Residential Brochure**—I am continuing to work with a committee from the Leadership Champlain program on the new *Colchester Residential Guide*. The guide is meant for existing and new residents and will be available later this year. The guide is being compiled at no cost to the Town; we utilize these types of low- to no-cost services whenever possible.
- **CCTA Bus Service**—We will soon hold two public hearings on CCTA’s commuter bus service, which starts on June 16, 2014. The hearings will take place during the selectboard meetings of March 11 and April 8; both meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Meeting House. Once the schedules have been finalized, we will promote the services to residents and area businesses.
- **Economic Development Opportunities**—I am continually working with prospects on relocating or expanding into our business community, as well as working with existing businesses, landowners, and developers. This also includes working with local, regional, and state agencies to offer the tools needed for business to succeed.
- **Energy Park**—We are working with area businesses and landowners on the possibility of an energy park that could assist technology and the production of renewable energy and solar energy.

For more information about the Economic Development Department, please e-mail Kathi Walker O’Reilly at [koreilly@colchestervt.gov](mailto:koreilly@colchestervt.gov), or call (802) 264-5508.

### **Planning and Zoning Department—Sarah Hadd, Director**

The Planning and Zoning Department reports the following:

- The Town Plan will be heard by the selectboard on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Meeting House. A second public hearing has been scheduled for April 8. The Colchester Planning Commission has realigned its meeting schedule during this review period to attend the selectboard hearings; however, it will hold a work session with the board on March 18.
- The Development Review Board met on February 26 and approved all agenda items, including a two-lot subdivision at 1086 Braeloch Road, a twenty-two-unit planned residential development comprised of eleven duplexes and a 1,500-foot-long public road and sidewalk between Fox Run and East Lakeshore Drive, and an after-the-fact variance for a home at 171 Marble Island Road.
- The Development Review Board will meet on March 26 to consider a two-lot residential subdivision at 920 Shore Acres Drive, slope reconstruction at 13 East Island Road, a 10,000-square-foot addition to an approved but not constructed 10,000-square-foot office building at 525 Hercules Drive, an amendment to a seawall at 662 West Lakeshore Drive, a two-lot residential subdivision at 344 Porters Point Road, and an amendment to a site with a 188-unit hotel with a 5,222-square-foot standard restaurant at 38 Lower Mountain View Drive to demolish a single-family dwelling and construct a 6,000-square-foot shopping center.
- The old Friendly’s Restaurant at Exit 16 will soon be demolished, and construction on a new CVS pharmacy with drive-through service will begin. At this time, no plans have been submitted for what may replace the old Casa Romano that was demolished on West Lakeshore Drive across from the boat access.

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/planningZHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5600.