

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

For the Week of March 8, 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:**

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

This has been a typical week at the library: children have worked on their math with tutors; kids have participated in story and music times; fourth, fifth, and sixth graders have had a discussion about an award winning book; adults have practiced yoga; and teens have worked together on writing projects. There is still space in the tutoring program, as well as with the AARP Tax Assistance Program, so call to sign-up for a spot. Our two-part Practice ACT Exam is on March 30th and April 6th – the registration link is on our website. And though the weather is still a bit wintry, vendor applications are now available for the Colchester Farmers’ Market, which will run from June 12th till September 11th. Applications are available from the library, or at the website (<http://colchesterfarmersmarket.wordpress.com/>).

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

The Technology department is preparing a server for installation of new software as well as troubleshooting desktop computer updates and hardware.

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

For the last 43 years I have been a member of your police department, for the last 34 years as Chief of Police. I have decided it is time to retire effective May 31. I want to thank all of the citizens who have supported me and the department during this time. It is with mixed feeling that this decision is made given the fact that I love my job; however, I do look forward to the future. Your department employees a fine group of exceptional men and women dedicated to keeping you safe. Thank you.

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

Rescue was called to 20 EMS calls this week, and transported 12 people to the hospital. Nothing to report from the Technical Rescue team this week.

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

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

The Summer Program Brochure should be in your mailboxes by Friday, 3/8. Registration for all programs are open online and in person at the Parks and Recreation Department. Youth lacrosse registration continues but will be closing by 3/15. If you have not registered your child who may be interested please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office. Planning is complete for a 5k & 15k running race on the Colchester Causeway. The race will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information on our programs and events, visit [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov)

In the Parks Division, staff is finalizing all the Parks Capital Plan projects that are going to take place this summer. Seasonal Park Staff will start on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Barring any large snow events the field ability may be earlier than anticipated.

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

Held the kick off meeting for the Colchester-Essex Network Transportation Study, (CENTS). As a part of the Circ. Alternatives process, this study is being conducted to examine the impacts to both the Rt. 2A and Severance Road corridors within Colchester as a result of the partial completion of the Circ. Highway, and to identify possible mitigation measures.

Presented the IWRP Task 4 Report to the Planning Commission outlining the existing conditions, as well as opportunities and constraints relating to the on-site wastewater systems within the community that had previously been identified as being located within high priority areas.

Completed a draft Feasibility Study for a Stormwater Utility as part of the IWRM work.

Began development of the FY14 Wastewater Operating budget to be submitted to the Board of Sewer Commissioners in the beginning of April, 2013.

Maintenance crews have begun performing limited grading along the Town's 13 miles of gravel roads to address rough conditions. With several weeks remaining within which snow events could occur, we must avoid any aggressive grading which would disturb the frozen surfaces, thereby creating both an operational and safety hazard in the event that the roads must be plowed.

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

On March 19<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission will have an informal public input session on several of the proposed rezonings along the Heineberg Drive and Prim Road corridor at the Meeting House at 7PM. There is currently a vacancy on the Commission. The Costco stormwater permit was upheld recently by the Natural Resources Board. An appeal of the local and state Act 250 approvals are still pending. Several pre-construction meeting have been scheduled for the coming days so it appears this spring will be a busy construction season including a new State of Vermont Health Lab on South Park Drive.

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

The election on Tuesday was well attended. The total ballots cast were 2,890 with 443 of those voting early or absentee. Thanks to the many people that brought food to the polls to benefit the Colchester Food Shelf. To view the election results please go to the website:

<http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/images/2013TownMeetingResults.pdf>

Now that the election is over we are gearing up for tax collection and dog licensing. Taxes are due on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We now accept credit cards, but there is a service fee to the credit card company that is

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paid by the taxpayer for the convenience. Please license your dog by April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid the late fee.

**Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor**

Nothing to report.

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

I would like to offer a short course in municipal budgeting and general government finances to interested citizens of Colchester. If you would like to learn more about government finances, please contact Joan Boehm at 264-5502 or [jboehm@colchestervt.gov](mailto:jboehm@colchestervt.gov). Together we will set up a time to meet.

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

Selectboard changes to the Town's governance resulted with Tom Mulcahy's victory in the election contest between himself and Dick Paquette. On behalf of the Town I extend my congratulations to Tom and extend my thanks to Dick for his years of service and dedication to the Town. Another change is also being announced in today's newsletter and that is the announcement of the retirement of the Chief of Police, Charles Kirker. On behalf of the Town and myself, Chief Kirker has earned all our thanks and appreciation for his years of service and dedication to the Town and its Police Department. Both Dick and Chief have been pillars in the life of Colchester's community. They deserve our best wishes for happy and healthy lives.

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