

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week Ending March 14, 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

Last week, the Colchester Selectboard and I asked for taxpayers' input in determining budget cuts. We share our taxpayers' frustration with the rising property tax rate. The selectboard and staff are working to present budget reductions to regain your support of the town budget at a May 6 revote. Please take five minutes to complete a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DZQW2YW> and provide your ideas about service maintenance, reductions, or eliminations.

The original budget proposal strove to maintain the same level of service, adjusted for inflation, while addressing a number of needs, such as increased public safety dispatch coverage and additional highway and parks maintenance staffing due to the increase in road/path miles. Given the budget defeat, we are reviewing the budget again to determine how best to trim expenses without significant service reductions. Therefore, we need the community's input as soon as possible. Thank you!

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

Parks and Recreation Department—Glen Cuttitta, Director

Highlights of the activities of the Parks and Recreation Department this week include the following:

- The Parks and Recreation Summer Program brochure has been delivered to every household in Colchester. To view the brochure online, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/images/pdf/2014SummerBrochure.pdf>.
- Summer program registrations are being accepted online, by mail, and in person.
- We have completed the hiring for summer day camp counselors and waterfront staff.
- We are currently organizing the Youth Lacrosse program scheduling and coaching staffs (for more information about Youth Lacrosse, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/LAX.html>).
- We met with the LIFE Program Advisory Committee to discuss the program and to identify potential instructors. The LIFE Program had an information table at the March 3 annual community dinner and had many inquiries about the program. For more information, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/LIFE.html>.
- We are accepting registrations for the June Colchester Causeway 5/15K race (<http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/CausewayRace.html>) and the Colchester Triathlon (<http://www.colchestertri.com/>).
- We are preparing to accept registrations for the 2014/15 school year ACE Before- and After-School Program (to learn more about ACE, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/ACE.html>).

- We are completing a webpage for the Colchester Pride volunteer program. Please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/ColchesterPride.html> for more information.
- We are receiving requests to use athletic fields for the spring, summer, and fall seasons.
- Pavilion rentals opportunities opened March 3.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/parksNRec.shtml> or call (802) 264-5640.

Burnham Memorial Library—Kelly Tomaseski, Director

At the library, we'd like to let our community members know about a few of our upcoming programs.

We have a two-part practice ACT exam taking place on Saturday, March 22, and Saturday, March 29. The first session is a real ACT exam (March 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), while at the second (March 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), students will receive their scores and get tips from a Princeton Review instructor. Both sessions are at Our Lady of Grace Church and are free! Please register for both at our website (<http://colchestervt.gov/Library/>).

S. S. Taylor, author of *The Expeditioners and the Treasure of Drowned Man's Canyon*, will speak at the library on Wednesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. She'll talk about her middle-grade novels featuring three siblings who must follow a trail of maps left for them by their explorer father. Taylor will answer questions about writing, exploring, and publishing (or anything else!), and she will read from the forthcoming *Expeditioners* novel, *The Expeditioners and the Secret of King Triton's Lair*, which comes out in the fall of 2014.

Here are some of our upcoming programs:

- Toddler Story Time—Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Preschool Music with Derek—Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
- Knitters—Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday Drop-In Story Time—Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
- Adult Book Discussion Group: Eleanor Brown's *The Weird Sisters*—Tuesday, March 25, at 1:00 p.m.
- Intergenerational Dessert Book Discussion: Maureen Johnson's *Name of the Star*—Monday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. (Please bring a dessert to share with the group!)

For more information about the library, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Library/>, or call (802) 264-5620.