

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of May 31, 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:

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

The 2013 "Abstract" Grand List will be completed May 31, 2013. The "Change of Assessment Notices" will be sent out on that same day as well as postings of the Grand List in different locations throughout town, and in the Colchester Sun. Only the property owners that had a change in their assessments will receive a "Change of Assessment Notice." The Abstract Grand List will be available for review at the town offices on the day of the posting. If you have any questions please contact the Assessor's Office @ (802) 264-5670.

Town Manager's Office – Dawn Francis, Town Manager

We bid farewell and thanks to Chief of Police Chuck Kirker who served our community with distinction over a 43 year career. We wish him happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please vote next Tuesday, June 4th on an issue that is of importance to the Windemere Estates Mobile Home Park on Johnson Avenue. The Colchester Selectboard agreed to warn a bond vote for an upgrade to a failing wastewater disposal system for this area which serves 83 mobile home lots and 200 low to moderate income people. This bond vote will allow The Housing Foundation Inc. (a private, non-profit corporation) to secure a no interest loan, which is less expensive than private financing. Colchester is acting as a conduit for federal monies to flow through the state through the town to HFI. If this bond vote is successful, it will not add to Colchester's property tax or wastewater user costs as HFI will be responsible for repayment. Some people have inquired if the Town's involvement in the proposed Windermere Bond Issue is legal. The answer from our counsel is that the Town, having responsibility for the public's health, (24 VSA 4763) can assist in the financing of privately-owned wastewater systems. Furthermore, the Board will be requiring a form of financial surety to minimize our exposure.

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

There is information on the town's website, at the town clerk's office and in various news media about this upcoming vote on June 4th.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

The Recreation Division continues to help the Colchester 250th Committee work on the Charter Day activities which take place on June 8th. Registration for the 1st Annual Causeway 5/15K is full at 200 runners. Much planning and logistics is taking place to ensure a successful race. Many summer camps are filling up. The Colchester Triathlon is still taking registrations but is filling up quickly.

The Parks Division is busy catching up with mowing and regular maintenance activities after 4 days of rain and a short holiday week. Staff is also preparing the parks for Charter Day with erecting tents and preparing the running course for next weekend. Even though we received almost 7 inches of rain there was no significant damage to any of the parks.

Burnham Memorial Library: Hannah Peacock, Assistant Director

We've had another good week at the library, despite the rain. Staff is finalizing our summer programming, and we should be publicizing the list of events soon. The Friends of the Library will be accepting book donations on the next three Saturdays (June 1, 8, and 15), from 9 am-3 pm at the Old Fire House. They're also looking for volunteers to help with the donations and the sale itself. The library is adding some Lego[®]-based programming for kids this summer and fall - if you have any spare Legos around, we would love to have them. Finally, at 6:30 pm this Monday (June 3), there will be a talk by Dr. Jack Mayer, author of *Life in a Jar*. It tells the story of Irena Sendler, a holocaust hero who rescued 2,500 children from the Warsaw ghetto, and how three Kansas teenagers helped to bring her forgotten story to the world.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

This week we are still recovering and restoring data that was on our oldest server, preparing to have a Network Assessment, getting quotes on the purchase of a new server and handling the normal Help Desk issues.

Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

As today is my last day after having had the honor of serving as a police officer for 43 years, the last 34 as the Chief of Police, I would like to say thank you and good bye to the community.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief Rescue responded to 17 EMS calls, and transported 13 people to the hospital. Thank you to Malletts Bay Fire Department for

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attending our Family Fun & Safety night last week which was inadvertently left out of last week's newsletter!

The Technical Rescue Team assisted in Underhill/Jericho with evacuations during the flooding. Some members also spent a night at the station, while on standby for other flooded areas.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

Planning and Zoning continues to be busy with permits. Please allow up to two weeks from the time submitted for Building Permit review. The June Development Review Board is full and applications are now being booked for the July 24th meeting.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

Last week we had the opportunity to host 3 third grade classes from Malletts Bay School. Next week 2 more classes will visit our office as well. Their visits include a stop at the Planning/Zoning Department to see aerial photos of their homes, the Assessor's office to view property record cards and photos of their homes, the Clerk's office to see the vault and birth certificates, the Manager's office to learn about town officials and their duties and to the Recreation Department to learn about all of the fun programs that are available. Their enthusiasm and inquisitiveness brought energy to our day.