

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week of November 1, 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

Colchester residents have incredible spirit and pride in their community and a recent video by Sara Ensey, a Communications Specialist shared by the Town and School District captures some of the amazing things going on in town. Check out this inspiring video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKrW5cJIDk4&feature=youtu.be>

Many thanks to the Conservation Commission for their hard work on the community leaf drop off being held on 11/2 and 3 at Airport Park from 8-4 pm for residents to drop off their leaves at no charge. I also had the opportunity to attend the Rescue Squad's annual volunteer appreciation night. Our community is blessed with dedicated volunteers working a lot of extra hours on your behalf.

Our new Chief Finance Officer/Assistant Town Manager, Aaron Frank and I have been finalizing a draft of the budget for presentation to the Selectboard in early December. The Board will be holding four work sessions over the coming weeks to comb through departmental budget requests.

Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director

- Vermont Health Connect - Do you have questions about the state's new options for finding health insurance? To setup an appointment, call us at 264-5660, or stop by the library.
- Author Jo Knowles at the Library - We welcome Jo Knowles, author of the DCF award-winning book *See You at Harry's*, on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

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

- Our NEW Books & Bites program kicks off November 14th at 6:30pm at the Bayside Activity Center. This group will be discussing *The Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* and enjoying a potluck of bite-size foods.
- One-on-One Tutoring is being offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays thanks to our partnership with the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The program is focused on grades 1-6, but tutoring is available in other subjects areas. You can register for this free service by visiting our website.
- Help us get 400 likes on our Facebook page and keep up to the minute with what's happening at the Library.

Economic Development: Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

- Attended Myers Grand Opening Event off Rathe Road
- Working with LCATV on Town Promotion Video
- Continuing business visitations
- Met with commercial realtors re: available properties, vacancies and inventory
- Finalizing 2015 Economic Development Budget
- Researching co-working/incubator facilities
- Researching Fortune Small Business Award Programs
- Pursuing possibilities of Chamber partnerships for ED initiatives
- Researching Business Association options and structures
- Pursuing prospects for expansion or relocation
- Continued work on the Community Center Initiative
- Pursuing no cost media option for Town
- Continued work on December Legislative Breakfast
- Finalizing branding campaign options

Police Department –Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

- CPD responded to 165 calls for service and had 65 contacts through motor vehicle stops.
- On October 30th, Lucy Tompkins – age 37 of Colchester – was arrested and charged with First Degree Aggravated Domestic Assault.
- CPD made three other arrests this week.
- The CPD Honor Guard presented the colors at the start of the CHS Boys' Soccer Semi-Final game on Tuesday. Look for photos of this on our Facebook page. Best of luck to the team on Saturday!!!

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- Responded to 17 calls, and transported 12 people to the hospital.

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Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division

- Attended Cabbage Night Movie Presentation with Colchester Theatre Co.
- Coordinating publicity and logistics for Leaf Drop Off at Airport Park on Nov 2 & 3.
- Closing out FEMA paperwork for the Causeway and Bayside Slope projects.
- Supervising Village Park parking lot and path project.
- Bayside Park Phase II project is just about completed.
- Ordered new playground for Heritage Park. Installation in late November
- Planning for winter programs.
- Designing new program brochure
- Software upgrade to RecTrac, WebTrac and Mobile WebTrac registration program

Bayside Activity Center- Week of November 4

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday Walk In hours 10 am-4 pm
- Monday- 10 a.m. Body N Mind Mix
- Monday- 10:30 a.m.- Drop in Game Time
- Tuesday- 9:30 – 11:30 am -Beginner Water Color
- Tuesday- 1-2 pm Tai Chi
- Wednesday- 9-9:45 am- Hatha Yoga
- Wednesday- 1-3 pm- Writing Stories
- Thursday- 1-2 pm Tai Chi
- Friday- 11-12 pm. Crafty Club
- Friday- 1pm. Movie Matinee

In the Parks Division, the following is a list of projects/work they accomplished this week

- General maintenance duties
- Winterized Park Bathrooms
- Edged and sodded infields of baseball fields at Airport Park
- Started leaf pickup at parks and municipal buildings
- Removed problem trees

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

- A comprehensive update of the departmental safety manual is being finalized
- An RFP for a facility needs assessment is being finalized
- Attended the Circ. Alternatives Meeting to receive a briefing and update of those planning projects currently underway, including Colchester, which will be forwarded to the Secretary of Transportation and the Legislature for inclusion in the State Capital Plan.

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- Have attended several meetings with the Chittenden County communities that are regulated under federal storm water permits to determine how best to achieve compliance to new permit requirements. As a part of the new permit, local regulated communities will need to begin flow monitoring programs within impaired streams.
- Reconstruction of the Fort Ethan Allen storm water pond has now been completed. The pond was damaged as a result of the last Federal Damage Declaration. 90% of the repair cost was funded by federal and state dollars.
- The Meadow Drive Ditch Project is proceeding to construction with work beginning in the next 1-2 weeks. Approximately \$300,000 in state and federal funds will be used on this project.
- Design, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition continue on the Water Tower Hill Water Storage Tank Expansion, Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Replacement, West Lakeshore Drive Multi-Use Path Project, River Road Sidewalk Project, Smith Estates Emergency Storm Water Overflow.
- Design work is also continuing on large culvert replacement projects on East Road and Malletts Bay Avenue. The East Road culvert is a 14' diameter metal culvert, while the Malletts Bay Avenue culvert is a 5' x 5' concrete box culvert approximately 30' deep. Together these two projects are expected to exceed a \$1 million in cost.
- 75% of the Department's winter sand has been stock piled for Snow and Ice Removal Operations.
- Street sweepers are working on the removal of leaves from the Town's roadways.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

- Supplement 33 went into effect thereby rezoning several properties along Heineberg / Prim Road and allowing drive-throughs for shopping centers.
- The Development Review Board met and approved a 31,000 sq. ft. addition to VIP on Water Tower Circle.
- The Department underwent one-day training on new permitting software. This software will be rolled out over the winter months and will allow for the on-line application of building permits.
- Participated in continuing Malletts Bay Initiative discussions.
- Presented the results of the Heritage Project at the Vermont Planners Association Fall Conference. This project was a runner-up for Vermont Plan of the Year. Tom Mulcahy, previous Planning Commission Chair, was a runner-up for Citizen Planner of the Year.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- Friendly Reminder – the second installment of taxes is due on November 15th. We will be closed on Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. We will have

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extended hours for the rest of the week. The office will be open from 7:30 am to 5 pm on Tuesday, November 12th through Friday, November 15th. If you stop by and the office is closed there is a drop box on the right side of the front entrance door, attached to the building. You can drop your payment into the drop box.

- When are property taxes late? When they are not received on the 15th or not postmarked by the U.S. postal service by the 15th. The penalty is 8% and the interest amount is 1%. The rates are set by the town charter. The town charter is in the process of being reviewed and we are recommending that the penalty amount be reduced, due to many requests from the taxpayers.
- How can you pay? You can pay by check, cash, money order, escrow, auto-debit or credit card. The auto-debit needs to be set up in advance of the due date. It is a program where we debit your account on the day taxes are due for the amount that is due.
- Due to requests from taxpayers we recently added the ability to pay by credit card. There is a fee to the taxpayer for the convenience. The fee is 2.6%. The credit card company is not able to cut off the payments at the end of the business day so you are able to pay with a credit card up until midnight. If you pay with a credit card after midnight a penalty and interest amount will be assessed.
- In order to be equitable to all taxpayers we are now accepting payments that are dropped after hours in the drop box. The payments must be made on the 15th. Payments that are received in the drop box after the 15th are considered late and a penalty and interest amount will be assessed.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

- This is the time of year we take an inventory of all travel trailers that have not been removed from the sites at the end of the camping season. We will take a second inventory in April to verify that the trailers have been on the same site for more than 180 days.
- We are reviewing all the subdivisions and inspecting all the new residential construction started after April 1 of this year.

Finance – Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

- FY 15 Budget preparation
- Email and file server replacement - award and coordination
- Considered public safety needs for updated mobile display terminals (MDT's)
- Assistance with homeland security grant application to fund MDT's
- Community Center planning and timelines
- Continued work on Library records retention

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