

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week of November 11, 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

I am pleased to announce the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road will have new office hours to better accommodate the public. We have expanded our hours of operation from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (8 hours to 9 hours) by working with employees to assure coverage without impacting the budget. We will be closed for Veteran's Day on Monday the 11th, but will have expanded hours of 7:30-5:00 next week to take tax payments which are due on Friday, November 15th.

The second issue of Currently Colchester – a publication of town and school district news came out this week and all residents should have received a copy. If you did not, call June at 264-5509 with your address.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

- Contractor is mobilizing to the site for the reconstruction of the Meadow Drive Drainage Ditch project.
- Right-of-way meetings are continuing for the River Road sidewalk project
- Archeological Assessment is about to begin for the West Lakeshore Drive Shared-Use Path
- Work continues on the development of a Capital Facilities Plan to address both short and long term needs with the Town's public buildings
- Work continues on the development of an RFP for a Space Planning Assessment to determine how best to meet the Town's future space needs using existing spaces to the greatest extent possible
- The Colchester Public Works Department hosted a winter operations workshop sponsored by the Vermont Local Roads Program
- Work continues on revisions to the departments' safety manual
- Street sweepers continue to remove leaves and debris from the Town's roadways
- Hauling of winter sand is now complete
- Guardrails have been installed on East Lakeshore Drive

Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director

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

- The library will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. We will also be opening at 1:30 pm on Monday, Nov. 18 for staff training.
- A reminder that our phone number has changed to 264-5660, for both the adult and children's departments. We apologize for any inconvenience people have encountered as we work through the new system. When calling, the quickest way to speak to a person is to choose option 3 and then option 1 (for the Adult Desk), or option 3 and then option 2 (for the Children's Desk).
- Computer & Gadget Buying Guide - On Monday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 pm - We'll be having a program with tips for purchasing computers, tablets, ereaders, and more. There will also be some hands-on examples to try out.
- Pajama Story Time - Nov. 20 at 6:30 pm - Little ones of all ages cuddle up in pajamas and listen to bedtime stories. We'll serve the cookies and milk! No signup required.
- Scrabble Meetup - Nov. 20 at 6:30 pm - Join us for a friendly game of Scrabble!

Economic Development: Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

- Pursuing prospects for expansion or relocation
- Continuing business visitations. Companies met with include:
 - Commercial Lender for Local Financial Institution
 - Local manufacturing company
- Working with LCATV on Town Promotion Video
- Met with Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation re: inventory/expansions and partnerships
- Researching business association options and structures
- Continuing work on the Community Center Initiative
- Continuing work on December Legislative Breakfast
- Finalizing Branding Campaign options
- Working on inventorying building vacancies throughout the town

Police Department –Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

- CPD responded to 163 calls for service and had 52 contacts through motor vehicle stops.
- CPD made two arrests this week.
- Halloween was relatively uneventful.
- This week Sgt. Charles Cole graduates from the International Association of Chiefs of Police “Leadership in Police Organizations” training. Congrats, Charlie!
- Please consider attending a panel presentation co-hosted by CPD and CHS entitled: Teenagers – Risk & Resilience. It will be held at 7pm on November 18th in the CHS library. A panel of experts in the field will discuss identifying when teens are struggling and at risk of self-harm or suicide. This is a great opportunity for parents and all community members to learn more about how to support our youth and available resources.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- We responded to 22 calls this week, and transported 16 people to the hospital.

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

- Tech was called, but then cancelled to assist with a person who had jumped off the Winooski River Bridge. The responders were able to get the person out of the water without needing the Technical Rescue Team.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division

- Met with residents and school officials about creating a continuing education program in Fall 2014
- Creating teams and schedules for the Youth Basketball Program
- Creating coaches' training schedule for Youth Basketball
- 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.
- New Playground at Heritage Park will be installed the week of November 18
- Planning for winter programs.
- Designing new program brochure
- Software upgrade to RecTrac, WebTrac and Mobile WebTrac registration program

Bayside Activity Center- Week of November 11

- 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 -Intermediate 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
- Painted supports of Welcome To Colchester signs
- Started leaf pickup at parks and municipal buildings
- Removed problem trees

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

- The Planning Commission met on 11/5 and affirmed Supplement 34 of the Zoning Regulations. The PC will meet again on 11/19 to consider sending the draft Town Plan to a public hearing. Please check out the draft on our web page.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

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

- **TAXES DUE November 15th.** We will be closed on Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. We will have 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 when 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.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

We are reviewing all new residential construction in Colchester that was under construction as of April 1 of this year, or started after April 1 of this year.

- If you have built or have purchased a newly constructed Condo or House we will be attempting to contact you to set up an appointment for an inspection of the interior and exterior of your new dwelling.
- A typical inspection takes roughly 30 minutes.
- The purpose of these inspections is to assess all properties in Town to the Fair Market Value using the most up to date and accurate data possible, this will ensure that no property owner pays more than their fair share of the tax burden.
- If you would like to set up an appointment to have the Assessor inspect your new dwelling please call Donna at (802) 264-5670.

Finance – Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

FY 15 Budget preparation

- Worked with staff on finance options for facility repairs
- Updated contracts with volunteer fire services
- Researched insurance requirements under PPACA as they relate to seasonal employees