

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of November 9, 2012

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: Rubi Simon, Director

This week at the library, we held our postponed Halloween party; big thanks to the teens of the Young Adult Advisory Board for all of their help. The library also unveiled the winning submissions for our library card design contest - you can see the designs at our website (<http://colchestervt.gov/Library/>) or on our Facebook page. On Wednesday the 14th and Monday the 19th, we'll be offering sessions on Computer & Gadget Buying Advice, just in time for the holiday season. We will be closed on Monday, Nov. 12th, in observance of Veteran's Day.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

The early part of the week was spent preparing and testing equipment that would be used at the election polls. The laptops taken to the polls are not used for any other purpose and provide a way for the Town Clerks to access voter information from the Vermont Secretary of State's website. After a voting day they are checked and stored with other voting equipment until the next occasion. Also preparations are being made to retire our oldest server and move data and software to a new up-to-date server.

Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

During the last week our officers made a number of arrests including 44 year old Stephen Davis of Swanton for Embezzlement and Income Tax Fraud. Davis stole over 14,000 pounds of copper wire from Champlain Cable Co. where he worked. Working with the Clinton County New York Sheriff’s Office we were able to trace the sale of the wire as scrap for over \$47,700. Officers made a drug arrest on the campus of St. Michaels College over the weekend and finally an arrest involving a year old residential burglary was made based on a DNA match of the suspect to evidence recovered at the scene.

This week I hosted the monthly meeting of the Chittenden County Law Enforcement Executive in Colchester. This group consists of all the local, state, county and Federal Law Enforcement agencies based in our county. This high level group has been in the forefront of insuring that that our agencies

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

are working together using best practices in our effort to provide the best service possible to our residents.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue responded to 26 EMS calls, and transported 18 people to the hospital.

I forgot to mention last week, that we had our annual banquet on October 27th, where we presented Rich Long and Becky Alemy with Member of the Year awards, and Tania Jofe and Ryan Fitzpatrick received the Rookie of the Year awards. Tech Rescue's Member of the Year award went to Ian Hunter.

The most shifts run, something we recognize each year, was Colleen Long with 88.75 shifts, or 1065 hours of just time put in for EMS coverage. This doesn't include the many hours she also spent helping with Outreach events, and being the coordinator for the CPR Training Center.

Our members, on both Rescue and Tech, give up a lot of their personal time to volunteer for the community!

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Parks Division most of the leaf pick up is completed with the seasonal staff leaving for the season at the end of the week. The Colchester Causeway is open to the public and is seeing lots of traffic before the snow falls. Bids are being requested for the reconstruction of an area of the Bayside Park slope down to the beach that failed during the flooding a year ago. The goal is to get that work done before winter.

The Colchester Conservation Commission held their leaf roundup last weekend and looking at the pile of leaves at Airport Park they were quite successful. Parks and Public Works staff spent two days cleaning up the leaves in the parking lot and CSSD transported the leaves to their facility in Williston.

The Recreation Division is getting prepared for Youth Basketball, acquiring volunteer coaches, referees and putting together the teams. Preparation is taking place for the coach's clinic to help educate the coaches. The department is also preparing for an upgrade to our registration software.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

Participated in a state wide interactive meeting to discuss an initiative by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Natural Resources Board to develop a framework associated with state wide transportation impact fees to be charged to developers to minimize the "last one in pays" scenario typical of the current process.

The repairs to a storm water outfall line on Mallets Bay Avenue have now been completed. This was one of a total of eight federal damage sites related to the spring 2011 flooding. At this point, seven of these projects have been completed with only the repair of the Meadow Drive ditch remaining. This project has been delayed as a result of highly complex permitting issues.

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

An MOU has been finalized between the Town and the Champlain Water District to allow the advancement of design for a new water storage tank on Water Tower Hill. Additional fire storage is needed to support the continued build out of the Town's Growth Center located at Severance Corners.

The reconstruction of the East Road Depot Road intersection has been completed and the roadway was reopened to public travel on Tuesday, November 6th.

As part of the Circ. Alternatives process, planning has been completed for both the Blakely Road/Laker Lane intersection, and the West Lakeshore Drive/Prim Road intersection. These studies including design alternatives will be presented to the Select Board at their meeting of November 13, 2012.

Ordinance amendments have been developed and will be presented to the Select Board on November 13, 2012, to establish no parking zones within Fort Ethan Allen in support of improved transit stops for CCTA.

Continuing to work with the Town's Auditors on the Single Audit required as a result of the expenditure of more than \$500,000 in federal funds within FY12. This process is typical as the department continues its aggressive approach to securing state and federal grants to fund needed infrastructure improvements throughout the community.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

The Department of Planning and Zoning has dealt with several enforcement issues over the last week. A triplex at 835 East Lakeshore Drive had surfacing effluent (failed wastewater system) adjacent to the Lake. At 2897 Malletts Bay Avenue we responded to illegal dumping along the Winooski River. There have also been several vacant buildings that need to be properly secured and made safe that the Department continues to work with property owners on along Clay Point and East Lakeshore Drive. A demolition permit for the Old Casa Romano building on West Lakeshore Drive has been approved however the owner is awaiting State permits due to the presence of hazardous materials.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

So glad to report that the election is over and that everything ran smoothly at both polling locations. Thanks to Colchester School District and Our Lady of Grace Parish for allowing us to take over their space for the day. Also thanks to the many volunteers and election officials, as well as the Town Clerk staff that has been managing the early voting in the office. Many thanks to the voters for donating non-perishable items, to benefit the Colchester Food Shelf.

This election had 7,362 voters. Of those, 2,385 voted an early absentee ballot. A list of the election returns for Colchester is available on our website:

<http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/images/2012PresidentialElection.pdf>

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

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

Nothing to report.

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

The FY 014 budget process is in full swing. There are budget meetings with the Selectboard and department heads on Friday, November 16 and on Friday, November 30. A Power Point presentation about the FY 14 budget will be given on December 11 at a regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting. Between December 11 and January 22, the Selectboard will consider and finalize the budget. At the January 23 meeting of the Selectboard the final budget to be presented to the voters will be adopted by the Selectboard.

Town Manager's Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager

This week Frank Cioffi, President of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC) and I climbed to the roof top of the new Acabay building being constructed on Water Tower Hill with its owner and developer Frank Motter. Looking west the building has commanding views of the Lake and the Adirondacks. Looking east the building has unbelievable views of Mount Mansfield and Camp's Hump. Our purpose was not to admire the mountains and lake but rather to understand the economic potential of this new work space capable of being office space or high tech "web lab" research space adjacent to the Albany College of Pharmacy and the nearby UVM Life Science Research Facility. Given the infrastructure services at Water Tower Hill and of the Town's support for developers, businesses and entrepreneurs, we also learned that the Acabay Corporation is interested in making additional investments in Colchester.

Later that week I also attended the Vermont Biosciences Alliance meeting in Burlington and had the opportunity to meet several people from the scientific community many of whom I met earlier at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. These conversations all led to the future of scientific research and business development. The people with whom I met all volunteered to visit the schools of the Colchester School District. So I'll be passing those contacts to the Town's Superintendent of Schools, Larry Waters.

For me these two events and the associated life science institutions in Colchester represent wonderful options for the Town's future – for its economy and future employment of today's primary and secondary school students.

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