

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of
November 10, 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

This has been a difficult week for our community, our dedicated boards and volunteers and our employees. It is hard for all of us to read the headlines and listen to the news as it relates to the allegations against one of our employees. I ask for your patience as we work through the due process of learning all of the facts associated with what is both an alleged criminal matter and personnel issue. The Selectboard, Police Department and I are committed to a fair process and to thoroughly reviewing our policies, procedures and actions to ensure we come out of this event stronger and better than before. Over the next months, we will be dedicating ourselves to improving our organization and systems so as to earn the community's trust once again.

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

Assessor's Office—Bob Vickery, Assessor

- The Assessor's Office has filed the Fiscal Year 2015 Grand List (GL) in the Colchester Town Clerk's office.
- The Assessor's Office is continuing the inspections of all new construction that has been started or finished over the course of the summer.
- The Assessor and Clerk have hired Traci Paquette as the new Property / Tax Specialist; Traci will be dividing her time between the Clerk and the Assessor and will be replacing a long-time Assistant Clerk who will be retiring. Traci will also help improve the Assessor's capacity with greater technical support.
- Number of sales in 2014 remains consistent with those of 2013. Sale prices have remained level for residential housing in the Town of Colchester.

For more information about the Assessor's Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Assessor/assessorHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5670.

Town Clerk's Office—Karen Richard, Town Clerk

The Election is over

- 4,454 voters cast their ballot in this election. Of that number 935 chose to vote early.
- Congratulations to the local winners: Senator Dick Mazza; Representatives from 9-1: Jim Condon and Joey Purvis; Representatives from 9-2: Patrick Brennan and Maureen Dakin.
- 15 local residents were elected to the office of Justice of the Peace. I look forward to working with you on elections, tax appeals, abatements etc.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.

- Two charter items were defeated. We need to have further conversation on the appointed town clerk and treasurer. I believe this topic is important for the future of the Clerk's Office and deserves more discussion.

For an official list of all the election results please visit our website:

http://www.colchestervt.gov/misc/VotingResultsOfficial_Nov2014.pdf

Taxes are due Monday November 17th. The office will be open until 5 pm on Friday the 14th and Monday the 17th for your convenience.

Happy Thanksgiving – I feel blessed that we have so many things to be thankful for:

- Fran Allyn and the Colchester Quilt Group for rotating quilts each season that beautify the Clerk's office.
- Colchester Art teachers that rotate student art in the lobby areas of the building.
- The many residents that volunteer in the multitude of tasks from serving on committees to planting flowers and collecting food donations for those that are in need.

For more information about the Town Clerk's Office,

<http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/townClerkHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5520.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 264-5509.