

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week of November 15, 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

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

The budget season has begun! An initial draft of the budget was presented to the Selectboard, which will meet four times over the next few weeks with department heads to review the proposed spending plan for next year. A formal draft will be presented at the board's December 10 meeting, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the budget at meetings in January as we prepare for a March Town Meeting vote. Public input is always welcome.

A subcommittee of the Selectboard met with Colchester Fire District #3 (CFD #3) to review options with respect to a needed water tank expansion and water transmission line upgrade.

As a reminder, the Town of Colchester's office hours are now 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Burnham Memorial Library—Kelly Tomaseski, Director

- On Monday, November 18, the library will be closed for staff training until 1:30 p.m.
- Many thanks to those who helped our Facebook page to reach 400 "Likes."
- Do you have questions about computers, eReaders, tablets, cameras, or other electronic gadgets for the holidays? Join us for a computer and gadget buying guide on Monday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. We'll have a few gadgets to try out in person as well.
- Our annual Gingerbread House Contest is coming up—grab an entry form, and drop off your house on December 2 or 3!
- Join us for Pajama Story Time on Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Library/> or call (802) 264-5660.

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

Police Department—Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

Colchester Police Department would like to alert the public about a recent increase in thefts and burglaries in our community. Of particular concern is a rise in residential daytime burglaries in Colchester and surrounding communities. It appears that the perpetrators are going door to door in a neighborhood, knocking on the doors, and—once finding a home unoccupied—entering through an unlocked door or window or forcing their way in to take small electronics, cash, jewelry, or any items that can easily be sold or traded. If the home is occupied, the perpetrator will create a story ranging from asking the occupant for work (such as painting or home maintenance) to asking for a fictitious person or asking about a lost dog.

We ask everyone to help keep our community safe. Please keep doors, windows, and vehicles locked, and please report any circumstance or activity that seems suspicious to you.

Over the past week, officers have responded to 169 calls for service and had contact with the drivers of 78 vehicles for infractions.

For more information about Colchester Police Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Police/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5556 (non-emergency).

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads—Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- Colchester Rescue responded to eighteen calls and transported ten people to the hospital.
- Colchester Technical Rescue assisted Williston Fire Department with the rescue of a 2,600-pound draft horse rescue that was stuck in a mud pond and had to be lifted with the help of an excavator!

For more information about Colchester Rescue, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Rescue/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5990.

Parks and Recreation—Glen Cuttitta, Director

The following are highlights from the recreation division of Colchester's Parks and Recreation Department:

- The Colchester Recreation Advisory Board meeting took place on November 13
- Coaches attended training for the Youth Basketball program
- Teams and schedules for the Youth Basketball program have been created
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) paperwork was completed for the Causeway and Bayside Slope projects
- The supervision of Village Park parking lot and path project is ongoing
- The Bayside Park Phase II project is nearing completion
- A new playground at Heritage Park will be installed during the week of November 18
- Planning for winter programs is under way

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

- Design work on a winter/spring brochure is under way; community members will enjoy a complete redesign when the brochure is released in December
- The software upgrades to RecTrac, WebTrac, and Mobile WebTrac registration program are completed

Bayside Activity Center for the week of November 18:

- **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday walk-in hours:** 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- **Monday:** 10:00 a.m.—Body N Mind Mix
- **Monday:** 10:30 a.m.—Drop-In Game Time
- **Tuesday:** 9:30–11:30 am—Beginner Watercolor
- **Tuesday:** 1:00–2:00 p.m.—Tai Chi
- **Wednesday:** 8:00–11:00 a.m.—Foot Care Clinic
- **Wednesday:** 9:00–9:45 a.m.—Hatha Yoga
- **Wednesday:** 1:00–3:00 p.m.—Writing Stories
- **Thursday:** 1:00–2:00 p.m.—Tai Chi
- **Friday:** 11:00 a.m.–noon—Crafty Club

The following is a list of projects/work accomplished this week in the parks division of Colchester’s Parks and Recreation Department

- General maintenance duties
- The winterization of all mowers and equipment was completed
- Leaf pickup at parks and municipal buildings has commenced
- Problem trees have been removed
- Seasonal park employees have finished work for the year

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Recreation/parksNRec.shtml> or call (802) 264-5640.

Public Works—Bryan Osborne, Director

- The Town of Colchester has received a letter from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) indicating that the Federal Highway Administration will not allow the construction of a Drop-Off Facility within the Circ. Highway right-of-way adjacent to Heineberg Drive. The Town has been attempting to secure grant funds for a park-and-ride facility at this location with the understanding from previous communications from the state that the park-and-ride facility was a prerequisite to consideration of a drop-off facility. As a result of this recent announcement from Federal Highway Administration, the Town has discontinued its efforts to secure grant funding for the construction of a park-and-ride facility at this time.
- The Selectboard has endorsed preferred alternatives for the Colchester-Essex Network Transportation Study as part of the Circ. Alternatives Process. This initiative addresses both the Severance Road and Main Street corridors through Colchester. The preferred alternatives generally include upgrades to

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intersections, pedestrian facilities, and drainage along these corridors. For more information about the planned improvements, please contact Bryan Osborne at bosborne@colchestervt.gov.

- The third and final round of the Circ. Alternatives process is coming to a close. We have attended meetings with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and VTrans to review the ranking and projected schedules of the round-three projects. The round-three projects in Colchester are the CENTS projects as well as the intersection of Blakely Road and Laker Lane, and the intersection of West Lakeshore Drive and Prim Road. Additional information regarding the projected implementation schedules of these projects will be available in the near future.
- Public Works held a meeting with FairPoint Communications to discuss a relocation of its communication infrastructure within the Exit 16 area as a part of the planned reconstruction of the Exit 16 interchange. In addition to reviewing alternative alignments for their relocation, we are also exploring opportunities for the overall upgrade of the communication infrastructure within this area in support of our business community's needs.
- The archeological assessment work has begun along West Lakeshore Drive as a requirement of the continued development of the planned multiuse path between Church Road and Prim Road.

For more information about the Public Works Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PublicWorks/Home.shtml> or call (802) 264-5620.

Planning and Zoning—Sarah Hadd, Director

- A health complaint was investigated at Grandview Apartments regarding a wastewater backup into a basement, and a plan of action was put into place to finish the cleanup.
- Participation in the state growth center discussion continues.
- Planning and Zoning received several new applications for subdivisions, a sea wall, and a 7,500 sq. ft. addition to the Bowl New England site on Lower Mountain View Drive.
- Asbestos removal has begun at the Casa Romano building on West Lakeshore Drive, which is a preliminary step to full building removal.

For more information about the Planning and Zoning Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/planningZHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5600.

Assessor—Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Assessor's Department is reviewing all new residential construction in Colchester that was under construction as of April 1 of this year or that was 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 For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

inspection takes roughly thirty minutes, the purpose of which 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 property owners do not pay 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.

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

Finance—Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

- Fiscal Year 2015 budget preparation is under way
- Insurance requirements for volunteer fire services are under review
- A meeting with staff concerning plans for the community center was conducted

For more information about the Finance Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Finance/financeHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5650.

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