

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of October 5, 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

Things have been going smoothly at the Burnham Library this week. We have four story times a week, along with a music program, and all have been popular. In the coming week, four Kindergarten classes from Union Memorial School will be stopping by, to get library cards and learn more about us. Perhaps with the change in season, we've had a sudden increase in our already busy public-use computers, with patrons using them for homework, job hunting, e-mail, and browsing the internet. Despite the rain earlier in the day, the Farmers' Market served up chili and music - next week is the final market of 2012, and features Social Band and wellness information about immunizations. Next Wednesday (10/10), there will be a program on planning for College costs, put on by 123College.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

Helpdesk calls covering software and hardware issues, network maintenance and organization continue this week.

Police Department –Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

As a snapshot of the week's activities, Colchester Police Department responded to 97 calls for service in the community including 17 "part 1" crimes. "Part 1" is a designation given to certain crimes by the U.S. Department of Justice. This week's investigations included two assaults, two burglaries, three trespassing violations and other assorted crimes. We also responded to seven motor vehicle crashes, two motor vehicle disturbances, eight suspicious activity complaints, and five alarms. Officers stopped 32 vehicles during the week for various infractions. CPD detectives have been involved in follow up investigations this week including a search warrant in Milton that resulted in recovery of stolen items and subsequent court charges.

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

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue responded to 13 calls for emergency medical services, and transported 11 patients to the hospital. Technical Rescue had a quiet week.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently taking registrations for the Colchester Youth Basketball Program. This program is for boys and girls starting in 1st grade to 8th grade. There is one practice a week and games on Saturday. The program will start November 26th and end before February break. We are always in need of volunteer coaches. Many fall programs are starting in the next week or two so go to our website www.colchestervt.gov and try a program.

Work continues on the Causeway and appears that the contractor is ahead of schedule and may be complete before the end of October. Bid openings took place on the repairs to the Bayside Slope repair and work should start in the next few weeks. Parks staff continue working on the athletic fields to get them ready for next spring.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

Citizen Volunteers working collaboratively with the Public Works Department are nearing completion of a comprehensive inventory of all street trees located within the community. As an important part of the communities' public infrastructure, this is important work for which we are grateful for their contributions. In addition to collecting key information about each tree, they are also being located using GPS coordinates to allow the information to be imported into computerized management programs.

As the Town's representative on the Technical Advisory Committee within the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, I attended a meeting to review and discuss how the prioritization of transportation investments would be made in the region based upon revised criteria produced by the ECOS Project. ECOS, (Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability) is both a process and a plan for managing sustainable growth in Chittenden County.

Maintenance crews replaced 40' driveway culvert, repaired 3 catch basins, cut down and removed 6 dead trees alongside of the roadway and cleared a beaver dam at the inlet end of a 4' dia. culvert.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

As construction continues into October, a reminder that the winter erosion control shut down begins on the 15th. Projects along the lake as well all other projects disturbing 10,000 sq. ft. or more of earth are required to stabilize for the winter or request a waiver from the Town with specific action plans on how site risks will be minimized. A reminder that there are vacancies on the Development Review Board and Planning Commission and applicants are encouraged to submit within the next week as interviews will begin on October 23rd.

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Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

The ballots have arrived so the staff has been busy mailing the hundreds of requests for absentee ballots. We have installed a few voting booths in the lobby for the walk-in voters. If you want to avoid the crowds on Election Day you can stop by the office and vote at your convenience.

Election reminder – voters in 9-1 will be voting in the basement of Our Lady of Grace Church in November. Voters in 9-2 will be voting at Colchester High School.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Assessor's Office is reorganizing the filing system for property records. This includes updating the Record Retentions Guidelines to conform to State recommendation, so that outdated files, correspondence, and redundant information are not taking up space. We will also be utilizing an electronic fillings system to have associated documents linked to the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software. This will allow us to review a property's data and any information that might help in determining the property's value in one place. These changes will create efficiencies by consolidating data and have a better use of the limited space.

Finance and Town Manager's Office – Joan Boehm (Asst. Town Manager/CFO)

Did you know that the bond that the Town has for the purchase of the Bayside property has been refinanced through the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank. This bond was authorized by the voters in March of 2004. Over the next 13 years we will save \$51,581. We have 2 other bonds outstanding that are funded by taxpayer money. One is for the Bellwood Drainage system that was approved by the voters in March of 1999 and the other is for the renovations of the police and garage buildings and the construction of the new town hall that was approved by voters in November of 2007. As of June 30, 2012, our outstanding indebtedness for these 3 bonds was \$6,625,339.

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