

## **Colchester's Weekly Town News**

For the Week of October 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**

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is meeting with the businesses and non-profits that call Colchester home. Kathi Walker O'Reilly (our Economic Development Director) and I have had the pleasure of learning more about our business community's concerns which include the uncertainty associated with the health care debate and implementation, the federal government's inaction, the lack of a qualified work force and a desire for the community to have a network of business owners in our community to have a unified voice to protect their shared interests. We hope to report on a new partnership with the business community very soon as a result of discussions with the Colchester Community Development Corporation who has been an important business advocacy voice in the past.

### **Economic Development - Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

- Continue business visitations and companies met with include:
  - Green Mountain Power
  - Visiting Nurse Association
  - Engelberth Construction
- Met with Colchester Community Development Corporation board regarding partnerships and working together for the community
- Met with Allen & Brooks regarding commercial real estate trends and working relationships for the future
- Met with LCATV regarding video
- Attended LCRCC and GBIC to learn more about proposed legislation
- Met with Vermont Environmental Consortium
- Met with Brick Oven Media regarding branding campaign
- Attended Chamber's Legislative Network event
- Informal meeting with local business owners and residents to gain their perspective on issues facing Colchester
- Attended Albany College Dedication Ceremony

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

- Working on RFQ's for Malletts Bay Initiative
- Continue working on vacancies in buildings throughout the town
- Continue pursuing prospects for expansion or relocation

### **Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director**

- Attended a team meeting for the Exit 17 Transportation Study which is being done as part of the Circ. Alternatives Process. The design alternatives will be presented to the Colchester Select Board at their regular meeting on October 22, 2013.
- Notice of Intent to Award has been issued to the lowest responsive bidder for the Meadow Drive Drainage System project. This project will received federal and state assistance with additional funding provided by the Town's Capital Plan.
- We are continuing to evaluate the establishment of a Park & Ride Facility within the Exit 16 area. The evaluation includes transportation, financial, economic development, and regulatory issues.
- The right-of-way process is continuing for the River Road sidewalk project. Complications relating to legal status, residency, and in some cases, property owners residing in other countries are being encountered. While quite common, these challenges have a significant impact on the overall delivery schedule of the project, and may serve to offer some public insight into why it often times takes an inordinate amount of time for public improvement projects to be completed.
- The department is finalizing the complete reworking of our employee safety manual and program. We take the overall safety and wellbeing of the Town's employees very seriously and are expending a significant amount of resources ensuring their overall safety.
- We are continuing to evaluate the potential use of electric vehicles to replace some of the Town's administrative cars. Meetings will be taking place with various departments that may be affected by this initiative to begin exploring this possible transition.

### **Burnham Memorial Library - Kelly Tomaseski, Director**

Greetings from Burnham Library. A few quick updates: We are looking to schedule exhibits in our display case, so if you are an artist or collector, you can e-mail Josh at [jmuse@colchestervt.gov](mailto:jmuse@colchestervt.gov) or stop by the front desk. Also, patrons can now send faxes at the library; ask at the front desk for more information. Here are a few of our upcoming events:

- Toddler Story Time - Every Tuesday at 10:30 am
- Drop-In Yoga for Adults - Every Tuesday at 4:30 pm
- Pajama Story Time - Every third Wednesday (Oct. 16) at 6:30 pm
- Young Adult Film Crew with LCATV - Every third Monday (Oct. 21) at 6:30 pm
- Adult Book Discussion - Every last Tuesday (Oct. 29) at 1 pm, this month we're reading *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

### **Police Department –Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief**

- Colchester Police Department responded to 153 calls for service in the past week and had contact with 120 drivers as a result of traffic stops.

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- Officers continue to investigate a serious motor vehicle crash that involved one vehicle leaving Mill Pond Road and partially overturning while striking a tree Wednesday night. The crash critically injured the 18 year old female operator and her 22 year old male passenger. Fire and Rescue crews worked for nearly an hour to extract both occupants before they could be brought to Fletcher Allen Health Care.
- 10 persons were arrested this week including 36 year old Neil Kirby of Colchester for his third offense of driving under the influence as well as driving with a suspended license, operating a vehicle without owner's consent and petty larceny. This arrest followed an investigation by Officers Steven Gutierrez and Jesse Treier of a stolen vehicle.
- A reminder that darkness arrives much earlier this time of year. Please use caution while sharing the road with all users.

#### **Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief**

- Rescue responded to 15 calls, and transported 10 people to the hospital.
- Technical Rescue assisted with an injured hiker on Camel's Hump.

#### **Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director**

##### **In the Recreation Division**

- Met with School Officials about creating after school hour adult education programs
- Village Park parking lot and path has started with completion date of Oct. 21th
- Bayside Park Phase II project has started
- New playground for Fort Ethan Allen will be installed the week of Oct 7th
- Planning for winter programs
- Planning for Community Wellness Fair on Oct 18
- Meeting with Local Motion about permanent bike ferry infrastructure
- Preparing for software upgrade to RecTrac registration program

##### **Bayside Activity Center- Week of October 14**

- Monday & Wednesday Walk-In hours 10 am-4 pm (BAC Closed on Friday)
- Monday - 10 am - Body 'N Mind Mix
- Monday - 4-5 pm - Chair Yoga
- Tuesday - 9:30 - 11:30 am - Beginning 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 - BAC CLOSED
- Saturday - 11-1 pm - Essential Oils

##### **In the Parks Division, the following is a list of projects/work they accomplished this week**

- General maintenance duties
- Winterizing park bathrooms
- Repaired sloped path exiting Airport Park and Mills Point Road crossing

#### **Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director**

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- The Select Board approved amendments to the Zoning Regulations that includes several rezonings along Prim & Heineberg Roads.
- The Health Officer participated in a site visit of the Windemere Mobile Home Park to support the resolution of water pressure issues.
- New member iPad training for Development Review Board.
- DRB met 10/9 and reviewed new office building for Water Tower Hill.

#### **Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk**

- The staff of the Clerk's office attended the User's Group meetings hosted by the provider of the software that we use for our land records in preparation for the upgrade to our equipment and software. We will be adding maps to the documents that are computerized and searchable at the public use computers in the office. This is also in preparation of the documents being available on the web.
- I attended the Town Fair hosted by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in Killington last week. I was elected to a two year position on the Board of Directors for the League. As a board member I will be representing my community and the Vermont Clerk's and Treasurer's Association in policy making decisions and legislative positions.
- A tax sale is in process and will be held on November 21st. A final list has not been established, as we are still working out agreements with delinquent taxpayers.

#### **Finance – Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO**

Finance activities include:

- Audit site work follow-up with Sullivan and Powers
- Set up grant agreement with US Department of Homeland Security for Technical Rescue Training
- Documented Town information technology assets and responsibilities. The Town has 104 workstations at eight different buildings, 33 tablets, 12 laptops, 8 police mobile display terminals, and sixteen servers. In addition to email and file storage, we have fifteen special purpose server based software programs ranging from a web based registration program for recreation, to a records research storage and retrieval system for land records, to **police dispatch systems**. We have been resourcing these functions with two contracts, a police lieutenant, a library staff member and a part time IT staff member. Through savings in staff turnover and reductions in contracting expenses, we are creating a new position, at no net new cost, to oversee and help manage this growing area of responsibility. One of the most important outcomes will be a return of at least ten hours a week of time back to police management functions.

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