

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week of October 13, 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

2014 COLCHESTER LEAF DROP OFF

If you live in Colchester, November 1st and 2nd is the annual leaf drop off. Bring your leaves to Airport Park (off Colchester Point Road in the Malletts Bay area). This site accepts leaves only (no grass trimmings, branches, or woody debris) either loose or in biodegradable paper bags. Plastic bags are not allowed. The drop-off will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The leaves will be taken by CSWD to Green Mountain Compost in Williston, where they'll be processed into compost. Hope to see you (and your leaves) there! Our thanks to the Colchester Conservation Commission for the volunteer efforts in providing this service.

How can you stay informed about your Town Government? Community members can access information about the Town of Colchester through our regularly updated online methods, via the Colchester Sun (available at most local stores) and postings of agendas and hearing notices at the Post Office, Town Clerk's Office, Mazza's General Store, Shaws and the Burnham Library.

- The Town of Colchester's website at www.colchestervt.gov
- The Town of Colchester's Facebook page
- Town announcements on Front Porch Forum (weekly reports and upcoming special meetings/events)
- The Colchester Sun (available at most local stores if not delivered to your home)
- Many Town of Colchester departments also have their own Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, and more.

The Colchester Selectboard meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Colchester Meeting House at 830 Main Street, and LCATV also airs its meetings.

When we're all informed, we make a stronger community! Please also encourage your friends and family to subscribe to the Spotlight for the Colchester School District and Front Porch Forum.

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 lodged the Fiscal Year 2015 Grand List (GL) in the Colchester Town Clerk's office.

- The Assessor's Office is inspecting all new construction that has been started or finished over the course of the summer.
- New property photos will be taken in the next month of improved parcels with missing or out dated photos. Joe Landry, a town employee will be taking these photos on Fridays. Joe will be driving a black Nissan pickup truck or a town vehicle. He will be carrying his employee ID.

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

- The Assessor and Clerk will be hiring a position of Property / Tax Specialist; this position will be shared between the Clerk and the Assessor and will be replacing a long time Assistant Clerk that is retiring. This position will also help improve the Assessor's capacity with greater technical support. By sharing the position between two departments, we will reduce the overall staff hours budgeted for the Assessor and Clerk's. For more information on this position please see the Town's website at "<http://www.colchestervt.gov/HR/hrVacancies.shtml>."

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

- Early voting has begun for the November election. There are two ballots to be voted. One is the state ballot (white), which has the state offices on the front side and a list of the local Justice of the Peace candidates on the back of the ballot. You elect 15 JP's from the list. The second ballot is the local ballot (buff colored) which is also two sided. It lists 11 suggested charter changes including changing the town clerk/treasurer position from an elected position to an appointed position. I support the change so that the position can be held to the same standards as all other department heads and the same oversight. Another suggested change is to reduce the penalty amount for delinquent taxpayers, which I also support. Plan on attending the informational meeting being held on October 28th at 7:30 p.m. during the regular meeting of the Selectboard for a complete update.
- A voter who expects to be an early or absentee voter can vote in the office during office hours up until closing on the day prior to the election or request that a ballot is mailed to them. An authorized person, on behalf of such voter may apply for an early voter absentee ballot. The request can be phone, (802) 264-5520 or email: townclerk@colchestervt.gov
- Presented an overview or showcase of the Town Clerk's Office to the Selectboard at their meeting on October 14th. The showcase included a report of the services offered and a timeline of a typical tax year as well as highlights of elections, licensing etc. Thanks to the staff of the Clerk's office for their assistance. They are Julie Graeter, 10 years of service; Nancy Pecor, 16 years of service; Wanda Morin, 19 years of service and Betsy Peacock, 25 years of service. The Town is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of employees!

For more information about the Town Clerk's Office, <http://colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/townClerkHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5520

Finance Department—Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

Recent activities included:

- We completed the on-site portion of our FY 14 Audit with outside auditors, Sullivan and Powers. They are still reviewing our federal expenses and will be reporting directly to the Selectboard after completing their reports.
- Based on preliminary audit work, the Town finished the fiscal year 14 with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$207,530. Revenues were \$99 less than projected and expenses were \$207,629 or 1.8% less than projected. The Selectboard has assigned \$103,765 to offset property taxes for FY 16 and an additional \$103,765 to offset financial liabilities for which revenues have not been reserved.
- The Windemere Mobile Home Park's water, wastewater, stormwater and paving is 60% complete. The Town provided a \$500,000 bond to pay for about half the cost of this project and for which the town will be repaid by

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

the Park's management. The Town was able to obtain a federally subsidized bond at 1.2% interest and administrative time has been spent guiding and directing the owners and contractor to ensure we meet grant requirements.

- We are working on a plan to reduce telephone expenses by 33% through competitive proposals for local and long distance service our using our voice over internet telephone network.

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

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