

**Colchester's Weekly Town News**  
For the Week of October 25, 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**

The Heritage Project, a strategic plan for the community was completed in 2012. One of the action plans was related to the governance of our community. The Selectboard established a Governance Committee and this group has been diligently meeting twice a month since the beginning of the year to explore how the town might deliver services in a more effective and efficient manner. This past week, the Committee invited the six water/fire districts that serve the community to share their observations as to how services might be improved which resulted in a productive exchange of ideas. I am thankful for all of these volunteer organizations and the service they provide to the community. There appeared to be a willingness to explore how we might all work together in an even more effective manner.

**Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director**

At Burnham Library, we've got a number of exciting programs and opportunities coming up:

- Vermont Health Connect - Do you have questions about the state's new options for finding health insurance? Speak one-on-one with a trained Health Connect Navigator. We'll be scheduling appointments on Tuesdays from 2-6 pm. To setup an appointment, call us at 264-5660, or stop by the library.
- Halloween Party - Our annual Halloween party will be on Wednesday, Oct. 30, from 4-6 pm. Come to the library dressed up for treats, fun, and surprises! For kids through age 10. Register through our website, or call us at 264-5660 for more information.
- Family Movie Night - The entire family can join us for our movie night, on Friday, Nov. 1, at 6 pm. Popcorn will be served! Call 264-5660 for the title and other information, and register through our website.
- Author Jo Knowles at the Library - We welcome Jo Knowles, author of the DCF award-winning book *See You at Harry's*, on Wednesday, Nov. 6. She'll be joining our monthly

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

DCF discussion group at 6:30 pm, before a public talk for kids and adults at 7:30 pm. This session will be taped by VPR. If you are a student in Grades 4-8 and are interested in joining the discussion, please call Hannah at 264-5668 to sign up. Copies of Ms. Knowles's latest titles will be available for sale at this event. Books are provided by Phoenix Books. If you would like your own copy of any of Ms. Knowles's books before the event, please visit Phoenix Books at their Burlington or Essex locations. Please register through our website.

**Economic Development: Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director**

- Conducted business visitations
- Met with commercial realtors to discuss available properties and inventory
- Attended the Vermont Economic Development Association's Annual Meeting
- Pursuing prospects for expansion or relocation
- Continued work on the Community Center Initiative
- Participated in Social Media Roundtable Webinar
- Researched possible marketing opportunity for the Town
- Researched the State Department's Tourism Ambassador Program for the Town
- Handled logistics for December Legislative Breakfast with businesses
- Finalizing Branding Campaign options
- Inventory of building vacancies throughout the town
- Attended the Special Services Transportation Board Meeting

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

- CPD responded to 162 calls for service and had 80 contacts through motor vehicle stops.
- CPD made six arrests this week.
- Command staff members attended training and demonstrations at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Philadelphia this week.
- Halloween is next week. Please be sure to talk to your kids about safety while Trick or Treating. For safety tips please visit the following websites:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/> or  
<http://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>  
or for pet lovers: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/halloween-safety-tips>

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

- Rescue responded to 22 EMS calls, and transported 13 people to the hospital.

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

### In the Recreation Division

- Coordinating publicity for Cabbage Night Movie Presentation with Colchester Theatre Co.
- Coordinating publicity for Leaf Drop Off at Airport Park on Nov 2 & 3
- Met with Water District 3 about possible location changes of water distribution
- Closing out FEMA paperwork for the Causeway and Bayside Slope projects
- Supervising Village Park parking lot and path project
- Bayside Park Phase II project is just about completed
- **Ordered new playground for Heritage Park. Installation in late November**
- Planning for winter programs
- Designing new program brochure
- Attended the Community Health and Wellness Fair
- Meeting with Local Motion about permanent bike ferry infrastructure
- Preparing for software upgrade to RecTrac registration program

### Bayside Activity Center- Week of October 28

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday Walk In hours 10 am-4 pm
- Monday- 10 a.m. Body N Mind Mix
- Monday- 4-5 pm- Chair Yoga
- Tuesday- 9:30 – 11:30 am -Intermediate 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- 11-12 pm. Crafty Club
- Friday- 1pm. Movie Matinee
- 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
- Edged infields of baseball fields at Airport Park
- Delivered and spread new safety surfacing for playgrounds at Airport, Bayside and Bonanza parks
- Repaired sod at Airport Park baseball fields, Bayside Lacrosse/Football field
- Repaired trenching areas that were damaged from Little League running power to the baseball fields
- Started leaf pickup at parks and municipal buildings

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

- On Tuesday night at the Selectboard Meeting, the second of two alternatives presentations were provided for possible future traffic improvements at Exit 17, Vt. Rt. 2A through the Village and Severance Road. These projects will be presented to the Board and public again on November 12, 2013 where the Board will be asked to select a preferred alternative for these projects.
- The Selectboard has accepted Caleb Court as a Town Highway. Caleb Court is a small residential dead end street off from Church Road.
- The Department has been expending a significant amount of time working toward the advancement of an expanded water storage tank on Water Tower Hill in support of the continued build out of the severance Corners Growth Center.
- The Highway Division has hauled 980 tons of winter sand to date and has equipped all main line plow trucks with plow frames and material spreader equipment in preparation of this seasons winter operations.
- We have negotiated with local salt providers to provide salt to the Town at state bid prices. The estimated savings from these successful negotiations are projected to be approximately \$5,200.

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

- Received application for new CVS Pharmacy to replace existing Friendly's building at Exit 16
- Resolved water supply issue for Spauldings West camp conversion
- Concluded landscaping escrow inspections to return funds to property owners;
- Processing requests to accept new public roads
- Followed up on condemned buildings and timelines to demolish
- Continued participation in growth center groups evaluating the current designation process and benefits
- Conducted sign inspections to ensure compliance with permits

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

Activities included:

- Preparing documents for Town report
- Attended Auditor's workshop
- Attended training in incident command
- Working with Library Director on records retention

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- Drafted contract for computer server replacement

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