

Colchester's Weekly Town News
For the Week of September 13, 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 Vermont State Legislature is considering H.526 a Shoreland Protection Bill, aimed at improved management of water quality on Lake Champlain. While the Town recognizes the need for shore line regulations and improved water quality, there are concerns regarding the proposed bill. As a part of the public review process, the Select board has approved a preliminary position statement regarding the proposed bill.
- The Select Board has warned Supplement 33 for a public hearing on October 8, 2013. Previously approved by the Planning Commission, Supplement 33 consists of various Zoning changes in the Heineberg Drive/Prim Road area.
- Kathy O'Reilly began work this week as the Town's new Director of Economic Development. She met with the Board this week to begin discussing some of the necessary steps and challenges related to promoting addition development within the community.

Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director

At the Burnham Library, we have a few updates:

- We now have three ereaders that can be borrowed by patrons
- The Friends are running a flower bulb fundraiser, which runs until Oct. 4
- We are working to start up a Scrabble program for adults

For more information on all three, ask at the front desk or call us. Here are a few of our events for the coming week:

- Young Adult Film Crew with LCATV, Mon. Sept. 16 at 6:30 pm
- Adult Drop-In Yoga, Tues. Sept. 17 at 4:30 pm
- Pajama Story Time, Wed. Sept. 18 at 6:30 pm
- Early Math for Childcare Providers, Thurs Sept. 19 at 6:30 pm (call for more information)
- Practice SAT Exam (Part 1), Sat, Sept. 21 from 9 am-2 pm (register online)

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

Police Department –Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

- Continued aggressive motor vehicle work has led to seven arrests in the past week. CPD made five Driving Under the Influence arrests, one arrest for driving with a criminally suspended license, and one arrest for misdemeanor possession of drugs.
- Officers Chris Jones and Steve Gutierrez were responsible for all five DUI arrests on night shift this week. Their efforts to keep our streets safe are greatly appreciated!
- 18-year-old Allie Blaise of Colchester was arrested and charged with Domestic Assault, 1st degree Unlawful Restraint and Interference with Access to Emergency Services.
- CPD responded to 179 calls for service and had 88 contacts through motor vehicle stops.
- This week Sgt. Charlie Cole is attending week one of a prestigious law enforcement leadership school. The curriculum is three weeks long over the course of three months and is presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- The 12th Vermont Police Canine Association Iron Dog Challenge is coming up on September 29th. This fun and challenging event is now open to the public and includes obstacles courses, timed sprints with your dog, etc. For more details contact Cpl. Dave Dewey at 264-5620 or check out the CPD Facebook page.

Economic Development Department, Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

This is my first week on the job.

- Tuesday made a presentation at the Select Board Meeting.
- Had four tours of the community regarding available inventory and vacancies, zoning changes and possible expansions.
- Met with local realtor, developer and businesses.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

- Rescue responded to 18 calls, and transported 15 people to the hospital.
- Nothing to report from Technical Rescue.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division

- Created FY15 budgets.
- Reviewing and revising program practices.
- Village Park parking lot and path has started with completion date of Oct. 15th.
- Bayside Park Phase II project has started.
- Repairs to Causeway will take place on September 9th to be completed by September 19th. Path will be open for weekend ferry service.
- New playground for Fort Ethan Allen will be installed the week of Sept 23rd.

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

- Widened the Airport Park entrance road.
- Planning for winter programs.

Bayside Activity Center- Week of September 16th

- Monday, Wednesday & Friday Walk In hours 10 am-4 pm.
- Monday- 10 a.m. Body N Mind Mix.
- Tuesday- 1-2 pm Tai Chi.
- Thursday- 1-2 pm Tai Chi.

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

- General maintenance duties.
- Painted Airport Park Bathrooms.
- Painted picnic tables.
- Removed swim area buoys.

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

- Received a \$50,000 energy rebate from Efficiency Vermont as a result of converting the Town's street lights to LED fixtures. The conversion is now complete with significant energy and cost savings being realized.
- Held a Local Concerns Meeting associated with a traffic study of Exit 17 to identify traffic improvement alternatives to address both current traffic congestion and future transportation needs in support of both regional and local growth. The project is currently being advanced through the third and final round of Circ. Alternatives Process.
- Conducting a comprehensive inspection of the transportation system in support of updating the data base for the Town's Capital Paving Program. DPW technical staff are walking the entire 90 mile transportation system characterizing the type and severity of pavement deterioration which is then entered into a computer program developed by the United States Army Corp referred to as MICROPAVER, which serves as the department's primary pavement management software.
- Met with officials from of the Vermont Agency of Transportation to discuss the possibility of locating a Park & Ride Facility at Exit 16. Past regional studies conducted have identified the siting of such a facility in this area as a high priority.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

The Department and Planning and Zoning reports the following activity:

- On September 10th the Select Board met and agreed to warn a hearing on Supplement 33 to the Zoning Regulations for October 8th. This supplement would result in drive-throughs being allowed at shopping centers, reduction in letter of credit lengths, and rezonings primarily in the Heineberg / Prim Road area.

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

- On September 11th the Development Review Board met and approved all agenda items including a variance for a deck, a site plan amendment for Green Mountain Electric, and a seawall.
- On September 17th the Planning Commission will meet to review the Land Use and Cultural Resources Chapters to the Town Plan at 7PM at the Kirker Room at the Police Dept.

Assessor's Office– Bob Vickery, Assessor

- In July 2013 the median sale price for residential properties in Colchester was greater than the median sale price for residential properties in all of Vermont, but less than the Chittenden County residential median sale price.
 - Colchester residential median sale price in July 2013; \$275,000.
 - State of Vermont residential median sale price in July 2013; \$222,000.
 - Chittenden County residential median sale price in July 2013; \$290,000
- The July 2013 median sale price for condos in Colchester was greater than both the State and Chittenden County.
 - Colchester condominium median sale price in July 2013; \$224,000
 - State of Vermont condominium median sale price in July 2013; \$172,500
 - Chittenden County condominium median sale price in July 2013; \$187,000

Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO

- Finance is busy preparing for the audit and the FY 15 Budget.