



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester - The heart of Lake Champlain.

For the Week Ending May 8, 2015

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following highlights some Departments' activities:

Town Manager's Office
Dawn Francis, Town Manager

On the Bay - We invite everyone who lives, works and recreates on the Bay to join in a community conversation to refine our vision for the future of Malletts Bay Village. Please join us for one or more of the activities planned for May 19th and June 2nd:

May 19

- 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch at the Bayside Activity Center
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Walk-and-Talk, Bayside Park Pavilion
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Envisioning Session Colchester High School Cafeteria

June 2

- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Alternatives Open House, Kirker Community Room- Colchester Police Department
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Alternatives Open House, Kirker Community Room
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Priorities & Preferences Workshop, Kirker Community Room

On behalf of the Colchester community, our kudos and appreciation to the citizens, businesses and organizations that participated in this year's Green Up Day. Through the efforts of numerous individuals our community was able to rid our streets, woods, and roads of 7.11 tons of trash ranging from garbage bags, to mattresses and tires. A special thanks to the Conservation Commission for coordinating this effort.

Bryan Osborne, our Public Works Director, was successful in obtaining a grant in the amount of \$82,639 from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission toward a sidewalk on Water Tower Hill. A total of \$157,000 of the \$500,000 cost of this project has been secured in grant funding.

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 is finalizing the Fiscal Year 2016 Grand List (GL).
- The "Abstract Grand List" (AGL) will be lodged with the Town Clerk in the coming week.
- Notice of the AGL will be posted in 5 locations throughout the town including; the Burnham Memorial Library, the Colchester Town Offices, the Colchester Post Office located on Malletts Bay Avenue, Shaw's Supermarket, and Dick Mazza's General Store.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Kingston at 802.264.5509



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- Change of Assessment Notices will be mailed out on the same day the AGL is lodged.
- If you receive a Change of Assessment Notice in the mail and have questions or concerns about the assessment please feel free to call 802-264-5671 or drop by the Assessor's Office at 781 Blakely Road and talk to the Town Assessor, Robert Vickery.
- Grievance hearings will be scheduled 14 day after the AGL is lodged with the Clerk.
- All appeals must be in writing and received no later than the end of the business day on the 14th day after the Abstract Grand List is lodged.

If you have any questions about this information, please call the Assessor's Office at 264-5671.

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

- As we approach the end of the fiscal year we begin our review of our delinquent tax list. Initially we billed \$40,865,996 and have collected \$40,503,266. Balance not yet collected from previous years is \$145,539. We review if you have agreed to a payment plan, if you have made those payments and how many installments have been missed. We put a lot of effort into sending monthly notices and contacting taxpayers, creating payment plans, etc. prior to turning an account over to the attorney for a tax sale. That is the last resort. We prefer to work with you directly if you are struggling to pay your tax bill. Once an account is turned over to an attorney we have no choice but to add attorney fees. So please, if for some reason you are not able to pay the full amount of your taxes contact us to set up a payment plan.
- Last week Julie Graeter, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer and I travelled to Hartland, Vermont to participate in the training of newly elected clerks and treasurers. We presented sessions on cash handling, taxes (both current and delinquent), how to reconcile the education funds and setting internal controls. We are fortunate to have a seasoned staff in Colchester and are called upon on a regular basis to assist clerks that are new to scanning documents, indexing land records and processing mobile home sales.
- Kudos to all of the responsible dog owners that have licensed their dogs. Remember, it is the law. To date we have licensed 892 dogs. If your dog happens to be picked up by the animal control officer and your dog is not licensed there are additional fees added to the violation.

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

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- After eight months of our current year budget, we are 1% over budget for revenues and 4% under budget for expenses.
- We have obtained permission to use \$43,000 in Federal funding for energy efficient LED streetlights at the Winchester Place Apartments. This will reduce electricity consumption and will cut the street light bill in at least half. This project will complement a recent announcement by Governor Shumlin that the State awarded the Town of Colchester \$500,000 in federal funding to improve Winchester Place apartments through a partnership with Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont.
- Working with Sergeant Bean on a seventeen day emergency planning effort with the State of Vermont to help keep our community ready to respond to extended emergencies.
- Working with the Selectboard to turn unused right-of-way for Johnson Avenue back to its owners.

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