



Colchester Town News

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Colchester - The heart of Lake Champlain.

For the Week Ending June 5, 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

Memorial Day weekend marks the "official" beginning of summer in Colchester, along with lots of summer activities:

- The Colchester Conservation Commission again sponsored "Colchester Blooms" this year. Dedicated volunteers planted flowers around Exit 16 and at Bayside Park to beautify our town. A big thank you to all who helped, despite the forecast of possible thunderstorms: Pam Loranger, Liz Hamlin-Volz, Lisa Halvorsen, Theresa Carroll, Mick Levine, and Tim Moran.
- The Colchester Log Schoolhouse is open at Airport Park from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Friday through Monday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We thank the Colchester Historical Society members who dedicate their time and energy to the Schoolhouse, and especially Carol Reichard, who organized 25 volunteers this year to keep the Log Schoolhouse doors open. Be sure to visit this Colchester gem this summer.
- The Local Motion Bike Ferry is now open on the Causeway: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week from June 12 to September 7; and Fridays, weekends and holidays, September 11 to October 12. You can find more information online at www.localmotion.org.
- Sadly, the Colchester Farmers' Market has been cancelled this year due to a lack of volunteers and low vendor interest. However, there are several family-owned farms in Colchester and "localvores" will be pleased with the homegrown, fresh fruits and veggies offered at Brigante's Farm Stand at 682 Mallets Bay Avenue; Paul Mazza's Farm Stand at 135 Poor Farm Road; and Sam Mazza's Farm Market at 277 Lavigne Road.
- Look for a new Colchester Visitor's Center to open by July 1st at Severance Corners. You'll find brochures, maps and guides to all that Colchester has to offer tourists and residents.
- The Colchester Parks and Recreation Department now offers paddleboards, kayaks and pedal boat rentals at Bayside Beach in Malletts Bay, operating 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week, June 15 to August 23 and weekends August 29 to September 20. Call 802-264-5640 or 802-316-2929 for more information or online at www.colchestervt.gov.

For more information about the Town Manager's Office, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/Manager/index.shtml> or call (802) 264-5509.

Town Clerk's Office

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



Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- May was a busy month for processing passports, with 61 passport applications filed. We also do passport photos.
- I attended the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference last month. Every state and 10 countries were represented at the conference.
- Last week there were three 3rd grade classes from Malletts Bay School that visited the Town Offices and the Public Works facility. They learned about taxes, infrastructure, town government and planning/zoning issues. They were bright, inquisitive and entertaining. It was a refreshing interruption of our daily routine.
- The tax bills will be in the mail next month. This is your last opportunity to file your HS-122 form and have the residential homestead tax rate appear on your tax bill. If you have not filed your homestead, your tax bill will reflect the non-residential tax rate.
- Last year we billed \$40,991,483 in property taxes, penalty and interest. The outstanding amount to be collected is \$339,773 or .83%.

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

- After ten months of our current year budget, we are 1% over budget for revenues and 5% under budget for expenses.
- Obtained quotes for telecommunications and signed contracts with Fairpoint that should result in \$4,000 to \$6,000 savings annually on copper lines for emergency services and alarms, and savings of \$3,400 digital services for other voice communications. These cost reductions will result in savings of at least \$7,400 annually.
- Our IT staff has replaced two \$15,000 archiving software systems with a new system that cost \$1,000, saving \$29,000 in capital costs.
- Staff is working with radio equipment vendor and building and radio tower owners to improve radio communications for fire departments without increasing ongoing costs.

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

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