



**For the Week Ending September 4, 2015**

## **Town Manager's Special Edition**

**Dawn H. Francis, Town Manager**

Recently, the Burnham Library held a strategic planning session to plot their future. I was reminded by those assembled about the important role public libraries play in our communities—and how much that role has changed since the days when libraries offered only hardcover books and an occasional admonishment, “Quiet, please!”

Today's libraries offer literature and information in all types of formats designed for easy retrieval; from traditional books to e-books to on-line access to informational websites from public computers. They provide a retreat from our busy daily lives; are sources of non-partisan and unbiased information; and are places where we may avail ourselves of lifelong learning opportunities through a myriad of different programs. They have become an invaluable resource for those who don't have a computer at home. They offer assistance to immigrants, job seekers, start-up entrepreneurs, students seeking tutoring, and those needing help with income tax preparation. They even offer passes that can be borrowed for up to a week to obtain free or discounted entrance to parks and cultural events.

A 2008 report, “Strategic Planning for Results,” by Sandra S. Nelson, ALA/PLA, provided a comprehensive list of areas in which public libraries provide services:

- Be an Informed Citizen: Local, National, and World Affairs
- Build Successful Enterprises: Business and Nonprofit Support
- Celebrate Diversity: Cultural Awareness
- Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access
- Create Young Readers: Early Literacy
- Discover Your Roots: Genealogy and Local History
- Express Creativity: Create and Share Content
- Get Facts Fast: Ready Reference
- Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services
- Learn to Read and Write: Adult, Teen, and Family Literacy
- Make Career Choices: Jobs and Career Development
- Make Informed Decisions: Health, Wealth, and other Life Choices
- Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning
- Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure
- Succeed in School: Homework Help
- Understand how to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information: Information Fluency
- Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces
- Welcome to the United States: Services for New Immigrants

Comprehensive indeed!

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



## Colchester Town News

VERMONT

*Colchester-What do you want to do today?*

The Burnham Library Trustees and staff are now exploring how the work of Burnham Memorial Library (BML) aligns with the work of the Town's vision and plan. They are identifying how BML currently serves and enriches the community and how those services can be improved and expanded even further. Your input is welcome and I encourage you to email the Director of BML, Kelly Tomaseski, ([ktomaseski@colchestervt.gov](mailto:ktomaseski@colchestervt.gov)) to share your thoughts about the role Burnham Library can play to serve you.

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

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