



Colchester Town News

Colchester-What do you want to do today?

For the Week Ending September 25, 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

Great news this week! Due to the efforts of our Public Works Department, we have been awarded a grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Bike and Pedestrian Program for the West Lakeshore Drive Bike Path Project in the amount of \$532,000. This brings the total grants secured for this project to \$1,369,035. This project involves the construction of a .84 mile separated bike path from Church Road to Prim Road which will result in the completion of the gap in the 11 mile continuous pedestrian corridor from Creek Road to the end of the Causeway. The Route 7/Route 2A/Creek Road intersection project will extend the path to the Village area and is scheduled to be completed next summer. The West Lakeshore Drive project is currently listed within the Capital Budget Program for construction in FY18-FY19. With a total estimated cost of \$1,696,519, approximately 80% of the project will now be funded by grants. Town staff will be working on right-of-way acquisition in the coming months.

Why do we think paths are a worthwhile investment? According to many studies, they make our community more livable and desirable, they provide positive mental and physical health benefits, preserve open space, improve our economy through tourism and increase property values.

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

Burnham Memorial Library Kelly Tomaseski, Director

Autumnal greetings from Burnham Library! Fall is a fine time of year to curl up with a good book, so be sure to stop by and find something new (or old) to read. We'd like to share info about some of our upcoming October programs:

- Tutoring - Our tutoring program is up and running again. Students from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Colchester campus) tutor students in grades 1-6 in reading, math, and science at the library. Sessions take place on Mondays from 5-8 pm, Wednesdays from 3:30-8 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm. There is no fee for the service. You can call us at 264-5660 to sign up, or for more information.
- Early Literacy Training for Childcare Providers - Tuesday, October 13 from 6-7:30 pm. Developing strong emotional skills in early childhood is critical for

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school readiness and lifelong learning. Learn some best practices for helping children identify and manage their feelings, emotions and behaviors as they get ready to take that big step up to kindergarten. Snacks will be served. Please register at our website.

- Needle Felting – Monday, Oct. 19, from 6:30-7:45 pm. Get ready for Halloween! Join us in the Burnham Room and learn how to needle felt an adorable little pumpkin or two. All supplies are provided, and the class is open to adults 18 and up. Register online.
- Skype with Andy Weir, author of “The Martian” – Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 pm. Fans of “The Martian” can join us to chat with the author, ask questions about the book, and geek out over the movie! Open to teens and adults.
- Halloween - Friday, Oct. 30 at 6 pm. This year, the Burnham Library invites you to celebrate Halloween with a very special performance of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. PuppeTree’s production of this classic holiday story is performed by professional puppeteers who operate more than 100 shadow puppets for the show. Come in costume and join in the parade after the performance. Refreshments will be served following the parade. Suitable for the whole family. Please register at our website.
- Universal Class – Did you know that you can take a range of online classes through the library? Each class includes assignments for the topics and is led by a real teacher. All you need to sign up is a current library card. You can find more information here - <http://colchestervt.gov/226/Universal-Class>

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library’s events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

Parks and Recreation Department **Glen Cuttitta, Director**

On October 1st the 40+ years old Parks Maintenance Buildings located at Airport Park are scheduled to be demolished. The structures have been showing their age for a while now and staffing and equipment have increased quite a bit since the Town purchased the land and buildings in 1983. These building are used only seasonally, they lack staff bathroom facilities and have no running water in the winter months. The new replacement will be almost twice the size of the old buildings and will contain heated space with an office, breakroom, storage room, locker room, bathrooms and work area, as well as cold storage for equipment. For last 15 years the staff has been extremely creative to make the old building functional, but it’s become obsolete for today’s Parks and Recreation purposes. The necessity of replacement was identified 5 years ago and money has been set aside through the Parks Capital Plan each year since to fund the project. The total cost of the 4,000 square foot metal building is \$459,000, and Black Rock Construction will be doing the work. Completion is anticipated in April 2016.

The following is a small sampling of tasks completed by our department.

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- Bayside Paddle Sports is closed until next summer. Thanks for all that visited us at Bayside Park!
- We have hired two new Program Coordinators, Isaac Spivey and Kate Richardson, who are replacing staff members that have left for other positions.
- Finalized revision of the Colchester Park Ordinance and now creating a Concession Permit Application
- Artistic bike racks are almost completed and will be installed in October
- Bayside Beach dinghy dock design is completed and going through State and Army Corps of Engineers Permitting
- Seasonal Staff is clearing out the Parks Maintenance building in preparation for demolition
- Meeting with LIFE Advisory Board on marketing strategies
- Malletts Bay Cemetery renovation is completed and awaiting signage design
- Working with State of Vermont for permits to construct a recreational trail at the Village Park.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.