



Colchester Town News

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

For the Week Ending December 11, 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

As you prepare for the upcoming holidays, please consider investing in our Colchester businesses by shopping locally. As part of our Economic Development efforts, we annually support the "Small Business Saturday" initiative, which is a national effort to encourage consumers to shop at local independently owned businesses. The Selectboard proclaimed Small Business Saturday as being November 28th this year.

The Town of Colchester understands the importance and positive impact our local, small businesses have on our community. Not only do they employ our friends and neighbors, but they are also involved in our town by supporting many athletic, cultural and philanthropic events. They volunteer, donate goods and services, and participate in our parades, fireworks displays and events such as the Triathlon. Please support them this holiday season by giving them your business!

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

Town Clerk's Office Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- As this year winds down it is time to gear up for the next election, which is Town Meeting on Tuesday March 1, 2016. As we prepare to advertise the expired terms for the many elected positions it is appropriate to thank all of the elected officials. They are our dedicated citizens that volunteer their time and efforts for the betterment of our community. The Town could not survive without our loyal volunteers.
- The following positions will be on the ballot in March:
Selectman, 2 Year, currently held by Jeffrey Bartley; Selectman 3 Year, currently held by Tom Mulcahy; Moderator, 1 Year, currently held by Jerry Flanagan; School Board, 2 Year, currently held by Lindsey Cox; School Board, 3 Year, currently held by Craig Kieny; and Library Trustee, 5 Year, currently held by Toni Josey; Lister, 3 Year, currently held by Doug Mulac. We thank these people for their past commitment and future challenge if they should decide to run again.

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



- In order to run for any of the above mentioned offices you need to submit a petition stating which office you are running for and the length of the term, plus the signatures of 30 registered voters. **We cannot accept petitions that lack the term of office.** If you have questions or would like a blank petition please contact us. **The deadline to submit a petition is 5:00 PM on Monday, January 25, 2016.**
- Also, the Presidential primary election will be in conjunction with the Town Election. At the Presidential primary it is necessary to state which party ballot that you wish to vote. The party ballot that you choose is notated on the checklist. The election officials are required to track this information. At the State primary in August you are given all of the party ballots and vote one party, and we do not track that. Different rules for different elections!

Please remember that both voting districts: District 9-1 and District 9-2 are voting at the Colchester High School Gymnasium for all elections.

For more information about the Town Clerk's Office,
<http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call (802) 264-5520

Finance Department
Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

Fiscal Year 15 Update: The Town finished the year with a surplus of revenues over expenditures of \$187,791. These funds were reserved by the Selectboard to be used in the FY 17 budget, to reduce the amount necessary to be raised by property taxes. We instituted the local option tax (LOT) on October 1, 2015, We estimated about \$1.2M in receipts annually; therefore we estimate about \$900,000 for this partial fiscal year. We are using about \$600,000 annually to pay for debt service. Local option tax revenues in excess of debt service payments will be placed in a special fund which may only be spent for voter approved capital projects. The voter approval of the local option tax placed restrictions of the use of these funds and has since been incorporated into a change in the Town's Charter documenting the authority and restriction.

We have received the draft audited financials from our auditor with no findings. Audit preparation included a "fixed asset inventory and reconciliation" of 390 assets. The assets include: our half of Lime Kiln Bridge, valued at \$42.8M; a gravel road grader; forensic video software; "jaws of life;" an underwater search camera; a "life detector system;" and mobile radios worth \$1,714.

Fiscal Year 16 Update: Four months or 33.3% through the fiscal year, revenues were higher than expenses by \$277,918, a net positive of about 3%.

- Revenue is 2% higher than what we expect it to be at this point in the year
- Expenses are 1% under budget at 32% spent

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Fees for services received through October are \$308,915, up \$59,068 over this time last fiscal year including increases of

- \$84,717 for Building/Zoning Permits
- \$14,545 for wastewater permits

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

Police Department
Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

In the past month Colchester Police Department has responded to 758 calls for service and made contact with 466 vehicle operators during traffic stops. From those encounters we arrested 36 people for 45 crimes ranging from DUI to drug offenses, larceny, resisting arrest, and others. Our motor vehicle stops were greater than usual this month due to special enforcement efforts over the Thanksgiving holiday as part of the national “Click It or Ticket” campaign. We anticipate more traffic details focusing on all aspects of roadway safety during the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. We will be focusing on distracted and impaired driving, use of seat belts and aggressive driving. Please make your holiday plans accordingly – if you have time to think about what to wear to a party, then you have time to think about how you will get home safely.

On behalf of all the women and men of CPD, we wish the community a happy and healthy holiday season! We have numerous exciting initiatives on tap for 2016 and we look forward to our continuing partnership with the community to keep Colchester one of the best places to live in America!

For more information about Colchester Police Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5556 (non-emergency).

Assessor’s Office
Bob Vickery, Assessor

The upgrade of the GIS Map and Assessment Data on the Town’s website has been completed. You may view the new online Web Map and Assessment Data by going to: <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>. Our goal was to make this feature more accessible and user-friendly. Be sure to let us know if you have questions or comments regarding the new GIS map.

Inspections continue for all properties that had permits issued in the last year. If you have had a permit issued in the last year for additions, interior renovations, or new construction and the work has been completed please contact the Assessor’s Office to schedule an appointment at (802) 264-5670 or (802) 264-5524.

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For more information about the Assessor's Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call (802) 264-5670.

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