



Colchester Town News

Colchester-What do you want to do today?

For the Week Ending January 22, 2016

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

Town Meeting preparations are underway here at the town offices. In a couple of weeks, absentee ballots will be available (by February 11th) for both the local and federal elections as well as the budget and capital plan authorizations. Please look for information about the budget and articles you will be voting on in the 2/4 Colchester Sun, on our website or in the Annual Report. The Sun will include an 8 page supplement that will be included in the paper and mailed to those households that do not receive the paper. You may also register to vote at the Town Clerk's office between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on the wide variety of services we provide to you including road/bridge/path and sidewalk maintenance, police, rescue and fire (performed by volunteer fire departments), library, parks and recreation as well as passports, land records and zoning/wastewater/building permits, check out our new website www.colchestervt.gov. Each department has a PowerPoint or video that showcases the services provided and recent work accomplished.

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

Greetings from the Burnham Library. Though it may be cold outside, it's always warm at the library, especially in front of the fireplace. We'd like to let you know about just a few of our upcoming programs:

- Tax Help with AARP Volunteers - Starting in February, the AARP's Tax Aide Service volunteers will be filing taxes for seniors and lower income households once again. The service is free! Appointments take place on Saturdays (from 9:15 am-1:15 pm), call 264-5660 to sign up.
- Tax Forms - The library will be receiving a range of 2015 Federal tax forms in the coming weeks, along with a limited amount of instructions. Unfortunately, just like last year, the State is not making any forms available through libraries. In either case, you'll be able to download forms online, or request them online or by phone.

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



- Tutoring - Tutoring is back. Students from the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Colchester campus) tutor students in reading, math, and science at the library. The program is focused on grades 1-6, but tutoring is available in other grades for certain subjects. Sessions take place on Mondays from 6-8 pm, Wednesdays from 4-8 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am-2 pm. There is no fee for this service, and you can call us at 264-5660 to sign up or for more information.
- Story Times - We have a wide range of story times going on. Preschool Storytime is every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 am, while Toddler Storytime is every Tuesday, also at 10:30 am; if possible, please call 264-5660 to sign up for either of these. And every Saturday is drop-in Story Time at 10 am (no sign up needed). And Pajama Story Time will be on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 pm.
- Write Now! (Young Adults) - Monday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 pm. Do you like to write? Ever want to take a stab at National Novel Writing Month? Come join us for writerly encouragement, prompts, snacks, and literary mayhem. We're strategizing about word count goals to write our novels (or long poems, or D&D character sheets, or whatever) and making journals to celebrate. Teens 12 & up.
- Needle Felting (Adults) - Monday, Feb. 2 from 2-3:30 pm, and Monday, Feb. 8 from 6:30-7:45 pm. Get ready for Valentine's Day! Join us in the Burnham Room and learn how to needle felt an adorable heart. All supplies are provided, and the class is open to adults 18 and up. Sign up at our website.
- Young Writers & Storytellers - Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 4-5 pm. Join us as we begin a library writing club for children from kindergarten to 3rd grade. Let's create stories! Call 264-5660 for more information, and to sign up.

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

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

- Marketing and Recreation Specialist, Randy Mason will be starting employment on January 25th to replace a position left by Kelly McGinley last Fall
- New Park Maintenance Building construction is proceeding nicely, interior walls are being framed
- Outdoor skating rink must wait for colder weather

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- Be sure to check out the Parks and Recreation Winter Programs. We are registering now
- Colchester Youth Basketball is in full operation with practices during the week and games on Saturdays. We are still seeking referees. If you are interested contact Isaac Spivey at 264-5646
- Colchester Winter Carnival Committee has been meeting and planning for the event, which will be held February 5 & 6
- Colchester's Got Talent auditions are completed and contestants have been chosen. Should be an entertaining evening
- Planning is beginning for the summer camps for 2016.
- Work has started on the Summer Activity Brochure which will be available the first week of March
- Selection underway of consultant to work on the Bayside Park Master Plan, Needs Assessment for a Health and Wellness Center, and Master Plan for the Health and Wellness Center
- Special Event Request Form has been updated and is available on our website.
- Creating informational items for the public on Park Capital Plan reauthorization for Town Meeting Day.

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