



For the Week Ending March 4, 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

"A town meeting is a legislature of citizens, for citizens, and by citizens. The fact that each citizen of the town is also a legislator separates the New England town meeting from all other forms of democracy." Frank Bryan, Vermont author, political scientist and town meeting expert.

My favorite time of year is Town Meeting. Perhaps it is because as a UVM student, Professor Bryan instilled in me a respect for how this annual gathering of residents is not only a time for debating issues and acting upon budgets, but it is even more importantly, a time when we all celebrate being part of a democracy and a community. Over 4,800 of you turned out to vote, (a record for a March election!) and many of you shared dinner and listened to our legislators and officials discuss important topics that affect all of us. Thank you for taking the time to express your opinions and your support. And thank you to all of the businesses that donated food for our poll workers and the volunteers and employees who ensured a fair and efficient voting process. Colchester is truly a special place.

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

Taxes are due on Tuesday, March 15th. This is the 3rd and final installment for this fiscal year. Retain the top portion of your bill which has the necessary information to file for your homestead and state credit, if applicable.

- If you have not already done so, it is time to file your homestead (deadline is April 15th) for this year with the Vermont State Tax Department. Depending on your income, you may be eligible to file for a Property Tax Adjustment. You will need the following: Form HS-122 Homestead Declaration (Sect. A) and Property Tax Adjustment Claim (Sect B) AND Schedule HI-144 Household Income. Mobile home owners, depending on household income, may also qualify for a Renter Rebate. You will need the following: Form PR-141 Renter Rebate, Schedule HI-144 Household Income AND Form LC-142 Landlord Certificate (Obtain this form from your landlord). There are 3 easy ways to get your forms: 1. Download at www.tax.vermont.gov, order by email at taxforms@state.vt.us or call toll-free (855) 297-5600.

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



- The Election is over. It was a record turnout for a March Election. Many thanks to the voters, election officials, town and school staff, and the elected Justices of the Peace for a busy, well attended Presidential Primary and local election. There were 4826 voters, of which 975 (20%) chose to vote early.
- If you voted at the polls you probably noticed the number of high school students that worked as Election Officials for the day. These students are members of the National Honor Society and fulfilling their obligation for community service. They were a welcome and productive addition to the day. We look forward to working with them in the future.
- Last week the Clerk's office processed a record number of passports, 54. We also had a record number of voters walk in the office to cast a ballot. Kudos to the Staff: Julie Graeter, Wanda Morin, Betsy Peacock and Traci Paquette. They went above and beyond to accommodate all of customer service activities and they did it with a smile!
- Dogs are required to be licensed by April 1st. IT IS THE LAW. Please bring in a copy of the rabies certificate, which is required to be on file, in order to process the license.

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

Seven months through the fiscal year, General Fund revenues are higher than expenses by \$450,715, a net positive of 3.8%

- Expenditures are 1.4% under budget due to the mild winter and seasonal spending on Town services.
- Revenues are 2.4% over budget, including tax collections, clerk and planning/zoning fees, rescue revenues, and funding from other governments.

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

Assessor's Office

Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Assessor's Office has lodged the Fiscal Year 2015 Grand List (GL) in the Colchester Town Clerk's office.

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



Colchester Town News

Colchester - What do you want to do today?

- The Assessor's Office is continuing the inspections of all new construction that has been started or finished. In the coming months we will be focusing on interior inspections of properties that have renovated. This will continue through the spring.
- We have successfully petitioned the Director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of the Common Level of Assessment (CLA). The initial CLA that was presented in December and set at 96.48%. We were able to get the State to change the CLA to 98.41%. The 1.93% change in the CLA will lower the educational tax rate by just under \$0.03.

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