

For the Week Ending April 8, 2016

Upcoming Town meetings:

- Colchester Conservation Commission, Monday April 18th at 7:00 PM at Bayside Activity Center
- Planning Commission, Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 PM at the Kirker Room, Colchester Police Dept.

Upcoming events:

- On the Bay Public Forum: Proposed Lakeshore Zoning discussion. Tuesday, April 19th, in the Kirker Room at the Colchester Police Dept.

Notices:

- Qualified home owners should file their homesteads by 4/15/16 for property tax adjustment.
- No passport applications or processing on Wednesdays.

Notify Me: Subscribe to the Town news that matters to you most. Visit www.colchestervt.gov and click on the Notify Me icon; enter your email address and select which updates you want to receive. You'll receive email updates automatically!

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

Are you interested in the future of Colchester's lakeshore and economy? Have you ever thought about the benefits tourist dollars bring to a community? Colchester has long envisioned transforming the West Lakeshore Drive neighborhood into a recreation and tourism oriented village center on Mallett's Bay, but lack of infrastructure has stymied those plans for decades. With plans moving forward to address infrastructure needs, the Town is dusting off and updating its zoning and development standards for the Malletts Bay village area.

We invite everyone who lives, works, and recreates on the bay to join in a community conversation about the proposed zoning changes that are intended to encourage environmentally responsible and economically beneficial land use around Mallett's Bay. We encourage all Colchester residents and local business owners to attend and share their ideas to create an attractive, vibrant, and welcoming village center.

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 Gustainis at 802.264.5509

Assessor's Office

Bob Vickery, Assessor

The Assessor's Office is busy finalizing the 2016 Grand List.

- New technology has allowed us to improve in-the-field collection of data and we may now enter it directly into our database while conducting an inspection. This will increase efficiency, reduce errors and eliminate the potential for data corruption.
- We are conducting field review for all properties in the Town. If you've had a permit issued in the last year for new construction, an addition, or interior renovations and work is complete please contact the **Assessor's Office** to schedule an appointment for a review: (802) 264-5670 or (802) 264-5524.
- You may view our new online Web Map and Assessment Data by visiting <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

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

Town Clerk's Office

Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- 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
 2. Order by email at taxforms@state.vt.us
 3. Call toll-free (855) 297-5600.
- Thanks to the many responsible dog owners that registered their dogs on or before April 1st. Currently 829 dogs have been registered. Last year we

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registered 1300. If you have not done so yet, please remember IT IS THE LAW TO REGISTER YOUR DOG. We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

- The last tax installment for this fiscal year was March 15th. We billed \$13,795,800 and collected \$13,477,770, which leaves \$318,230 left to collect. That is slightly more than 2%. Typically by June there is less than 1% to collect. This contributes to the financial strength of the community and is reflected in the audit each year.
- We will be conducting a tax sale on Friday May 13th. Currently there are 17 properties on the list. We will continue to work with these taxpayers for collection as we proceed.
- Due to the volume of passports recently we found it necessary to cut back on the number of days that we can process passports. We will no longer be processing passports on Wednesday but will continue to do so on the other days.

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

FY 16 Budget Update: Eight months through the fiscal year, General Fund revenues are higher than expenses by \$321,921, a net positive of 3%.

- Expenditures are 1% under budget due to the mild winter and seasonal spending on Town services.
- Revenues are 2% over budget, including tax collections, Clerk and Planning/Zoning fees, Rescue revenues, and funding from other governments.

Radio Improvements: We are working to improve the radio system for emergency communications and communications among departments.

- Obtained grant for portable base stations for police, fire, rescue, and public works departments
- Working to obtain long term location to transmit fire department and public works radio at no cost to the Town.

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

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Colchester – What do you want to do today?

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