

For the Week Ending July 8, 2016

Upcoming Town meetings:

- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, July 18, 5:30 PM at Village Park, Main Street
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, July 19, 7:00 PM in the Outer Bay Conference Room, Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, 3rd floor
- **Selectboard Meeting:**
Tuesday, July 12, 2016; 6:30 PM, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room
Tuesday, July 26, 6:30 PM, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, 2nd floor, Champlain Room.
- **Development Review Board:** Wednesday, July 27, 7 PM, Outer Bay Conference Room, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, 3rd floor

Upcoming events:

- **Thursday Night Summer Concert Series:** July 14, 7:00 PM, music by Satin and Steel
- **32nd Annual Colchester Triathlon:** Sunday, July 31, 8:30 AM at Bayside Park.

Notify Me: Subscribe to Town news that matters to you most. Visit www.colchestervt.gov and click on the Notify Me icon to sign up. You'll receive an email when something important is posted.

Notices:

Planning Commission Opening: Do you take an interest in the future direction of Colchester's growth? Would you enjoy volunteering in your community? If so, an opening for a new Planning Commission member will be coming up soon! No previous experience is required; training is provided. All residents of Colchester are welcome to apply.

You may pick up an application at the Town Offices or online at www.colchestervt.gov. Call 264-5606 for more information.

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 Aaron Frank, Deputy Town Manager

FY 16 Budget Update

Eleven months into the fiscal year, General Fund revenues are higher than expenses by \$593,913, a net positive of 5%

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

- Expenditures are 4% under budget due to a mild winter and seasonal spending on Town services.
- Revenues are 1% over budget, including taxes collected, Clerk and Planning & Zoning fees, Rescue revenues, and funding from other governments.
- In the event of a year-end surplus, the Selectboard voted to use \$80,000 to assist with funding of comprehensive stormwater management system for Malletts Bay; and to assign general fund balance to reduce the liability for accrued leave and reduction in the amount to be raised by property taxes.

FY 17 Tax Rate: The Selectboard set a Town tax rate of \$0.5440 per hundred dollars of property value. This rate is less than the rate of \$0.5530 set five years ago for the FY 2013 tax bills. Based on 2015-16 taxes (the latest comparable available) our rate is the third lowest per resident among the seven inner Chittenden county communities. This rate is attributable to:

- Our vibrant and growing community; real estate value has grown by 53% since 2008!
 - Through March 2016 we issued 52 building permits totaling \$47,000,000 in value.
- Local option tax passed by voters in 2015
 - \$643,146 in annual debt is paid by Local Option Tax instead of Property Taxes
- Cost containment focus by Selectboard and Town staff including
 - An energy audit of all Town facilities and reduced energy consumption.
 - Restructuring police vehicle fleet with smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles and reduced fit-up costs.
 - Focus on non-tax revenues for support of operating expenses. Budgeted non-tax revenues are projected to increase 5.1% by increasing building permit fees and ambulance service fees.
 - Obtained grants for critical infrastructure improvements.
 - Shared equipment and services with other municipalities.
 - Emphasized employee safety and wellness.
 - Renegotiated bond interest rates and terms as well as various service contracts.
- Commitment to coordination of efforts across departments including
 - Central management of building maintenance
 - Expanding capital funding for vehicles and equipment to include buildings
 - Restructuring of communications, IT and public safety capital
 - Consolidated management of IT
 - Shared staff across departments
 - Reduction in 8 of 26 cost areas in FY 17 Budget

2015-2016 Municipal Taxes Raised Per Person	
Williston	\$554
Essex Town	\$620
Colchester (3rd lowest)	\$645
Burlington	\$698
So. Burlington	\$745
Winooski	\$807
Essex Jct.	\$902
Average	\$740

Assessor’s Office
Bob Vickery, Assessor

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

- The 2016 Abstract Grand List was lodged with the Town Clerk on May 27, 2016. Notices of the 2016 Grand List have been posted at the Town Offices, The Burnham Public Library, United States Post Office, Mazza’s General Store, and Shaw’s Supermarket.
- In preparation for the 2016 Grand List 712 properties were inspected, resulting in 426 Change of Assessments; 70 assessments were reduced in value; 357 assessments increased or had changes in the Current Use allocation.
- The Board of Lister heard 33 grievances and 42 Result of Grievance Notices were mailed.
- 2 decisions made by the Board of Listers were grieved to the Board of Civil Authority.

We will have the new 2016 assessment data updated online shortly. Thank you for your patience. You may view the online Web Map and Assessment Data at: <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

It’s that time of year again - state primary ballots have arrived. Voters may stop by the Town Clerk’s office to vote or you may request an absentee ballot that will be

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Colchester – What do you want to do today?

mailed directly to your home. A reminder that tax bills will be mailed on July 15th and the first installment is due August 15th.

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

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