

For the Week Ending August 5, 2016

Upcoming Town meetings:

- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, August 15, 7 PM; Bayside Activity Center at Bayside Park
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 PM; Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Room, 3rd Floor
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, August 23, 6:30 PM; Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Room, 3rd Floor
- **Development Review Board:** Wednesday, August 24, 7 PM, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Room, 3rd Floor

Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday Night Summer Concert Series:** Thursday, August 11, 7:00 PM, music by Satin and Steel. This the last concert of the series!

Notices:

- **Taxes are due August 15th.** If for some reason you have not yet received your bill please contact the Town Clerk. Check your tax bill carefully to see if you received the residential rate if the property is your primary residence. If you have questions please contact us at 264-5520.

Volunteer Openings:

- **Planning Commission Opening:** Would you like to be directly involved in the planning of Colchester's growth? The Colchester Planning Commission is seeking a new member. No experience is necessary and any Colchester resident may apply. Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 PM in at the Town Offices on Blakely Road. Come attend a meeting or two to see if being a Planning Commission member is for you!
- **Recreation Advisory Board Opening:** Do you enjoy sports activities and Town social events? Is physical fitness an important part of your family's lifestyle? If so, the Recreation Advisory Board wants you as its new member! Meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday morning of the month from 7-8 AM at the Town Offices on Blakely Road.
- You may pick up a **volunteer application** at the Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road or download it from our website <http://colchestervt.gov/383/Volunteer-Opportunities> Call 264-5509 for more information.

Notify Me: Subscribe to 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 an email when something important is posted.

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

Summer may be a time of rest and relaxation for many but it's been a busy time for your local emergency responders and Town government:

- The Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Rescue/Technical departments, and many volunteers have logged long hours ensuring our community's safety by covering Raftapalooza, the 32nd Colchester Triathlon, youth day camps and the Summer Concert series on Thursday evenings. These events were held within a two week period, while we also participated in the Vigilant Guard mock emergency training. (There's more about that below.)
- The Town Clerk's office is collecting taxes and overseeing voter registration and voting for the August 9th state primary
- Burnham Library staff is running their popular summer programs
- The Department of Public Works has overseen the paving of nine streets, improvements to several buildings, and the Morehouse Brook Culvert replacement on Malletts Bay Avenue
- Planning and Zoning has had a record year of processing building and wastewater permit applications as well as development plans
- Our Assessor is completing work on the changes of assessments for over 400 properties
- We are seeing increased tourism as a result of our Economic Development Director's work with area hotels and businesses to promote Colchester
- The Finance Department and Manager's office are gearing up yet again for our annual audit and preparation of the FY 2017-18 budget.

Last Friday, 50 staff and volunteers from 12 different departments for the Town of Colchester, including the Colchester School District and our volunteer emergency responder agencies, were involved in a statewide Vigilant Guard mock emergency training. The exercise lasted over 13 hours, was specific to Colchester, and tested our ability to protect citizens while responding to and recovering from a natural disaster. The scenario of an earthquake was presented against the backdrop of a concurrent statewide epidemic of pneumonic plague. We responded to a number of disasters that might result from an earthquake, including:

- water line breaks and contamination of drinking water
- the inaccessibility of the Malletts Bay Fire District area due to damage to the Heineberg Bridge and Lakeshore Drive near the Moorings Marina (the bike path offered a solution)

- structure fires
- emergency responses to health-related events
- a power outage at Holy Cross Senior housing
- a rescue of six people caught in a collapse of the Middle School.

It was impressive to observe our emergency responders in action as their many years of experience were put to the test by a series of overwhelming events. The day demonstrated the team's exceptional capabilities of working together under pressure and taking care of our community's need for shelter, water and food, even when outside resources may not be available to us. Evaluators from the state and federal government complimented our preparedness, teamwork, coordination, and organization.

We will be much better prepared for an actual large scale incident due to the participation of our staff and volunteers in this exercise; and we plan to continue annual exercises to hone our skills and develop those of other staff and volunteer members. You may rest assured that based upon how the team performed last Friday the Town of Colchester is well prepared for any emergency.

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

- The first installment of taxes is due August 15th. When the taxes are not received on the 15th of August or postmarked by the U.S. postal service by the 15th they are considered late and subject to 5% penalty and 1% interest. If they are not paid in 30 days there will be an additional 3% penalty assessed. These rates are set in the charter. The town charter was changed last year to reduce the penalty amount from 8% to 5% for the first 30 days, in response to the taxpayers' comments.
- You can pay your taxes by check, cash, money order, escrow, auto-debit or credit card. If you pay by credit card there is a convenience fee of 2.6% that is received by the Credit Card Company and not revenue to the town. You can pay by credit card up until midnight on the 15th. Payments will also be accepted in the drop box until midnight on the 15th. Payments received after the 15th in the drop box are considered late and subject to penalty and interest.
- The State Primary Election is being held on August 9th from 7 am to 7 pm. All voters will vote at Colchester High School Gymnasium. Since it is a primary



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Colchester – What do you want to do today?

you may vote for only one party. You will receive 3 ballots (Democratic, Republican and Progressive). You will vote one ballot and deposit the unvoted ballots in a separate box. This is the same for absentee requests. We will mail 3 ballots to you and you will only vote one, but need to return the other 2 unvoted ballots.

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

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