

## **For the Week Ending October 14, 2016**

### **Upcoming Town meetings:**

- **Neighborhood Watch Program Informational Meeting:** Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Kirker Community Room at the Colchester Police Department, 835 Blakely Road.
- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, October 17, 7:00 PM, Bayside Activity Center
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 PM, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
- **Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, October 25, 6:30 PM, Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, Outer Bay Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

### **Upcoming events:**

- **Colchester CANsur-vive!** invites you to meet at Veteran's Memorial Park in South Burlington, Sunday, October 16, for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Ceremony and other activities begin at 11AM and 5 mile walk will start at 1 PM. Visit [Making Strides](http://www.makingstrideswalk.org) online at: [www.makingstrideswalk.org](http://www.makingstrideswalk.org)
- **Pumpkins in the Park:** Saturday, October 22, 2:00 - 4:00 PM Bring your pumpkins and join us at Bayside Park to carve jack-o-lanterns. For our supply count, you **must pre-register**, either at the Parks & Recreation desk at the Town Offices or online at <https://www.parksreconline.com/>
- **Halloween Party:** Saturday, October 29, 2:00 PM at Burnham Library. Enjoy Halloween stories, crafts, dancing, snacks; Trick-or-treat around the library and join in a costume mini parade around the grounds with the librarians. All ages welcome. Sign up at our website.
- **Annual Leaf Drop:** Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Airport Park. Plastic bags will need to be emptied onto the pile; Biodegradable leaf bags are OK. No woody yard debris.

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following highlights some Departments' activities:

### **Message of the Week**

Every Picture Tells a Story

As residents of Colchester we are surrounded by beauty in our town. From parks to ponds, bays to ball fields, and hiking trails to biking trails, we have great scenery all around us. Why not capture those vistas with a photograph to share with your neighbors and others?

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

The Town is seeking new photos that portray our town throughout the year. If you've snapped a photo in Colchester recently we invite you to send us a copy. With your permission, these shots might be used in our annual Town Report, brochures, visitor guides, and more; you may also see them on our website, our Facebook page, or other social media. All photographers will be credited for their work whenever their images are used. This is a great opportunity for both professional and amateur photographers: your work will be seen by residents and visitors with thousands of views.

You will find photo guidelines and a submission form, plus upload your photo(s) on our website: <http://bit.ly/2dvgcub>

So grab your camera or cell phone and get snapping. We look forward to your contributions!

**Assessor's Office**  
**Bob Vickery, Assessor**

- We are currently working on a reassessment of all mobile home that are located in Town mobile home parks. This **may** mean a reduction in assessed values for some mobile homes. If you own a mobile home in a Colchester mobile home park please contact the Assessor's Office at (802) 264-5670 to schedule an appointment for an inspection. A reduction in the assessed value may result in a lower property tax bill.
- We will meet with the State of Vermont Tax Department this week to review the annual sales study, which is used to determine next year's education tax rate. The goal is to make sure the Equalized Education Tax rate is fair for all towns across the state.
- While the weather permits we will continue our inspections of homes that had remodeling permits issued in the past year to make the appropriate changes to our records. We have also been taking photos of properties that have had significant exterior changes. Since all clerks are needed in the office during early voting, we will resume this activity after the November elections.

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**

- Early voting has begun for the November election and it's been fast and furious with 770 requests for ballots as of this date. The ballot consists of the presidential candidates, along with all of the state offices on the front. On the

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back of the ballot you will find 3 bond vote questions from Champlain Water District and a list of the local candidates that are running for Justice of the Peace. There are 30 candidates listed and you may vote for 15.

- A voter who expects to be an early or absentee voter can request a ballot be mailed to them (be sure your request allows time for postal transit) or vote at the Town Offices during office hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM) until the close of business on November 7<sup>th</sup> (the eve of Election Day). An authorized person, on behalf of such voter, may apply for an early voter absentee ballot. The request can be made by phone, (802) 264-5520, or through the new state system: My Voter Page at <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>. This online system allows you to request a ballot and track it, change your address, etc. The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, November 2nd. You can also register to vote through the new online system at: <https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us/>
- The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday November 8th, so that all staff can assist at the polling location. Also, please remember all voters in Colchester will vote at the Colchester High School Gymnasium, with the gym divided into districts.
- The Town Offices will be closed on Friday, November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day. That is also the Friday before taxes are due; this is typically a popular tax-paying day, so please plan accordingly.
- Taxes are due the week after the election on November 15th. 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 paid to the credit card company; it is not revenue to the Town. You can pay by credit card 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.

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

**Finance Department**  
**Aaron Frank, Deputy Town Manager/CFO**

- Two months into the current fiscal year, expenses are running about \$41,000 under budget. Although this is early in the year and can be affected by the number and extremity of winter storms as well as public safety expenditures, it is a healthy start to the fiscal year.

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- The finance department had a weeklong site visit by three staff from our outside independent auditors who are reviewing the FY 16 financials. After the audit is finalized it will be presented to the public at a Selectboard meeting near the beginning of 2017.
- I have also been working on a regional collaborative to combine public safety dispatch operations. The Town of Colchester currently dispatches for eight public safety organizations, three of which are in Milton. The town of Milton pays Colchester for its fair share of dispatch costs, about 40%. But we are still a small dispatch operation and could benefit from one or more additional partners with which to share staff and costs. This would also provide increased dispatch capacity in the event of a major incident in any community.

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

#### **Highlights from the Selectboard Meeting of October 11, 2016**

- New members were appointed to the Development Review Board and the Recreation Advisory Board. The Town is pleased to welcome Bert Severin to the DRB and Joan Chace to the RAB.
- The Selectboard approved the issuance of a Decision and Order of Discontinuance for Munson Road. The road will be private and closed to through traffic (except for emergency vehicles).
- The Selectboard approved initiation of the adoption process for amendments to the Town Charter for the March 2017 Town Meeting and to be voted upon on the March ballot.

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