

**For the Week Ending
December 30, 2016**

Upcoming Town meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 PM at the Town Offices in the Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 PM at the Town Offices in the Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 AM at the Town Offices in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor

Upcoming events:

- **Colchester's Got Talent Show Auditions:** Thursday, January 19, 2:30 – 7:15 PM and Friday, January 20, 2:30 – 6:00 PM. Entry forms are available at the Recreation Department or online: <http://colchestervt.gov/WinterCarnival>
- **Winter Carnival:** February 3 -5. Most events will take place at Colchester High School.

Notices:

- The Town Offices will close at noon on Friday, December 30 and will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year
- Burnham Library will close at 1:00 PM on Friday, December 30 and be closed from Saturday, December 31st – Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year.

The following highlights some Town Departments' activities:

Message of the Week:

Happy New Year!

As New Year approaches it is traditional to look back at what we've accomplished and to look forward to our goals for the coming year. The Town of Colchester has many long-term projects that span years, even to decades, for completion. We will continue our successful quest for cost savings measures and efficiencies that allow us to deliver enhanced town-wide services without significantly increasing taxes.

In 2017:

- Look for upcoming improvements to the Bay Road/Main Street/Creek Farm/Route 2 that is projected to start in the summer of 2017. There will also be road paving and installation of new sidewalks on Water Tower Hill that will benefit Colchester businesses and their employees, as well as the general

public. Also stay tuned for new ideas to be brought forward to improve water quality.

- Parks and Recreation is always creating new ways to engage residents of all ages with programs that promote wellness. Whether classes for adults or for kids after school, the staff will be offering fun and healthy activities in the coming year.
- Our Police Department will be celebrating their 50th anniversary and will hold their first awards ceremony. A community event to commemorate the milestone will be held. More details to follow as they develop.
- The Clerk's office is gearing up for Town Meeting Day on Monday, March 6 with voting to take place at the high school on Tuesday, March 7. The first installment of 2017 taxes is due March 15. Dog licenses are due by April 1. You may apply for a passport any weekday **except** Wednesdays, from 8 AM to 4 PM.
- If you are interested in running for a Town office (School Board, Selectboard, Library Trustee or Lister) contact Karen Richard, Town Clerk, for information at 264-5525. The deadline for petition submittal is January 30, 2017.

We encourage public engagement and welcome comments from our residents. Feel to contact us so we can better serve you.

A toast to our town, residents, and business owners; may we all have health, happiness, and prosperity in 2017!

Burnham Memorial Library
Kelly Tomaseski, Director

Greetings from Burnham Library - we hope that everyone is having a nice holiday season. Whether you're looking for books or DVDs, library programs or reference help, we are looking forward to serving you in 2017! Happy New Year!

- Reading Buddies – Wednesday, January 4 & 18, 3:30 PM. Reading Buddies is back for the school year! We'll have one or more volunteer mentors on the purple couch downstairs, waiting to read with a child. You can sign up to reserve a slot at the youth desk or just drop in.
- Family Movie Night – Friday, January 13, 6:30 PM. The entire family can join us for a recent animated film; call for title. We'll bring the popcorn! Please register at our website.
- Adults Escape the Library: Back to the Future! – Monday, January 30, 6 PM and 7 PM. Sign up for a library escape room session with a sci-fi classic theme. Space is limited due to the nature of the game. Not sure what we're up to? Ask library staff! They just escaped from a holiday movie not so long ago! (To

comply with copyright laws we can't name titles, but we're certain you'll figure it out!) Sign up online.

- Downloadable Ebook/Audiobook users – You now need a PIN (password) to login. Call us at 264-5660 if you need one.
- Knitting and More: Two Needle Mittens – Wednesdays from 6-8 pm. Knitters and other needle workers of all skill levels meet Wednesdays; beginners are welcome. This month we'll learn to make Two Needle Mittens.
- One-on-One Tutoring will return in January (schedule to be determined). Call 264-5660 to sign up.

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

Parks and Recreation Department **Glen Cuttitta, Director**

Winter is here and Colchester Parks & Recreation is ready for another season of fun activities and events! Be sure to check out all of our offerings and keep active during the chilly months ahead. You can get the most up-to-date info by following us on our social media pages @ColchesterRec: we're on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat!

- The 2017 Winter/Spring Program Guide was released on December 19 and program registrations are underway! Many programs start right off in the New Year, so if you've seen something that has piqued your interest be sure to register soon.
- Planning is underway for the 34th Annual Winter Carnival, February 3 - 5. Brochures and admission bracelets that grant access to almost every event throughout the weekend will be available in mid-January for \$7 each. Children 2 and under enter free. Most events take place at the Colchester High School. Be sure to join us for a weekend jam-packed with family fun!
- The Winter Carnival will kick-off with the ever-popular Colchester's Got Talent community show at 6 PM on Friday, February 4. Auditions will be held Thursday, January 19 and Friday, January 20. Entry forms are available at the Recreation Department or online: <http://colchestervt.gov/WinterCarnival>
- Do you have a kindergartener interested in learning about basketball? Check out Kindergarten Academy, which begins Saturday, January 14, for an introduction before starting in a league in first grade. You must pre-register..

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



Colchester Town News

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Colchester – What do you want to do today?

- Thinking about spring sports season? Be sure to sign up for the Colchester Youth Lacrosse League; those who register before March 3 will receive an early bird discount! Registration form can be found on page 18 of the Winter/Spring Guide. The 2017 season runs March 27 – June 11.
- Our Parks Department hopes to be able to set up the Ice Rink at Airport Park this year. We need three to four consecutive days of single digit (or lower) temperatures to ensure well-frozen ground for set up. We'll post on social media and our website if the rink opens, so be sure to follow us!

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

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.