

For the Week Ending February 10, 2017

Upcoming Board Meetings-All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor, unless otherwise noted:

- **Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, February 20, 7 PM at Bayside Activity Center
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, February 21, 7 PM
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Wednesday, February 22, 8 AM in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 PM

Notices:

- The Town Offices will be **closed** Monday, February 20 in observance of Presidents' Day

Message of the Week

Winter Carnival: Thanks

The Town of Colchester would like to express its sincere thanks to the businesses, organizations, and volunteers that helped make this year's Winter Carnival a success. Many Colchester High School students volunteered their time and energy. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated—we couldn't do it without you!

Special thanks to the **CHS National Honor Society students** who helped on Friday and Saturday with setup, clean up, Info Booths, the Arts & Crafts room, Playdough Room, and Passport Contest; and to **Abbie Longchamp and Brooke Marcotte**, CHS students that helped with all our sound and lighting in the new CHS theatre. They're superstars!

And thanks and kudos to the 2017 Winter Carnival Committee: Renee Barrett, Ronny Cummings, Kelley DesLauriers, Kathy LaRoche, Mary Beth Mooney, and Tiera Porter. The group began planning from October for this event and put in many hours brainstorming new ideas, activities, and attractions; gathering supplies; decorating; promoting, and much more.

We'd love to add more members to our committee, so if you enjoyed this year's event, please consider joining! Call the Parks & Rec office to be added to the list.

Office of the Assessor
Bob Vickery

The Assessor's Office is working to finalize the 2016 Grand List.

- We continue our reassessment of all mobile homes that are located in the five mobile home parks in Town. We have found that the current level of assessment is not in line with the rest of the Town's assessments. This may mean a reduction in assessed values for some mobile homes. If you own a mobile home that is located in a Colchester park please contact the Assessor's Office at (802) 264-5670 to schedule an appointment for an inspection.
- We will be conducting inspections of permits issued in the last year and correcting assessment records. If you've made changes to your dwelling or property over the last year please call the Assessor's Office to schedule an appointment for a site visit.
- Our annual field review will begin soon.

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

Office of the Town Clerk
Karen Richard

- The local Town/School Election will be held on Tuesday, March 7th. If you want to avoid the rush or will be out of town at that time please exercise your right to cast your ballot early. You may request your ballot as you have done in the past: by calling the office, emailing us or stopping by the office to vote, or you can take advantage of the newly rolled out Elections Management System (EMS) which includes a new "My Voter Page" - an online resource that allows every registered voter to login and have access to a unique, voter-specific web page where they can request an absentee ballot, track its status, update their voter registration record, find their polling place, view a sample ballot, and much more. The My Voter Page login can be found at: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>.
- Do you want to verify if you are registered to vote or where you were last registered? Check My Voter Page. If you are not registered in Colchester you may register with: the New Online Voter Registration Tool - which allows all eligible Vermonters to submit their voter registration application online anytime and anywhere they can access the internet; the online voter registration page can be found at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>
- Same Day Voter Registration is effective this March for the first time. If you are not registered by Election Day you can register at the polls.
- Look for the Budget and Voting special insert coming up in the February 9th issue of the Colchester Sun. The insert contains important information about

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

the Ballot Articles, Capital Plans, the upcoming Community Dinner and Town Meeting. Additional information about the Ballot and Capital Plans may be reviewed online at: <http://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>

If you have questions about voting, the budget, the Community Dinner or Town Meeting visit www.colchestervt.gov or call 264-5500

For more information visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call (802) 264-5520

**Office of the Deputy Town Manager/CFO
Aaron Frank**

Regional Dispatch

I have been working with a county-wide group of municipal managers and public safety officials exploring the potential to:

- Reduce the time to dispatch of police fire and rescue staff by 60-90 seconds per call by consolidating 911 call-takers and dispatchers into a single facility and function
- Improve daily cross community mutual aid by housing all dispatchers in the same space

Colchester and Milton have enjoyed benefits of shared dispatch for about two decades. This proposal will reduce costs and provide more dispatch services during peak times. Other communities across Vermont are exploring the same idea. The opportunity to combine dispatch with 911 and improve cross-community mutual aid is unique to a county-wide 911 and dispatch center.

This will be a multi-year effort as it involves combining technologies, communications, staff functions, co-locating, and coordinating with 35 chiefs who oversee 38 police, fire and rescue departments in the county.

More information is available at: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>

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

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