

**For the Week of:
July 10, 2017**

**Manager's Message of the Week
Dawn Francis, Town Manager**

We hope you had a fun and relaxing Fourth of July! Did you know Colchester's July 4th celebration takes six months of advance planning? With the road construction in the village, the Parks and Recreation Department working with the Fire, Rescue and Police Departments evaluated the alternative parade route on Blakely Road for safety, accessibility, and efficient traffic control. Extra hours were required for Parks and Recreation staff who directed the day's events and for volunteer emergency responders who ensured everyone's safety. Due to a rainy summer, Parks personnel have been working weekends to keep up with mowing, as well as setting up for the activities on the 4th.

Before the 4th of July events began, early-morning meetings for Parks staff, Police, Rescue, and Volunteer Fire Departments ensured we had operating procedures and evacuation routes in place in the event of an emergency during the festivities. We also contended with flooding and the unfortunate incident of a missing person, in addition to the usual emergency calls we receive over a holiday weekend.

Many of our staff and volunteers worked 16-plus hours on the holiday and didn't get to spend time with their families. These folks seem to accept personal sacrifices as simply a part of their jobs or community service, but it's another demonstration of their passion and dedication to the community. Please take a minute when you see a Colchester employee or volunteer emergency responder and thank them for what they do for you, day in and day out.

Some of you have offered suggestions to improve the parade or July 4th activities, especially the firework display location. Unfortunately, the fireworks can't be relocated back to the beach due to regulations about isolation distances from nearby structures.

Due to our already constrained staff resources, we welcome more community members getting involved, more help with "boots on the ground," and assistance making the day even more memorable. Contact our Parks and Recreation Department at 264-5640 or speak to our Recreation Advisory Committee if you have suggestions and are interested in helping to make this annual tradition even better.

For more about the Town Manager's Office, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

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

Office of the Assessor
Bob Vickery

The 2017 Grand List was lodged with the Town Clerk on June 2, 2017. There were 92 new parcels created by property subdivisions and new condominiums. The Grand List grew by 1.52% as listed on the Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Warrant.

The Assessor's Office conducted 730 parcel inspections in FY 17 and 1,166 Change of Assessment Notices were mailed. Assessments increased on 408 parcels and decreased on 724 parcels. The large number of decreased assessments was the result of the reassessment of 613 mobile homes located in Colchester mobile home parks.

For more about the Assessor's Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call (802) 264-5670. You may access Web Map and Assessment Data on our website: <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

Office of the Town Clerk
Karen Richard

It's summer in Vermont and time to go outdoors! If you are a Colchester resident age 62 or older you may apply for a Green Mountain Pass. This life-time pass gives you free entry into State parks and State sponsored events and is only \$2. Go to the Clerk's window at the Town Offices to take advantage of this great bargain!

Summer also means the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 and the next tax billing cycle. Keep an eye out for your new tax bill in the mail around July 15. Be sure to review it for payment amount and due dates; contact the Clerk's office if you have questions about your bill. The first installment is due on August 15.

We wish you an enjoyable and safe summer.

For more about the Clerk's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call 264-5520.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, July 18, 7:00 PM.
- **Conservation Commission:** Monday, July 17 at Eagle Mountain in Milton; meet at 5:30 PM in the parking area.

Unless otherwise noted all meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor.

Upcoming events:

- **Hazardous Waste Collection in Colchester:** The "Rover," Chittenden Solid Waste District's (CSWD) mobile household hazardous waste collection unit, is making a stop in Colchester on Saturday, July 15 at Malletts Bay School (609 Blakely Road) from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. For a full list of accepted items visit <http://cswd.net/hazardous-waste>
- **Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts Car Show:** Saturday, July 22 10 AM-1 PM at the Burnham Library. See classic and antique cars owned by local members of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts club (VAE). Fun for kids and adults!
- **Summer Concert Series-FREE:** Bayside Park, 7:00 PM. Thursday, July 20: The Shana Stack Band.
- **Movies in the Park-FREE:** July 24, 8:00 PM at Fort Ethan Allen. "The Secret Life of Pets"
- **33rd Annual Triathlon:** Sunday, July 30, 8:30 AM at Bayside Park. Info: <http://www.colchestertri.com> Online registration at www.active.com

Notices:

- **Food for [Library] Fines Amnesty Program** - Do you owe \$15 or less in library fines? Until August 31 you can clear up your account by donating non-perishable (unexpired) food items. Your fines will be waived and we'll donate the food to the Colchester Food Shelf. It's a win-win!
- **Recreation Advisory Board: Volunteers Needed!** The Recreation Advisory Board has 2 vacancies. Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 AM in the Champlain Room on the 2nd floor of the Town Offices. If you are interested in joining a fun group of people and volunteering at various Parks and Recreation events come attend a meeting or two and see if the Recreation Advisory Board is for you! Volunteer applications can be found on our website at <http://www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1131>

Traffic Notices:

- **I89 Colchester – Swanton:** For the week beginning Saturday, July 08, 2017: Saturday & Monday: Paving continues northbound between Exits 18 and 19. Tuesday thru Friday: Paving U-Turns, continued bridge joint work, and line striping northbound and southbound lanes from the Lamoille River Bridge, Milton to the Swanton town line. One lane of travel will be maintained within the construction zone. Motorists should plan for minimal delays. Questions? Contact Stephanie Barrett at 802-862-6085. Daily updates available online at www.countonitinc.com.



Colchester Town News

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Colchester – What do you want to do today?

- **Route 7/2, 2A & 127 Intersection Project:** Detour on Route 7/2 between Creek Farm Road and Bay Road continues in effect. Work schedule will be extended to include Saturdays 6 AM to 6 PM. Traffic will be controlled by a temporary signal and flaggers. Access to businesses will remain OPEN at all times.

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