

**For the Week of:
August 7, 2017
Special Edition**

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

Tax Day and New Town Address Reminder

Municipal and school taxes are due on August 15. Deliver either via post office (must be postmarked by August 15) or bring to the Town Clerk's office at 781 Blakely Road. Remember that the Town's address has changed; the P.O. box has been eliminated:

Town of Colchester
781 Blakely Road
Colchester, VT 05446

Your FY18 municipal tax payment will maintain our current level of service while recognizing we have had an increase in service demands and operational costs caused by slow, steady growth over the past decade.

What does your municipal tax payment provide?

- 45% pays for police, dispatch, rescue (combination of full time staff and volunteers), and volunteer technical rescue and fire departments
- 20% for public works which includes roadways, sidewalks/paths, bridges, equipment and buildings
- 10% for parks, recreation and library services
- 17% for administration, finance, human resources, economic development, assessor, information technology, health and intergovernmental services
- 8% for the town clerk, records and planning and zoning functions

Our capital tax rates are folded into the municipal rate and fund road paving, repair of buildings, bridges and culverts, parks improvement, communication and IT equipment, and more. The Combined Operating and Capital Budget for municipal services is \$11,104,282, net of non-property tax revenues. This is a decrease of 1.62% (\$183,171) from the FY17 Combined Budget. With a 1.53% increase in the Grand List due to growth and investment in Colchester, the municipal tax rate for 2017-2018 is \$0.5271—a decrease of 1.7 cents per one hundred dollars of property value or 3.11% less than last year.

We strive to maximize non-tax revenues to offset your property taxes; 18% of our general operating budget comes from non-tax revenues such as grants and fees for

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

services. Also of note this year is the establishment of a stormwater utility which reduces the property tax generated budget by \$387,180. Without the stormwater utility, the tax rate would have been \$0.5454, lower than the 2013 tax rate. Finally, we use prior year's surpluses to fund future services. The FY18 budget includes \$210,661 in surplus from FY16 that helped reduce FY18 taxes.

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

**Karen Adams, Technical Service Manager
Dept. of Public Works**

It's Clean Water Week! (August 20-26)

Governor Phil Scott will issue a proclamation on August 21st that will declare August 20-26 Clean Water Week in Vermont. The Town of Colchester is a proud sponsor of this event. Join in on free Clean Water Events, such as tours of wastewater, hydro, and drinking water plants. Visit <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/clean-water-week> for a full list of events.

What Affects Water Quality in Vermont?

- Fifty invasive species have been identified in Lake Champlain, including zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, and lampreys. All damage the native ecosystems and reduce native fish populations
- Excessive phosphorus washed into Lake Champlain results in algae blooms, including toxic blue green algae that can sicken or kill animals and humans
- Bacteria and viruses from failing septic systems, farm runoff, and other sources can cause illness in people and animals exposed to contaminated water
- Oils and pesticides are washed into our waterways with every rainstorm

Lake Champlain is a source of drinking water, as well as a recreation and tourism resource. Water quality is critical to human health and the health of Vermont's economy.

Colchester Clean Water Update

The Town's Clean Water Initiative will protect and improve water quality in Colchester's waterways and Lake Champlain. The Initiative includes:

- The **Malletts Bay Stormwater Scoping Project**, now underway with evaluation of three main project areas at Bayside Park and both East and West Lakeshore Drive

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- The **Lakeshore Re-zoning and Low Impact Development Standards** that regulates redevelopment and new projects along the Lake
- The new **Stormwater Utility** which began operations on July 1, 2017 and will fund water quality sampling, drainage improvements, system maintenance, and stormwater project studies
- The **Malletts Bay Sewer Project** (in partnership with Fire District #2) if found to be financially viable, would provide municipal sewers to East and West Lakeshore Drive areas to eliminate septic systems-many failing-that pollute the Lake
- **Water Quality Sampling** for e. coli twice a week at 9 locations, including Bayside Beach and the Rossetti Natural Area. If e. coli counts are over the safe limit warning signs will be posted
- The Town's **On-Site Wastewater Program** provides mini-grants to property owners with failing septic systems in high-risk areas. Staff can also assist property owners to apply for 3%/15-yr loans offered by the state. Questions? Contact Karen Adams at 264-5621.

Colchester Parks & Recreation
Glen Cuttitta, Director

Thank You to all who helped with the Colchester Triathlon!

Colchester Parks & Recreation would like to extend their sincere thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors who helped to make the 33rd Annual Colchester Triathlon a success. This year's event had over 300 entries and attracted many athletes and spectators to our town for a beautiful morning race. Over 100 volunteers dedicated their Sunday morning to ensuring the entire race went smoothly. We are especially grateful to our race chiefs, who went "above and beyond" to guarantee the best experience for our participants and put in additional hours, from setup to tear-down. We also recognize our emergency service organizations, the Colchester Police, Rescue, Technical Rescue, and Malletts Bay Fire Department, for their help in maintaining course safety and being available for any athlete in need. Additional thanks go out to our partners and sponsors who helped make race day possible through financial donations and/or in-kind gifts: Clif Bar, Coca-Cola Bottling of NNE, Hampton Inn, KOOL 105, Malletts Bay Bicycle & Ski, Mike's Auto Parts, North Country Credit Union, Ski Rack, Summit Chiropractic Center, Vermont Sports Magazine, Woodhaven Health, and Your Personal Best Fitness.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, August 15, 7:00 PM
- **Conservation Commission:** Tuesday, August 22, 5:00 PM. Fieldtrip to Law Island; meet at Coates Island.
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, August 22, 6:30 PM

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- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Wednesday, August 23, 8:00 AM at the Colchester Town Offices in the Champlain Room, 2nd Floor

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.

Upcoming events:

- **Movies in the Park:** Friday, August 11, 7:30 PM at Bayside Park to see a recently released Disney animated film. Free!
- **Summer Concert Series:** Due to poor weather on July 13, Satin and Steel was rescheduled to Thursday, August 17. Come enjoy this 10-piece R&B horn band beginning at 7:00 at Bayside Park. Free!

Traffic Notices:

- **COLCHESTER Route 7/2, 2A & 127 Intersection Project** – Week of August 7. Route 7/2 is open between Creek Farm Road and Bay Road. Work will be concentrated on Main Street/Route 2A between the Champlain Farms gas station and junction with Route 127. Two-way traffic is anticipated with minimal delays. Access to businesses will be OPEN at all times. Questions? Contact Jill Barrett, Public Outreach Coordinator at (802) 272-1248.
- **I-89 COLCHESTER – SWANTON** – Beginning Sunday, August 06, 2017.
 - Sunday thru Wednesday – **6PM to 6AM:** Weather permitting, final paving to begin at Exit 16 northbound to the Lamoille River Bridge
 - Thursday – **6PM to 6AM:** Weather permitting, final paving to begin in the southbound lane beginning at the Lamoille River Bridge southbound to Exit 16.
 - One lane of travel will be maintained within the construction zone. Motorists should plan for minimal delays.

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