

## **For the Week of January 8, 2018**

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

#### **Update: Sinking Boat in Bay**

Since late fall Town of Colchester officials have been exploring our legal authority and options to remove a boat sinking in Malletts Bay off E. Lakeshore Drive. The Police Department has reached out numerous times to the boat owner, and has contacted the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of Vermont. Lake Champlain is under the jurisdiction and authority of the federal and state governments. The Town cannot take an unlawful approach that might result in a lawsuit from the boat's owner or put our community and employees at risk. We are all problem solvers and have been working hard behind the scenes with the appropriate agencies to ensure that ultimately the boat will be removed safely, lawfully, and with no undue expense to our taxpayers.

The Town has made progress by contacting state officials who have jurisdiction in these matters and it appears they will be using their authority under state laws to remove the boat. Senator Mazza is also working with the Scott administration to update legislation to avoid similar issues in the future. Kudos are due to Governor Scott, Sen. Mazza, and other administration officials who responded to our inquiries and are trying to navigate various state laws pertaining to this issue.

### **Burnham Memorial Library Kelly McCagg, Director**

Despite the frigid temperatures, the library is a great place to be. Read by the fireplace; load up on books and movies for those cold nights; or take part in our programs for kids, teens, and adults! Here are a few of our upcoming events:

- **Knitting and More:** Wednesdays, 6-8 PM. Knitters and other needle workers of all skill levels meet Wednesdays; beginners are welcome. This month, we'll be working on helmet hats.
- **Mah Jongg:** Monday, January 8 at 1 pm & Monday, January 22, 6 PM. Join us for Mah Jongg, the Chinese tile game that has become increasingly popular in the US. Whether you're new to the game, or have played for years, you're invited!
- **Crafts for Kids:** Monday, January 8 & 22, 3:30 PM. Kids 5 and up get to work on a new craft project every session.
- **Read to Willy Wonka the Volunteer Therapy Dog:** Tuesday, January 9 & 23, 4:15 PM. Sign up to read to our volunteer certified therapy dog. If you're not

yet reading, an adult will read to you while you and Willy Wonka sit back and enjoy the stories. Call to sign up!

- **Young Writers & Storytellers:** Wednesday, January 10 & 24, 4 PM. Join us for our writing club for children, grades K-5. Call 264-5660 for more information or to sign up.
- **Baby & Me Story Time:** 6-week session on Fridays, 10:30 AM, January 26-March 2. For babies 0-18 months and their caregivers. We will share stories, songs, rhymes, and more! Participants will receive books and more at each session they attend.
- **Adult Book Discussion:** Tuesday, January 30, 1 PM. We read a wide range of books; discussion is led by a Library staff member. This month we'll be reading "Britt-Marie Was Here" by Fredrik Backman. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

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

**RECREATION PROGRAMS**

- Look for the 2018 Summer Camp/Program Guide in your mailbox during the week of January 22.
- The 2018 Winter/Spring Guide has been released and registration for Colchester residents has begun. Be sure to check out upcoming events and programs for all ages! There are many NEW programs too – you won't want to miss them!
- Registration for the 2018 Youth Lacrosse League has opened; details can be found on page 17 of the Winter/Spring Guide.
- Authentic Polish Cooking- Pierogi: Join Luiza and learn how to make authentic Pierogis. Saturday, January 20, 1:30 – 4:00 PM, Bayside Activity Center, \$70 (r), \$75 (nr), ages 18+
- Crafty Kiddos: Ages 2-4 Join staff for stimulating arts and crafts! Mondays, January 22- February 12, 10:00 am – 10:45 am, Bayside Activity Center, \$50 (r) \$55 (nr)
- Lil Nibbler: Ages 2-4 Bring your appetite and be ready for some cool snack making! Thursdays, January 25 – February 15, 10 – 10:45 AM, Bayside Activity Center, \$50 (r) \$55 (nr)
- Healthy Kids Cooking: Ages 8-11 Kids will learn how to make healthy snacks! Saturday, January 27, 2 – 4 PM, Bayside Activity Center, \$35 (r), \$40 (nr),

**EVENTS**

- Auditions for Colchester's Got Talent will be on January 18, 2-8 PM at the Colchester High School Performing Arts Center. Start practicing your talent today!

- Colchester Winter Carnival, February 2, 3, & 4 at Colchester High School. This year's theme is "Wacky World of Science." More details will be posted on <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> once they are available.
- Mark your calendars for a NEW winter event: the Balaclava Blitz! Winter Sprint Triathlon! Sunday, February 18, Bayside Park, 9:00 AM for ages 16 and up. 3K running, 5.6K Mountain Bike, and 5K Nordic ski course. Participants will receive finish time and refreshments. Registration is open online and at the Rec Office.

**PARKS:**

- All park bathrooms are closed for the season.
- Ice Rink at Airport Park will be operational when weather cooperates. We thought we had an opportunity on Wednesday, January 3, but strong winds and the impending storm on Thursday/Friday delayed set up. We are currently aiming for Wednesday, January 10; it will take a few days for the water to freeze. Stay tuned to our website for more information.
- Nordic Trail Grooming at Airport Park has begun!

**PROJECTS:**

- Bayside Park Master Planning continues. Design Concepts is creating a phasing plan & cost estimates. Final presentation is scheduled for mid-March.
- Village Park Trail Project: Construction started the 2nd week of October. Currently, the project is on weather hold. The contractor will be able to resume work when the weather warms and there is no snow cover.

**Upcoming Town Meetings:**

- Conservation Commission: Monday, January 15, 7:15 PM at the Bayside Activity Center. (Commission will meet despite holiday).
- Planning Commission: Tuesday, January 16, 7:00 PM.
- Selectboard: Tuesday, January 23, 6:30 PM
- Cemetery Advisory Committee: Wednesday, January 24, 8:00 AM, Champlain Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

(All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor unless otherwise noted.)

**Notices:**

- The Town Offices and Burnham Library will be closed on Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



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