

Colchester Pride



Colchester Parks & Recreation

December 2014

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Over 30 Volunteers Recognized at Inaugural Dinner

By: Mike LaPan, Admin. Assistant (Parks & Rec)



Colchester Pride's Finest!

On November 7, 2014, Colchester Parks & Recreation hosted their Inaugural Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Hampton Inn Conference Center in Colchester. Over 30 volunteers and their guests enjoyed a delicious meal while hearing speeches from various Town and Recreation leaders.

Parks & Recreation Director Glen Cuttitta started the night with a Welcome and introduction, highlighting the importance of volunteers to the Parks & Recreation Department's annual special events and advisory board. He was followed by an address from Town Man-

ager Dawn Francis and Select Board Chair Nadine Scibek, who recognized volunteers and thanked them for their dedication to their community. Recreation Advisory Board Chair Lisa Liotta spoke on the role of Colchester Pride as a vehicle to unite and organize Parks & Recreation's many volunteers, keep in contact, and provide recognition. Assistant Director Derek Mitchell closed the presentations by unveiling the first issue of the Colchester Pride Newsletter, featuring articles on recent special events, ideas, projects, and programming.

Ten local businesses generously donated gift cards to be used as door prizes, including Costco, Junior's Italian, Lakeshore ACE, McGillicuddy's, Mike's Auto, Rozzi's, Shaw's, The Clover House, The Lighthouse, and Three Brother's Pizza.

Guests in attendance volunteer at a variety of events, including the Colchester Triathlon, Causeway 5K/15K race, Winter Carnival, the Bayside Activity Center, coaching youth sports, and as members of the Recreation Advisory Board.

What is Colchester Pride?

By: Derek Mitchell, Assistant Director (Parks & Rec)

In case you missed it, this article is a repeat from our November issue.

As the Colchester Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of events annually, the department relies heavily upon specific volunteer "sub groups" to assist in the planning and operations of such events. These sub groups have proven their

worth as popular events such as the Colchester Triathlon and Colchester Winter Carnival are approaching their 31st and 32nd years, respectively, all as a result of a lot of hard work and volunteer commitment towards the building of community.

The continued growth of our volunteer community is what

Colchester Pride will be.

Having one central volunteer "hub," such as Colchester Pride, will assist us in recruiting new volunteers, offering specific volunteer opportunities and duties, providing networking and information monthly (i.e. this Newsletter), and provide us the ability to recognize our volunteers.

Colchester Parks & Recreation wish you and yours a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

CYBL - Powered by Volunteer Coaches

By: Derek Mitchell, Assistant Director (Parks & Rec)

The Colchester Youth Basketball League - commonly referred to as "CYBL" - has been occupying our school gymnasiums on Saturdays for decades. CYBL has exposed thousands of boys and girls to the sport of basketball, and many have continued to play at every grade level.

CYBL provides the opportunity for children grades 1-8 to learn and play the game of basketball, in a safe, educational and fun environment. You've seen

these three adjectives used often in describing what a youth sporting experience should be, but who is responsible for following through on these words? Well, Colchester Parks & Recreation believes it's a combination of the League Administrator, parents and our volunteer coaches. While the League Administrator is responsible for providing a safe playing environment and for training the Volunteer Coaches, parents have a secondary role in keeping the game FUN for their children through

support, words of encouragement and their behavior as spectators. As important as these two are, CYBL Coaches have direct contact with their players during the season, and are responsible for teaching the game and providing a safe, enjoyable atmosphere, all while making sure practices and games continue to be engaging for the kids. An admirable undertaking for a Volunteer Coach, to say the least!

CYBL Coaches are 40 strong this season! These men, wom-



en, parents, grandparents and even a few college-aged students are what powers CYBL's success. Through their age appropriate practice plans and passion to teach the game of basketball, CYBL will see 250 children lace up their sneakers and smile countless times this season. All powered by our Volunteer Coaches... or should they be called hero's!

Bayside Activity Center Open Fridays

By: Kelly McGinley, Program Coordinator (Parks & Rec)



Town Manager, Dawn Francis with Program Coordinator Kelly McGinley during the BAC Grand Opening

The Bayside Activity Center, formally known as the Colchester Senior Center has seen many improvements and revamps within the past couple of years. Not only does it host several of our programs ranging from Culinary Boot Camp to Babysitting Training, but it also offers a place for Colchester

residents and their friends to gather on Friday afternoons. Myra Gauthier, a Colchester Parks and Recreation volunteer plays host on these Fridays with a welcoming smile and warm personality that is sure to make you want to stay and chat for hours. With free popcorn, coffee, cozy seating and great

company it's a hard afternoon to pass up. Every first and third Friday of the month are reserved for movies. Every second and fourth Friday is game day! Bring your favorite game to play or enjoy the ones provided. The BAC is open from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. every Friday and all are welcome to attend!

Parks & Rec Welcomes Santa to Dinner

By: Derek Mitchell, Assistant Director (Parks & Rec)

After close to a decade of welcoming Santa Claus to Colchester for our popular Breakfast with Santa event, Santa had to alter his schedule this year as breakfast turned to dinner.

On December 12th, a snowy Friday evening, approximately 110 guests visited the Colchester Meeting House for Dinner with Santa. They enjoyed a meal of lasagna, mac & cheese and salad, children made reindeer hats and Santa book marks, shared what they wanted for Christmas while on Santa's lap, and then finished off the evening by listening to Santa read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

This change from breakfast to dinner seemed to be a popular move, as families enjoyed a new Santa experience here in town. All made possible by the support from Mazza's General Store (donation of rolls & butter), Costco (gift card for supplies) and the Colchester Food Service (meal provider). Of course not to be forgotten, our volunteer team of Pete & Trish Dempsey and Nathan & Cameron Cuttitta did an excellent job spreading Christmas joy throughout the evening. We thank them for all their hard work and Colchester Pride representation!



Winter Carnival Preview (as of Dec. 19)

***All events at Colchester High School, unless noted**



Friday, February 6, 2015

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Winter Carnival Information Booth

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Face Painting by Colchester Theatre

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

COLCHESTER'S GOT TALENT - A COMMUNITY TALENT SHOW

Talent Show Auditions held on January 21 & 23
 Pre-Registration required before January 19th
 Categories: Youth (6-11), Junior (12-14), High School (15-18) & Adult (19+)
 Prizes: \$150 (1st place), \$75 (2nd place), \$50 (3rd place)

Saturday, February 7, 2015

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| 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast (additional fee) |
| 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM | Winter Carnival Information Booth |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Laser Tag with Colchester Paintball |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Chair Massages with Krista Wilbur |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Henna Tattoos |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Costume Contest |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Game Room |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Horse Drawn Hay Rides |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Marc Hughes Caricatures |
| 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Sugar on Snow & Maple Cotton Candy |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Hands-On Arts and Crafts |
| 10:00AM - 3:00 PM | The Big Blue Trunk |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Playdough Extravaganza |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Inflatable Obstacle Course |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Pony Rides |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Face Painting |
| 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Photo Booth |
| 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Coat Check available (nominal donation suggested) |
| 10:30 AM | Chili Contest |
| 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Food Concessions |
| 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Balloon Animals |
| TBD | PERFORMANCE: Colchester Theatre Company |
| TBD | PERFORMANCE: Studio 3 Dance Company |



Sunday, February 8, 2015

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 11:20 AM - 1:20 PM | Winter Carnival Open Skate (Leddy Park, Burlington) |
| 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Family Swim (Saint Michael's College Pool, Colchester) |

Winter Carnival Bracelets: \$6.00 per bracelet; Children Ages 2 & Under FREE!

Colchester Parks & Recreation

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“OPTIMIZING THE EXPERIENCE OF LIVING”



www.colchestervt.gov

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community. Recommend to a friend or family member to become involved in Colchester Pride!

Some benefits of volunteering with us are: learn new skills, teach others, gain experience, meet new people, be involved in your community, and improve your health.

Our variety of volunteer opportunities will allow you to pick what best fits into your schedule...we are flexible.

Check out where you can volunteer by visiting www.colchestervt.gov



Volunteers receive custom t-shirts for most events

Current Annual Volunteer Opportunities:

- Causeway 5K/15K Running Race
- Colchester Triathlon
- 4th of July Celebration
- Winter Carnival
- Youth Sports Coach

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Community Bike Rack Project - Update

By: Glen Cuttitta, Director (Parks & Rec)

The Colchester Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the Community Bike Rack Project, dubbed “Colchester Rides.” We are currently seeking designs for permanent, artistic-designed outdoor bicycle racks to be installed throughout Colchester. Our aim with this project is to enhance the visual environment through long-



lasting, artistically creative racks that allow cyclists to secure their bicycles while enjoying various features of the Town. Three designs will be selected to be placed at prominent locations in the community. Artists may submit design applications through 4pm on Friday, January 16, 2015 at the Colchester Town Offices. Design submissions will be displayed at the Winter Carnival on February 6 & 7 to be voted upon by community members and visitors. Winning proposals will be announced on March 6, with the rack installation completed by July 1, 2015. For more information, or to view the application, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/PublicWorks/RFP/ColchesterBikeRacks.pdf> or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 264-5640. Please help us spread the word so that we see a variety of design submissions!

Volunteers are encouraged to share their stories and submit to the Colchester Pride Newsletter! If you are interested in writing an article, please contact Derek Mitchell at dmitchell@colchestervt.gov or recreation@colchestervt.gov