

For the Week of February 19, 2018

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

Available Now! Two New Informative Videos!

The Town has two brand new videos available for viewing now. The first was filmed by LCATV and showcases what the various Town departments accomplished over the 2017 fiscal year. Visit colchestervt.gov and click on “**A Year in Review Video**” under Popular Links on our homepage. It's a quick and easy way to get the scoop on FY 17.

Also under Popular Links you'll find a link to CCTV's video about Article 15 on the March ballot: Formation of a Union Municipal District for Regional Public Safety Dispatch Service. Click on “**CCTV Panel Interview about Regional Dispatch**” to get the facts you'll need to cast an informed vote on this issue.

Be sure to check out all the info about Town Meeting and Voting Day on the website, where you'll also find the 2016-17 Town Report.

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

Office of the Deputy Town Manager/CFO Aaron Frank

FY 18 Budget Update

Seven months through the fiscal year, revenues are higher than expenses by \$519,516 a net positive of 4%

- Expenditures are 2% under budget primarily due to Planning and Zoning, Parks, and the Manager's office.
- Many departments have increased seasonal winter and spring/summer staffing patterns, and purchases for items ordered but not yet received and paid for, which may reduce this pattern.
- Revenues are 2% over budget. Primary contributors to the trend include property taxes, state revenues, rescue revenues, and police revenues.

Local Option Tax Fund: As of January 31st, the balance of the Local option tax fund, which is restricted for voter approved capital projects, is \$1,005,937. In FY 18, we have received \$457,980 in revenue and made \$548,266 in payments for such projects.

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

Office of the Assessor
Bob Vickery

The Assessor is finalizing the 2017 Grand List.

- We will be contacting home owners who have taken out permits for interior renovations and/or additions to make appointments for inspections and are inspecting any new construction that has been started and/or finished over the last year.
- We are getting ready to conduct our annual field inspections, so you may see us slowly driving through your neighborhood and knocking on home owners' doors that have taken out a permit in the last year.
- Mike Keller of Keller and Associates is conducting appraisals on all commercial apartment complexes throughout the Town. This is to ensure equity within the property class and Town.

Find online map and assessment data at <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>
For more about the Assessor's Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call (802) 264-5670.

Office of the Town Clerk
Karen Richard

The ballots have arrived and early/absentee voting is now available!

You may vote at the Town Offices during office hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM) until the close of business on March 5th (eve of Election Day). You may request a ballot be mailed to you (allow time for postal transit) or an authorized person may apply for an absentee ballot on your behalf. **Requests can be made by phone (802-264-5520); at the Town Clerk's office*; or through the Vermont's Voter Registration system at "My Voter Page" at <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>**

Completed ballots should be mailed to: Colchester Town Clerk, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446, or taken to the Town Clerk's office. If you choose to mail your completed ballot, be sure you allow time for postal transit! The clerks are not responsible for delayed or misdirected mail. Ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018. On Election Day absentee ballots must be returned to the polling place at the high school.

- Taxes are due on Thursday, March 15th. This is the 3rd and final installment for this fiscal year. Retain the top portion of your bill which has the necessary information to file for your homestead and state credit, if applicable.

- If you have not already done so, it is time to file your homestead (deadline is April 15th) for this year with the Vermont State Tax Department. Depending on your income, you may be eligible to file for a Property Tax Adjustment. You will need the following: Form HS-122 Homestead Declaration (Sect. A) and Property Tax Adjustment Claim (Sect B) AND Schedule HI-144 Household Income. Mobile home owners, depending on household income, may also qualify for a Renter Rebate. You will need the following: Form PR-141 Renter Rebate, Schedule HI-144 Household Income AND Form LC-142 Landlord Certificate (Obtain this form from your landlord). There are 3 easy ways to get your forms: 1. Download at www.tax.vermont.gov, order by email at taxforms@state.vt.us or call toll-free (855) 297-5600.

* The Town Clerk's office cannot accept email requests for ballots (phone call or in-office only).

For more about the Town Clerk's Office, <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call (802) 264-5520

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Selectboard:** The Tuesday, February 27 meeting has been canceled.
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Wednesday, February 28, 8:00 AM at the Town Offices, in the Champlain Room on the 2nd floor.
- **Annual Town and School District Meeting:** Monday, March 5 at Colchester High School Performing Arts Center. Sign in starts at 6:30 PM. Meetings start at 7:00 PM.
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, March 6, 7:00 PM.
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 PM.

(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:

- **Free Community Dinner!** Join Town and School Staff, and your legislators, at Colchester High School Cafeteria on Monday, March 5 at 5:30 PM before the Annual Meeting starts at 7 PM. Please bring a dessert to share.
- Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, March 6 at Colchester High School gym (both districts), 7 AM to 7 PM.



Remember to follow us on Facebook (@TownColchesterVT) to get the latest about what's happening in your community!



Share your photos of Colchester with us on Instagram (@colchestervt)



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

Notify Me: Subscribe to Town news that matters to you most. Visit www.colchestervt.gov and click on the Notify Me icon to sign up.

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