

For the Week of January 20, 2020

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

FY 2021 Budget and Capital Plans

The Colchester Selectboard approved a budget for public vote on Town Meeting day, March 2-3, 2020. The budget has a 0% increase in operating expenses. Funding in eight service groups was decreased; this made room for an increase of \$207,428 to fund four career staff that will provide fire coverage during weekday daytime when we do not have an adequate number of volunteers to protect life and property.

The Selectboard also authorized a public vote to continue our five-year capital plans for information technology and communications at their current funding levels (\$35,000 and \$25,500 annually, respectively). These fund the capital equipment for information technology and communications to provide public services. The technology equipment includes servers, backup power, switches, firewalls, and backup systems as well as user devices. The communication equipment includes a town-wide phone system, public safety dispatch equipment, and base station radios and repeaters for fire, rescue, police, public works and parks and recreation. Consistent annual funding and scheduled replacement avoids costly debt financing or tax spikes to replace entire systems all at once, or lapses in service if equipment wears out without a plan or funding for replacement.

Information on the budget and capital plans is available at:
<http://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>

Malletts Bay Initiative: Wastewater Project Report

The Planning Commission completed an eight month evaluation of alternatives to address human waste pollution in Malletts Bay. It was presented to the Selectboard for their consideration. Alternatives included the Sewer project as proposed last March, a “do nothing” option, land conservation, and a community septic option using the planned Bayside/Hazlett Park as a leach field and location for a small wastewater treatment plant. There will be future Selectboard meetings on this topic including hearing an alternative proposal from a small group, the Friends of Malletts Bay, and then consideration of what can be developed as an actionable plan.

On behalf of the Selectboard, I want to thank Planning Director Sarah Hadd, Planning Commission Chair Rich Paquette, and Planning Commissioners Mark Tarinelli, Sarita Austin, Nicholas Longo, Rebecca Arnold, Robert Scheck, and Prinsha Neupane for their work with the community to explore and evaluate alternatives through the

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

Malletts Bay Initiative Wastewater Project Report:
https://clerkshq.com/content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/200107pl_4.pdf.

Parks and Recreation Department
Glen Cuttitta, Director

Happy 2020! Parks and Recreation staff has been busy with extensive planning for spring and summer, as well as for the upcoming Winter Carnival! Here are some things to watch for:

Upcoming Recreation Events:

- The 37th Annual Colchester Winter Carnival is Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2020. The event kicks off with a special edition of Colchester's Got Talent - the ALL STARS show!
- Full Carnival schedule can be found at <https://colchestervt.gov/WinterCarnival>. Read our column in the 1/23 edition of the Colchester Sun for a full schedule of events and details on where to buy admission bracelets
- Registration for the 8th Annual Colchester Causeway 5K/10K/15K Race *and* the 36th Annual Colchester Triathlon will open at midnight on February 1, 2020 online at Active.com. Official registration links will be posted to our website the week of January 27.

Recreation Programs:

- The 2020 Winter/Spring Guide has been out since late December with a wide array of programs starting up very soon! The Guide covers January - May 2020, so be sure to take a look at the many programs for all ages. View the Guide online at <https://colchestervt.gov/335/Program-Registration> or browse and register for programs at <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/colchester-vt/catalog>. Youth Lacrosse League registrations are also open now.
- The 2020 Summer Guide - which includes summer day camps AND activities for preschoolers, youth, families, adults, and Active Generation participants - will be released in early February. Registration is set to open on Friday, Jan. 31 at midnight online and at 7:30am at the Parks & Rec Office. Info about summer special events and A.C.E. 2020/2021 registrations can also be found in the Summer Guide.

Parks News:

- A reminder to please clean up after your pets when they are at Colchester Parks. Just because fields, bike paths, and natural areas are covered with snow does not mean that you shouldn't scoop the poop: this is important to do

year-round. Public dog bag dispensers are kept stocked year-round for your convenience.

- Parks staff continues to monitor the weather for setting up and opening the Airport Park Ice Rink. The fluctuating temps make this difficult, but if we get consecutive days of freezing temperatures we will attempt to flood the space so it can freeze. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates!
- Parks staff will also groom snowshoe / Nordic ski trails at Airport Park when there is an ample base of snow. Please note that Parks staff must clear parking lots at Town Buildings first before grooming trails. Thank you for your patience.

For more about Parks & Rec visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

Police Department
Douglas Allen, Police Chief

- Two new officers have joined our ranks:
 - Alyson Dengler is a 2014 graduate of SUNY College of Technology at Canton where she received her A.S. in Veterinary Science and Technology. She has worked as a Veterinary Technician for the past four years.
 - Emily Fitzpatrick is a 2012 graduate of UVM with a B.S. in Athletic Training. She has been a career member of Colchester Rescue for the past three years and is a member of Colchester Technical Rescue.
- CPD Officers Zachary Smith and Jordan Barriere were selected to attend the Drug Recognition Expert study course held in Burlington. This two week school is extremely rigorous and will allow these officers to process persons suspected of driving under the influence of drugs and testify as experts.
- Since December 18th CPD has responded to 1066 calls for service. These calls resulted in 35 arrests for violations including False Information to Police, Domestic Assault, and Leaving the Scene of an Accident, among others.

For more about Colchester Police Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5555.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. Next Meeting: 2/4

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- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. Next meeting: 2/12
 - **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00am, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 2/12
 - **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 1/20
 - **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 2/20
 - **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. Next meeting: 1/28
- (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:

- **Annual Town Meeting:** Monday, March 2, 2020 7:00 PM. Sign-in begins at 6:30 PM. Community Dinner at Colchester High School cafeteria 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Bring a dessert to share.

Notices:

- The Winter 2020 issue of the Colchester Historical Society's newsletter is now available. Find out what's been going on, what's coming up, and how Colchester students may participate in Vermont History Day.
<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5780/Colchester-Historical-Society-Newsletter-Winter-2020?bidId>



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