

Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of July 12, 2013

Preamble: "Colchester, Vermont, located on Lake Champlain's Malletts Bay, is a diverse, civic-minded community endowed with a rich heritage of commercial, agricultural, recreational, and educational gifts. Proud of the quality of life already enjoyed here, the people of Colchester seek to build upon this foundation to ensure economic prosperity, recreational opportunity, and an entrepreneurial spirit for future generations" – Vision Statement, Heritage Project, 2012.

By no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town the following information highlights some activities which occurred:

Town Manager's Office – Dawn Francis, Town Manager

Highlights included:

- Welcoming and introducing our new Librarian, Kelly Tomaseski to the staff and community.
- Receiving an affirmation from the Supreme Court of the town's position that properties on leased land should be assessed at Fair Market Value.
- Convening a Selectboard retreat to reach consensus on priorities for the coming year.
- Evaluating the results of an Information Technology/Network Assessment.

Burnham Memorial Library: Kelly Tomaseski, Director

Despite our collective weather woes, Summer programming at Burnham Library has been going full-steam. This week we held a Monopoly Tournament and Pirate-themed Treasure Hunt for kids, and a Henna Tattoo workshop for teens, among other programs. You can still see our full list of programs and register at our website (<http://colchestervt.gov/Library/>). Next week we'll have Yoga and "Black Ops" for teens, and Circus Arts and a lesson about Worms for kids; the following week is an adult program about Landscaping with Native Plants. Also keep in mind the Colchester Farmers' Market, which runs every Wednesday from 4-7 pm on the library lawn. Though belated, we would like to thank everyone who stopped by the Friends of the Library Book Sale back in June. The Friends' financial support makes so many of our summer programs possible. Also, we'd like to express enormous thanks to the many loyal volunteers who made the sale possible, despite the challenging weather conditions.

Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Rescue responded to 43 calls over the past two weeks, and transported 29 people to the hospital. We also participated in the 4th of July events, including the parade, and standby for the fireworks.

Tech Rescue has been busy with several activations for flooding throughout the State. Some

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

nights have been spent staging at the station so they could be deployed quickly if needed for flash flooding. They have also helped with some evacuations, and this week assisted Richmond Rescue with an injured swimmer at the Bolton Potholes.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director

In the Recreation Division, the 4th of July activities went off without a hitch despite of the hot temperatures and high lake level. Special thanks to the Parks staff, who make sure the parks are looking great after the events. Camps are going quite well with all the challenges of dodging raindrops and thunderstorms. Some camps still have openings and if you are interested contact our office at 264-5640. The Bayside Summer Concert Series will be starting on Thursday, July 18th featuring Dan & The Wildfire, July 25th featuring Carol Ann Jones & The Superchargers and on August 1st Last Words. There are about 50 spots available for the Colchester Triathlon. The Triathlon takes place on Sunday, July 28th and if you are not ready to participate, we certainly need volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kelly McGinley at 264-5646.

In the Parks Division, the crews were busy preparing for the 4th of July and cleaning up from all the events. The parking lot at Bayside Park was just paved. The existing pavement was breaking apart and in desperate need of repair. The paving was a part of the Town wide Capital Paving Plan which made the cost much cheaper than if we would just have an independent paver do the job. It appears that we are finally out of the rainy pattern and maybe the grass will slow down so our staff can focus on other repairs and items in the parks.

Be sure to get outside and recreate!

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

- Paving has been completed on Blakely Road and Malletts Bay Avenue. Creek Road, Shetland Lane and Pine Lane remain to be completed.
- Construction of the Exit 16 sidewalk project is now approximately 60% complete.
- Engineering proposals were received for both the East Road culvert project and the emergency storm water overflow on East Lakeshore Drive.
- Conducted site visits with CCTA at the three proposed transit stops along Rt. 7 to plan for the necessary improvements in support of the planned transit service to begin next summer.
- Completed an RFP for the renewal of the Town's janitorial contract covering all of the Town's public facilities.
- Conducted site inspections and meetings with FEMA/FHWA at the sites damaged by heavy rains and flooding conditions experienced over the past 6 weeks.
- Continued collection and evaluation in support of the development of a Capital Facilities Plan.

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

- Conducted site visits and inspections of sites in Colchester with expired storm water permits to determine the appropriate action plan to comply with the newly issued Phase II MS4 Storm Water Permit.
- Refining conceptual design plans from the CENTS initiative following the initial public input meeting.
- Continuing to advance the transportation improvement study for Exit 17.
- Received and reviewed a conceptual plan associated with providing wastewater service to Exit 17.
- Development of a grant application for the construction of a Park & Ride to be located on Heineberg Drive.
- Exploring the possibility of locating a Park & Ride Facility at Exit 16.
- Continuing design efforts for the Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Project, the West Lakeshore Multi-Use Path, the River Road Sidewalk Project, the Water Tower Hill Water Storage Tank Project, the Meadow Drive Ditch project, and the Severance Corners Intersection project.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

On-site wastewater system failures have continued to increase this summer. The Planning and Zoning Dept. would like to remind the community that once septic systems surface (either water or actual waste) it is a failed system and generally needs replacement or repair. Portable toilets are only allowed for special circumstances such as events and construction sites and must be removed within 14 days. In most cases, giving a wastewater system a rest will not fix the problem. Surfacing wastewater can backflow into homes or wash into nearby waterways and should be immediately addressed. If you believe you have a failed wastewater system, please contact our office at 264-5602. The Town has a low-interest loan program for wastewater systems and would be happy to help you find a solution for your wastewater problems.

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

The tax bills are in the mail. The first installment is due August 15th. If you are a resident of Colchester please check your bill to make sure that it has been calculated at the residential tax rate. You must file your homestead declaration in order to have the residential rate on your bill. If you have any questions regarding the homestead declarations you may call our office at 264-5520.

If you would like to automate your payment please contact us for more information.

Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.

I will be holding a course on municipal finance on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 for any citizen who would like to attend. The purpose of the course is to give people an overview of government accounting, budgeting and our financial statements. If you would like to attend, please contact me at jboehm@colchestervt.gov

For further information or comment, please call June Campbell at 264-5509.