

Colchester's Weekly Town News

June 29, 2012

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."

This week the following occurred:

Burnham Memorial Library: Joshua Muse, IT/Library Communications

The Library is now in the peak of Summer programming season, with hundreds of children participating in numerous events, including our Reading Buddies Kickoff, and story time with players from the Vermont Lake Monsters. Additionally, the Friends of the Library's annual book sale occurred last weekend; with nice weather and a very good turnout, the sale was quite successful. Finally, the Colchester Farmers' Market is continuing to develop, with progress in terms of vendor applications and interest, and increasing awareness among the public.

IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department

The Technology Department successfully worked to increase the range and strength of the wireless internet access for the Meeting House and Historical Society. For those who used wireless devices after the change - they seem to be flying across the web with much better connectivity.

Police Department – Chief Chuck Kirker, Police Chief

The police department submits to the Sun on a weekly basis a list of all logged complaints. During the last week the police department's School Resource Officer along with the Dare Officer and our Community Service Officer's conducted a week long Bike Camp for 10-14 year olds. This program is in conjunction with our Parks and Recreation Department.

Rescue Squad – Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Colchester Rescue responded to 23 calls, and had to turn over 3, because we were already on a call. Of the 23 calls, 16 patients were transported to the hospital.

Technical Rescue - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

Technical Rescue has not had any calls this week. However, they have attended several helicopter rescue training sessions with the Army National Guard Aviation.

Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttita, Director

With Fourth of July behind us our next event is the Colchester Triathlon. The Triathlon is no longer registering participants as we have met our maximum of 400 athletes. We do still need volunteers so if you are interested please contact Kelly McGinley at 264-5646.

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

Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director

A pre-bid meeting for the reconstruction of the East Road Depot Road intersection project was held this week. Bids are due on July 17, 2012 with construction expected to begin on August 1, 2012. The contract completion date is set for October 30, 2012. A \$175,000 state grant has been secured for this project.

Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director

The Planning and Zoning Department has a summer intern, John Neri, which will be updating the Town's business directory as well as creating a listing of vacant commercial / industrial space. It is hoped that the resulting information will be put into an on-line interactive map showing business locations. The 2007 Town Plan was readopted to allow the new 2012 Town Plan to have more time to complete pending the arrival of the Colchester Economic Development Plan which is intended to be incorporated by reference. The Planning Commission continues to work on form based code for Severance Corners that would allow for more flexibility in zoning as well as additional density. The Development Review Board completed their review of the Costco gas pump proposal at their 6/27 meeting with a draft motion of approval. Permits continue to flow in and it should be a busy summer!
Sarah Hadd

Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office was pleasantly surprised when a previous resident, Nancy Deforge, walked in last week and donated a piece of art work that had been willed to us from Nancy's late husband, Wayne. He served on the Selectboard in the 1980's, as well as other commissions. The art piece is a framed Woody Jackson print called "Cows Promenade". It is a painting of Holstein cows on top of a building in New York City, with the New York skyline, including the Twin Towers, in the background. Wayne had fond memories of Colchester and hoped that we would not develop into a congested city.

Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor

It has been a busy week in the Assessor's office. We have been finishing up the changes to the 2012 Grand List and working on mailing the Board of Lister's "Result of Grievance Notices." We have also been working with the Town Clerk's Office reconciling the appraisal software with the tax billing software.

Finance – Joan Boehm (Asst. Town Manager/CFO)

The Finance Department is in the process of closing down the current fiscal year and making preparations to the upcoming audit in October. The FY 12 budget was projected to have an excess of expenses over revenues of \$446,916. This was done to keep the tax rate as low as possible and still maintain Town services. We expect to exceed this number by about \$100,000 due to reductions in property tax revenues related to reappraisal issues. The exact number will not be known until after year-end accounts have been reconciled and adjusted.

Town Manager's Office – Al Voegele, Town Manager

Past week has been very positive. P&Z and DPW and I are working with a business person to develop a new business on land that poses many government restrictions. Land use regulations

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are and can be both protective and a hindrance of economic development. The Town's approach is to be pragmatic and business proactive to find a means so business opportunities can land and grow in Colchester. Additionally, working with the Town Clerk and Assessor we helped the Winooski Valley Park District examine any municipal issues with the Park District accepting the donation of land in Colchester for conservation, recreational and educational use.

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