

## Colchester's Weekly Town News

For the Week of May 24, 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**

One of the most important appointments to be made for the town will be the successor to Chief of Police Chuck Kirker who has served the town with distinction for 43 years. This week we conducted interviews with the assistance of a well-qualified community panel made up of citizens and law enforcement officials. I “rode along” in a cruiser with one of our police officers which provided me an appreciation for the amount of territory they have to cover as well as the technology and equipment needed to do their difficult jobs effectively. Also attended a joint Milton/Selectboard meeting to discuss sewer, public transit and transportation issues, a meeting with the Community & Economic Development Advisory Council, and met with the Winooski manager.

### **Burnham Memorial Library: Hannah Peacock, Assistant Director**

This week at the Burnham Library, we’ve announced our new library director: Kelly Tomaseski will be joining us on July 1, 2013. She is coming from the Town of Esopus Library, in Port Ewen, NY, where she has been director since 2005. We’d like to thank everyone who attended the candidate talks for their involvement in the selection process. The library will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. The Friends of the Library will be accepting donations for our Summer book sale every Saturday morning (9 am-12 pm) at the Old Fire House; donations run until June 22, and the book sale itself takes place from June 28-30. On June 3 at 6:30 pm, we’ll have a talk by Dr. Jack Mayer, author of *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project*. It tells the story of a holocaust hero who rescued 2,500 children from the Warsaw ghetto, and how three Kansas teenagers helped to bring her forgotten story to the world.

### **IT – Alice Greig – Technology Department**

One of the oldest servers failed last weekend and this week has been spent recovering data and resetting printer structures. We appreciate the town staff's patience while this process is being worked through.

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

### **Rescue & Technical Rescue Squads - Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief**

This week Rescue had 26 EMS calls, and transported 20 people to the hospital. Despite the severe weather, we held our Annual Family Fun & Safety Night Wednesday. As the event was scheduled to begin, the weather cooperated, and it turned out to be beautiful! Thank you to all of the people who came out to join us. A special thank you to the Colchester Police Department, Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company, and St. Michael's Rescue for attending and helping us out. We also had several donations made for the event from Dick Mazza's Store, Baker Distributing, Coca Cola, McKenzie, Colchester School District, Vermont Information Processing, Lone Pine Campground, and Vertek,

We do still have bike helmets left in all sizes. If you were not able to attend, and need a helmet, you can call the station (264-5595), or stop by, and we can get you fitted for a helmet.

### **Parks and Recreation – Glen Cuttitta, Director**

In the Recreation Division, planning continues on the First Causeway 5/15K race. The logo for the race shirts has been completed with special thanks to Emily Bond who created an awesome logo. The field of racers is almost complete as we are quickly approaching 200 runners. Planning continues for the Colchester 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee is still in need of volunteers so please contact our office if you are interested.

With school summer vacation quickly approaching, our summer camp opportunities are quickly filling up. If you are looking for a fun summer filled of activity please visit our website at [www.colchester.vt.us](http://www.colchester.vt.us)

In the Parks Division, Public Works staff helped out our staff with roadside mowing on the Causeway to get it ready for the race. Daily work with mowing and park repairs is ongoing every week. Staff will be working on getting Bayside Beach ready even though water temps are still a bit chilly.

### **Public Works – Bryan Osborne, Director**

- The annual water quality report for the 2012 testing year has been completed and will be presented to the Select Board in the near future.
- The Town's application for continued coverage under NPDES Federal Storm Water Permit is being completed and will be submitted within a week.
- Completed a feasibility analysis for the Select Board on the implementation of a one month pilot project for a fast trash facility in the Bay.
- Completed a feasibility analysis for the Select Board on the installation of guardrails on sections of East Lakeshore Drive
- In continued collaboration with the Colchester Boy Scouts, the catch basin stenciling program will be getting underway this summer.

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- Working with the CCRPC to conduct a GIS Roadway Sign inventory. The department maintains thousands of roadway signs throughout the community where federal standards now require the monitoring of their remaining reflectivity.
- Grading and preparation of gravel roads is now substantially complete with the application of dust control agents expected within the next 1-2 weeks.
- Highway crews have begun the summer pavement marking program beginning with higher traffic areas. The long line painting is performed on a contractual basis and is expected to be completed by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Exit 16 Sidewalk Project is now under construction.
- Engineering, permitting, and right-of-way acquisition efforts continue for the Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Project, the River Road Sidewalk Project, the West Lakeshore Drive Bike Path Project, the Meadow Drive Drainage Ditch Project and the Water Tower Hill Water Storage Tank Project.

### **Planning & Zoning - Sarah Hadd, Director**

The Planning Commission met on 5/21 and discussed the input received from property owners regarding re-zonings in the Heineberg area. The Commission has decided to explore retaining and expanding the GD1 zoning in this area in response input received and will hold a second informational meeting on 6/18. The Development Review Board met on 5/22 and approved the site plan application for the farmers market in the village as well as an after the fact seawall on Chase Lane. A variance application for a Shoreland encroachment on Colchester Point was denied and two sketch plans (one in the village and one off of Jasper Mine Road) were also heard at the meeting.

### **Clerk's Office – Karen Richard, Town Clerk**

**Don't forget to vote.** On Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special election for the bond vote to improve the sewage disposal system in the Windemere Mobile Home. The bond will be paid by the Housing Foundation, Inc., a non-profit owner of the park. More information about this issue can be found on the town's website. You can stop by the office to vote early, you may email or call to request a ballot, or you may vote on Election Day. District 9-1 will vote at the Meeting House on Main St. from 7 am to 7 pm. District 9-2 will vote at the Colchester High School Gymnasium from 7 am to 7 pm. If you have not registered to vote yet, you have until 5 pm on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to do so.

### **Assessor – Bob Vickery, Assessor**

The 2013 "Abstract" Grand List will be lodged completed May 31, 2013. The "Change of Assessment Notices" will be sent out on that same day as well as postings of the GL in different

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locations throughout town, and in the Colchester Sun. Only the property owners that had a change in their assessments will receive a "Change of Assessment Notices." The Abstract Grand List will be available for review at the town offices on the day of the posting. If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office @ (802) 264-5670.

**Finance – Joan Boehm, Asst. Town Manager/CFO**

The month of April represents 83% of the fiscal year completed. During the month of April, in the General Fund, we recorded \$869,368 in revenues from property taxes and other sources. Expenses for April were \$750,973. The net of these is a surplus for the month of \$118,395. We expect to have a surplus for the year, but it is difficult to determine the amount as May and June are traditionally high expenditure months.

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