



Colchester Town News

VERMONT

Colchester - The heart of Lake Champlain.

For the Week Ending April 10, 2015

While by no means a total representation of all the work performed by the Town, the following highlights some Departments' activities:

Town Manager's Office

Dawn Francis, Town Manager

One of the most critical functions local government performs is emergency services operations. Unfortunately, our police, fire and rescue crews have had a busy spring with untimely deaths, crimes and horrific vehicle accidents. These departments also have day to day obligations with paperwork and reporting, training requirements, court appearances and ensuring policies and procedures are up to date and being followed.

We recently conducted an emergency mock scenario exercise with 26 of these providers and key department heads in attendance to ensure that when we have a major emergency, we all understand our respective roles and responsibilities, that we have the proper communications and procedures in place and are aware of the resources available to assist us when needed. I was impressed by the passion these individuals have for their work and the community can rest assured that we will all be there for you when needed.

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

Town Clerk's Office

Karen Richard, Town Clerk

- If you have not already done so, it is time to file your homestead declaration (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.
- If you need to know your span number or if you would like to verify that you have filed your homestead with the State Tax Department you can go the town website, town clerk page, taxes to find the Span Number Listing, which is in alpha order. The link is below:

<http://www.colchestervt.gov/TownClerk/townClerkPropertyTaxes.shtml>

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



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- Dogs are required to be licensed by April 1st. **IT IS THE LAW.** As of this date we have licensed 825 dogs in town. If you missed the deadline you can still license your dog. The late fee is \$2.00 for neutered dogs and \$4.00 if the dog has not been neutered.

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

Finance Department
Aaron Frank, Assistant Town Manager/CFO

After seven months of our current year budget, we are 1% over budget for revenues and 2% under budget for expenses.

- Working with Champlain Housing Trust to obtain \$43,000 in Federal funding for energy efficient LED streetlights at the Winchester Place Apartments. This will reduce electricity consumption and will cut the street light bill in at least half.
- Continuing work on telecommunications contracts to realize savings necessary to meet our FY 16 budget.
- Attended a mock emergency event to test and improve our response to extended public safety emergencies. Evaluated costs for increased public safety staffing for key special events.
- Assisted our Volunteer Colchester Rescue Squad with a grant for \$5,000 to purchase climbing/water rescue gear.
- Rewrote policy for recording, inventorying and disposing of Town's fixed assets, which are items valued at \$5,000 or more with a lifespan of more than one year.

For more information about the Finance Department, please visit
<http://colchestervt.gov/Finance/financeHome.shtml> or call (802) 264-5650.

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