

For the Week of:
July 3, 2017

Manager's Message of the Week
Dawn Francis, Town Manager

The 2017-18 Municipal Tax Rate

The 2017-18 Municipal Tax Rate set by the Selectboard is \$0.5271 per \$100.00 of property value. Had the stormwater utility not been created, the tax rate would have been \$0.5454, which is lower than the tax rate in 2013.

How is this tax rate reduction possible?

- Growth and investment in Colchester between 2012 and 2018 resulted in a property value increase of \$150,005,900 (7.7%)
- The local option tax funded \$627,964 of our voter-approved debt, which was previously paid for with property taxes
- Selectboard and staff are diligent about containing costs and finding more efficient ways to manage the Town to use fewer of your tax dollars

Stormwater Utility

- The adoption of a stormwater utility means that the Town's stormwater program will be funded through user fees instead of property taxes
- All property owners will pay a user fee for stormwater: single family, duplex, and triplex properties will pay a flat fee; all others, including tax exempt sites, religious organizations, and the Town itself, will pay a fee that is based on the specifics of their site.
- You can get more information about the Stormwater Utility online at colchestervt.gov/213/managing-stormwater, including a link to a user cost database that shows a fee comparison of the two methods for your property, and all properties in Colchester.

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

Police Department
Jennifer Morrison, Police Chief

The History of the Colchester Police Department, Part One
FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS:

In late March 1967 Colchester voters approved the expenditure of \$20,000 of Town funds to establish a police department. Town Manager James Lowe indicated the force would be composed of “two men and a cruiser.” Town officials stated that they wanted “the very best qualified men” for the department. In May of that year the Town rented space for the new CPD in a building on Route 2A near Town Hall. The building was owned by the Auchter family. Also in May, the Town advertised for their first Chief of Police. There were 11 – 14 applicants, depending on which news account you believe.

In June 1967 the Town took delivery of its first police cruiser – at a cost of \$2,323.00. Later in June, a sergeant from the St. Johnsbury Police Department was selected to be the first Chief. On or about July 1st, 26-year-old Ronald Smith assumed command of the Colchester Police Department. His annual salary was approximately \$7,000. Establishing the department and selecting the first Chief was a collaborative effort of the Selectboard and the Vermont State Police. The Colchester Police Department officially assumed responsibility for patrolling the Town on August 8th, 1967.

To commemorate our 50th Anniversary of service to the Colchester community, we will be having a celebration on Sunday, September 10th. Details will be forthcoming. We truly hope that you can celebrate this milestone with us. We are proud of the progress we have made in our first fifty years and we look forward to serving the community for many decades to come!

For more information about CPD visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5556 (non-emergency).

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads Amy Akerlind, Rescue Chief

The summer months are upon us and this is the time of year we usually start to see an increase in our call volume. However, at the time of this report, we are already 156 calls ahead of this time last year! A few 2016/2017 year-to-date stats:

- Turned Over Calls: 2016= 21 2017= 52
- Mutual Aid Calls: 2016= 115 2017= 170
- Calls in our Primary Area: 2016= 429 2017= 500

Not only have we seen a steady increase in calls for service, but we seem to be seeing sicker patients. This may be due in part to continual protocol updates, and with each one there are more medications and interventions added to our scope of practice. In many cases we treat patients with the same interventions and medications that they would receive at a hospital emergency department. We provide excellent care despite the short duration of our interaction with our patients.

Don't forget about our 911 signs to better mark your home in case of an emergency. Check out our website for more information. Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/rescue> or call (802) 264-5990 (non-emergency).

Upcoming Town Meetings:

Selectboard: Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 PM

Development Review Board: July 12, 7:00 PM

(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:

- **Summer Concert Series** – FREE Thursday, July 13 7:00 PM Satin & Steel
- **Movies in the Park** - FREE July 24, 8:00 PM “The Secret Life of Pets” at Fort Ethan Allen
- **The CSWD Rover** is coming to Colchester! Saturday, July 15, 9:00AM-1:00 PM at Malletts Bay School, 609 Blakely Road. You may bring paints and stains, household cleaners, insecticides, automotive fluids, chemicals, and more!
- **33rd Annual Triathlon:** Sunday, July 30, 8:30 AM at Bayside Park. Info: <http://www.colchestertri.com> Online registration at www.active.com

Did You Know?

Flamingos are back for the summer! Looking for a fun way to announce a birthday, anniversary or other occasion? “You’ve Been Flamingoed!” is again available courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Department. Have a flock of up to 75 classic pink plastic flamingos land for a day in the yard of your unsuspecting friend or loved one! Prices vary according to the number of birds placed; set up and take-down is provided by a staff co-conspirator. Call Parks and Recreation at 264-5640 for more information.

Traffic Alerts:

- **Route 7/2/2A:** The 7-week detour on Route 7/2 between Creek Farm Road and Bay Road continues in effect. Access to businesses will remain OPEN at all times. No work July 1 - 4. Work will resume Wednesday, July 5.
- **I89 Colchester – Swanton:** No work July 3-4. One lane of travel within construction zone and motorists should plan for minimal delays.

Selectboard Meeting Highlights from June 27, 2017

- Sarah Austin was appointed as a member to the Colchester Planning Commission.



- Appointments of Colchester Representatives to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and Committees were made including:
 - Jeffrey Bartley as the representative to the CCRPC and Jacki Murphy as alternate. We thank Marc Landry for his many years of service on CCRPC!
 - Bryan Osborne as the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the CCRPC
 - Karen Adams as representative to the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) of the CCRPC, with Warner Rackley serving as the alternate for both the TAC and CWAC
- The Tax Rate for FY 2018 was set at \$0.5271 per one hundred dollars of property value.
- The Selectboard gave permission for the Parks and Recreation Department to contribute \$10,000 toward the replacement of the gym floor at Malletts Bay School, where Parks and Recreation has many programs
- A Carter's License was approved for Gauthier Trucking
- The Selectboard approved the cancellation of the July 25 meeting.

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