

For the Week of January 28, 2019

### **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Tazor:** Thank you to Colchester community members who honored Colchester Police K-9 Tazor and celebrated the Colchester Police K-9 Officer program last week. Tazor was a true public servant who loved his job, working until his last week, doing tasks that only a K-9 Officer can do. Our thoughts go out to his handler/caretaker Corporal David Dewey, his family, and extended family at CPD and throughout the Town.

**Local Option Tax:** In March 2015 Colchester Voters approved a 1% Local Option Tax (LOT). About 87% of the tax is paid by out-of-town residents. A 2014 survey of residents indicated the primary interest in use of the LOT would be to reduce taxes. Beginning in FY 16, the LOT paid for voter approved debt. This reduced property taxes by 5%.

In FY 20, the LOT will pay \$517,884 in voter approved debt for: drainage improvements in the Bellwood Neighborhood, the Bayside Hazlett Property, and Town public service buildings on Blakely Road. The LOT will continue to pay this current debt until it is paid off in June 2028 according to the schedule in place prior to the LOT approval. In doing so, the LOT continues to suppress the property tax. The LOT generates about \$1.5M a year before paying the existing debt. The LOT fund is estimated to be \$3,239,334 June 30, 2019.

**Proposed Malletts Bay Sewer Funding:** The 2014 survey of potential uses of the LOT indicated infrastructure projects were the second priority. A sewer project was included in a list of potential LOT funded projects. The Malletts Bay Sewer project seeks to meet an environmental goal of improving the public waters of inner Malletts Bay which are enjoyed by the entire Town.

The Sewer project's estimated cost of \$14.3M would be financed by: a grant of \$3.5M, \$2.15M in cash from the LOT fund, and a bond in the amount of \$8.6M. The bond will be paid back by a combination of sewer fees and annual LOT contributions, up to \$250,000 for 30 years. The total LOT contributions of \$9.65M will be repaid by sewer fees, making the LOT available for other projects.

Police Department

Douglas Allen, Police Chief

In the New Year we are making changes here at Colchester Police Department. In addition to Lt Jeffrey Barton being named in December as our first Deputy Chief of Police, we have also promoted two new Lieutenants:

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

Detective Sergeant James Roy has been named our Lieutenant in charge of the Support Services Division. His duties include overseeing the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (Detective) Unit, our Communications Unit, Records, and Training. Sergeant Roy has been with the department for 31 years.

Sergeant Peter Hull has been named as our Lieutenant in charge of the Operations Division. He oversees a patrol unit of four Sergeants and 14 officers. He will also command the Youth Services and Marine units. Sergeant Hull has been with the department for 27 years.

In addition, two new officers have been hired:

- Elizabeth Fell, a CPD Communications Specialist for the past year and a half, was hired as an officer. Liz is a veteran of the Winooski Fire Department and Colchester Rescue.
- Richard Giroux, a 2018 Norwich University graduate and 2014 CHS graduate was also named as a Police Officer for us. Rick previously served with CPD as a summer Community Service Officer.

Both will enter the Vermont Police Academy in February.

Over the past four weeks, CPD officers responded to 1076 calls for service. These calls resulted in 39 arrests for violations that included Domestic Assault, Thefts, and DUI, among others.

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

#### Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads

Scott Crady, Rescue Chief

We have had a few members leave Colchester Rescue to pursue personal endeavors:

- One moved out of state for new employment
- One is pursuing a new career at Colchester Police Department
- Three to free up time for other commitments

We are currently interviewing applicants to fill these open positions.

We would like to welcome a new volunteer who started in January, Adam Francis. Adam is a Colchester resident, holds EMT certification, and is also a member of Malletts Bay Fire Department.

There were 140 emergency medical calls in the last 30 days. This is the same number of incidents as last year for this time frame. We ended the year with 1554 calls for EMS services in Colchester; this is an increase of 53 calls, or 3.5% from 2018.

For more about Colchester Rescue visit <http://colchestervt.gov/rescue> or call 264-5990.

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

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. February meetings: 2/5 and 2/19
- **Development Review Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. Next meeting: 2/13
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00am, Next meeting: 2/13. Champlain Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 2/18
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 4 PM, at the Burnham Library. Next meeting: 2/21
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. February meetings: 2/12 and 2/26. **Both of these meetings will be held at Colchester High School in the Performing Arts Center.**

(All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor unless otherwise noted.)

Upcoming events:

- **36th Annual Winter Carnival:** Feb. 1, 2, & 3, 2019. Theme: “Myth & Magic”  
Entry Bracelets: \$7/person. Full schedule: [ColchesterVT.gov/663/Winter-Carnival](http://ColchesterVT.gov/663/Winter-Carnival)
- **Winter Concert: A Night with Satin & Steel:** Friday, March 8, 2019 at Colchester High School. Starts at 7:00pm, admission is FREE.

Notices:

- The Town Offices will be **closed** on Monday, February 18 in observance of President’s Day.

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