

**For the Week of:  
September 11, 2017**

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

### **Emergency Services and Responders**

In recent weeks we have seen local and national attention given to members of emergency service organizations. Currently members of our own Colchester Technical Rescue are working hard in Texas to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. We are proud and honored to have such generous people in Colchester.

In the spirit of recognizing those who serve, we want to thank the Colchester-Milton Rotary for sponsoring last week's Colchester Police Departments Award Ceremony, which also paid tribute to a Colchester family for their heroic efforts in saving two kayakers from drowning. The awards ceremony can be viewed on Lake Champlain Access Television.

This past weekend the Colchester Police Department celebrated their 50th Anniversary with an Open House. It was wonderful to see the interactions of our officers with the residents they protect and serve on a daily basis.

When you see a member of any emergency services organization, whether in Colchester or not, a kind word or thank you would be a kind gesture, especially since they put themselves in harm's way for others. A "thank you for your service" might put a smile on someone's face!

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

**Office of the Assessor  
Bob Vickery**

- The Board of Civil Authority has issued decisions on 4 of the 5 appeals they heard this year
- We will be out in the community taking photos this month of any new construction and properties that have had major capital improvements
- We will be inspecting any new construction that has been started but is unfinished as of 4/1/2017
- The GIS Map and Assessment Data have been updated with updated .pdf files of the property record cards

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

- You may view the online Web Map and Assessment Data by going to:  
<http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

For more about the Assessor's Department, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call (802) 264-5670.

**Office of the Deputy Town Manager  
Aaron Frank**

**Town Solar Array**

Since 2015 I have been working on permitting and building a solar generation plant with the capacity to supply about 1/3 of the Town's energy. The Selectboard has approved such a plant, and it will save the Town about \$600,000 over 25 years by reducing 1/3 of our electric bill by 42% over that period of time. The project is now in the permitting phase; if all goes well should be operational by winter 2019.

**Continued Efforts Chairing a Committee on Regional Dispatch**

The Joint Survey Committee for the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority, consists of representatives from Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, and Winooski. They have drafted a Charter and a Funding Agreement for review by our respective legislative bodies and Town attorneys. You may review these documents online. To review the Charter visit: <https://tinyurl.com/regional-dispatch-charter>. To view the Funding Agreement visit: <https://tinyurl.com/funding-MOU>. A presentation on the Joint Dispatch project is here: <https://tinyurl.com/funding-agreement>.

**Updated Timeline:**

- September 2017: share Charter with proposed member legislative bodies; consider comments and adapt
- Fall 2017: Obtain votes of proposed member legislative bodies to put regional dispatch authority on ballot for community vote
- Fall/Winter 2017: Communications to go out to all participating towns in preparation for Town Meeting Day votes
- Spring 2018: Town Meeting votes on membership
- Spring 2018: – Based on actual membership:
  - Determine on-boarding plan (i.e. which municipal dispatch service transition in what order) based on actual members' wishes and overall capacities as they are built
  - Create budget and Memorandums of Agreement for first onboarding
  - Member municipalities commit funding from their existing dispatch budgets to fund regional services

- Re-assess management, labor and support needs after each onboarding
- Begin to hire employees in a staggered manner to set up and test systems but leave municipal operations until each is transitioned to the regional center
- By July 1, 2018: Begin providing dispatch services by replacing services of two existing dispatch centers with support from municipal staff
- Summer/Fall 2018: Hire Executive Director prior to onboarding of third existing dispatch center
- November 2018: Obtain capital funding
- December 31, 2018: All agencies which voted to join and wish to join initially consolidate under single operation and location

We will keep you informed as we make further progress.

**Office of the Town Clerk**  
**Karen Richard**

- Last call for filing your Homestead for 2017 – If you owned and occupied your home as of April 1, 2017 you are required to file a homestead declaration with the State of Vermont Tax Department. The deadline for filing is October 16, 2017. The homestead declaration results in a lower education tax rate on your property tax bill.
- Dog Licensing: Currently we have registered 1008 dogs. There are 129 outstanding dogs that were registered last year but have not registered this year. Remember, it is a law to register your dog. If you have not done so yet, please stop by with a current rabies vaccination. We are required to keep a copy of the rabies vaccination on file.
- We recently added more land records that can be accessed online. If you are curious about the many deeds that have been filed on your property for the last 40 years you can do your own research in the comfort of your home. The link is: <https://i2d.uslandrecords.com/VT/Colchester>

For more about the Town Clerk's Office see <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call (802) 264-5520

**Upcoming Town Meetings:**

- **Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, September 18, 5:00 PM. Meet with the Milton Conservation Commission at the Milton Town Forest off Hardscrabble Road
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 PM

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

(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:**

- **Malletts Bay Initiative Stormwater & Transportation Project Meeting**

Join us on Tuesday, September 26th at 6:30 PM at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road in the Outer Bay Conference Room (3rd Floor) to hear an update on recent Malletts Bay Initiative (MBI) activities. The Town is currently investigating options to protect the Bay's water quality through stormwater management enhancements, improved safety and mobility of pedestrians and cyclists along West Lakeshore Drive, and improved safety and efficiency for all users through the West Lakeshore Drive/Blakely Road intersection and adjacent area.

Representatives from the Town of Colchester, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), and the project consultant team will present an update on current activities and solicit feedback on stormwater and transportation alternatives.

Check the website for current information: [www.ccrpcvt.org/malletts-bay-initiative](http://www.ccrpcvt.org/malletts-bay-initiative). Questions? Call Karen Adams at 802.264.5621.

### **Traffic Notices:**

- **Routes 7/2, 2A & 127 Intersection Project – week of September 11, 2017:**

There will be daily single-lane closures and alternating one-way travel. In addition, travel through the construction zone will be slowed by the rough road surface conditions. The contractor expects to complete the complex drainage work in the Bay Road area and pave the road during the week of September 18. Please plan your travel to anticipate delays, especially during the peak AM and PM hours. Access to businesses will remain OPEN at all times. Questions? Contact Jill Barrett at 802-272-1248.

- **I-89 between Swanton and Colchester** beginning Sunday, September 10, 2017 from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM: Sunday thru Tuesday (Weather permitting) line striping/pavement markings from Exit 16 to the Lamoille River Bridge along with the on / off ramps throughout the project. Monday thru Thursday: (weather permitting) paving the U-Turns from the Swanton Town line to Colchester. This work will require the high speed lanes (left lanes) to be closed in the work zone in both north and southbound lanes. One lane of travel will be maintained within the construction zone. Motorists should plan for minimal delays. Questions? Contact Stephanie Barrett at 802-862-6085.



*Colchester – What do you want to do today?*

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