

For the Week of February 5, 2018

Manager's Message of the Week

Dawn Francis, Town Manager

Town Annual Meeting Preview

The Annual Meeting is coming up on Monday, March 5, 2018, at the Colchester High School Performing Arts Center. Please arrive at 6:30 PM to sign in. The School District will go first this year at 7:00 PM; the Town's Annual Meeting will follow after a short break. Election Day follows on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. Both Colchester districts will vote from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Colchester High School gymnasium. Early/Absentee voting will begin by February 15, 2018, or as soon as the ballots are delivered to the Town Clerk's office (see below).

The Free Community Dinner will be held in the Colchester High School cafeteria at 5:30. Enjoy your choice of homemade meat or vegetarian lasagna, garden salad, and bread; please bring a dessert to share. Your local legislators and Town and School officials will be in attendance, and the legislators will share the news from Montpelier in an informal question-and-answer period.

The Town has three articles to be voted on by Australian ballot this year:

- a) The Town General Fund Operating budget
- b) Charter amendments to eliminate the elected office of Town Clerk/Treasurer and make it a merit-based, appointed position
- c) Approval of formation of a regional public safety dispatch service

Information on all of these issues is available at the Town's website (www.colchestervt.gov – See Popular Links on the home page); in a 4-page special insert in the February 1 edition of the Colchester Sun (this will be mailed to non-subscribers by February 7); or at the Colchester Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road.

Early/Absentee Voting: You may vote at the Town Offices during office hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM) until the close of business on March 5th (eve of Election Day). You may request a ballot be mailed to you (**allow time for postal transit**) or an authorized person may apply for an absentee ballot on your behalf. Requests can be made by phone (802-264-5520); at the Town Clerk's office; or through the Vermont's Voter Registration system at "My Voter Page" at <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>

Mail completed ballots to: Colchester Town Clerk, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446, or take them to the Town Clerk's office. If you choose to mail your ballot **be sure to allow time for postal transit!** The clerks are not responsible for delayed or

misdirected mail. Ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 4:30 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018. **On Election Day absentee ballots must be returned to the polling place at the high school.**

We sincerely hope you will join us for our yearly exercise in democracy-in-action, Vermont style.

Burnham Memorial Library
Kelly McCagg, Director

The Burnham Library has so much more than books. Free tax preparation, crafts, tutoring-we've got it all. Here are a few of our upcoming events:

- **Baby & Me Story Time:** For babies ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Six Fridays, January 26-March 2, 10:30 AM. We'll share stories, songs, and more! Participants will receive books and goodies at each session.
- **Tax Help with AARP Volunteers:** Saturdays 9:15 AM-1:15 PM. AARP volunteers will file taxes for seniors and lower income households. Free! Openings are limited; call 264-5660 to make an appointment.
- **Knitting & More: Brioche Stitch Scarves.** Wednesdays 6-8 PM for knitters and other needle workers; all skill levels welcome.
- **Teen Craft Time: Valentine Cards.** Thursday, February 8, 4 PM. Share the love this month with a card or a few. We're making Valentines for friends, neighbors, and some extras for local nursing home residents. Teens grades 6-12; sign up online.
- **Needle Felted Hearts:** Monday, February 12, 6:30 PM. Learn how to make adorable needle felted hearts. All materials are provided, must pre-register.
- **Read to Willy Wonka the Volunteer Certified Therapy Dog:** Tuesday, February 20, 4:15 PM. Sign up to read to Willy Wonka. An adult will read to non-readers while they relax with Willy. Call to sign up!
- **Free One-on-One Tutoring:** Mondays 4-7 PM, Fridays 4-6 PM, and Saturdays 9 AM-3 PM. Students from Albany College tutor grades 1-6 in reading, math, and science at the library. Tutoring available for other grades in certain subjects. Call to sign up.
- **Dorothy's List Book Club:** For ages 8-11. Tuesday, March 6, 4 PM. Take the bus from school to the library and share opinions on Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award books. This month, *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* by John David Anderson.

For more Library events visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call 264-5660.

Parks and Recreation Department
Glen Cuttitta, Director

RECREATION PROGRAMS:

- The 2018 Summer Camp/Program Guide is out and summer camps are filling up fast! See our website at www.colchestervt.gov
- **Youth Lacrosse:** We are currently accepting registrations for boys and girls in grades 3-8. Early bird rate (\$75) is good until March 2; \$85 thereafter.
- **February Vacation Camp:** Grades K-6, February 26-March 2, 7:30 AM- 5:30 PM, \$155 R/\$160 N-R, Malletts Bay School
- **Teen Open Gym:** Grades 6-12, February 20 – March 20 (skip 2/27, 3/6) 7:00-9:00 PM, Free, Colchester Middle School
- **Afterschool Snowshoeing:** Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5
 - 2/20- 3:05-4:30 PM, \$10 R/\$15 N-R, Malletts Bay School
 - 2/21- 2:45-4:15 PM, \$10 R/\$15 N-R, Porters Point School
 - 2/22- 3:00-3:30 PM, \$10 R/\$15 N-R, Union Memorial School
- **Smart Start Soccer:** Ages 3-5, March 13-April 17, 6:15-7:00 PM, \$70 R/\$75 N-R, Malletts Bay School Gym

The following will be held at the Bayside Activity Center:

- **Pizza Party:** Ages 7-10, March 10, 2:00-3:30 PM, \$35 R/\$40 N-R
- **Crafty Kiddos:** Ages 2-4, March 13 – April 3, 4:00-4:45 PM, \$50 R/\$55 N-R
- **Little Nibblers:** Ages 2-4, March 15 – April 5, 4:00-4:45 PM, \$50 R/\$55 N-R

PARKS:

- **Nordic Trail Grooming at Airport Park** has begun! Challenging snow conditions this year but hopefully we will see more snow soon!
- **NO Ice Rink at Airport Park:** Variable temperatures and rain have affected conditions and force us to cancel. For next year we are considering creation of a grassy area at the park that we can flood earlier without a rink liner.

PROJECTS:

- **Bayside Park Master Plan:** Final presentation is scheduled for mid-March.
- **Village Park Trail Project:** Construction started the second week of October. Currently, the project is on weather hold. Work will resume when weather permits.

For more visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 PM
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Meeting canceled this month.

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

- **Development Review Board:** Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 PM
- **Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, February 19, 7:15 PM, Bayside Activity Center (Meeting will take place despite holiday.)
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, February 20, 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.

Notices:

- The Balaclava Blitz has been canceled due to lack of participation.
- The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.



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