

For the Week of July 18, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Happy 50th Birthday to Vermont Information Processing! VIP is widely credited with revolutionizing the beer, wine and soda industry and now employs 600 people. This employee-owned company is headquartered on Water Tower Hill and we are proud to have them as one of our largest employers. Howard Aiken, the person who created the new service in 1972, is a Colchester resident and he too has been a huge asset to the Town.



Congratulations to the Colchester 11-12 Majors All-Stars for winning their State Championship game and becoming the first Girls Colchester Little League team to do so! The team will be headed to Bristol, Connecticut for the New England Regional Tournament next weekend, and their games will be on National TV on ESPN. We wish the team good luck!



Town News Interviews

Serving a Recreational Community

*An interview with Glen Cuttitta, Director of Colchester's Parks & Recreation Department
by Alicia Tebeau-Sherry, Town Manager's Office, Communications Coordinator*

ATS: To familiarize others about you and the Department of Parks & Recreation, can you tell me what services your department offers to the Town?

GC: We're pretty diverse in what we do. All year-round, we plan programming for ages spanning from birth to active seniors. We try to provide community programming for that entire age group, while also offering these programs to non-residents. We hold special events, either running them ourselves or partnering with other local organizations, such as the Easter



Egg Hunt where we partner with the Colchester Lion's Club, and they organize the event and we provide staff to assist them. We plan and execute the Fourth of July events that start with the Fun Run in the morning and transition to the parade and firework show with music in the evening. We put together the triathlon which has been held for 36 years, and that's the last Sunday in July—we typically have 300-400 participants in that event. We host holiday events like "Dinner with Santa," the Winter Carnival that takes place in February, and

summer-long events like the concert series. We take care of the parks, municipal buildings, and the cemeteries as well. Long-term planning for many of those facilities is also a big part of what we do.

ATS: What might the community not know about Parks & Recreation and what it offers?

GC: We run the afterschool programs—people may think that the school district does that but it's actually our department that provides the program during the school year in Porters Point, Union Memorial, and Malletts Bay Schools. We've been offering this program for over 15 years, and we believe it is a vital offering to kids and families in our community. After the school year ends, we transition into summer camps and waterfront



operations to provide a similar experience for the younger populations.

ATS: When and how did you start working for the Town of Colchester?

GC: I've been here a long time! I started in January 1999, so I'm going on my 23rd year with the Town. Prior to this position, I was the Parks and Recreation Director for the Town of Shelburne, but when I saw this position open up and saw it was a bigger department and community, it felt like the next step in my professional career. I've been fortunate to have my senior staff with me since then as well—both the current Assistant Director and Program Director started working here shortly after I started, so we've been able to work together for quite a while.

ATS: What does a typical day look like for you and your staff? How do you collaborate internally and with other departments or the community?

GC: We don't have a typical day. A lot of our staff are in and out of the office—our Program Coordinators are in the office in the morning and then work at the afterschool program; Jen,



our Program Director, is kind of always on-call, as she is overseeing and planning staff training and working on long-term planning for events and programs; Derek, the Assistant Director, oversees the park operations and the programming. So, while everyone has their niches and responsibilities, everyone contributes to the successes that each person or facet of our department has. We work closely with a lot of departments within the Town itself and different organization outside

of the Town as well. We work most closely with Public Works because many projects that we do need some guidance with engineering and with the Clerk's Office regarding the cemeteries because they oversee the selling of the plots. We collaborate with Planning and Zoning if we're going to do a project and we need the applicable permits to make that happen, and the Town Manager's Office is our guide as to what and in what way we should do things. HR helps us out a lot because we hire many seasonal employees too. Additionally, we have a lot of service groups, the Lions Club and Rotary for example, that we work with for different events and programs.

ATS: What types of projects or programming has your department been working on and what can the community look forward to from the completion of them?

GC: Around springtime, we're in programming mode for summer camps and hiring seasonal staff to run camps, the waterfront and special events. We're usually six months ahead of when things are going to start happening so that we can prepare for and react to any bumps in the road or challenges. The Fourth of July events and triathlon are the big ones in the summer, but we also prepare the parks for springtime activities and athletics like little league and soccer

teams. We then look at any projects or repairs within the capital plans and begin planning ahead for any construction. Because the fiscal year begins July 1st, some planning has to occur after that date. Last year we did a lot of court resurfacing, and several other bigger projects have been completed, so now we can begin plans for future projects.

ATS: How do you engage with the community to communicate about projects or programs from your department?

GC: We do a lot of emailing and we used to have a paper brochure, but have moved that to a digitized version as that is what people were looking for. The brochure is available on our website and we send reminder emails to our users and post on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, to let people know about upcoming programs and when the brochure is available for viewing.

ATS: What are you proud of that your department has completed so far, and did your department have to overcome obstacles during the pandemic?

GC: I'm proud of all the projects and programs we create, but I'm very proud of the projects we continued through the pandemic. The Causeway Reconstruction in 2018 was challenged by the pandemic as we had to negotiate the costs through FEMA and State of Vermont and the availability and safety of contractors according to COVID guidelines. In the end, it was so



rewarding because the final product returned such a vital resource to Colchester and the region. The pickle ball courts project also took place during COVID, and has become an important recreational pastime in our community. The courts are constantly being used and by people of all ages. Especially during COVID, but even now, it's become quite a resource for folks as a social tool and to get people out of their homes—and that was something a lot of us needed during and right after the peaks of COVID. The idea for that project was interesting as well because it

came from some individuals in the community who were very passionate about the sport and I got to work very closely with them. They did some fundraising to make the project happen, and it turned into a neat collaboration with community members. Additionally, when schools began to close, we weren't able to offer our afterschool program and some other camps and programs. This affected our staffing as we have a revenue-generated budget, but we are happy



to report all these programs are beginning to flourish again and we are able to hire for certain positions again as needed.

ATS: You also support the Recreation Advisory Board—what does this committee do for the Town? Are there open member positions, volunteer opportunities, or other possibilities for the community to become involved?

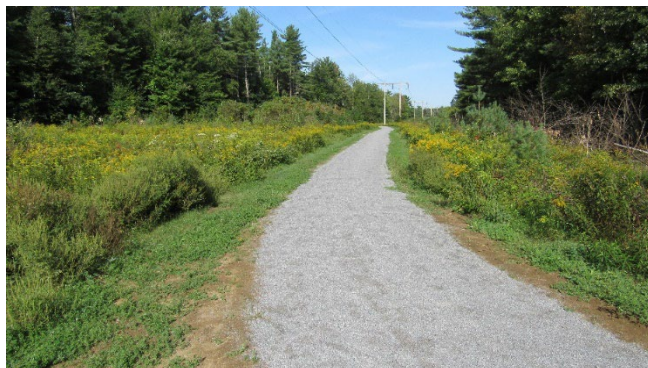
GC: The Recreation Advisory Board was formed in the 1980s, and they're a great resource as they act as a sampling of the Colchester community. We tend to have a really neat demographic of people on our board. They all consider and provide input on behalf of the community, and they help generate ideas for and plan long-term projects and events. Still, there are lots of ways for people to get involved with our department. We have volunteer



opportunities throughout the year that we'd love to have interested members from the community help us with. Youth sports, 4th of July events, Winter Carnival, and the triathlon are just a few that we couldn't do without our volunteers. If anyone is interested, they can call or email any time because there are many ways individuals can be involved and contribute.

ATS: What can we expect to hear about coming up in the future for your department?

GC: In general, we're always trying new events or programs because as activities become popular, our parks evolve. For example, we conducted a survey a while back and discovered the number one thing that people like to do in Colchester is walk, as bike paths and walking



trails were one of the survey's top three results. This led us to develop a great community resource: The Village Park Trail. This trail often goes under the radar, but it is right behind the water district building in the Village and was built about five years ago. We had this beautiful piece of property sitting there for some time, so when this survey was circulated and we saw the results, we decided to build this very serene, mile-long walking path. It has added

a new recreational amenity to an area that doesn't have as many as say the Bay for instance, and in collaboration with the library, we developed the path to feature a story walk. In the future we'd love to add some single-track or footpaths through the more wooded areas for people who may want to wander off the wide, gravel path.

ATS: How can the community keep up with your department?

GC: Our social media platforms, brochure and website are where the community can find updates and information on our events and programs. Also, our Recreation Advisory Board meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 AM in the Town Offices.

ATS: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

GC: We feel very fortunate that Colchester has somewhat designated itself as a recreation community. Some of it's because we're on the water, but it's made it easier and more fun to offer a variety of programs and events. Most importantly, our community takes advantage of what we offer and our special events are consistently popular. Those are the things that really get us excited for our jobs, and yes, it has its challenges, but the satisfaction of people having a good time, being able to spend time with their family or learning a new lifetime skill or hobby is very fulfilling, so we thank our community for that.



Courtesy of Kyle St. Peter

Department Updates

Parks & Recreation:

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Join us for Colchester's summertime tradition. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinner to Lower Bayside Park for our summer concert series on Thursday evenings. Enjoy great music with the beauty of Malletts Bay as your backdrop! All Concerts begin at 7:00pm, admission is FREE, and parking is available at Bayside Park.



July 21st: The Devon McGarry Band is comprised of four seasoned musicians with common ambitions, and presents an original music endeavor that can't be ignored. In the ever-changing world of rock music, they seek to be refreshing yet accessible. The music is rooted in McGarry's heartfelt lyrics and rhythms, but has been sculpted by his bandmates into a movement of sound. For nearly every catchy hook, Jeff Messina (lead guitar) offers up a blistering guitar solo to follow. Mitch Terricciano (bass guitar) and Rich Armstrong (drums) lock in to provide

dynamic rhythms and uplifting grooves. Some songs hearken back to the 90's alternative scene, while others break the mold and blend genres.

July 28th: InCahoots is based out of Plattsburgh, New York and has been providing their audiences with a fresh new look at an American tradition: Entertainment with a smile. A four-piece band consisting of John Geno - Fiddle, Guitar, Sax, Keys and Vocals; Kevin Connelly - Guitar, Keys, Harmonica and Vocals, David Long - Drums and Vocals and Ryan Finney – Bass. Playing music from Charlie Daniels to AC/DC and everything in-between, InCahoots entertains with airtight harmonies, instrumentation and a beat you can really stomp your feet to!

36th COLCHESTER TRIATHLON

Sunday, July 31st, 2022, 8:00 AM

Volunteer:

This great event requires many hands in order for it to run smoothly, plus you'll have tons of fun while volunteering! Great energy, excited athletes and you get a volunteer t-shirt.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Packet Pick-Up, Body Marking, Timing Chip Collection, Kayak, Transition Zone 1, Transition Zone 2, EMCEE and Refreshment Tent. To volunteer, please visit <https://www.colchestertri.com/volunteer.html> to submit your name.

Race:

Annual sprint triathlon hosted in the Malletts Bay Area. Swim 500 meters OR Kayak 1.5 miles, 12 miles of biking, 3 miles of running. Limit 400 participants.

For more information and to register: <https://www.colchestertri.com/>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, July 26th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Conservation Commission: Monday, July 18th, 5:30 pm, at Wolcott Natural Area to walk the trail.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 19th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, July 20th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices.

Library board of Trustees: Thursday, July 21st, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

Agendas available: <http://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

Note: Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov