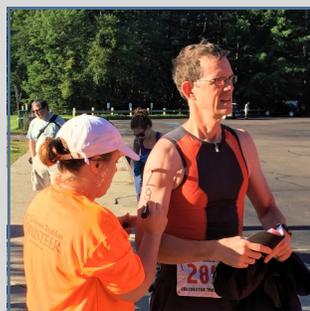




Volunteer Newsletter

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Colchester Volunteers Recognized at State Conference

Longtime Triathlon volunteers Kathy Baumann and Judy Robinson received a 2017 Theresa S. Brungardt Award.

“Our motto should be changed to ‘Swim, Bike, Run, Eat,’” quipped Dick Pecor at the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association’s Conference on Recreation on October 12, 2017. “I believe we sell out our race time after time because of the food,” he said with a grin. For years, the Colchester Triathlon has relied on two very special volunteers to arrange and manage the logistics of the refreshments tent at the Colchester Triathlon, a vital cog in the grand machine that is one of Colchester’s most popular events.



Kathy Baumann (left) and Judy Robinson (right) display their awards

Kathy Baumann and Judy Robinson have always been pivotal in ensuring a variety of tasty refreshments greet the Triathletes that cross the finish line every July, striking the perfect balance between the sweet nutrition of fruit, and the savory carb-loading of bagels and cream cheese. How many races offer fresh bagels and cream cheese that includes home-grown herbs picked fresh and blended to perfection? *(Continued on p.2)*

Upcoming Events

Save the Dates! We may request volunteers, but we also invite you to join us and participate!

- ◆ Dinner with Santa: Dec. 15, 2017
- ◆ 35th Annual Colchester Winter Carnival: Feb. 2, 3, & 4, 2018
- ◆ “Balaclava Blitz” Winter Triathlon: Feb. 18, 2018
- ◆ 11th Annual Touch-A-Truck: May 5, 2018
- ◆ 6th Annual Causeway 5K, 10K, & 15K Race: June 2, 2018
- ◆ Bayside Waterfront Open House: June 23, 2018
- ◆ 4th of July Celebration: July 4, 2018
- ◆ 34th Annual Colchester Triathlon: July 29, 2018

(Continued from p.1) What is even more important are the connections these women have built through their outreach to local shops and businesses, securing discounts and donations to not only help sustain the event, but fortify the community that the Colchester Triathlon encourages and values. They've taken their volunteerism to heart, and their dedication to the event is inspiring.

Their contributions do not go unnoticed, and both Kathy and Judy were recognized at a statewide conference this October. The Vermont Recreation and Parks Association (VRPA) presents the Theresa S. Brungardt Awards annually at their Conference on Recreation in October (see sidebar). Kathy and Judy were recognized "For Outstanding Service as a Friend to Recreation and Parks in Vermont." The Colchester Triathlon Committee was also recognized with a Brungardt Award for outstanding service as an organization in 2006. This is one of the most prestigious awards for recreation in our state, and we couldn't be prouder to have our volunteers recognized!

"One thing has been constant: the reliability and utter dependability of Kathy Baumann and Judy Robinson and now their families, to come through for our athletes," concluded Pecor. "To describe them as unsung is a vast understatement."

Why are the Brungardt Awards So Important?

"The Theresa S. Brungardt Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association. This award was established in 1975 to recognize recreation pioneer, Theresa S. Brungardt. Mrs. Brungardt was Vermont's first state Director of Recreation and she traveled tirelessly throughout Vermont to help communities with their recreation programs. Mrs. Brungardt was nationally recognized for her expertise and in 1952 was elected the first female president of the American Recreation Society. In 1977 she was inducted into the NRPA Hall of Fame. Nominations are accepted each summer for Theresa S. Brungardt Awards in three categories: professional, friend, and organization/agency."



~VRPA

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Openings

Colchester Parks & Recreation currently looking to fill a couple vacant seats on our Advisory Board! Board members meet with the Parks & Recreation Director and Assistant Director once per month to discuss current projects of the department. Members help with community outreach and advocacy, and are occasionally asked to assist at Recreation events. As Parks & Recreation continues to develop the Bayside Park Master Plan, the Advisory Board will also gain a first-hand insight into the process and help guide the plan to meet the needs of the community.

Interested residents are welcome and encouraged to attend an Advisory Board meeting: the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 AM at the Colchester Town Offices, Champlain Room (2nd floor). The next meeting is Wednesday, November 8. If you're interested in becoming a Board member, please complete an application and submit to Parks & Recreation Director Glen Cuttitta at gcuttitta@colchestervt.gov. Here's the link to the application: <http://bit.ly/BoardVolunteerApp>. Questions can be directed to Glen at 802-264-5641.

An Eye on the Future

Embarking on a comprehensive master planning process

As the Town of Colchester has grown and the demand for more recreational opportunities and public park space have increased, the Parks & Recreation Department, along with Town administrators, has established a Master Plan for the Bayside Park and Bayside-Hazelett area.

Beginning in early 2016, the Town hired GreenPlay, LLC - a Colorado-based company specializing in open space park and recreation management consulting - to aid in conducting a Needs Assessment and statistically-valid, community-wide survey. Results from numerous public forums, focus groups, and the survey were used to establish a Master Plan that sees a reinvigoration of the Bayside Park area (including the Town-owned parcel known as the Bayside-Hazelett property) and culminates in the building of a community center and pool. The Master Plan is specifically designed to be fluid: able to be modified to suit community needs and accommodate changes over a number of years.



With a plan in place, the Town then hired Design Concepts, an open space consulting firm, to develop the Master Plan and build visual models to assist in the project's execution. In October 2017, they visited Colchester and presented an updated plan to the Select Board at a Public Meeting. Their presentation featured 3D-rendered concepts of what the area could look like with park improvements and new amenities.

The new park design will still accommodate mainstay Colchester events, such as the 4th of July Celebration, Summer Concert Series, and Colchester Triathlon, while also creating new opportunities to bring the Colchester community to a beautiful public space to enjoy the natural serenity of Malletts Bay. Volunteers are encouraged to visit our "Future Projects" page of the website to view the most recent concepts and plans! Updates on the Master Plan will be posted at: <http://colchestervt.gov/695/Future-Projects>. Be sure to keep an eye out for announcements on future public meetings so that you may join in the conversation!

Wacky World of Science!

Winter Carnival to feature science theme as it celebrates 35 years

35th Annual Colchester
Winter Carnival



The Colchester Winter Carnival will celebrate a landmark this year: 35 years! The committee is excited to announce that the Carnival will have a science theme this year. Many of our youngest residents are taking an interest in science earlier in their educational career, and this year we'll seek to foster that excitement through fun crafts and "experiments." The Carnival will also see the introduction of a sensory room, where preschoolers can get hands-on with the curious world around us. Be sure to mark your calendar for Colchester's Got Talent on Friday, Feb. 2, the Winter Carnival on Saturday, Feb. 3, and skating with CPD officers on Sunday, Feb. 4!

Colchester Parks & Recreation

"Optimizing the Experience of Living"

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Follow us on social media!



@ColchesterRec

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Jenn Turmel, Program Director
Isaac Spivey, Program Coordinator
Mike LaPan, Marketing & Rec Specialist
Lee Barrett, Recreation Coordinator
Kristin Roy, After School Director
Moiria Plant, Administrative Asst.
Peter Cote, Parks Manager

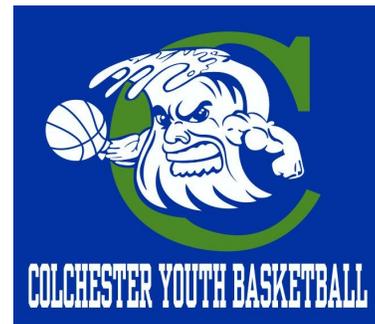
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:

Adriane Martin, Chair
Owen Banks
Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel
Dick Pecor

New Season, New Logo, and New Volunteers!

Colchester Youth Basketball prepares for the 2017-2018 Season

Each November, over 200 youth athletes begin a 12-week long season in the Colchester Youth Basketball League (CYBL). Each team has a one-hour practice once per week, and in January, will begin playing games on Saturdays. Teams for Grades 5 - 6 and Grades 7 - 8 even have the opportunity to travel to nearby towns for games!



CYBL will also implement a new logo (at right) this year, inspired by the current Youth Lacrosse League logo of a crashing wave; a great way to build spirit in the Colchester Lakers for when these athletes enter high school!

We'd also like to welcome 22 NEW volunteers, who join our team of over 40 volunteer coaches that help make this program a success year after year! Without parent volunteers, there simply wouldn't be a CYBL. These many coaches teach more than just basketball techniques and gameplay, they create a culture of teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication, and perseverance among our youth.

10K Distance Added to Causeway Race

Racers looking to register for the 6th Annual Colchester Causeway Race will find a new option on the form. With much racer feedback over the years, a 10K distance will be added to the race to accommodate those looking for a greater challenge than a 5K (and to see more of the Causeway during the race), but are hesitant to attempt the 15K. Happy running!

Thank you to all of our volunteers! Our events depend on you to run smoothly and successfully, and we appreciate your dedication year after year!

