



781 Blakely Road
Colchester, VT 05446
802-264-5500

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Town News for the Week of April 19, 2021



What do you want to do today?

Manager's Message



Aaron Frank, Town Manager

It's officially Volunteer Appreciation Week - this week, we're honoring the members of the Colchester Fire Department and the Saint Michael's Fire Department for their services to the Town. Thank you to everyone who selflessly volunteers their time in support of the Town. We couldn't do it without you!

Volunteer Appreciation Week - April 18-24, 2021
Colchester & Saint Michael's Fire Departments

On behalf of the Town of Colchester, we would like to recognize the 75 volunteer members of the Colchester Fire Department and the Saint Michael's Fire Department for your continued dedication to our town.



The last year has been exceedingly difficult. The merger of the two departments into the town-wide Colchester Fire Department was a challenge on its own. With the added COVID-19 dangers and restrictions, it was even more trying. Through it all, our volunteer firefighters continued to provide services to the community, and took many precautions to keep themselves safe and healthy to maintain their availability to serve the community.

Colchester Fire Department volunteers successfully adapted to changes in meetings, training, cleaning, protective gear, and emergency response in ways we could never have imagined, as firefighting is such a hands-on service.

The selfless dedication of the volunteers of the Town of Colchester Fire Department, including Saint Michael's Fire Department, provides for an outstanding level of service to the residents, visitors, and businesses of our community.

Thank you to every volunteer of the Town of Colchester Fire Department. We are extremely proud of the entire fire department and your commitment as volunteers makes the department, and the town, so much stronger. Congratulations on a very successful beginning of town-wide fire service!

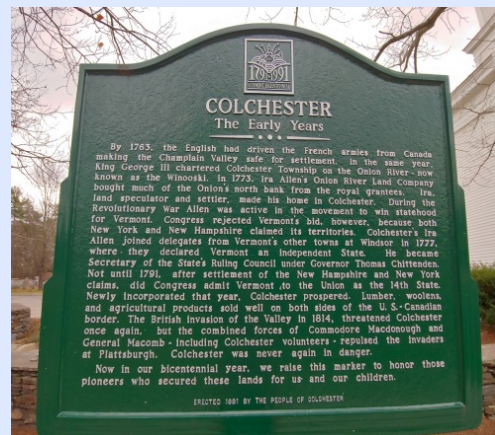
Steve Bourgeois
Fire Chief

Aaron Frank
Town Manager

Pam Loranger
Colchester Selectboard Chair

Colchester Historical Tour Now Available

You probably have already seen most of our town's local historical sites. Or have you? And how much do you know about them? Inspired by the long COVID-19 pandemic, which has found people eager for something safe and interesting to do, the Colchester Historical Society has compiled a Self-Guided Driving Tour of over 40 Colchester historical landmarks. The tour is divided into four general geographical areas: Colchester Village, Malletts Bay, Airport Park, and Fort Ethan Allen. An additional section covers six local cemeteries.



The Historical Society recommends you begin your tour at the Bicentennial sign located between Burnham Memorial Library and the Meeting House, and go from there. Select your own route, depending on your interests and time schedule. There's no waiting, no fees, and no rush. Visit some of the landmarks or all of them, as you wish.

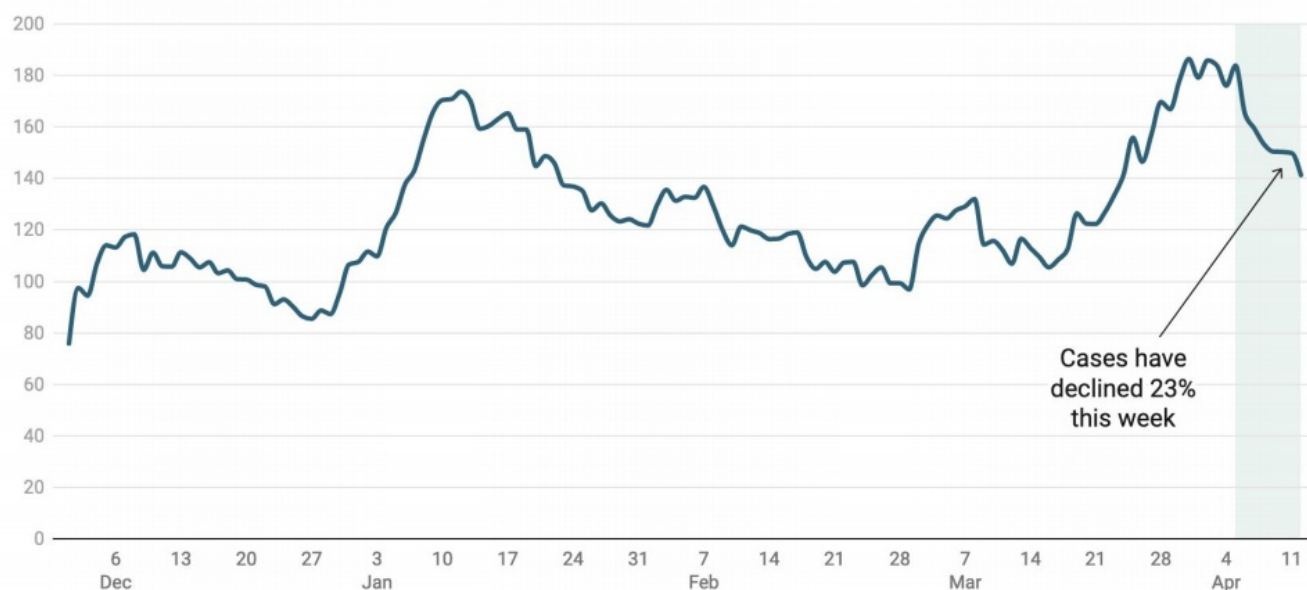
This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the origins of Colchester Pond, the professional baseball career of one of our local residents, the Vermont National Guard Museum, Niquette Bay State Park, Burnham Memorial Library, and many more sites of historical interest.

COVID-19 Update

Recent Cases: Chittenden County has had 587 new cases in the last 14 days. There are 40 new cases recorded as of today. Read more [here](#).

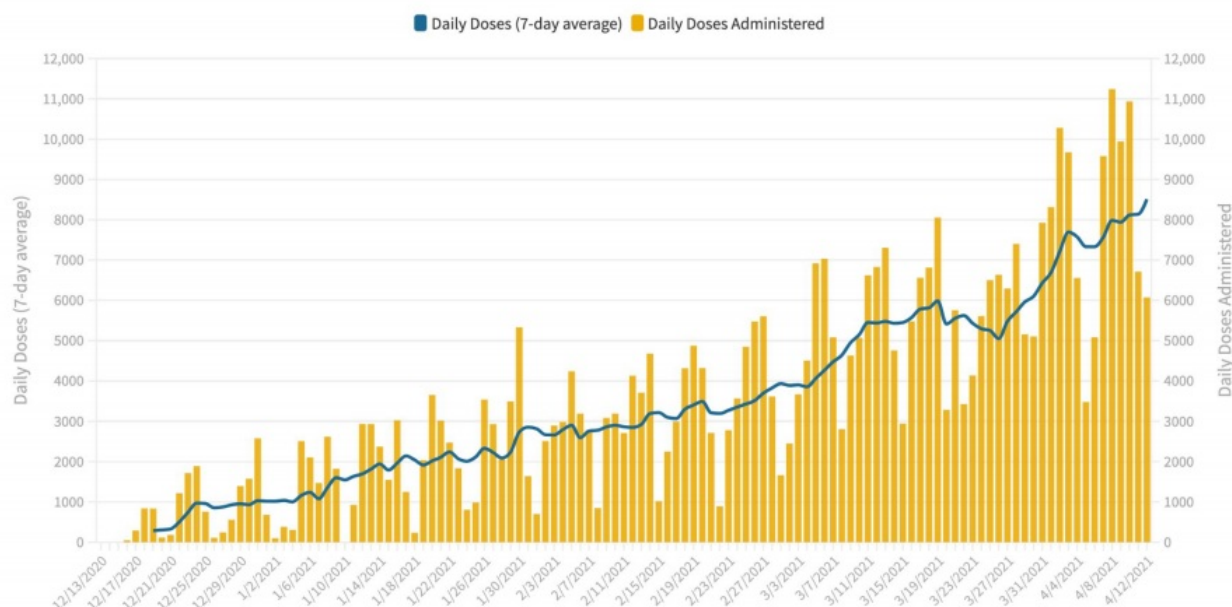
Daily case counts have been falling since last week and the state's percent positive seven-day average is 1.8%, Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Mike Pieciak presented the latest modeling that shows the pace of vaccinations is helping those case numbers to fall and that the state is on track to meeting reopening goals.

COVID Infections per 100K in Vermont (7-Day Average)



Source: Vermont Department of Health—April 13, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccinations in Vermont



Source: Vermont Department of Health — April 13, 2021

Federal Funeral Assistance Available: Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 are now eligible to apply for assistance to cover or reimburse funeral expenses. Under the federal Funeral Assistance Program, those who have paid funeral costs for a loved one whose death was attributed to COVID-19 can apply for grants up to \$9,000 to cover the costs. If more than one loved one's funeral was paid for, multiple grants up to \$35,500 may be awarded.



FEMA

Expenses covered in the program include burial plots or cremation niches, caskets or urns, officiant services, use of funeral home equipment or staff, transfer of remains, and any expenses mandated by applicable local or state government laws or ordinances.

To apply for a grant, call the Federal Emergency Management Agency hotline at 1-844-684-6333. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine Paused:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration called for a pause in the administration of the J&J one-dose vaccine across the United States to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots. Governor Phil Scott said Vermont will be pausing administration of the J&J vaccine "out of an abundance of caution," and all appointments will be cancelled through Friday, April 23.

As of last Tuesday, there were 2,000 individuals signed up for the J&J vaccine in Vermont. Anyone who had a J&J vaccine appointment scheduled through the state registration system should contact the Health Department at 855-722-7878. The State is working to open additional Pfizer and Moderna vaccine appointments and expects anyone who had to reschedule their J&J appointment to be able to get an appointment by the end of April.

Read the State's Press Release [here](#).

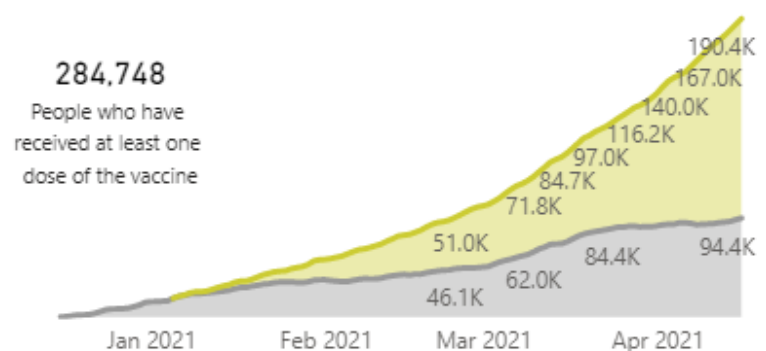
Vaccination Progress

The COVID-19 vaccine registration is officially open to those 16 and older starting today, April 19. All Vermonters over the age of 16 are now eligible to sign up for the vaccine. You may set up an account with the Dept. of Health to register for a vaccine [here](#).

As of Friday, April 16, 274,046 Vermonters, or 50.1% of the state's population have had at least one dose of the vaccine. 182,800 Vermonters, or 34.1%, have been fully vaccinated. View the COVID-19 Dashboard [here](#).

Total People Vaccinated

● Started ● Completed



Updated 4/17/2021 8:44:01 AM

Links

[DOH COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
[Vaccine Dashboard](#)
[CDC COVID-19 Information](#)
[St. Mike's Dashboard](#)

Free Face Masks

Free cloth face masks with tie backs in

a variety of colors are still available at the Town Clerk's Office at 781 Blakely Road. Grab up to five masks for yourself or others at the office between 7:30 A.M. and noon, Monday through Friday. They will be available until they run out.



Department Updates

Planning & Zoning

Sarah Hadd, Director

The Colchester Development Review Board met on April 13th via Zoom and approved:

- A site plan application of St. Michael's College and J. Hutchins Inc. to fill a quarry on Lime Kiln Rd (parcel 01-007001) over a ten-year period.
- A site application of 65 Outer Bay LLC for beach and lawn restoration at 65 Outer Bay Lane (parcel 44-0040272)
- A conditional use application of the Town of Colchester to restore a stormwater outfall at 835 Blakely Rd. (07-057003)
- A variance application of Shea Lamphere to move an existing accessory structure exceeding size requirements to the property at 81 Watkins Rd. (parcel 16-023000).
- The Board also heard a sketch plan application to convert three former dorm buildings to up to 65 units of housing at 0 Ethan Allen Ave (parcels 20-004001 and 20-008001).



The Board will meet next on May 12th.

The Planning Commission will meet on April 20th to review possible changes to the Development Regulations.

The online payment portal for permits has been upgraded! Buildings and zoning permits may now be fully applied for, processed, and paid online [here](#).



Colchester Fire Department

Stephen Bourgeois, Fire Chief

In the last month, your Fire Department has responded to 80 calls for service that included 9 Fires, 29 Rescue & Emergency Medical calls, 5 Hazardous Condition, 14 Service calls, 8 Good Intent, and 15 False alarms. We also provided Mutual Aid response to Burlington, Winooski, and Milton.

Burn Ban Update

The burn ban has been lifted. Before starting your burn, you must receive permission from the Fire Warden. The Fire Warden will also contact you directly before your burn.

If you would like more information on open burning please see Sections 7-13 and 7-14 of the Town [ordinances](#) (see right) or call 862-4415. You can also apply for a burn permit [online](#).



Burn Ban Lifted

Sec. 7-14. Open burning.

- (a) No refuse, grass, leaves, or downed trees shall be burned.
 - (b) All open burning shall be extinguished when not attended to.
 - (c) No open burning shall occur within a fully enclosed structure.
 - (d) The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), Fire Warden, or their designee may order any open burn to be extinguished if the AHJ judges the fire or the conditions under which the burning occurs is a threat to public safety or property.
 - (e) All open burning shall require a permit obtainable at Police Dispatch except as herein specifically excluded:
 - (1) The burning of fuels for cooking purposes;
 - (2) Barbecue pits less than thirty (30) inches in diameter; or
 - (3) Campfires and bonfires less than thirty (30) inches in diameter.
 - (f) At the discretion of the Fire Warden, a permit may be issued for special occasions allowing bonfires greater than thirty (30) inches in diameter.
 - (g) Open burning permits and fees. A specific permit may be granted by the Fire Warden or duly appointed designee to engage in open burning in accordance with the following:
 - (1) No hazardous condition will be created by such burning and the emission of air contaminants will not create a danger to public safety and health. Permits shall be for specified days, specified location, and for a specified material. The hours within which said burning may take place may be specified on the permit.
 - (2) Open burning of leafless brush four (4) inches or less in diameter shall be permitted if the outermost edge of the burning site is:
 - a. At least one hundred fifty (150) feet or more from the closest dwelling located in the vicinity of, but not including, the permit holder's dwelling during the months of January and February.
 - b. At least (300) feet or more from the nearest dwelling located in the vicinity of, but not including, the permit holder's dwelling during the remainder of the year.
- All distances shall be measured from the outermost edge of the burning site in a straight line to the nearest point on the closest dwelling. The minimum distances imposed in subsections (g)(2)a. and (g)(2)b. shall not limit the Fire Warden from imposing greater distances between the site and any structure as a permit condition under subsection (g)(1).

Spring is here and the boats will be going in soon. If you are on the water, please wear a life jacket; the water is very cold this time of year so be careful if you are out there. If you are going out on the water let someone know where you will be the approximate time you plan to return. Stay safe and have a good boating season.



Our department is always looking for volunteers if you would like to apply to become a member you can call 862-4415 or visit our website for an application:
<https://colchestervt.gov/3245/Fire-Department>.

If you would like to contact the Department for any reason, please call 802-862-4415.

Colchester Rescue

Scott Crady, Rescue Chief

There were 143 emergency medical calls in the last 30 days, compared to 119 calls last year for this time frame.

With Green-Up Day around the corner, we want to remind residents how to properly dispose of sharps

and needles if they encounter them during their clean-up. Here are some tips from the Chittenden Solid Waste District:



- Put used needles, syringes and testing lancets into an empty, thick-walled container that also has a screw-on lid. Laundry detergent and softener bottles are good examples. Soda bottles are too thin to be safely used.
- Store the bottle out of reach of children and pets.
- When the bottle still has a couple of inches of space remaining, screw the cap on tightly and secure it with heavy tape.
- Label the container with the warning: “DO NOT RECYCLE!” (Call the CSWD hotline at 802-872-8111 to request a supply of free “do not recycle” sharps stickers.)
- Dispose of the container in your household trash. DO NOT put this bottle in your recycling.

For more information on disposing of sharps and needles, visit CSWD's [website](#).

What To Do With A Found Needle

With a few simple steps, it's OK to throw it away.

1

Put on heavy duty gloves and use pliers or tongs to place the needle in a **thick plastic container** like a laundry detergent bottle.



2

Screw on the lid and **seal it well** with strong tape, like duct tape.



Tip: look for "HDPE 2" imprinted in the plastic.

3

Write **"Do Not Recycle"** on the container and throw it away in the regular trash.



If you are stuck by someone else's needle:

1. Wash the wound well with soap and water.
2. Seek medical attention right away.

Learn more: www.healthvermont.gov/needledisposal



Upcoming Town Meetings

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

- Planning Commission: April 20 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Meeting ID: 935 984 6003 Live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjLFn4BZd2MtMV4SzmzYI6grkrjrcbym>
 - Mail or email public testimony prior to the hearing (shadd@colchestervt.gov or Town of Colchester Planning Commission, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446)
- Development Review Board: Next meeting: May 12 at 7:00 PM via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Meeting ID: 935 984 6003

- Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing (lriddle@colchestervt.gov) or Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446) or participate at public comment periods during the Zoom meeting.
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Next meeting: TBA
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month. Next meeting: April 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM. *Dial in:* 1-929-205-6099; *Meeting ID:* 940 0941 6919; *Passcode:* 291046
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: May 20, 2021 4:30 PM *Dial in:* (929) 205 6099 *Meeting ID:* 992 1600 9241 *Passcode:* 988244
- **Special Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees:** April 22, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. *Dial:* 1-929-205-6099 *Meeting ID:* 939 5640 7441 *Passcode:* 929760
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: April 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Attend via *phone:* 1-929-205-6099; *Meeting ID:* 968 9254 4491; *Passcode:* 644494
Alternatively, send a note to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting. Watch the meeting online via live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>

Selectboard Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment call 264-5509 or email

townmanager@colchestervt.gov

Upcoming Meetings



Get In Touch

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