



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

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Town News for the Week of April 26, 2021



What do you want to do today?

Manager's Message



Aaron Frank, Town Manager

In our third installment of Volunteer Appreciation Week, we are thanking Colchester Technical Rescue volunteers and those who serve on our many boards, commissions, and committees. Thank you all for your service, and for the time and expertise you give to support the Town of Colchester.

Colchester Technical Rescue

On behalf of the Town of Colchester, Vermonters, and Americans



Thank you to the entirely volunteer Colchester Technical Rescue Squad and volunteer Chief Mike Cannon.

Most of you work full time in public service, in fire, rescue or police departments in Colchester and our neighboring communities.

You make time for training, gear preparation and administration of a volunteer squad where a majority of the calls are not just out of town but across the state and across the country.

You do work for which our state has no paid organized services: locating, rescuing, and aiding people from the ice, running rivers, woods, and mountains.

When Vermont needs help from other states, their volunteer teams return it. You augment our local public safety services in Colchester and deploy as part of statewide teams.

On behalf of those you have helped and are ready to help in Colchester, Vermont and beyond, a big thank you from:

Aaron Frank
Colchester Town Manager

Pam Loranger
Colchester Selectboard Chair

Colchester Boards

On behalf of the Selectboard, Town Manager and your town staff, we extend heartfelt gratitude to the 85 community members who selflessly donate their time, energy and expertise to support our boards, commissions and committees.



Our volunteers assist in ways often unseen by our community at large, yet their participation helps immeasurably to promote and support the goals and objectives of our town.

It is the dedicated volunteers on the boards and commissions who assist with permits, zoning supplements, library operations, recreational programs, ethical issues, conserving and beautifying Colchester, maintenance and oversight of our cemeteries, setting property values, considering tax appeals, moderating Town Meeting, and election assistance.

In addition to our established town boards, volunteer members serve on the Chittenden Solid Waste District, Champlain Water District, Chittenden County

Regional Planning Commission, and Winooski Planning Park District, as well as many civic organizations. In a year when the members have been largely denied the solidarity inherently derived from meeting together, they adapted and maintained the framework upon which we weave a stronger fabric of community.

Our volunteers reflect the essence of a community that values contributions of all its members and is reflected by the appreciation we have for their service. Our boards, commissions and committees may provide the structure but it is our volunteers that give us the heart.

Pam Loranger
Colchester Selectboard Chair

Aaron Frank
Colchester Town Manager

Green Up Day - Saturday, May 1

Green Up Day will be held **Saturday, May 1st from 8:00–12:30** at the Colchester Police Department. Green Up bags will be available at the Colchester Police Department beginning April 24th for folks that would like to begin prior to Green Up Day.



A sign-up sheet will be located on a table with the bags, outside the front entrance, for people to put # of bags taken, # of people helping and location of trash pickup. Bags can be left on the side of any public road in a place where town staff and truck can safely stop--and not on the bike path or school grounds, if that's the area being cleaned, or bags can be dropped off in the container in front of the town offices **by Sunday, May 2nd**.

Metal should be kept separate and placed next to--not into--the bags along with other bulky items. Thank you in advance to all who volunteer to keep our community clean and green!

COVID-19 Update

Recent Cases: Chittenden County has had 391 new cases in the last 14 days. There are 36 new cases recorded as of today. Read more [here](#).

Daily case counts are falling state-wide, with last week seeing a 24% decrease alone, according to the [latest modeling](#) by the Department of Financial Regulation.

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



Source: Vermont Department of Health—April 19, 2021

Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Vaccine Resumed

The FDA announced last week an end to its recommended pause on the J&J vaccine after a vote by a panel of CDC experts. Vermont will resume J&J vaccine appointments for those 18 and older this week (16 & 17-year-olds are only eligible for the Pfizer vaccine). Anyone interested in making an appointment for the J&J vaccine can do so [online](#) or by calling the VT Dept. of Health at 855-722-7878.

Links

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

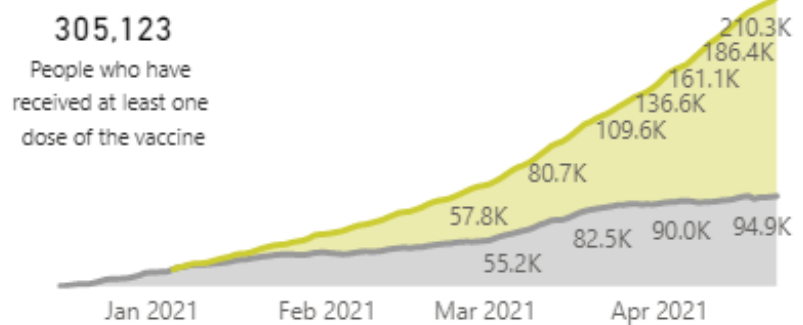
Vaccination Progress

All Vermonters aged 16 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine. You may set up an account with the Dept. of Health to register for a vaccine [here](#).

As of Friday, April 23, 305,123 Vermonters, or 55.8% of the state's population have had at least one dose of the vaccine. 210,300 Vermonters, or 38.5%, have been fully vaccinated. View the COVID-19 Dashboard [here](#).

Total People Vaccinated

● Started ● Completed

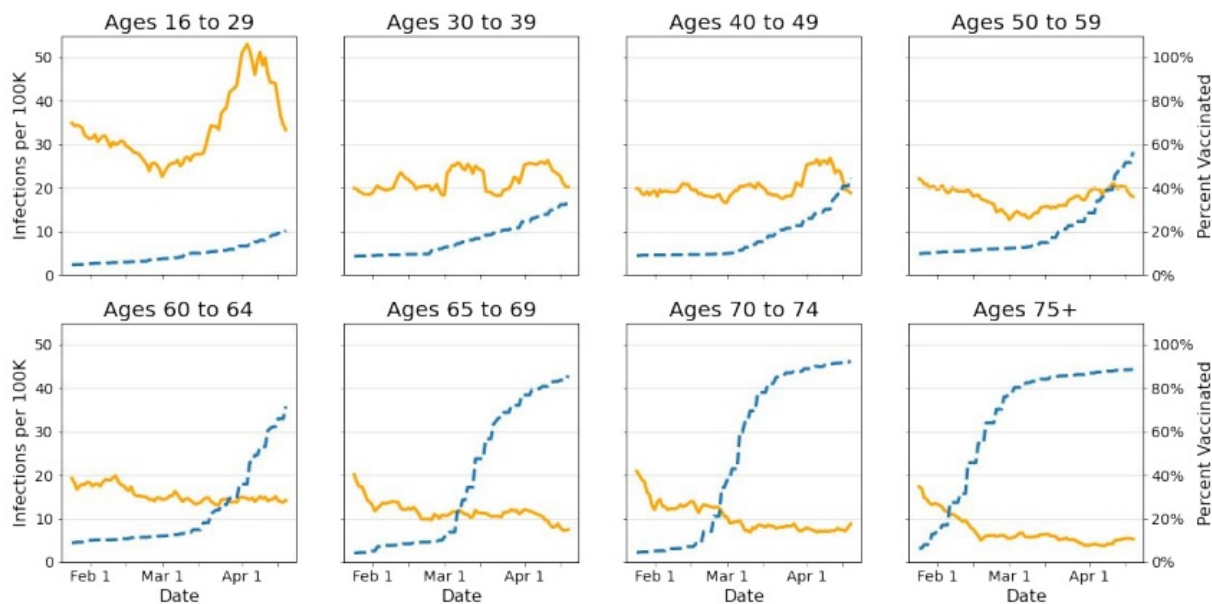


Updated 4/23/2021 8:50:31 AM

[Modeling](#) by the Department of Financial Regulation also shows cases of COVID-19 declining in each age group as the rate of vaccination increases:

Vermont Case Rate & Vaccination by Age Band

— New Infections per 100K (14-Day Average)
 — Percent Received First Vaccine Dose



Source: VDH - April 19, 2021

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Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 on Surfaces for Indoor Community Environments:

According to research from the Center for Disease Control, while it is possible for people to be infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) through contact with contaminated surfaces or other objects, the risk is generally low. The main way people are infected with the virus is through exposure to respiratory droplets containing the virus.



Several studies have looked into how long the SARS-CoV-2 virus can last on different surfaces. On porous surfaces, the virus tends to last minutes to hours. On non-porous surfaces like glass, plastic, and stainless steel, studies have shown a 99% reduction in the viruses after 3 days. After the three-day mark, the risk of transmission on surfaces is essentially zero.

In order to reduce risk of surface transmission in indoor community environments, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces is encouraged. While disinfecting surfaces has been shown to be effective for preventing transmission of the virus in households, there is little evidence that routine use of disinfectants in community settings prevent surface transmission. Routine cleaning with soap or detergent on surfaces that are touched often is enough to lower the surface transmission rate in places where there has not been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 indoors.

While the SARS-CoV-2 virus is most easily transmissible by direct contact or through airborne particles, there is less of a risk of transmission on surfaces. By wearing masks consistently and correctly, increasing ventilation, routinely cleaning surfaces with soap or detergents, and practicing good hand hygiene, transmission risk in indoor community settings can be drastically reduced.

Read more about the research [here](#).

Masks Still Available

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

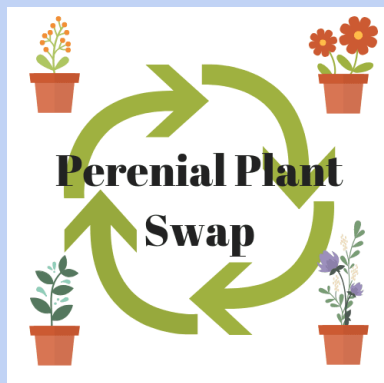
Kelly McCagg
Library Director

As the weather turns warmer and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues, we are thrilled so many of our patrons are using our modified services. Curbside service days are Tuesdays from 1-4 pm, Thursdays from 3-6 pm and Saturdays from 10 am–12 pm. You can reserve books through our card catalogue on our [website](#), by sending us an email at burnhamlib@colchestervt.gov, or calling us at 802-264-5660. We do ask for 24-hours' notice to get all your items ready for you.



In addition to curbside services, we are continuing our digital storytimes on our Burnham Memorial Library [Youth Services page](#). Join Miss Hannah and Miss Pam on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for stories, songs, and lots of giggles. Past storytimes are available on our Facebook page if you've missed any.

Join us on our Youth Services Facebook page for Young Writers Live on May 12th and May 26th at 3:30 p.m. Young Writers is a virtual writing club for children from kindergarten through 5th grade.



Perennial Plant Swap

On **Saturday May 15th at 10 am**, we are hosting our annual Perennial Plant Swap! Bring a plant in a labeled container and see what your neighbors bring to exchange! Please, no Orange Daylilies/Ditch Lilies or invasive plants. Please wear a mask and keep in mind appropriate social distancing. Swapping starts promptly at 10!

Our monthly Adult Zoom Book Club meets on Tuesday, May 18th. This month, we

are reading *Walking to Listen* by Andrew Forsthoefel. Please email kmccagg@colchestervt.gov if you are interested in attending. You can reserve and pick up the book during our curbside service hours.

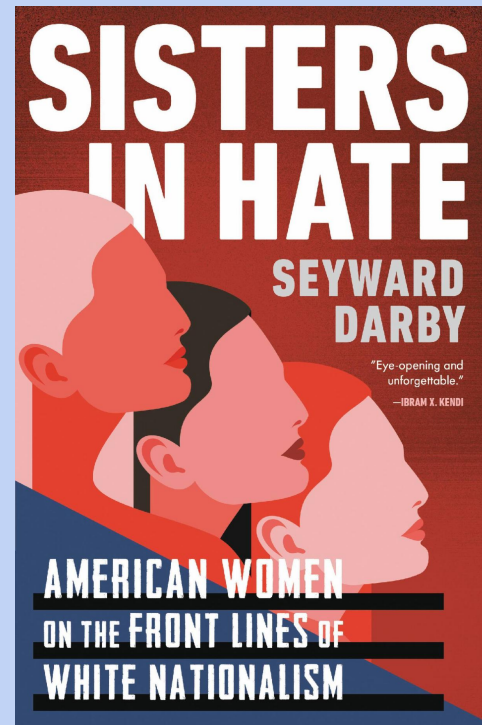
Book Review

Sisters in Hate: American Women on the Front Lines of White Nationalism

by Seyward Darby – Adult nonfiction, 2020

Kelly L. McCagg, Library Director

Recent national events shed light on a growing faction in the United States, the “alt-right,” also known as white nationalists. Seyward Darby, a reporter for *The Atlantic* and *The Washington Post*, set out to meet the women who, unlike herself, were supporting a movement that espoused feminism and even supported bigotry. After researching several women on the social front, she focuses in on three—all were born in 1979, became radicalized after 9/11, and served major roles in their respective sect. Darby’s disturbing dissection of the movement reveals not only the misogyny, but also the vital role women play in fostering its growth. This is not an easy read, but “combating hate requires understanding it—not what it seems to be or what we hope it amounts to, but what it actually is. That includes who supports it, why they do, and how their experiences reflect a reality we all share.”



Julie Graeter

Town Clerk

- Your Dog is #1 Contest has ended and we will be drawing the winner on May 3rd.
- Reminder: Federal and State Income Tax Filings are due May 17th. Please be sure to complete your Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim (HS122 & HI144) with the VT Dept. of Taxes. Be aware that these can also be filed online with the [VT Dept of Taxes](#).



One lucky dog owner will take home this adorable quilt and awesome prize basket full of treats to spoil their pup!

If you have any questions, please call 264-5520 or email us at townclerk@colchestervt.gov.

Robert Vickery Assessor

The Assessor's Office has made changes due to the concerns with COVID-19:

- The Assessor's Office is open to visitors from 7:30 to 12:00.
- From 12:00 to 4:30 the Assessor and Property/Tax Specialist are available by phone: 264-5670 or 264-5671 and by email: colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov to answer any questions you may have
- All parcel data is available online go to the [Assessor's page](#).



We are also conducting our **annual field review** this week. The Assessor will be driving through every neighborhood in town in a silver Nissan pickup, checking on permits. Because of COVID-19, the Assessor will not be making any interior inspections.

If you have any questions please call the Assessor's Office at (802) 264-5671.

Upcoming Town Meetings

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

- Planning Commission: May 18 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=PLIjLFn4BZd2MtMV4SzmzYl6grkrjrcbym>
- 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: May 17, 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*
- **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

More Info

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Colchester
VERMONT

