



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

Explore Your Town  
Services

## Town News for the Week of June 28, 2021



Thanks to our IT professional Adam Cohen for this amazing early-morning sunrise shot of Malletts Bay.

*What do you want to do today?*

## Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

4th of July Celebration | 50th Annual! | SUNDAY,

July 4, 2021



**4th of July Parade:** The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. at Colchester High School. Parade Route: The parade will proceed from Colchester High School, down Blakely Road, and end at Lavigne Road, and should take about one hour.

**Bayside Beach:** Holiday Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm. Lifeguards will be on duty at Bayside Beach for those who want to swim. [Bayside Paddle Sports](#) will be open for paddleboard, kayak, and pedal boat rentals.

**Bayside Park:** 5:00 PM to Close

**Food Trucks:** Enjoy a variety of food offerings from these delicious vendors (additional cost)



**Music Entertainment:** 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. **THE HITMEN** re: Jim Cheney (Bass and Vocals), Bob Young (Guitar and Vocals), Brian Donnelly (Drums and Vocals), and Bob Boedecker (Keys and Vocals). Musical Style: 1970s- and 1980s-party rock & roll, featuring hot guitar, organ, and impressive vocal harmonies! The Hitmen play anything from John Mellencamp to Santana, The Atlanta Rhythm Section to Steely Dan - don't miss this fantastic group!

**Fireworks:** Fireworks will take place at dusk from the Bayside Softball Field. Please stay behind the safety fence. Parking available at: Colchester High School, Colchester Middle School, and the Malletts Bay School.





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### Municipal Services Tax Rate

At their last meeting, the Colchester Selectboard approved the municipal services tax rate for FY22 at \$0.5593 per hundred dollars of property value. This rate reflects a 2.05% increase over last year's rate, or a \$34 increase for a \$300,000 home.

This tax rate is lower than the tax rate set 8 years ago in FY14 by 0.89% or \$15 on a \$300,000 house, and shows Colchester's commitment to saving taxpayer dollars. There are a few factors that have influenced this low rate, including growth and investment in Colchester leading to increased property value of 8% since FY14. In addition, the creation of a stormwater utility reduced the property tax-generated budget by \$387,180 and the use of the local option tax to fund \$485,105 of our voter-approved debt that was previously paid with property taxes.

Colchester currently has the third-lowest property tax per resident in inner Chittenden County at \$703, and is 8% below average in this area.

# Comparison – Inner Chittenden County Municipal Services Property Taxes per resident

Williston	\$ 582
Essex Town	\$ 662
<b>Colchester (3<sup>rd</sup> lowest)</b>	<b>\$ 703</b>
Burlington	\$ 795
Winooski	\$ 808
So. Burlington	\$ 874
Essex Jct.	\$ 898
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 760</b>



2020-2021 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES FROM TOWN LISTER/ASSESSOR'S DATA  
Colchester is 8% below average for inner Chittenden County.

## COVID-19 Update

**Recent Cases:** Chittenden County has had 20 new cases in the last 14 days. Read more [here](#).

### COVID-19 Cultural Recovery Grant Program

The Vermont Arts Council, in partnership with Vermont Humanities, will distribute \$1.2 million in COVID-19 relief funding to Vermont organizations through the COVID-19 Cultural Recovery Grant program.



Arts and/or humanities organizations incorporated in the state of Vermont with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, that comply with federal and state legal requirements, and are experiencing hardship due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may apply. Organizations that received a 2020 Cultural Relief Grant from the Vermont Arts Council or Vermont Humanities and/or a Vermont Economic Recovery Grant for Cultural Organizations from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), or other state or federal COVID19 relief grants, are eligible to apply for this program as well.

Funding awards are \$5,000; \$10,000; and \$15,000. Deadlines: Round one: July 21; Round two: September 14. Two informational webinars will be held to assist applicants, on July 1st and August 17th.

For more information and to apply, visit the VT Arts Council [website](#).

Walk-In Clinics Available

## VACCINE WALK-INS



Although 81.9% of Vermont's population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, Governor Phil Scott and the Department of Health are still urging residents to get vaccinated. Walk-in clinics are still being held daily around the state. To find one near you, visit

the Dept. of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine [webpage](#).

## Department Updates

**Kelly McCagg**  
*Library Director*

Beginning July 6th, we will no longer have outdoor curbside service hours. For any patrons who are not yet comfortable coming inside the building, we will place their holds in our vestibule for pick-up.



Our new browsing times will be as follows:

Mondays, 1 – 4 pm  
Tuesdays, 10 am – 2 pm  
Wednesdays, 10 am – 2 pm  
Thursday, 3 – 6 pm  
Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm

Computer usage will be available upstairs during browsing hours. There is a 30-minute time limit on computers if other patrons are waiting. Patrons can also borrow a library laptop for up to 90 minutes, for use in the parking lot or at the picnic table.

We will continue to have outdoor programming for patrons. Check out our [website](#) for more information about our summer programming and sign up for summer reading.

While masks are no longer required for patrons who are vaccinated, we do ask that patrons visiting the building continue to practice social distancing and wear a face mask in order to protect those members of our community who have not yet received, or are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Children 3 & up are required to wear a mask while browsing and during programs.

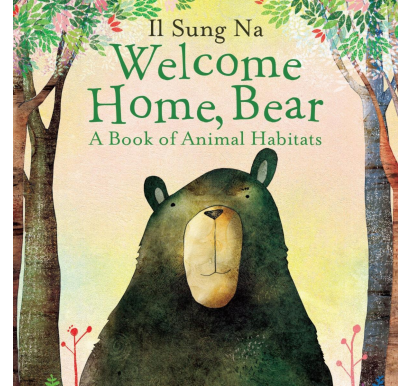
We are planning to continue expanding our hours and additional programming quickly. There have been a lot of staffing changes at Burnham this year, and at the present moment, we are open as current staffing allows. We want to thank you for your continued patience and support throughout this time.

Here is one of the many books that you can get when you come browse inside:

***Welcome Home, Bear*** by Il Sung Na – picture, 2015  
Pam Tallmadge, Assistant Children's Librarian.



After awakening in the same place every day, Bear decides to find a new home. He tries to climb a tree and see Bird, but her nest is up too high. Bear visits Mole but gets dirt in his nose. Bear's search for a new home includes cliffs and oceans, places with snow, and places with hot sand. After all of his travels, Bear decides the place he was been waking up in most of his life is now the place he most wants to be. This adventure is beautifully illustrated, giving the reader a sense of many different habitats. Where do you most want to be?



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## Upcoming Town Meetings

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### [Agendas available here](#)

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting TBD
- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: July 14 at 7:00 PM
  - [Live stream](#)
  - Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing ([zmaia@colchestervt.gov](mailto:zmaia@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:** Next meeting: July 19, 6:00 p.m.
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: July 15, 4:30 p.m. in person at the Burnham Memorial Library, masks required; or via Zoom: Dial in: (929)205-6099; Meeting ID: 951 5132 1071; Passcode: 761145
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: July 27 at 6:30 PM at 781 Blakely Road in the third floor Outer Bay Room. Attend in person with masks if you are unvaccinated. Masks are optional for fully-vaccinated folks. Alternatively, send a note to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto: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](#)

### [Subscribe to the Town Newsletter](#)

For more information or to comment call 264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)

[More Info](#)



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