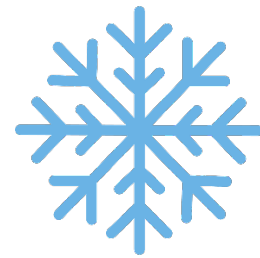


**For the Week of December 4, 2023**

## **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Winter Safety Tips from Public Works:** While the use of road salt improves safety conditions in winter ice and snow, overuse of salt can have negative effects on bodies of water, aquatic plants, and animals, and can damage metal and concrete. Testing data from around Vermont indicates that road salt is accumulating in our waterways. While public safety is of the utmost importance, we also value our surrounding ecosystems and work hard to minimize the impacts of our maintenance programs.



Our primary salt trucks are equipped with computerized spreader controls that carefully control the amount of salt being placed on our roadways. We also closely monitor temperatures and other storm conditions to ensure we are using road salt as efficiently as we can. This not only minimizes environmental impacts, but also saves taxpayers thousands of dollars in salt costs.

As a property owner, you can also take steps to minimize impacts on our environment. If you are planning to use salt this winter around your property, please consider the following:

- \* Salt should be stored in airtight containers to minimize loss and maximize effectiveness
- \* Pre-treat walkways before the storm hits to limit post-storm usage
- \* Shovel early after a storm to minimize the need for de-icing agents
- \* Only use on impervious surfaces, never on lawns, near wetlands or surface waters



***Champlain  
Water District***

**CWD Bonded Project Update:** On September 13, 2022, the Champlain Water District (CWD) voters passed a bond for \$8.7M for the Filtered Water Tank II and Raw

Water Parallel Transmission Main. Both of these projects had been identified for significant grant funding potentially up to 80%. The promise to the CWD voters was there would be no CWD increase as a result of these two projects, with the potential grant funding and older CWD bonds set to expire. Unfortunately, neither project was eligible for the potential funding sources.

There is still the need to move these projects forward. However, the most pressing need for CWD at this time is to construct the new Filtered Water Tank II to replace the existing Filtered Water Tank which has significant structural issues. CWD still believes that this project, with a projected total project cost of \$5.5M, can be funded without increasing CWD rates as a result of this project.

In March 2024, CWD intends to ask the voters to repurpose the \$3.2M dedicated to the Raw Water Parallel Transmission Main under the September 2022 bond, for a CWD Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Upgrade. This improvement will allow the District to continually be in a position to supply safe, affordable drinking water 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, as well as maintaining compliance with all State and Federal regulations and requirements. This SCADA Upgrade project will result in a rate increase. More information will be available in the coming months to explain the need for this SCADA Upgrade project, anticipated project costs, and user rate impacts. At least two (2) special in-person meetings will be held prior to the March 2024 bond vote to answer any questions the voters may have regarding the SCADA Upgrade project and bond articles.

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**Colchester Historical Society:** The Colchester Historical Society is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Colchester's history. They share historical information and hold history-related events within the community. If you'd like to learn more or become a member, please visit: <https://colchestervt.gov/3050/Member-Application-Form>. Everyone is welcome at events and to become a member, and membership fees and donations help support their mission to preserve and share Colchester's wonderful local history.

**You're Invited!**

**Annual Holiday Choral Concert and Party**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m.**  
**900 Main Street**  
**Colchester Village**

The Colchester Historical Society and the United Church of Colchester are pleased to announce the return of the Annual Holiday Choral Concert and Party. Music for this event will feature the beautiful and festive musical styling of Colchester High School choral groups. Fellowship and a variety of refreshments will immediately follow the concert.



\*\*\* Members, please note: Our members are invited to bring along savory snacks, if possible. (The United Church will furnish sweet treat items). Examples could be meatballs, cheese and crackers, celery stuffed with cheese, individual pizza bites, little sandwiches, etc. We can heat items in the church kitchen oven if needed. Of course, you are welcome to bring whatever you wish. Just remember that these young singers will have not yet been home from school for supper so they will be hungry! \*\*\*



“Colchester is very fortunate to have this beautiful historical building in our community,” said Bonnie Potter, Historical Society President. “That it continues to be actively used and appreciated nearly 200 years after it was built is a wonderful added bonus. These talented high school students have been working diligently in their music practice and are excited to bring us their presentation.”

This event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the church, the library, the Meeting House, Historical Society, and overflow parking at Our Lady of Grace Church. Due to the increasing number of recent thefts, please be sure to lock your vehicle.

### **Building history:**

The First Congregational Church of Christ was organized September 14, 1804, at first in a schoolhouse on the Farrand farm, standing on the west side of East Road near the railroad. From there, the church held its meetings in various schools, barns, or homes. In 1838, the brick church was built by the Congregational Church and shared with the Baptist Church until 1861 when the Baptist Church was built.

In 1919, it became the United Church of Colchester. Electricity was installed in both the parish house and the brick church in 1921. Some remodeling also occurred at that time, including installation of the stained-glass windows. The kitchen, restroom, and a coat room were added in 1927, as well as a furnace in the main room, and the horse sheds were torn down. Later, a new furnace was installed in the cellar.

The United Church of Colchester is Christ-centered and family-oriented. The pastor is Reverend Doctor Russell E. Willis. For more information about this church, please visit <https://www.churchofcolchester.org>.

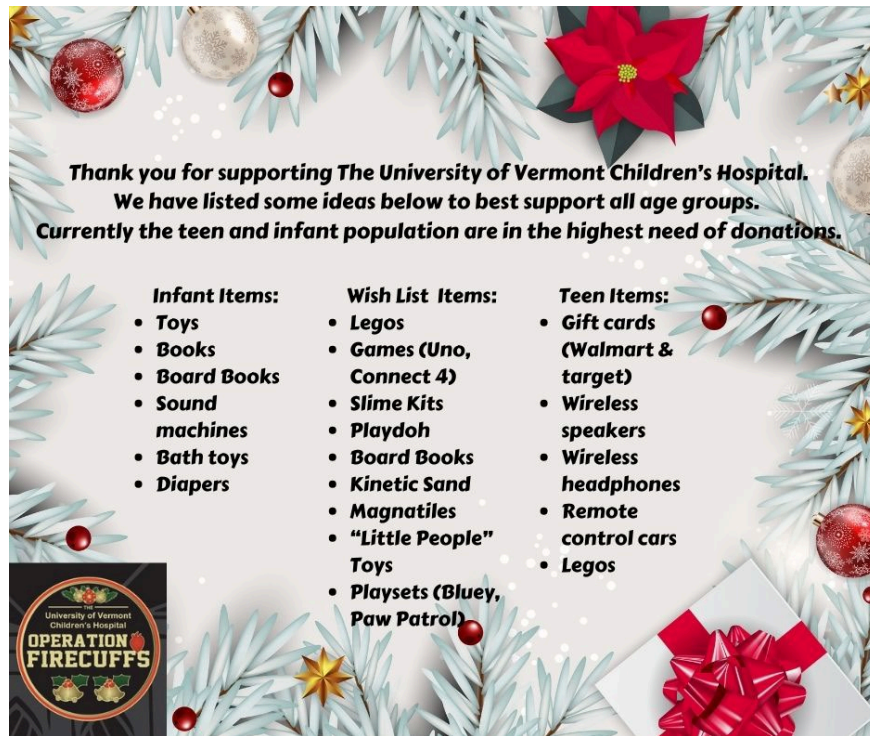



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## **Department Updates**

**Colchester Police, Rescue, and Fire Departments**, along with many surrounding emergency services agencies, are participating in Operation Firecuffs again this year. Operation Firecuffs is a joint effort to collect toys for the children at the University of Vermont Medical Center. This is the 12th year of the annual event.

Drop-off locations include the Police station at 835 Blakely Rd (open 24/7) and the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Rd (M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.). **Donations can be dropped off any time before Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.** That afternoon, all of the participating agencies will send an emergency apparatus filled with toys to the hospital to deliver the toys with Santa Claus.



## Parks & Recreation

### Dinner with Santa!

December 8, 2023

Colchester Middle School Cafeteria

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Register here: <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/colchester-vt/catalog>



Once again Santa is visiting Colchester on his way to the North Pole to get ready for the holiday season! Join Santa and all of the elves in the Colchester Parks & Recreation Department and Colchester Lions Club for a delicious 'breakfast' dinner of pancakes, eggs, and sausage. Santa will read a bedtime story the last 10 minutes, so make sure to have your visit with Santa prior to that!

## Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, December 12, 6:15 p.m. (public portion beginning at 6:30 p.m.) at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, 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>



- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to [zmaia@colchestervt.gov](mailto:zmaia@colchestervt.gov) or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, December 21, 4:00 p.m., 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.

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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)