

## For the Week of December 18, 2023

### Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Happy Holidays! Your Town staff wishes all residents, businesses, and visitors a happy holiday season, with all the love, warmth, and cheer of spending time with your family and friends.

In observance, there will be adjusted hours:

### Town Offices

Friday, December 22nd: 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Monday, December 25th: CLOSED

### Library

Friday, December 22nd through Monday, December 25th: CLOSED

Emergency services, winter snow and ice removal, and other emergency work will be provided as usual. May your days be merry, bright, and safe!



**Colchester Police Chief Appointment:** Peter Hull has been appointed as Colchester's next Police Chief after he successfully served in the role of Interim Police Chief since Chief Doug Allen's retirement in September. Pete has been with the department since 1990 and has over 30 years of law-enforcement-related experience. He has served various roles in the department and has led, supervised, and assisted with the department's operations, investigations, trainings, policy development, and collaboration with outside agencies. Pete has furthered his education and pursued several leadership trainings to gain a broader exposure to regional issues outside of policing as well. He has stayed connected with the community throughout his positions, and presented and advised on safety planning to residents, schools, local businesses, and public service agencies within Colchester. To read the full press release, please click [here](#). Congratulations Pete!



**Champlain  
Water District**

**Update from the Champlain Water District (CWD):** CWD takes pride in serving the residents of the former Colchester Fire District

#3 (CFD#3). Since our acquisition of the CFD #3 in July 2022, we have been very busy with some projects in the water system that may interest or affect you. CFD#3 is no longer an independent government entity but remains a public water system with an individual water system identification, owned and operated by the Champlain Water District.

The Champlain Water District has contracted with **New England Backflow Inc.** to upgrade nearly 900 meters in the CFD#3 water system to radio read technology. Customers whose meter is slated for upgrade will receive a notice from **New England Backflow (NEB)** requesting that you call them to schedule an appointment. They'll need inside access to your meter and your water will be off for a short time during the meter installation. The meter upgrade is not optional and is required for all connections that have not already been completed. If you have any questions about this program, please call CWD.

The Champlain Water District has also contracted with **MSK Engineers (MSK)** to complete an inventory of water service lines in the water system. A service line material inventory is required of all public water systems in response to lead and copper rule revisions passed by the US EPA in 2021. **MSK** will be observing the material of service lines where the service line enters the building, typically at the meter. **MSK** will be sending out letters to those customers where material information is needed, offering each customer the opportunity to either perform a self-observation and send a picture to **MSK**, or schedule an appointment with **MSK** to visually inspect the pipe. They will also be canvassing neighborhoods by going door-to-door to complete the observation.

**Anytime NEB, MSK, or CWD employees are in the area, they will be carrying identification specific to each company with their respective logos. If you ever have a concern with the legitimacy of any employee of these three firms, please call the respective company for verification. The numbers are listed below:**

**CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT:** (802) 864-7454

**NEW ENGLAND BACKFLOW:** (866) 632-1497 or (603) 669-4004

**MSK ENGINEERS:** (802) 447-1402



### **Get Ready for Vermont History Day!**

It's not too early for teachers and students to begin thinking about and preparing for Vermont History Day. Every April, hundreds of Vermont students share their learning at the annual Vermont History Day state

contest. As students create these projects, they develop research and historical thinking skills. They explore content and gain life skills through project-based learning and the

study of history. Students who win at the state contest qualify for National History Day in June. The 2024 theme is "Turning Points in History."

"The Colchester Historical Society would love to see some of our local teachers and students participate," said Bonnie Potter, President of the Colchester Historical Society. "We believe Colchester has many students who would really shine at this event. And, there are some wonderful prizes," she added.

Some students participate as part of history class. Others do History Day as an independent project or for extra credit—maybe History Day could be part of your personalized learning plan? Creating a project for Vermont History Day can help students learn history and new skills.

Vermont students in grades 5 through 12 and homeschool students ages 10 to 18 can compete in Vermont History Day. Students exercise their voice and choice by selecting a topic related to the annual theme and presenting their research as an exhibit, website, documentary, performance or paper. Working individually or in small groups (up to five), students can explore a topic related to Vermont history, US history or world history. Vermont History Day is a great venue for personalized learning.

Students explore change, continuity and context as they conduct research online and in libraries, museums, and historical societies. Using evidence from primary sources and interviews with experts, students examine multiple perspectives and draw conclusions. At the state contest, students present their claims to local historians, educators, and other professionals who participate as judges. Through their work, students act as historians and become experts on a wide range of topics. With the guidance of teachers, students learn history by doing history.

**Note to Educators:** The Vermont History Day Educator Workshop will be held Friday, January 19, 2024, at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Whether you are new to History Day, or you are just curious about participation, all educators are encouraged to attend. This in-depth workshop will examine the different options for integrating History Day into your classroom or school. Educators will learn how to support students through the process of creating projects and participating at the state and national level. Workshop topics include:



- A "Year in the Life" of a VHD teacher
- How to guide students through the research process
- Crafting a strong thesis
- Finding appropriate primary and secondary sources
- Pre-registration is required.
- A \$45.00 registration fee includes both lunch, and a certificate for 6 hours of professional development. Please register at <https://form.jotform.com/232604000453137>.

Students need to register for the contest by March 15, 2024, at 11:59 pm. Get all the details about Vermont History Day at <https://vermonthistory.org/vhd-getting-started>. It's not too early to start thinking about how you will present "Turning Points in History"!

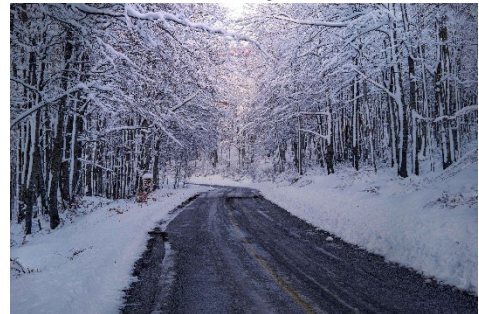
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## Department Updates

### Holiday Safety Tips from Colchester Police Department

The holiday season is upon us. We hope that whatever holiday you celebrate, you are able to do so in the comfort of friends and family. Some thoughts for a safe holiday season:

- \* Celebrate responsibly – designate a driver or use alternate transportation if drinking.
- \* Road conditions change quickly. Plan extra time to get to your destination.
- \* Lock your vehicle. Remove valuables.
- \* Use caution with telephone solicitations. If you have doubts, hang up and call us at 802-264-5555.



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## Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, January 9, 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)

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, December 21, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.



*Colchester – What do you want to do today?*

**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.

**Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:** <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMA02v>

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