

For the Week of January 22, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Blakely Road Sidewalk Closure: Starting on Monday, January 22nd, the sidewalk on Blakely Road will be closed in the vicinity of Laker Lane. A sidewalk detour will be in place to direct pedestrians and bicyclists to utilize the bike path between the Middle School and Bayside Park. The sidewalk closure will be in place for approximately three weeks.

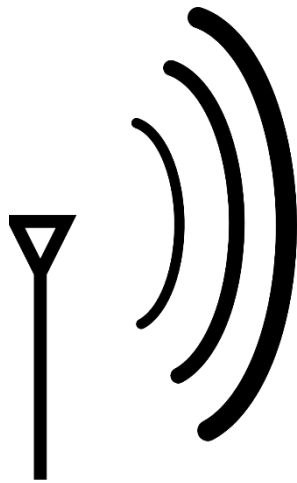


Town Meeting Day Information: The Annual Town Meeting will meet in-person and will be held Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester High School Auditorium. The ballot items, to be voted on by Australian Ballot, can be found at the following link, but will also be presented at the Annual Town Meeting: <https://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>.



Voting by Australian Ballot will take place Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Colchester High School, but early/absentee voting is also an option. In-person and early/absentee voting information can be accessed here: <https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>

Broadband Update: While Act 71 created and offered public funds for broadband expansion around Vermont, project requirements have limited opportunities for broadband expansion within Colchester. Town staff has remained in contact with internet service providers in an attempt to learn about their potential expansion plans in Colchester, and earlier in 2023, Consolidated Communications began running fiber within several Chittenden County towns, including Colchester, under the name Fidium Fiber. By July 2023, Fidium had run fiber to approximately 1,300 addresses in Colchester.



After the recent Fidium Fiber expansion, only about 1% of all addresses in Colchester are still “unserved” or “underserved” on the State list of broadband service. Based on a review of the most current State information, considering the fiber now in place and available through Fidium Fiber and after reviewing the data in detail, there are only 51 occupied properties (0.78%) in Colchester which do not have at least cable speed 25/3 Mbps internet. Town staff will continue to monitor funding availability and opportunities to partner with other towns or businesses to improve the quality of internet service available to residents and

businesses. Broadband of at least 100/100 Mbps is regarded as the level of broadband service needed to truly meet today’s demands (fiber offers 1,000 Mbps), and significant investment would be needed over time to bring that level to Colchester. To read the full memo to the Selectboard on this topic, click [here](#).

Department Updates



Parks & Recreation: Mark your calendars for the 40th Annual Winter Carnival happening from Friday, February 2nd through Sunday, February 4th, 2024. Bracelets for this winter tradition cost \$8.00 and are required by all in attendance over the age of two. Review the full schedule of events here:

<https://colchestervt.gov/663/Winter-Carnival>

Town Clerk’s Office: *Attention Colchester dog parent!* It’s time to renew your dog’s annual license.

Fees:

Fixed dog \$15.00

Non-fixed dog \$20.00

To avoid an additional \$5.00 fee, license your dog before April 1st.



The state of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed with their town. A current rabies certificate along with proof of spay/neuter and fee is needed to issue the license and tag.

Licensing can be completed online, by mail or in person. For more information go to <https://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> or call 802-264-5520.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, 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>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Planning Commission: Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

Development Review Board: Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd 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 or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAgenda>

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, February 15, 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C>

Colchester Conservation Commission: Monday, February 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=ConservCommssn&path=BOARDS%2CConservCommssn%2C>

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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email
townmanager@colchestervt.gov