

For the Week of January 29, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

In a little over a month, Town Meeting Day will be here! The Annual Town Meeting will resume in-person this year, 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>

Colchester Students – Be Part of Vermont History Day!

The theme for Vermont History Day 2024 is "Turning Points in History." The Vermont state contest will be held Saturday, April 6, at the University of Vermont Davis Center in Burlington. Student registration is ***now open and the deadline for students is Friday, March 15.***

What is Vermont History Day? It's an exciting education program that encourages students to develop research and critical thinking skills through project-based learning and the study of history. Students, working solo or in small groups, share projects at the annual state contest. Vermont History Day is coordinated by the Vermont Historical Society and is affiliated with National History Day.



Students in public schools, private schools, and home schools participate, as long as you live and/or attend school in Vermont. Some students participate as part of history class. Others do History Day as an independent project or for extra credit.

"Any Vermont student in grades 5-12 can participate, and we would really *love* to see some Colchester students participate this year," said Bonnie Potter, President of the Colchester

Historical Society. “Is it challenging? Yes! Is it rewarding? Yes! Is it fun? Yes! Are there prizes? Yes! Will you be glad you did it? Yes! We know there are many Colchester students who could really shine in this event and perhaps even move forward to the national competition. The theme of “Turning Points in History” is an especially inviting one this year – students can put their own interests forward in planning their presentation,” she added. “The Vermont Historical Society provides a wealth of helpful resources on its website for students. And, if a student decides to focus their project on local Colchester history – well, all the better. We are here to help,” said Potter.

Colchester students are invited and especially encouraged to learn more about Vermont History Day, register now, and check out these very helpful resources:

For complete contest information, see www.vermonthistory.org/historyday.
Details about contest day: <https://vermonthistory.org/vhd-contest-day-logistics>

For more information, contact:
Danielle Harris-Burnett
Vermont History Day Coordinator
danielle.harris-burnett@vermonthistory.org

Meg Mallory
Vermont History Day Coordinator
meg.mallory@vermonthistory.org

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.



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, February 13, 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>

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