

For the Week of February 5, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Town Meeting Day is on its way! 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>

The History and Evolution of Colchester Fire Fighting

Saturday, February 10, 10:00 a.m.

Parsonage, 828 Main Street

The presenter for this program will be Clark Sweeney, a third-generation member of the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company. He served as an engineer, captain, and assistant chief. Clark is the son of Colchester's long-standing and respected community leaders Jerry and Joyce Sweeney. Clark will discuss Colchester fires prior to 1951, the formation of Colchester's fire services, evolution of fire equipment, the three departments, and recent department consolidations. Following the program, refreshments will be served, and tours of the Parsonage will be provided upon request. As always, parking and admission for this event are free of charge. Please access the building from the back-porch entrance.



Photo Courtesy of Clark Sweeney



Reusable Bag Campaign: Shaw's in Colchester has once again selected the Colchester Historical Society as the beneficiary for its reusable bag campaign for the month of February. The theme is "All You Need is Love" as a nod to Valentine's Day. For each reusable bag purchased at a cost of \$3, the Colchester Historical Society will receive \$1. A similar campaign back in August pulled in nearly \$300 for the Historical Society. Let's see if

we can do it again! These bags can be purchased at the store's check-out. Thank you for supporting this program.

Winter 2024 Colchester Historical Society Trivia Game: In case you haven't already had an opportunity to test your knowledge of Colchester history trivia just for fun, here's the link to the questions of the Winter 2024 Colchester Historical Society Trivia Game:

<https://www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8564/2024-Winter-Trivia-Game-Questions?bidId>. Then, when you're ready, you'll find the answers here:

<https://www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8705/2024-Winter-Trivia-Game-Answers?bidId>. Enjoy!

Information: The Colchester Historical Society is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Colchester's history. It shares historical information and hosts 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. Membership fees and donations help support its mission to preserve and share Colchester's wonderful local history.



Funding for Mobile Home Repairs: Mobile homes are an important source of affordable housing for many individuals in Vermont and in Colchester, yet many mobile home parks and residents

continue to face the

adverse effects from the COVID pandemic. The State is offering funding for mobile home repairs.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

<https://mhirprogram.vsha.org/>. For questions, please call 802-660-3455.



Department Updates

AARP Volunteer Tax Assistance



Burnham Memorial Library: AARP Tax Aide Service

Tax Season is nearly here! AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on people over 50 with low to moderate income. All volunteers are IRS certified. Contact the library to set up your appointment: 802-264-5660 or burnhamlib@colchestervt.gov.

Public Works: In January, the Town removed an old, abandoned car along the banks of Smith Creek. This important project was completed with funding from the Chittenden Solid Waste District's community clean-up fund and the Town's stormwater program. "It was

great to see over 2,000 pounds of scrap metal removed from the environmentally sensitive area immediately next to Smith Creek,” said Karen Adams, of Colchester Public Works. “We are grateful for the support we received from the new property owner, as well as the neighbor who made the project much easier by graciously allowing us access from his property.”

This project is part of a series of water quality initiatives planned for the Smith Creek watershed, which drains to Lake Champlain. A public meeting will be held this summer to update the community on the design of stormwater improvements within the Tower Ridge and Everbreeze neighborhoods.



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/jkMAO2v>

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