

## For the Week of March 4, 2024

### Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Town Meeting Events:** First, there is a **Legislators Town Hall** from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Colchester High School cafeteria, and then the **Annual Town Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. in the Colchester High School Auditorium. Voting by Australian Ballot will take place tomorrow from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Colchester High School. Today, you can drop off your early/absentee ballots in the **GREEN** dropbox to the right of the Town Offices until 4:30 p.m. Tomorrow, bring your voted absentee ballot to the Colchester High School Gym. There will be a drop box at the **HELP DESK**. You can view the sample ballot [here](#).



**Mobile Pet Food Shelf:** Recently a Mobile Pet Food Shelf was opened in the community with the mission to compassionately serve pet owners in need by providing essential resources beyond food. Currently, mobile pet food shelf popups will be held at Motel 6 the second Saturday of every month from 1-3 p.m. Additional locations may be added and will be posted [here](#). Attendees can receive pet supplies for free, but also pet education and connection to resources. Donors can make drop-offs at these times too. You can learn more from this [Colchester](#)

[Sun article](#).

### Treatment of American Women by the Legal System

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

828 Main Street, Colchester

March is Women's History Month. Please join the Colchester Historical Society for this presentation by Jack Penca. He will discuss the timeline of the progress of women in the legal system from near invisibility to the current status. Jack Penca is a graduate of Notre Dame Law School and has worked as a prosecutor, immigration attorney, and an administrative law judge. All are welcome to attend this program. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. Parking and admission are free. Tours of the Parsonage will be available upon request.

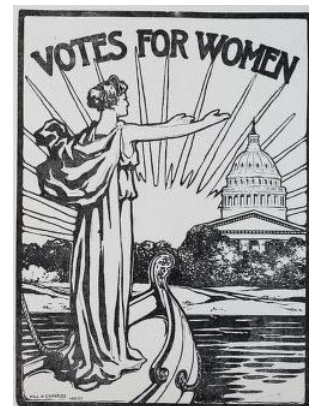


Image courtesy of the  
Colchester Historical Society

**Final Reminder to Register for Vermont History Day:** Students have until **March 15** to register for Vermont History Day 2024. Learn more about this amazing competition [here](#). Colchester

students are encouraged to participate. Ready to sign up? Register now at this [link](#). The theme for 2024 is "Turning Points in History." The Vermont State competition will be held Saturday, April 6, at the University of Vermont Davis Center in Burlington.



**About the Colchester Historical Society:** 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. To learn more or become a member, please click [here](#). Everyone is welcome at programs and events. Membership fees and donations help support the organization's mission to preserve and share Colchester's wonderful local history.

## Department Updates

### Clerk's Office: Colchester Property Taxes

The third installment is **due March 15<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, please visit this [link](#). For more information on ways to pay taxes and office hours, please click [here](#). If you have any questions or need the amount due, please contact us at [townclerk@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townclerk@colchestervt.gov) or 802-264-5520.



### Parks & Recreation:

A.C.E. Before and After School Child Care Registration for the School Year 2024-2025 **opens March 18, 2023 (in-person)**. Current A.C.E. families have **until March 14 to reregister**. Online registration is not available. Click here for [2024-25 A.C.E. Registration Form](#). The [Summer Brochure](#) is also now available.

**Public Works:** An Emerald Ash Borer Assessment and Plan was presented to the Colchester Selectboard at the [December 12, 2023 Selectboard meeting](#). The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect from Asia that is killing ash trees in North America. Once EAB has infested an ash tree, the probability of the tree dying is greater than 99%. Since the arrival of EAB – first detected in Michigan in 2002 – communities in North America have been unable to successfully eradicate EAB after it has been detected. By the time EAB symptoms are identified, it is estimated that the pest has already been present for three to five years and the ash tree is in danger of declining rapidly

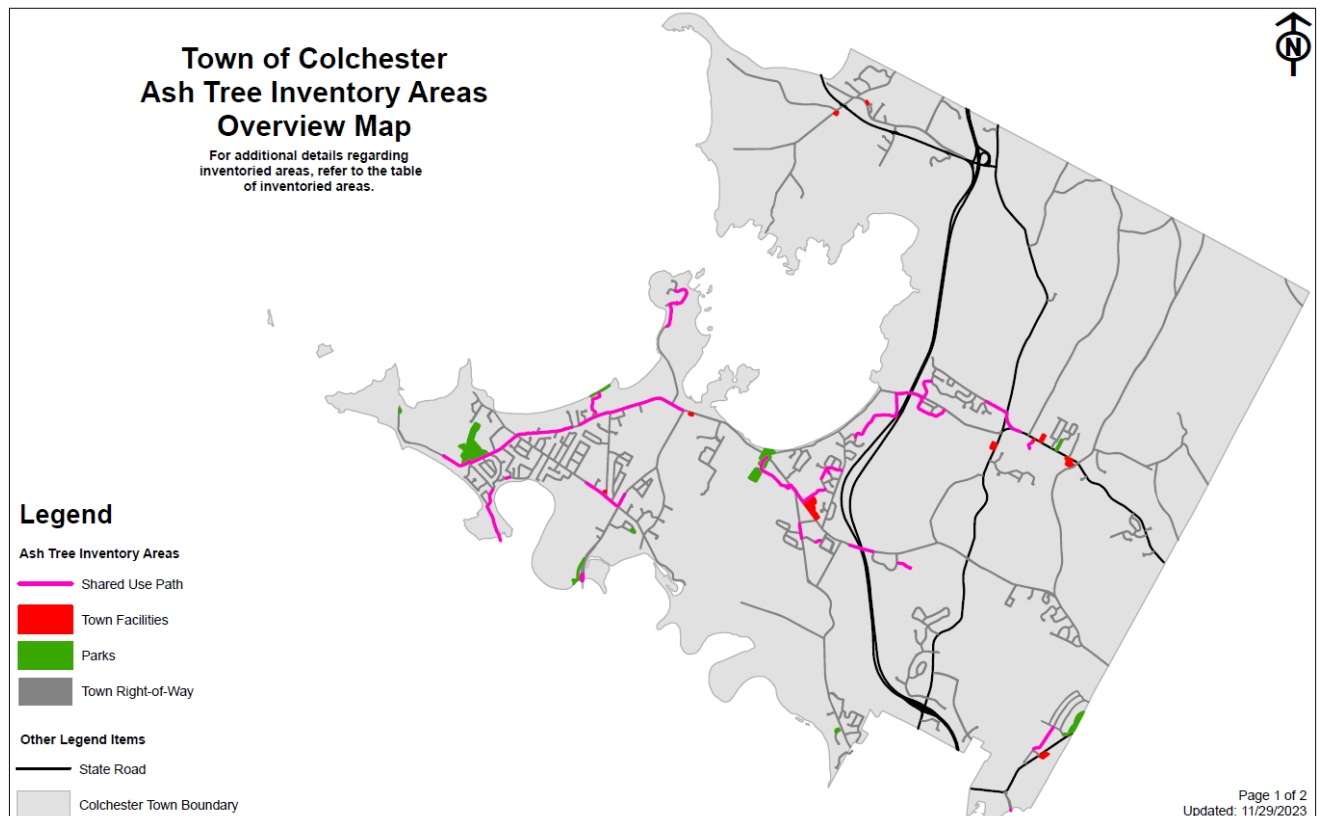


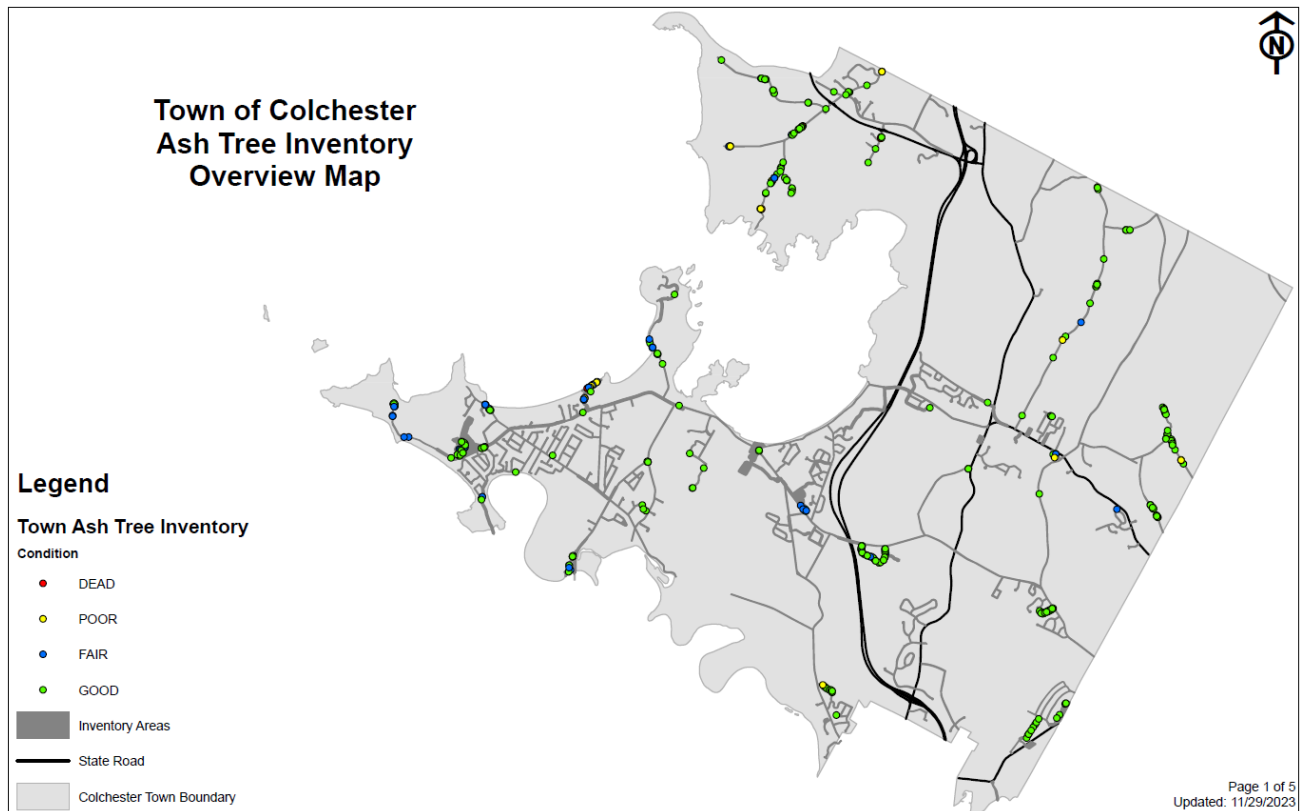
and dying over the next two to three years. In these later phases of deterioration, the ash trees become a hazard to property, infrastructure, and to the general public. The Selectboard authorized staff to proceed with their management strategy to eliminate or significantly reduce the threat to public safety on publicly-owned lands.

Public Works has completed an inventory focused on approximately 860 acres of Town-owned land where a dead or deteriorating tree would present a significant public safety risk, including transportation corridors, parks, and other public areas frequented by large numbers of people, and identified 446 ash trees to be removed. While removal of the trees must be completed quickly, the replanting of 116, or 26%, of the trees will be done over time and more selectively.

The proposed EAB Management Strategy is summarized and inventory maps are shown below:

- Treatment only for ash trees that have been identified as heritage, historic, memorial, or otherwise significant.
- Proactive removal of all ash trees on Town-owned land identified through the ash tree inventory.
- Replanting in areas that have a significant ash tree presence, except where ash trees are along the perimeter of an already heavily wooded area.
- Education and outreach directed toward private property owners.
- A Funding and Financial Plan that optimizes grant opportunities and minimizes inflationary impacts.





For more information on the EAB and for resources to address private property ash trees, please visit the [website](#). If you have questions, please contact Amanda Clayton, Town Engineer, at [aclayton@colchestervt.gov](mailto:aclayton@colchestervt.gov), or Lea Sanguinetti, Assistant Town Engineer, at [lsanguinetti@colchestervt.gov](mailto:lsanguinetti@colchestervt.gov).

## Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, March 12, 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)

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

<https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, March 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. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAgenda>

**Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, March 11, 6:00 p.m., at the Colchester Town Offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Champlain Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=ConservCommssn&path=BOARDS%2CConservCommssn%2C>

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, March 21, 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>

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

**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](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)