

For the Week of March 19, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Your Town Staff congratulates, welcomes, and thanks Town Meeting Day candidates!



Congratulations to Pam Loranger and Charlie Papillo on their re-election to the Selectboard. We also congratulate Geri Barrows for her election as Town Lister, Scott Barrett on his re-election as Town Moderator, and Rebecca Collman McMahon on her re-election to the Library Board of Trustees.

Your Selectboard, Library Trustees, Listers and Moderator are not elected by party. Local municipal government services, from speed limits to stormwater, road maintenance to property valuation, and library policy, are specific to the responsibilities in our Charter, state statutes, public input, and the willingness and ability of voters to fund your local municipal services.

Voting and running for office are two ways to participate in local government. We also have events, meetings and ongoing opportunities. The time commitments range from "one-time and done" at special events, to being on-call for emergencies for Colchester Fire and Colchester Rescue. Both Fire and Rescue, which are primarily staffed by volunteers, and Colchester Technical Rescue, which is completely staffed by volunteers, to boards and commissions (see links for more information):

- 85 elected and appointed members of [boards and commissions](#)
- 61 firefighter [volunteers](#)
- 35 rescue [volunteers](#)
- 24 technical rescue [volunteers](#)
- 135 recreation events / 14 youth league [volunteers](#)
- 47 library [volunteers](#)
- 100 election [volunteers](#)
- Hundreds of volunteers participate annually in [Green-Up Day](#), which is coordinated by the Conservation Commission and involves the Town's Parks and Recreation, Police Department and Public Works.
- Community group that labels and maintains stormwater drains, or the ["Adopt-A-Drain"](#) program, helps keep storm drains clean and efficient

There are also volunteer opportunities specifically for youth:

- **Get Engaged Student Volunteer Program:** Since 2016, the Town of Colchester has invited Colchester High School students who are in grades 10-12 and Colchester residents to join a participating Board or Commission as a youth member for a term of one year. Students will be mentored by a board/commission member and may have the option to renew their student terms or join the board/commission as an adult member at the age of 18. Participation in the program can count toward the student's volunteer work required for graduation.
- **Youth Library Volunteers:** Colchester's Burnham Library has three distinct roles for Teen Volunteers in the areas of shelving books, cleaning, and painting.

Solar Eclipse Information: On April 8, 2024, beginning at approximately 3:26 p.m., a total eclipse of the Sun will be experienced from northern Vermont for the first time since 1932. The Sun will be completely blocked by the Moon for approximately three minutes as it passes between the Sun and Earth. Northern Vermont will not have the opportunity to view another total eclipse of the Sun until 2106.



Eye Safety: To view the eclipse, you either need special eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer that meets the ISO standards. Ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun; they transmit far more sunlight than is safe for our eyes. **You can pick up a free pair of eclipse glasses from the Colchester Burnham Memorial Library, while supplies last, beginning April 1st**

Please Remember:

- Always supervise children using eclipse glasses.
- If you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on and put your eclipse glasses over them
- After you are finished looking at the Sun, turn away before removing your filter — do not remove it while looking at the Sun
- Do not look at the eclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device
- For more information on how to protect your eyes, please visit:
<https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety>

Learn how to make a handheld solar viewer at the following links:

- <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/projection>
- https://clearinghouse.starnetlibraries.org/astronomy-and-space/114-pinhole-projection-in-a-box.html?search_query=pinhole&results=4
- https://clearinghouse.starnetlibraries.org/astronomy-and-space/138-pinhole-viewer-cereal-box-version.html?search_query=pinhole&results=4

- https://clearinghouse.starnetlibraries.org/astronomy-and-space/139-pinhole-projector-shipping-box-version.html?search_query=pinhole&results=4

Eclipse Traffic Warning: The most recent total solar eclipse took place in 2017 and approximately five million people traveled to view it from various locations which spanned from a portion of Oregon to some of the midwestern states and down to South Carolina and Georgia.

The State of Vermont's [Department of Emergency Management](#) notes that between 50,000 to 200,000 people could visit Vermont during the April 8, 2024 event. They also remind us that when 65,000 people showed up to the Phish concert in Coventry in 2004, there were 30 miles of traffic jams.

A large number of vehicles and people will be traveling around Vermont and New England the weekend before and the day of the eclipse. Most likely the most significant impacts will be experienced immediately after the eclipse. Colchester has beautiful land and water features, but its road network is limited by that geography.

The City of Burlington will close important roads on April 8th. The Beltline will be closed from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Other roads including Battery Street, Park Street and a portion of North Avenue will be closed from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. as noted [here](#).

We do not know the exact impacts to local, regional or statewide transportation networks.

If you do not wish to be impacted by delays or traffic jams on April 8th, please:

- Shop for food and other necessities prior to the weekend of April 6th-7th
- Fill your car with gas prior to the weekend of April 6th-7th
- Make plans with childcare providers, as you may be late due to traffic, or may not be able to get there before they close
- Avoid travel on April 8th until well after the eclipse and when traffic apps such as Google Maps Traffic or [Waze](#) show there is no longer increased traffic impacts

If you must travel on April 8th please:

- Ensure you have a full tank of gas
- Expect extended delays
- Plan your route using a traffic app
- Pack warm clothes, water, and snacks in case you are stuck in traffic
- Be patient. A major issue in other communities that have experienced such events is road rage due to congested traffic
- Please do not overwhelm public safety with phone calls regarding non-crash related traffic issues. They will be aware. Only contact them for emergency situations
- For more information, please visit: <https://www.vermont.gov/eclipse#gsc.tab=0>

Upcoming Event: The Colchester Burnham Library is hosting The Vermont Astronomical Society on March 19th at 6:30 p.m. for a free event, which will include information on the Sun, dates/times of the eclipse, why eclipses happen, where to look, what to expect and SAFE solar viewing. There will be time for questions at the end. To sign up, please visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-about-solar-eclipses-with-the-vermont-astronomical-society-registration-861821981747>

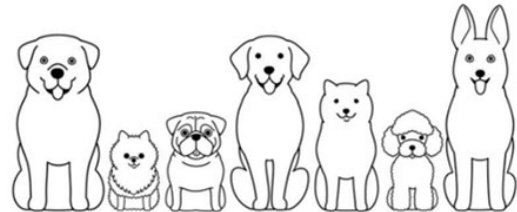
Closures: The Colchester Burnham Memorial Library will be closed for staff training on April 8th. Town Hall will close at 12 p.m. Recreation programming, including ACE before/after school will not be available on April 8th.

Department Updates

Town Clerk's Office: *Attention Colchester dog parents!* 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.

Parks & Recreation:

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Bayside Park

Come join the Easter Bunny for a great egg hunt.
Bring a bag or basket to put your eggs and goodies in.



Please park your vehicles at Colchester High School and enter the park by the softball field road off Laker Lane. Children will be separated by age groups to hunt for eggs in different areas of Bayside Park. Ages 4 and under will be at Lower Bayside Park. Ages 5 through 8 will be at Upper Bayside Park. **Don't miss this exciting annual event!**

Colchester Lions Club will be hosting a **food drive** for the Colchester Food Shelf. We are asking all participants to bring at least one non-perishable or canned item to the hunt.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, March 26, 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

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, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, April 10, 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, April 10, 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>

Colchester Conservation Commission: Monday, April 15, 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