

For the Week of March 26, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Solar Eclipse Eye Safety and Traffic

Disruptions: 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. To view the eclipse, you either need special eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer that meets the ISO standards. Please be prepared for significant traffic congestion. A large number of vehicles and people will be traveling around Vermont and New England the weekend before and especially the day of the eclipse. On April 8th, Burlington will be closing the Beltline and other significant roads including Battery Street, parts of North Avenue, North Champlain Street, and Pearl Street. If you wish to avoid possible significant traffic disruptions—stay home if you can on April 8th—especially if you live West of the Blakely/West Lakeshore Drive intersection. **To learn more about how to protect your eyes during the event and to prepare for traffic disruptions, please visit this link:** https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/info240326_a3.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt



March is Women's History Month—Colchester Historical Society

Remembers Ruth E. Wright: This Women's History Month, the Colchester Historical Society is proud to honor and remember **Dr. Ruth Etta Wright**. Ruth was the author of *Colchester Vermont From Ice-Cap to Interstate (Bicentennial Edition, Queen City Printers, 1963)*, a valuable and detailed history book about the Town of Colchester.

Ruth was born in Colchester, the daughter of Rolla and Della (Cook) Wright. She attended Essex Junction High School, then graduated from Middlebury College in 1923 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She received a master's degree from Columbia University in 1929, and a professional doctorate from American University in Washington in 1933.



Ruth Wright – Courtesy of
Colchester Historical Society

Ruth taught at the University of Vermont, 1923-1924; then in 1927, she became a research instructor for the U.S. Government in Washington D.C. From 1936-1940 she worked as a law clerk for a Burlington firm.

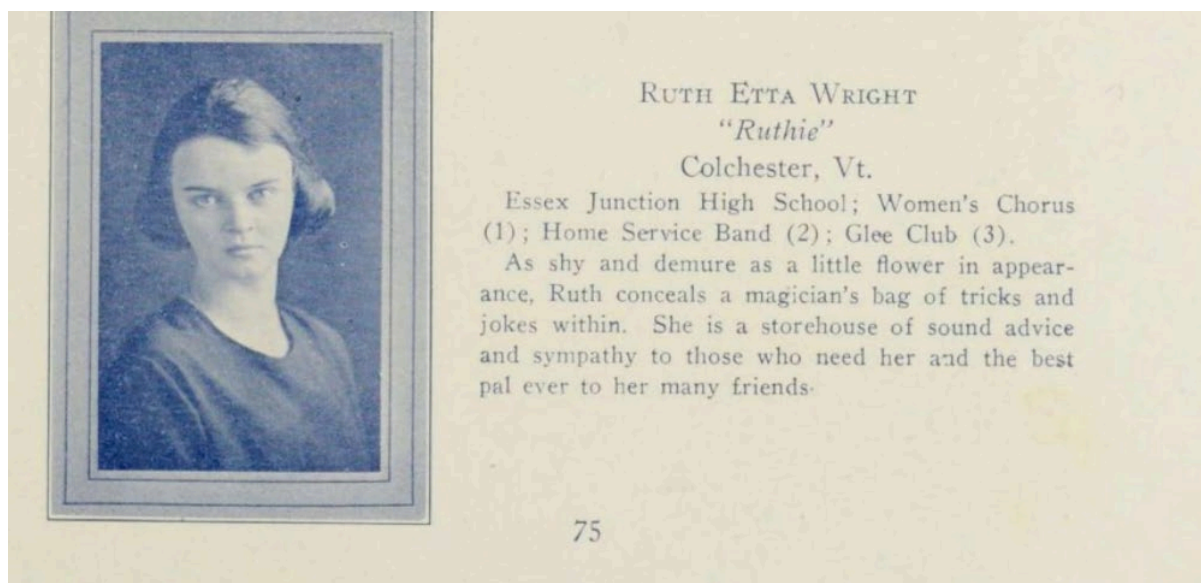


Ruth Wright as a child –
Courtesy of Colchester
Historical Society

Ruth served Colchester in many capacities. She was Town auditor from 1933–1969, and was a member of Opportunity Circle, King's Daughters, and the Vermont Library Association. She belonged to the Colchester United Church and the Colchester Grange. Ruth served as a Vermont Legislator for Colchester in 1943, 1947, and 1951. She served as a library trustee for 25 years, and was treasurer of the Cemetery Association for many years.

Ruth passed away in 1971 at her Colchester home at the age of 68 and is buried in the Colchester Village Cemetery.

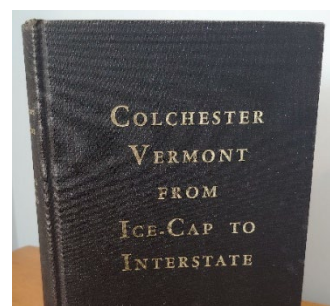
“Dr. Wright led an interesting life and certainly served our Town well,” said Bonnie Potter, president of the Colchester Historical Society, “and her book continues to be a very important tool for local historians. It's definitely our go-to resource for information about the Town's history that, many times, is not detailed in such a comprehensive manner anywhere else. We are extremely grateful for her energy and efforts in researching, collecting, and recording the historical information in this valuable historical publication; otherwise, it may have been lost, possibly forever.”



College yearbook entry – Courtesy of Middlebury College

Now out of print and considered rare, a few copies of Ruth Wright's book are available for sale (\$50) at the Town Clerk's Office and at the Burnham Memorial Library. All proceeds from these sales benefit the Colchester Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Colchester's wonderful local history.

For more information about “Ice-Cap to Interstate” and its indexes, please visit the Colchester Historical Society's website at <https://colchestervt.gov/3262/Historical-Resources>.



Ruth Wright's “Ice-Cap to Interstate” –Courtesy of Colchester Historical Society

The Colchester Historical Society plans to nominate Dr. Wright for inclusion in the Vermont Women's History Database administered by the Vermont Historical Society.

See <https://vermonthistory.org/catalog?folder=6784f360-a68c-11ea-b050-bde0c67e4687>.

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 visit

<https://www.colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society>. Everyone is welcome at programs and events. Membership fees, sales, and donations help support the organization's mission to preserve and share Colchester's wonderful local history.

Colchester Blooms! Donations

For over a decade, a committee of Colchester volunteers known as Colchester Blooms! has sought donations for the planting and maintenance of public flowerbeds at several Colchester locations: two traffic islands at the junction of Malletts Bay Ave and Blakely Road and the entrance to the Bayside Park. This has been possible thanks to generous donations from local businesses and residents. Any amount helps us add to the beauty of Colchester.

Can we count on your support so Colchester will bloom this summer?

Checks should be made payable to the "Town of Colchester" and sent to Colchester Blooms! c/o Liz Hamlin-Volz, 123 Holy Cross Road, Colchester, Vermont 05446. **Please include "Conservation Reserve Fund" on the memo line of your check, so the money is allocated properly.** All deductions are tax-deductible, and a receipt will be provided.



Questions? Contact Theresa Carroll at tcarroll110@gmail.com or visit <https://colchestervt.gov/3293/Colchester-Blooms> Thanks for your support in advance!

Department Updates

Parks & Recreation:

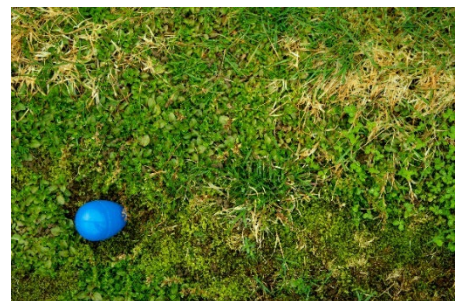
EASTER EGG HUNT

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

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>

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, April 18, 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>

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