

**For the Week of May 6, 2024**

## Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**National Municipal Clerks Week:** In 1984 and in 1994, Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, respectively, signed a Proclamation officially declaring Professional Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May and recognizing the essential role Municipal Clerks play in local government. This week is a time to appreciate municipal clerks and their work as the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, and the agencies of government at other levels. Staff in the Colchester's Town Clerk's Office keep the official records of the Town from land ownership records to birth, death and civil marriage certificates, conduct local elections, process passports and issue licenses and permits, act as notaries and treasurers, and much more. We thank our Town Clerk staff for all they do for our Town and community, and we encourage you to stop by the Town Offices to share your appreciation with them as well!



**Selection of New Director of Public Works:** After a nationwide search and three rounds of interviews and demonstration of practical skills, the Town would like to welcome Norm Baldwin as the Director of Public Works following the [retirement of Bryan Osborne after 34 years of service](#). Norm holds a Bachelor's Degree and State licensure in Civil Engineering. He has worked in Vermont in public works for 33 years in roles ranging from field engineer repairing equipment himself, to City Engineer and assistant department head, leading operations, permitting, and engineering

staff. Norm has successfully managed community-wide projects and has extensive experience in and commitment to the responsible maintenance of municipal infrastructure, which is what our public works team in Colchester does so well.

Norm noted, *"I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the Colchester Town staff. I look forward to dedicating myself to the service of the Colchester community. Thank you to everyone that has offered words of encouragement and support. Most importantly I would like to acknowledge and share my appreciation for the dedicated service of my predecessor, Bryan Osborne."* Norm will begin work on June 3, with a monthlong overlap with Bryan and will formally step into the Director role on July 1.

## **How Our Historical Gardens Nurture Us**

Presented by Michelle Penca

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.

At the Parsonage, 828 Main Street, Colchester

(Want a tour of the Parsonage? Come at 6 p.m.)

You're invited to spend a relaxing evening with the Colchester Historical Society and learn about the myriad of ways that gardens contribute to our physical, mental, and social well-being. No prior knowledge of gardening is needed, nor do you need to be a gardener.

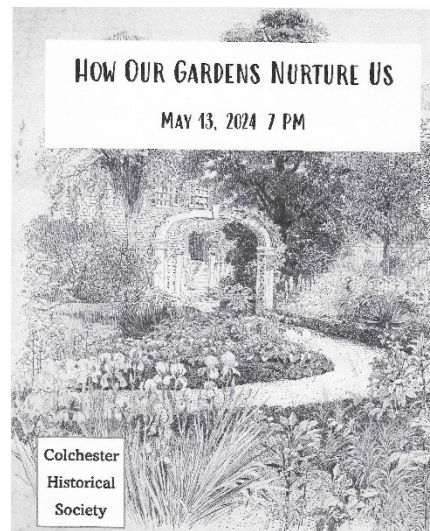
Using the grounds of the Parsonage as a starting point, we will look at heirloom plants that would likely have been in the garden and what those heirloom plants contribute to us. We will also learn about some favorite plants of our founding citizens and why saving heirloom varieties is important for us and the creatures that also enjoy our gardens.

Our presenter, Michelle Penca, was taught by her immigrant grandparents to love gardening and by her mother to respect the importance of gardening. She has tended gardens from zones 4 to 11 and has learned that Mother Nature can be both stern and benevolent.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Parking and admission are free. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the program. For a tour of the Parsonage, please arrive at 6 p.m.

### **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.



*Courtesy of Michelle Penca*



**Colchester-Milton Rotary Annual Fill the Truck for the Food Shelf:** For the month of May, please considering bringing and donating nonperishables goods when you stop by the Colchester Town Offices, Burnham Memorial Library, or Police

station to contribute to this annual effort. There will be collections barrels at all locations. To learn more, please visit: <https://cmrotary.org/Stories/fill-the-truck-2024> Thank you in advance for your support!

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## Department Updates

**Parks & Recreation Causeway Race:** On **Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**, run either a 5K, 10K or 15K and enjoy the scenic Colchester Causeway. The race will begin at Airport Park and follow a gravel trail out onto the historic Causeway where runners will make their way to designated turn-around points on the Causeway before returning to the finish at Airport Park. This race traverses flat gravel and dirt trails surrounded by diverse wetlands and scenic views of Lake Champlain. Proceeds will go towards the maintenance and improvements to the Causeway for future generations.



This race is open to all ages, however, runners in the 10K and 15K legs must be at least 12 years of age or older. Due to safety concerns, bicycles, roller blades, baby joggers, and running with a dog will not be allowed in the race, or on the path during the race.

- Race Check-in and Bib Pick-Up: 7:00 - 7:45 a.m.
- Race Start Time: 8:00 a.m.
- Location: [Airport Park](#) (500 Colchester Point Road)
- Race Fee: \$35.00 + processing fee
- Limit 200 5K runners and 250 10K/15K Runners
- Register here:  
<https://runsignup.com/Race/VT/Colchester/ColchesterCauseway5K10K15KRunningRace>



**Colchester Fire Department Open House:** The Colchester Fire Department invites you to join them on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at their 483 Main Street and/or 844 Church Road** stations for their annual open house! Come and learn about the department and opportunities in the fire service!

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## Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, May 14, 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)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, May 7, 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>



*It's Your Bay*

The Colchester Planning Commission wants to hear from you as it considers potential updates to height regulations along West Lakeshore Drive.

Attend in person on

**May 7th**  
**7:00 pm**

at the Planning Commission Meeting

Can't make the meeting? Submit your thoughts anytime to  
Cath Yann LaRose, Director of Planning and Zoning.  
[clarose@colchestervt.gov](mailto:clarose@colchestervt.gov) or 264-5606

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, May 8, 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, May 8, 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>

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, May 16, 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](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)