

For the Week of May 13, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

National Police Week: There are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the 22 dedicated members of the Colchester Police Department. This week, communities across the United States will honor and remember those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the family members, friends and fellow officers they left behind.



This year, the names of 282 officers killed in the line of duty are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, including 1 Vermont officer, Officer Jessica Ebbighausen of the Rutland Police Department. These 282 officers include 118 officers who were killed during 2023, plus 164 officers who died in previous years, but whose stories of sacrifice had been lost to history until now. The Colchester Police Department honors these fallen brothers and sisters by wearing mourning covers on their badges and by continuing to provide dedicated service.

The Town publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation. Thank you all for everything you do!

Social Media & Town Requests: You are welcome to post on social media, but if you wish for the Town staff or Selectboard to act on or consider something, please contact us directly by phone or email. We may need to obtain more specific information or dialogue with you about the issue to understand and resolve it through more direct communication.



For issues of local concern that you believe should be addressed by your Town government, please contact the Town Staff directly. The staff directory of phone and email contact information for various Town departments is provided here: <https://tinyurl.com/Col-Town-Dir>

If you are uncertain who to contact, or what level of government may have responsibility and jurisdiction for an issue (town, regional, state or federal), or are not satisfied with the response from a Town Department, feel free to contact the Town Manager's office at 802-264-5509 or TownManager@colchestervt.gov. The Town Manager generally oversees the Town

departments in their implementation of the Town budgets and capital projects proposed by the Selectboard and approved by the voters.

Your Town Selectboard serves as the legislative and judicial branch of municipal government, and oversees the Town Manager. If you have something to be shared with them at a Selectboard meeting, you are welcome to send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the upcoming Selectboard meeting and included in the following information packet. Individual Selectboard member contact information is available here: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/401/Selectboard>.

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!



How Our Historical Gardens Nurture Us

Presented by Michelle Penca

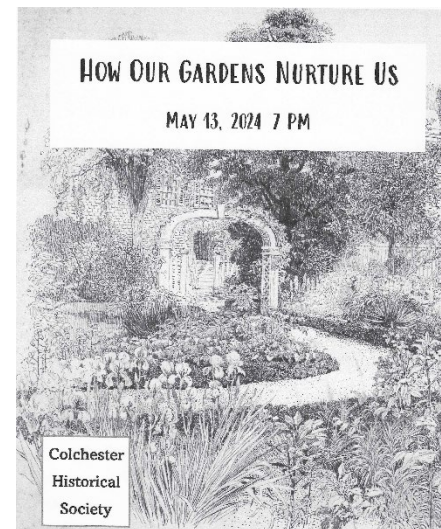
Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.

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.



Courtesy of Michelle Penca

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.

Department Updates

Colchester Rescue Squad Open House: Colchester Rescue will be holding an open house **on Wednesday, May 22nd from 6-8 p.m.** Both Rescue and Technical Rescue, along with Colchester Police and Colchester Fire Department, will have personnel and apparatus available to explore!

Thanks to donations from Dick Mazza's General Store, McKenzie Meats, Coca-Cola of New England, and the Lions Club for providing a grill and a cook, there will be hot dogs and Coke products, free of charge to those in attendance.



Parks & Recreation Causeway Race: On **Saturday, June 1st**, 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>
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Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 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, June 4, 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, June 12, 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, June 12, 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, 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>

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