

**For the Week of June 24, 2024**

## **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Come visit the historical Log Schoolhouse! It's open all summer, through Labor Day.**

**Fridays - Mondays**

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

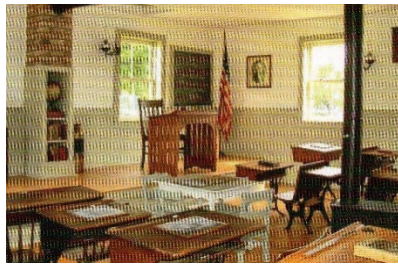
**Airport Park**

**500 Colchester Point Road**

**Free parking and admission.**

The Colchester Log Schoolhouse (circa 1815) is a lovely museum and information center for visitors of all ages.

Enjoy a step back in time to the early days of education in the time before cellphones and computers. A new entrance ramp has been added for improved accessibility. Volunteer hosts are needed, and hours are very flexible. This is a great opportunity to enjoy and share part of Colchester's wonderful local history. Because it's located at Airport Park near the recreation path, you'll meet people from around the United States and the world. For more information and to volunteer, please reach out to Carol Reichard of the Colchester Historical Society at [winchris65@comcast.net](mailto:winchris65@comcast.net).



**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.

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## **Department Updates**



**Malletts Bay Sewer Project Underway:** Construction of the Malletts Bay Sewer Project has begun with work on both Blakely Road and West Lakeshore Drive. As expected, traffic management is difficult along this busy corridor with no alternative route, a major construction project occurring on the corridor, and the need to move emergency response vehicles through that corridor, some of which are often coming from neighboring communities through mutual aid. This of course can happen at any time of day, including

the evening rush hour as it did early last week. Working with our emergency service agency chiefs, we had previously developed a protocol for this situation. However, each day provides us with valuable information on how this can be improved, resulting in ongoing adjustments to these plans.

To manage traffic through the construction areas, a number of steps have been taken which include:

- Designed the sewer system in a manner to minimize disruptions to the normal flow of traffic, while at the same time, conforming to regulatory requirements such as maintaining separation distances between the new sewer system and existing public water lines.
- Developed a detailed public communication plan, including the use of regional notification systems to advise motorists from other communities of the expected construction and delays. (Much of the traffic through Malletts Bay is commuter traffic.)
- Developed a detailed traffic control plan using a professionally licensed traffic engineer.
- Developed a traffic management plan to significantly limit the amount of time the contractor can work within the open travel lane resulting in the least amount of delay, while still allowing the contractor to complete the work.
- Installed message boards along all major roadways leading to Malletts Bay advising motorists of the expected delays, and providing commuter traffic with the opportunity to choose alternative routes.
- Monitoring the intersections of Prim/West Lakeshore and Blakely/West Lakeshore to initiate corrective measures, as needed, to prevent traffic from backing up into the intersections, up to and including halting work until traffic can be cleared.
- Requiring the contractor to perform night work for the portions of work that are the most disruptive to traffic flows. (excavations across both lanes of traffic to install private service laterals)
- Installing signage to remind drivers to not block side streets or commercial and residential driveways. This improves access and reduces delays caused by vehicles trying to turn left into these entrances.
- Installing pavement markings at key entrances establishing no stopping areas to avoid blocking driveways.
- Installing signs indicating that local businesses are open and ready to serve their customers.

However, there are some things we cannot control including:

- The available space on West Lakeshore Drive to perform the work.
- The number of regional commuters that decide to travel through Malletts Bay, when reasonable alternative routes are available to them.

Working with our contractors, engineers, and our emergency service agency chiefs, we are continually finding ways to improve traffic flow as well as productivity, and will continue these efforts going forward to complete this important project as quickly and safely as we can, while minimizing any inconvenience to the traveling public, as well as the residents who live within the construction area.

We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as we complete this important work. Our contractors have also asked us to thank the community for the many motorists who have offered thanks for their work, including providing them with cold water and popsicles as they have driven through the work area.

Should you have a concern or question that you feel requires attention, please contact the project team at [MBS@colchestervt.gov](mailto:MBS@colchestervt.gov) or 802-264-5620.

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**Annual Book Sale:** The Friends of Burnham Memorial Library will be hosting the Annual Book Sale this month at Colchester High School. If you are interested in donating books, please drop them off at the school on the dates listed below:

**Drop Off Dates**

- Monday, June 24, 3 to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Then plan to attend the sale on the following dates:

**Book Sale Dates**

- Friday June 28, 4 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday June 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, June 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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**4th of July Celebration: Thursday, July 4, 2024**

**5K Fun Run:**

- \$5.00 per participant
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.: Fun Run Registration at Union Memorial School
- 8:15 a.m.: 5K Race Begins - Middle Road

**Parade:**

- The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. at Colchester High School



- **Parade Route:** The parade will process from Colchester High School, down Blakely Road, and end at Lavigne Road. Road closure is expected to be approximately one hour

**Bayside Beach:** Lifeguards will not be on duty for the 4th of July.

**Bayside Park:**

- 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.: Inflatables
- 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.: Food Vendors
- 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.: Music Entertainment: **THE HITMEN**
  - The Hitmen are: Jim Cheney (Bass and Vocals), Bob Young (Guitar and Vocals), Brian Donnelly (Drums and Vocals), and Bob Boedecker (Keys and Vocals).
  - Musical Style: 1970s- and 1980s-party rock & roll, featuring hot guitar, organ, and impressive vocal harmonies! The Hitmen play anything from John Mellencamp to Santana, The Atlanta Rhythm Section to Steely Dan - don't miss this fantastic group!

**Fireworks:**

- Fireworks will take place at dusk from the Bayside Softball Field. Please stay behind the safety fence
- Parking available at: Colchester High School, Colchester Middle School, and Malletts Bay School

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## Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, June 25, 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, August 6, 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>

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, August 14, 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, July 10, 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



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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, July 11, 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)