

For the Week of August 12, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Appreciation to Employees for efforts related to Friday Night's Storm!!

Thank to our staff for all the work that was completed due to Friday night's storm. Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire staff worked with Green Mountain Power to restore power and maintain safety for our residents. There were over 1,400 addresses in Colchester without power which represents 16% of our community.

Specifically, we want to thank the following groups and individuals responding to incidents related to the storm.

Public Works - Scott Smith, Buzzy Julien, Tyler Tandy, Jamie Hardy, Seth Holden, Shawn LaFountain, and Corrado Cannizzaro.

Police - Communications Specialists (Public Safety Dispatchers) Megan Severance and Cody Fitzgerald, Cpl. Jaime Bressler, Officer Tarisa Starks, and Sgt. David Dewey.

Fire - The Fire Department responded to 12 incidents related to Friday's storm. Additionally, the department cleared downed trees and limbs they encountered to help open the roads back up to traffic.

Parks & Recreation -AJ Bushell cleared limbs and trees from our parks, recreation paths and the Causeway.

Mark your Calendars!

The Town of Colchester will be hosting our third Annual fall market at Severance Corners. This event highlights our local businesses, artisans, music, and food trucks. Activities for kids are also part of this event.

WHEN: Saturday, September 14, 2024
(Rain Date: Sept. 15)
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Severance Green



“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter.”

Exit 17 Construction Update – Posting for VTrans

TRAFFIC IMPACT AND DURATION: From Monday, August 12, through Friday, August 16, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., there will be alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers on U.S. Route 7 (U.S. 7) between the Shell Gas Station and Wiley Road. Delays along U.S. 7 are expected, please allow additional travel time through the area.

Interstate 89 (I-89) will be reduced to a single lane in both directions near Exit 17. The single-lane closures will occur during off-peak hours: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on I-89 northbound and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on I-89 southbound.

This work is related to improvements of the Exit 17 intersection which extend to the Route 7 intersection with Route 2 west of I-89.



As requested by the State, the Town is sharing the VT Department of Health’s test results and information on mosquitos and the West Nile Virus:

Each week from July to mid-October, mosquitoes are collected from locations around the state and tested for mosquito-borne viruses. Although no human or animal cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in 2024, four of 50 pools of mosquitoes collected on July 30th in Colchester tested positive for the virus. (A mosquito pool is a group of 1-50 mosquitoes of the same species, collected at the same trap location, on the same date.)

When the virus is spread to humans through mosquito bites, most people don’t get sick, but some get symptoms like fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. The sickness can become quite serious in some people, and those age 50 or older are at the highest risk.

The Vermont Department of Health shares precautions to prevent mosquito bites and to protect yourself:

- Wear long sleeves and long pants when you’re outside.
- Limit the amount of time you spend outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellent.
- Cover cribs, strollers, and baby carriers with mosquito netting.
- Fix holes in your screens and make sure they are tightly attached to doors and windows.

- Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes like to breed.

Learn about what works when it comes to mosquito bite prevention:

www.healthvermont.gov/mosquito

Driver's Ed now offered by Colchester Parks & Recreation

The Colchester Recreation Department will be offering Driver's Ed programs by the 802 Driving school. The Driver's Ed program will be taught by Joe Barch, who has over 15 years of experience teaching in the public schools.

The class runs for six-weeks and meets the State of Vermont DMV requirements. It is essential that the student and their family commit to the time frame. Classes will occur on weekdays in the evening, with driving occurring on weekends. Where daylight permits, there may be an option for driving after school. There is no ability to accommodate for camps, vacations, sports programs, or any other interruptions, except illness and emergencies. There will be a survey sent out to identify times for driving. When registering, you will receive policies and procedures pertaining to the class that must be adhered to at all times.

Fall Session A

August 20 - September 26 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Time: 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

**Driving Schedule is organized directly with the instructor

Fall Session B

October 7 - November 13 (M-TH 3 days per weekdays varies)

Time: 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

**Driving Schedule is organized directly with the instructor

Log onto colchestervt.gov/recreation for more information and to register today! Space is limited.

Primary Election

VT State Primary Election is today. Voting will be held at the Colchester High School from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information and to see sample ballots, go to <https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>

Colchester Historical Society Information

Historical Society Summer Newsletter Now Available

Learn what's been going on at the Colchester Historical Society, what's coming up, and be sure to check out our summer reading recommendations. There are lots of photographs in the 2024 Summer Newsletter. Here's the link: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9445/Summer-2024-Colchester-VT-Historical-Society-Newsletter?bidId=>.

Do You Have Guests Visiting This Summer?

Show your summer guests around town for an interesting and educational -- and free -- driving tour of Colchester's wonderful history. There are no lines, no waiting, and you can pick and choose from the list of areas and places you prefer to visit. Of particular interest this summer may be the Vermont Military Museum and Library (outdoor and indoor exhibits), and the Colchester Log Schoolhouse (a lovely step back in time). Get the details about the Colchester Self-Guided Historical Driving Tour at <https://www.colchestervt.gov/3257/Driving-Tours>. Have fun!

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 the programs and events. Membership fees, sales, and donations help support the organization's mission to preserve and share Colchester's wonderful local history.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, August 27, 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, September 3, 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: August MEETING IS CANCELLED

Development Review Board: August 14, 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, September 12, 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