

**Second Edition
For the Week of January 27th, 2025**

Town of Colchester Selectboard Announces Colchester Recreation Center Opening

The Colchester Selectboard is pleased to announce the grand opening of the Colchester Recreation Center will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2025. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:00 p.m. followed by a community open house continuing until 4:00 PM. The Colchester Recreation Center is located at 80 Dick Mazza Drive (off Blakely Road opposite Laker Lane).

The Colchester Recreation Center is about 29,000 square feet with a full-size, multi-purpose gymnasium, elevated walking/running track, locker rooms, kitchen, classrooms, studio space and a cardio/weight room. Information about fitness memberships, classes and other activities at the Colchester Recreation Center are available at <https://colchestervt.gov/333/Parks-Recreation>.

Regular operations will begin Monday, February 17, 2025. Hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday: 5:30 AM – 9:00 PM; Friday: 5:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday: 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and, Sunday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Advance tours, day passes, memberships, class registrations, and information will be available at the facility beginning on Monday February 3, 2025 from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Friday.

Colchester voters approved funding in the amount of \$15,907,000 from the Local Option Taxes (LOT) in March 2023. No property taxes were used to fund the project. Construction started in October 2023, and the opening is planned well ahead of the advertised completion of spring (June 20, 2025). The final cost is expected to be \$15,744,030 or about \$162,000 under the authorized amount.

The Colchester Recreation Center is the culmination of over 24 years of work and community input with roughly 100 public meetings. It all began in 2001, with a community survey which identified the need for a recreation center. A Recreation Center Committee was formed in 2002. In 2004, Colchester voters approved the purchase of the 14-acre parcel known as the Bayside/Hazelett property. The Colchester Planning Commission conducted outreach and a survey which identified a multi-generational recreation center as the best use for the Bayside/Hazelett property. In 2016, conceptual planning took place with focus groups and a survey, which again identified the need for a Recreation Center. In 2017, planning continued with public input, and identified the desired amenities for a recreation center. In 2020, the Bayside/Hazelett parcel was determined as the best location for the

Colchester Recreation Center, and the Selectboard authorized funding for its design. In 2022, the Colchester Recreation Advisory Committee recommended the proposed project to the Colchester Selectboard, which in turn, approved the project for a public vote.

We are extremely proud and excited to open this facility for current and future generations.

Pam Loranger, Chair; Tom Mulcahy, Vice Chair; Jacki Murphy Clerk; Maureen P. Dakin and Charlie Papillo, Members

Town Meeting Day Information: The Annual Town Meeting will meet in-person and will be held Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester High School Auditorium. The ballot items, to be voted on by Australian Ballot, can be found at the following link, but will also be presented at the Annual Town Meeting:
<https://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>.



Voting by Australian Ballot will take place Tuesday, March 4, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Colchester High School, but early/absentee voting is also an option. In-person and early/absentee voting information can be accessed here: <https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>

Colchester Historical Society: Calling all Colchester students, teachers, parents, and mentors!

Registration is now open for Vermont History Day. The 2025 theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Every spring, hundreds of Vermont students share their learning at the annual Vermont History Day contest. This year's contest will take place on April 5, right here in Colchester at St. Michael's College. Thanks to a generous donor, registration fees for the 2025 contest have been subsidized and are only \$3 a student.



"We would really love to see several Colchester students participate this year," said Bonnie Potter, President of the Colchester Historical Society. "It's a wonderful opportunity to learn while participating in a fun project. And, there are some amazing prizes."

Registration is available at <https://vt.nhd.org/App?f=72f57826-8fec-49b7-8f55-630f7177ae9b>.

Find additional contest information, important dates, and resources at <https://vermonthistoryexplorer.org/vermonthistoryday>.

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