

**For the Week of June 16, 2025**

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**Manager's Message**

**Aaron Frank, Town Manager**

**Introducing our Summer Community Service Officers**

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the Police Department's summer Community Service Officers (CSOs) are beginning to patrol the Town's bike paths and recreation areas. This week, we would like to formally introduce this year's CSOs.



Thank you to (from left to right) Chris Folsom, Leah Underwood, and Christopher Dukeshire for your commitment to our community!

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**Rabid Skunk Reported in Colchester**

The Health Department noted a recent case of rabies in a skunk in the Town of Colchester. The State shared that the skunk was found in the area of **Church Road and Diane Lane**.

Please take steps to protect humans and domestic animals from rabies.

If you are bitten by an animal: wash the wound very well with soap and water and contact your health care provider. Follow all their instructions.

If your pet or farm animal was exposed to a wild or stray animal that might have rabies: contact your veterinarian. State law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated for rabies — even barn cats.

If you see a wild or stray animal acting strangely, or are concerned about a rabies exposure, call the **Rabies Hotline (1-800-4-RABIES)** or report it to your town's animal control officer.

Do not touch or pick up wild or stray animals — even baby animals — or try to make them into pets. Doing so can put yourself or your family at risk of exposure through a bite or scratch. You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. Interacting with young wildlife may result in them being orphaned or tested for rabies, which requires humanely euthanizing the animal. So, for their own sake, leave wildlife in the wild.

Learn more about rabies in Vermont — visit [www.healthvermont.gov/rabies](http://www.healthvermont.gov/rabies).

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals and is fatal to both humans and animals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and woodchucks. Cats, dogs and livestock can also get rabies if they have not been vaccinated. Rabies virus is spread through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into a bite wound, open cuts on the skin, or onto mucous membranes like the mouth or eyes.

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### **Colchester Historical Society Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

The Colchester Historical Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a barbecue and special presentations. The group was bestowed an Award of Merit from the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums. The judges were impressed by everything the Society has done to date, especially how it works to promote and be involved in the Colchester community, regional, and statewide history initiatives. “Some of their accomplishments include the continued management of its museum, welcoming visitors to the Colchester Log Schoolhouse, working to involve Colchester students in local history learning opportunities, undertaking a very robust year-long schedule of programming, and even working on updating their governing documents,” Eileen Corcoran said. “Especially notable is their continuous communication efforts about Colchester's wonderful history, which is widely distributed by means of website updates, a quarterly newsletter, weekly postings on local Facebook pages and frequent articles of interest in Front Porch Forum, the Town Manager's Newsletter, and through articles in the Colchester Sun,” she added.

A new slate of officers was voted in as the Board of Directors: Bonnie Potter, president; Jack Penca, vice president; Bob Furst, treasurer; Pat Carman, Secretary; and directors Clinton Reichard, Curt Taylor, and Fran Bailey.

The special highlight of the celebration was Clinton and Carol Reichard's presentation about the many, many achievements the organization has accomplished over its 50 years. Clinton and Carol are original members of the Colchester Historical Society. For more information lease

visit <https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society>. (Photographs courtesy of James "Jim" Jones)



*(Left to right): Eileen Corcoran, Director of Service & Outreach at the Vermont Historical Society presented an Award of Merit from the League of Local Historical Societies & Museums to the Colchester Historical Society in honor of the organization's 50th*

*Anniversary.*

*Original members Clinton and Carol Reichard hold the Award signed by Steve Perkins, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society. Also pictured is Bonnie Potter, President, Colchester Historical Society.*

## Department Updates



### Sneak Peek into July Programs at Parks and Rec!

**Coffee, Tea & Treats (55+)** (Wednesday, July 2 at 11:00 AM) Please join us for some Coffee or Tea and some great conversation with your fellow community members. Last month we had great gathering and discussed programming in the Recreation Center and ways to stay connected. Bring yourself, a friend or a neighbor, the more the merrier!

**Starfish Button Art (55+)** (Monday, July 7 at 2:00 PM) Add a touch of summer to your home with starfish button art. With a canvas, paint,

buttons and some glue, participants will be able to create a beautiful starfish picture. Each participant will have their very own unique piece of art to take home and display!

**Start Smart Basketball (3-5)** (Monday and Wednesdays, July 7 – July 23 at 4:00 PM) Start Smart Basketball is an introductory basketball program for children 3-5 years old. This program introduces children to basketball in a fun non-competitive environment that is interactive and engaging. Participants will learn through fun activities and games that encourage listening and cooperation as well as practicing basketball related skills.

**Matinee Movie (55+)** (Tuesday, July 8 at 11:00 AM) Escape the heat and come hang out with us in the AC! Join us for a matinee movie that will be happening on the second Tuesday of each month. Enjoy popular flicks from the past to the present each month. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.



**Thursday Morning Walking Group (55+)** (Thursdays, July 10 at 9:30 AM) Grab your friends and come enjoy a summer morning walk along the bike path. This is a great way to spend some time with friends exercising and catching up on life or meeting new individuals, making connections with others in the community! This group will meet every Thursday at Bayside Park.

**Game Club (55+)** (Fridays, July 11-25 at 1:00 PM) Grab your friends and come spend the morning playing various board or card games together! Each week will feature a different game. July 11, Sequence -- July 18, Yahtzee -- July 25, Rummikub.

**Baking Club (55+)** (Saturdays, July 12 and 26 at 1:00 PM) Every other week we will get together to put our baking skills to the test! At each meeting, the group will be provided with a recipe and the ingredients needed for the recipe of the day. The group can work together to bake the delicious treats and even enjoy them at the end of the meeting! On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the club will be making Double Chocolate Crinkle Cookies and on July 26<sup>th</sup> the club will be making Lemon Blueberry Bread.

**Pickleball Clinic Session A (18+)** (Saturday, July 12 at 9:00 AM) Come and join us to tune up your pickleball skills. This program is guided for players that have some pickleball skills.

**Learn to Play Pickleball (18+)** (Sunday, July 13 and July 20 at 10:30 AM) This beginners' class is designed to introduce you to the basics of pickleball, including rules, techniques, and strategies to get you started on the right foot. This beginners' class is designed to give you a strong foundation in the game, build your skills, and help you have fun on the court.

**Mosaic Coasters (55+)** (Tuesday, July 15 at 1:00 PM) Come spend your morning with friends making your very own mosaic coasters! Each participant will receive supplies to make four unique mosaic coasters and will be able to take them home.

For more information, visit: <https://colchestervt.gov/333/Parks-Recreation>

## Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 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.

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, July 1, 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, July 9, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Recreation Center, 80 Dick Mazza Drive. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, July 9, 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&path=DRB%2CDRB\\_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C](https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C)

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, July 10, 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>

**Colchester Conservation Commission:** Next meeting date to be determined.  
[https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#\\_CPA1](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#_CPA1)

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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)