

**For the Week of June 30, 2025**

---

**Manager's Message**

**Aaron Frank, Town Manager**

**Town Hall & Library Closure – Friday, July 4**

Colchester Town Hall, the Burnham Memorial Library, and the Colchester Recreation Center will be closed Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.



---

**Municipal Services Tax Rate**

At their last meeting, the Selectboard voted to approve the municipal services tax rate for FY26 at \$0.6745 per hundred dollars of assessed property value. This rate results in a 5.57% increase over last year's rate, or a \$107 increase in municipal services taxes for a property with an assessed value of \$300,000.

This municipal services tax rate is higher than what was estimated during the FY26 budget process due to recent changes at the state level.

The State of Vermont, through legislation, took over valuation of utilities for the purpose of both municipal services taxes and state education taxes. This legislation required the State Tax Department to come up with a new methodology for such assessment and also made utility assessment not appealable by the Town. After the first year of this new system, utility value in Colchester decreased by \$4,925,800 which caused a higher tax rate than the Town estimated by eliminating 34% of the growth in the value of property in Colchester in the last year.

Based on the 2024-2025 Municipal Services Tax Rates from Town Lister/Assessor data, Colchester has maintained the second-lowest municipal services property taxes per resident in inner Chittenden County at \$829. Colchester's municipal services taxes are approximately 15% below average when compared to other inner Chittenden County communities.

Williston	\$ 758
<b>Colchester ( 2nd lowest )</b>	<b>\$ 829</b>
Essex (Town)	\$ 1,034
Winooski	\$ 1,039
Essex (City)	\$ 1,056
South Burlington	\$ 1,093
Burlington	\$ 1,096
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 986</b>

*Inner Chittenden County Municipal Service Taxes per Resident*

## New Blue Star Marker at American Legion Post 91

A dedication ceremony hosted by the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont was held at American Legion Post 91 to reveal a new Blue Star Memorial Marker.

This marker, the seventh in Vermont, is a tribute to members of the armed services in Colchester and around the country.

Town Manager Aaron Frank spoke at the dedication ceremony and commended the groups who made the construction of this marker possible and thanked members of the armed services in Colchester and nationwide.



*Doris Van Mullen of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont and Aaron Frank, Town Manager*

---

## Summer Concert Series Begins July 10!

The Summer Concert series, hosted by the Department of Parks & Recreation, will begin on July 10!

Concerts will be every Thursday, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and will take place at Bayside Beach. Parking is available at Bayside Park.

This year's lineup includes:

**July 10:** A House on Fire

**July 17:** INCAHOOTS

**July 24:** She was Right

**July 31:** Soulshine Revival

**August 7:** Bailey's Mistake

We look forward to seeing you there!



---

## Summer News from the Colchester Historical Society

The Colchester Historical Society's 2025 Summer Newsletter is now available. Check out what's been going on and what's coming up. And, there are lots of great photos. Here's the link:

<https://www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11363/Summer-2025-Colchester-VT-Historical-Society-Newsletter?bidId=>.

The mission of the Colchester Historical Society is to preserve and share our town's wonderful local history. And, interestingly, Colchester has a lot of it. New members and volunteers are always welcome. To learn more, please visit the website

at <https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society>, and

Facebook page

at <https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterVermontHistoricalSociety>.

## Department Updates

### Department of Parks and Recreation – Fourth of July Events!

On Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Town will be hosting a series of events to celebrate Independence Day!

Below is the schedule and everything you need to know:



#### 5K Fun Run

- \$5.00 per participant
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.: Registration at Union Memorial School (253 Main Street)
- 8:15 a.m.: Race begins at Middle Road

#### Parade

- The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. at Colchester High School (131 Laker Lane)
- Parade Route: The parade will process from Colchester High School, down Blakely Road, and end at Lavigne Road. Road closure is expected to last approximately one hour.

#### Bayside Beach

- Please note lifeguards will not be on duty for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### Bayside Park

- 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.: Inflatables
- 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.: Food vendors
  - El Gato: Mexican Food
  - Lions Club: Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hotdogs, Chili dogs, Chili, Chips, and beverages
  - Maharaja Spice: Chicken Biryani (GF), Vegan Biryani (Vegan/GF), Chicken Popcorn, Veg Samosa (Vegan), Mango Lassi (GF)
  - Waffley Good: Ice Cream
- 6:45 p.m. – 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 (452 Blakely Road), and the Malletts Bay School (609 Blakely Road)

---

## Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, July 8, 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, August 13, 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 17, 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:** Monday, July 21, 5:30 p.m., Holy Cross Road Rain Garden [https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#\\_CPA1](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#_CPA1)

**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](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)