

For the Week of July 2, 2018

**Manager’s Message of the Week**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

2018-19 Municipal Tax Rate Set

The Colchester Selectboard set the 2018-19 Town (municipal) tax rate at \$0.5352 per hundred dollars of property value, a 1.5% increase over last year’s tax rate. On a \$300,000 home, the municipal tax bill will be \$1,606, or \$24.33 more than last year. In 2012 the municipal tax bill on the same home was \$1,611.

Factors contributing to our tax rate:

- Growth and investment in Colchester resulted an increase in property value of 185,205,900 (9.5%) from 2012 to 2019
- The establishment of a stormwater utility reduced the need for property tax revenue by \$387,180.
- The local option tax funded \$594,463 of our voter-approved debt that was previously paid for by property taxes
- The Selectboard and Town staff are diligent about containing costs and finding more efficient ways to manage the Town to give you more “bang for your buck.”

Check out the comparison chart below. Colchester has the second lowest property among the listed neighboring Chittenden communities, based on 2017-18 tax rate information and the 2014 census:

Williston	\$ 607
Colchester	\$ 644
Essex Town	\$ 654
Winooski	\$ 815
So. Burlington	\$ 842
Burlington	\$ 859
Essex Jct.	\$ 929
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$766</b>

Wonder how your tax dollars are spent? The graph below is based on the \$1,606 tax bill of a \$300,000 home mentioned above.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

### Breakdown of Expenditures for Your Town Services



“Other” includes fund transfers, Administration, Economic Development, Finance, Assessor, IT, Health Service, Cemeteries, Selectboard, and intergovernmental.

### Colchester Causeway Re-Opens

The Town of Colchester is pleased to announce the re-opening of the Causeway on Friday, June 29, 2018 at 1:00 PM! We appreciate VTrans’ recognition of the Causeway Path as a statewide asset and thank the State of Vermont and VTrans for their financial and operational support that will allow the public to enjoy the popular bike/pedestrian path over the summer. These interim repairs were made without Town tax funding and completed in less than two months, vs. fifteen months in 2011, when the path sustained similar damage.

For more about the Town Manager visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

Burnham Memorial Library  
Kelly McCagg, Director

Summer is definitely here! Stop by the Library to cool off or check out some outrageous programs for children, teens, and adults.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

**Summer Reading:** This year's Summer Reading theme is LIBRARIES ROCK! Registration began the first day of summer vacation and we already have 175 kids participating! If you haven't registered yet, call or come in—it only takes a minute and you'll be on your way to winning cool prizes. The Summer Reading Program is for readers and pre-readers of all ages.

**Embodied Theater with Michelle:** Friday, July 6, 2 pm. Participants will learn the art of listening, to themselves and others, through theater games, sound games, and movement activities. This program is best suited for ages 7 & up. Sign up at our website.

**Kids/Teens KPop Party:** Monday, July 9, 4pm. Discover/explore the world of Korean Pop Stars. We'll have stations that include singing, dancing, and more, run by KPop enthusiasts that will help transform you into the perfect KPop character. Teens take over at 5pm. Registration required.

**Breakout Room:** Tuesday, July 10. This time our theme is Rhythm Rocks. Participants will listen to the rhythm to break out of our musically themed escape room. Children 5 and up can register for one of the following sessions: 10:30am, 12:00, or 2:00pm. Teens will begin at 4pm. This is a popular program that fills quickly so be sure to register online.

**Teen Craft:** Thursday, July 19, 4pm. Relax by making a CD Mandala. Calming to paint, shiny and sparkly when finished, these make the perfect locker or wall décor. Teens entering grades 6-12, register online.

**Annual Vintage Car Show** July 21, 10am. Adults, mark your calendars! Members of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiast Club will be on hand with their classic rides. Come back at 6:30pm for Marc Berger in concert at the Meeting House. Marc has performed with Bob Dylan and at Austin's SXSW Music Festival. His latest album, RIDE, is a collection of songs about the American West. Both programs are free and open to all ages.

**Community Music Circle with Rob Zollman:** Thursday, July 26, 11am. Everyone is encouraged to participate in a circle of music making. Songs are diverse in tonality, rhythm, and subject matter and originate from all over the world.

**Stuffies' Night Out:** Friday, July 27, 5pm. Let your stuffie have the night of its life! We'll have games, dress-up, movies, and fabulous teen babysitters. All stuffies will be well-cared for during their library adventure. Stuffie pick up will be Saturday morning, with report card and pictures included.

Find registration links to all programs at: <https://colchestervt.gov/609/Sign-Up-for-Summer>

For more about Burnham Library events visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

Parks and Recreation Department  
Glen Cuttitta, Director

Summer is a busy time for the Parks & Recreation Department! Here are some reminders and activities to look for:

- **Bayside Park Tennis Courts** (both upper and lower) are scheduled for resurfacing & repairs July 9 – 13. **The Courts will be closed during this time and the nets will be removed.**
- **The Summer Concert Series at Lower Bayside** (beachside) Thursdays, July 12 – August. 2! All shows begin at 7:00pm.
- **Movies in the Park** Friday nights, August 3 – September 14 at 7:30pm. Call 264-5645 for a full listing of features. Some concert & movie nights will feature concessions from local food trucks or pop-up vendors, so come hungry! Visit our website or Facebook page for details on which vendors are confirmed.
- July is a great time to visit **Bayside Beach** to swim, visit the Inflatable Water Park, or rent a kayak, stand up paddleboard, or pedal boat! Details can be found at <http://bit.ly/BaysidePaddleSports>. Frequent visitors should ask about our punch passes for discounts!
- **The 34th Annual Colchester Triathlon** will be on Sunday, July 29. Visit [www.colchestertri.com](http://www.colchestertri.com) for details. If you **don't want to race**, we would love the help of some volunteers! Contact Mike at [mlapan@colchestervt.gov](mailto:mlapan@colchestervt.gov) if you'd like to get involved. Expect increased traffic in the Blakely Rd./Lakeshore Dr. area on the morning of the race.
- **Muck It Up Adventure Race** Saturday, September 29 at Upper Bayside. This is an off-road triathlon with trail running, mountain biking, and paddling. Visit <http://bit.ly/MuckItUp> for details and to register.
- Parks & Rec has **discounted tickets to Great Escape and Six Flags New England!** Stop by our office during regular hours to purchase. Cash or check ONLY.

For more about Parks & Rec visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm. *July only changes:* July Planning Commission meetings will be held on **7/10 and 7/24 at the Meeting House on Main St.**

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

- **Development Review Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm. **Next meeting: 7/11**
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:00am, Champlain Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, **Next meeting: 7/11**
- **Conservation Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. **Next meeting: 7/16**
- **Selectboard:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. **July meetings: 7/10 and 7/24**

(All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor unless otherwise noted.)

Upcoming events:

- **Annual Fourth of July Parade and Celebration** Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00am. Parade will again be held on Blakely Road due to continued roadwork on Main Street. **Blakely Road will be closed from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM including Lakeshore Drive, Williams Road, and Malletts Bay Ave.**

**Parade will start from Colchester High School and end at Lavigne Road.** Parking will be available at the school lots (CHS, CMS, and MBS) and at the Colchester Town Offices lot. Visitors are asked not to park on the Blakely Road shoulders during the morning hours of the parade.

**Other 4th of July events include:**

- the 5K Fun Run at Union Memorial School
  - Lifeguards on duty at Bayside Beach (including SUP, kayak, pedal boat, and inflatable water park rentals)
  - Music and food concessions at Bayside Park
  - Fireworks show over the Bayside Softball Field at dusk.
- **34th Annual Colchester Triathlon:** Sunday, July 29, 8:30am at Bayside Park; Visit <https://www.colchestertri.com/> for details. Registration is now open for individuals and teams.

Notices:

- **The Colchester Town Offices will be closed** on Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.
- **Hot Weather Health Advisory!** The National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory for the Champlain Valley through Monday and high temperatures are forecast in the 90s through most of this week. If you experience muscle cramps, heavy sweating, nausea, headache or light-headedness treat with fluids and rest in a cooler place. If symptoms persist, get worse, or confusion or loss of consciousness occurs, dial 911. Learn more

about heat illness symptoms and first aid online at [www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html](http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html)

- **Route 7/2 & 2A Colchester Traffic:** *There will be no construction July 3 & 4 in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.* Expect delays and one-lane travel beginning at 8:30 AM and throughout the day just north of the Creek Farm Road intersection on Monday, 7/2, Thursday, 7/5 and Friday, 7/6. Motorists should allow extra time for commutes and errands. Morning commuters are advised to go through the construction area before 8:30 AM or seek an alternate route if possible. Evening commute will be slow. A second crew will install drain covers on Route 2A, but no interference with traffic is anticipated. Questions? Contact Jill Barrett at 802.272.1248

 Remember to follow us on Facebook (@TownColchesterVT) to get the latest **about what's happening in your community!**

 Share your photos of Colchester with us on Instagram (@colchestervt)

Notify Me: Subscribe to Town news that matters to you most. Visit [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov) and click on the Notify Me icon to sign up.