

For the Week of May 23, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

In observance of Memorial Day this coming weekend, the Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30th.



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order a 3rd round of free at-home COVID-19 tests. You can order yours through the USPS at this link: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.



Fill the Truck for the Food Shelf 2022

Please help The Colchester-Milton Rotary fight hunger in our communities by supporting the “Fill the Truck for the Food Shelf” initiative.

A study by the Vermont Foodbank and Feeding America shows that 1 in 4 people, or an estimated 153,000 people, in Vermont turn to food shelves and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families. This includes 33,900 children and 26,010 seniors.

The Colchester-Milton Rotary will be collecting non-perishable food and monetary donations for the entire month of May. 100% of all food & funds donated will go to the Colchester Community Food Shelf, the Milton Family Community Center, and the Champlain Islands Food Shelf. Donate online or a find collection site via this link: <https://bit.ly/FillTheTruck2022>

Thank you for your support!



Department Updates

In case you missed it, the Public Works Department mailed their Clean Water Newsletter: Spring 2022 earlier this month! Its contents are included below.

Welcome to another beautiful spring season—it's official, the warm weather is here to stay! While



everyone is starting to spend more time outside, the Public Works Department has been preparing for a busy season of clean water projects.

-  Adopt a Drain Program Launch
-  Spotlight on: Pipe Lining
-  Smith Creek Design Work

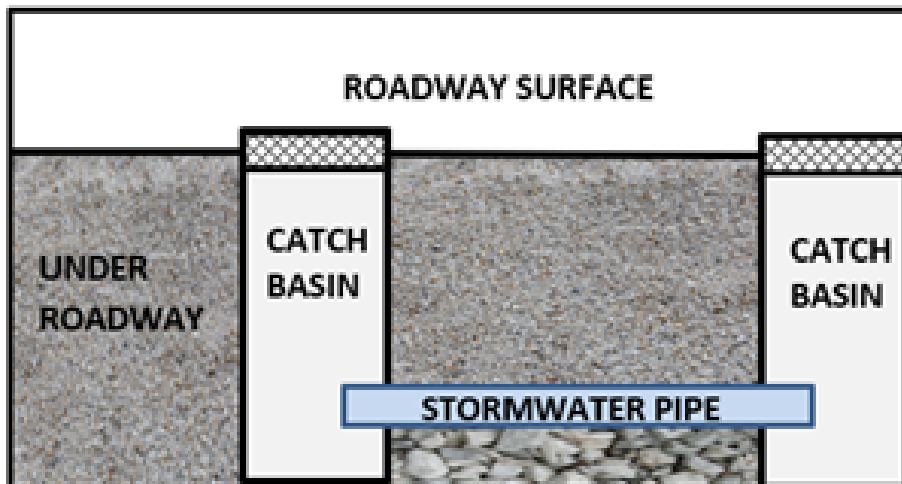
Did You Know?

Since 2012, the Town's stormwater program has received over \$1,150,000 in grants!

Spotlight on: Pipe Lining

Most folks don't think about stormwater pipes that are installed below ground-but we do! These pipes carry water between basins in the roadway (shown below), can be constructed of metal, con-crete or heavy-duty plastic, and most pipes last for 30+ years. When pipes are nearing the end of their useful life, the solution has traditionally been to dig up and replace them, which can have significant traffic impacts, require survey work and coordination to avoid utility lines, and can be labor intensive - which is expensive!

HOW A CATCH BASIN WORKS (SIDE VIEW)



The department has been exploring the use of pipe lining as a way to restore the structural integrity of older pipes while avoiding these impacts.

The approach involves running a soft liner through a pipe, inflating and then hardening the pipe liner using hot steam. The new liner

produces a hardened, seamless "pipe within a pipe," with the smooth interior of the liner reducing friction and actually increasing flow capacity. Lining pipe can double the useful life of stormwater pipes. This practice is roughly 4 times less costly than digging up pipes to replace them, allowing each dollar raised through stormwater fees to be stretched further. The Town has already used this strategy as a form of repairing over 1,000 linear feet of stormwater piping in the past two years, and we have 2,000 feet of pipe planned to be lined in 2022.

Adopt-A-Drain Program

Adopt-a-Drain is an exciting new initiative in Chittenden County making its debut on Earth Day 2022! Storm drains can sometimes flow directly to lakes and streams, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

Rethink Runoff, an ongoing awareness and public outreach effort to reduce dirt and pollutants in stormwater runoff in the Lake Champlain Basin, has partnered with Hamline University to launch Adopt-a-Drain in Vermont. Currently, the program has been adopted by five municipalities including Burlington, Colchester, Essex Town, Essex Junction, and Milton. Volunteers choose how frequently to clear their drain and report how much and what kinds of debris is collected so that researchers can track exactly what is ending up in storm drains. Folks who sign up receive a welcome packet, a small yard sign, and the clever perk of getting to name a drain. A few early adopters include punny names like Obi-Wan-Drainobi, R2Drain2, and Brain Drain. How creative can you get? You can Adopt-a-Drain by going to <https://adopt-a-drain.org/>.



**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN**

Protect local
waterways

Sign up!
adopt-a-drain.org

Rethink Runoff's Stream Team is a project to engage citizens across a nine-municipality area Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski to implement projects to reduce nonpoint source pollution and stormwater volume at the local level. For more information visit: www.rethinkrunoff.org.

Smith Creek Design Work



The Malletts Bay Scoping Study, completed in 2017, involved the five watersheds that drain to Malletts Bay including Smith Creek, Crooked Creek, Moorings Stream, West Lakeshore Drive, and East Lakeshore Drive. Within each watershed opportunities for improved stormwater management were identified. In 2018 and 2020 the Town received grant awards totaling over \$350,000 to move forward with improvements in the Moorings Stream watershed (the Shore Acres neighborhood). Thank you to all Shore Acres property owners who contributed to the success of the Right-of-Way phase. While final construction plans are being developed we are beginning preliminary design work with the assistance of a \$25,000 Clean Water Block Grant in the neighborhoods that drain to Smith Creek (Midnight Pass, Everbreeze, and Edgewood). Stay tuned for more information!

Water Quality Testing

Summer water quality testing at Bayside Beach, Rosetti Natural Area and other locations will again be conducted this summer. The testing will occur over ten weeks beginning the week of June 20th and continuing through the end of August. 12 Ssmples are taken on Mondays and Wednesdays and sent to a water quality testing lab to ensure the waters are safe for swimming and other recreational sports.

In the unlikely event of a beach closure, signs will be posted at swimming areas and additional tests will be completed until it is determined the water is safe for swimming and other activities. Tests results and a map of testing locations are available on the stormwater program's website (below).



Stormwater Information

The Town implements clean water programs, reviews development applications, manages capital projects, and oversees regulations designed to improve and protect the community's water resources. For more info please visit:

www.colchestervt.gov/1837/StormwaterUtility

Water Quality Hotline: (802)-264-5628

General stormwater inquiries: (802)-264-5620

Washing Cars: FAQ

How can I practice eco-friendly car care?



Great question, and we're happy you asked! If you're washing at home, consider whether you can wash your car on any lawn space you may have instead of on pavement. This allows the grass to absorb the water used and avoids sending detergents into storm drains. Using reusable cloths rather than disposable products, with nontoxic cleaning products are another great way to limit impacts, especially if they are free of phosphates and

petroleum-based ingredients. It's important to repair any fluid leaks in your vehicle prior

to washing, and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. A self-serve car wash, where you can bring your own cleaning products, control the amount of water used, and where water used for washing is directed to a wastewater treatment facility, is also a great option.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, May 24th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Conservation Commission: Thursday, May 26 at 5:30 pm on Blakely Road across from the schools. There will be a brief meeting, and then the Commission will plant annuals in the two traffic islands at the Malletts Bay Ave/Blakely Road intersection.

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