

**For the Week Ending
November 18, 2016**

Upcoming Town meetings:

- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, December 6, 2016 (Budget Work Session) 6:00 PM, Colchester Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd Floor
- **Selectboard:** Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 6:30 PM, Colchester Town Offices, Outer Bay Room, 3rd Floor
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, November 29, 7:00 PM, Colchester Town Offices, Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor - Joint meeting with the Town of Milton
- **Planning Commission:** Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM, Colchester Town Offices, Outer Bay Conference Room, 3rd floor

Upcoming events:

- **Dinner with Santa:** There are still a few seats left for Dinner with Santa on Friday, December 16! You must pre-register for this event, so be sure to sign up soon!
- **Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling:** Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 PM at the Burnham Library
- **Buy Local Small Business Saturday, November 26, 2016:** Small Business Saturday was created to support small business owners. Held between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it's a designated day to support local businesses that create jobs and boost local economies. **Let's all "shop small" for the home we love: Shop Colchester!**

Notices:

- **The Town Offices and Burnham Library will be closed** on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for Thanksgiving
- **The library will be closed** on Friday, Dec. 2 for staff development
- **For those with pets:** There have been sightings of coyotes and a bobcat in neighborhoods around Colchester. This is also the time of year when fisher cats and foxes fatten up for winter. Don't risk your pet becoming a meal for hungry wildlife: please keep them inside from dusk to dawn, when these wild predators are most active.

Here are highlights of activities at some of the departments at the Town of Colchester:

Town Manager's Office
Dawn H. Francis, Town Manager

As Thanksgiving draws near we pause to contemplate the people and things in our lives for which we are grateful. There is so much bounty and so many people here in the Town of Colchester for which we owe our gratitude, including:

- The dedicated volunteers who serve on our various board and committees and make Colchester a wonderful place to live, work, and play
- Our Police, Rescue, Firefighters and other emergency responders including our Dispatchers who are available 24/7 and ready to help us at a moment's notice
- Our Public Works and Parks crew who keep our roads, buildings and sidewalks clear in the worst weather at all hours
- The staff at the Town of Colchester who work together to serve our residents well all year long.

Colchester is a peaceful and beautiful community and how fortunate we are! We step outside and are surrounded by the beauty of Vermont and Lake Champlain. Our neighborhoods are safe and our schools are top quality. We have an abundance of locally grown food readily available.

Gratitude, empathy, and generosity are linked. There are many who struggle each day to make ends meet, even here in our own community. As you think through your "Thankful List" this holiday, do take a moment to remember those who could use a helping hand. Consider a contribution to the Colchester Food Shelf; a donation in a Salvation Army pot; a contribution to a toys-for-kids barrel; or a gift of toiletries or socks to a homeless shelter. Finally, a gift of time, though free, is often the best one of all.

Best wishes to you and your family for a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

Economic Development Department
Kathi Walker O'Reilly, Director

Put Your \$ Where Your Heart Is - Buy Local!
Small Business Saturday is November 26, 2016!

Did you know that nationally, small businesses make up:

- 99.7% of U.S. employer firms
- 64% of net new private-sector jobs
- 49.2% of private-sector employment
- 42.9% of private-sector payroll

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

- 46% of private-sector output
- 43% of high-tech employment
- 98% of firms exporting goods
- 33% of exporting value

Private businesses contribute significantly to Vermont's and Colchester's economies. Vermont has 77,726 small businesses total; 17,659 of them hire employees. They comprise 96.3% of Vermont employers and create 59.7% of the jobs for private-sector workers.

Of course, shopping locally isn't just for one day; it's important all year long. Money spent in Colchester stays in Colchester and helps keep our town growing and flourishing. Everyone can help make a difference by patronizing the local shops we love, employing neighbors we know. When small businesses succeed, we all do! **Shop Colchester small businesses on Saturday, November 26th.**

For more information about the Economic Development Office, please visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/econdev> or call (802) 264-5508.

Burnham Library
Kelly McCagg, Director

As we approach the Thanksgiving holidays it's time to let people know what's coming up in December:

- The library will be closed on Friday, December 2 for staff development.
- Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling – Sunday, December 4, 4:00 PM. Join us for crafts, songs, cocoa, cookies, and lights on the tree. At 4 PM, children can make a holiday craft in the library. Colchester Community Chorus singalong at the Meeting House at 4:30 and annual tree lighting follows at 5 PM. No sign-up required.
- Annual Gingerbread/Graham Cracker House Contest – Begins December 1st. Bring your tasty structure for our display - Kits and team entries are welcome. Entrants can enter a goody-basket raffle. Voting starts December 7, but entries will be accepted after voting begins. Patrons vote, too. Guidelines & entry forms are available at the library or from our web site.
- Cider & Cookie Week – December 5-9. Stop in for homemade cookies and spiced cider, compliments of library staff.

- Holiday Storytime – Mondays, December 5, 12, 19 at 10:30 AM. Holiday stories, traditional and new, plus music, rhymes, and a snack! All ages.
- Cooking the Books – Thursday, December 8 at 1 PM. Welcome to our new book club! Each season we'll choose a cookbook or novel that features recipes. Participants will sign up to make and share a recipe the day of the meeting. This season will be "Cooking with Shelburne Farms: Food and Stories from Vermont" by Melissa Pasanen.
- Holiday Gift Baskets – Each year, the Library seeks donations of **new** books for kids ages pre-K to grade 12 for the Colchester-Milton Rotary Club's Holiday Gift Basket Project. This 42nd year of the project, the Rotary hopes to send over 120 baskets to families in need. Collection bins are located at Burnham Library and in the lobbies of Colchester schools. Collection ends Friday, December 9.

For more information about Burnham Memorial Library's events and services, visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

Parks and Recreation Department
Glen Cuttitta, Director

The Parks & Recreation Department has been hard at work this month. Details for all of our projects and programs can be found at <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation>.

- Welcome new member Joan Chace to the Recreation Advisory Board! There is still a vacant spot, so do consider volunteering; you'll gain a strong voice in the future of Parks & Recreation in Colchester. Applications are on the Town website or contact Linda Gustainis at 264-5509.
- We have some great Adult recreation programs this December! Take a moment out of the busy holiday season to treat yourself to a Snowmobile Safety Course, Wine Glass Painting, Focus on Film, or a healthy eating workshop this month.
- Over 250 youth basketball players began practices this month for games that will start in January.
- The Winter Carnival Committee is planning an exciting theme spin for the 2017 Winter Carnival in February! This is a community-funded event and we rely on donations for many of the attractions. If you are a Colchester business owner, please consider donating. If you didn't receive a fund-raising letter, please visit

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our website for details about donating; all donors will be recognized in the event brochure, *Colchester Sun*, and flyers at the event.

- Start planning your act! Auditions for the annual Colchester's Got Talent show will be January 19 & 20 at CHS. Categories: Youth (6-10), Junior (11-14), High School (15-18), and Adults & Families. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in each category.
- Be sure to follow our social media accounts for park & program updates and lots of pictures! We're on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. Follow us @ColchesterRec.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call (802) 264-5640.

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