

For the Week of October 21, 2019

### **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Things are moving forward in our local fire service consolidation, initiated by your Town Selectboard in the spring of 2019. We plan to be operating a single fire service as a Town department beginning July, 1, 2020. This service is being planned and budgeted for next year with a combination of professional firefighters, both volunteer and career. We will continue to recruit, train, call up, and importantly, honor the nearly 90 current volunteers as well as past contributors who have provided for seventy years of fire coverage in Colchester. This change will bring together our current three fire department's **staff and four stations under a single command** as a Town department. **The Town will continue to support Saint Michael's Fire** from a financial perspective and we will incorporate them into the town-wide command structure.

Currently, Colchester receives fire protection services from three organizations: Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company, Malletts Bay Fire Department, and Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue, which is an independent organization under the command structure of Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company. Between the three departments there are nearly 90 volunteers; We intend to have the same 90 volunteers in our town-wide fire department.

The fire chiefs from Colchester Center and Malletts Bay asked the Town Selectboard to add paid firefighters during weekday daytime when we have inadequate coverage to respond to a structure fire. This is a dangerous situation and it needs to be rectified with career staff during the daytime since there are not enough volunteers in Town during weekday daytime to protect life and property from fires. Staffing up in this way made more sense to the Selectboard under a consolidated approach.

The Selectboard provided Fire Districts #2 and #3 with two options to continue receiving Town funding for fire services: 1) merge departments with a single chief and a single fire district board, or 2) transfer fire services to the Town. The Town now has contracts for one year with each fire department. The fire district prudential committees (boards) of Fire Districts #2 and #3 have approved motions to work with the Town on the transfer option. We have also been working with the fire chiefs on the town-wide department. We will maintain a strong volunteer presence in firefighting and honor past individual and departmental contributions as we move forward together.

We are working with the prudential committees on transferring the responsibilities for fire services to the Town. We are close to concluding our negotiations with Fire District #2, and are working out a contract with Saint Michaels College Fire and Rescue. We are working with Fire District #3 which was until recently busy with their new water main in Sunny Hollow. Now, we are advertising a statewide search for the qualifications-based selection of our first Town-wide Fire Chief to centrally manage fire services.

I would like to thank CFD#3 Prudential Committee Chair Jay Reidinger; Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company Chief Sandy Ladd; CFD#2 Prudential Committee Chair Mike Whalen and Malletts Bay Fire Department Chief Bourgeois for their hard work and cooperation to improve firefighting services in Colchester.

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

**Burnham Memorial Library**  
Kelly McCagg, Director

October has been abuzz with activity at the library - we've had 88 programs scheduled for teens, kids and adults. Here are some of the things we have planned for November:

**Preschool Yoga:** Thursdays at 11:30 am. Join instructor Melissa Nutting for yoga for you and your preschooler. We will be singing, relaxing, reading and stretching-a delightful way to spend a half-hour with your child. Melissa earned her Children's Yoga Teacher Certification through the Child Light Yoga Center.

**Crafts for Kids:** Monday November 4 & 18 at 3:30 pm. Kids 5 and up get to work on a new craft project every session.

**Booksplorers:** Monday November 4 & 18 at 6 pm. Welcome to a new sort of library club for teens. We'll meet every other Monday and talk books, library hacks, and general geekery. Attending all six sessions can count for the Scouting Reading badge, but all are welcome to explore. Find something awesome to read you've never heard of! Snacks and books for teens grades 6-12.

**Tech Talk Tuesday:** Tuesday November 5 from 1-3pm. Got a tech question? New device? An update to configure? Email help? Drop in and chat with Kelsey and she'll help you try to solve it.

**Social Internet and Online Safety:** Tuesday November 12 at 2 pm. In this next portion of our digital education series, we take you through social internet sites and

services like Facebook, Twitter, Front Porch Forum, Email, and Instagram. Sign up online to reserve your spot and ask a question ahead of time.

**Young Writers & Storytellers:** Wednesday November 14 & 20 from 4:00-5:00. Join us for our writing club for children from kindergarten to 5th grade. **Let's create stories!** Call 264-5660 for more information, and to sign up.

**Practice ACT:** Saturday November 16 at 9:00 am. Sign up online to take a free, full-length practice test to hone your skills for the real thing. Sign up at least one week before to reserve your spot! Participants will receive a full score report from Princeton Review. Call the library or your school guidance counselor for more details about the test and your college application process.

**How to Instant Pot:** Saturday November 16 from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. Do you have an Instant Pot but you aren't sure how to use it? Join us for a two-hour cooking demo where we demystify the pressure cooker to help you feel more comfortable with your Instant Pot. We will explain its various settings and functions, answer questions, and teach you about care and maintenance all while making three delicious recipes that you'll taste test afterwards! This program is for ages 18+. Sign up on our website.

Do you want to get all the latest library happenings in the convenience of your inbox? Then sign up for our e-newsletter. We'll be sending monthly updates for all our interested patrons:

<https://colchestervt.gov/718/Our-eNewsletter>

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

Parks and Recreation Department  
Glen Cuttitta, Director

Colchester residents have certainly taken advantage of our program offerings this fall! Youth have enjoyed learning about video media and editing, cooking, martial arts, CrossFit, dance, music, tennis, and basketball, while teens have learned about Hunter Safety, Self-Defense, and SAT test-taking strategies. Adults have been busy too, enjoying a running/fitness program, numerous yoga offerings, Tai Chi, strength training (especially to combat osteoporosis and other chronic conditions), sewing, Batik & Silk Painting, learning new instruments (such as harmonica, ukulele, and fiddle), and educational workshops on technology, diabetes prevention, planning for retirement, signing up for Medicare, and estate and funeral planning.

There are still many programs scheduled for October, November, and December! If our Fall Activity Guide ended up in your recycle bin already, visit

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

<http://colchestervt.gov/335/Program-Registration> to view it online, or stop by our office to pick up a new copy. Sign up soon before your favorite program fills!

Colchester Youth Basketball League sign-ups have also begun. Practices for Gr. 1 – 8 teams begins the week of November 18, but you must register early to be put on a team – the earlier you can get it in, the better! You can sign-up now for Kindergarten Basketball Academy too, and those practices will start on Saturdays in January. More details can be found at: <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation/cybl>. Registration is available online or at our office.

From the Parks Dept.:

- The horseshoe pits at Airport Park have been removed due to rotting that makes them potentially unsafe. This will also make room for new pickleball courts being installed in 2020.
- Field 1 & Field 4 at Airport Park have been redone with new infield material.
- Parks staff continue to work through Fall closing tasks and maintenance.
- Parks staff also completed a Level II Logging Chainsaw Safety Certification Course

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, 7:00 PM. November meetings: 11/5 and 11/19
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM. November meeting: 11/13
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 AM, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. November meeting: 11/13
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. November meeting: 11/18
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm. Next meeting: 11/12  
(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:

- Dinner with Santa: Fri., Dec. 13, 6:15-7:15 PM at the Colchester Middle School. Registration is now open – get your tickets early!



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



# Colchester Town News

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