

For the Week of December 2, 2019

**Manager's** Message of the Week  
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

The Latest on Costco Gas Station - A Response to a Front Porch Forum Discussion

Here is information about the status and timing of improvements to Exit 16 and the surrounding transportation system in response to questions from residents, employees and businesses.

**Exit 16 Improvements:** The Town of Colchester's Selectboard and Town staff strongly support the State of Vermont's substantial improvements to the Exit 16 intersection and related improvements to Route 2/7. These improvements will better serve our existing residents, businesses and visitors in Colchester. The Exit 16 improvements provide opportunities for additional development in the Exit 16 area, such as the opening of the gas station at Costco.

The State of Vermont's Act 250 permit for the Exit 16 interchange improvements is pending a hearing in January in the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court. The State Agency of Transportation advises the Town that they are advancing the project in anticipation of breaking ground in the summer of 2020.

Costco Gas Station: The Town has approved the opening of Costco gas pumps. R.L. Vallee (which owns Maplefields) has filed a case in Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court to challenge decisions of the Town related to this approval.

For more visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/334/Town-Manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

Office of the Assessor  
Bob Vickery

- We have been testing new software and reporting functions. We run many reports every year and the new software will ensure data is accurate.
- We are also testing all the new data imports and exports and data links to distribute the assessment data to other departments / software, which are essential to our efficiency. Paper waste and the hours spent on data entry have both been reduced.
- We continue ongoing preparations for the 2020 Grand List
- Inspections of new construction that was permitted as of April 1, 2019 continues.

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

- Find the online GIS Web Map at <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

For more visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/149/Assessor> or call (802) 264-5670.

Office of the Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Julie Graeter

Do you own a special pooch? Be on the lookout for information about our “Your Dog is #1” contest! Dog licensing starts on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Per Vermont Statute (VSA 20 §3581) dog owners must license their dogs every year by April 1st. See <http://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> for more information.

The Town clerks wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

For more about the Town Clerk visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/322/Town-Clerk> or call (802) 264-5520

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 PM. Next meeting: 12/17
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM. December meeting: 12/11
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 AM, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. December meeting: 12/11
- **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** December meeting: Thursday, 12/19, 8 AM in the Champlain Conference Room, Colchester Town Offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 12/16
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 12/19
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. December meeting: 12/10 (The 12/24 meeting is cancelled)

(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:

- **Operation Firecuffs:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Operation Firecuffs is collecting presents to deliver with Santa at the UVM Children’s Hospital. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped at Colchester Police Department or in the lobby of the Town Offices. Last day to donate will be December 18, 2019. Toys will be delivered December 19. Some suggestions from the hospital: *Infants:* Rattles, mobiles; *Toddlers:* Musical, pop-up, stand & walk and stacking toys, large blocks; *School Age:* Legos, art kits, athletic gear, balls. *Tweens:* Nail polish, lotion, journals.

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

Gift cards: iTunes, Walmart, Best Buy, etc. See the Colchester PD Facebook page for further details.

- **Christmas Party and Concert:** Tuesday, 12/10, 7 PM. 900 Main Street Welcome the festive holiday season at the lovely and historic United Church of Colchester at the Colchester Historical Society's Christmas Party and Concert, featuring Colchester High School choral groups. Parking, admission and refreshments are free.
- **Dinner with Santa:** Friday, 12/13, 6:15–7:15 PM at the Colchester Middle School. Registration is now open – get your tickets early!

Notices of Closures:

- **The Town Offices will close at 1:30 PM on Friday, December 6** so that our employees may attend an employee event
- **Burnham Library will close at 2 PM on Friday December 6** so the employees may attend an employee event
- **Burnham Library will close at 5 PM** on Wednesday, November 27
- **The Town Offices and Burnham Library will be closed** on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, in observance of Thanksgiving
- **The Town Offices will close at noon** on Tuesday, December 24 and be **closed** on Wednesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas
- **The 12/24 meeting of the Colchester Selectboard** has been *cancelled*
- **The Town Offices will close at noon** on Tuesday, December 31 and be **closed** on Wednesday, January 1, 2020, in observance of New Year.

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