

For the Week of March 9, 2020

Manager's Message

Town Meeting: On behalf of the Town Staff, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to our voters for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and the Technology & Communications Capital Plans. The budget maintained our current level of service and addressed significant needs in emergency services. I'm proud of the work the Town has accomplished with input and help from our residents, businesses, board and commission members, volunteers, and employees.

We say thank you to Selectboard member Herb Downing for his service to the Town. Herb was elected as a member of the Colchester Selectboard in October 2011 and elected in March 2012; he chose not to run again for re-election this year. Herb also served as a Development Review Board member from 2002 until 2011 and as its Chair from 2005 to 2010.

Information from the State of Vermont on Coronavirus: As of March 9, 2020, there was one presumptive case of Coronavirus in Vermont, in Bennington. For additional guidance and the latest information from the CDC and Vermont Department of Health, visit healthvermont.gov/covid19 or dial 2-1-1.

Public Guidance from the Vermont Department of Health

Person-to-person spread of the virus is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Much is still unknown about how the virus spreads. Take these everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs:

- ***Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.***
- ***Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.***
- ***Avoid close contact with people who are sick.***
- ***Stay home when you are sick.***
- ***Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.***
- ***Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.***

If you have recently traveled to countries where there is transmission (China, Iran, South Korea, Italy or Japan), please contact the Vermont Department of Health (800-464-4343), which will provide guidance on what to look for, and what to do if you develop symptoms that could be from Coronavirus.

For more details on the state's response, visit

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/HS-COVID-19-Feb-28-2020-update.pdf>.

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

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

Office of the Town Clerk | Treasurer
Julie Graeter

- Tuesday, March 3 Election results are now available on our website at: <https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>
- Thank you to all the volunteers that helped before and during the election. All went smoothly because of you!
- **Property taxes are due on Monday, March 16 by 5 PM.** Visit our Property Taxes webpage at <https://colchestervt.gov/329/Property-Taxes> for payment information

For more about the Town Clerk's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call 264-5520.

Assessor
Robert Vickery

- Compiling and recording requests for income and expenses of commercial real estate. Understanding data on rents, vacancy rates, and typical expenses is important in establishing commercial real estate value
- Compiling data and preparing for our annual field review of all parcels to ensure equity
- Continue review of all Certificate of Occupancy/Compliance notices issued in 2019
- Ongoing preparations for the 2020 Grand List
- Continuing the inspections of new construction that was permitted as of April 1, 2019

For more about the Assessor's Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call 264-5671.

Burnham Memorial Library
Kelly McCagg, Director

Spring is just around the corner and we are looking forward to sunnier weather. Here are some fun programs we've got planned for March while we wait for longer, warmer days:

- **One-on-One Tutoring:** Mondays 3-5 PM & 5-8 PM and Wednesdays 3-5 PM. Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences students (Colchester campus) tutor grades 1-6 in reading, math, and science at the library. Tutoring is available in other grades for certain subjects. Free. Call us at 264-5660 to sign up.
- **Preschool Yoga:** Thursdays at 11:30 AM. Certified Children's Yoga Teacher, Melissa Nutting, leads yoga for you and your preschooler.
- **Beaded Hemp Jewelry:** Monday, 3/9, 6:30 PM. Create wearable art - hemp jewelry! If you have a pendant or special beads you would like to include, bring them. Otherwise, we will provide the supplies you need to make a necklace or bracelet. Registration is required. For ages 18+ only.

- **Young Writers & Storytellers:** Wednesday, 3/11 & 3/25, 4-5 PM. Writing club for children from K-5th grade. Call 264-5660 for more information and to sign up.
- **Read to Willy Wonka the Volunteer Therapy Dog:** Wednesday, 3/18, 4:15 PM. If you're not yet reading, an adult will read to you while you and Willy Wonka sit back and enjoy the stories. Call to sign up!
- **Cooking the Books:** Thursday 3/19, 1 PM. Each season we pick a different cookbook. Participants make a recipe and bring it the day of the program. Staff will copy recipes to share. This season we'll be choosing recipes from Mastering the Art of French Cooking, vol. I by Julia Child, Louisette Bartholin and Simone Beck.
- **Teen Afternoon Movie:** Saturday 3/21, 2:30 PM. Movie and popcorn after-hours event. Please have your ride ready at 4 PM. Sign up and vote for the movie online. Teens grades 6-12.

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.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 PM. Next Meeting: 3/17
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM. Next meeting: 4/8
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 AM, Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 4/8
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. Next meeting: 3/16
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM at Burnham Library. Next meeting: 3/19
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM. Next meeting: 3/24

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

Upcoming events:


- **St. Michael's College Fire & Rescue 50th Anniversary** - Saturday, March 14, 10 AM Donald E. Sutton Firehouse, 220 College Parkway. Fire & Rescue stories and history will be presented at the March gathering of the Colchester Historical Society. See their newly restored original fire truck, a 1957 Ward LaFrance. Parking, admission and refreshments are free. Donations are always appreciated. Saint Michael's Fire and




Colchester – What do you want to do today?

Rescue is proudly staffed and managed by members of the Saint Michael's College community.

- **Winter Concert** – A Night with In the Pocket: Friday, March 27, 2020 @ CHS Performing Arts Center. Starts at 7:00pm. Admission is FREE.
- **Registration** is open for the 8th Annual Causeway Race (6/6/20) and the 36th Annual Colchester Triathlon (7/26/2020) via Active.com. You can also find more details at: <https://colchestervt.gov/357/Events>

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