

## **For the Week of September 7, 2020**

Manager's Message  
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Welcome back to our Colchester School District students, from kindergartners at Union Memorial and Porters Point School to seniors at Colchester High School. Please be careful as everyone adjusts to new habits and traffic patterns with the school year beginning.

**Burning:** Permits are required for outdoor burning of more than 30 inches in diameter. Burning of refuse, grass, leaves or downed trees is prohibited.

Town Burn Ordinance and Permit Info: <https://colchestervt.gov/FormCenter/Police-8/Permit-to-Burn-49>

Untreated Wood Waste: 111 Intervale Road, Burlington, VT 05401 | (802) 864-7446  
Hours and Info: <https://www.burlingtonelectric.com/wastewood>

Leaves, Food Scraps and Yard Trimmings: Green Mountain Compost  
1042 Redmond Rd., Williston, VT | 802-660-4949 [www.greenmountaincompost.com](http://www.greenmountaincompost.com)  
Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm

If people are burning in violation of the Town's Burn and you don't feel comfortable addressing it yourself, please call Colchester's Public Safety Dispatch at 802-264-5555 and we will dispatch someone to provide information, education, and if needed enforce the ordinance.

**Water Service in Colchester:** The Town of Colchester does not operate water services. We have three independent governments known as "Fire Districts" which operate water supply services and are overseen by citizens elected from each district. Additionally, the areas near Exit 16 and Malletts Bay Avenue close to Winooski receive water service from the Champlain Water District and water in Fort Ethan Allen is provided by the Town of Essex. Contact information should be on your water bill.

Map with telephone and contact information:  
<https://www.colchestervt.gov/502/Colchester-Water-Supply-Services>

Information on the elected fire district boards, known as Prudential Committees is available on numbered pages 48 and 49 of the Town's annual report:  
<https://www.colchestervt.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/671>

**History of Fire Districts, by Joseph McLaughlin, SSE:** <https://www.cfd1.org/what-is-fire-district>

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COVID Update:

**State/Regional/National COVID Numbers, Trends and Modeling:** National trends show decreasing cases, positivity rates, and hospitalizations in all regions of the country except the upper midwest, though cases, hospitalizations, and deaths remain at very high levels, especially in the south and west. The general trends in Vermont are that, despite more use of ICU beds for non-COVID-19 patients, the rates for the percentage of emergency department visits with COVID-19 symptoms, viral growth and reproduction, and the test positivity rate remain low and stable. There may be spikes in cases with the return of college students.

[https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc\\_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-090420.pdf](https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-090420.pdf)

**Weekly Summary of Vermont COVID-19 Data:** Demographics; Clinical Course; Outbreaks, Syndromic Surveillance; and Vermont's contact tracing efforts:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Weekly-Data-Summary-9-4-2020.pdf>

**US Department of Health Halt on Residential Evictions To Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19 --September 4, 2020 through December 31, 2020:**

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/04/2020-19654/temporary-halt-in-residential-evictions-to-prevent-the-further-spread-of-covid-19>

**Current Testing Recommendations** from The Vermont Health Department are for:

- People with COVID-19 symptoms.
- People who have had close contact (within 6 feet for about 15 minutes or more) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- People who are referred by their health care provider for testing for another reason.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-covid-19>

**Scientists Tell WHO and CDC that COVID is Primarily Spread through Aerosols-- Not Touching and Droplets:** <https://time.com/5883081/covid-19-transmitted-aerosols/>

**Cases in Colchester:** 65 as of 9/2/2020. This is one new case since last week. This is total known cases, not current cases.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/current-activity-vermont#town>

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Colchester's Burnham Memorial Library  
Kelly McCagg, Director

We are embarking on a new school year with a unique format and unknown challenges, but fear not, the Burnham Library will be there to support you every step of the way.

A new story has been installed at Village Park, combining reading and physical activity. Ms. Hannah is back with fresh stories, songs, and her kitten Gamache on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:30 am on our Youth Facebook page. Crafts for all ages will continue into the fall on a yet to be determined schedule.

We are purchasing new books and materials and are bringing back additional staff to assist with lending. We are also once again participating in interlibrary loan services in a limited capacity. So let those requests roll in! Our browse and borrow cart, made available at curbside service on Tuesdays and Saturdays, has been very well received and will likely grow in popularity now that we have more purchasing power.

No library card? No problem! **September is Library Card Sign-Up Month.** Check out our webpage to register online for your library card <https://colchestervt.gov/FormCenter/Library-11/Digital-Access-Library-Card-76> or you can do it the old fashion way at one of our two weekly curbside service days.

We are working on making technology more accessible to those in need. The library has a small number of laptops that will be available for use in the parking lot during select service hours. We are also hoping to offer use of our desktop computers by appointment later this fall.

Our ever-popular **Fall Perennial Plant Swap** will be held on a TBD Saturday in September, at 10 am in the library courtyard. Bring a plant in a labeled container, and see what your neighbors bring to exchange! Swapping starts precisely at 10:00 am. Please, no Orange Daylilies/Ditch Lilies. Masks are required.

Other programs include online **Dungeons & Dragons**, **Teen Writing**, read alouds, and more are in the works. We understand how important library services are to many in our community. We are taking steps to ensure that services are offered in a manner that is safe for the community, patrons, and staff. We



appreciate your patience during this unprecedented time as we all navigate through this pandemic.

Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call (802) 264-5660.

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Office of the Town Clerk | Treasurer  
Julie Graeter

Recording of property records has increased over the last few weeks with mortgage interest rates being so low.

***The Secretary of State's office will be mailing a ballot to all current registered voters starting September 21, so we are working to organize processing of those ballots when they are voted and returned to the Colchester Town Clerk's Office.***

Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/townclerk> or call 264-5520.

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Assessor  
Robert Vickery

- The Assessor's Office has made changes in consideration of COVID19:
  - The Assessor's Office is open from 7:30 AM to noon.
  - From noon to 4:30 PM the Assessor and Property/Tax Specialist are available by phone (264-5670 or 264-5671) or email ([colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov](mailto:colchesterassessor@colchestervt.gov))
- We are currently entering new subdivision addresses and parcel ID numbers
- Beginning to start inspections of new construction
- Parcel data is online: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/149/Assessor>
- GIS map & assessment data: <http://www.axisgis.com/ColchesterVT/>

Visit <https://colchestervt.gov/assessor> or call 264-5671.

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## Upcoming Town Meetings

Agendas available at: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting: October 6 at 7:00 PM via Zoom; details will be included in upcoming newsletters.

- **Development Review Board: Development Review Board:** Next meeting: October 14 at 7:00 PM via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Webinar ID: 9359846003
  - **Live stream:** <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
  - Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing (Iridle@colchestervt.gov or Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446) or participate at public comment periods during the zoom meeting.
  
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** Next meeting: TBA
  
- **Conservation Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Next meeting: September 21, 5:30 PM. The plan is to walk the Wolcott Family Natural Area off East Road in Colchester. Map: <https://www.wvvpd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/WVPD-Parks-2015-Final.pdf>
  
- **Library Board of Trustees:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 4:30 PM. Next meeting September 17 via Zoom. Dial in: (929) 205-6099; Meeting ID: 916 1941 7534; Passcode: 535318
  
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22 at 5:30 PM. Third Floor Outer Bay Room, 781 Blakely Road
  - Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject line 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. (The information packet for the current meeting is sent out with the agenda.)
  - Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
  - Selectboard Agenda: [bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:** <https://www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx>

For more information or comment: 802.264.5509 or townmanager@colchestervt.gov