

For the Week of January 11, 2021

Manager's Message
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Hey, Colchester Students!

The Colchester Historical Society encourages Colchester students grades 6 – 12 to participate in Vermont History Day State Contest. Colchester had a winner for the first time ever last year, and we would really love to see more participation this year. Students may participate as individuals or as teams of 2-5 students. And there are special prizes! Prizes range from \$50 - \$350, depending on the sponsor of the prize.

This year's Vermont History Day theme is "Communication in History – The Key to Understanding." The event will be conducted virtually. **Please note the registration deadline is March 1, and it's not too early to get started now.**

The Vermont Historical Society hosts this amazing annual event and all the exciting details are available at <https://vermonthistory.org/historyday>. Specific questions may be addressed to Victoria Hughes at victoria.hughes@vermonthistory.org or (802) 828-1413.

The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

COVID UPDATE

Unemployment Insurance programs in the State of Vermont have been extended and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program has been reinstated to provide an additional \$300 per week to claimants. <https://labor.vermont.gov/COVID19>

Vermont Farmers to Families FoodBox Distributions: To reduce wait times and improve your experience picking up food, everyone is required to pre-register to receive food at a Vermont Farmers to Families event: <https://humanresources.vermont.gov/food-help>

3SquaresVT – Available when we need a little help buying food. The program provides Vermonters funds on an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card. EBT cards can be used to purchase food at grocery and convenience stores, co-ops, and many farmers markets. Call 1-855-855-6181. <https://www.hungerfreevt.org/3squaresvt-resource-hub>

WIC - Healthy food and support for you if you are pregnant or a parent or caregiver for a child under the age of 5. Call 2-1-1 or find info at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/family/wic>

Commodity Supplemental Food Program offers free monthly boxes of staple foods to income-eligible adults over the age of 60. Call 1-800-214-4648 or find info at: <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/share-food/csfp>

Paycheck Protection Program for businesses will reopen the week of January 11th for new borrowers and certain existing borrowers. Info from the US. Small Business Administration: https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-newsroom/press-releases-media-advisories/ppp-reopens-jan-11?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Economic Injury Disaster Loan for small business extended to December 31, 2021. Info from the US. Small Business Administration: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

State/Regional/National COVID Numbers, Trends and Modeling: National and Northeastern trends show increasing rates of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths likely due to travel and multifamily gatherings over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Despite increasing regional positivity and hospitalizations, testing rates are going down regionally. In Vermont, all rates are increasing to match those following the post Thanksgiving highs. Vermont ICU and medical/surgical bed capacity is projected to meet anticipated hospitalizations over the next four weeks despite there being about 30 hospitalized patients each day this week and up to one quarter of them in ICU beds. https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-010521.pdf

Vermont Vaccination Update: As of 1/8, the Vermont Department of Health Vaccine Dashboard indicates 20,596 people received their first dose of the COVID19 vaccine, and 378 people received their second dose. Hospitals are vaccinating frontline health care workers while pharmacies are vaccinating

long term care facility staff and residents.

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>

If you gathered with others, get tested: If you gathered with anyone you don't live with or had a potential exposure to someone with COVID-19, we recommend getting tested. This is how you can help keep the virus from spreading.

Vermonters without COVID symptoms can now get tested at more than 15 locations throughout the state. You can register for a quick, easy and free test: www.healthvermont.gov/covid19testing

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider so they can refer you for testing. If you don't have a provider, you can call 2-1-1.

COVID Cases in Colchester: 321 total cases as of 1/6/2021; this is 36 new cases in the last seven days (285 cases as of 12/30/2020).

Source: Vermont Department of Health, COVID Cases by Town:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/covid-19-communities>

St. Michaels College COVID Cases: No new cases. The total case count stands at 82. Between 1/1/21 and 1/8/2021 sixty-three people were tested with none positive. See <https://www.smcvt.edu/return-to-campus/> for campus COVID updates.

Bryan Osborne
Director Public Works

- Working on the right-of-way phase for the reconstruction of the Prim and West Lakeshore Drive Intersection
- Currently working on the design and engineering needed for the future construction of a single lane roundabout at the Bayside intersection
- Working on the right-of-way phase for stormwater improvements in Shore Acres and the surrounding area to improve water quality in Malletts Bay

- Advancing repairs to the Town's three fire stations following the completion of a detailed condition assessment
- Continuing the development of a phosphorus control plan to improve water quality in Malletts Bay
- Beginning the development of the FY22 Stormwater and Wastewater Budget

Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/publicworks> or call (802) 264-5620.

Kathi O'Reilly
Director Economic Development

- Continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on our business community.
- Sector-specific research has been conducted and continues to be monitored.
- Monitoring vacancies and pandemic impact to landlords of commercial buildings and also the impact to small businesses that are affected by remote workers.
- Continue working on availability of commercial properties.

Visit <http://www.colchestervt.gov/312/Economic-Development> or call (802) 264-5508.

Upcoming Town Meetings

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

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting: TBA
- **Development Review Board:** Development Review Board: Next meeting: January 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Webinar ID: 935 984 6003
 - Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>

- Mail or email public comments prior to the hearing (lriddle@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:** 3rd Monday of the month. Next meeting: January 18, 2021 via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94009416919> Meeting ID: 940 0941 6919; Passcode: 291046; Dial by phone: 1-929-205-6099
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: January 21, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Join by phone: (929) 205-6099; Meeting ID: 913 5435 3560; Passcode: 559104
- **Selectboard:** Next meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Residents may watch the meeting online via live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2> or attend via phone 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 967 6487 8386; Passcode: 234888 or alternatively send a note to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.
- Selectboard Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

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

For more information or comment: 264-5509 or townmanager@colchestervt.gov