

## **For the Week of February 15, 2021**

Manager's Message  
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Colchester High School Music Students Received Multiple Honors!** New England Music Festival for the Honor Ensembles accepted: Ava Blaisdell, Thomas Buckley, Blayne Fitzgerald, Kaitlyn Hayes, Alexis Martin, and Megan Scheck to the Honor Choir; Bodey Towle and Logan Crocker to the Orchestra; and Noah Carmona, Noelle Cobb, Jonathan Labrie to the Concert Band. Two students were additionally selected as outstanding musicians: Blayne Fitzgerald, Soprano; and Jonathan Labrie, Mallets. Two students have were additionally selected to be in the National Association for Music Education's All Eastern Honor Choirs: Blayne Fitzgerald and Bodey Towle.

## **February 26 Colchester Selectboard Meeting Highlights:** Your Town Selectboard

- Accepted the Towns Annual report from Fred Duplessis, the Town's independent external auditor. There were no findings.
- Agreed to sign letters of support for two grant applications, one of which is to improve the Causeway Connector Path between Airport Park and Mills Point Road, and the other to install rapid flashing beacons at the two new crosswalks in Colchester Village.
- Received the Town's finance report for December 2020, noting that revenues were below expectations but so were expenses, leaving the town's municipal services budget about 2% to the positive through December 2020.
- Were informed that the Vermont Supreme Court upheld a decision of the Selectboard requiring health related repairs to properties on Sharrow Circle.
- Held Informational meetings on the Town's Municipal Service Budget and the Public Safety Capital Plan for public comment in advance of Town Meeting Day, which is to be held by Australian Ballot only this year.
  - Video of Presentations: <https://lcatv.org/colchester-budget-and-capital-plan-presentation-2021-02-05>
  - Documents: <https://colchestervt.gov/344/Ballot-Items>

Minutes: [https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/council/2021/feb09\\_21td.htm](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/council/2021/feb09_21td.htm)

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**COVID UPDATE:**

**Vaccine Progress:** As of February 13, 13% of Vermonters have received at least one dose of vaccine and 34,000 have completed their required doses. Over 85% of Vermonters aged 75 and above either received their first vaccine dose or are scheduled to do so. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>

**Vaccinations:** COVID-19 vaccinations of Vermonters aged 75 and above continue. Registration for those aged 70 and above opened today, Tuesday, 2/16. Eligible Vermonters should register online at [www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine). Those without internet or who speak a language other than English can call 855-722-7878.

**State COVID Modeling:** National trends show continued decreasing rates of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths for the last four weeks. Regionally, there is a similar decrease or leveling off in cases, hospitalizations, and percent positivity for the second week. Bennington and Rutland Counties have higher infections rates, keeping Vermont rates somewhat stuck with no clear trend up or down. National, regional, and Vermont values still remain much higher than in the spring of 2020. There are also concerns for SARS-CoV-2 variants including the B.1.1.7 UK variant. [https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc\\_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-020921.pdf](https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-020921.pdf)

**COVID Cases in Colchester:** **459** total cases as of 2/10/2021; this is **49** new cases in the last seven days.

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

**St. Michaels College COVID Cases:** One new case the week of February 8, 2021. Total case count is 91 since testing began in the summer of 2020. See <https://www.smcvt.edu/return-to-campus/covid-dashboard/> for campus COVID updates.

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Parks and Recreation  
Glen Cuttitta, Director

- February Vacation Camp for grades K-5 still has a few spots available. You can register on the Parks and Recreation website [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov)
- The new Summer Camp/Program brochure is available online at our website [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov) Hard copies will no longer be mailed to each household.
- At this time we are unable to determine if there will be a Youth Basketball Program. We will update our website once a decision is made.
- Planning is taking place for park projects scheduled for FY 22.

- The Airport Park Ice Rink has been flooded and being regularly maintained! Once open please follow all State of Vermont Outdoor 4.1 Recreation and Fitness guidelines - <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order#outdoor-recreation-and-fitness>
- Park staff has been grooming Nordic trails at Airport Park and continues snow removal operations at Town buildings, parks and emergency services, along with maintenance of parks facilities.

Visit <https://colchestervt.gov/333/Parks-Recreation> or call 802-264-5640.

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Colchester Police Department  
Chief Doug Allen

- There has been discussion over the past year on how to best address and fund alternatives to community needs that law enforcement have traditionally addressed but are perhaps not well suited to provide. CPD and the Town's leadership teams in coordination with other local municipalities addressed this issue in January 2018. The result was the formation of a partnership with Howard Services to provide a group of community outreach workers that would work closely with law enforcement to help address people battling mental health, substance abuse, and/or other unmet social needs. We supported the use of funds that otherwise may have been used to supply additional officers in our growing community. The Community Outreach program has now grown to include nine Chittenden County communities and is a successful model for other programs across the state. We continue to partner with groups and individuals as we work collaboratively to make our community safe.
- We currently have two open positions for police officers. If you're up to a challenging but rewarding career in law enforcement, consider applying today. Applications can be obtained at our website listed below.
- Since January 15th, CPD has responded to 824 calls for service. These calls resulted in 32 arrests on 43 criminal violations including, Possession of Heroin and Cocaine, Unlawful Restraint, and Disorderly Conduct, among others.

Visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5555.

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### **Upcoming Town Meetings**

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

- **Planning Commission:** February 16, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via zoom:  
<https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Webinar ID: 935 984 6003:
  - Live stream:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjLFn4BZd2MtMV4SzmzYl6grkrjrcbym>
  - Mail or email public testimony prior to the hearing (shadd@colchestervt.gov or Town of Colchester Planning Commission, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446)
  
- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: February 10, 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](mailto: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: March 15, 2021 via Zoom. Details upcoming.
  
- **Library Board of Trustees:** Next meeting: February 18, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Dial: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 913 5435 3560 Passcode: 559104.
  
- **Selectboard:** -Next meeting: February 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM.  
Attend via phone: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 919 9742 0365; Passcode: 565040.  
Alternatively, send a note to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your 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.
- Watch the meeting online via live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>

Selectboard Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

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

For more information or to comment call 264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)