

For the Week of March 8, 2021

Dear Colchester Residents:

On behalf of the Selectboard, Town Manager Aaron Frank and your town staff, we would like to extend a sincere thanks and gratitude to you for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2022 Municipal Services Budget and the Public Safety Capital Plan.

The Selectboard worked closely with staff to prepare a budget that maintains our current level of service and addresses needs in emergency management, fiscal recovery, cemetery capital, materials for road maintenance, and staffing for fire vehicle maintenance. These needs are related both to the COVID emergency and slow, steady growth over past decades.

We are proud of the work the town has accomplished especially during this pandemic. We could not have accomplished this without the input and help from our residents, businesses, boards and commission members, volunteers and employees. The Selectboard and I look forward to continued efforts that will ensure our quality of life, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities, and environmental stewardship both now and for future generations.

Once again, thank you to all of the residents who participated in Town Meeting and voted.

Sincerely,
Pam Loranger,
Chair Colchester Selectboard

COVID

Gathering Options for Vaccinated People: People who are vaccinated, who have concluded the waiting period after their last shot, can gather with other vaccinated individuals at their homes. For example, if eight fully vaccinated individuals wanted to get together at someone's house for dinner, they're now able to do so. This can also include one other household that is not vaccinated.

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

Misconceptions about vaccine for COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/Col-Sun-Art>

CDC Vaccine Q&A: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

Vermont Vaccine Q&A: <https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#vaccine>

Vaccine Dashboard: As of 3/5, 52,631 people received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 61,234 people received their second dose (for a total of 113,865 people who received at least one dose). A total of 175,100 vaccine doses have thus far been administered out of 233,800 doses received by the state (75%). 20.6% of Vermonters aged 16 and over received at least one dose. <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>

Vaccine Rollout and Phasing: On March 8, Vermonters aged 55 and over with certain high risk conditions will become eligible for vaccine. On March 15, Vermonters aged 16-54 with those same conditions will become eligible:
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/media/newsroom/governor-announces-next-phase-vaccine-rollout-March-3-2021>

Child Care worker Eligibility: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd-blog/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-individuals-working-regulated-child-care>

Travel Guidance: If 14 days have passed since your final vaccine dose, you do not need to quarantine when you travel out of Vermont or return to Vermont. Be sure to carry your COVID-19 vaccine card with you and be prepared to show it when asked.
<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel/faqs#i-am-fully-vaccinated-do-i-need-to-quarantine-if-i-travel-to-or-return-to-vermont>

COVID Metrics: National trends show continually decreasing rates of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths over the last five weeks, though rates are stabilizing at numbers still higher than the surges in the spring and summer of 2020. Regionally, there is a similar leveling off in cases, hospitalizations, and percent positivity, though last week the numbers increased. In Vermont, Bennington and Franklin Counties have higher infection rates than the rest of the state. There remain concerns for SARSCoV2 variants including the B.1.1.7 United Kingdom variant in at least 48 states, the B.1.351 South Africa variant in at least 17 states (including Maine as of 3/5) and the P.1 Brazil variant in at least seven states. Mutations indicative of the variant were detected at low levels in Burlington waste water samples again this week. Preparations are being made for a possible surge in transmission due to the variants in late March.
https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-030221.pdf

Colchester's Burnham Memorial Library
Kelly McCagg, Director

- We have had steady circulation and attendance on our curbside pickup days. In January, we checked out 3245 physical items from the library. In our digital service catalog, 787 audiobooks and 494 e-books were checked out. We are continuing our curbside services, which are on Tuesdays from 1-4 pm, Thursdays from 3-6 pm and Saturdays from 10 am – 12 pm. You can reserve books through our card catalogue on our website or by sending us an email at burnhamlib@colchestervt.gov or calling us at 802-264-5660. We do ask for 24-hours' notice to get all your items ready for you.
- February was Black History month, we posted a different book each day by a black author. . You can check out our Facebook page for all of the titles and let us know by phone or email if you would like to put a hold on any of the copies.

Here are reviews of two audiobooks that we thought were quite powerful:

- *You Can't Touch My Hair and Other Things I Still Have to Explain* by Phoebe Robinson – Memoir, 2016
Kelsey Psaute, Young Adults & Technology Services

This is not your feel-good-about-antiracism-book. This is not your manual for how-to-be-woke book. This is the story of a regular, average, younger black woman in this country living a life steeped in pop culture references and mid-2000s humor and a crash course in everyday empathy. Robinson reads her essays in this laugh-out-loud-until-you-cry audiobook that is simultaneously a delight and a necessary education. As she is only 31 at the time of publication, her narrative is as timely as it gets. Deftly moving from Carrie Bradshaw to Elizabeth Warren and back to the Little Rock Nine, Robinson is sharp in her wit and funny in her delivery. At a short and sweet 7 hours of listening, Robinson's debut is worth slowing down the playback time or a second listen in order to catch every morsel of comedic truth packed into her irreverently intelligent book.

- *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo –Adult Nonfiction, 2018
Kelsey Psaute, Young Adult & Technology Services

When it comes time for future generations to point to the essential text of this era in search of a turning point for the USA's antiracist revolution, I hope it is this book. Alongside Ta Nehisi Coates, Ibrahim X Kendi, Audre Lorde, Ijeoma Oluo, and Stacey Abrams, DiAngelo is the desired white voice. Beginning with unpacking the difficulties involved in becoming an antiracist and ending with a checklist of what to

do to become an active one, White Fragility is a comprehensive overview of all the ways society has failed to alleviate the problems of racism in the USA. Introducing practical tools for social justice and racism resistance based on her experiences as a diversity trainer and race scholar, DiAngelo is the pocket conscience and professor we all want on our side and a must read.

- While we are unable to have AARP Tax Appointments this year, we do have tax forms available. Please call or email us to reserve a form. They can be picked up during our curbside hours.

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

Office of the Town Clerk | Treasurer
Julie Graeter

Thank you to three of our Colchester Cemetery Advisory Board members that just finished their terms:

Bill Glinka brought the VT Old Cemetery Association to help get the monument of Rufus D. Thompson upright, repair other monuments and improve the landscape at the Champlain Cemetery.

Glen Critchlow gave his experience and insight into the world of cemeteries; he helped me learn a lot.

Doug McSweeney's long-term commitment is greatly appreciated. His hands got dirty with the Champlain Cemetery repairs and continued to use his knowledge cleaning monuments at other cemeteries. They all helped in getting cemeteries recognized as important to our community.

For more information about Colchester Cemeteries and perhaps volunteering on our Colchester Cemetery Advisory Board visit <https://colchestervt.gov/1841/Colchester-Cemeteries> or contact Julie Graeter, Town Clerk, at 264-5521 or email jgraeter@colchestervt.gov.

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

Upcoming Town Meetings

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

- **Planning Commission:** Next meeting: March 16, 2010 via Zoom. Details to be provided on agenda location above.
- **Development Review Board:** Next meeting: March 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9359846003>; Zoom Meeting ID: 935 984 6003
- Live stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Email public comments prior to the hearing to lriddle@colchestervt.gov or
- Mail Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Rd., 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: March 18, 2021 at 4:30 PM. Dial in: (929) 205-6099 (NY); Meeting ID: 915 3778 8889; Passcode: 167274.
- **Selectboard:** -Next meeting: March 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM.
Attend via phone: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 987 5493 2817
Passcode: 237498. Alternatively, send a note to 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
- Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/list.aspx>

For more information call 264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov