

November 4th 2021 Town Newsletter

Town Manager's Message

Where can I dispose of my leaves? At no charge, any Chittenden County resident may take leaves to select CSWD Drop-Off Centers; to Green Mountain Compost, or to the McNeil Wood and Yard Debris Depot. See their websites below for hours, maps, and more information about allowable materials.

CSWD Drop-Off Centers convenient to Colchester include:

- Essex: 218 Colchester Rd. <https://cswd.net/facility-locations/essex-drop-center/>
- Milton: 36 Landfill Rd. <https://cswd.net/facility-locations/milton-drop-center/>
- Williston: Green Mountain Compost: 1042 Redmond Rd. <https://www.greenmountaincompost.com/about/contact/>
- Burlington: McNeil Wood and Yard Debris Depot: 111 Intervale Rd. <https://cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/mcneil/>

Sunny Hollow Solar Farm: This project was to be built on two-acres of a town parcel adjacent to an industrial park on Hercules Drive. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources objected to the project in the permit process, which stopped the project.

The State of Vermont has ambitious energy requirements. The Town of Colchester has embraced energy conservation and local energy production, and made public our successful efforts. We have been held up as an example locally and statewide.

Clearing two and a half acres of forest to put in a 150KW solar array is at least 35 times as effective in terms of carbon reduction as preserving the trees.

The Town can reduce our energy bills significantly, and finance the solar farms without tax dollars, by developing solar farms on town owned land. We have no town owned buildings or parking areas that are suitable for siting solar farms.

In the past we have avoided proposing solar farms near residential areas. As a result of the permit input from the State, our future solar siting will likely need to be located closer to residential areas or on farms. For more information:

https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/210622_07c.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

Illegal dumping at Heineburg Road Fishing Access: As noted in the last newsletter, there was ongoing dumping in this town park. The town is in possession of photographs of two individuals and a truck with "Everything Construction LLC" on the tailgate. The two individuals got out of the truck and dumped construction debris in the town fishing access. The vehicle and /business owner was issued a ticket, ordered to clean up the

debris and fined. They did not clean it up. Your town Public Works Department did so, causing other planned work to be delayed. *Please report vandalism or illegal dumping on private or town owned property directly to the police via phone at 264-5556. If it feels safe to do so, you may document the activity.*

Broadband Update: The State of Vermont allocated \$150M in federal funds for broadband expansion throughout Vermont. However, this funding can only be used in areas that do not have the ability to purchase cable speed or better internet access. There are only about 100 such properties out of 7,000 in Colchester.

Selectboard Chair Pam Loranger and staff met with the Northwest Communications Union District (NWCUD) about the town becoming a member. NWCUD were not opposed to the town joining. However, since the state funding's is not available to most of our community, it makes more sense for residents to work with Consolidated, Comcast, and in some areas, Burlington Telecom and Mansfield Community Fiber to access a \$3,000 per Line Extension Customer Assistance Program household hook up grant and telecom/internet hook up subsidies required under Vermont public utilities commission Rule 8.313.

As time allows, we hope to be able to create working examples of groups of neighbors who connected to broadband through one or more of these programs. The East Road neighborhood is in the works and we are trying to see if there is a critical mass of interest on Sunset View Road. For more information:

https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/210928_08f.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

Town Staffing: We remain short by about 14% of year-round staff as follows: Library, 1; Town Manager's Office, 2; Planning and Zoning, 3; Public Works, 2; and Police, 7. We have at least three police officer recruits who will begin training at the end of the month, bringing the Police number down to 4. It has been challenging to fill positions during Covid in our super-heated real estate market, increased opportunities to work from home in the private sector, and with six percent fewer people in the local employment market than pre-Covid.

This continues to have an impact on our delivery of services. And we have had to prioritize. For example, not advancing community planning and focusing on permitting instead. Thank you for your continued patience.



*Autumn 2021
Newsletter*

Colchester Historical Society's Newsletter: Now available at:

<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6853/Autumn-2021-Colchester-VT-Historical-Society-Newsletter?bidId=>

COVID-19 Update: In the last 14 days, there have been 567 cases of Coronavirus in Chittenden County. For further information, please visit the Vermont Department of Health's Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>

Forecast: The Vermont Department of Financial Regulation notes that cases are 4.3 times greater for unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated people and that overall cases were relatively flat in the last week: https://dfr.vermont.gov/sites/finreg/files/doc_library/dfr-covid19-modeling-092821-revised.pdf

Vaccination Progress: 88% of Chittenden County residents 12+ have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine as of October 1, 2021: www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard

Appointments for Free Vaccine: <https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration>

You can also walk in at CVS, Hannaford Food and Drug, Walmart, Walgreens, Price Chopper/Market 32, Rite Aid, Shaw's Supermarket, or Costco or get an appointment with [Kinney Drugs](#), [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#), [Northfield Pharmacy](#), or [UVMMC Outpatient Pharmacies](#).

Why you're not getting a delta-specific booster yet; It's in clinical trials, but many experts say you don't need a tailored vaccine for this variant. <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/22687728/delta-specific-booster-vaccine-covid>

Colchester's Burhnam Memorial Library

Over the past few months we have been so excited to see so many patrons visit us. As the weather cools and the leaves turn, we hope many more come and use our services. Due to the i number of COVID-19 cases in Chittenden County, all patrons entering the library or attending a program in the Library Meeting House are required to wear a mask, even if fully vaccinated. We appreciate your cooperation.

October Hours:

Mondays, 12 – 6 pm
Tuesdays, 10 am – 4 pm
Wednesdays, 10 am – 4 pm
Thursday, 12 – 6 pm
Friday, 10 am – 1 pm
Saturday, 10 am – 3 pm

We will continue to have outdoor programming for patrons. In the event of inclement weather, programs will be moved inside the Library Meeting House unless specified. If a program cannot be moved indoors and has to be postponed, we will post to our website and the Burnham Library Youth Services Facebook page.

The Colchester-Milton Rotary and Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, October 13 at the Colchester Meeting House 11 AM to 4 PM. We have many time slots needing to be filled. Links to easily sign up online can be found at <https://cmrotary.org>

Library Programs in October:

Outdoor Storytime: Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:30 am. Join us on the library lawn for stories, songs, and lots of giggles. Please bring a towel or blankets for your family to sit on during storytime.

Young Writers & Storytellers: Wednesday, October 13 & 27 at 3:30 pm. Join us for our writing club for children from kindergarten to 5th grade. Let's create stories! Call 264-5660 for more information.

Outdoor Crafts: Thursday, October 14 & 28 at 3:30 pm. Kids 5 and up get to work on a new craft project every session.

Needlefelting Pumpkins: Thursday October 14 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm and Saturday October 16 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm in the Library Meeting House. Come learn how to needlefelt cute & adorable pumpkins! All materials provided. Registration is required. If the class is full, please contact burnhamlib@colchestervt.gov and we will put you on a waitlist.

Adult Book Discussion: Tuesday October 19 at 1 pm over Zoom. Join our afternoon book group! We read a wide range of books, and the discussion is led by a Library staff member. This month, we'll be reading "Braving the Wilderness" by Brené Brown. Copies of the book are available for checkout. As the book discussion is over Zoom, please let a staff member know you are interested in attending so that a link can be sent to you before the program.

Burnham Trunk-or-Treat: Saturday October 30 from 12-2 pm. It's Halloween and we're hosting a Trunk-or-Treat at the library. Dress up and join your favorite librarians and get lots of goodies! There are two ways to participate in this community event! Register your vehicle to decorate and hand out goodies. Remember to keep your theme kid friendly - we don't want to scare anyone. Families & businesses are welcome! Come dressed up and walk our parking lot to collect bags of ghoulish goodies. Registration is appreciated but not required. Walking begins at noon. Please park at our Lady of Grace Church.

Book Review: "To the Land of Long Lost Friends" by Alexander McCall Smith – Adult Fiction, 2019, Review by Susan Gamberg, Youth Services. Available in print or digital.

This entry in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series finds the Head of the agency, Precious Ramotswe, meeting with an old childhood friend. They chat to catch up with

the latest but her friend also wants help from Precious with problems she is having with her daughter. Although she really doesn't like to involve herself in family matters, she feels she needs to help her friend. And then there is Charlie, who works at the agency helping out and he is having problems and needs some help. He would like to propose marriage to his girlfriend but since she comes from a wealthy family he feels she will refuse and her family will not accept him. Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, Precious' husband is there to support her and so will the opinionated Mma Makutsi and even Mma Potokwane from the orphanage with whom Precious sometimes talks things over while they drink tea and eat fruitcake, but it will finally be up to Precious to think it all over and come up with ways to help her friends.

Upcoming Meetings:

Selectboard: Tuesday, October 12th, 6:15 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required. 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>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Development Review Board: Wednesday, October 13th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. The Development Review Board will likely be participating remotely. Members of the public will have the option to choose either remote or in-person attendance. Masks are required for in-person attendance. Public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to zmaia@colchestervt.gov or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Alternatively, participate in the public comment periods during the hybrid meeting.

- Participate via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83271430077>
- Participate by Phone: 1-929-436-2866
- Meeting ID: 832 7143 0077
- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAgenda&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAgenda%2C

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, October 20th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, October 21st, 4:30 pm at the Burnham Memorial Library, Burnham Room, 898 Main Street. Masks are required. Remote info will be provided at a future time.

Colchester Parks and Recreation Fall Activities: ACE Before and After School Program, 13 Youth Programs for ages 3 months to 14 years, Youth Basketball, plus 9 adult programs: colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6804/2021FallBrochure

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

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