

October 18, 2021 Town Newsletter

Town Manager's Message

Planning & Zoning Director Update:

The Town is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Cathyann LaRose as the new Planning & Zoning Director. Cathy has 18 years of experience in all aspects of land use planning and permitting. She has also spent time as a private sector consultant in land use planning.

For further information: <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6922/PZ-Dir-10-2021>

Colchester Causeway: The Selectboard recently voted to revert the Causeway back to the State of Vermont. The magnitude and frequency of the high water and windstorm events which cause extreme damage to the Causeway are increasing. The damage in 2018 cost \$1.8M to repair. The average damage per storm and or high water event, of which we have had three in the last 26 years, is \$868,000. Each storm or event has been more significant and costly to repair. The Town has been fortunate with the federal and state government covering over 93% of the cost of past repairs. The federal share is becoming more difficult for the town to secure with every storm or flood. Unfortunately, the Causeway is uninsurable. It will be easier for the State to secure federal funding with permanent dedicated recovery staff. The southern portion of the Causeway is a Statewide resource. Like the northern portion attached to South Hero, the southern portion should be a state responsibility instead of falling to the Colchester taxpayers. The ongoing regular maintenance--trimming of the trees/greenery and occasionally adding smaller amounts of material--does not take an inordinate amount of staff time or financial resources. The Town has offered to continue providing regular maintenance. However it is ultimately up to the State to allow this. More info:

https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/211012_6a.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

Employee Recognition: In today's workforce, tenures are often shorter. This can increase recruiting and training costs while reducing productivity and collective knowledge. We were unable to hold a townwide employee appreciation day this year and last year so we are recognizing the following staff with significant tenures here:

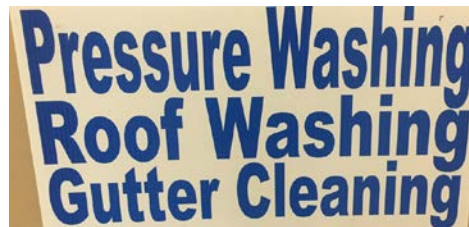
- 30 Years: Bryan Osborne, Public Works Director and Peter Hull, Police Lieutenant
- 20 Years: Glen Cuttitta, Parks and Recreation Director; Derek Mitchell, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, and Susan Gamberg, Library Youth and Interlibrary Services
- 10 Years: Bob Vickery, Town Assessor; Jesse Treier, Police Detective Corporal; Larry Lamphere, Public Works; Candace Johnson, Public Safety Dispatch

Water Service in Colchester: The Town of Colchester does not operate water services. We have two 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, Malletts Bay Avenue close to Winooski, and the Route 15 area,

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/DocumentCenter/View/6510/2020-Town-ReportEDITDCOLOR-Final>

Roadside Signs: Please do not place signs advertising ongoing businesses or services beside the road on public OR private property that is not yours. Off-site advertising is generally not legal in Vermont and these signs are prohibited by State law. The town or the state own access to and use of 'right of way' land alongside roads, paths and sidewalks. In the past, the town would remove these signs, call the numbers on them and allow the businesses to collect them. We have found that they are picked up and then put back. We do not budget your taxpayer funding to repeatedly collect, call and return these signs. As a result, we will simply remove them, and dispose of them without the courtesy call or the opportunity to collect them.



COVID-19 Update: In the last 14 days, there have been 590 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 3.9 times greater for unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated people and that overall cases increased 26% in the week prior to October 11.
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 [UVMHC Outpatient Pharmacies](#).

Burnham-Trunk-or-Treat:

Saturday, October 30 from 12:00 – 2:00 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:

1. 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!
2. 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 the Our Lady of Grace church. Please sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/burnham-trunk-or-treat-registration-182108630817>

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 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 28 at 3:30 pm. Kids 5 and up get to work on a new craft project every session.

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.

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 26, 6:30 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 27, 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, November 10 , 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 21, 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