

**For the Week of November 15, 2021**

### **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

### **Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

**Colchester Historical Society:** Colchester parents, students, educators: it's not too early to start thinking about participating in Vermont History Day! Any Vermont student in grades 5-12 can participate. Students in public schools, private schools, and home schools may participate, as long as you live in and/or attend school in Vermont. Some students participate as part of history class, others do History Day as an independent project or for extra credit. Maybe History Day could be part of your personalized learning plan. The Colchester Historical Society would LOVE to see some local participants for the 2022 competition. And, there are \$\$ prizes. Find out more at <https://vermonthistory.org/historyday>.

**Thanksgiving Closure:** Town offices are closed to public access on Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26th in observance of Thanksgiving. Emergency services, winter snow and ice removal and other emergency work will be provided as usual.

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### **COVID UPDATE**

**Vaccines for Children:** Children 5 – 11 are eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations.

Families and caregivers will be able to make an appointment for state-run or school based sites, on the [health department's website](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vaccines-children) at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vaccines-children> or by calling (855) 722-7878. The school-based sites began Monday, November 8th and will last for a 6-week period.

“When you look at the age breakdown of those in the hospital, those who are more vulnerable by age and underlying condition are ending up in the hospital even if they are vaccinated. Even more of a reason to get that booster shot and get the full protection,” said DFR Commissioner Mike Pieciak.

But leaders say that picture could shift dramatically in the weeks ahead with the vaccination rollout for children. Pfizer data says the shots -- about a third the size of an adult dose -- are 91% effective in protecting against delta.

Dr. Rebecca Bell, the president of the Vermont chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said that after months of testing and review, the vaccine is safe and effective and that the benefits far outweigh the risks. She says it's impossible to determine which kids will have severe outcomes from COVID, including long hauler



syndrome. “We can’t shield our children from being exposed to the SARS COVID virus. They will be exposed, likely many times over their lifetime. Vaccination will prepare them for that eventuality,” Bell said.

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

You can also walk in at CVS, Hannaford Food and Drug, Walmart, 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](#).

**Booster Shot information:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine> **Booster Shot Answers:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/faqs#boostershot>.

#### **Booster shots available through**

- your pharmacy
- your doctor
- The State Health Department: 855-722-7878, Mon - Fri 8:15 am - 4:30 pm, Sat and Sun 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Or <https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration>

**Johnson & Johnson:** You can get a booster shot if you received your vaccine at least two months ago.

**Moderna and Pfizer:** You can get a booster shot if you received your second dose of vaccine at least six months ago and are:

- 65 or older.
- 18 or older with certain medical conditions.
- 18 or older who work in a high-risk setting.
- 18 or older and are Black, Indigenous or a person of color (BIPOC)
- 18 or older and live with someone who is BIPOC.

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#### **Parks and Recreation Department**

Glen Cutfitta, Director

**Village Park Update:** Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) owns, operates, and has legal rights to access the electric transmission line that exists within the Colchester Village Park property. VELCO had these rights when the town purchased the land for the park in 2007. They have five sets of wood poles that have seen their useful lifetime and need to be replaced in January 2022.

Starting on November 8, 2021, you’ll notice VELCO and their contractors performing work within the Village Park property and along a few of the trails. They will begin preparation work first to ensure that their staff can bring equipment and materials to the



electric poles within the VELCO Right-of-Way. They will be delivering materials, installing temporary construction matting in sensitive areas, digging and drilling new holes for the new poles, and making safe working areas around the poles.

VELCO's pole replacement and related work occur in phases for which we do not have complete information from VELCO and which is not possible to completely define. In general, we hope to keep trails open but appreciate your patience and understanding, and request all trail users to maintain a safe distance from any work areas near the trails. On days that select trails are closed, please read and respect signage placed at trail locations as it is for everyone's safety.

Any vehicle or heavy equipment traffic associated with the maintenance work will enter off Main Street and travel over one of the park trails to traverse to the VELCO Right-of-Way. Upon completion of the pole replacements in January, the restoration process will begin, including removal of the retired poles, matting, and seeding/mulching of affected areas. For more information, please contact Peter W. Lind @ VELCO directly at 802-770-6292 or [plind@velco.com](mailto:plind@velco.com).

**Causeway Update:** The Causeway Connector Path, from Airport Park to Mills Point will be closed November 8, 2021 – January 8, 2022, due to path construction. The Colchester Causeway remains open. Any questions can be directed to [recreation@colchestervt.gov](mailto:recreation@colchestervt.gov)

**Fall Activities:** Ongoing program offerings for all ages. Currently, we are accepting Youth Basketball League registrations.

[www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6804/2021FallBrochure](http://www.colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6804/2021FallBrochure)

For more about Parks & Rec visit <http://colchestervt.gov/recreation> or call 802-264-5640.

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### **Colchester's Burnham Memorial Library**

Kelly McCagg, Director

#### **November 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

**Annual Tree Lighting at the Library:** Thursday, December 2 at 5:00 pm. Kick-off the holiday season with a library tree lighting accompanied by carol singing. Take-home craft kits will be available. No sign-ups are required.



**Gingerbread/Graham Cracker House Contest:** December 1 – 23. Build a tasty structure, and bring it to the library for our annual contest. We'll display your creations, and every entrant will be eligible for a raffled basket of goodies. Patrons will also get to vote on their favorites. Gingerbread kits and family/team entries are welcome. You can drop off your entry starting December 1; voting starts December 6, but entries are accepted even after voting begins. Guidelines and entry forms are available on our website.

For more about Library events visit <http://colchestervt.gov/library> or call 802-264-5660.

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### Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required. 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>
- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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: 83271430077 (US – New York)
- 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](http://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=DRBagenda&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBagenda%2C)

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required.

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, December 16, 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.

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

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)