

For the Week of March 14, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Your Town Staff congratulates, welcomes, and thanks Town Meeting Day candidates!



Congratulations to Tom Mulcahy and Charlie Papillo on their re-election, and we welcome Maureen Dakin to the Selectboard. Thanks to Rich Paquette for his past and future service to the community as Planning Commission Chair. We also congratulate Charlotte Gardener and Scott Barrett on their re-elections as Town Lister and Moderator, respectively, and welcome Brent Litterer to the Library Board of Trustees.

Your Selectboard, Library Trustees, Listers and Moderator are not elected by party according to Vermont State Statutes. The responsibilities of local government, from speed limits to stormwater and sewer services to property valuation to library policy, are specific to our responsibilities in our Charter and State Statutes, public input, and the willingness and ability of voters to fund local services.

Voting and running for office are two ways to participate in local government. We also have events, meetings and ongoing opportunities. The time commitments range from "one-time and done" at special events, to being on-call for emergencies for Colchester Fire and Colchester Rescue, which are primarily staffed by volunteers, and Colchester Technical Rescue, which is completely staffed by volunteers, to boards and commissions (see links for more information):

- 85 elected and appointed members of [boards and commissions](#)
- 50 firefighter [volunteers](#)
- 30 rescue [volunteers](#)
- 40 technical rescue [volunteers](#)
- 90 recreation events / youth league [volunteers](#)
- 15 library [volunteers](#)
- 80 election [volunteers](#)
- Hundreds of volunteers participate annually for Green-Up Day, which is coordinated by the Conservation Commission and involves the Town's Police Department, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation
- Community groups labeling stormwater drains, which will evolve into the "Adopt-A-Drain" program

There are also volunteer opportunities specifically for youth:

- **Get Engaged Student Volunteer Program:** Since 2016, the Town of Colchester has invited Colchester High School students who are in grades 10-12 and Colchester residents to join a participating Board or Commission as a youth member for a term of one year. Students will be mentored by a board / commission member and may have the option to renew their student terms or join the board/commission as an adult member at the age of 18. Participation in the program can count toward the student's volunteer work required for graduation.
- **Fire Department Cadet Members:** Cadet Firefighters train with the department and receive certifications but do not directly engage in operations that are immediate danger to life and health. Cadet firefighters may obtain and maintain certifications in Emergency Medical Response and perform these duties for the Department.
- **Youth Rescue Volunteers:** Five current volunteer members of Colchester Rescue began as youth members. As COVID cases fall, Colchester Rescue is exploring how to re-introduce youth training and volunteering opportunities.
- **Youth Library Volunteers:** Colchester's Burnham Library has three distinct roles for Teen Volunteers in the areas of shelving books, cleaning and painting.



Municipal Service Budget Comparison: Seventeen Chittenden County municipal governments voted on budgets or tax rates for Town Meeting Day. Budget increases ranged from 20% to 1.3% ,with an average of 8.5%. Colchester's increase was 2.9%.

On March 9, 2022 we welcomed Anders Proft and Joshua Callahan as Police Officers Recruits for Town of Colchester. Colchester Police Chief Doug Allen officially “swore in” Anders Proft and Joshua Callahan as two new Officer Recruits who will begin by attending the 113th Training Class for Police Professionals in Pittsford, VT starting March 21, 2022.



Town Manager Frank recognized the ‘round the clock responsibilities of local government staff to service the public, often in tough situations and

weather. He welcomed the two and shared the Town's support in their year-long training and their careers as Colchester Police Officers.

Anders Proft has trained as a forest firefighter, worked in farming, and completed an educational program well-suited for policing, with education ranging from conflict resolutions, sociology, and communications.



Joshua Callahan has trained and served as an emergency medical technician and has experience in criminal justice through his service to the military police patrolling base.



Colchester Historical Society Update

In commemoration of Women's History Month this year, the Colchester Historical Society has chosen to honor Electa “Etta” Cook Burnham (1863-1939) for her contribution in establishing Burnham Memorial Library.

Etta Burnham was born in Colchester and grew up on a farm on Mill Pond Road. In 1883, she moved to Gardner, MA with her husband Herbert Burnham of Johnson, VT. There, both of them became active in local church and community activities. Following Mr. Burnham's retirement, the couple returned to Colchester and settled quickly into service to the Colchester community. Herbert



Burnham passed away in 1932, and Etta continued living in Colchester and remained active in the Colchester community until her death in 1939. In her will, she left most of her estate to “build, furnish, and maintain a library.” Her stated preference was for a building similar to the one in Underhill Flats and that it be built on property then known as “Church Park.” Etta's wish for that location was honored when the land was leased from the Congregational Church for \$1. In its first year, the new library held 2,258 books; total budget for the library was \$229.76.

Today, Burnham Memorial Library houses more than 50,000 physical items and provides access to a growing digital collection. Programming spans offerings for babies to seniors, with something to meet all interests. For more information about the Burnham Memorial Library, please visit <https://colchestervt.gov/3100/Library>.

To read the full article: https://www.colchestersun.com/news/colchester-historical-society-honors-electa-etta-burnham/article_f04e51b8-9ef7-11ec-942e-d3fbf3722bdd.html

Vermont Community Loan Fund

Vermont's nonprofits may have financing and other resources available to them through the Vermont Community Loan Fund (VCLF).



VCLF lends to community organizations that provide essential services and opportunities to Vermonters, including rural health centers, youth/family organizations, recreational centers, elder care facilities, arts organizations, preservation organizations, historical societies & other cultural organizations. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** Vermont nonprofit and for-profit organizations that provide vital community services; Benefit Vermonters earning less than 80% of the median income; and are unable to obtain credit at reasonable rates and terms. **ACCEPTABLE USES:** Real estate acquisition; Construction; Rehabilitation; Bridge financing; and, Equipment purchases. For further information and application, contact Barbara Petrie, Loan Administrator, at barbara@vclf.org or (802) 223-4425.

COVID-19 Updates



According to the CDC, Chittenden County is at medium risk for COVID. Following CDC and State guidance, and based on our current risk, the Town is not mandating masks in Town Hall. Library and Recreation Programs may vary by location and program. Any person wishing to wear a mask is encouraged to do so.

For VT COVID-19 Data Summaries and COVID-19 Community Risk Levels visit:



- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Weekly-Data-Summary-3-3-2022.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html?msclkid=467f9545a17b11ec9f75841675f755c6>

Information about the requirements and recommendations for masking is available here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/protect-yourself-others>

Vaccines & Boosters: The most protection against COVID-19 comes from getting vaccinated (age 5+) and boosted (age 12+). To find a clinic, visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine> or <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](#).

Testing: There are now two option for testing, on-site and at-home. To find a testing location near you, visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested#where>

If you hope to test from home, the Federal Government may have free, at-home tests available. Visit <https://www.covidtests.gov/> to order tests from the Federal Government via the USPS.

If you test positive for COVID-19:

- Isolate at home away from others for 5-10 days
 - Reach out and inform close contacts immediately
 - You can leave your home after day 5 if:
 - You have two negative antigen tests performed at least 24 hours apart beginning no earlier than day 4*
 - AND you never had symptoms, or your symptoms have improved, and you feel better
 - AND you have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers
 - AND you wear a mask around others through day 10.
 - Guidance from the State on How to Isolate, Test, and Notify Close-Contacts: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/symptoms-sickness/what-do-if-you-test-positive-covid-19>
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Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, 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

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 4:30 pm, fully-remote. The public can join by dialing (929)-205-099. Meeting ID: 862 9172 8482 Passcode: 284798

Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 5, at 7 pm at the Colchester Town Offices. Meeting to discuss East Lakeshore Drive.

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