

For the Week of October 17, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

The State of Vermont Health Department reported a recent case of rabies in a raccoon in the Town of Colchester. The State was able to share just the nearest cross-street location, which is Lavigne Road/Malletts Bay Avenue.

Please take steps to protect humans and pets from rabies.

If you are bitten by an animal: wash the wound very well with soap and water and contact your health care provider. Follow all their instructions.

If your pet or farm animal was exposed to a wild or stray animal that might have rabies contact your veterinarian. Pets should be vaccinated for rabies. [State law requires](#) dogs and cats to be vaccinated — even barn cats.

If you see a wild or stray animal acting strangely, or are concerned about a rabies exposure, call the Rabies Hotline (1-800-4-RABIES), or report it to your town's animal control officer.

Do not touch or pick up wild or stray animals – even baby animals – or try to make them into pets. Doing so can put yourself or your family at risk of exposure through a bite or a scratch. You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. Interacting with young wildlife may result in them being orphaned or, if tested for rabies, requires humanely euthanizing the animal. So, for their own sake, leave wildlife in the wild.

Learn more about rabies in Vermont – visit www.healthvermont.gov/rabies.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals and is fatal to both humans and animals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and woodchucks. Cats, dogs and livestock can also get rabies if they have not been vaccinated. Rabies virus is spread through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies is transmitted only when the virus is introduced into a bite wound, open cuts on the skin, or onto mucous membranes like the mouth or eyes.

Colchester Police & Supportive Services

The Colchester Police Department recently presented an update on their department to the Selectboard. Information from that meeting can be found here:

<https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt>. One highlighted topic included efforts regarding supportive services that the Colchester Police Department has been dedicated to.

One part of these efforts includes working with the Essex Community Justice Center (ECJC) in partnership with the Town of Essex and the State Department of Corrections. ECJC provides restorative justice programming with a focus on crime prevention, conflict resolution, and meeting the needs of those affected by crime. Different programs include Community Restorative Justice Panels, Community Dialogue Education, and the Circle of and Accountability Program (COSA), which helps those recently released from incarceration to successfully re-enter society. Additionally, through a Pre-Charge program, the Colchester Police Department can refer cases to Restorative Justice Panels instead of court. These panels are facilitated by trained community volunteers and serve as a proven and cost-effective means to addressing low-level offenses. Through a series of conversations, the panel process holds those responsible for crime accountable for their actions and provides an important opportunity for those affected by crime to share their stories and identify needs for repair.



Another part of these efforts involves Colchester Police's work with the Howard Center. Work with the Howard Center began in 2018 through their Community Outreach Program that created a supportive presence in municipalities. The Howard Center hired, trained, and supervised staff to serve as

Community Outreach Specialists to serve the communities involved in the program. Currently the program has expanded to include nine Chittenden County communities. In collaboration with local law enforcement and service providers, the Howard Center Outreach Specialists work to coordinate support for individuals who have mental health, substance use, housing, or other social service needs. This collaboration has enhanced the general well-being of local communities like Colchester and allowed the municipalities' police resources to focus on persons who have committed crimes.

Department Updates

The Colchester Quilters Group has been adding seasonal warmth and color to the Clerk's Office for years. Stop by and view this spooktacular quilt that will be up through Halloween!



Looking for more ways to enjoy the Fall season? Review all the Parks & Recreation programs being offered this fall in their brochure:
<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7589/2022FallBrochure>

The Burnham Memorial Library is also offering a variety of programming this fall season. Check out all the opportunities on their calendar:
<https://colchestervt.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=25>



Want to get involved in your Town? Consider volunteering on a Town Board or Commission!

See below for more information, and to complete an application, please visit and **apply no later than October 31st**: <https://colchestervt.gov/369/Boards-Commissions>

Conservation Commission – 2 Open Adult Member Seats & 2 Open Youth Member Seats

Theresa Carroll, Chair, tcarroll110@gmail.com

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 PM at the Town Offices, Champlain Room, 2nd floor, or per agenda.

The Conservation Commission is concerned with the public awareness, education, and preservation of Colchester's natural areas; water quality of rivers, ponds, and Lake Champlain; wildlife habitats; and beautification of the Town. Annual activities include:

- Green Up Day Coordination
- Colchester Blooms! to raise funds for planting flowerbeds at high-traffic sites
- Maintenance of the rain garden on Holy Cross Road
- Site visits to Town natural areas to plan future projects and assess natural resources for reports to Lake Champlain Land Trust
- Attention to water quality, stream protection, conservation and related areas and responds to special project requests from Town officials
- Completed Projects include: Care of the Urban Forest Project through the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program to assist with master tree plan and tree inventory and provide volunteer training in the maintenance and care of Town trees; Rain Barrel Workshop
- What CCC Values: Creative thinking and new ideas regarding ways to address conservation in Colchester

Development Review Board – 3 Open Adult Member Seats & 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Zachary Maia, Developmental Planner, 802-264-5604

Matthew Gamage, Chair, matthew.gamage@gmail.com

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, Outer Bay Room, 3rd floor.

The Colchester Development Review Board processes and approves:

- Commercial and Residential site plans
- Subdivision applications
- Conditional use and variance applications
- Appeals of the Zoning Administrator's determinations

Planning Commission – 1 Open Adult Member Seat & 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Cathyann Larose, Director of Planning and Zoning, 802-264-5602

Richard Paquette, Chair, Paquette12@comcast.net

Meets monthly on either the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Town Offices at 7:00 PM, Outer Bay Room, 3rd floor.

Currently the Planning Commission is finalizing several amendments to the Development Regulations and will likely soon begin a review of design in the Town's Growth Center (Severance Corners). The Commission also:

- Oversees revisions to the Town Zoning Regulations
- Undertakes planning studies for the long-term growth of Colchester (updating the open space plan is possible during this term)
- Updates the Town Plan (will kick off in 2024)

Recreation Advisory Board – 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Glen Cuttitta, Director of Parks and Recreation, 802-264-5641

Adriane Martin, Chair, Adrianemrtn@gmail.com

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Town Offices at 7 AM.

Members work with the Director of Parks and Recreation on the development and management of recreational facilities and programs to serve the citizens of Colchester. In addition, they help coordinate and volunteer at Parks and Rec events such as:

- Winter Carnival
- Touch a Truck
- Fourth of July events

Board of Library Trustees – 1 Open Youth Member Seat

Kelly McCagg, Library Director, 802-264-5661

Toni Josey, Chair, tjosey@colchestervt.gov

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM at the Burnham Library.

The Library Trustees work with the Library Director to determine policies to govern library operations, and programs; recruit, interview, and consider candidates for the position of Library Director along with the Town Manager; maintain an ongoing performance appraisal for the Director with the Town Manager; secure adequate funding; assist in the annual budget presentation at budget hearings; and attend Selectboard meetings as necessary. In addition, the Library Trustees ensure and advocate:

- Collection development
- Long-range library planning
- An active marketing program
- Local, state, and federal library laws and stay informed on pending library legislation
- Accurate record keeping at the library and compliance with Freedom of Information regulations

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, October 25th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Planning Commission: **THERE IS NO OCTOBER MEETING. NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, November 1st, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Library board of Trustees: Thursday, October 20th, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

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

Note: Agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting, so you may find past agendas when clicking the link. Revisiting the link closer to the date of the meeting should provide you with the current agenda.

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMA02v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov