

For the Week of November 28, 2022

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Fall 2022 Clean Water Newsletter

As autumn returned to the Champlain Valley along with cooler days, apple picking and pumpkins to harvest, the Department of Public Works would like to provide you with some updates and information:

- Adopt-A-Drain Program Updates
- Stormwater Program FAQs
- Winter Salting Tips



Courtesy of Adam Cohen

Did You Know?

Dog waste carries harmful bacteria that can end up in our waterways. Please pick up after your pet. To assist with this, the Town provides over 15,000 pet waste bags in our parks and beaches annually.

Adopt-A-Drain Program

Since its debut in Spring 2022, Adopt-A-Drain has become a popular option for anyone interested in volunteering to keep our waterways clean. So far, Vermonters have cleared over **475 pounds of leaf litter and debris from 167 adopted drains**. In as



little as 15 minutes, twice a month, you too can adopt a drain in your neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, yard waste, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. Storm drains can flow directly to lakes and streams, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Heavy fall rains and wind pose a threat of flooding as leaves in large amounts could end up clogging drains and leaving them unable to accept stormwater.

The program has been adopted by Burlington, Colchester, Essex Town, Essex Junction, and Milton. Volunteers choose how frequently to clear their drain, and report how much and what kinds of debris is collected. Along with a welcome packet and yard sign, you get the clever perk of getting to name a drain. Some of the fun names your neighbors have come up with: Drain 'The Rock' Johnson, Leaf Lover, November Drain, Drainy McDrainface, USS Drainerprise and Somewhere over the Drainbow.

*** How creative can you get? ***

Sign up at VT.Adopt-a-drain.org

Stormwater Program FAQ

What does the Town's Stormwater Program do?

- The stormwater program is a group of dedicated staff who are responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of roadside ditches, roadway basins, underground pipes, and discharge points like outfalls and stormwater ponds that collect and move rainwater away from public roadways and developed areas. We are also responsible for performing a variety of inspection, reporting, and testing duties and administering clean water programs aimed to reduce the amount of pollutants entering waterways. Lastly, we are responsible for identifying, advancing, and overseeing construction projects to reduce the transport of pollutants like bacteria, phosphorus, chloride, or sediment to our lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams.

Why are we concerned about stormwater runoff?

- Stormwater is important to manage because of what it carries and how fast it moves. The primary concern is that when rain falls and water rushes off of our roads and driveways, it also picks up oils, debris, bacteria and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Stormwater then carries these pollutants to our streams and rivers, which all drain into Lake Champlain. These nutrients accumulate and can cause cyanobacteria, algae blooms, and threaten the habitat quality of the animals and plants that call these waterways home. When that water moves at high speeds, it can cause erosion and streambank instability.

Are sewers and storm drains the same thing?

- A sewer is a system of underground pipes that carries wastewater from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, and other plumbing to a disposal system or a wastewater treatment facility where it is filtered, treated, and discharged. A storm drain is only for receiving rainwater that runs off impervious surfaces and should never be used to dispose of wastewater or pet waste, oils, hazardous wastes, grass clippings or leaf litter. If you ever observe this, please call the Water Quality Hotline at 802-264-5628.



Winter Salting Tips

While the use of road salt improves safety conditions during winter ice and snow events, overuse of salt can have negative effects on water bodies, aquatic plants and animals, and can damage metal and concrete. Data from around Vermont indicate that road salt is accumulating in our waterways. While public safety is of utmost importance, Public Works takes many steps to minimize the impacts of our maintenance programs.

Town plow trucks are equipped with computerized spreader controls that control the amount of salt being used on our roadways, with equipment calibrated each season to ensure accuracy. We closely monitor temperatures and other storm conditions to ensure that we are using road salt as efficiently as we can, since under 10 degrees, salt is not an effective deicer. This not only minimizes environmental impacts, but also saves taxpayers thousands of dollars in unnecessary salt costs.

As a property owner, you can also take steps to minimize impacts on our environment. If you are planning to use salt this winter around your property, please consider the following:

- Salt should be stored in airtight containers to minimize loss and maximize effectiveness.
- Pre-treat walkways before the storm hits to limit post-storm usage.
- Shovel early after a storm to minimize need for deicing agents.
- Only use on impervious surfaces, never on lawns, or near wetlands or surface waters.

Spring 2023 Billing Information

Annual stormwater invoices will be mailed in January 2023 with payments due February 25, 2023. Commercial property owners are eligible for credits if they undertake specific actions that reduce the impact of runoff into the public stormwater system, or provide an ongoing public benefit related to stormwater management.

For more info please visit:

www.colchestervt.gov/1837/stormwater-utility

Department Updates



Department of Public Works: Winter Parking Ban

The Department of Public Works would like to remind residents of the Town's Winter Parking Ban. From November 15th to March 15th, no vehicles may be parked within the Town's public streets between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. We would also like to remind residents that pushing, blowing, or placing snow within the Town's right of way, including sidewalks, is also prohibited.

We thank you for your cooperation in assisting the Public Works crew in our efforts to keep Colchester's transportation network safe for all. Please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works with any questions: DPW@colchestervt.gov or (802)264-5620.

Parks & Recreation Dinner with Santa Returns!

Join Santa and all of the elves in the Colchester Parks & Recreation Department and Colchester Lions Club for a delicious 'breakfast' dinner of pancakes, eggs, and sausage. Don't forget your flashlight for the candy cane hunt too! After dinner, Santa will read you his favorite holiday story. Wear your PJ's if you want! Maximum: 75 per seating.



Location: Colchester Middle School, Cafeteria
When: Friday, December 9th, 5:00 - 6:00 pm or 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.
Cost: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children, 2 & Under Free
*All attending must register whether eating or not

Register here:

<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7589/2022FallBrochure#pg=18>

Holiday Biofield Tuning, Ages 18+

Decompress in December with a Certified Biofield Tuning Practitioner/Physical Therapist. She will lead you through a 90-minute journey of relaxation, combined with tuning forks, guided breath and movement. The goal is to provide peace and comfort during a hectic holiday season. You will learn to relax and go within. All participants will need to bring a yoga mat, pillow and a water bottle. Minimum: 4, Maximum: 15.

Instructor: Mary Grundvald
Location: Bayside Activity Center
When: Saturday, December 3rd, 9:00-10:30 am
Cost: \$38(R)/\$48(NR)

Register here:

<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7589/2022FallBrochure#pg=18>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard - Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 13th, 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

Selectboard - Municipal Services Budget Workshop: Tuesday, November 29th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Selectboard - Municipal Services Budget Workshop: Tuesday, December 6th, 8:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

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.

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

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