

**For the Week of December 12, 2022**

### **Manager's Message**

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

### **Colchester Historical Society**

#### **Holiday Choral Event**

**December 13, 7 p.m.**

**900 Main Street**

**Colchester Village**

#### **About this event:**

The Colchester Historical Society and the United Church of Colchester are pleased to announce the return of the Annual Holiday Choral Concert and Party. Music for this event will feature the beautiful and festive musical styling of Colchester High School choral groups. Fellowship and a variety of refreshments will immediately follow the concert.



“Colchester is very fortunate to have this beautiful historical building in our community,” said Bonnie Potter, Historical Society President. “That it continues to be actively used and appreciated nearly 200 years after it was built is a wonderful added bonus. These talented high school students have been working diligently in their music practice and are excited to bring us their presentation.”

This event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the church, the library, the Meeting House, Historical Society, and overflow parking at Our Lady of Grace Church. Due to the increasing number of recent thefts around the community, please be sure to lock your vehicle.

#### **Building history:**

The First Congregational Church of Christ was organized September 14, 1804, at first in a schoolhouse on the Farrand farm, standing on the west side of East Road near the railroad. From there, the church held its meetings in various schools, barns, or homes. In 1838, the brick church was built by the Congregational Church and shared with the Baptist Church until 1861 when the Baptist Church was built.



In 1919, it became the United Church of Colchester. Electricity was installed in both the parish house and the brick church in 1921. Some remodeling also occurred at that time, including installation of the stained-glass windows. The kitchen, restroom, and a coatroom were added in 1927, as well as a furnace in the main room, and the horse sheds were torn down. Later, a new furnace was installed in the cellar.

The United Church of Colchester is Christ-centered and family oriented. The pastor is Reverend Doctor Russell E. Willis. For more information about this church, please visit <https://www.churchofcolchester.org>.

The Colchester Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and communicating the town's local history. For more information, please visit <https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society>.



**Wreaths Across America:** On **December 17, 2022 at 12:00 pm**, Wreaths Across America will be at **Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery** to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

You can sponsor a wreath to be laid on a grave or volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony by visiting their website: <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/17235/Overview/?relatedId=0>

Thank you in advance for supporting Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery and Wreaths Across America!

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## Department Updates



### Operation Fire Cuffs

The Colchester Fire Department will be participating in the annual Operation Fire Cuffs toy drive this year. CFD will be teaming up with approximately 30 other agencies from all over Vermont to collect toys and gift cards for the children at the University of Vermont Children's hospital. **Colchester Fire will have three drop off locations this year:**

- The Malletts Bay Station, 844 Church Road, is available for drop-offs M-F, 8am-4pm
- The Colchester Center Station, 483 Main Street, is available for drop-offs T-Th, 8am-4pm

- A bin in the lobby of the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, is available for donations, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm
- **The Colchester Police Department is also participating and is accepting donations 24/7 at 835 Blakely Road until December 19th.**

*(please keep in mind that the first two locations are active firehouses and somebody may not be available to answer the door at all times)*

We are looking for donations of new, unwrapped toys or gift cards for children, ranging from infants to teenagers, to be **dropped off any time before Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. That afternoon, all of the participating agencies will send an emergency apparatus filled with toys to the hospital to deliver the toys with Santa Claus.

For more information, or to schedule a specific drop off time please contact Firefighter Cootware via email at [tcootware@colchestervt.gov](mailto:tcootware@colchestervt.gov).

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### **Parks & Recreation**

The 2023 Winter Brochure is now out! This brochure covers the months of January-May. Register online here: <https://secure.rec1.com/VT/colchester-vt/catalog>

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## **Upcoming Town Meetings**

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or 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.

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, December 15th, 4:00 pm in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

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



## Colchester Town News

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*Colchester – What do you want to do today?*

**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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