

For the Week of January 3, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

We'd like to thank everyone who participated in the Colchester-Milton Rotary Holiday Baskets to help families who are food insecure. Colchester Fire and many other community organizations and volunteers assisted with donations and helped deliver the baskets, which brought joy to our staff and volunteers to be part of making the holidays a merrier experience for Colchester residents.



Photos Courtesy of Alek Fleury



Issues of Local Concern: You are welcome to post on social media, but please contact the Town staff directly by phone or email if you have an issue of concern that you believe should be addressed by your Town government. We may wish to obtain more specific information or dialogue with you about the issue to understand and resolve through more direct communication. A directory of phone and email contact information for various Town departments can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/Col-Town-Dir> and a link to a webpage

showing your Town services can be found here: <https://colchestervt.gov/35/Town-Services>. If you are uncertain who to contact, or are not satisfied with the response to a Town department, feel free to contact the Town Manager's office at 802-264-5509 or townmanager@colchestervt.gov.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The ACP is a U.S. government program run by the [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](https://www.fcc.gov/) to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices like a laptop or tablet.



Eligibility: You may be eligible if your household’s income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

If your household is eligible, you could receive:

- Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Through a separate non-FCC initiative, additional no cost plans may be available to Affordable Connectivity Program enrollees. To learn more please visit [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov).

To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to enroll in the ACP with a [participating provider that offers connected devices](#). The internet company will provide the discount to the consumer. Apply [here](#).

For more information, visit: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>



Colchester Historical Society

Vermont History Day 2023: Registration for Vermont History Day 2023 begins January 4th. Vermont History Day is an exciting educational program hosted by the Vermont Historical Society. Any Vermont student in grades 5-12 can participate, including students in Vermont public schools, private schools, and home schools. Some students participate as part of history class, while others participate

as an independent project or for extra credit, individually or as a team.

This event encourages students to develop research and critical thinking skills through project-based learning and the study of history. Students share their projects at the annual state contest, which will be held Saturday, April 8th, at the University of Vermont Davis Center in Burlington—and there are many special prizes awarded! “We would love to see some Colchester students participate in this event,” said Bonnie Potter, Colchester Historical Society President. “If there are participating students who select a topic within Colchester’s local history, we’d love to help out.”

For registration and complete contest information, visit www.vermonthistory.org/historyday or contact Eileen Corcoran, Vermont History Day Coordinator at eileen.corcoran@vermonthistory.org, (802) 479-8522.

COMING SOON:

“Twenty Questions” - This fun, new trivia game will be co-hosted by the Colchester Historical Society and the Burnham Memorial Library and will run throughout the month of January. All twenty of the trivia questions pertain to Colchester's local history. Some answers will be easy to find (or perhaps you already know some of them) and others will be more challenging. Everyone is welcome to participate. There's no deadline, no fee, and you can enjoy the game at your own pace on your own time. Stay tuned for upcoming details on how to participate.

Winter Quarterly Newsletter - Watch for the Colchester Historical Society's Winter issue of its quarterly newsletter available in early January. The newsletter will cover upcoming and recently held events. Learn who the Historical Society will be honoring for Women's History Month. The link to the newsletter will soon be available on the Historical Society's website, Facebook page, and here in the Town Newsletter. Again, stay tuned!

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, January 10th, 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: Tuesday, January 3rd, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 am at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Development Review Board: Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd 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 or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

Conservation Commission: Monday, January 16th, 6:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room.



Planning Commission and Development Review Board Joint Meeting: Tuesday, January 17th, 6:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, January 19th, 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.

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