

For the Week of January 9, 2023

Manager’s Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



Martin Luther King Jr, Day of observance: The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Town Municipal Services Budget: The proposed FY 24 budget would result in an estimated 5.7% municipal service tax rate increase to maintain the current level of municipal services, including services that were previously approved by the Selectboard, such as body-worn camera data transmission and storage, as well as digital evidence software. For a residential property valued at \$300,000, the increase would be \$99/year or \$1.90/week. The Selectboard is holding a hearing on the budget January 10, 2022 @ 6:40PM at 781 Blakely Road in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

<i>Estimated Municipal Services Property Tax Increase (Compared to FY 23)</i>			
Assessed Value	200,000	300,000	400,000
Annual	\$66	\$99	\$132
Monthly	\$5.50	\$8.25	\$11.00
Weekly	\$1.27	\$1.90	\$2.54

More info: <https://colchestervt.gov/349/Proposed-Budget>



You are welcome to post on social media, but if you wish for the Town staff or Selectboard to act on or consider something, please contact us directly by phone or email. We may need to obtain more specific information or dialogue with you about the issue to understand and resolve it through more direct communication.

For issues of local concern that you believe should be addressed by your Town government., please contact the Town Staff Directly. The staff directory of phone and email contact information for various Town departments is provided here: <https://tinyurl.com/Col-Town-Dir>

If you are uncertain who to contact, or what level of government may have responsibility and jurisdiction for an issue (town, regional, state or federal), or are not satisfied with the response from a Town Department, feel free to contact the Town Manager’s office at 802-264-5509 or TownManager@colchestervt.gov. The Town manager generally

oversees the Town departments in their implementation of the Town budgets and capital projects proposed by the Selectboard and approved by the voters.

Your Town Selectboard serves as the legislative and judicial branch of your municipal government, and oversees the Town Manager. If you have something to be shared with them at a Selectboard meeting, you are welcome to send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the upcoming Selectboard meeting and included in the following information packet.

Individual Selectboard member contact information is available here:
<https://www.colchestervt.gov/401/Selectboard>.



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.

Colchester History
Trivia Game!

Play the Colchester History Trivia Game: The Colchester Historical Society and the Burnham Memorial Library have teamed up to bring you a new “Twenty Questions” trivia game. All questions pertain to our local Colchester history, and the game will run throughout the month of January. Some

answers will be easy to find (you may already know some of them), while other questions may be a bit more challenging. But it's all just for fun. Everyone is welcome to participate, and you can enjoy the game on your own time, at your own pace.

Stop by the Burnham Memorial Library to pick up a paper participation form, or visit the Historical Society website to get the [online form](#). Then, test yourself on your local Colchester history. "Have fun with it!" encouraged Bonnie Potter, President of the Colchester Historical Society. "Answer the questions yourself, or get family members and friends together sometime this month for a group activity. Some of the questions may stir up great memories of fun times around town and that creates laughter and interesting conversations."

As a special bonus, an official answer sheet will be provided to use when maybe you just can't figure out some of the answers.

COMING SOON: *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!

Department Updates

Town Clerk's Office: *Attention Colchester dog parent!* It's time to renew your dog's annual license.

Fees:

Fixed dog \$15.00
Non-fixed dog \$20.00
To avoid an additional \$5.00 fee, license your dog before April 1st.



The state of Vermont requires all dogs to be licensed with their town, 20 V.S.A. § 3581. A current rabies certificate along with proof of spay/neuter and fee is needed to issue the license and tag.

Licensing can be completed online, by mail or in person. For more information go to <https://colchestervt.gov/323/Dog-Licensing> or call 802-264-5520.

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

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