

For the Week of April 18, 2023

Manager’s Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

This week is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Volunteers in our community help keep us safe and empowered, whether they are servicing an emergency call, aiding in elections, or ensuring a special Town event runs smoothly. On behalf of the Town of Colchester, we would like to recognize the 28 volunteer Emergency Medical Service providers of Colchester Rescue Squad, the 43 volunteers of the Colchester Fire Department, the 11 Fire Members and 35 Rescue Members at Saint Michael's Fire and Rescue Departments, the 24 volunteers that run the Colchester Technical Rescue Squad, around 85 people who serve on the Town’s nine boards and commissions, and over 200 youth and special event volunteers for their dedication and selfless service to the Town. We are extremely proud of all these folks for encouraging resilience and community within our Town. Thank you!



Fire Department Update: Last week’s Selectboard meeting had a turnout of 50 community members. Eight individuals spoke on various points regarding the Fire Department, but all were in favor of hiring additional paid firefighters. Colchester has a rich history of volunteerism. Fire along with Rescue volunteers provide a highly valued service and create a sense of community, both within their groups and among the Town. But much like how the Town has grown and how its services are provided have changed, so has the need for Fire services. We thank everyone for their interest and respectful participation in discussing municipal service needs of the Town.



We continue to assess and evolve the Colchester Fire Department, which began service with funding for four career staff members in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. For FY 24, the Town added a half time Assistant Chief to the Colchester Fire Department. The Town Manager noted the importance of future additional resources including air packs, a fire engine and staffing for the Fire Department, as detailed in the December 15, 2022 Town Audit.

The Town is pleased to announce that the Colchester Fire Department will be hiring two full-time career firefighter positions. A career firefighter position hiring process is currently underway and will be filled as soon as possible. As of July 1, 2023, an additional full-time career firefighter position was approved for hire. The career staffing of the department after the July 1, 2023 hire will be 5.5. The hire of the additional career firefighter position after July 1, 2023 (FY24) will be the Fire Department’s sole request for additional staffing in FY 25, as it is not budgeted in FY 24, and is being funded a year ahead in response to the changing needs of the Department.

As Town Manager, I have the highest respect for our public safety professionals including volunteers, career members, from new recruits to leadership. I would most welcome additional funding for public safety services for the future.

CSWD: Celebrate Earth Week, April 16-22

Celebrate Earth Week with offerings from the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD)! This year, CSWD staff wanted to deep dive into food waste prevention. Food placed in the landfill is one of the major causes of greenhouse gases AND is a waste of a valuable resource! Expand your food waste prevention



knowledge through a fantastic lineup of virtual and in-person events and workshops:

<https://cswd.net/event/celebrate-earth-week-fight-food-waste/>

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

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



Colchester – What do you want to do today?

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, April 20, 4:00 p.m., 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