

## For the Week of June 12, 2023

### Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

**Exit 16 DDI Traffic Control:** The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is improving the roadway along the U.S. Routes 2/7 (U.S. 2/7) corridor, in the vicinity of Interstate 89 (I-89) Exit 16, to enhance mobility and safety in Colchester. Since this is a State Highway, the State of VT is in charge of this project, and they are responsible for the hiring of flaggers and off-duty police and Sheriffs to maintain traffic control within the project limits. Any efforts by Colchester Police to control traffic would affect other areas of the project because assigning uniformed officers to control the middle of construction areas is counterproductive and not in line with traffic plans approved and designed by traffic engineers. The Selectboard supports the project, but complaints, compliments, and concerns should be directed to the project's Public Outreach Team at [info@exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov](mailto:info@exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov) or 802-595-4399. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



To learn more about the project, please visit <https://www.exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/>.

### **Bear Coexistence PSA from Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department:**

Bear activity typically increases in June, so the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is reminding everyone that now is an especially important time to secure food sources that could attract bears to your neighborhood.



At this time of year, unsecured garbage is the single biggest cause of bear conflicts in our state. Here are three steps for keeping your garbage from attracting bears:

- **Dispose of garbage frequently.** If you have pick-up services, wait until the morning to put your garbage out.
- **Make your garbage inaccessible.** Store garbage in a secure structure and a bear proof container. Learn how to make your garbage can bear proof here: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/Learn%20More/Living%20with%20Wildlife/Living%20with%20Bears/bear-resistant-retrofit-polycart.pdf>
- **Demand bear proof dumpsters for your community.** Your garbage hauler should be able to provide these.

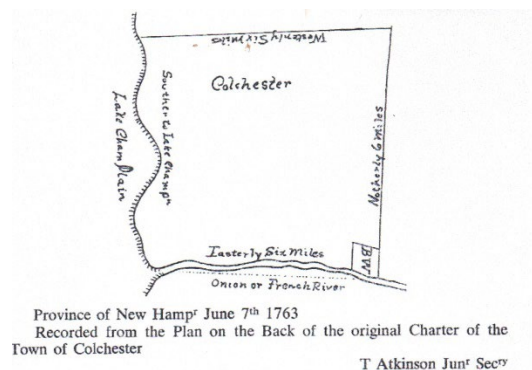
A complete list of bear coexistence tips covering topics like composting, protecting your backyard chickens, and discouraging bears from getting too comfortable in your yard is available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website at:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/living-with-wildlife/living-with-black-bears>

As always, if you notice bears seeking food in their yards or in public places like campgrounds, report the incident at:

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>

### Colchester Historical Society Updates:



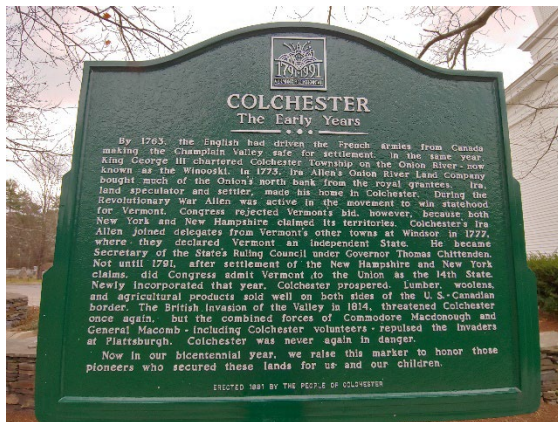
**Colchester Reaches Milestone: June 7 marked the 260th Anniversary** of the original charter of the Town of Colchester. Please see the comprehensive story in the *Colchester Sun*, written by Ella Ruehsen at [https://www.colchestersun.com/news/happy-birthday-colchester-june-7-marks-260-years-of-charterdom/article\\_b71e011e-056b-11e-81fc-038317ab53c5.html](https://www.colchestersun.com/news/happy-birthday-colchester-june-7-marks-260-years-of-charterdom/article_b71e011e-056b-11e-81fc-038317ab53c5.html).

**Visit the Log Schoolhouse this Summer: Colchester's historic Log Schoolhouse** will be open on weekends this summer, June through August, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday–Monday. This 24- x 28-foot log structure was originally one of the earliest schoolhouses in Colchester, built circa 1815. It is located within Airport Park at 500 Colchester Point Road. Today, the Colchester Log Schoolhouse functions as a visitor information center, interpretive venue for schools, and a museum for displaying Colchester history. Students of all ages are encouraged to visit this lovely little historic site to step back in time to the days of early school education. Parking and admission are free, but donations are always appreciated.

The Colchester Historical Society welcomes and encourages you to become a volunteer host this summer at the Log Schoolhouse. Volunteer hours are fun, interesting, and very flexible. To find out more, please contact Carol Reichard at 802-497-3036.



**Road trip!** You've probably already seen most of our town's local historical sites. Or have you? And how much do you really know about them? The Colchester Historical Society invites you to enjoy its Self-Guided Driving Tour of over forty local historical landmarks this summer.



The tour is divided into four general geographical areas: Colchester Village, Malletts Bay, Airport Park, and Fort Ethan Allen. In addition, there is a section that covers six local cemeteries. The Historical Society recommends that you begin your tour on Main Street at the Bicentennial sign (pictured), located between Burnham Memorial Library and the Meeting House, and go from there. Select your own route, depending on your interests and time schedule. There's no waiting, no fees, and no rush. Visit all of the landmarks, or pick and

choose, as you wish.

This award-winning Self-Guided Driving Tour provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about the origins of Colchester Pond, the professional baseball career of one of our local residents, the Vermont National Guard Museum, Niquette Bay State Park, local churches, Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester Bog, and many more sites of historical interest. To get started, visit <https://colchestervt.gov/3257/Driving-Tours>.

**History on Display:** When you stop in at the Burnham Memorial Library during the month of June, please be sure to take a look at the exhibit case, straight ahead as you enter the building. In recognition of Colchester's 260th Anniversary, the Colchester Historical Society has displayed several local items of historical interest. Some of them you may certainly recognize!

**When the Pony Express Came to Town:** Once—and only once—upon a time when the Pony Express came to Vermont, it came to Colchester. Here's the story from Elissa Borden at WCAX TV: <https://www.wcax.com/.../rare-pony-express-envelope-that.../>

## Department Updates

**Burnham Memorial Library:** The annual book sale is taking place June on 23rd to 25th at Colchester High School. Donations will be accepted at specified times at the high school:

- Monday, June 19 – Accepting donations from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 21 – Accepting donations from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, June 23 – Book sale from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 24 – Book sale from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 25 – Book sale from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.



## Upcoming Town Meetings

**Selectboard:** Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. 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 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](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m. 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.

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Champlain Room, 781 Blakely Road.

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, June 15, 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.

**Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:** <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMA02v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)