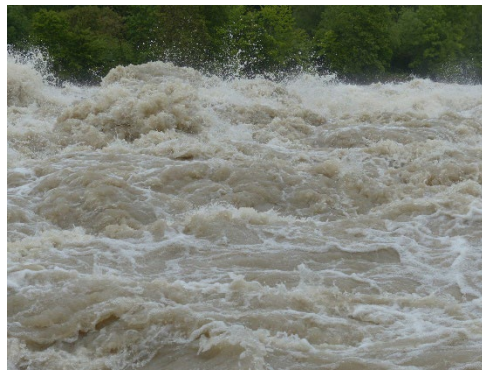


For the Week of July 17, 2023 – Part 1

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

While the state-wide flooding has reached Colchester, most of the area has been mercifully spared from the ravages of the recent storms affecting so much of Vermont. The Town's thoughts are with fellow Vermonters, and the Town urges residents to please listen and abide by the advice of public safety personnel, and to stay safe as further guidance is awaited on for how Vermont will move forward in the recovery.



Flood Safety: Please stay out of flooded waters on foot or in vehicles. If you do find yourself in a flash flood, please take the steps below:

- Do not attempt to cross floodwaters. The depth of the water is not always obvious.
- If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle.
- If water is moving at a high velocity and is rapidly rising in the vehicle, exit the vehicle immediately, seek refuge on the roof of the vehicle, and signal for help.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately (unless water is moving at a high velocity) and move to higher ground. Rapidly rising water can engulf the vehicle and its occupants, sweeping them away.

For more information, please visit:

<https://community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions/s/article/Flood-Vehicle-Do-Not-Drive-in-Floodwaters-Turn-Around-Don-t-Drown>

Colchester Technical Rescue: Members were deployed to the historic and disastrous flooding across our State. Some members staffed the Town equipment and boats, and others deployed with the State Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force. In addition to the State USAR team, there are twelve Swiftwater Partner Teams located across the State. During the storm and for most of the week, all were deployed, including Colchester. Our members also have help from nine State and Federal teams from North Carolina, Virginia, Connecticut, Michigan, New York, and New Hampshire. The teams have now worked nine days of 24-hour operations, placing themselves in danger to save others, rescuing over 215 people trapped in cars, homes, and trees. A sincere thank you to the members of Colchester Technical Rescue, our teams in Vermont, and the members who have traveled to help out from other states across the eastern part of the United States.

Recovery: The Town has been able to participate in recovery efforts for the State, including hosting the Urban Search and Rescue Team from Massachusetts (Mass Task Force 1) and National Guard members with high water vehicles at the Center and Bay Fire Stations. These teams are conducting various storm-related missions throughout northern VT, and Mass TF-1 has swift water, structural collapse, search and rescue, K-9 search and medical capabilities. Last Friday, the Town also lent three Public Works trucks and staff members to provide mutual aid assistance for moving materials to help with re-building infrastructure in Middlesex.



Farms in our community and around the State have also been severely impacted by the flooding. If you are a part of a farming community or know of those who may need help, please use these resources offered by the State: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/flood>.

Businesses, families, homes and more have been affected by this disaster as well. If you have the capacity, consider volunteering with the State in the various recovery efforts: <https://www.vermont.gov/volunteer#gsc.tab=0>. The Colchester Sun has an extensive list of other volunteer recovery efforts in this news article, including in-person and donation-based opportunities: https://www.colchestersun.com/things_to_do/how-to-help-those-impacted-by-flooding-throughout-vermont/article_e0ae89c1-ef30-5b40-a386-5d03974dc621.html

Colchester Recreational Water Quality Sampling

Program: The Town of Colchester performs water quality sampling Monday and Wednesday, from mid-June through August, at Horizon View/Delta Park, Porter's Point, Rosetti Park, Spaulding's West Beach, Moorings Stream, Bayside Beach, Smith Creek, "Camp T," and Crooked Creek. **Click the following link** for a map of the sampling sites: <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4909/2019-Map>.



Twelve water samples from nine different sites (multiple samples are taken each testing day for Bayside Beach and Rossetti Natural Area) are tested twice a week for the bacteria *Escherichia coli* (E. Coli) (<https://familydoctor.org/condition/e-coli-infection/>). E. Coli is a very effective indicator for the possible presence of more harmful bacteria that can cause human health problems such as gastrointestinal dysfunction (gastroenteritis).

The Vermont State Health Department recommends not swimming in water where E. Coli levels are higher than 235 colony forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters of water. When water samples come back with E. Coli levels higher than 235 CFU/100mL, those readings appear in RED on the following document. On July 10th, Crooked Creek Beach had a sample over this threshold at 980, and on July 12th, a Horizon View sample was over the threshold at >2,419. For the most recent Test Data, please visit:

https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8153/Water_Quality_Results_2023

The sites tested on a regular basis have been the same since 2007, which allows the Town to maintain consistency in data collection. The sites tested are areas where there are likely to be large concentrations of people in the water, or areas where streams and tributaries enter into the Lake. Please visit the following link to view Test Data from 2004 to present: <https://colchestervt.gov/487/Water-Quality-Results>.

AS A GENERAL RULE: Swimmers should always stay clear of streams, and where streams and storm drains flow into the lake. A distance of at least 100 feet from stream and drain outflows is advised.

The Lake Champlain Basin Program also performs water quality testing in Malletts Bay from April through October as part of the Lake Champlain Long Term Monitoring Project. Since 1992, the program has tested for phosphorus, nitrogen, chloride, and other nutrients, and scientists also watch for signs of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). For more information, please visit this link:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/monitor/lake-champlain>.

If you have any questions or comments, please email the Department of Public Works at DPW@colchestervt.gov or call 802-264-5620.



Updated Public Notice on Behalf of the City of Burlington regarding information related to their sewer pipe break underneath the Winooski River: On July 12th, the City of Burlington DPW Water Resources staff discovered a break underneath the Winooski River at their North Plant. The City of Burlington Department of Public Works immediately mobilized to prevent as much untreated

sewage flow as possible from entering the Winooski River. Visit

<http://burlingtonvt.gov/water/winooskibreakjuly12> for an ongoing incident response page and more details.

Current response and repair plans involve using sewage pumping/hauling trucks (4000 gallons each) to intercept and haul as much sewage as possible to prevent it from entering the river, and then constructing a bypass piping system over a significant distance to be able to handle all of the flow that usually goes through this river crossing

and safely convey it to their North Plant for treatment. (Click the link above to see map for interception location and North Plant location).

Because collection systems are built to handle the sewage flows from the immediate area they serve, the bypass pipe and pumping systems need to cover a significant distance so as to not overwhelm other pipes in the system. Simultaneously, the City of Burlington DPW is also advancing work for both a short-term and long-term repair of the sewer pipe in the river. These details are being worked on and will also be available at the above URL.

To contact someone at the City of Burlington Department of Public Works, please email water-resources@burlingtonvt.gov with questions (expect a reply within 1 business day). For urgent questions, please call 802-863-4501.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, July 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 Conservation Commission: Monday, July 17, 5 p.m. at the Holy Cross Road Rain Garden.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, July 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.

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

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