

For the Week of August 7, 2023

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Swimming on the Broad Lake from Delta Park to Colchester Point: As of August 1, 2023, the Town of Colchester has removed the NO SWIMMING signs from all public and private access areas in Colchester that were deemed to be potentially impacted by the City of Burlington's July 12, 2023 sewer line break in the Winooski River. The City of Burlington provided an update on Friday, July 28th that while their temporary bypass sewer would direct untreated flows to their North Plant for full treatment, there is potential that during significant rain events, it won't be able to capture all flows. In these cases, it is likely that some public access areas will need to be closed for at least 48 hours following any of those discharges.



The Town of Colchester collects 12 water samples from nine different sites to test for Escherichia. Coli, or E. Coli., two times per week from mid-June through August. The sites tested on a regular basis have been the same since 2007, and are areas where there are likely to be large concentrations of people in the water, or areas where streams and tributaries enter into Lake Champlain.

In addition to the twice per week regular testing, the Town of Colchester temporarily added a third test, specifically for the Horizon View/Delta Park access, once the City of Burlington had made progress on their temporary repair, to more accurately monitor the impact to our water quality results from that repair. According to the Vermont Department of Health, water samples with E. Coli levels higher than 235 CFU/100mL indicate water that is unsafe to swim in. Town of Colchester water samples collected at Horizon View/Delta Park since the City of Burlington temporary bypass sewer pipe has been fully functional and rerouting 100% of untreated sewer flows into their North Plant for treatment include:

July 28: **53 CFU/100mL**

July 31: **131 CFU/100mL**

With two consecutive E. Coli tests at Horizon View/Delta Park below the 235 CFU/100mL, we made the decision, after consulting with the Vermont Department of Health, to remove the No Swimming signs.



Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the placement of these No Swimming signs. We placed these signs out of an abundance of caution, as we waited for the City of Burlington to complete their work on their temporary, on-street bypass sewer.

Colchester Historical Society Selected to Benefit from Reusable Bag Campaign:

For the entire month of August, store leadership at Shaw’s here in Colchester has selected the Colchester Historical Society to receive a \$1 donation from every purchase of the \$3.00 Shaw’s GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Reusable Bag. The GIVE BACK Bag Program facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the vicinity where shoppers live and work. More than \$300,000 has been donated to over 2,800 local nonprofits since the Program launched in March 2019. So, we hope you will consider the purchase of these bags when shopping at Shaw's.

Your support of the Colchester Historical Society is very much appreciated.



FSSF Troops Marching in a Farewell and Thank You Parade down Last Chance Gulch Helena, Montana's Main Street on April 6, 1943. This parade, initiated by the Col. Frederick was to honor the hospitality shown by the community. (Photo courtesy of Helena Independent Record and Clarence DeWalt, photographer.)

Colchester to Receive Historic Marker Honoring the First Special Service Force:

There will be a memorial service remembering the Fallen of the First Special Service Force and those who have passed on in succeeding years on Saturday August 12, at 10 am on Dalton Drive at the Ethan Allen Fort Park in Colchester. The ceremony will include a wreath laying, family tributes, active-duty special operations soldiers from the U.S. and Canada, the Black Devils Pipe Band, the 40th Army Band, and a Reunion Choir. **Immediately following the memorial ceremony, there will be the dedication of a Vermont State Historic Marker in honor of the First Special Service Force who trained at Fort Ethan Allen just prior to World War II.** Both ceremonies will take place on Dalton Drive at the Fort Ethan Allen Park. There will be a tent and chairs for reunion attendees and the public as available. Bringing your own chair is suggested. Parking will be available as directed. In addition, the [Fort Ethan Allen Museum](#) will be open that day until 2 p.m. and is located very near the site of the events.

The 75th Reunion of the First Special Service Force Association will be held in Vermont from August 9 to August 13. This annual event alternates between sites in the U.S. and Canada. This organization was formed after WWII by the men of the First Special Service Force, a uniquely trained combat unit designed for a top-secret mission known as “Plough Project”. The unit was composed of American and Canadian volunteer soldiers. There were Vermonters among them. They were trained and led by U.S. Colonel Robert T. Frederick. They received intense, specialized training in Montana and Virginia prior to arriving at Fort Ethan Allen in May 1943. The Force had been sent to Vermont for further training and military inspection to certify them ready for deployment. However, by the time they reached Vermont the mission had changed. The Force stay in Vermont was interrupted when they were sent to the Aleutian Islands where the Japanese still held the islands of Kiska and Attu. Following this action, they returned to Fort Ethan Allen to prepare for deployment in Europe. On October 28, 1943, they sailed from a port in Virginia for North Africa and Italy.

The legacy of the First Special Service Force began with the daring assault on Monte La Difensa and continued on with the clearing of other mountain strongholds allowing the allied armies to advance. They distinguished themselves at Anzio Beach and the Mussolini Canal. The Force was the first unit into Rome on its liberation. They moved from Italy to play a major role in the invasion of Southern France liberating many villages before being disbanded in December 1944.

The First Special Service Force suffered heavy casualties. General Frederick received 8 Purple Hearts. Their military achievements are legendary, and they are honored by four nations. The FSSF is the subject of books, documentaries and films. They are known as the “Black Devils”, a name bestowed on them by German soldiers because of their blackened faces worn during deadly nighttime raids. They are also known as “The Devil’s Brigade” from the 1968 Hollywood movie. The First Special Service Force was honored with a United States Congressional Gold Medal in 2015. They are considered to be forefathers of today’s Special Operations in the United States and Canada.

For more information, visit <http://firstspecialserviceforce.net>.

Department Updates

Clerk’s Office: Colchester Property Taxes

The first installment is due Tuesday, August 15th. For more information, please visit: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/329/Property-Taxes>.

For more information on ways to pay taxes and office hours, please visit: <https://colchestervt.gov/330/Payment-Options>. If you have any questions or need the amount due, please contact us at townclerk@colchestervt.gov or 802-264-5520.

Burnham Memorial Library: Upcoming Adult/Senior Programs for Summer

Afternoon Book Discussion

Tuesday, August 15th at 1 p.m.—*Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham
Copies of the book are available to borrow at the library.



Trivia Night

Tuesday, August 15th at 6 p.m.
Join us for some friendly competition to test your knowledge over the course of three rounds on a variety of topics. Play solo or as part of a small team, with a chance for a prize!

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, August 22, 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

Development Review Board: Wednesday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. 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.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, August 9, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd Floor, Champlain Room, 781 Blakely Road.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, August 17, 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>



Colchester - What do you want to do today?

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