Colchester Town News
VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

For the Week of September 29, 2025

Manager's Message
Town Manager, Aaron Frank

How is the Colchester Recreation Center Doing Financially?

Prior to the Recreation Center--and for decades--the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department has offered more than 200 programs for 2,200 unique individuals annually generating over $1M annually in program revenue, and covering their costs annually. The Recreation Program Fund is an enterprise fund that includes the staffing, program, special event and operating costs for recreation programming, including those of the Colchester Recreation Center.

The Recreation Program Fund has existed for decades and is separate from the property tax based municipal services budget which is approved by the voters of Colchester. There are no tax dollars in the Recreation Program Fund budget. The Recreation Center adds expenses to this fund, but it is not the largest contributor of expenses within the Recreation Program Fund.

The FY25 Recreation Program Fund, of which the Colchester Recreation Center is now a part, based on pre-audited financials, generated $1,340,583 in revenues and $1,178,495 in expenses through June 30, 2025. In other words, revenues exceeded expenses by $162,088.

In short, the Recreation Program Fund, which provides for all multi-generational recreational programming, previously was without a facility. We now have a facility to operate out of. Therefore, all of our non-tax funded expenses and revenues are part of this larger fiscal group, the Recreation Program Fund. The Recreation Center, now completed and operational, is part of a long-standing successful operation of fee-funded recreation programming in Colchester.

Below are the revenue and expenses for the Recreation Program Fund as of the end of June 2025 (pre-audit) showing both actuals and budgeted expenses.

	FY25 Budget	YTD Expended
Program Fund Expenses		
Wages, Employer Taxes and Benefits	967,539	975,466
Program Expenses	136,552	102,930
Utilities, Services & Supplies	90,005	73,873
Special Events	31,600	26,226
Total Program Fund Expenses	1,225,696	1,178,495
	FY25 Budget	YTD Expended
Program Fund Revenue		
Program Revenue	1,261,839	1,242,112
Facility Revenue	9,243	7,795
Special Events	27,500	29,264
Investment Income	-	61,412
Total Program Fund Revenue	1,298,582	1,340,583
Revenue over Expense		162,088

The Colchester Recreation Center brings people together. The center is a hub of connection, where friendships are formed and neighbors become like family. Events and activities foster community spirit and inclusiveness. Our active generation has told us on numerous occasions how important the center is for their mental health and connectivity. The Center promotes health & well-being. People leave feeling stronger, healthier, and happier both physically and mentally. It's a place where fun is a priority whether it's through sports, classes, or community events. Kids and adults look forward to coming because it's a joyful escape from daily routines, not to mention how family friendly our center is. Staff, volunteers, and members bring a positive attitude that makes every visit uplifting. Our atmosphere is welcoming and energizing. We are making sure that the recreation center makes a real, positive impact in people's lives every single day.

A Message from VTrans: Exit 16 Construction Update

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The Exit 16 DDI Project will be conducting drilling and blasting activities (blasting) to remove hard rock and ledge below the surface of the ground that cannot be removed using mechanical methods. Blasting is anticipated to begin the week of October 13. The start of blasting activities is dependent on both weather and the contractor's schedule. Blasting will take place along U.S. Route 2/7 (U.S. 2/7) within the project limits. Up to two blasting events will take place a day and will be restricted to weekdays and daytime hours. Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks. For additional information, **click here** to learn more.

TRAFFIC IMPACT AND DURATION: From Monday, September 29, through Friday, October 3, between 6 AM and 3 PM, lane shifts on Lower Mountain View Drive will be in effect with traffic maintained. Lane width reductions may be in place along the Interstate 89 (I-89) northbound off-ramp. The off-ramp will remain open. U.S. 2/7 near CVS Pharmacy will be under lane closures and lane reductions.

Motorists should expect significant delays when traveling through the work zone and along adjacent roadways. Please plan ahead, leaving plenty of additional time to get to and from your destination. Whenever possible, consider alternate routes or other forms of transportation such as carpooling, ridesharing, transit, biking, or walking. Drivers should slow down, use caution, and follow flaggers and road signs.

Visit the project website for more information:
https://www.exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/stay-informed/weekly-construction-update-friday-september-19-2025/

Questions and concerns about the project can be directed to VTrans by calling the project hotline at (802)595-4399 or emailing info@exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov

Exit 16 DDI
Diverging Diamond Interchange

Colchester Fall Market – 2 Weeks To Go!

The countdown is on to this year's Fall Market! This year will mark our fourth annual event and will be held on **Saturday, October 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Please note that the event will be held at the **Colchester Recreation Center** located at 80 Dick Mazza Drive.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions about the event can be directed to rtetrick@colchestervt.gov



Be Cool! Give Blood! – Upcoming Blood Drive in Colchester

The Colchester Milton Rotary Club is partnering with the American Red Cross to hold a blood drive in our community.

Organizers are encouraging eligible donors to consider signing up to donate blood. The event aims to help provide local hospitals with an adequate blood supply to aid in emergency responses.

Appointments can be made at https://www.redcrossblood.org/. Donors will receive a $10 Amazon gift card and be entered to win a pie of their choice from Sam Mazza's.

The drive will take place October 14, 2025, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 784 Main Street.

Department Updates

Colchester Recreation Center – Programming, Facility Rentals, and Memberships

Memberships: As of September 10, 2025 480 individual memberships and 55 family memberships have been purchased in the approximate seven months since the opening of the Colchester Recreation Center on February 17, 2025. Of the total memberships, 525 are residents.

Membership fees are as follows:

ADULT (AGES 18*-61) * If 18 year old is not attending high school or college an adult membership is required.

		Resident
Annual Membership	Fitness Center, Gymnasium, & Track	$600/$50mo
3-Month Membership		$200
Daily Admission		$15

SENIOR (AGES 62+)

		Resident
Annual Membership	Fitness Center, Gymnasium, & Track	$504/$42mo
3-Month Membership		$144
Daily Admission		$12

FAMILY *Children can be in a family membership through age 22.

		Resident
Annual Membership	Fitness Center, Gymnasium, & Track	$1,200/$100mo
3-Month Membership		-
Daily Admission		$28

YOUTH (AGES 14-18**) *Must have a signed waiver by a parent/guardian for 14 – 17 years of age
** 18 year old must still be attending high school

		Resident
Annual Membership	Fitness Center, Gymnasium, & Track	$360/$30mo
3-Month Membership		$105
Daily Admission		$10

COLLEGE STUDENT (AGES 18-24) *Must present a current College ID at the time of purchase

		Resident
Annual Membership	Fitness Center, Gymnasium, & Track	$456/$38mo
3-Month Membership		$120
Daily Admission		$12

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Punch Pass fees are as follows:

10-PUNCH PASS OPTIONS			
RESIDENT	REC CENTER	FITNESS CLASSES	
		Member	Non-Member
ADULT (18-62)	$120 (One Time: $15)	$100 (One Time: $12.75) (15% Discount)	$140 (One Time: $15.00)
SENIOR (62+)	$100 (One Time: $12)	$90 (One Time: $11.05) (15% Discount)	$110 (One Time: $13.00)
YOUTH (15-17)	$90 (One Time: $10)	-	

Keep in mind, you don't have to be a member to use the Colchester Recreation Center. There are free events such as: Bone Builders, Tai Chi – Yang 24, Beginner Tai Chi, Alzheimer's workshops, Movie Matinee, Mahjong, Board Games, Animals in your Backyard Workshop, Buzz about Bees Workshop, Coffee & Puzzles, E-Bike Presentations, Improving Spine Mobility, Community Rock Painting, AgeWell Luncheons, Coffee & Tea, Young Adult & College Estate Planning, Estate Planning, National Waffle Day, Art Cart, Ice Cream Socials, Durable Medical Fraud, Yin Yoga, Cribbage Club, Bridge Club, Weatherization 101.

You can also register for a single class or a series of classes in our recreation program guide, linked here: https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11475/2025FallBrochure. There are three of these program guides a year and all have activities at the recreation center.

Facility Rental Information: The Recreation Center is open for rentals quarterly to our community members, local businesses, non-profit groups, and government partners. To rent a space, please fill out the facility request form here: CRC-Facility-Reservation-Request

The Colchester Recreation Center's hours of operation are as follows:

Monday through Thursday: 5:30 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 5:30 AM - 8:00 PM
Saturday: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday: 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Staff in the Parks & Recreation Department can be contacted at (802) 264-5640. Tours of the new Recreation Center are available upon request! We can't wait to see you there.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.
Residents are welcome to attend the meeting. 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

Planning Commission: Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=PLANAGENDA

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Recreation Center, 80 Dick Mazza Drive. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C

Development Review Board: Wednesday, October 8, 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. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, October 16, 4:00 p.m. in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C

Colchester Conservation Commission: Meeting date TBD.
https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommssn.htm#_CPA1

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