Colchester Town News
VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

For the Week of May 5, 2025

National Municipal Clerks Week

This week is National Municipal Clerks Week! Join us in recognizing the essential role municipal clerks play in local government.

Staff in the Colchester Town Clerk's Office keep the official records of the Town from land ownership records to birth, death, and civil marriage certificates. The Town Clerk's Office also conducts elections, processes passports, issues licenses and permits, act as notaries and treasurers, and so much more.

We would like to celebrate all the municipal clerks who support countless essential functions of our Town government. We are incredibly grateful for the service that our clerks provide to the community.

Please join us in thanking our dedicated staff in the Town Clerk's Office!

Julie Graeter, Town Clerk and Treasurer
Erin Hogan, Assitant Town Clerk
Betsy Peacock, Assitant Town Clerk
Krissy Jenkins, Assistant Town Clerk



Staff in the Clerk's Office preparing ballots.



Colchester's Land Records – maintained by the Clerk's Office.

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Colchester Conservation Commission - Projects Around Town

The Colchester Conservation Commission is a group of Colchester residents dedicated to preserving Colchester's natural areas. The Conservation Commission also hosts projects to promote beautification of the Town.

For a recent project, the Conservation Commission went out and painted over graffiti that had been placed on a bridge in Town.

Thank you to the Conservation Commission for dedicating time and effort to making Colchester a beautiful place to live!



Graffiti removal on the Heineburg Bridge

New Permanently Affordable Housing Units Opening in Colchester

Sixty-five new permanently affordable apartments are officially open in Colchester's Fort Ethan Allen neighborhood. The renovated buildings had been army barracks in the early 20th century, and dorms for St. Michael's College students in the 2000's.

The new apartments are a mix of one-bedroom and studio apartments, something lacking in the neighborhood. Rents for these apartments will average about half of what other newly constructed apartments in the area are renting for and will include heat and hot water.



Champlain Housing Trust (CHT), in partnership with Evernorth, and with support ranging from encouraging polices to funding from organizations including the Town of Colchester and EastRise Credit Union, was able to rehabilitate the century-old buildings into needed housing units.

Colchester Selectboard Clerk, Jacki Murphy, commended all entities involved for their hard work. Clerk Murphy noted the difficulties that come with converting old buildings and doing so with funding from multiple sources. The Town is excited to see needed housing, especially at an affordable price, being built.

To learn more about the project, visit Champlain Housing Trust's website.



Rep. Doug Bishop, Rep. Sarita Austin, Rep. Wendy Critchlow, and Colchester Selectboard Clerk Jacki Murphy at the opening of CHT's new apartments.

National Small Business Week!

This year's National Small Business Week kicked off on Sunday, May 4th. We want to acknowledge small businesses all around the country, especially those close to home.

The contributions that small businesses bring to Colchester are significant to the economy and to the community.

We appreciate all the dedication and hard work that goes in to running a small business. If you are able, please consider buying local whenever possible!



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A Message from VTrans: Exit 17 Construction Update

TRAFFIC ALERT: Beginning Sunday, May 4th and continuing through Friday, May 9, at 6 a.m., the Interstate 89 (I-89) Exit 17 northbound off-ramp will be closed at night between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. to facilitate the construction of the new off-ramp.

During these nighttime closures, I-89 northbound traffic will be directed to exit the interstate at the Exit 15 interchange in Winooski, turn left onto Vermont 15 (VT 15), make the first right turn out of the circulator onto U.S. Route 2/7 (U.S. 2/7), and travel approximately 7.5 miles north to the Chimney Corner intersection of U.S. Route 7 (U.S. 2/7) and U.S. 2, or exit the interstate at the Exit 18 interchange in Milton, turn right onto U.S. 7, and travel approximately 9.5 miles south to the Chimney Corner intersection.

From Sunday, May 4, at 7 p.m. to Friday, May 9, at 8 p.m., I-89 will be reduced to a single lane in both directions near Exit 17, except during peak hours (3 p.m. to 8 p.m. for I-89 northbound and 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. for I-89 southbound).

Temporary traffic control signage and portable changeable message boards are installed along the detour routes to guide travelers. The signed detour routes are shown in the graphics below.

Visit the project website for more information: https://vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/colchester-exit17

Questions and concerns about the project can be directed to VTrans at:

- Email: info@ColchesterExit17.com
- 24-Hour Project Hotline (802) 595-4399

From the Colchester Historical Society:

Sweet Treats for Hard Times -- A Tea Party at the Historical Society
on Colchester's beautiful, historic Village Green
828 Main Street
May 10 at 1 p.m.

Called Struggle Food or Crisis Food, the recipes of the 1920s to 1940s were fascinating. During a period of economic hardship, shortages of ingredients had ingenious cooks producing delicious, sweet treats that made life a little bit better. Join us at the Colchester Historical Society to learn about the background that produced Depression Cake, War Cake, and Water Pie. During a time when sugar, butter, eggs, and white flour were scarce, Americans were still able to occasionally indulge their sweet tooth and have a worthy dessert for a family celebration.

After the presentation, tea will be served along with cakes, scones, and cookies from those tumultuous economic times. Enjoy “Desperation Desserts” and a cup of tea. Tours of the Parsonage and perennial gardens will be available as well.

Parking (overflow parking is available at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church next door) and admission are free. Please enter the Parsonage through the door at the back porch.

For more information about the Colchester Historical Society, please visit https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society.

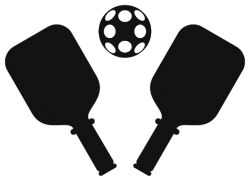
Department Updates

Parks & Recreation:

The Department of Parks and Recreation is now offering pickleball lessons! These lessons will be held at the Colchester Recreation Center (80 Dick Mazza Drive).

If you have been interested in learning this popular sport, this may be just the opportunity for you! Instructor Tree Bertram will be holding a variety of programs to fit different schedules and needs.

Visit the Parks & Recreation page of the Town's website to learn more or register.



Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 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, May 6, 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, May 14, 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, May 28, 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, May 15, 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: Next meeting date to be determined.

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