Colchester Town News
VERMONT
Colchester – What do you want to do today?

For the Week of November 18th, 2024

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Ballots have been cast, counted, and another election season has come to a close. We would like to thank those who made the election possible. This year, fourty-seven volunteers and Board of Civil Authority members worked alongside the Town Clerk's staff in the days preceding and the day of the election. Their hard work ensured the timely and accurate reporting of votes cast.

Many thanks to the Town Clerk's Office, who have been working since June this year to prepare for the election, and Public Works who aided by moving equipment to and from the polling site. Thank you, too, to Colchester High School, for hosting the election and lending their technical and administrative support. Finally, thanks to Colchester voters who participated in the elections.



Above: Volunteers count mail-in ballots ahead of Election Day, supervised by Clerk's Office staff

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Public Works Update on Malletts Bay Sewer

Overall Update:

There are currently two Mallets Bay Sewer construction contracts:

- Contract 2-Blakely Road Force Main
- Contract 1A-West Lakeshore Drive Mainline Sewer

Contract 2-Blakely Road Force Main

- In winter shutdown: all construction activity suspended until spring
- Project will restart April 2025.

Contract 1A-West Lakeshore Drive Mainline Sewer

Contractor has completed:

- Installation of the Main Line Gravity Sewer from Prim Road to the intersection of West Lakeshore Dr/Blakely Rd/East Lakeshore Dr
- Installation of the sewer laterals from the waterside of West Lakeshore Drive to the land side of West Lakeshore Drive
- Pressure testing of West Lakeshore Mainline Gravity Sewer was successfully completed

November 14th-December 3rd: On weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. the contractor will be advancing or continuing the following, subject to change as a result of less than favorable weather conditions.

- West Lakeshore Drive- beginning at Bayside Park heading west to Prim Road
- Repaving of Sewer Service Laterals on the south (land) side of West Lakeshore Drive
- Lowering Manhole structures within trenchline in preparation for milling trenchline on north (lake) side of West Lakeshore Drive
- Milling approximately 15' width of roadway surface on north (lake) side of West Lakeshore Drive.
- Milling approximately 9' width of trenchline on north (lake) side of West Lakeshore Drive
- Base paving trenchline on north (lake) side of West Lakeshore Drive, following behind trenchline milling operation
- Raising manhole structures to finish grade
- Paving-Final 2" wear course from Bayside Park to Prim Road

The paving operation will require alternating one-way traffic. *The alternating one-way traffic will vary in length with the trenchline milling operation positioned ahead of the base paving operation*. *Motorists should anticipate significant delays during the period this work is underway.*

Traffic demand on West Lakeshore Drive shifts dramatically throughout the week. This requires an ongoing effort to restructure the traffic control plan. In turn it is challenging to predict the delay you might experience on a daily basis.

We understand this can be challenging predicting how much additional time is needed in your travel time through the project corridor. We understand it impacts your time and arrival to your respective destinations. We apologize for this inconvenience, and we are doing our best to limit that impact.

We ask that the driving public:

- Seek alternate routes where possible

- Anticipate the delays this coming week will be more extreme than previous weeks
- Please adjust your schedule the best you can for the anticipated delays

This is the last push to close out the construction season. It will also conclude the vast majority of the work along West Lakeshore Drive-- for the duration of this three-year project. We appreciate your continued patience.

Project Public Information:
Town web page related to the sewer: https://colchestervt.gov/3291/Malletts-Bay-Sewer.

We provide updates on a special signup for both town-wide residents/businesses/visitors as well as people who live or have businesses adjacent to the Malletts Bay Sewer at https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/9zF9gU5

The Town's weekly Newsletter includes updates and is: 1) distributed directly via email to people who sign up, 2) posted to the Colchester Sun, 3) posted to Front Porch Forum, 4) posted on the Town's web site 5) announced with links and topics on Facebook, and 6) announced with links and topics on Instagram.

The Malletts Bay Sewer Project is an environmental abatement project that will provide municipal sewer service to properties with frontage on West Lakeshore Drive between Prim Rd and the Bayside intersection, all of East Lakeshore Drive, and Goodsell Point.

More information is available here: https://colchestervt.gov/3291/Malletts-Bay-Sewer. You may also call or email Public Works Director Norm Baldwin at MBS@colchestervt.gov or 802-264-5620.

A Message from VTrans: Exit 17 Construction Update

TRAFFIC IMPACT AND DURATION: From Sunday, November 17, at 8 p.m. to Friday, November 22, at 6 a.m., the Interstate 89 (I-89) northbound and southbound lanes at the Exit 17 interchange will be closed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night.

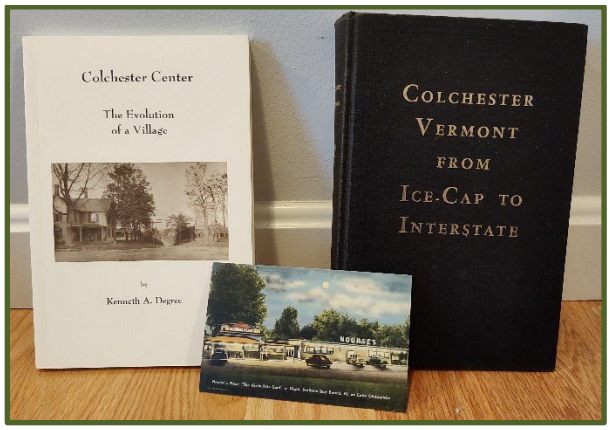
During the nighttime closures, traffic will be maintained via detour routes. The existing U.S. Route 2 (U.S. 2) bridge over I-89 will have a single-lane reduction, with two lanes of traffic maintained.

Temporary traffic control signage and portable changeable message boards will be installed along the detour routes to guide travelers. Southbound traffic on I-89 will be directed to exit the interstate at Exit 17, turn left onto U.S. 2., and immediately re-enter I-89 using the southbound on-ramp at the Exit 17 interchange.

Northbound traffic on I-89 will be detoured to exit the interstate at Exit 16 in Colchester, travel approximately 6.3 miles on U.S. 2/U.S. 7 to the Exit 17 interchange, and re-enter I-89 using the northbound on-ramp at the Exit 17 interchange.

From Monday, November 18, through Friday, November 22, I-89 will be intermittently reduced to a single lane in both directions near Exit 17 during daytime off-peak hours: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on I-89 northbound and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on I-89 southbound throughout the week. The I-89 northbound off-ramp slip lane to U.S. 2 westbound will remain closed 24/7 for bridge construction. Motorists can turn right or left onto U.S. 2 at the signalized intersection. The construction schedule is subject to change due to weather and other field variables.

Holiday Gift Ideas from the Colchester Historical Society



Getting started on your holiday shopping? Consider these items for the Colchester history fan on your list. They can be purchased at the Burnham Memorial Library or at the Colchester Town Offices. All proceeds benefit the Colchester Historical Society.

"Colchester Center – The Evolution of a Village""
by Kenneth A. Degree (Colchester Historical Society, 2000)
Lots of great information about the early days of our town, 1790-1982. $15

"Colchester Vermont From Ice-Cap to Interstate, 1763-1963"
by Ruth Wright (Queen City Printers, Inc. 1963) A very detailed account of our town's history including people and places. Rare and only a few copies left. $50

Postcard of “Nourse's Place”
Many local folks and visitors from back in the day remember Nourse's Place with great fondness. This postcard refers to it as "The Alrite Nite Spot." The snack bar/restaurant once stood on the sharp bend in Mallett's Bay where Bay Road and East Lakeshore Drive meet. $1 each.

To learn more about the Colchester Historical Society or to become a member, please visit https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, December 10th, 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, November 19th, 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, December 11th, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C

Development Review Board: Wednesday, December 11th, 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, November 21st, 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

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