
For the Week of June 15, 2026

Support Colchester Blooms!

Colchester Blooms! is a volunteer group that helps our town look welcoming and vibrant each summer. You may have seen us adding a little extra color to our community recently.

How You Can Help: Our volunteers generously give their time to plant and care for these spaces, and community support helps make the work possible. Colchester Blooms! is 100% donor-funded, and your gift helps us purchase flowers and cover the summer maintenance that keeps the beds healthy and beautiful all season long. Thanks to the support of residents and businesses, we have already raised 65% of the funding needed to reach our goal. Your tax-deductible donation will let us meet our goal and keep Colchester blooming all summer!



Please make your check payable to the "Town of Colchester" and mail to:

Colchester Blooms!
c/o Liz Hamlin-Volz
123 Holy Cross Road
Colchester, VT 05446

Please put "Conservation Reserve Fund" on the memo line of your check, so your donation is allocated properly.

Thank you!

Information from Vermont Gas Services

Staying safe around natural gas is incredibly important. Annually, Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) runs a Public Awareness Program to inform people about how to identify potentially unsafe situations and help avoid them altogether.

Visit VGS' website (<https://vgsvt.com/be-safe/>) to learn about natural gas safety.

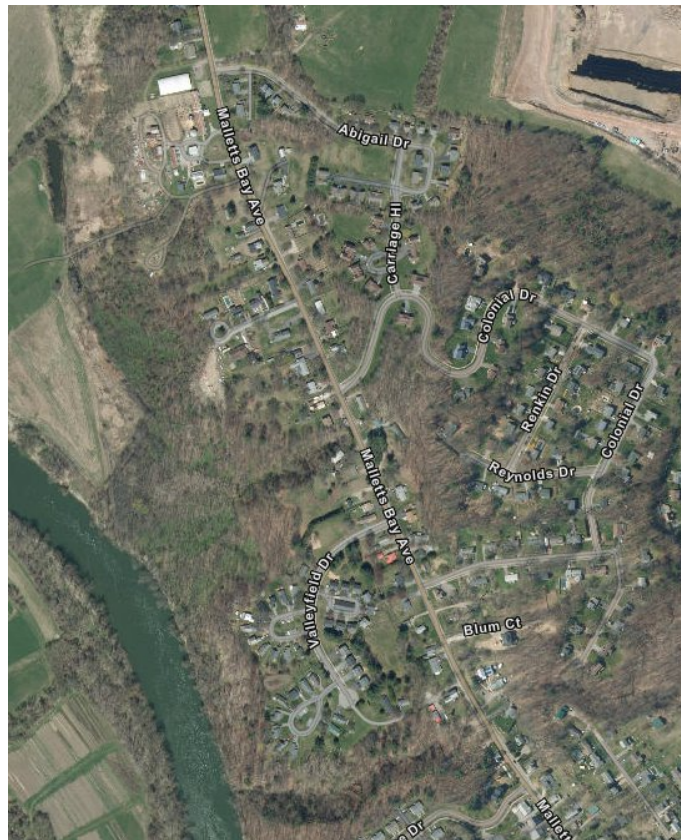
Streetlight Improvements on Malletts Bay Avenue

In response to resident requests to improve lighting on Malletts Bay Avenue, the Colchester Selectboard directed Town staff to move forward with a project to install additional street lighting on Malletts Bay Avenue between the Winooski town line and Abigail Drive.

Town staff have worked with Green Mountain Power on a proposal to install streetlights on 12 additional power poles along this stretch of road.

Funding for the project, as indicated at the November 11, 2025, Selectboard meeting, was reallocated from the Town of Colchester’s Capital Transportation Program.

Town staff look forward to improving visibility and safety along this portion of Malletts Bay Avenue as the project progresses.



Department Updates

Town-wide Reappraisal Update

The Town of Colchester has completed the Town-wide reappraisal, establishing the values of all real property in Colchester as of April 1, 2026, and will lodge the Grand List with the Town Clerk later this week.

The Town will mail the official Change of Assessment notices on June 18, 2026, to all property owners.

New assessment values can be viewed at <https://gis.vgsi.com/colchestervt/>. Additionally, at this link, property owners can view information about neighboring properties and properties with similar characteristics.

REASON FOR THE REAPPRAISAL: Vermont municipalities are required by State law to appraise all taxable real property in town, so that properties are fairly and equitably assessed/taxed for the purposes of State Education and municipal services taxes. Vermont State Statutes require town-wide reappraisals when the Common Level of Assessment (CLA), a ratio that measures assessed values versus fair market value, drops below 85% or rises above 115%. In 2022, Colchester's CLA dropped below 85%, triggering this requirement.

To comply with the State mandate, the Town contracted with a professional reappraisal firm, Vision Government Solutions Inc. (Vision), to work with Town officials to complete the reappraisal.

The last town-wide reappraisal was completed on June 24, 2011. Up until this year, all assessed values in Town were based on the fair market value as of April 1, 2011, including new construction that happened after the April 1 appraisal date. Last year's assessments, which were based on the reappraisal from April 1, 2011, were on average roughly 50% below fair market value.

WHAT TO EXPECT: When a municipality conducts a reappraisal of all assessed values within its borders, the tax rates are adjusted so the funding collected by the Town for municipal services taxes does not change from what the voters approved at Town Meeting in March.

If a property's assessment is less than or equal to the average assessment increase, then the municipal services taxes on that parcel will decrease or may not significantly change from the prior year—beyond the increase caused by the voter approved municipal services budget. If a property's assessment increases greater than the average increase, then the municipal services taxes on that property will increase—beyond what the increase in the voter approved municipal services budget caused. State Education Taxes, which the State requires the Town to collect on its behalf, are governed by a formula determined by the State.

THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS: Formal grievance hearings are available to any person aggrieved by the action of the Assessor, 32 V.S.A. § 4111(g). If you wish to pursue an appeal, you must present the appeal to the Assessor's Office in writing on or before 4:00 p.m. on July 2, 2026, 14 days from the date of the Change of Assessment notices.

You may submit your grievance to the Assessor's Office, by mail, by email, or on the Town Assessor's webpage (<https://colchestervt.gov/149/Assessor>) using the grievance portal. Formal grievance hearings will be held at the Colchester Town Offices. Please include contact information, a daytime telephone number and email address so you can be notified of your scheduled hearing date and time. If you do not provide contact information, we will not be able to schedule a hearing. If you are unable to attend the grievance hearing in person, you may grieve over the phone on the date and time of your hearing, or the written grievance letter and documentation you submitted

will be used as your grievance. Result of Grievance Notices will be mailed to all who grieved within 14 days of the close of the grievance hearing.

For any additional questions, you may contact the Town Assessor's Office by emailing colchesterAssess@colchestervt.gov or by calling (802) 264-5670.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 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

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, August 12, 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>

Planning Commission: Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

Development Review Board: Wednesday, July 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 pzinfo@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, June 18, 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: Monday, June 29, 5:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road.
https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#_CPA1

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/zBiFlto/ColchesterTownNewsletter>

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



Colchester – What do you want to do today?