

For the Week of August 10, 2026

A message from the Town Clerk's Office: VT State Primary Election

The VT State Primary is August 11th (this Tuesday!).

For directions on how return an absentee ballot, please visit:

<https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information>

Additionally, please note that the Town Clerk's Office will close at noon on Monday, August 10th, and will reopen on Wednesday, August 12th.

With questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 802-264-5520 or townclerk@colchestervt.gov.

2027 Town Plan: Upcoming Meeting

The Town Plan is the vision document for the Town of Colchester and helps provide guidance for the community's goals. As we revise and adopt a new plan, we invite you to be a part of it!

Join the Colchester Planning Commission on **Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 PM** to discuss the Town's Natural Heritage.

The meeting will be held at Town Hall (781 Blakely Road) in the Outer Bay Room (third floor).

For more information about the Town Plan, visit: colchestervt.gov/townplan or email pzinfo@colchestervt.gov.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th!



Department Updates

Burnham Memorial Library Book Review

River of the Gods

By Candice Millard

Adult Non-Fiction, 2022

Review by: Sophie Marks, Adult Services



In the 19th century, British interest in Africa was rising, and the Royal Geographical Society decided to send a party to the interior of the continent to discover the much-disputed source of the Nile. This nonfiction narrative tracks their difficult and arduous journey, plagued by logistical difficulties as well as plain bad luck, as well as the subsequent return to England and brutal falling-out amongst the party.

The story follows two British adventurers, Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke, but the “hero” of the story, if there is one, is their guide, Sidi Mubarak Bombay. Kidnapped as a child from the border of Tanzania and Mozambique, and sent to India as a slave, he returned to Africa after his emancipation and spent the rest of his life exploring the continent. Although Speke grew extremely resentful of Burton (the better-traveled and more linguistically adept of the two, as well as the leader of their expedition), both men spoke highly of Bombay and almost certainly would have gotten themselves killed without his efforts. Speke claimed to have discovered the source of the Nile while journeying ahead during a period where Burton was too sick to continue, and spoke publicly about Burton’s perceived incompetencies, while Burton, confused and hurt by the personal aspect of Speke’s attack on his character and skeptical of his hasty geographical conclusions, disputed his claim. The following rivalry led to another journey into Africa, again with Bombay as a guide, much infighting within the Royal Geographical Society, and eventually Speke’s suicide

This is the perfect book for anyone who is skeptical about non-fiction, because the story Millard tells – supported throughout by copious primary sources – is truly stranger than fiction. She illustrates her subjects as flawed, fascinating, whole people, neither flattering them nor condemning them. I found myself struck, while reading, by the immutable parts of human nature, good and bad: stubbornness, the drive to explore, and most of all, our capacity for petty resentment.

Vendors Needed – Colchester Fall Market!



CALLING ALL VENDORS

THE COLCHESTER FALL MARKET IS BACK

We invite local vendors to participate in our annual Fall Market, a popular community tradition that brings together residents and visitors for a fun-filled day. If you would like to be in attendance, please complete the attached application and return it to Nicole Conley Nconley@colchestervt.gov. Space is limited, so we encourage you to apply early.

✓ Homemade Treats ✓ Fashion & Accessories ✓ Eco-Friendly Products

 **Saturday**
October 24, 2026

 **Time**
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

 **Location**
80 Dick Mazza Dr Colchester, VT



 Colchestervt.gov/recreation

 (802)264-5640

 Nconley@colchestervt.gov

To obtain an application or more information, please contact Nicole Conley at NConley@colchestervt.gov.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 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: https://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=AGENDA&path=Colch_CityCouncil%2CColchester_BOS_Agendas%2CAGENDA%2C

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, August 12, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Recreation Center, 80 Dick Mazza Drive. Agenda: https://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv_1&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2CRecAdv_1%2C

Planning Commission: Tuesday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: https://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA&path=PLAN%2CPLAN_Agendas%2CPLANAGENDA%2C

Development Review Board: Wednesday, August 12, 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://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, August 20, 4:00 p.m. in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: <https://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C>

Colchester Conservation Commission: Next meeting date TBD.

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