Colchester Town News
VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

For the Week of November 2, 2026

Vermont General Election Information



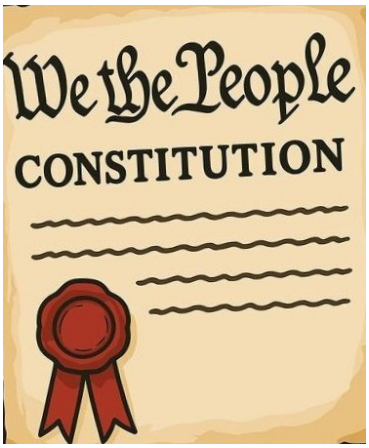
The Vermont General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Here's what you need to know:

- In-person voting will take place from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Colchester High School (781 Blakely Road).
- Absentee ballots can be deposited in the green drop-box located between Town Hall and the Police Station until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 2. Absentee ballots can also be brought to the High School on election day and deposited in the drop box at the Help Desk.
    - Please ensure that your voted ballot is in the Certificate Envelope and has the signature section completed.
- The Town Clerk's Office will close at noon on Monday, November 2 and reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 4.

To view sample ballots and other information, visit: https://colchestervt.gov/325/Elections-and-Voter-Information

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Information from the Colchester Historical Society



Monday, November 9, 7 pm
The Parsonage, 828 Main Street
on Colchester's Historic Village Green

"From Grievances to Constitutional Law: How the Founders Created Our Republic" – a 250th birthday event presented by Jack Penca

Our Founding Fathers had 27 grievances with Great Britain which led us into a war for Independence. To ensure that the newly created country did not perpetuate the same abuses of power that brought about the Revolutionary War, our Constitution and Bill of Rights were created. Those documents are still relevant in our current interesting times and prove that "what is past is prologue." Come with questions and see how early compromises still have the power to keep our leaders and our civic discourse democratic and accountable. All are welcome to attend. Free parking, admission and refreshments. Please use the back porch entrance to the building.

The mission of the Colchester Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share information about our town's wonderful local history. Visit https://colchestervt.gov/422/Colchester-Historical-Society.

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Changes to Green Mountain Transit Routes Affecting Colchester

Green Mountain Transit (GMT), made the decision to close "underutilized stops in Colchester" due to "low ridership and travel time considerations" following public hearings as noted here: https://www.ridegmt.com/206/Public-Meetings

Effective August 24, 2026, GMT made changes to:

- Eliminate several Colchester bus stops on the #96 Franklin County Commuter Route, along Route 7 including those at Creek Farm Plaza, Severance Corners, and Water Tower Hill where there were about 4.5 round trip riders per day.

- Expand the Winooski Route (Serving Burlington and Winooski) to the Shaw's location at 66 Mountain View Dr., near Water Tower Hill.

The Town of Colchester funds GMT via municipal services property taxes, on the same basis as a "member community," in fact paying more than some GMT members, and signed a ten-year funding agreement with GMT in May 2026.

The Town of Colchester provides funding for three different public transportation services: 1) Fixed Route Public Transit; 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Public Transit (ADA); and 3) Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities Public Transit. The State of Vermont provides Medicaid transportation.

Fixed Route and ADA Public Transit services are provided through Green Mountain Transit which in turn contracts with Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA) to provide the ADA services. The Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities Public Transit is provided through Rural Community Transit which also contracts with SSTA to provide the services. Medicaid transportation is facilitated by the State and provided through SSTA.

Details on the public transportation are available here: https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/260512_06b.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

The Town spent months advocating to GMT, the State of Vermont, and the Vermont Legislature to maintain transit services to persons in the Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities Public Transit program. Unfortunately, we were not successful in those efforts and despite the Town's willingness to provide local match to the services, trip purposes and the number of rides were cut significantly and trips to work are no longer allowed as noted here: www.clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/info260210_c1.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

To learn more about public transit in the area, visit: https://www.ridegmt.com/ or https://www.sstarides.org/

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A Message from Champlain Water District – Notice of Service Line Material Study in Colchester Water System

In response to new federal regulations (2024 Revised Lead and Copper Rule), which require water systems to identify all "unknown" service line pipe materials, CWD is working with MSK Engineers to identify unknown service line materials in the CWD-owned Colchester Water System. An initial pilot study is using water quality sampling to determine the service line material at 40 homes in Colchester Water System.

Following this initial pilot study, the project will be expanded to more homes. Program participation is free and will help verify that your drinking water is lead-free. If you have been contacted to participate please visit our website at www.champlainwater.gov for more information.

Department Updates

Department of Parks & Recreation– November Wellness Newsletter & Fitness Schedule

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WELLNESS NEWSLETTER

COLCHESTER RECREATION CENTER

Vol 2 Issue 9 – November 2026

The Colchester Recreation Center will be closed on Thursday, November, 26th Happy Thanksgiving!

Drop-in Pickleball is now available for sign-ups on PlayTimeScheduler!

Drop-in Schedule has expanded!
We will be hosting pickleball Monday-Friday starting bright and early in the morning until mid-afternoon. Some days are subject to change based on other programming in the building.

REMINDER
We ask that you please refrain from entering the fitness studio while a class is in session. Thank you for your cooperation.

NEW
New Membership Option!
We are now offering a 30-Day Membership option. No commitment just a one time payment! Ask the front desk for more information!

LUNCHEONS BY AGE WELL
CONFIDENT AGING STARTS HERE.

We will be hosting AgeWell Luncheons here at the Rec center every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month at 12:00pm. Register at the front desk!

LOST & FOUND
Missing something? Please stop by the front desk to check out the lost and found pile.

FOOD DRIVE

We are hosting our 2nd Annual Food Drive here at the Colchester Recreation Center! Please consider donating a non-perishable item and receive one FREE Guest Pass (Limit to one pass per person). The last day to donate will be November 20th. All donations go to the Colchester Food Shelf. Last year, we were able to provide 304.5lbs of food for Thanksgiving!

REGISTRATION CHANGE!
NOVEMBER FITNESS CLASS REGISTRATION BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 @ 8AM

CARDIO DANCE PARTY !
Friday, November 6th
6:30-7:45 PM
Come get your dance on with Alli and break a sweat! Register online or at the front desk.

Plank Challenge

It's back.....Time to strengthen your core and stability with November's plank Challenge! Planks can be done on your hands or forearms, either on the floor or in an elevated position that is right for you. Start your timer and see how long you can hold your plank. Each day try to add 2-5 seconds to your time. The front desk is happy to log your time on our spreadsheet to track your improvement. Must perform plank in the Colchester Recreation Center.

Gift Certificates available at the Recreation Center!

Phone: (802) 264-5640 80 Dick Mazza Drive ~ Colchester, VT 05446 Email: CRC@colchestervt.gov

To view November's fitness schedule and a description of the classes offered at the Recreation Center, visit: https://colchestervt.gov/3341/Fitness-Schedule

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Upcoming Events and Initiatives at the Recreation Center!

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Help stock our food shelf this Thanksgiving, one can at a time! During the month of November, please bring a non-perishable food item and place it in the box located at the entrance of the Recreation Center.
Thank you for your help!

Food Shelf Wish List

Gravy
Baking Mixes
Boxed Stuffing
Rice
Instant Potatoes
Soups/Broths
Dried Pasta
Canned Vegetables



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Coffee & Tea with AGE WELL





Wednesday, November 4th
@ 11:15am

Learn about all of the programs and services that AGE WELL has to offer. On Wednesday, a representative from AGE WELL will be joining our Coffee & Tea hour to provide information and answer any questions. We hope to see you there!

Colchester Recreation Center
Active Aging 55+
Call us at (802) 264-5640 to register or ask any questions

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Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 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: Thursday, November 5, 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, November 17, 7:00 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, November 18, 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, November 19, 4:00 p.m. at the Library Meeting House*. Agenda: https://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C
***Updated Location (830 Main Street)**

Colchester Conservation Commission: Monday, November 16, 5:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd floor Champlain Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: https://records.colchestervt.gov/Colchester-vt?docId=ConservCommssn&path=BOARDS%2CConservCommssn%2C

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https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/zBiFIto/ColchesterTownNewsletter

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