

For the Week of May 18, 2026

Manager’s Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Town Hall, Library, & Recreation Center (half-day) Closure – Monday, May 25

Colchester Town Hall, the Burnham Memorial Library, and the Colchester Recreation Center (half-day closure) will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

Please note that the Colchester Recreation Center will be open in the morning on this date but **will close early at 12:30 p.m.**



National Public Works Week!

This week we are celebrating National Public Works Week!

Public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities like ours. These services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of our public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels.



The staff maintain our high level of water quality and natural resources by rebuilding, improving, and protecting our community’s transportation, wastewater, and stormwater systems; public buildings and spaces; right-of-way management and more. They help make our community a dynamic place to live and work and advance our quality of life.

Please join us in celebrating the work these professionals do that makes life better for all of us!

East Lakeshore Drive Sidewalk Scoping Study – Alternatives Presentation

The Department of Public Works will host a public meeting on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** to present the results of a Scoping Study which has explored alternatives for the installation of a sidewalk along East Lakeshore Drive between the intersection of East Lakeshore Drive and Blakely Road, and South Bay Circle. The study, supported by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, has yielded five potential alternatives which will be presented at the meeting.



General information on the study is available here: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/colchester-east-lakeshore-drive-pedestrian-infrastructure-scoping-study/#documents>

To learn about the options and share your perspective on the options, join us on May 27. The meeting will take place at 6:00 pm at Town Hall (781 Blakely Road) on the 3rd floor.

The Town’s project manager is Alex Kubala, Public Works Engineer 802-264-5620.

Social Media & Town Requests

You are welcome to post on social media, but if you wish for the Town staff or Selectboard to act on or consider something, please contact us directly by phone or email.



For issues of local concern that you believe should be addressed by your Town government--or if you read something in social media about Town government and are unsure of it--please contact the Town Staff directly. The staff directory of phone and email contact information for various Town departments is provided here: <https://tinyurl.com/Col-Town-Dir>

If you are uncertain who to contact, feel free to contact the Town Manager’s office at 802-264-5509 or TownManager@colchestervt.gov.

Your Town Selectboard serves as the legislative and judicial branch of municipal government, and oversees the Town Manager. If you have something to be shared with them at a Selectboard

meeting, you are welcome to attend or send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the upcoming Selectboard meeting and included in the following information packet. Individual Selectboard member contact information is available here: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/401/Selectboard>

Department Updates

Town-Wide Reappraisal Update

The Town of Colchester is completing a town-wide reappraisal that has been mandated under Vermont State law. Following a notice from the State that the Town’s Common Level of Assessment dipped below the 85% legal threshold, the Town contracted with the professional appraisal services company, Vision Government Solutions (Vision). Vision has been working closely with the Town Assessor’s office to complete the reappraisal of Colchester’s roughly 7,000 parcels since January 2025.

Whenever a municipality conducts a town-wide reappraisal, all assessed values in town are adjusted to reflect their current Fair Market Value. The tax rate is then set such that what is collected by the Town is equal to the property tax total included in the voter-approved budget.

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. Likewise, if a property’s assessment decreases greater than the average, then the municipal services taxes on that property will decrease—but for the increase the voter approved budget would have caused. State Education Taxes, which the State requires the Town to collect on its behalf are governed by a formula determined by the State.

On May 15, 2026, Vision mailed out preliminary assessment change notices to all taxable property owners. These notices are informational only and are not the official change of assessment. Property owners wishing to learn more about their preliminary assessment may review the parcel may call 1-888-844-4300 to schedule an appointment for an informational meeting with a representative of Vision.

Informational meetings will be offered over the phone or in person. In person informational meetings will be held during weekdays at Town Hall (781 Blakely Road) in the Outer Bay Room on the 3rd floor, from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. May 20, 2026, through June 3, 2026.

Once Vision completes all scheduled informational meetings, the Town will mail the official Change of Assessment Notices as well as post the Grand List and updated property assessment data on the Town Assessor’s Web page (<https://colchestervt.gov/149/Assessor>).

After the official notices are mailed, property owners who have additional questions, or wish to grieve their new assessment, can contact the Town Assessor's Office by emailing colchesterAssess@colchestervt.gov or by calling (802) 264-5670.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. at the **Colchester Recreation Center, 80 Dick Mazza Drive.**

****Please note that this is a different location from usual Selectboard meetings****

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, June 10, 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, May 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Colchester Recreation Center, 80 Dick Mazza Drive. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

Development Review Board: Wednesday, June 10, 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, May 21, 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: Wednesday, May 27, 6:00 p.m. at the Blakely Road flower beds. Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommssn.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