

For the Week of November 10, 2025

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Town Hall & Library Closure – Tuesday, November 11

Colchester Town Hall and the Burnham Memorial Library will be closed Tuesday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

Office of Planning and Zoning Closure – Wednesday, November 12 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Office of Planning and Zoning will be temporarily closed on Wednesday for an employee appreciation event.

Upcoming Public Meetings:

East Lakeshore Drive Pedestrian Infrastructure Local Concerns Meeting

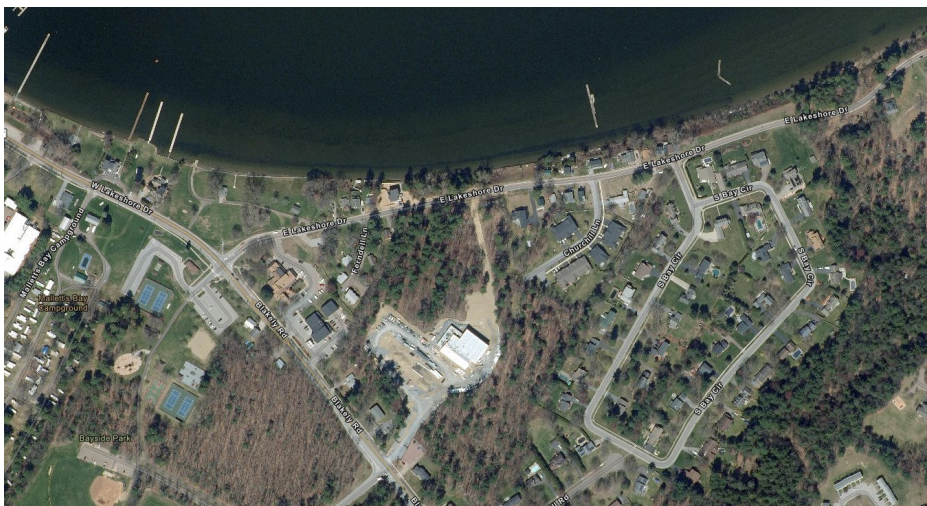
This project has been included in both the 2014 and 2019 Town Plans and is moving towards action. The Town is following a federally required process to access State of Vermont provided federal funds to build a sidewalk on East Lakeshore Drive from the Pickled Perch to South Bay Circle. The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, with funding from the State and Federal government at the request of the Town, is conducting the required scoping study to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity along East Lakeshore Drive between Bayside Park and South Bay Circle.

The first of two local input meetings will be held:

**Thursday, November 13, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Colchester Town Hall, 781
Blakely Road
3rd Floor Conference Room**

Visit CCRPC's project site for more information:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/colchester-east-lakeshore-drive-pedestrian-infrastructure-scoping-study/>



Apply to Serve on a Town Board:

The Town of Colchester is looking for interested residents to serve on the volunteer Development Review Board!

Town planning helps provide a framework for private sector development to balance the needs of the natural environment that supports human life and the developed areas where we live, work, learn, shop and recreate. By serving on boards and commissions or through public input, all residents can be meaningfully involved in the creation and administration of these regulations. Specifically, the Colchester Planning Commission generally makes rules about land use and zoning and the Colchester Development Review Board evaluates development proposals using the rules the Planning Commission creates.



Both boards are supported by staff members. The work of a volunteer board member is to become familiar with the Town Plan or Development Regulations through training provided by staff, reading the board packets and attending a meeting once a month for a few hours to provide input and make decisions based on your knowledge and understanding of the community considering the information provided.

Currently, the Development Review Board is seeking to fill 1 open Adult Member Seat.

Below is a general outline of the roles, contact information, meetings on video and meeting minutes.

Development Review Board

Zachary Maia, Development Manager, zmaia@colchestervt.gov, 802-264-5604

Kathy Cawley, Chair, kathycawley@comcast.net

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, Outer Bay Room, 3rd floor.

The Colchester Development Review Board processes and approves:

- Commercial and Residential site plans
- Subdivision applications
- Conditional use and variance applications
- Appeals of the Zoning Administrator's determinations

Meetings on Video: <https://lcatv.org/colchester-DRB>

Meeting Minutes: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt> (Halfway down on left, click on Development Review Board and then minutes.)

Development Regulations: <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11543/Development-Regulations-S48-09-30-2025-Adopted-Final>

APPLY HERE: <https://colchestervt.gov/formcenter/volunteer-forms-13/town-of-colchester-board-commission-and--67>

Update from the Essex Community Justice Center:

Below is a message from the Essex Community Justice Center, an organization that serves and is partially funded by the Town of Colchester.



I wanted to share an update about some important changes coming to restorative services here in Chittenden County. Similar messages are being shared by other local community justice centers as we work to update all community members about the changes, specifically information related to Vermont's Pre-Charge Diversion Program.

What does “pre-charge diversion” mean? Pre-charge diversion allows certain low-level, non-violent offenses (like retail theft, vandalism, or disorderly conduct) to be handled outside of the traditional court process. Each county in Vermont has a policy created by their State's Attorney to outline the specifics for their area. A listing of policies can be found here: <https://prosecutors.vermont.gov/resources/category/sa-restorative-justice-policies>

Instead of filing a criminal charge right away, police or prosecutors can refer the person to a restorative justice process through a local community justice center. Participants take responsibility for their actions, meet with those affected, and complete agreements to repair harm — often avoiding a permanent criminal record while making real amends.

This approach strengthens accountability, reduces court backlogs, and supports safer, healthier communities.

What's changing: Earlier this year, Vermont passed Act 180, which restructures how pre-charge diversion will operate statewide. Here's what that means for us in Chittenden County:

- **Statewide standardization:** Beginning in 2026, every county will have one lead diversion entity funded through the Vermont Attorney General's Office.
- **Centralization in Chittenden County:** The Burlington Community Justice Center is expected to become the countywide hub for pre-charge referrals.
- **Transition period (July 2025– June 2026):** During this time, our local justice centers — including those in Essex, South Burlington, Williston, and others — are continuing to handle cases as usual while we work with state and local partners to shape how the new model will look.

What this means locally: We're still here. The Essex Community Justice Center continues to serve local residents and handle referrals as we always have. Centralization isn't going into effect until July 2026.

- Collaboration is key. We're working closely with the Attorney General's Office, other Chittenden County centers, and community partners to ensure local voices remain part of this work.
- Uncertainty and opportunity. While we don't yet know exactly how roles or structures will change, we're advocating for a model that maintains community connection and keeps services accessible to every town.
- Equity and access. The new system aims to make diversion more consistent and available to more people across Vermont.

How you can stay involved:

- Share your perspective: If you've volunteered, been part of a restorative process, or simply care about local justice, your voice matters as decisions are made. We are sharing a survey to those who have been involved in the work in order to gather their thoughts on what we should consider during the transition. Please consider filling out the survey here - [Chittenden County Pre-Charge Survey for Involved Stakeholders](#)
- Support community justice: Attend events, volunteer, or learn more about restorative practices. Our work relies on engaged neighbors like you.

Change can bring challenges, but also possibilities. Our goal remains the same: helping people repair harm, rebuild trust, and strengthen our community through accountability and compassion.

Department Updates

A Reminder from the Town Clerk's Office – Property Taxes Due November 17

The second property tax installment is due Monday, November 17.

Please note that postdated payments of property taxes will not be accepted. In order for taxes to be considered timely, they need to arrive on or before November 17.

For more information visit: <https://www.colchestervt.gov/329/Property-Taxes>

To pay your property taxes online and explore payment options visit:

<https://colchestervt.gov/330/Payment-Options>

Questions can be directed to the Clerk's office at (802) 264-5520 or townclerk@colchestervt.gov

Burnham Memorial Library – Free Medicare Assistance Informational Session

On **Monday, November 10 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** and **Saturday, November 15 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**, Chad Piche, a licensed agent and consultant from Good Harbor Insurance Group, will be running an informational session **at the Burnham Memorial Library (898 Main Street)** to answer questions about Medicare and how your coverage may be changing in 2026.

Drop by during the two-hour window to get a free coffee or sweet treat and to ask questions - no need to sign up!

Department of Parks & Recreation – Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Help stock our food shelf one can at a time!

November 1 – November 21

Box Location: Colchester Recreation Center (Front Entrance)

Non-perishable items only please

Food Shelf Wish List:

- Boxed stuffing
- Gravy
- Rice
- Dried pasta
- Canned soup
- Jelly or Peanut Butter



Adult Sports Fall Session B: Week of November 13 – December 15

Fall drop in sessions! Join us any day Monday-Thursday for one of our drop-in Adult Sports sessions! You can sign up for all the sessions or just drop-in on a given night. All drop-in sports are from 6:45 - 8:45 PM.

Monday - 18+ Basketball

Tuesday – Pick-up Pickleball

Wednesday – Volleyball

Thursday - 35+ Basketball

No registration required, discount if you register for the whole session ahead of time. Register at colchestervt.gov/recreation. All drop-in sports are located at the Colchester Recreation Center (802)264-5640.

Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

Selectboard Meeting: Tuesday, November 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: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Planning Commission: Tuesday, November 18, 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, November 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>

Development Review Board: Wednesday, November 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 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 20, 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, November 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd floor Champlain Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road.
https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommssn.htm#_CPA1

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