Colchester Town News
VERMONT

Colchester – What do you want to do today?

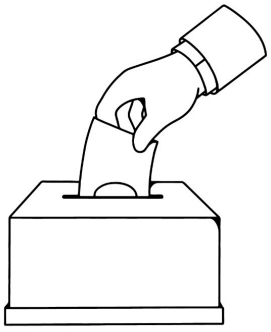
For the Week of November 9, 2026

Manager's Message
Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Town Hall & Library Closure – Wednesday, November 11

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

Election Day Thank-yous



Ballots have been cast, counted, and another election season has come to a close. We would like to thank those who made the election possible. This year, dozens of volunteers and Board of Civil Authority members worked alongside the Town Clerk's staff in the days preceding and the day of the election. Their hard work ensured the timely and accurate reporting of votes cast.

Many thanks to the Town Clerk's Office, who have been working for months to prepare for the election, and Public Works who aided by moving equipment to and from the polling site. Thank you, as well to Colchester High School, for hosting the election and lending their technical and administrative support. Finally, thanks to Colchester voters who participated in the elections.

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 providing public input, all residents can be meaningfully involved in the creation and administration of these regulations. Specifically, the Colchester Planning Commission develops 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 one open *Alternate* Adult Member Seat.

The Development Review Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. 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

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

For more information about this open position, visit: https://colchestervt.gov/370/Development-Review-Board or contact Zachary Maia, Director of Planning and Zoning at zmaia@colchestervt.gov

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Department Updates

Burnham Memorial Library Book Review

***10 Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World* by Jean M. Twenge, PhD**

Review by: Kelly McCagg, Library Director



If you are the parent of a teen or tween, chances are good that you have argued with your child about their technology use. From tablets to laptops, smartphones, gaming consoles and even watches, technology is a constant intrusion. It interferes with family time, prevents them from forming healthy bonds with peers, and even has a negative effect on their physical and mental health. What's a parent to do?

Jean M. Twenge, a professor of psychology and author of several books, has ten simple guidelines for parents to help reign in their technology-driven children. She begins by setting device free zones and times—think the bedroom after 9pm. She suggests linking the receiving of a smartphone with

earning your driver's license. Not only does it encourage your child to get their license and practice some independence, but they also have a use for all the gadgets (navigation) that come along with it. Twenge goes into great detail about parental controls and why it is an important tool for parents to utilize. She also advocates for no phones during the school day. All of this is backed by her own parenting experience and years of research.

But what if you've already opened Pandora's box and given your child their own smartphone? "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Do what you can." If you found The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt compelling, I highly recommend you read this book.

A Reminder from the Town Clerk's Office – Property Taxes Due November 16

The second property tax installment is due Monday, November 16.

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 16.

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

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Sidewalk Markings for Winter Plowing



The Department of Public Works is currently placing temporary markers on the edges of sidewalks. This is done so staff can see where the edges of sidewalks are while plowing and minimize lawn damage. These markers are painted orange and green once installed.

Due to new plow operators on our team, more sidewalk markers are being placed than in previous years. Please do not move the markers to help us plow the sidewalks more accurately!

With questions about this process, please call (802) 264-5620 or email DPW@colchestervt.gov

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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: Wednesday, December 9, 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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For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov