

**For the Week of March 9, 2026**

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**Below is a letter from your Town Selectboard:**

March 9, 2026

Dear Colchester Residents:

Your Colchester Selectboard would like to sincerely thank you for supporting and passing the Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Services Budget, and reauthorizing the current funding levels of the Public Safety Capital Plan.

We, as your Selectboard, collaborated with Town staff to prepare a municipal services budget that maintained the current level of services, but also addressed needs for: 1) paid on-call staffing for the Fire Department; 2) increases in salary, benefits & training for the Police Department; 3) increases in salary, benefits and training for the Rescue Department; 4) increased costs for necessary software for Information Technology (IT).

The five-year reauthorization of the Public Safety Capital Plan will fund important specialized equipment for our Rescue, Technical Rescue, and Police Department teams.

Even when attending to increased municipal service needs, we have and will continue to direct staff to make the most of the non-property tax revenues and prioritize fiscal sustainability for the years to come.

All the Town's work and its accomplishments would not be possible without the input and help from our residents, businesses, board and commission members, volunteers and employees - so we truly appreciate all of you.

We send special thanks to the Town Clerk's Office and our volunteer election officials for running an efficient and open election process. The Selectboard is proud and grateful to serve this community, and we look forward to continued efforts that will ensure our quality of life, public safety, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship, both now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Your Colchester Selectboard

Pam Loranger, Chair

Charlie Papillo, Vice Chair

Jacki Murphy, Clerk

Maureen P. Dakin, Member

Paul Pecor, Member



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**Manager’s Message: Aaron Frank, Town Manager**

Your Town staff would like to thank everyone who attended and voted at the Annual Town Meeting and voted on Town elections and ballot items. It is great to see our residents participate in municipal government.

Thank you to Colchester High School for hosting the Town Meeting. We would also like to acknowledge the Town Clerk’s office, who as our election officials, start work on Election Day at 6:30 a.m. and stay until the votes are tabulated and preliminary results sent to the Secretary of State.

Much appreciation to our Justices of the Peace, who are also election officials, and our residents who volunteered at the high school on Election Day. In addition, we thank all candidates who ran for office and would like to welcome Charlie Papillo, Maureen P. Dakin, Angela MacDonald, Scott Barrett, and Toni Josey to their newly elected positions with the Town.

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**Town Plan Survey!**

The Colchester Planning Commission has put together a brief survey to gather community input on the importance of big picture themes (education, development, transportation, etc.) in Colchester.

Completing this survey will help guide the creation of the 2027 Town Plan, which will be THE vision document for the Town of Colchester. The Town Plan is revised and adopted every eight (8) years and seeks to gather input from as many stakeholders as possible.

Fill out the survey by visiting this link

(<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FzQGla3q7kSAQCXfQr11tycqA28oTcNMIjN7PtUQtphURFNPV0QyQUgzVkkxTVVQRUIVQVhIRFVJT4u>) or by scanning the QR code below. We encourage you to pass on the survey to your neighbors and Colchester friends!



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## Volunteer Drivers Needed – Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA)

If you'd like to support your neighbors and are looking for something to fill up some of your time, **SSTA is looking for volunteer drivers!** Being a volunteer driver is incredibly flexible; you choose your hours and SSTA will coordinate the rest for you!

You can be in the comfort of your own vehicle, while still supporting your community! SSTA reimburses at the current GSA mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile for your travel.

If you'd still like to support the vital services SSTA provides to our community but don't have time to spare, donations are always welcome! Donations go directly to SSTA and help keep this essential program running.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver or donating to the program, visit <https://www.sstarides.org/volunteer-community-drivers> or call (802) 878-1527.



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## Department Updates

### Town Wide Reassessment: Interior Data Verification Requests

The State of Vermont ordered the Town of Colchester to complete a town-wide reappraisal. The Town contracted with Vision Government Solutions (Vision) to meet this requirement. Vision began work on the reappraisal in January 2025 and is scheduled to complete it in June 2026.

All property owners were mailed letters informing them of the reappraisal. Vision has completed exterior site visits and exterior inspections of all properties. They have also completed interior data confirmations (through a brief inside inspection, short discussion at a front door, or phone call), or had the homeowner refuse entry, for roughly 50% of all properties.



Vision is required to make a second attempt to obtain interior data confirmations. We are in the process of mailing second and final notices to homeowners we have not yet received interior data confirmations or refusals from. We are requesting that the homeowners make an appointment for an interior data confirmation in person or via phone.

There are advantages to interior data confirmations, as it allows more accurate information on which to base your assessment. If you do not arrange for an interior data confirmation, your

assessment will be based on information gathered from our initial site visit, old assessment data, permit data, mapping/aerial imagery, and real estate listing data.

If you wish to have an interior data confirmation, please call the Town Assessor's Office to make an appointment at 802-264-5670. The data confirmation can be over the phone, in person at your front door, or a brief interior inspection.

Visit this link (<https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11937/Reassessment-Second-Visit-Request-Information>) for a list of properties that we have mailed the final notices to. If you are not on this list, it is because our data shows you either have completed interior data confirmations or refused entry. If you are on this list and did not receive a notice in the mail, please call the assessor's office so we can make an appointment to verify your property data.

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### **A Reminder from the Town Clerk's Office – Property Taxes Due March 16**

The third property tax installment is due Monday, March 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 March 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](mailto:townclerk@colchestervt.gov)

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### **Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas**

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docid=PLANAGENDA>

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, March 11, 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, March 11, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C)

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, March 19, 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, March 16, 6:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 2nd floor Champlain Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: [https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#\\_CPA1](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.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](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)