

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of Presidents' Day. Curbside trash and recycling pickup will remain on the regular schedule next week.

At this week's Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board voted to accept a proposal by Environmental Systems Co. to implement a lighting/energy efficiency program for Town Hall and the Community & Senior Center.

The Board also voted to adopt a mission statement for the town as a result of the Community Resilience Building workshop conducted last fall by the Nature Conservancy.

Our new statement is as follows: *"The mission of the Town of Colebrook is to serve our residents with integrity, transparency and dedication—preserving the rich heritage of our rural community while fostering growth, environmental stewardship, and civic participation. We strive to ensure a high quality of life for all by maintaining essential services, supporting local traditions and businesses, and planning thoughtfully for the future of the town."*

At last week's Capital Improvement Program committee meeting, the following Fiscal Year 2026/27 capital projects were discussed:

- Colebrook Consolidated School: a new phone system, security enhancements, information technology investments, a lavatory upgrade, and ongoing air conditioning expansion
- Colebrook Fire Department: Center Firehouse heating system upgrade; a breathing air compressor, high-band radios, and turnout gear
- Department of Public Works: a mini excavator
- Community & Senior Center: money towards a new van
- Town Hall: funds for minor building improvements

Colebrook Consolidated School Superintendent Bob Gilbert will present the Board of Education's proposed FY 26/27 operating budget to the Board of Finance on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Selectmen will present its proposed town operating budget to the Board of Finance on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Recently, the Assessor's office sent letters to residents who saw a *net assessment increase* resulting from the Governor's actions during January regarding classification of farm and forest land for tax purposes. If you wish to challenge your net assessment increase, you may do so by the end of next week (Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>). Forms are available in the Assessor's office.

Office hours for Tax Collector Laura Bartlett for the rest of February are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-1 p.m.

Breakfast is available at the Community & Senior Center every Tuesday from 8-9:15 a.m. for \$6. Lunch is served every Thursday at noon for \$7 (advance registration required for lunch). When Region 7 and Colebrook School are closed due to inclement weather, the Center is also closed. Breakfast is also cancelled when Region 7 and Colebrook School have a delayed opening on Tuesdays.

The Grief Support Group at the Center meets every other Wednesday at 6 p.m., and will next meet on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Colebrook Associates food pantry, located in the vestibule of the Community & Senior Center, is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Donations may be left at the pantry, or in the collection bin in the Post Office.

Our *undefeated* Norbrook Coyotes fifth and sixth grade basketball team takes on Barkhamsted Red this Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at Northwestern Regional 7, as they enter the most challenging portion of their schedule in a very competitive league. Meanwhile, our third and fourth grade team hosts Housy 1 at Botelle School on Saturday at 11 a.m. Go Coyotes!

### **Upcoming events**

The Colebrook Fire Department's annual ice skating party will be held on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Colebrook Recreation Area (behind Town Hall). Come skate under the lights and enjoy hot cocoa, donuts and a warm fire.

On Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Colebrook Associates will host its "Winter Warmer" from 2-4 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall. Admission is free. Enjoy tea, coffee, hot chocolate, light snacks and great conversation. Gift baskets will be raffled and two special raffles are available for advance purchase at the attached flyer.

## **Upcoming municipal board meetings**

Inland Wetlands – Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (Land Use office)

Board of Finance – Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (second floor meeting room)

Board of Finance – Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (second floor meeting room)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org), or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202.

Cordially,

**Brad**

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