

OCTOBER 2024

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TO DISCUSS A COLCHESTER ARTS COALITION

All Colchester community members are welcome to come to a Community Conversation to discuss what a Colchester Arts Coalition might look like! Bring your ideas, experience and opportunities to share with us. We want to understand what kinds of art opportunities the community would be interested in.

No decisions will be made, but this is an opportunity for an open discussion to hear what our neighbors are interested in.

- When: Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00pm
- Where: Colchester Town Hall.

PUMPKIN PAINTING 2024

Bring a pumpkin and decorate it with us at the Recplex pavilion. We will provide all the supplies, just bring your own pumpkin. Wear clothes that can get messy. Everyone is welcome to join. You are never too old or too young to be creative and have fun! Please pre-register so we can plan accordingly.

- When: Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, 4-6pm
- Where: Recplex Pavilion

TRUNK OR TREAT

Decorate your car/truck "Trunk" with a Halloween theme and hand out candy to the trick or treaters. Limited to the first 50 trunks. Register your "trunk" at

www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department by 10/21/24

- When: Saturday October 26th, (rain date October 27th) from 4:30-6:30 pm
- Where: Bacon Academy parking lot.
- Trick or Treaters: Please bring 2 bags of candy per child so we can distribute the candy to the "trunks".
- Trunks- please be sure your decorations are family friendly and appropriate for this community event. No handouts other than the candy will be allowed.

COLCHESTER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

We look forward to welcoming new members looking for a social orchestra and choir with a passion for music. Seats are open in all sections, both Choir & Orchestra. Many adult members join with their school-aged children and/or spouses. It is truly a family activity. There are no auditions, but being able to read music is helpful. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays throughout the year beginning on September 19, 2024 (Choir 6-7:30 pm and Orchestra 7:30-9 pm).

The membership dues are \$35 for the year for adults and \$15 for students that covers the cost of the music and concert expenses. For other information and to see videos of past performances go to our website: www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org

NOVEMBER 2024

21st ANNUAL GHOST RUN (1/2 MARATHON)

The Parks & Recreation Departments of Hebron, Colchester, and East Hampton are collaborating along with the State of CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host our 21st Annual Ghost Run – On our beautiful 13.1-mile certified half marathon course.

- Saturday, November 2, 2024, starting at 9:00am
- Register before Oct 1st and get a free t-shirt!
- Online registration: <https://runsignup.com/ghostrun>

HOLIDAY HOME AND BUSINESS DECORATING CONTEST 2024

Register your home or business by 11/27/24 and decorate your home by 12/6/24. Print your free map and drive around town to view the beautiful holiday decorations. Maps will be available at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department or our Facebook page- Colchester Parks and Recreation. Vote for your favorite home and business decorations between 12/6/24-12/31/24.

DECEMBER 2024

NATIONAL DAY OF GIVING

National Day of Giving is recognized as an opportunity to support organizations that rely on the generosity of their community. At Colchester Parks and Recreation, we need your support to allow every child to attend camp- whether or not their family can afford it. Camp can change a child's life and we want to share that experience with everyone. Through our website, you can make a donation to support our camp scholarship! This year, the Day of Giving is Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

HOLIDAY HOMECOMING

Santa will arrive on the decorated firetruck and will visit with every child in the gazebo. There are fun activities for everyone! Enjoy hot cocoa, hot cider and cookies; pick up your annual holiday ornament; bring a new and unwrapped gift for the police toy drive; bring your letter to Santa (every letter will get a personal response!); watch the CCO concert; enjoy a bonfire and carol sing!

- When: Saturday, December 7th, 2024, starting at 4:30pm
- Where: Colchester Town Green

GINGEBREAD HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION

Drop your gingerbread house to the Recreation Department at Town Hall between November 25th- December 6th. They will be displayed through the month of December in the lobby of the Colchester Town Hall. All visitors will be encouraged to vote for their favorite gingerbread house. Each gingerbread house will be awarded a fun superlative. Families and friends are encouraged to work together to submit creative entries.

HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS

Every year the Recreation Commission chooses a Colchester landmark for the annual holiday ornament. Collect a new one every year! Ornaments are \$6 each and can be purchased at Holiday Homecoming (Sat., Dec. 7 at 4:30 pm on the Town Green) or at the Recreation office.

HOLIDAY RADIO PLAY

Join the Colchester Actors Theatre and share the holiday spirit with friends and neighbors. Auditions will be held on November 19 and November 20 at the Colchester Senior Center. We will be casting actors ages 14-99! More information can be found on our website at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

- When: The performance will be held on Friday, December 13, 2024 and Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7:00pm
- Where: Colchester Federated Church
- Tickets are available at www.ticketleap.events/tickets/colchester-actors-theatre

JANUARY 2025

2025 SUMMER DAY CAMP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Camp is our most exciting time of year! 2025 Summer Day Camp will be held June 23, 2025, through August 15, 2025.

If you are interested in joining our camp team, please be sure to submit your application between Jan. 3, 2025-March 1, 2025. Applications will be available on our website at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

PUZZLEPALOOZA

A new twist on game night! How fast can you complete a puzzle? Register as a team or a single (we will pair you up with others). You can come with as many as 4 people, all teams get the same puzzle and the first one to finish wins a prize. Each team gets to bring the puzzle home. Are you ready for some fun competition! We will have up to 10 teams compete to complete the

same puzzle. No more than 4 people per team, only 1 person has to register for their team, a maximum of 10 teams will be allowed. Children can be included on a team, but there must be at least 2 adults on each team. Bring your own snacks and get ready for some fun!

- When: January 17th, 2025 at 6:00pm
- Where: Town Hall Meeting Room
- \$25/ Team
- Preregistration required

COLCHESTER'S GOT TALENT- A Town-wide Talent Show – MOVED to March!

New this year! It's time to reveal Colchester, CT's hidden talent gems to the world! All ages and talents are welcome - just remember to keep it family-friendly for the show! Whether you're a singer, dancer, magician, or have a unique skill that dazzles under the spotlight, this is your moment to shine. The stage will be set, the audience will be eager, and the judges are looking forward to discovering the next big star from our beloved town.

- Auditions for acts will be held one week prior to the show
- Registration is required to audition, but there is no fee to participate.
- Acts must all be family friendly and appropriate for all ages

Save the date and come watch the best show in town!

- March 28th at Bacon Academy.
- Tickets can be purchased at the door or www.colchester-actors-theatre.ticketleap.com.

Check out our website for up to date program and event information:

www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department

RECREATION PROGRAMS (ALPHABETICALLY LISTED)

AUDITIONS: HOLIDAY RADIO PLAY

Colchester Actors Theatre (CAT) is kicking off it's season with this timeless classic holiday radio play! Seeking between 5 and 12 actors, ages 14 through adult, for a holiday radio play with music. Be part of the 2nd annual radio show production by the Colchester Actors Theatre!!

Please register to secure your audition time.

- When: November 19th & 20th at 6:00pm
- Where: Colchester Senior Center
- Who: Actors ages 14 to 99

CAKE DECORATING FOR ALL!

Calling all aspiring cake decorators: have you always dreamed of creating beautiful cakes for birthdays and special events? This class is for you! Open to adults and adult-accompanied youth, ages 5 – 105! (All participants under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.) Each registered participant will learn new skills in each class, decorating their own cakes to bring home. All supplies will be provided, including tools and cakes.

- When: Session 1: November 20th-21st from 5:00pm-6:30pm
- When: Session 2: December 18th-19th from 5:00pm-6:30pm
- Cost: \$40 per person, 2 classes
- Who: Ages 5 – 105

COLCHESTER YOUTH THEATRE WINTER SHOW

Get ready for the spotlight with this exhilarating 8-week acting intensive/ play rehearsal! You'll be cast in several roles, dive deep into production, and bring an original play to life in a dazzling public performance on March 21st. Scene-work, character building, and show-stopping moments await! Come on board and let Colchester Youth Theatre help you become the shining star you were born to be!

- When: Thursdays, January 30th – March 20th with a performance March 21st
- Where: Senior Center for rehearsals, WJJMS Black Box for the March 21st Performance
- Cost: \$160/ residents, \$165 non-residents (8 weeks, 1 class per week)
- Who: 2nd -9th Graders
- Minimum of 4, maximum of 30 participants

COMMIT DANCE FITNESS

Dance Fitness with Karen Ricardo Morales! Come get your body moving and build your stamina and coordination with this high-energy, fun dance fitness class, perfect for every level!

- When: Wednesdays, October 2nd -November 20th
- Where: JJIS Room 79
- Who: Ages 15+
- Cost: \$100 per resident, \$105 per non-resident (1 class per week, 8 weeks)
- Minimum of 6, maximum of 30 participants per session

COOKIE DECORATING FOR KIDS!

Calling all creative kiddos who happen to also love cookies!! This class is for you! Learn different cookie decorating techniques, seasonally themed designs, and tasty treats you can take home and share!

- When: Session 1: November 13th-14th 4:00pm-5:00pm

- When: Session 2: December 11th-12th 4:00-5:00pm
- Where: JJIS
- Cost: \$30 per person, 2 classes
- Who: Youth in grades 4-6
- Minimum of 4, maximum of 12

DANCE: LEVEL UP

Dive into 5 weeks of Hip Hop dance at JJIS for 3rd to 5th graders. Join after-school sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays for fun, inclusive choreography and activities. Come dressed comfortably and ready to dance. Parents can expect a space for kids to express themselves, make friends, and improve their dance skills. There will be 4 sessions, 5 weeks each, throughout the school year. The season will wrap-up with an optional spring showcase open to the community!

- When: Session 2: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11/7, 11/12, 11/14, 11/19, 11/21, 11/26, 12/3, 12/5
- Where After school- 5:30pm at JJIS
- Who: JJIS students in grades 3-5
- Cost: \$85 per person (4 weeks, 2 classes per week)
- Minimum of 10, maximum of 20 kids per session

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS AND DONUTS!

Seeking a haven to master the art of Dungeons and Dragons while savoring delightful donuts? Look no further! Join us at Dungeons, Dragons, and Donuts! Participants shall: Cultivate a foundational understanding of the mystical realms of Dungeons and Dragons; Explore various systems and enchanting ways the game can unfold; Hone creative problem-solving skills; and Forge characters, embark on thrilling quests, and indulge in scrumptious donuts!

- When: Fridays, October 25th – December 20th
- Where: Town Hall, First Selectman's Conference Room
- Who: 9th-12th Graders
- Cost: \$75 per person (8 weeks, 1 class per week)
- Minimum of 2, maximum of 5

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

Emotional Intelligence for Conflict Resolution Knowing how to minimize conflict, prevent small problems from getting blown out of proportion, clear up misunderstandings in a friendly atmosphere, and prevent gun violence from erupting, can be achieved fairly effectively, by using emotional intelligence tools. Our behaviors are primarily emotionally driven. Emotional

intelligence is how we recognize, manage, understand, our emotions and those of others. Its benefits are many. Emotionally intelligent people know how to handle anger, how to detect lies, have empathy, actively listen, rise above toxicity, foresee early warning signs of a possible violent act and take early prevention, and maintain a peaceful energy. Every student enrolling for this class gets a free copy of my book "Emotional Intelligence in Business and Marketing."

Instructor: Preethi Fernando | preethifernando.com

- When: Wednesday, November 13th
- Where: Zoom
- Who: Ages 18+
- Cost: \$30
- Minimum of 4, maximum of 70

IMPERFECT PICKLEBALL

This will be a casual, recreational pickleball program. All players should understand before they register that this program is specifically for recreational players. We will have 2 courts set up and players will rotate-in to play. Courts, conditions, skills, and players may not be perfect, but the goal is to have fun! Our attitudes and expectations are more important than our rating and wins. No instruction will be provided. A maximum of 12 registrations will be accepted.

Session 6:

- When: Thursdays, April 3-May 1 (no program on 4/17), 2025, from 6-8pm
- Where: Indoors, CES gym
- Who: Adults ages 18 and older, Colchester residents only
- Cost: 4 weeks, \$25 per person

HOW TO USE CHAT GPT

How to Use Chat GPT: An easy to understand class on what is Chat GPT, how to create your own account, how to give prompts to get the best results, its uses, how to access plug ins, and Chat GPT landmines. This 1-hr online class helps you to determine if Chat GPT is a fit your daily needs- both at work and in your personal life. This is not a technical, AI programming class. It is a simple, basic class for the beginner.

- When: Tuesday, October 29th at 2:00pm
- Where: Zoom
- Cost: \$40
- Who: Ages 18+
- Minimum of 4, maximum of 70

MENS PICK-UP BASKETBALL

Think you got game? From beginner to advanced, pick-up basketball is open to everyone. Bring your best and challenge others for fun recreational basketball games. Pre-registration is required. When you arrive, please check in with the gym supervisor each week before playing.

Session 1:

- When: Tuesdays, October 1-December 17, 2024 (no program on 11/26) from 6:30-8:30pm
- Where: WLLMS gym
- Cost: \$60 per resident, \$65 per nonresident (12 weeks)
- Who: Open to men, ages 18 and over.
- A minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 will be accepted

Session 2:

- When: Tuesdays, January 7, 2025- April 4, 2025 (no program on 2/18) from 6:30-8:30pm
- Where: WJJMS gym
- Cost: \$65 per resident, \$70 per nonresident (13 weeks)
- Who: Open to men ages 18 and over.
- A minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 will be accepted

PUZZLER PACK

Are you a puzzle fanatic? Whether you're racing against the clock or unwinding with a brain teaser, this program is your playground! Join us at JJIS after school to team up with buddies, make new pals, and tackle a fresh puzzle every week!

- When: Mondays, October 21st-November 25th , after school-4:30pm
- Where: Jack Jackter Intermediate School
- Cost: \$55 per participant
- Who: Grades 3-5
- Minimum of 4, maximum of 15

START SMART MULTI SPORT (SPRING 25)

Children and their parents learn basic motor skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, batting and agility without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. Games are played using new skills! Children learn the skills but have fun in the process.

- When: Wednesdays, March 4-April 2, 2025 (makeup date 4/9) from 5:30-6:30pm
- Where: CES Gym
- Cost: \$50
- Who: Ages: 3-5
- Minimum of 6, maximum of 12

YOGA

Unwind and recharge your batteries as you surrender into yoga poses designed to strengthen your core, build stamina and increase flexibility. Class will focus on connecting breath with movement and simple mindfulness and meditation practices. Different variations of poses are offered making this class fun, safe and challenging for all levels. Equipment needed: mat, water and any props you would like for your comfort (pillow, yoga block, blanket etc.)

- When: Fridays, September 13-December 13, 2024 (no class 11/29) from 8:30-9:15am
- Where: Zoom: link will be sent to participants after registration
- Cost: \$117 per person (13 weeks)

YOGA- ALL LEVELS

This class is designed for students that are beginners as well as experienced. I will be starting with gentle warm up poses and then building some heat in the body before winding down to deeper more relaxing poses followed by a relaxation meditation. Please bring props if you have them including blocks straps and a blanket. We will have a fun time and you will walk out feeling better than when you came in for sure! I have many years' experiences, at least 15 years, and I am excited to share my passion with the town of Colchester! I offer an eclectic blend of styles that I have learned over the years. (Not too late to join! Fee will be pro-rated, just give us a call!)

- When: Wednesdays, Sept. 25-Oct. 23 from 6-7pm
- Where: JJIS
- Cost: \$60 per resident, \$65 per nonresident
- Who: Open to anyone aged 16 and older
- Minimum of 6 and maximum of 12
- Instructor: Indora Chaviaras

YOGA FOR SENIORS

ONLINE with Facebook Live- Gentle Yoga is perfect for age 45 and over to explore yoga postures, breathing techniques and meditation. Yoga improves your balance and strength, stretches your entire body, and focuses your mind and calms your emotions. All levels of fitness or yoga experience are welcome.

- When: Classes are held on Mondays, in 4 weeks, re-occurring sessions
- November 4-November 25 from 4:45-5:45pm
- December 9 – December 30 from 4:45-5:45pm
- Where: Facebook Live (the private link will be mailed to you after you register)
- Cost: \$35 for residents, \$40 for non-residents (4 weeks)

YOUNG YOGIS:

Each class will combine yoga and mindful practices in age appropriate, playful and engaging ways. Children will participate in activities that will help them stretch and strengthen their bodies, build social, emotional skills as well as learn strategies for self-regulation and relaxation...while having fun! This class is for students at CES in grades K-2. The instructor will meet the students at dismissal and walk them to the Where of the class at CES.

Parents/Guardians will sign out their child at 4:30. Please have your child wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Yoga mats will be provided. Choose the Wednesday classes or Thursday classes!

- When: Wednesday Classes: Oct. 9, 16, 23, and Nov. 6, 2024, afterschool-4:30pm
- When: Thursday Classes: Oct. 10, 17, 24, and Nov. 7, 2024, afterschool-4:30pm
- Where: CES
- Who: Open to CES students in grades K-2
- Enrollment: Min 6 and Max 8
- Cost: \$50 per student
- Instructor- Susie Hawkins

YOGA, MANTRAS AND MORE!

Each class will be centered around one mantra and theme:

Yogis May Be... Kind, Brave, Helpful, and Playful. May I be_____. Children will participate in age-appropriate activities that will have them stretch, strengthen and calm their bodies through yoga poses, breathing and focusing exercises, learning strategies for self-regulation and relaxation and building social skills... all while having fun with other yogis. This class is for children at CES in grades K-2. The instructor will meet students at dismissal and walk them to the yoga space in the Media Center at CES. Parents/ Guardians will sign out their child at 4:30. Please have your child wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Yoga mats will be provided.

- When: Tuesday. Jan. 14, 21, 28, and Feb. 4, 2025, afterschool-4:30pm
- When: Wednesday. Jan. 15, 22, 29, and Feb 5, 2025, afterschool-4:30pm
- Where: CES
- Cost \$50 per student
- Who: Open to students at CES in grades K-2
- Max. 8/Min.6
- Instructor: Susie Hawkins

YOGA, MINDFUL TOOLS AND MORE:

This class will have children making, using and taking home tools to help support yoga and mindful practices. The tools will include a Kind Wishes Wand, Breathing Book, Glitter Jar and Finger Labyrinths. This class is for children enrolled at CES grades K-2. The instructor will meet students after school and walk them to the Where of the class at CES. Parents/Guardians will pick up their child at 4:30. Please have your child wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Yoga mats and all materials will be provided.

- When: Wednesday Classes: Nov. 20, Dec.4, 11, 18, afterschool-4:30pm
- When: Thursday Classes: Nov. 21, Dec 5, 12, 19, afterschool-4:30pm
- Where: CES
- Who: Open to CES students in grades K-2
- Cost: \$55 per student
- Instructor- Susie Hawkins
- Enrollment: Min 6 and Max 8

ZUMBA

Zumba is a fun, high-energy workout experience that keeps you excited to exercise and return for more. Zumba is a dance party disguised as a workout. Zumba is a safe, fun, and effective workout for most people who want to enhance their cardiovascular fitness through dance.

Winter session:

- When: Mondays, November 18-December 16 from 6:30-7:30pm
- Where: JJIS
- Cost: \$50 per resident/\$55 nonresident (5-week session)
- Who: Open to ages 16 and older
- A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 25 will be accepted

New Year session:

- When: Mondays, January 6-March 10, 2025, (no class 1/20/25 or 2/17/25) from 6:30-7:30pm
- Where: JJIS
- Cost: \$80 per resident/\$85 nonresident (8-week session)
- Who: Open to ages 16 and older
- A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 25 will be accepted