

## **NOVEMBER 2024**

### **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](http://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.

### **GINGEBREAD HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION**

Drop your gingerbread house to the Recreation Department at Town Hall between November 25<sup>th</sup>- December 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### **AUDITIONS FOR A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A LIVE RADIO PLAY**

The Colchester Actors Theatre is seeking actors for their Live Radio Play version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Auditions will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at JJIS in room 79. We will be casting actors ages 14-99+! Register for Auditions at <https://www.colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/community/home>

- When: Auditions held November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at JJIS in room 79. Rehearsals run the December 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> from 6p:00pm-8:00pm

## **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; enjoy performances by the Bacon Academy Choir and the JJIS Level Up Dancers; bring a new and unwrapped gift for the police toy drive; mail your letter to Santa (every letter will get a personal response!); watch the CCO concert at the Colchester Federated Church; enjoy a bonfire and carol sing!

- When: Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, starting at 4:00pm
- Santa will arrive on the firetruck around 4:30pm
- Where: Colchester Town Green

## **COLCHESTER CHOIR & ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT**

You won't want to miss this holiday concert! Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Colchester Federated Church. Conveniently located across the street from Holiday Homecoming so you can visit with Santa then step inside to warm up and listen to wonderful holiday music!

## **HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS**

Every year the Recreation Commission chooses a Colchester landmark for the annual holiday ornament. Collect a new one every year! The ornament this year honors the newly build Senior Center. Ornaments are \$6 each and can be purchased at Holiday Homecoming or at the Recreation office.

## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL: LIVE RADIO PLAY**

Join Colchester Actors Theatre for a live radio play rendition of the timeless and beloved holiday ghost story by Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol, adapted by Joe Lawry starring community members. Immerse yourself in a 1940s radio station atmosphere and be part of our live studio audience as we present the story of Mr. Scrooge and his encounters with four ghosts on Christmas Eve.

- When: December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
- Where: Colchester Federated Church
- Cost: \$15 Adults, \$10 Senior Citizens, \$5 Child/Student
- Tickets available in advance: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/colchester-actors-theatre/christmas-carol>

## **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](http://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 17<sup>th</sup>, February 21<sup>st</sup>, and March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00pm
- Where: Town Hall Meeting Room
- \$25/ Team/ Day
- Preregistration required

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

It's not too early to start pulling together your act! This March, we will be celebrating the variety of talent that Colchester has to offer! All ages and talents are welcome - just remember to keep it family-friendly for the show! Whether you're a musician, dancer, comedian, 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
- March 28th at Bacon Academy.
- Tickets can be purchased at the door or [www.colchester-actors-theatre.ticketleap.com](http://www.colchester-actors-theatre.ticketleap.com).

## **RECREATION PROGRAMS**

### **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 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00pm-6:30pm
- OR Session 2: December 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm-6:30pm
- Cost: \$40 per person, 2 class session
- Who: Ages 5 – 105
- Where: JJIS staff lounge

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup> with a performance March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Where: Senior Center for rehearsals, WJJMS Black Box for the March 21<sup>st</sup> Performance
- Cost: \$160/ residents, \$165 non-residents (8 weeks, 1 class per week)
- Who: 2<sup>nd</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> -November 20<sup>th</sup>

- Where: JJIS Room 79
- Who: Ages 15+
- Cost: \$80 per resident, \$85 per non-resident (1 class per week, 8 weeks)
- Drop in to try a class for \$12!
- 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 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm-5:00pm
- OR Session 2: December 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:00pm
- Where: JJIS staff lounge
- Cost: \$30 per person, 2 classes per session
- Who: Youth in grades 4-6, Minimum of 4, maximum of 12

### **DROP-IN DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS FOR ADULTS**

Harken, valiant adventurers of Dungeons and Dragons! Do you long for the legendary days of yore and yearn for camaraderie and merriment? Get ready to set forth on your next grand odyssey as your Friday evenings are destined for transformation! Beginning on the fateful date of November 15<sup>th</sup> and continuing until December 20<sup>th</sup>, gather for enchanting evenings of revelry. Join our Drop-In Dungeons and Dragons program, a saga spanning five weeks. Secure your place for the entire journey at a magical total of \$45 or partake as you wish for \$10 per night. Open to all intrepid souls, ages 18 and beyond.

- When: Fridays, October 25<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Where: Town Hall, First Selectman's Conference Room
- Who: Ages 18+, Minimum of 2, maximum of 5
- Cost: \$10 drop-in fee/ week

### **GUITAR FOR BEGINNERS**

This class is for beginner guitar players looking to get started, make some music, and have fun! Small class sizes, so everyone gets individual attention and tips to improve their playing! Together we'll learn: chords, technique, guitar maintenance, guitar tablature and reading sheet music for beginners. Students can choose the music they want to learn. Bring your guitar and let's start!

- When: Wednesdays, January 8<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Where: Colchester Senior Center
- Who: Ages 16+
- Cost: \$25 for residents/ \$30 for non-residents

### **HOW TO USE CHAT GPT**

This is 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 fits 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 beginners.

- When: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 8-9 pm OR Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, from 10-11 am
- Where: Zoom (link will be emailed to you)
- Who: adults aged 18 and over
- Cost: \$40 per person

### **HOW TO PUBLISH YOUR OWN BOOK**

Getting your own book published can give you a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction. Publish a children's book, a how-to book, a memoir, art book, a cookbook, or just about any type of book. In this class you will learn how to tap into readily available resources to turn your work into a published book. (This is not a writing class.) If you are thinking about publishing a book or have a half-completed project, this class teaches you how to get it out into the world. You will also learn about book marketing and how. To get on the author circuit. Every attendee gets a free e-copy of the instructor's book "Emotional Intelligence." Visit [preethifernando.com](http://preethifernando.com)

- When: Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, from 4-6pm
- Where: Zoom (a link will be sent to you)
- Who: Adults ages 18 and over, Cost: \$30 per person

### **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.

- 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

### **LEVEL UP DANCE**

Dive into 4 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. Please send a note to school each week giving your child permission to stay after school and come into school at 5:30 to sign out with the instructor. There will be the option to perform at Holiday Homecoming on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

- When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov. 7-Dec. 5 from 3:15-5:30pm
- Where: JJIS Room 79
- Who: JJIS students in grades 3-5; Cost: \$85 per student

## **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.

- 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

## **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 re-occurring 4-week 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 emailed to you after you register)
- Cost: \$35 for residents, \$40 for non-residents

## **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 in 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: Wednesdays, Nov. 20, Dec.4, 11, 18, afterschool-4:30pm
- Where: CES
- Who: Open to CES students in grades K-2
- Cost: \$55 per student
- Enrollment: Min. 6 and Max. 8
- 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

## **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 Room 79
- Cost: \$50 per resident/\$55 nonresident (5-week session)
- Who: Open to ages 16 and older
- Min. of 6/ max. of 25

### **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 Room 79
- Cost: \$80 per resident/\$85 nonresident (8-week session)
- Who: Open to ages 16 and older
- Min. of 6/ max. of 25