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TOWN CLERK

**Commission on Aging, Colchester, Connecticut
Biennial Report
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023**

MISSION:

The Colchester Commission on Aging shall assist and support the needs of Colchester residents 55 years of age and older in the areas of nutrition, employment, economic and physical well-being, social services, housing and any other areas of concern; develop and implement programs; advocate for the population and collaborate with the Colchester Senior Center and the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

— A Meet and Greet, co-sponsored by the Senior Center and AARP was held for the newly-hired Fire Chief, Steven Hoffmann.

— An Education Committee was formed to work on a survey (Survey Monkey) that was distributed Town-wide, soliciting feedback on programming. Based on survey results, future programs were planned on the following topics: Senior Scamming, Wills & Trusts and Physical and Mental Health. We will continue to use this survey as a guide for programming going forward.

— Commission members met with newly-appointed Superintendent of Schools, Daniel P. Sullivan, III. A question and answer discussion followed.

— A “Conversation and Coffee” hour was held with Commission members and Senior Center staff and members.

— Commission members provided an overview of our Commission, e.g., mission, by-laws, program activities, etc. to members of AARP at their quarterly meeting.

— A very successful “Aging in Place” vendor fair was held for the community at Cragin Memorial Library. Ten vendors participated, including: Alzheimer’s Association, Colchester Urgent Care, Home Health Care, Connecticut Community Care, Center for healthy Aging, to name a few.

— Commission members donated lottery scratch cards for a raffle basket that was created to support the Senior Center Holiday Fair.

— Members participated in the Town’s 325th Anniversary Celebration, staffing the Senior Center’s presentations and activities.

— The Commission presented to members of the Senior Center on topics that included: the history of the Commission on Aging, an overview of our budget, results of our survey, future programs and our zoom/hybrid meetings.

— Commission members helped in the planning and participation of the long-awaited groundbreaking of the new Senior Center. Over 200 dignitaries and guests attended this successful and joyous event.

— The Senior Resource Guide was reviewed and revised by several members. Two hundred copies were printed and distributed throughout the community as well as provided to Colchester Senior Center new members. The Guide was also presented to the Board of Selectmen.

— A presentation by Attorney George Baker on “Wills and Trusts” was “sold out”. Forty residents attended this session. A second presentation was planned for early 2024.

— Chuck Maynard from Colchester’s Dime Bank, did a presentation on “Senior Scamming”. “Tips to Avoid Being the Target of Scammers” was very informative and well-received.

— A Thanksgiving dinner was prepared by Commission members and we broke bread with the Senior Center staff during their lunch hour the week of Thanksgiving. Future plans with Senior Center staff include an ice cream social, and a craft-making activity.

Commission Members’ Involvements:

— Members served (and continue to serve) on the Senior Center Building Committee that was formed in August 2019 to oversee, coordinate and supervise all aspects of the planning and construction process of a new Senior Center.

— Member served on the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was enacted by Congress providing additional financial relief to communities to address the continued impact of Covid-19. All Committee recommendations were forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. Colchester had \$4.68 million available to them through this federal program.

— Member serves on the Norton Park Committee. The Committee serves as an advisory Committee for the design elements of the future Norton Park to be created once all restoration and remediation is complete.

— Members serve on Parks and Recreation Commission developing a broad variety of recreation programs, park facilities and services to meet the total needs and demands of the residents of the community.

— Member serves on Education and Outreach Subcommittee formed to provide education and awareness of the proposed new senior center. The public awareness campaign included presentations to many local groups and members of the Senior Center as well as letters to the editor in the Rivereast.

— Commission on Aging attained full membership with seven members and two alternates.

— All members were actively involved in promoting awareness, education and outreach for the proposed new senior center. Many advocated, promoted, informed and educated the public on the

need for a new center, benefitting seniors as well as the entire community. Efforts resulted in approval of two Referendums for a new senior center.

Note: We are all proud of our Commission membership but it is noble that almost all members serve in several other capacities, e.g., commissions, committees, subcommittees, planning groups, and review groups throughout the Town of Colchester demonstrating dedication and commitment to improving the lives of seniors and all Colchester residents.

GOALS FOR 2024-2025:

— Continue our efforts to assist, support, advocate and educate Colchester seniors, providing programs and activities that align with our Mission. Serve as an active voice promoting programs and services on behalf of the elderly.

— Work tirelessly to move the new Senior Center project forward to completion. Member and committee involvement, dedication and commitment will continue in earnest.

— Lastly, as always, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Senior Center, assisting and enhancing their continuing efforts to meet the needs of our aging population.

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Other volunteer efforts among our membership include: serving in Colchester's Veterans Honor Guard, officer in AARP, Westchester Cemetery Association, sponsoring a national program, Wreaths Across America, tax aide preparations for residents and monitoring at election polling places.

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Colchester, Connecticut

General

ACS, 2017–2021	Colchester	State
Current Population	15,552	3,605,330
Land Area <i>mi</i> ²	49	4,842
Population Density <i>people per mi</i> ²	318	745
Number of Households	6,097	1,397,324
Median Age	43	41
Median Household Income	\$104,527	\$83,572
Poverty Rate	7%	10%

Economy

Top Industries

Lightcast, 2021 (2 and 3 digit NAICS)	Jobs	Share of Industry
1 Government	1,724	
Local Government		64%
2 Health Care and Social Assistance	802	
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities		49%
3 Retail Trade	693	
Food and Beverage Stores		39%
4 Accommodation and Food Services	385	
Food Services and Drinking Places		94%
5 Manufacturing	369	
Transportation Equipment Mfg		76%
Total Jobs, All Industries	5,197	

SOTS Business Registrations

Secretary of the State, August 2023

New Business Registrations by Year

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	92	71	92	121	132

Total Active Businesses 1,168

Key Employers

Data from Municipalities, 2023

- 1 S&S Arts And Crafts Factory
- 2 Caring Community
- 3 Incord
- 4 Carefree Building Co
- 5 Alpha Q

Demographics

ACS, 2017–2021

Age Distribution

	Colchester	State
Under 10	1,811	11%
10 to 19	2,078	13%
20 to 29	1,239	13%
30 to 39	2,189	12%
40 to 49	1,915	12%
50 to 59	2,731	15%
60 to 69	1,885	12%
70 to 79	1,164	7%
80 and over	540	4%

Race and Ethnicity

	Colchester	State
Asian	1%	5%
Black	3%	10%
Hispanic or Latino/a	5%	17%
White	87%	65%
Other	4%	4%

Hispanic includes those of any race. Remaining racial groups include only non-hispanic. 'Other' includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, two or more races.

Language Spoken at Home

	Colchester	State
English	78	94%
Spanish	2	12%

Educational Attainment

	Colchester	State
High School Diploma Only	22	26%
Associate Degree	8	10%
Bachelor's Degree	22	23%
Master's Degree or Higher	18	20%

Housing

ACS, 2017–2021

	Colchester	State
Median Home Value	\$268,900	\$286,700
Median Rent	\$1,301	\$1,260
Housing Units	6,339	1,527,039

	Colchester	State
Owner-Occupied	66	79%
Detached or Semi-Detached	65	80%
Vacant	4	8%

Schools

CT Department of Education, 2022-23

School Districts

	Available Grades	Total Enrollment	Pre-K Enrollment	4-Year Grad Rate (2021-22)
Colchester School District	PK-12	2,235	106	87%
Statewide	-	513,513	19,014	89%

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Met or Exceeded Expectations, 2021-22

	Math	ELA
Colchester School District	64%	63%
Statewide	42%	48%

Colchester, Connecticut

Labor Force

CT Department of Labor, 2022

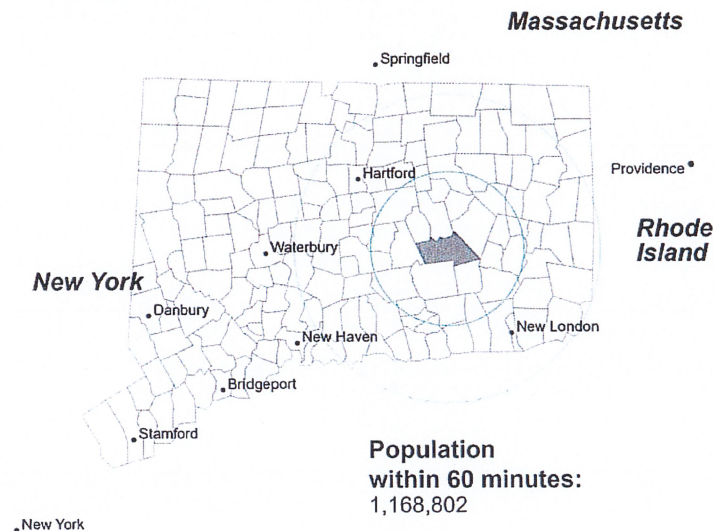
	Colchester	State
Employed	9,142	1,851,993
Unemployed	319	80,470

Unemployment Rate 3 || 4%

Self-Employment Rate* 4 || 10%

*ACS, 2017–2021

Catchment Areas of 15mi, 30mi, and 60mi



Access

ACS, 2017–2021

	Colchester	State
Mean Commute Time *	31 min	26 min
No Access to a Car	2 8%	
No Internet Access	7 9%	

Commute Mode

Public Transport	1 4%	
Walking or Cycling	1 3%	
Driving		82 84%
Working From Home *	10 12%	

Public Transit

CT transit Service	Express
Other Public Bus Operations	-
Train Service	-

* 5 year estimates include pre-pandemic data

Fiscal Indicators

CT Office of Policy and Management, State FY 2020-21

Municipal Revenue

Total Revenue	\$62,281,793
Property Tax Revenue	\$41,165,635
<i>per capita</i>	\$2,646
<i>per capita, as % of state avg.</i>	82%
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$19,045,300
Revenue to Expenditure Ratio	104%

Municipal Expenditure

Total Expenditure	\$60,047,949
Educational	\$46,211,815
Other	\$13,836,134

Grand List

Equalized Net Grand List	\$1,956,061,777
<i>per capita</i>	\$126,189
<i>per capita, as % of state avg.</i>	78%
Commercial/Industrial Share of Net Grand List	10%
Actual Mill Rate	32.84
Equalized Mill Rate	20.97

Municipal Debt

Moody's Rating (2023)	Aa3
S&P Rating (2023)	AA+
Total Indebtedness	\$22,458,863
<i>per capita</i>	\$1,449
<i>per capita, as % of state avg.</i>	53%
<i>as percent of expenditures</i>	37%
Annual Debt Service	\$2,791,151
<i>as % of expenditures</i>	5%



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About Town Profiles

The Connecticut Town Profiles are two-page reports of demographic and economic information for each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities. Reports for data are available from profiles.ctdata.org

Feedback is welcome, and should be directed to info@ctdata.org

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