**Happy New Year!!**

Wishing everyone a bright and safe New Year!! Our community is unlimited in its potential and I know that the best is yet to come. May you and your loved ones find happiness, strong health, prosperity, and a treasure trove of memories in the New Year.

Andreas Bisbikos

First Selectman

**Current Updates:**

**First Selectman’s Report: 12/27 – 12/30**

1. The town is coordinating with the state on the arrival of COVID-19 kits and N95 masks. While the expectations were for a more immediate distribution of said material, unexpected delays have canceled our initial distribution dates. We will keep the community continuously updated as the situation progresses.
2. On Monday, January 3rd our new Fire Chief, Steven Hoffmann, will be taking charge. I am confident he will be an excellent leader for our community. I want to personally thank Sean Shoemaker for all his assistance during his tenure as Interim Fire Chief. Sean will still remain with us as Fire Marshal and I proudly look forward to working with him more.
3. Congressman Joe Courtney will be visiting the office on Monday, January 3rd. Looking forward to the conversation!
4. Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz will be holding a press conference with various dignitaries in front of the current Senior Center at approximately 10:00 am on Wednesday, January 5th. She will speak about the recent State Bond Commission approval of $2.5M to offset the cost of the $9.5M Senior Center Project and other relevant items.
5. Maggie Cosgrove, the Chief Financial Officer, and I are preparing to send request for proposals (RFPs) for an independent consultant to review ARPA applications. The RFP for Project Consultant for Use of ARPA Funding is tentatively scheduled to go live on Tuesday, January 4th. The ARPA Committee has postponed reviewing applications until a consultant is found. They will continue to receive applications from small businesses. As a reminder, there is $1M in ARPA funds specifically earmarked for our local businesses. A business may receive up to $25K in federal funds. Please apply and complete your ARPA application here: <https://www.colchesterct.gov/your-government/arpa-ad-hoc-committee> . You may reach out to ARPA@ColchesterCT.gov if you have any further questions.
6. Say cheese!! Congratulations to Colchester's Cato Corner Farm in making Food & Wine's top 50 cheesemakers!!! Please click this link to read the story: <https://www.middletownpress.com/living/food/article/ct-cheesemakers-food-wine-best-in-us-16732036.php?fbclid=IwAR2HzG6zz95OGaQBybLZELnH1N0eNwYVvtRGQ4Q3ZSUQO7COPb4T5KUlhyQ>
7. A tentative agreement has been entered between the Town of Colchester and the Colchester Public Works Department, MEUI 506. SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC that covers the period of July 1st 2021 through June 30, 2024. The Collective Bargaining Agreement will be sent to the Board of Selectmen on January 6th for approval.
8. Colchester Youth Services will be hosting a 5K Resolutions’ Run on Saturday, January 1st. All proceeds benefit Colchester Youth Services' scholarship fund and programs for Colchester's youth. For more information, please click this link: <https://raceroster.com/events/2022/55488/colchester-youth-services-resolution-run-5k?fbclid=IwAR010okWjbtgd954GQjXJL9t_1EK_YHzXCZTtPHs6s1CrntBlrvVJlRMgE8>

**\*\*\*As of this publication we have not received a weekly Covid-19 Status Report from Chatham Health.**