2023 Colchester

Town Acknowledgments & Celebrations

(V: April 2023)

Members: A. Bisbikos, K. Byroads, T. Quinn, D. Turner, S. Pelletier

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| **Goal:**  To celebrate holidays that promote diversity, build inclusion, and provide education for Colchester | **Criteria:**   * Celebrate values that bring people together * Create connections that promote unity * Celebrate diversity of race / ethnicity / cultures * Increase awareness and promote education * Easily fits in southeastern CT | **Communication:**  All communication needs to have neutral and inclusive language |

January

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| 1/16  Martin Luther King Jr.  Community Reading on 1/21/23 at Cragin Library.  Readers for the event represented Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Federated Church, Colchester Senior Center, State Police Troop K, Colchester Hayward Fire Dept, Congregation Ahavath Achim, and the First Selectman’s office |

February: Black History Month

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| Cragin Library had crafts available to celebrate Black History Month.  Andreas sent a message on 2/1 to celebrate Black History Month | Harrington Court shared information about Black History Month (BHM) to residents | 2/6  CORE Commission hosted a BHM presentation at the Senior Center, and included info. about the CORE Comm. | 2/10  Parks and Rec  - ½ day Hooray at CES to  share BHM information | 2/20  President’s Day  Andreas included a message about Presidents Day in his regular Town updates | 2/25  African and American Scientist and Inventor Day  Cragin Library had a display. |

March: Women’s History Month

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| 3/2  Discussed an idea to tie in “National Read Across America Day” with Women’s History Month | CML had a library display celebrating Women’s History Month | 3/17  Andreas acknowledged St. Patrick’s Day in a weekly update.  “*Colchester celebrates St. Patrick's Day and the contributions of Irish-Americans to our history.”*  CML had a display for St. Patrick’s Day and mint milkshakes | 3/24  CORE hosted Colchester’s 1st Women’s History Month Celebration at HopCulture Brewery.  Guests speakers were:  Heather Wilson- Hop Culture  Diane Ozmun- Oz n Bones  Jess Stone- Cold Spring Farms  Denise Turner – BoS  Lauren Ostrout – CFC  Susan Caron – ARK Distillery |

April – Safe Haven Awareness Month.

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| 4/6  Tiffany organized a Safe Haven presentation at CML. | 4/21  Ground Breaking ceremony at Senior Center | 4/22  Earth Day:  Parks & Rec will host their Annual Clean up Drive, participants to register online and meet at Town green.  The Garden Club cleans up the Library.  Crafts at CML | 4/28  Arbor Day  Andreas: Location to plant a tree is TBD. | National Library Week  4/23-29  CML will make social media posts every day during the week. |

May: Mental Health Awareness Month / Older Americans Month/ Jewish American Heritage Month/ Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month/ Military Appreciation Month

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| 5/2  National Teacher Day  Acknowledge | 5/4  National Day of Prayer  Acknowledge | 5/6  National Nurses Day  Acknowledge  5/5-6  Food Truck Festival on the Town green | 5/11-13  Drop-in to make Mother’s Day cards at CML | 5/14  Mother’s Day  Acknowledge | 5/28  Memorial Day Parade  Acknowledge |

June: LGBT Pride Month / Caribbean American Heritage Month

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| 6/14  Flag Day  Andreas to check if Colchester has done anything in the past.  Check out Burlington Public Library Facebook page. | 6/18  Father’s Day  Acknowledge | 6/19  Juneteenth  Acknowledge  CORE Commission hosting events for Juneteenth and PRIDE Month– details to follow | FOR PRIDE Month, CML will   * Host a “rainbow inspired” search & find event * Make your own rainbow craft * Host PRIDE story time hour |

July

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| 7/1  National Postal Worker Day  Acknowledge  CML will do a “Mail” craft in honor of National Postal worker day  CML will make Kindness cards | 7/4  Independence Day  Acknowledge | 7/12  To celebrate National Ice cream day, Mel’s ice cream will be at CML. | 7/16  National Ice cream day  Sundae on Sunday |

August

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| 8/26  Women’s Equality Day: This day marks the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the US.  103rd anniversary  Kate to investigate, tie back to Colchester’s history if possible. |

September: National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15) / National Recovery Month

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| 9/9  Celebrate Colchester event  Promote  “National Good Neighbor Day” at Colchester Celebration day | 9/10  Grandparents Day  Acknowledge | 9/15  Rosh Hashana Begins  (9/15-17) –  Acknowledge | 9/17  Constitution Day  Kate to investigate, materials at the Secretary of State's office  Tie it back to Colchester if possible | 9/22  National Good Neighbor Day  <https://nationalgoodneighborday.com/>  Shawn to check with Colchester is Kind & Lauren Ostrout |
| 9/24-25  Yom Kippur (holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism)  Day of Atonemen  Acknowledge |  |  |  |  |

October: Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15) / Global Diversity Awareness Month / National Disability Employment Awareness Month / LGBT History Month / Breast Cancer Awareness Month / National Polish American Heritage Month

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| 10/7 - 9  Colchester’s 325th birthday –  Activities throughout the town (ex. historical events, games, etc.) | 10/10  World Mental Health Day  Acknowledge | 10/12  Witches in CT  Historical perspective about witches at CML | 10/13  Colchester’s 325th birthday – Proclamation & Gala | 10/14  Colchester’s 325th birthday  Day-long activities & Celebrations |
| 10/28  National Immigrants Day – U.S. Melting Pot  Acknowledge | 10/31  Halloween  Acknowledge  CML will host a parade for the kids |  |  |  |

November: National Native American Heritage Month / Movember (raise awareness for men’s health)

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| 11/1  Dinovember (throughout the month)  CML will share knowledge about Dinosaurs and have a craft/ kids activities | 11/11  Veterans Day  Acknowledge | 11/13  World Kindness Day  Acknowledge | 11/23  Thanksgiving  Acknowledge |  |

December

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| 12/2  Christmas Tree Lighting at town green  Acknowledge | 12/8  Hanukkah  Acknowledge | 12/17  National Wreath Across America Day  Acknowledge | 12/25  Christmas  Acknowledge | 12/26  Kwanzaa  Acknowledge |

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS From Town Hall**

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| **Month** | **Agreements** | **Notes** |
| April | All religious holidays  Safe Haven Awareness month | CELEBRATE SAFE HAVEN MONTH-APRIL 2023  Join us to learn about and discuss the Safe Haven Act.  The Act is a program that allows a parent to voluntarily give up custody of an infant age 30 days or younger, to the nursing staff of any emergency room. The parent will not be subject to arrest for abandonment. Every state now has a Safe Haven Act/Law to protect both the infant, and the parent. Over 25 babies in CT have been saved by the Safe Haven Act.  We are proud to welcome Doug Hood, author and Safe Haven committee member, along with retired State Representative, Pam Sawyer, who drafted and worked diligently on the very first version of CT.’s Safe Haven Act. She worked tirelessly for over 20 years to ensure that parents who are in desperate situation have a safe place to voluntarily give custody of their newborn to the nursing staff at any emergency room in CT.  Doug is the author of a true story that involves the tragedy- and importance- of the Safe Haven Act.  Doug will sign books after the discussion. More information about the CT Safe Haven Act for Newborns can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DCF/Prevention/PDF/SafeHavenEngpdf.pdf>  Thursday, April 6, 2023 from 6-8pm |
| May | All five celebrations in May, plus the designated holidays listed in the calendar.  9 acknowledgments in total | For Jewish American Heritage month, Colchester has a strong presence of Jewish businesses. Ex. S&S Worldwide. Create a fact sheet about Colchester Jewish businesses, like the BHM fact sheet.  Denise to provide knowledge of historical businesses to help the research.  Acknowledge the Senior Center and 2 Colchester nursing homes in honor of Older Americans Month.  Cragin Library will acknowledge National Nurses Day and Mother’s Day. |
| June | Caribbean American Heritage Month  Juneteenth  PRIDE month |  |
| September | National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)  National Recovery Month | Check with Val Gaeto on National Recovery Month  Shawn to check with Lauren Ostrout to see what’s available through CFC |
| October | Breast Cancer Awareness Month  National Polish American Heritage Month  Red Ribbon Week (don’t do drugs) | Contact Val G and Tiffany for more information about Red ribbon week |
| November | National Native American Heritage Month  Movember  World Kindness Day | Movember - raise awareness about Men’s health issues |
| December | Christmas Tree lighting  Hanukkah  National Wreath Across America Day  Christmas  Kwanzaa | Celebrate all holidays |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Town celebration** |
| 2023 | Curtis Goodwin  Check into hosting a similar event with Curtis - Sharing Diverse Voices |  |
| 2/3/2024 (first Saturday in Feb) | Take your child to Library Day | Cragin Memorial Library will celebrate |
| 2024 | Celebrate Women’s History Month with Historical Society |  |
| 2026 | America 250 |  |