Colchester 2023 Celebrations

(Working Copy v.28Jan23)

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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 | **Planned events:**MLK community reading – 1/21/23Black History Month(see calendar)Women’s History Month (see calendar)Memorial Day parade5/28/23Celebrate Colchester9/9/23Colchester’s 325th birthday – 10/13/23  |

The information below captures what was discussed and agreed upon

February: Black History Month

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| Cragin Library will have a display and crafts available to celebrate Black History Month.Andreas will send a message on 2/1 to share what is happening around town to celebrate Black History Month | Harrington Court will share information about Black History Month (BHM) to residents | 2/6CORE Commission will host a presentation at the Senior Center on BHM and include an introduction to the CORE Commission | 2/10Parks and Rec- ½ day Hooray at CES toshare BHM information  | 2/20President’s DayAndreas will include a message about Presidents Day in his regular Town updates | 2/25African and American Scientist and Inventor DayCragin Library will have a display.  |

March: Women’s History Month

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| 3/2Tie in National Read Across America Day with Women’s History MonthHave children read to older adults at Harrington Court | Celebrate the political, social, cultural, and economic achievements of women in general. Showcase local examples of women owned businesses in Colchester. Cragin Library will have a library display celebrating Women’s History Month | 3/17 Acknowledge St. Patrick’s Day in a message from Andreas, weekly town updates.“*Colchester celebrates St. Patrick's Day and the contributions of Irish-Americans to our history.”*Cragin Library will have a display for St. Patrick’s Day, plus mint milkshakes | ACTION:Tiffany sent these names:Heather Wilson- Hop CultureDiane Ozmun- Oz n BonesJess Stone- Cold Spring FarmsCindy Praisner- C3Michelle Noeren- Colchester is KindMichelle Wyatt- District leader for Colchester LionsAll - Brainstorm ideas and timeframe for a town event Library has availability for a program on:* 3/11 in afternoon
* 3/18 all day
* 3/25 in afternoon
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April – Safe Haven Awareness Month

I have two things in my notes for April:

1) Andreas mentioned that he wants to plant a tree for Arbor Day but I didn’t think we made a final decision on that.

2) Tiffany is a state representative for Safe Haven and will be happy to do a talk at the library. Is this confirmed?

Did we make any decisions about the holidays below? I don’t think so but please confirm.

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| 2 Palm SundayWorld Autism Awareness Day Ramadan(3/22-4/21) | 5Passover: Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of Israeli slaves (4/5-13) | 7Good Friday (Christian) | 9Easter, the most important Christian holiday, which celebrates Jesus’ resurrection | 15 Orthodox Good Friday |
| 16Orthodox Easter | 17Patriots Day (NE holiday)Laylat al-Qadr“Night of power” in the Islamic faith, the holiest night of Ramandan.Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) (4/17-18) | 22 Earth Day: applauds the planet we live on and all it does for us; is observed by more than 192 nations. | 25Yom HaAtzmaut(Day of independence)(4/25-16) | 28Arbor Day is marked by planting trees, caring for them to sustain & protect natural resources |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

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| **Date**  | **Event** | **Town celebration** |
| 2023 | Curtis Goodwin Check into hosting a similar event with Curtis - Sharing Diverse Voices |  |
| 1/3/2024 (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 |  |