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 – 1/21/23  Black History Month  (see calendar)  Women’s History Month (see calendar)  Memorial Day parade  5/28/23  Celebrate Colchester  9/9/23  Colchester’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 | 2/6  CORE Commission will host a presentation at the Senior Center on BHM and include an introduction to the CORE Commission | 2/10  Parks and Rec  - ½ day Hooray at CES to  share BHM information | 2/20  President’s Day  Andreas will include a message about Presidents Day in his regular Town updates | 2/25  African and American Scientist and Inventor Day  Cragin Library will have a display. |

March: Women’s History Month

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| 3/2  Tie in National Read Across America Day with Women’s History Month  Have 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 Culture  Diane Ozmun- Oz n Bones  Jess Stone- Cold Spring Farms  Cindy Praisner- C3  Michelle Noeren- Colchester is Kind  Michelle Wyatt- District leader for Colchester Lions  All - 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 |

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 Sunday  World Autism Awareness Day  Ramadan  (3/22-4/21) | 5  Passover: Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of Israeli slaves (4/5-13) | 7  Good Friday (Christian) | 9  Easter, the most important Christian holiday, which celebrates Jesus’ resurrection | 15  Orthodox Good Friday |
| 16  Orthodox Easter | 17  Patriots 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. | 25  Yom HaAtzmaut  (Day of independence)  (4/25-16) | 28  Arbor 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 |  |