

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

For the next two weeks, curbside garbage and recycling pickup will be pushed back one day due to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Thursday pickups will take place on Friday. Friday pickups will be on Saturday.

Town Hall will be closed for Christmas beginning Wednesday, December 24th, and re-open on Monday, December 29th. Town Hall will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31st, and re-open on Friday, January 2nd. Our next Town Hall newsletter will be distributed on Thursday, January 8th.

Next Tuesday, December 23rd, the Community & Senior Center will be serving breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m. and hosting Bingo at 1 p.m. The Center will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 24th, reopening on Monday, January 5th.

This year's Holiday Fair was a big success, with 30 vendors, Cookie Land sales benefiting the Colebrook School's Nature's Classroom trip, a bustling Café at the Community & Senior Center, and a festive, well-attended Breakfast with Santa at the Colebrook Congregational Church. Proceeds from the Children's Shopping Table were donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Holiday Fair profits generated by vendor table registration enabled a \$500 donation to [Wreaths Across America](#), a charity honoring Veterans. National Wreaths Across America Day is this Saturday, December 19th. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated and supported the Holiday Fair.

Prior to this week's Winter Concert at Colebrook Consolidated School, students, parents and community members gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate our \$1.7 million HVAC project, which was completed on time and on budget. State Representative Jay Case and State Senator Paul Honig helped us mark the occasion.

Last week, representatives from the Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford and Norfolk Boards of Finance and Selectmen met with officials from Northwestern Regional #7 to kick off the annual budgeting process for our shared Middle School/High School. This process will culminate with the annual budget referendum in May.

At last week's Board of Finance meeting, the board approved a supplemental budget request from the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen to hire the Tyche Group to support the town, beginning in January.

Colebrook, like many other small towns, does not have the demand to fill the hours of a full-time Zoning Enforcement Officer. Tyche provides professional planning and zoning services to towns like ours at a cost lower than hiring an employee. Tyche Senior Planner Jeremy DeCarli, based in Torrington, will serve as our Zoning Enforcement Officer. Jeremy's office hours in the Town Hall Land Use office will be from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, the same day our Building Inspector, Bill Volovski, is in Town Hall and out on inspections. Jeremy will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding zoning compliance—and can be reached at 860.379.3359, extension 209, or at zoningofficer@colebrooktownhall.org, as needed.

Tax bills have been mailed. Taxes are due January 1st, and are considered late if not paid by Tuesday, February 2nd, and subject to interest from the due date. During January, the Tax Collector's office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon, and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd. For any questions, please contact Tax Collector Laura Bartlett at 860.379.3359, ext. 204, or at lbartlett@colebrooktownhall.org.

Electronic recycling can be disposed of at the Town Garage (43 Sandy Brook Road) in the container to the right of the garage. Please leave your items outside of the storage unit to be packaged and processed.

Bulk waste pickup is available every week for items that will not fit in your bin. Please call 860.379.1662 by Thursday of each week for Friday morning pickup.

Sand mix is available at the Town Garage for Colebrook residents, by hand bucket. Limit 2 buckets per resident per winter storm event.

We are continuing to accept appointments for energy assistance applications. Please contact Karen Odell to set up an appointment at kodell@colebrooktownhall.org, or call 860.379.3359, ext. 201.

The Colebrook Associates food pantry, located in the vestibule of the Community & Senior Center, is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Donations may be left at the pantry, or in the collection bin in the Post Office.

Upcoming municipal board meetings

Board of Education – Wednesday, January 7th, at 7 p.m. at Colebrook Consolidated School

Planning & Zoning – Monday, January 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (Land Use office)

Board of Selectmen – Monday, January 12th, at 7 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (second floor meeting room)

Rec Board – Tuesday, January 13th, at 7 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (second floor meeting room)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org, or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Brad

Brad Bremer

Colebrook First Selectman

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