

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

A special joint meeting of the Colebrook-Norfolk Educational Collaboration Exploratory Committee will be held tonight (Thursday, February 20th) at 7 p.m. at Botelle School in Norfolk. The purpose is to discuss the potential for pre-K-6 school collaboration. This is the initial meeting of this group, and no plan has been proposed. The meeting is open to the public.

Colebrook Consolidated School Superintendent Bob Gilbert will be presenting the Board of Education's fiscal year 2025/26 request to the Board of Finance tonight (Thursday, February 20th) at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. The proposed budget has a 1.39% increase in general expenses, and a 4.37% increase in Special Education expenses (outplacements, Pre-K services and Special Ed transportation) for an overall increase of 5.76%.

The Board of Selectmen will be presenting its FY 25/26 budget on Thursday, February 27th.

Following last weekend's winter storm, Eversource reported that its more than 700 crews safely restored more than 125,000 customers, restored 116 critical facilities, and cleared approximately 250 blocked roads around the state.

Despite challenging conditions from ice and wind—and with a peak of 70+ outages—Colebrook appears to have fared better than other parts of the state. While extended outages are frustrating, it appeared that the Eversource crews were out in force and did their best to restore service in a timely manner.

Our Department of Public Works crew worked around the clock throughout the storm to plow and treat our approximately 40 miles of roadways and identify downed trees, downed wires and blocked roads. During storms of this magnitude, Eversource provides each community it serves with a dedicated 24-hour emergency contact—and we promptly phone in issues as soon as they are identified.

The Colebrook Fire Department also stepped up hugely with timely assistance throughout the storm.

There was incorrect reporting in yesterday's *Republican American* newspaper that Colebrook had run out of salt for the roads. We did not. While we hope this is the end of the winter storms, we are prepared.

Bids for our decommissioned pumper fire truck are due to the Selectmen's office tomorrow (Friday, February 21st) at noon, with a reserve price (minimum bid) of \$6,000.

On Monday, February 24th, at 10 a.m., the Colebrook Community & Senior Center will be hosting a CPR class—and they currently still have four slots available. The cost to participate is \$20. To register, please call 860.738.9521 by Friday, February 21st.

Farmington Valley Health District, which provides health department services to the Town, has introduced CredibleMind (<https://fvhd.crediblemind.com/>), a free, confidential and anonymous online resource to help you better understand and care for your mental health. Learn more here.

Several residents have inquired about the orange bridge construction signs that remain up even though the projects have been completed. By state statute, these remain in place until the state closes out the project.

Upcoming community events and fundraisers

The Colebrook Community & Senior Center is hosting, "Paint and Sip" with June Seiser on Wednesday, March 12th, from 6-9 p.m. The cost to participate is \$15 per person. Snacks, coffee and soda provided. Please feel free to bring your own beverage or a snack to share. RSVP by March 6th, to seniordirector@colebrooktownhall.org, or call 860.738.9521.

The Colebrook Recreation Board is seeking billboard sponsors for the Colebrook Recreation Baseball Field for the upcoming season. Learn more here, or contact Katie Martin at colebrookctrec@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our undefeated fifth and sixth grade basketball team! Their next game is the playoff semi-finals on Tuesday, February 25th, at 6:30 p.m. at Pearson School in Winsted. The Championship game will be held on Friday, February 28th, at 7 p.m., also at Pearson. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Upcoming municipal board meetings

Board of Finance – Thursday, February 20th, at 6 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (upstairs meeting room)

Colebrook-Norfolk Educational Collaboration Exploratory Committee – Thursday, February 20th, at 7 p.m. at Botelle School in Norfolk (Hall of Flags)

Capital Improvement Committee – Thursday, February 27th, at 5 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (Land Use office)

Board of Finance – Thursday, February 27th, at 6 p.m. at Colebrook Town Hall (upstairs 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.

Cordially,

Brad

Brad Bremer
Colebrook First Selectman
860.379.3359 ext. 202
bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org